

## EDITORIAL

Last December we published "A Statement of Purpose in War Time" from our Executive Committee. In general, of course, that defines the character of the News-Letter. It may now be time for a more specific word on editorial purpose.

The Peace Council is not and has never been an exclusively pacifist organization. Much more than half of its present membership, and a very considerable portion of its support come from non-pacifist sources. It is obvious that the News-Letter can not be, then, a religious pacifist sheet. On the other hand, the Peace Council, by simple definition of terms is not engaged in support of the war program. We believe--and the response to our effort encourages us-- that there is a wide field for community education lying between these two poles. Therefore

1. We seek to share information which comes to us from responsible sources, not too generally or easily available to most of our readers.
2. We are not experts in military strategy and we do not attempt to report or interpret war news.
3. Our policy is not obstructionist and we do not intend that our approach shall be wholly negative. In the very nature of things, it would seem inevitable that much of our emphasis should be critical.
4. We would be-- and would help our members to be-- both alert and sensitive; alert to the often obscured but always significant economic factors which are present in this war-situation as in the last, and which are generally recognized as both cause and consequence of the war-system; sensitive to the measureless loss and human suffering attendant on the war effort; and to the need--if the human spirit is to survive-- of attempts at mitigation wherever and whenever possible. Both these aims are motivated by the belief that only as we are alert and sensitive to the realities of today shall we be alert and sensitive enough to deal with the problems and opportunities of tomorrow.

It is for these reasons that we speak of starvation and disease; racism and human freedom; propaganda and profiteering; problems that are fundamental to a war world as to a post war world.

We are grateful for a generous measure of support from our readers. We invite correspondence and welcome suggestion. We shall continue to try to deserve your confidence.

--by The Executive Committee; April 20, 1942

## MEND DEMOCRACY

Dear Dad,

I've read your letters with interest and followed the newspapers with hope, yet nowhere do I see a sign of the spirit I hope to see this war bring out.

Dad, even you seem to overlook one factor. You ask for my ideas on what organizations might do.

I wish I spoke for every soldier now--I pray I speak for a few. Here's what your U.S.O., Y.M.C.A. and Y.M.H.A. and all the rest can do:

They can give me a living thing to fight for. They can mend Democracy behind the lines while we defend it from the fore. They can give me and every thinking man with a gun, whose only excuse for murder is the defense of his home and his government, a real government to defend. And they can give us something to come back to besides a melange of poverty and plenty with the accent on the former.

I don't want free cigarettes or a carte blanche to heroic suicide. I want a real democracy to return to, not an ideal behind which hides 40,000,000 underprivileged citizens, a host of crooked politicians and a mass of factions each striving to cut the other's throats.

Don't remind me of Valley Forge, Gettysburg, the Maine, the Alamo. Democracy lives on tomorrow, not yesterday.

Don't tell the sharecropper to forget his rickets, his debts, the blank future, and be happy because one hundred years ago Old Ironsides won a battle in the Mediterranean.

Too many men have died for an ideal that never was. I don't want to join their ranks.

I haven't had a chance to think this all out and I've expressed it poorly, but you know what I mean.

Love,  
JIM.

"Jim" is a real private in the army and his letter is a real letter. One way to "mend democracy", to give Jim "a living thing to fight for", and "something to come back to" is to promote and attend the Institute described on the enclosed folder.

Considering the length of the course and the faculty available, the cost is remarkably low.

**THIS IS WAR** In a little more than three months of conflict waged thus far largely at sea and in the air thousands of miles from home shores, American casualties mounted toward the total of the battle deaths suffered by United States troops in France in 1918. --E. E. Bomar--Post Standard--March 16, 1942.

**JOY** "Joy swept through the nation at the news that American planes had slashed at Tokio, Yokohama, Kobe, and Nagoya," was the word.

Joy, comments the New Yorker, may need a new definition. Webster says: "the emotion excited by the expectation of good; gladness; delight; happiness."

If that is what we felt, must we not also feel at least a touch of regret "because we have all come such a little way from the cave and the jungle that our reaction to the thought of death and ruin anywhere" can be described as joy?

**STRIKES** The public has been led to believe that strikes over the forty hour **PROFITEERING** week are seriously impeding war production. High ranking officials of the government who administer the over-all program, and who know, flatly and emphatically say "No"!

Total war-production time lost because of strikes in one month, February, was, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, .00018; less than one-tenth the man days lost a year ago; less than one-fifth the monthly loss in Britain which is supposed to have an exemplary labor situation.

**PARALLELS** An editorial in the Los Angeles Times (May 19, 1942) sums up the reasons used by those who justify the evacuation. They fall into two categories: (1) the evacuation was done because of "very cogent evidence submitted by the military command." This evidence was not and is not public, but we must accept military necessity in good faith. (2) "in wartime the safety of the nation is paramount to the convenience of the individual." Here we see the two main forces which have paved the way for totalitarianism throughout the world: the government acts out of military necessity, actions which the citizen cannot question; and the individual is completely subordinate to the group. Parallels between this evacuation and Hitler's treatment of the Jews are startling.

**THE ESSENCE** We have all along insisted that it is impossible to defend democracy abroad while denying it at home. Standing by an old stone stockade in the capital city of South Carolina recently, E. Stanley Jones said:

"We've got to set our house in order or we cannot talk about democracy with any sense of reality. To deny any group of people the right to vote because of the color of their skin is a fundamental denial of democracy and no amount of explaining it away will suffice. The only thing to do is to face it honestly, reverse the whole matter and give every American citizen his right of suffrage regardless of color. This is the most elemental right. We must give him equal opportunity in every realm of life, for this is the essence of democracy."

**IF** If American democracy is to be preserved during this war one of the most important prerequisites is a vigorous, consistent, uncompromising assertion of the right of free speech and free publication on all the complicated issues involved in the war that are not concerned with the safe and efficient conduct of military operations. --William Henry Chamberlain

Mr. Chamberlain, for twenty years with that distinguished daily, Christian Science Monitor, will be a member of the faculty at the New York State Institute of International Relations at Cornell University --July 31-August 9. **PLAN NOW TO ATTEND.**