

## ECHOES FROM THE INSTITUTE

For the benefit of our many members who could not attend, we offer the following brief summary of the Fourth Annual Mid-Winter Institute of International Relations for New York State: auspices, American Friends Service Committee; sponsored by Syracuse Peace Council, Onondaga Hotel, Syracuse, New York, February 11-13. Theme: "AMERICA'S ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS."

A. Philip Randolph: ON THE HOME FRONT. Mr. Randolph showed by analysis how democracy is on the retreat and made a stirring plea for its revitalization on the home front at the political, industrial, economic and ethnic levels. He warned of very grave racial tensions and strife likely to follow the war and asked, not only that FEPC be strengthened, but put on a permanent basis, and that there, also, be established in the National Government a fair racial practices committee. To us as individuals he said, "We have a moral responsibility to keep the conscience of the oppressors disturbed."

Sidney Hertzberg: THE WORLD AFTER THE WAR? Mr. Hertzberg began his analysis of the post war world by assuming our agreement in wanting: (1) peace without vengeance, (2) with organized international cooperation on the economic and political planes to secure abundance and freedom. (3) an end to imperialism, (4) a world without any kind of conscription or race prejudice. To this he foresees two major obstacles: (1) a psychological reaction favoring withdrawal and isolationism, (2) the freezing of world order into a wrong kind of internationalism with too great emphasis on the mechanics of world organization. Peace didn't break down because we didn't have international machinery, but because there was no disposition to use it. So long as individual nations remain essentially the same, they will be unfit guardians of peace. Those forces among us that make for war must be defeated, and we must change America from a nation thinking in terms of some kind of imperialism into a people bent on demonstrating democracy. As over against the Cairo declaration, he offered a Syracuse declaration: "The real ally in the fight for world peace is the man who in this country is working on a community level against all kinds of racial injustice and to democratize the inevitably coming collectiveness. The fight for peace begins at home."

Robert Bendiner: AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. Mr. Bendiner characterized this as a war against fascism. "I have never had any doubt about its validity; it is my war." The possible alternatives to going into the war as he saw them were: (1) to do business with Hitler, (2) to reduce ourselves to a second or third rate power, (3) to have bought time only to go to war later, and without allies. We were, he said, "too paralyzed to choose and Japan made the choice for us; it is well for us that she did." "We who think thus," said Mr. Bendiner, "have tremendous responsibility to press for a foreign policy that will save us from such a dilemma again." At present, he believes that events move too fast for the creaking machinery of our State Department.

A. J. Muste: PRINCIPLES OF A LASTING PEACE. In an address which all the delegates to the Institute agreed lifted the whole tone of the discussion to new and higher levels, "A.J." began by saying, "It is unrealistic to talk about the Peace that is to come without taking account of the factors that actually confront us in the present situation." Then followed a brilliant analysis of the present political situation as it relates to Russia and Europe. His observation was that on the political front democracy is on the defensive: "If we face such a political defeat it will weaken the prestige of white imperialism throughout the Orient, and the next area for the development of democratic economics will be in Latin America. The outlook, in any event, is not bright for the United States and Great Britain. It is as certain as anything can be in this uncertain world that peace feelers are going out and discussions are going on." He referred to reports traced to the Army and Navy Journal that Russia is trying to use her "good offices" to end the war in Japan in return for the favor Theodore Roosevelt did her in bringing about the close of the Russo-Japanese war! He surmised that the masses in Europe are much more likely to regard Russia as a liberator than us, since we have, for the most part, cooperated with fascist and near-fascist elements in occupied and liberated countries, and our bombing of civilian Germany may boomerang in Russia's favor.

Personally, A. J. said, he "had been expecting a fairly clear-cut military decision followed by a breathing spell, but now it seems more likely that the war will drag on and end in still greater confusion." He predicted a harder time ahead as popular emotion seeks a scapegoat in various minorities. He advised: (1) that such an analysis as he had presented be used to bring home to the American people the futility of the war, but that care should be exercised not to do this on the basis of red baiting. In this connection he pointed out that war unleashes forces that cannot be controlled, but often leads to results that we do not want at all. (2) The only way for the democracies to regain control of the situation is by a bold advance for peace and democracy. The present policy leads only to new war. (3) The greatest chance is to apply our concepts of democracy in the racial situation. Freedom for India now and for the Negroes in this country would set up repercussions in millions of people throughout the world which neither Hitler nor Stalin could counter. (4) Pessimism has to do with the immediate future. It does not apply to great basic forces and developments at work in the world. The face

of the world is being changed. If much evil can come out of it, so may much good. The world is on the way toward unity whether it will or not. (5) The proof is not dependent on mathematical or logical formulae; there is none. We shall believe only if the spirit of God and of peace is realized in us. Not what we do, but what we are is decisive. Fear not little flock it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."

LAST PLEA FOR EUROPE We are enclosing the reprint of Oswald Garrison Villard's article which appeared last month in the Christian Century.

Sunday, March 12

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP MEETING

4 p.m.

The public is cordially welcome to attend the first Community Fellowship Meeting at Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse University, Sunday afternoon at 4, March 12. The speaker will be:--

RUFUS M. JONES, Chairman of the American Friends Service Committee

ECONOMIC CORNERSTONE "The only way in which Democracy can survive the logical onslaught of the dictator is to develop the genuine co-operative ideal to the limit. The co-operative way of life must pervade the community and this means there must be consumers' co-operatives as well as producers' co-operatives, and the co-operative philosophy is the vital idea of the 20th century that is bound to translate itself in time into hard facts of social mechanism and reality."  
--Vice-President Henry A. Wallace

UNIVERSAL ? ? PROPOSALS OF THE PRESIDENT FOR A DRAFT OF LABOR, AND BILLS NOW BEFORE CONGRESS FOR MAKING MILITARY CONSCRIPTION THE PERMANENT PEACE-TIME POLICY OF AMERICA (OUR WASHINGTON ADVISORS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THIS LATTER LEGISLATION WILL BE PASSED BY SUMMER) MAKE THE JANUARY SURVEY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE INTERESTING READING. THIS GOVERNMENT REPORT ESTIMATES THAT CORPORATE PROFITS FOR 1943, AFTER TAXES, WILL ADD UP TO \$8,200,000,000 --THE HIGHEST IN THE NATION'S HISTORY AND JUST ABOUT A COOL BILLION MORE THAN IN 1942. 1943 PROFITS WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE THOSE OF 1939.

Meantime, 46,000,000 workers, over two thirds of American labor, are making less than \$2000.

The cost of war is high but there is a strange irony in the fact that we find it easier and more expedient to conscript the persons of men than the profits of their corporations.

THE BOOK END: available in our loan library.

ONE HUMANITY, by Howard Kershner, former Director of Relief operations in France for the American Friends Service Committee: "We are winning the war but losing the peace, for we are allowing the freedom-loving peoples of the occupied countries to be decimated by starvation... Neither well populated cemeteries nor misshapen, undersized children with subnormal minds and twisted personalities are fit material with which to reconstruct democracy in Europe."

AS WE GO MARCHING, by John Flynn. O. G. Villard says of this new volume: "the most important book which has appeared since the war began." "John T. Flynn not only believes that 'it,' namely fascism, can happen here, but that it is happening now, that the fascist wolf has his head well within the door and that the present fiscal policies of our Government are taking us over exactly the same road traversed by Italy and Germany."

EMPIRE, by Louis Fischer. In 100 tough, tight pages Mr. Fischer tells us, with India as his model, why "empires are bad for the imperialists, bad for the colonies, bad for the world."

THE RACES OF MANKIND--graphic and authoritative pamphlet of the Public Affairs Committee, was banned from USO centers as "controversial." However, the Morale Division of the U.S. Army has ordered 55,000 copies. The booklet is now in its third printing. On sale here: 10¢, postpaid.

I read once  
In a book  
That a man  
Called Christ  
Went about  
Doing good  
It distresses me  
That I am  
So easily satisfied  
With just  
Going about.  
--Toyohiko Kagawa

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