

SOUTH OF OUR BORDER  
--and NORTH

With so much of today's news centered on Europe and the Orient, we may be prone to forget our interest in and responsibility to our own neighbors in this hemisphere. So--lest we forget--come to hear

*Paul Harris, Jr.*

Friday, May 18

May Memorial Church, 472 James Street-- Supper at 6:15 p.m.

where he will tell of his travels and experiences in these countries and their relation to us in the world of today.

Paul Harris is an old friend of many of us in Syracuse and an ever-popular speaker, so make your reservations early. Call 2-5316 by May 16.

WHY NOT QUOTE  
ALL OF IT?

On the front cover of a handsome booklet advocating Universal Military Training in Peacetime, sent out by the American Legion, appears this text: "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are

in peace": If you will turn to Luke 11:22 you may read the rest of the sentence: "But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils."

We are content to rest our case on a full reading.

U S has her P R A subscriber in Puerto Rico writes a long and interesting report on this island "possession." He says: "Great Britain has her India but U. S. has her P. R. The picture is not all black nor all white....but it is a messy gray which is the responsibility of Puerto Ricans and Americans alike. Now that the Americans hold the upper hand they must take the big steps to improve the situation. I have no special axe to grind except to see two million people get a little more decent break from the United States than they have....most objective observers question the motivation of the Tydings bill for PR independence because of tie-ups with the big sugar trusts by whose interests political questions are greatly influenced. The more recent Marcantonio Bill seems more favorable. There is colossal ignorance about Puerto Rico both in and out of Congress except where an individual financial interest is concerned. It is expected that hearings on the Tydings Bill will be held this month. Luis Munoz Marin will speak for the Puerto Ricans. Three things should be pushed for: (1) a definite instead of a drifting policy on P.R. (2) a plebiscite in P.R. (3) appointment of a good man to replace Governor Tugwell if and when he is removed."

As an illustration of why Puerto Ricans do not particularly love us he cites our discrimination in regarding them as Americans when students wished to come here on exchange scholarships but as Latin Americans when they wished to go south to study!

He concludes: "I want to see more intelligent people taking an intelligent interest in Puerto Rico as we attempt to organize the world for a lasting peace."

THE MARINES  
TELL IT

As the campaign for more hatred mounts this "eyewitness account" from a Marine Corps Air Station newspaper which calls it "one of the greatest, most human stories of the Pacific War" is appropriate:

"According to the officers, they and other Americans were 'jammed into small, stinking holds, unable even to lie down,' and the only breath of fresh air was provided when the Japanese officer kicked ajar the closed hatch cover. He told the imprisoned men that he was a Christian, converted by the Maryknoll Fathers.

"Later an American torpedo ripped into the hull of the transport, and the enemy crew battered down the hatch cover, and swarmed into lifeboats.

"Suddenly the hatch cover was ripped away and the face of the young Jap lieutenant peered in,' said the Marine newspaper. 'Men surged up out of the hold, among them the two young officers who told this story.

"As they emerged, the young Jap lieutenant crumpled on the deck, bullets from his commanding officer's pistol buried in his body. There he died, while the enemies he had released plunged over the rail of the sinking ship, some to die, others to reach ultimate safety!"

THE TALK OF THE TOWN confirms our own observations: "As victory over Germany gets nearer, the spirits of every one seem to go down, and anxieties increase." A doctor (born in Vienna) says of the Yalta meeting, "In gaining a military victory we have suffered a diplomatic defeat of the first water."

"The delegates to San Francisco have the most astonishing job that has ever been dumped into the laps of a few individuals. On what sort of rabbit they pull from the hat hang the lives of most of us, and of our sons and daughters. If they put on their spectacles and look down their noses and come up with the same old bunny, we shall very likely all hang separately--nation against nation, power against power, defense against defense, people (reluctantly) against people (reluctantly). If they manage to bring the United Nations out of the bag, full blown, with constitutional authority and a federal structure having popular meaning, popular backing, and an over-all authority greater than the authority of any one member or any combination of members, we might well be started up a new road."

LOOK AT TOMORROW Regular readers of PNL well know our attitude toward the D O proposals. Believing that "vigilance is not opposition" we have tried to help our readers toward a critical appreciation of the problems before the San Francisco conference.

Without being in complete agreement, we are glad to help distribute the enclosed folder in the interest of community cooperation and education toward the world organization we all want.

GANDHI SPEAKS As the nations gather at San Francisco to make political plans for "security" the man who has embodied in his own life the ideal of peace more fully than any other now living speaks gravely: "I reiterate my conviction that there will be no peace for the Allies of the world unless they shed their belief in the efficacy of war and its accompanying terrible deceptions and fraud, and are determined to hammer out a real peace based on the freedom and equality of all races and nations.... The exploitation and domination of one nation over another can have no place in a world straining to put an end to all war.....The freedom of India will demonstrate to all the exploited races of the earth that their freedom is very near and that in no case will they henceforth be exploited."

SOLUTION IN ASIA Developments in Europe make it timely for us to turn our thoughts to the Far East. Here are some suggestions:

"In fighting this war we have come to a watershed dividing two periods of history. It is the importance of Asia which makes this war a watershed....things happening in Asia will largely determine the course of events everywhere in the world.

"An American policy toward Asia is therefore not a luxury but a domestic American necessity.

"At home, as abroad, we have the chance of attempting to facilitate change by an intelligent study of evolution, or attempting to halt change entirely, in which case we shall build up the pressures that eventually break out in revolution.

"The would-be realists who think only of a long armistice and a good position in the next war would only lead us to a worse war than they want, sooner than they want it.

"We must, in planning an American policy, give full weight to what our allies need as well as to what we want.

"The most important problem is to avoid competition in armaments among the United Nations.....

"In Asia, even more than in Europe, the Russians hold a position in which they can outwait anybody. It is up to us.....if we declare for cooperation they (can) make it work. If we declare for .....grabbing, they can outgrab us.....

"The best solution (for the independence of colonial peoples, (India, Netherlands Indies, Philippines, for example) is to set a date,....and to make it the responsibility of the ruling power to prepare each people for independence by the agreed date."

--from Owen Lattimore's Solution in Asia (See Book End).

THE BOOK END Owen Lattimore is often called the best informed American on Asiatic affairs. His knowledge is based on twenty-two years of experience in business, journalism and government in Asia. He is a scholar and research scientist. His book points out how the "experts" have covered their ignorance with dogma; says bluntly that U. S. and Britain aided Japan's exploitation of China for a share of the loot; and shows the attractive power of Russian example is far greater than the West's fine theories of democracy coupled with ruthless imperialism. PNL quotes at length this month: SOLUTION IN ASIA, available on request from our free loan library.

One of the readers of our News-Letter has an idea which we are passing along to you. She would like to see the Letter have a wider circulation in these critical times, and suggests that if each subscriber would send the small sum of 25¢ with the name of a friend who might be interested, we could double our mailing list almost over night.

How many of you would like to try this?