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TEN DOWN AND MORE TO GO!

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1936

Our Tenth!

1946

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Ten years is not a long time in the life of the average individual or institution, but evidently it is a long span in the history of local peace programs. We have been unable to locate more than a half dozen other local organizations similar to our own that have survived the decade.

Recently in a letter to his colleagues Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg wrote, "The Syracuse Peace Council is waging a brave minority fight against the growing trend towards militarism and imperialism." We are grateful for this wholly unsolicited recognition; we are more happy that the loyal support of our friends has made this good "fight" possible.

We cordially invite you to share this happiness and to express this gratitude on the occasion of our Tenth Anniversary Dinner, Friday, January 11, 1946, 6:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 620 West Genesee Street.

Guest of Honor and Speaker: BERTHA BRACEY, General Secretary of the Friends Committee for Refugees and Aliens, representing the London Yearly Meeting of Friends.

Happy Birthday!

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YEAR'S END "A thousand years from now, 1945 will be known as 'the year of the bomb.' The people of the year 2945 will care little when World War II ended. They will not be greatly concerned about political changes of this decade, except for any revolutionary innovations that might occur, but they will know that the trial explosion over New Mexico and the thundering death over Hiroshima ushered in a new age."

We are glad to supply you this month with a copy of one of the most significant statements we have seen on the Atomic Bomb.

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT Some weeks ago the very distinguished American Rabbi, Abraham Cronbach of Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, wrote, to some of his colleagues in reference to the Nazi trials:

"This is my wish: That the Jews might beseech clemency for their tormentors and the slayers of their people. I can fancy organized Jewry represented at the trials by someone authorized to speak as follows:

'We Jews have suffered inordinately. Neither our own tragic history nor that of any other people contains any precedent to the afflictions which we have lately undergone.

'All that we Jews crave is surcease from our sufferings. We have no wish to inflict sufferings upon others. All that we crave is that Jews all over the world be guaranteed freedom, equality, and opportunity and that they be forever shielded against antisemitism.

'We seek human rights not only for Jews. We seek them for all men everywhere. To seek them for the Jews alone would be self-defeating as well as ignoble.

'The unspeakable miseries which have come upon the world follow a certain pattern with dismal uniformity, the pattern, namely, of retaliation--retaliation for grievances real or imaginary. That vicious circle of retaliation and counter-retaliation must be broken. Otherwise there is no hope for the world. We Jews hereby offer to break that vicious circle.'"

PEACE ON EARTH "Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. Various methods through the ages have attempted to devise an international process to prevent or settle disputes between nations. From the very start, workable methods were found in so far as individual citizens were concerned but the mechanics of an instrumentality of larger international scope have never been successful.

"Military alliance, balances of power, Leagues of Nations all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blots out this alternative. We have had our last chance. If we do not now devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at our door.

"The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advance in science, art, literature and all material and cultural developments of the past 2,000 years. It must be of the spirit, if we are to save the flesh."

--Gen. Douglas MacArthur

GOODWILL TO MEN "From May 1940 till March 1945 we had a hard time and of the many sufferings of our people you undoubtedly read in your papers. I cannot write to you about our special sufferings in these 5 years. I will only tell you, that the Lord was our shepherd and that he made a little bit of bread enough for us with his blessing. We lived in our home the whole winter with 9 persons, we five, my mother, a Jewish girl, my brother (a student of medicine who did underground work) and a girl who works in an office. The whole winter we had no gas, no light (we sat in the darkness the evening till 8 or 9 o'clock and then went to bed!) and for some terrible weeks no water, except two pails a day. Our town was not much damaged, our house is all right.

"...We learned to pray, to share our daily bread - 800,000 of our 8 millions population lost everything they had... We never could buy any thing in 5 years, all things are bad and barethreaded and worn out. We have food now, but only sober things like potatoes and bread.

"We need mostly: tea, jams and juices, and sweets or chocolates (we never have any sweets for the children!)

"Other things we need badly are:

razorblades
shaving soap
toilet soap
combs (we have one for 7 persons!)
brushes(" " " " " " " ")
underwear for Feits, me and 3 children....

"Don't you think me very impertinent?

"I feel quite exhausted and I am a little bit afraid that I asked too much..."

These excerpts are from a personal letter shared with us by friends. If you would like to include some of their needs - or those of a family like them - on your Christmas shopping list, this office will, with your help, be responsible for shipping. We shall have scant cheer around our loaded Christmas trees this month unless we have done what we can to share our abundance.

"Who gives himself with his alms feeds three,
Himself, his hungering neighbor and Me."

THANKS, SENATOR! Elbert D. Thomas, Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, - in the December American: "Must we depend on conscription to maintain our occupying forces in Germany, Japan, and other foreign lands? I don't think so. Compulsory military service in peacetime is undemocratic and un-American, and it will not provide the type of police force best suited to handling the sober responsibilities of sustaining peace in the world. Conscription should be abolished as soon as possible."

It would be appreciated if you would express yourself to Senator Thomas.

We suggest that you follow the day-to-day news on the conscription issue very closely as it is constantly changing. Adjournment of the hearings in the House Military Affairs Committee is scheduled for December 17 and there is no assurance that they will be resumed after the Christmas recess. Some sixty organizations have requested time to be heard which have not yet been scheduled - mostly those in opposition.

Talk has been increasing of reporting out a four months' training bill along the line of the American Legion's proposal. The Christian Century of December 12 says:

"This has two elements in common with the scheme sponsored by the President. It is compulsory and applies to all 18-year-olds. However, instead of a year of army service, it would require young men to spend four months in basic military training under army officers. After that the trainee could be given his choice of several military organizations in which he would continue his training for a year. Meanwhile he would remain at home and continue his work or studies..."

It is obvious that there has been tremendous public opposition to the forces which seek to enforce peacetime military training in this country or there would never be talk of such a compromise as the plan outlined above represents. It behooves all thinking people to keep themselves well informed on a question of such vital importance to every family, for its effect will not be on us alone in the United States but will be felt throughout the world.