

HERE BEGINNETH /O/. With this number PNL begins its eleventh year of continuous publication and the Syracuse Peace Council starts its second decade. The outlook is dark. "Not since the Romans ran their plowshares over Carthage," to use Howard Brinton's phrase, has humanity been called on to endure such a victory as it now suffers; not since the terrible days that followed the Thirty Years War has Europe been plunged into such an awful abyss of homeless, hungry hopelessness; not since Sherman marched through Georgia to the sea have Americans been responsible for such devastating hatreds, such depths of human misery; never in human history has there been a parallel to the destruction that flew by day over Hiroshima. The world is one world of fear and hatred, of destruction and despair.

In such a world the task of the peacemaker is no easy one. It requires vision of the clearest sort, courage of the highest order, unflinching faith in the nature of the universe and the destiny of man. It requires action in some such ways as these:

1. Keep Posted. It is the first duty of the peacemaker to be intelligently informed. This requires reading and discussion of more than press and radio.
2. Be Vigilant. Preserve the widest possible area of human freedom. For us, right now, this means tireless opposition to peacetime military conscription under whatever guise it is presented.
3. Repent, Rebuild. There will not be even the beginning of peace until we have realized our fault and, in so far as that is humanly possible, rebuilt the world we have helped to destroy. This means, of course, sacrificial sharing for the relief of human misery wherever it is found.
4. Organize for Peace. We have demonstrated incomparable capacity in mobilizing our resources for war. This same capacity must now be used to organize the world for peace. No half way measures will do; nothing less than Federal World Government of all Peoples will be adequate.
5. Win Others. Peace making must become a Crusade. The people want peace but they do not realize that their desires for punishment of their enemies, privilege, in terms of living standards, power over other peoples, stand squarely in the way. And so they defeat themselves. More and more men and women of good will must be brought to understand that peace is not merely the absence of war but the re-ordering of the political, economic and cultural patterns of society.

To such a task SPC re-dedicates itself and challenges your endeavor. And there is need for haste! The atomic bomb is not more immoral than other instruments of death; its chief significance lies in the fact that it eliminates time and space as factors in our calculation. Leading scientists in England and America are warning us; Beardsley Ruml gives us not more than two to five years; Henry Smith Leiper has spoken of "the glacial leisureliness with which an atomized Christianity moves in an Atomic Age."

PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST; GIVE PEACE MAKING AN A-1 PRIORITY IN YOUR LIFE!

THANK YOU, Our Tenth Birthday Party was a great success. Attendance was nearly ONE AND ALL double that of last year; "presents" were correspondingly generous. Bertha Bracey's message, "Roots of Order and Disorder in Europe" was a moving one; Sylvia Biorn-Hansen played two beautiful numbers on the piano--"A good time was had by all." One friend wrote, "Last evening was more wonderful than I can express...the enclosed gift...so proud of you all...a magnificent job...happy to be a part of the occasion." Another congratulated us on a decade of service, hoped we would live to be a hundred. A wire received during the evening read: "Appreciating fine work done. Looking forward with you."

LAUGHTER OF FRIENDS "If the devils could laugh," said Raymond Wilson last October, "they would be shaking now at the magnificent irony of events." On the very day that President Truman called for Compulsory Military Training, the Indianapolis Star headlined the news that America will "de-militarize" the Japanese school system. Mr. Wilson was in Japan when military training was first introduced into the school system there. At that time the Japanese Minister of War solemnly assured the people that they were copying the "so-excellent" American system (R.O.T.C. not for military purposes but for the building of health, discipline and character!

The United Press reports determined opposition to the Truman plan; it is probable that a plan based on American Legion proposals will be considered next. The same determined opposition must continue. Georgia Harkness, distinguished leader of Methodism, whom many of our readers will recognize and all will trust, writes: "There is no ground for optimism--only vigorous action can defeat it. Letters do count. They matter so much that the bill can be defeated if (and probably only if) the congressmen's constituencies are sufficiently heard from." (See enclosed folder.)

LOOK AHEAD AT COMING EVENTS Sixth Annual Mid-Winter Institute of International Relations: RUSSIA'S ROLE IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER, discussed under the leadership of a distinguished faculty of experts; auspices of the American Friends Service Committee. We are preparing for the biggest and best ever. Save the Date-- Onondaga Hotel, Syracuse, February 15-17.

LOOK HOMEWARDS Peacemakers need to remember that peace is indivisible; that war has roots in economic conflict; that the struggle over the distribution of wealth at home is part of the whole world struggle. They cannot be indifferent, therefore, to the labor-capital conflict now going on. These facts, reported by the Securities and Exchange Commission are pertinent to our thinking: Current assets of American corporations on June 30 stood at \$99,300,000,000; up from the 1939 figures of \$54,600,000,000. Current liabilities only increased from 30 billion to 51 billion; which being interpreted, means that the net working capital of our corporations has doubled during the war. Quite evidently the cost of the war was not shared on an ability-to-pay basis despite all the pious promises; obviously the tears now being shed for the "poor" corporations in their struggle with "greedy" labor are at least partly of the crocodile variety.

Incidentally, President Truman has given his approval to the Permanent Fair Employment Practices Committee Bill. It will probably be voted on before the end of this month. If you wish to support it, write Sen. Alben Barkley, Sen. Wallace White, Congressman Joseph Martin.

CHAOS and OLD NIGHT AGAIN "After the First World War the conscience of the West became convinced that the destruction of the high hopes of lasting peace for which men had died resulted in large measure, first, from an unjust and implacable peace treaty, and second, from an unintelligent and brutal treatment which left great masses of the German people--especially the young--without hope or opportunity. Today the Allies are not simply repeating the mistakes of Versailles; they are compounding them. They are now, in their occupation policies, producing a greater despair and a greater chaos in the heart of Europe than followed the last war." Or, as LIFE has indicated: We are losing the peace much faster than we won the war.

This is the fruit of enforcement of the vindictive Potsdam Pact, which is largely a "made in America" product. Mr. Morgenthau fathered it; Mr. Roosevelt sponsored it. We are responsible. General Eisenhower has declared that it will not work; Mr. Bevin admits it was an error; the Federal Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Bishops have protested.

TIME reports that men in the starvation unit of c.o.'s at the University of Minnesota lost 25% of their weight on an 1800 calorie diet. "It is nonsense to think that you can starve people and make them believe in the four freedoms at the same time," declared the doctor in charge. "To talk about the will of the people when you aren't feeding them is perfect hog wash."

But official Washington is obdurate. The government believes that it has the support of the American people for this savage policy. Does it have yours? Silence gives consent.

If you care, the President of the United States lives in The White House on Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. He is your representative.

WINTER HAS COME "Now," writes an American member of the Friends Ambulance Unit in London to his mother, "winter has come bringing snow and zero weather to Germany...." and goes on to tell of a half-starved couple, sleeping under thin covers in a windowless room in Berlin, who froze to death in the night.

HAVE YOU AN EXTRA WARM BLANKET OR QUILT, CLOTHING OR SHOES? WE ARE STILL COLLECTING AND SHIPPING REGULARLY THROUGH THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE.

Another observer writes: "Frankfurt-on-Oder, a town of 45,000 inhabitants, still possesses 45 milking cows of which 30 are dry. Eberswalde has 8 milking cows for a population of 20,000. In many places newborn babies get a quarter of a liter of milk every two days. These are condemned to death. In one vicinity 41 out of 45 newborn babies died. The daily death rate in Berlin has risen from 150 to 4000."

WE ARE RECEIVING CONTRIBUTIONS OF MONEY FOR THE PURCHASE OF A HEIFER TO BE SHIPPED TO POLAND OR HOLLAND. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST PRACTICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE OF ALL FORMS OF RELIEF. AND IT CAN BE DONE NOW. WE CAN USE MONEY NOW FOR MILK, FOOD AND CLOTHING FOR AUSTRIA.

One Day's Menus in Liberated Italy

Breakfast: "Coffee" of roasted barley.

Lunch: Vegetable soup (spaghetti once a week); a fresh vegetable; fruit.

Dinner: Vegetable soup, salad, bread.

WE ARE SENDING MONTHLY PACKAGES OF FOOD TO ITALY, FINLAND, FRANCE. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.

THOUGH I SPEAK WITH THE TONGUES OF MEN AND OF ANGELS, AND HAVE NOT LOVE, I AM BECOME AS SOUNDING BRASS, OR A TINKLING CYMBAL.