

IF WE COULD SEE If the American people could see the faces of the victims of our post-war (Potsdam) policies in Europe, they would demand, not only relief but a change of policy. To help you translate the statistics of homeless hunger into flesh and blood individuals, here is a section of a letter written by an A.F.S.C. relief worker in March. It is an account of a trip from Paris to Vienna.

"Arthur stopped to pick up a young woman with a heavy load - soon there was another one - rather well dressed - trudging along carrying a heavy load. He left her for me to pick up. Within the next hour we picked up about 25 people - Arthur had half and I had the other half. We stopped for dinner and to check the clutch pedal which was cutting up again. We had some of our emergency rations left which we shared with the group. All of them were from Vienna and had come out the day before to trade some of their possessions to the farmers for potatoes, bread and turnips. The woman who rode in the cab with me told me that all people in Vienna did that - and those that didn't went under. I asked her why she didn't ride the train. She answered that the trains left Linz at 11:30 A.M. and arrived at Vienna at two the next morning and that those that rode the train lost their baggage during the night. The Russian soldiers took everything away from them. I asked her what she would have done if I hadn't picked her up. If night had caught her on the road she would have hidden in the ditch, she said. To my question of why she couldn't have found shelter with some farm family along the way she answered that farmers lock their doors at 7:00 and admit no one after dark. The woman who rode with Arthur has a mother in a concentration camp, she was driven from her farm by the Czechs and started out as a refugee with a wagon and team. The Russians took her team from her and the American soldiers robbed her of her jewels. The jewels the Americans took were of more worth than either the farm or the wagon and team. Well, we figured that we had a load so we stopped picking up people after a while, but the later it got in the day the harder people along the way begged to be picked up. In one of the towns we had to stop for a light, traffic jam, or something - don't remember exactly why - and things got out of control then. People rushed to our trucks and climbed aboard. I had to discourage a few who were hanging on to the side because of the danger in letting them ride there. We were unable to count them but I can safely say that there were at least 50 people riding in our trucks. And this way we arrived in Vienna. I end with the words of the French waitress who served us in a hotel along the way, 'Poor France, Poor Germany, Poor War.' "

WE MUST MAKE UP OUR MINDS Now read the enclosed leaflet by the Director of the British Peace Council for an understanding of the political consequences of an Allied policy for which we have a full measure of responsibility.

Then

Lift your telephone and reserve places for our Spring Conference with VERA BRITAIN to discuss "The Recovery of Europe" with one of the half-dozen ablest British speakers in this field. (If you have another copy of the enclosed poster, please pass this one on.)

P.O.W. "The American delivery of German prisoners to the French and British for forced labor already is being cited by the Russians as justification for them to retain German army captives for as long as they are able to work. The bartering of captured enemy soldiers by the victors throws the world back to the Dark Ages," according to an official of the International Red Cross quoted in the Chicago Tribune recently. Russia has enslaved hundreds of thousands of prisoners of war; reports of French treatment of P.O.W.s rival those of Nazi concentration camps; England plans to keep 200,000 for labor. We are not keeping P.O.W.s, merely turning them over to others to be stripped of their clothing and put to forced labor under conditions that violate the Geneva convention.

DEFEAT THE DRAFT That permanent conscription is the real issue in draft extension was revealed by a telegram sent to supporters of compulsory military training throughout the nation by the Citizens' Committee for Military Training of Young Men, Inc., whose headquarters are on Wall Street in New York City. The telegram reads:

"It is the considered opinion of this executive committee that there will be no chance of favorable action by the Congress on a Universal Military Training Bill if the draft is not extended. Will you ask as many people as possible to wire or telephone their Senators while at home during the Easter recess urging extension of the present Selective Service Act for 12 months without crippling amendments."

This makes our job clear enough. **ACT ACCORDINGLY!**

NOTES from the I.F.O.R. Conference
(Stockholm - March)

Three main themes occupied the attention of the Council:

1. The Challenge: We must ^{face} facts realistically, it is wrong to dissimulate. We are witnessing the fall of Western Christian civilization; Russia, the new world power, is outside that tradition; the peace movement has broken down; youth is disillusioned and discouraged; there is no real drive for peace in the Church. Conscientious objection is primary and fundamental but it is not enough; we must also build a federal frame-work in which peace will be possible. Retreat into the desert may come, but we must not seek it; we are responsible as citizens as long as democracy has meaning. Monastic retirement (tempting as it is) might save soul and body, or body at least, but to contract out of modern industrial civilization is to condemn millions to death. The scientist in charge of British atomic research was quoted as saying, "I give mankind ten years in which either to establish permanent peace or destroy himself."

2. The State: The villain everywhere is the national state. The United Nations are not united; their military victory has not ended the totalitarian conception of the state but vastly increased it; the totalitarian theory is that the citizen exists for the state, not the state for the citizen. Against this theory the Christian doctrine of man as the child of God is the only possible defence. If this is not true, Hitler was right. The Church, by sanctioning conscription and mass murder has forfeited much of her right to protect man against the state. How can the world accept the Christian doctrine of man when the Church has abandoned it? There are two aspects of the problem: The nation state and the individual. In this area the state admits it exceeds its authority by allowing for the conscience that will not abdicate. All our liberties have been won by conscientious objection; the Church has failed in obedience to the gospel, some day it will be grateful for our steadfast minority; meantime we must live here and now "in the kingdom." The other aspect is the nation state in international relations. In this field our problem is national sovereignty. U.N.O. met, set up all the machinery, and went home in a chorus of self-congratulation, having solved the problem of the atomic bomb by not talking about it! Churchill has despaired of U.N.O. and accepted the line-up for World War Three. Truly, whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad. We must federate or perish.

3. The Church: September 1939 drew the issue and pointed up the question of our relation to an institutional church bound up with the support of a community; reactionary and irrelevant. Unless a transformation that will enable the church to speak and act radically in terms of present social realities occurs soon, the church has no future. There is not only the problem of economic dependence on the status quo, there is the problem of language. This arises both from the sentiment attached to the past and from the scientific mindedness of today. Ninety per cent of our ablest youth reject Christ, though often nearer to Him in heart than we, because we are unable to read strange new meaning into old words, and because they are too genuine to use words dishonestly. Pacifism compels us to another view of human nature than that offered by traditional theology. This other view must be restated.

In the third century the church abandoned its responsibility to redeem the world and, to save its own soul, retired into a desert preoccupation with sex, the miraculous, an allegorical interpretation of Scripture, and the future life. This fact has been conditioned by 1,600 years of history. The natural and the supernatural are not identical but they belong together as physics and metaphysics belong together. Christian philosophy concentrated on a great metaphysics but accepted a wholly false physics. What could men do but break away from a church which denied the facts of their own observation? A great period ended; physics took the throne; and now modern science is prostituted because it is united with a rotten metaphysics. Now we are seeing that age end and we are arrived at the tragic Atomic Era. The greatest discovery since the discovery of fire has been perverted to evil uses by the two great Christian democracies. For that crime we shall pay in blood for generations yet unborn.