

NOVEMBER This month we revise our membership and mailing lists. And it looks like we should lose a lot of you in the process. Do you really want us to do that? What was the matter with the postpaid envelope we sent you last month? No use keeping it; you can't use it for anything else, and if you're trying to save an expense you can stick on your own postage stamp! But get them back - we open each one with a thrill of pleasurable excitement - and we need the assurance of your confidence and cooperation Obey that impulse! Eventually, why not now?

SIGNS OF THE TIMES Under the heading, "America's 5-year Plan for War," the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin of September 9, 1946, carried the following article by Steffan Andrews, Washington, D. C.: "Without fanfare or official pronouncements, the U.S. is quietly launching a five-year preparedness and industrial mobilization plan for war. The aim is to prepare the country for an emergency, to offset any threat of sudden attack. The plans are such top-drawer secrets, Army men say the public will get the news only piece-meal. Here are some focal points: War orders will be stepped up in key plants. Rockets will get top ordnance-testing priority. Stockpiling will get under way in all critical materials." The President is reported to have appointed an inner circle of trusted advisors, made up of high ranking army, navy and air officers to serve as "elder statesmen for national defense."

A cablegram from the chief of the Paris Bureau of the Associated Press, in September, declared that the Peace Conference "appears now to be headed for failure and people in Paris, both foreigners and French, both those who know and those who feel, are more profoundly depressed today than at any time since the last gun was fired in Europe. They feel that world War III already is in sight." Veteran journalist Villard calls this "one of the most terrible dispatches I have ever read."

So it is. But the most terrible thing will be a negative response from the American people. We can sit down helplessly, groan over the prospect, and say there is nothing we can do about it. Or we can stand up on our hind legs like citizens of a democracy and demand that our government, Administration--State Department--Congress, provide leadership and chart courses for peace.

You don't know what those courses are? Why don't you attend Peace Council forums; read peace-oriented literature, organize discussion groups, and if you haven't renewed your membership in SPC, do that! All together we might learn.

BARGAIN By the way, speaking of lists, who is going to help us get the last 100 names for PNL? Fred Schwender sent 130; others have sent as many more. Aren't there 20 others who will take advantage of our special fall subscription offer 5 for \$1.00? The new readers are already beginning to express their appreciation. Let's finish the job!

A SECOND CHANCE Opportunity, they say, knocks only once, but Russia has a second time - challenged the nations to disarm. And in spite of the fact that our best thinking in all areas (Gen. Geo. C. Kenney, U.S. Army Air Force; Norman Thomas, Socialist; A. J. Muste, pacifist) assures us that national disarmament is absolutely essential to international peace, we greet Molotov's proposal with suspicion, and hostility. It is called 'shrewd,' 'tough.' Of course there are objections and difficulties in the way but these should be measured not against an ideal situation but against an atomic certainty. If Russia is bluffing, why not call her bluff? It could be done easily. Or is it possible that we are not really so "peace loving" when it comes to the showdown? Look magazine in 1938 characterized Germany, Italy and Japan as warlike because they spent more than half their national budgets for war. In 1946 Mr. Wallace called President Truman's attention to the fact that 80% of our national budget goes for war expenditures. Other estimates say 90%.

A Congregational professor of Christian ethics at the Pacific School of Religion declares: "So long as any nation--and I mean any nation--reserves the right to wage war, declared or undeclared, the atomic war is a practical certainty."

Norman Corwin, winner of the Wilkie "One World" Award, back from a 37,000 mile journey through 17 countries says: the people's will to peace is unmistakable; the Russians not only are "desirous of peace, but are resentful and critical of war talk." Would you personally like to get behind the "iron-curtain" and tell the Russian people in language they can understand how you feel about it? You can!

Russia has FOUR MILLION war orphans. \$21.50 will buy a complete outfit of clothing for a boy (\$21 for a girl!) which can be sent with a friendly message sewn to each garment, free of charge, on Soviet ships. Shall the Peace Council outfit a boy or a girl--or both? You answer.

OPPORTUNITY Must We Fight Russia? Are there any questions to which you are more eager to know the answer? Hear Martin Hall, Friday, November 15, 8 P.M., Y.W.C.A. Forum tickets, or single admissions \$1.00.

WE? We'll keep our Pacific Islands, boasts the editorial column of your good morning newspaper with patriotic fervor. "The young men of this country took island after island in the Pacific with their blood and sweat and tears--and we're going to hold on to them." Who are we? Not many of us editors, I expect. "We" will be the blood and sweat and tears of more young men of the next or, more likely, this generation. How about it?

NOT PUBLICIZED A confidential register of public opinion, reflecting the subjects and attitudes of letters to the President, is kept and circulated within executive departments of the government. It is not publicized, but it is very much a reality.

IF We are grateful to Bishop Ledden for making it possible for many of us to hear Dr. Ralph Sockman insist that the Stewardship of National Power requires: strong minds to know the truth; great hearts to understand people; true faith in something greater than ourselves; ready hands to enlist in service. "If we can keep our heads for five years, war will not be inevitable. Russia's iron curtain is not the only one. The people behind the headlines know (as we do not) what war is, and they want none of it."

MORE ABOUT WALLACE We have only three comments to make on this: (1) The letter to the President in defense of his stand is better reasoned than the Madison Square Garden speech and does not suggest so much of the two-world idea, while pointing out the necessity of a give-and-take, for instance in the argument over atomic control; (2) Henry Wallace is essentially a "religious man"--that this was widely recognized at the time and used as an excuse for what some people considered muddle-headedness is a reflection either on the state of religion in this country or the state of political thought; (3) The argument between Baruch and Wallace comes down to whether or not we should destroy our existing stockpile of bombs. Baruch calls this one-sided disarmament. On the other hand, his plan, while good in its major outlines, calls on Russia to reveal all its mineral deposits and accept all American ideas, every step of the way, without the United States giving up anything until the very end.

THE OUTLOOK "The outlook in Europe and Asia for the winter and coming year is tragic. Anticipated improvement in conditions has not materialized. "Despite bumper crops, millions still face famine in Asia; thousands in Europe are living in caves, shacks or dugouts carved from the ruins of their homes. Millions know the hardship of life without fuel." --Clarence Pickett, Exec. Secretary, A.F.S.C. This is not the road to peace; it is the most stupid policy possible as the history of 1917-1919-1939 proves. We know it, but it is so much easier to spend some one else's blood and sweat and tears than to share our food. And there is a real sense in which these are alternatives.

GOOD NEIGHBORS Meanwhile Canadians, who are still rationed, have voluntarily contributed more than ONE MILLION meat coupons for relief. Recently they shipped one cargo of 800,000 pounds of canned meat to Poland.

CONSCRIPTION OUTLOOK The draft holiday is almost certainly an election maneuver. The intimation of the War Department, in announcing the holiday, that Selective Service might never be renewed is viewed skeptically in most peace circles, especially in the light of reliable reports that the War Department is planning for the coming session of Congress not only a campaign for universal military training of six months, but also draft extension after March 31, 1947. The six months training period is in reality still a year's program, with the second six months to be spent in the National Guard, the R.O.T.C., Enlisted Reserves, or other options. Calculated to train 726,000 men a year, the annual cost of the program is estimated at 2 billion dollars.

REFUGEES Ten months have passed since President Truman issued his directive to speeding the entrance of displaced persons into this country. Less than 5,000 such persons have actually been admitted although the quotas for Central Europe amount to 39,000. The tragedy of all this is that the quotas are non-cumulative not only from year to year, but from month to month. Every month that passes without 3900 people coming in under this program means that many people are left to stagnate in camps and European hunger. Until further legislation is possible one might inquire of the State Department: (1) Since no change in the law is required, why should not quotas be cumulative from month to month? (2) If there is a shortage of quota for the Polish displaced persons, why is the quota of 6,000 for them unfilled? (3) Why have efforts to fulfill the President's orders been so ineffective over ten months' time?