

The Treasurer says:

"A thank you to every one for the birthday gifts. Please accept this instead of personal letters. We're busy." She's right; we are busy - but we are also thankful. Hope you don't mind!

Hear A. J. G. Priest, "The World Government We Want," at the Institute.

THE EDITOR SPEAKING It was three above zero this morning. I walked into our warm office, took off my heavy coat and glanced out the window at the whirling snow. Then I turned to the pile of mail on my desk. "War Department and President are pressing for peacetime conscription," said the first item. I ponder briefly on the terrible effects on our national life and character that are bound to follow such legislation; I recall the consequences of universal conscription in Europe.... The next letter bears a familiar red and black star. "Aake Ordning, Executive Secretary of the Norwegian Labor Party and Chairman of the U.N. Committee on Post-UNRRA Relief has accepted our invitation to open the Mid-Winter Institute at the Onondaga Feb. 14" Good. I hope he will remind us of General Clark's warning that nothing less than \$150 million rehabilitation program for Austria will prevent widespread starvation and chaos in that zone this winter.... The next letter is from Stuart Green, our "personal representative" in Vienna. It acknowledges the receipt of four packages from SPC and tells about his plans for distribution. "Would you believe that they make one can of your soup mix last for six meals!!!"

I don't care for soup mix, myself. The wind rattles the window and I glance idly at the hissing radiator before picking up the next letter. This is a foreign script. It is a letter of thanks for a food package. "Greater Hesse, 28th November 1946: Our hearts were full to overflowing for we have three children to raise on our impossibly low diet....and you simply cannot deny them just a piece of bread or a potato. So you can realize how thankful we were for your wonderful gift...Michael is 6, Stefan 3½, and Brigitte is our baby girl. She is really cute and I love her very much. May this lovely flame of love which was and is burning in all good souls cast its light over this dark night."

We really must get off this month's boxes, I think. "Miss Gray," I call, "how much is our balance in the food fund?" There is a moment's pause. Then the answer: "\$2.04 in the red."

I glance down at the pile of letters. "Besides, the weather is freezing and it takes them (his callers) a long time to thaw out," writes Stuart. The radiator is still singing at my side. "One can of soup mix....six meals. She is really cute; I love her very much....\$2.04 in the red."

Hear Norman Thomas, "The World We Have" at the Institute.

HENRY WALLACE SAYS: (referring to Lincoln's assertion that he put the man before the dollar) "There you have the simplest definition of a liberal--one who, in case of conflict, puts human rights first and property rights second.

"Today the liberal movement is weaker than at any time since the days of Harding and Coolidge. But today the liberal movement is more needed than at any time in our history. It is needed because the reactionaries by their policies will almost certainly cause depression and finally war.

"When the U.S. (by a low tax, high tariff policy) forces its own unemployment and distressed farm prices on foreign nations, the result is eventually revolution or war.

"The U S cannot indefinitely go Right while the rest of the world is going Left, without an explosion.

"They (the progressives of many nations) fear a repetition of depression and isolationism with tariff wars, blocked exchanges, a revival of nationalism and the recreation of Central European fascist states as the old effort is made again to find a buffer against Russia."

Hear Milton Mayer "The People We Need" at the Institute.

THE INFANTRY JOURNAL SAYS: In a recent article former Assistant Secretary for War John J. McCloy reports that at the end of the war an atomic bomb a thousand times as destructive as that dropped on Hiroshima was just around the corner. For the first time he revealed that some of the most eminent scientists that worked on the bomb believe that it is possible to use hydrogen in the production of atomic energy. So once more he raises the specter of illimitable destruction through the creation of a chain reaction in the air. This should give point and urgency to the expected debate in the Security Council on whether the American plan for control of atomic power or the Russian plan for general disarmament shall come first.

We are not diplomats, of course,--just prospects for atomization--as such we are in favor of both at once! If you feel that way, too, you can tell Sec. Gen. Trygve Lie at Lake Success, N.Y. He must have a lot on his mind these days but, even so, he might be interested.

Hear Aake Ordning on "World Community Required" at the Institute.

R. Owens
16 Marburg/Lahn
Ritterstr. 12
U.S.A. Bonn
Greater Hesse, Germany

New Republic
1/27/47 p. 22-23.

C.C. 1/15/47 p. 69

WHO'S KIDDING WHOM? "We are living in a time when minds are being deliberately poisoned. The people want peace. But when they read the newspapers they are subtly aroused to suspicion by a continuous stream of insinuations against the country of Tolstoy. All information from Russia is carefully sifted and there is a fierce struggle for survival of the news that is 'fittest' to print in this campaign.

"War is being prepared now if it ever was. It is a psychological trick that is being practised on the American people.....opinion polls, editorials, magazine articles tell them they are getting more and more afraid of Russia, until they really are. Every evening commentators over the radio give iron-curtain lectures. War is on the air and in the air.

"The life and work of Tolstoy....has many meanings. But today, here and now, they mean only one thing--that it is up to us to have the courage to give an unequivocal answer to the question: War OR peace?"

Frederic Wertham in a review of E. J. Simmons' new life of Leo Tolstoy (Little, Brown, \$5.)

Hear Eddy Asivatham, "as it looks from Asia" at the Institute.

COOPERATION vs. COMPETITION We are very glad to remind you of the economic "plank" in our SPC Statement of Policy for the Year by reference to an article in The Christian Century by Dr. Carl Kreider, formerly a research assistant in the Brookings Institution, now Dean of Goshen College, Ind. Dr. Kreider fears that the present Congress may revert to the economic nationalism of the twenties which most of us have come to understand as a prolific cause of World War II. He reminds us that "when goods do not cross international frontiers, armies will" and declares that "if we renounce economic internationalism, political isolationism will follow as surely as night follows day."

Therefore, he concludes, we should be alert to the dull sounding tariff discussions in Congress and strongly support reciprocal trade agreements.

Hear Yourself talk all about it, at the Institute

CHEERS FOR THE CHURCH COUNCIL A.P. 1-22-47. "The New York State Council of churches today voted 'unswerving opposition' to peacetime universal military training as 'spiritually destructive.'

"The Protestant organization adopted a resolution criticizing the proposed system as an 'obsolete' method of national defense and an acceptance of power technic."

"The resolution described the training program as tending 'toward social harm by exalting the military point of view, by restricting freedom of conscience and initiative, by removing immature youth from the shelter of home, church and school and often exposing them to undue temptation.'"

Send orchids to Bishop W. Earl Ledden of Syracuse, please.

BUT ARMY PLANS The latest pamphlet of the War Department, published January, 1947, asked that all boys be forced to take a year of military training at the age of eighteen, spending six months in military camps and an equivalent of six months in other training. The equivalent, determined partly by choice and partly by financial circumstance, permits either three years in a National Guard unit, four years in college R.O.T.C. or in a military academy, enlistment in the Regular Armed forces, or study in an approved technical school.

This is why Mordecai W. Johnson and Alonzo F. Myers, after referring to "the growing military control over science" and "the rising influence of the War and Navy Departments over foreign policy" warn the "the threat of military control over education is greater today than at any time in our history."

What are you doing now?

The BOOK END Herman Hagedorn's "The Bomb that Fell on America" will stab you wide awake. Bishop Oxnam says, "I wish every citizen who loves his country and every man who loves his God might read and act on these dramatic lines." Order from us-- \$1.25 postpaid.

P.S. Did you hear about the Institute at the Onondaga this month?

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