

**BATTLE OF WORDS** Referring to the "gratuitous insults" of Russia and the "Vishinsky diatribe" a recent local editorial suggests that "the Soviet government has opened a full-fledged campaign of antagonism and bitterness against the U.S." and concludes: "But America knows where the whip lies and who is afraid of that whip.

"And we will not let go of it - or of our calm and patient pursual of peace."

The next day the same paper advised us to "Retaliate in kind" on the principle of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

Well, that's one way of meeting the situation, of course, and it has plenty of bad precedent. But we are deeply convinced that it is not the way to peace. The difficulty is that there is truth and error on both sides, as usual. There are things about the Russian system that we rightly abhor; there are features of our system to which they as honestly object. We have taken upon ourselves the right and the responsibility to make the world safe for democracy. With equal logic the USSR undertakes to make the world safe for communism. Our policy in Latin America, the Mediterranean or the Islands of the Pacific, undoubtedly and naturally looks to Ivan Ivanovitch like encirclement. Their policy in the Baltics and the Balkans - Eastern Europe - as naturally appears to John Q. Public as aggression. And when any one of us tries to say an honest word about the other he is immediately branded with a bad word: "Communist" or "Capitalist." This is not only nonsense; it is tragic folly, for the one thing needful is the mutual understanding that breeds respect and tolerance. Above all we need the great gift to see ourselves as others see us. But fewer people are willing to do that. The alternative is inescapably World War III. Are you willing to do that?

If not, how often do you try to help, your neighbor, your newspaper editor or radio commentator to see and understand your point of view?

**HARVEST TIME** To begin with, we are tremendously grateful for the encouraging response to the "stamp tax" notice last month. We got close to \$100 in stamps and bills and numerous encouraging messages like these: "Don't worry, you'll make both ends meet," and "We hope to be able to send some spondulix along in a few weeks. Keep up the fight, please." Splendid! And thank you all!

We won't worry, -too much; and we will keep up the fight, although there have been hours and days when we were tempted to quit. But we certainly do need that spondulix; as shown by the fact that we closed last month with a margin of \$67.59. Too close for comfort!

The Executive Committee this month approved a budget of \$500 per month as the minimum basis on which we could meet our current costs and maintain our program level. A Budget and Finance Committee was appointed to raise the money, and the following categories of contributions and memberships was outlined:

|   |        |         |
|---|--------|---------|
| News-Letter subscription, 35¢ annually; 3 for | 1.00   |         |
| Peace Service, annual subscription            | 3.00   |         |
| Regular membership, per year                  | 2.00   |         |
| Sustaining, per month                         | 1.00   |         |
| Contributor, per year                         | 5.00   | or more |
| Sponsor, per year                             | 100.00 | or more |

All memberships include subscription to the Peace-News-Letter.

If we can secure 12 "sponsors", 100 "sustaining members", and 300 "regulars" we shall have half our budget. The rest will come from other contributions, subscriptions and offerings. Are you a self-starter? You can save us a lot of work and worry if you respond by mail.

During the discussion of ways and means a new member of the Committee said, "I hadn't realized the financial problem. I think we ought to make our needs more specifically known. I'm sure it would help people to realize their responsibility."

This message is an attempt to do just that, but we ought not to use the brief space of PNL too often for this kind of thing. Let's make it unnecessary, soon! October is the traditional Harvest Time; November ought to bring Thanksgiving!

**SOCIAL ISSUES** Having abandoned our plans for a Fall Forum Series of our own we are very glad to call your attention to the excellent series offered by The Social Issues Forum at 8:15 on six Thursday evenings at the Amalgamated Hall, 133 James Street:

- October 16 - Boom or Bust - Jack Barbash, economic consultant.
- " 23 - What's Ahead for Labor - McAlister Coleman, author, columnist.
- " 30 - Is Militarism Our Answer to Russia? - Tucker Smith, college professor.
- November 6 - Canada's C.C.F. - Agnes McPhail, Canadian M.P. and Ontario Co-op.
- " 13 - Socialists Look Ahead - Norman Thomas.
- " 20 - How the Vets Were Sold Out - William C. Gausmann, Washington, D.C.

Tickets are \$2.40 for the series. ON SALE AT OUR OFFICE.

**3 BAGS FULL** We need not 3 but literally 3 times 30 of the useful little drawstring bags filled with "findings" for women who desperately try to repair or remake old garments where there is no dime store around the corner. Needles, buttons, tape, thread, darning cotton, pins, elastic, scissors and perhaps a bright bit of ribbon or other "surprise" to lend the personal touch. If you have sent in all your old clothes, try something new - and put your name and address in the bag. An excellent group project.

VICTOR Our Fall Conference was a real success in every way. The dining room was  
YATES crowded, the dinner delicious, and the offering generous. Most important  
of all was the message. For the benefit of those who could not hear it,  
PNL offers a brief digest:

SING A SONG OF WARFARE

The kings are in the background issuing commands;  
The queens are in the parlor where etiquette demands;  
The bankers in the countinghouse are busy multiplying;  
Whilst common people in the front are doing all the dying.

Britain stands in the very difficult and vulnerable position, between the conflicting ideologies of Russian Communism and American free enterprise. It's like being between the nutcrackers. Imagine our position in a war of atomic bombs! Britain is not Communist and is opposed to all forms of totalitarianism, but much as we disagree with the Russian form of government we believe a way out must be found. The prospects of World War III are too horrible to contemplate.

Confronted with a desperate economic situation at the close of the war, the people faced the necessity for change and had the courage to work for it; hence the Labour Government which has won every by-election since it came to power. It is a determined purpose of the Socialist program in Britain to provide "fair shares for all" because where hunger and want are there will be war also. Therefore, we interfere with private enterprise in the interest of public service. This we believe may be the way out and if we are successful in our experiment we should have some influence in helping others to find the way. Perhaps America might find some interest in it.

Australia and New Zealand, without being requested to do so, have initiated a rationing system in order that their food may be shared by the needy people of the world. If America should feel that she could establish some system by which she could share her great abundance we should bow in honor before her and it would give America the place of moral leadership that would enable her to use her vast power for the peace of the world.

I cannot understand the people in England who oppose interference with business but who believe in the military conscription of youth. America and Britain would be well advised to reconsider the whole question of military conscription. The world indeed cannot afford to use up its man power for military purposes in the face of such tremendous need; nor can we afford to create suspicion and deepen the fears of the world.

If Russia wanted to sweep through Europe there is nothing in the way to prevent her. We do not believe she wants to. We are not afraid of Russia. Why cannot Russia and America each live in its own way? We believe a middle way could be found for a democratic socialism in a federated Europe which would be the greatest bulwark for peace in the world.

HANDS ACROSS THE SEAS Do you know a school that would like to "adopt" an overseas school of similar size and character? The purpose, of course, is to develop international friendships and understanding through correspondence and sharing. No fees are charged. No cash required. But shoes, soap, toilet articles, paper, pencils, books are urgent needs. The educative value to our young people of learning how other students think and live; of sharing their own abundance, and developing pen-pal friendships is very great. The American Friends Service Committee investigates and recommends the Overseas Schools. If you are interested, write us about your school - location, age and number of students, and other information. We will try to match you with a somewhat similar school.

OLD CLOTHES Response to the Clothing Campaign was generous and boxes are still coming in so fast that we can not make a final report this month. Hundreds of people will be warmer and happier this winter because of your thoughtfulness. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR SORTING AND PACKING. Call Ray Fuller 2:5316. And remember that OURS IS A CONTINUING COLLECTION. We plan to ship every month.

THE BOOK END For this month we are rather excitedly urging you to take the trouble to look up a copy of the September '47 Harper's and read Professor Henry Com-manger's article "Who Is Loyal to America?" In these days of purges, name calling, investigations and growing hysteria, a distinguished professor of history at Columbia tells us sternly that loyalty is not conformity, that it is not identifiable with a particular economic system; that it may even require hostility to the status quo, that our American tradition is one of protest and revolt, that disloyalty tests are futile, that it is stultifying to celebrate the rebels of the past while we ailence the rebels of the present. He quotes the Supreme Court, "If there is any fixed star in our Constitutional constellation it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox...in matters of opinion, or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein."

Read it, and equip yourselves to meet today's threat to freedom. (Reprints available for 15¢.)

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