

EASTER LEGACY In 1946 the New York Times published a letter from a young veteran in Halloran Hospital, a letter created by suffering, anguish and bewilderment. After four years of struggle, the writer died. On March 5, 1950 the Times published a letter from Dr. Howard A. Rush, announcing John Crown's death and quoting his letter:

His legacy to the world was an example of courage and a philosophy of life which, in these troubled and uncertain days, plead even more eloquently for the necessity of understanding than the day on which his letter was written.

In this era of precocious technology, hydrogen bombs, guided missiles and all the additions to the horrors of war that have caused an epidemic of anxiety and tension throughout the world, this pain-wracked boy's prescription for peace among men merits thoughtful re-reading:

My name is John Crown. I am a paraplegia at Halloran General Hospital. My physical wounds are very small in comparison with my spiritual wounds. I have come back from death to a world that I no longer care for. I, who have been engaged in the great struggle to save the world from tyranny and having seen my comrades die for this cause, can now find no peace in the world or in my country.

Having lived close to death for two years, the reasons why there is no peace seem infinitesimally flimsy. Russia wants the Dardanelles, Yugoslavia wants Trieste, the Moslems want India, labor wants more wages, capital wants more profit, Smith wants to pass the car in front of him, Junior wants more spending money. To these, I say, is it necessary to kill and cripple human beings for these petty gains?

Any one who thinks a human body is so cheap that it can be traded for a tract of land, a piece of silver, or a few minutes of time should be forced to listen to the moans of the dying night and day for the rest of his life.

All the troubles of the world originate in the common man. The selfish and greedy ways of nations are just the ways of each individual man multiplied a hundredfold. When the morals of the common man drop, so do the morals of the nation and of the world.

As long as our individual morals remain at a low ebb, so will be the world. Until each of us stops "hogging the road" with his car, stops fighting over the seat on the bus, stops arguing over who is going to cut the grass, there will be no peace in the world. If man wishes peace again, he must return to the great Commandment, "Love thy neighbor as thyself for the love of God."

FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS On February 24, observed around the globe as World Day of Prayer, 600 high school girls in Hiroshima in a meeting of their student council, at which no teachers were present, engaged in a two hour prayer meeting. They then drafted a letter to President Truman, Prime Minister Stalin and Sec. Gen. Trygve Lie. Then each of the 600 girls signed her name.

"On this World Day of Prayer we bring to mind the horrible experience at the time of the atomic bomb, and we feel deeply the urgent need of a world peace for the sake of the welfare of all people. That day on which our dear fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and friends were taken from us, on that day tens of thousands in Hiroshima lost their lives as victims of the atomic bomb, and the city full of life until that morning was burned to ashes in but a few seconds. And it was thought that never again would we be able to stand up. The grievous calls for help which came from under the fallen buildings lying within the devouring fire which had wrapped the completely destroyed city are still calling us and pushing us into the road to peace.

"We do not want others to suffer this piteous tragedy which war has brought to us. No matter how science may prosper, man cannot make man. When we think how important each individual is, and of how lightly they were treated in the war, we firmly pray that such a thing will never happen again.

"But even if everyone had gone through the terrible experience, people are still preparing for war. The leaders of each country say that they will use weapons as a means to peace. But as long as weapons exist we firmly believe that we cannot hope for true peace. We pray that the large sums used for armaments will be turned to render services for the happiness of mankind.

"We want you to listen to our prayers which we are shouting from the bottom of our hearts.

"We pray (from the bottom of our hearts) that you, the great leaders of Russia and America who have the greatest strength, will take the leadership and work wholeheartedly for the purpose of world peace."

INVITATION Now, if you want to help answer these prayers, fill out the enclosed questionnaire and drop it in the mail. The reply will tell you how you can be associated with a group of your fellow citizens who work for peace through democratic means.

ANSWER TO PRAYER ? At about the same time that the Hiroshima High School girls addressed Mr. Truman, U.S. General Robert L. Eichelberger, in an address approved by the Department of Defense, told a new York audience that any peace treaty with Japan must provide for the raising of a Japanese army.

TWO WAY CURTAIN Twelve Europeans have been denied by our State Department permission to enter this country to present a peace petition to Congress. The great modern painter, Picasso, and Dean Hewlett Johnson of Canterbury Cathedral are members of the group. Communists or fellow travellers? Probably. But why keep them out, and with what consequences? Do we fear they may convert our Congress to communism? And consider the propaganda values of such a decision in Europe where people have an understandable and perhaps not unreasonable concern for peace: USA refuses to hear peace petition!

HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE "Charlie" McCarthy is alarmed at the thought of Communists in the State Department. Possibly the aid most welcome to the Communists is coming not from secret and subversive agents hidden under Washington's official beds, but from the very government of which Senator McCarthy is at the moment such a conspicuous part. The London Diary (March 11) expresses the opinion that the decision of Britain and America to support Bao Dai in French Indo-China is the very worst international decision that has been made since the war and cites Walter Lippman in the Herald Tribune. He pointed out that if the West wished to help the Soviet Union to dominate Asia it could have done nothing better than we are now doing in China and Viet. Nam. The Chinese, says the London Critic, are now finally convinced that Soviet Russia is their friend and Western Imperialism their enemy. So also Viet Nam.

HOW TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE AND LOSE FREEDOM Another result of the synthetic hysteria which is being fostered, for whatever purposes, is what Senator William Langer, a Republican from North Dakota, calls "the greatest threat to American civil liberties since the Alien and Sedition Laws of 1798." This is the "Subversive Activities Control Act, 1949" or the Mundt Bill (S2311). According to Senator Langer the bill, a long loosely worded document, would confer on a politically appointed board vague and therefore unrestricted powers which would strike at the very foundation of our democratic institutions, the rights of free speech and association. The bill is opposed by such groups as the National Farmers Union, the American Jewish Congress, the NAACP and the ACLU.

A BRITISH VIEW "The McMahon proposals are of the utmost importance because they shift the emphasis from Marshall Aid, given with political conditions by America, to a proposal for disarmament plus world economic reconstruction through U N. Russia has not refused to discuss, and even, on rare occasions, to make concessions within U N, and on that basis there is at least a chance of a limited agreement."
--London, The New Statesman and Nation.

THE BOOK END Steinbeck and Capa: A Russian Journal, Viking Press, 1948. Two private American citizens determined to explore the private life of the Russian people and report to the private people of America in word and picture. This is their unpretentious but vivid report, without political discussion and without editorial comment. They visited great cities and small villages, talked with workers in factories and peasants in fields.

What they discovered were people who know as little about us as we do about them, who are as curious about us as we are about them, who are as prepared to believe us villains as we are to believe them devils, who want peace as passionately as we do, who know as little about their foreign policy as we know about ours, who believe their country works for peace as earnestly as we believe ours does, who are often more like Americans than Americans are. The authors conclude: "We know that this journal will not be satisfactory either to the ecclesiastical Left, nor the lumpen Right. The first will say it is anti-Russian, and the second that it is pro-Russian We have no conclusions to draw except that Russian people are like all other people in the world. Some bad ones there are surely, but by far the greater number are very good."

A sane book; a gay book; a book that will give you a saving grain of salt with which to season the propagandas with which our current diet is so heavily loaded. Buy it, ask your library for it, or borrow it from us, but READ IT.

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