

EVENT OF THE MONTH Undoubtedly the most significant event of the month was the passage, over the President's veto, of the McCarran Bill setting up a Subversive Activities Control Board and requiring registration of Communist individuals and organizations, and of "front" organizations. This, the Christian Century calls "fighting fire with gasoline" and points out that it is not only discriminatory but that it imposes penalties on political opinion and automatically denies civil rights. The first amendment to the Constitution provides that "Congress shall make no law.... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble..."

The main objections to the law are that it will aid rather than hinder communism; that it will boomerang and harm innocent persons and groups which have no sympathy with communism. Moreover, it will drive Communists underground where it will be more difficult to combat them.

The American Civil Liberties Union wisely says, "Communism and all its works were never at a lower ebb in the American mind than they are today. The only important fear we need have of Communists in this country today is that they will provoke us into suicide by destruction of our own free activities."

The problem is a serious one but it is not new and we will do well to recall the words spoken about ten years ago by Chief Justice Hughes: "The greater the importance of safeguarding the country from incitements to the overthrow of our institutions by force and violence, the more imperative is the need to preserve inviolate the constitutional rights of free speech, free press and free assembly in order to maintain the opportunity for free political discussion, to the end that government may be responsive to the will of the people and that changes, if desired, may be obtained by peaceful means. Therein lies the security of the republic, the very foundation of constitutional government."

SYRACUSE AND ONONDAGA COUNTY AN IMMEDIATE PROGRAM FOR PEACE, the second number in our Fall Forum Series (October 31) is in cooperation with the AFSC. Mordecai Johnson is one of the great leaders in the field of American education and a splendid speaker. He visited India in 1949. There is sure to be a demand for tickets. Make reservations for yourself and friends now. See enclosed announcement.

AFTERMATH-EWS When Secretary of the Navy Francis P. Matthews made his speech in Boston, virtually advocating that a preventive war be launched on Russia, he was quickly disavowed by the State Department and the White House. Looked upon as a purely domestic issue, the wave of hostile reactions speedily subsided. Abroad, however, there were repercussions which won't be stilled for a long time. Of these foreign consequences, the American people have been too little informed.

In Europe, this was the kind of talk dreaded by everyone, from the man in the street to top statesmen. It shook several cabinets to their foundations. The West German government was split wide open, with one resignation and others threatened. French leaders, faced with mounting Communist propaganda that made the most of the million-dollar prize handed Moscow by Matthews, barely averted a crisis. Shock caused hurried conferences in Britain, Italy, and Scandinavia.

The Department of State, it must be assumed, would have acted to disown the Matthews speech of its own accord. It was, however, spurred by appeals from European governments wanting to know if U.S. policy had undergone a right-about-face. Still only partially reassured, many European leaders are wondering why Matthews hasn't been fired.

--Courtesy of WORLD INTERPRETER, Wilton, Conn.

ONLY 73 MORE DAYS TO CHRISTMAS! Help us load the Quaker Mitten Tree for Christmas. You can guess that the mittens from MITTEN TREES will be shipped abroad by the A.F.S.C. We need little mittens, large mittens, middle-sized mittens, mittens with a thumb, or mittens with all five fingers which makes them gloves. The more the merrier, the brighter the better, to warm the hands and the hearts of children.

Any one can plant a Mitten Tree, in your Sunday School, your church, your community. Mittens can be made from scraps of wool left over from sweaters or scarves.

An ideal project to help children understand the real meaning of Christmas

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An ideal project to help children understand the real meaning of Christmas. Make this a MITTEN CHRISTMAS! Don't say MERRY CHRISTMAS, say MERRY MITTENS.

While you're a-knittin' and a-knittin'
Never ever think of quittin'
In your stitches knit your FRIENDSHIP
Big and warm and nice -- as ME!

P.S. Our Clothing Depot is at 722 North Salina Street.

MONEY DEFERRED Congressional refusal to enact a tax on excess war profits provides dreary confirmation of the suspicion that we are waging a two-class war, in which men are drafted and money deferred.....

The official figures show that since the end of World War II corporation profits after taxes have increased 120%, whereas per capita individual income after taxes has risen only 19% during the same period.

--Editorial Comment in The Progressive, October.

ON THE
WESTERN FRONT

Washington, Sept. 17-- The National Council for Prevention of War today urged that the Foreign Ministers of United States, Great Britain, and France postpone a decision on the remilitarization of Germany until a plebiscite can be held on the subject among the German people.

In a message to the Ministers, the Council cited, as reasons for delay, the "overwhelming" rejection of militarism by the German people, and the legal, political and moral handicaps which it said would result from the "imposition" of rearmament at this time. It is proposing that the UN conduct the plebiscite.

In support of this position, NCPW quotes the official Quarterly Report of the Secretary of State, dated July 17, 1950, from the United States High Commissioner John J. McCloy: "Proposals for German rearmament as a step toward German military contribution to Western security have won little support among the German people."

But even if German public opinion is disregarded, and even if the remilitarization of Western Germany were strategically sound, which is doubtful, a German remilitarization policy would still be objectionable on the following legal, moral and political grounds:

It is contrary to international law to commandeer the man-power of an occupied country and use it as "war potential" against another.

Remilitarization would be a betrayal of trust, and a refutation of all the professed principles of the Allied administration of Germany since 1945. It would be a forced invitation to the Germans to join us in the greatest and potentially the most disastrous arms race in history.

Politically it would be self-defeating because this conversion of a disarmed and peace-minded people into American mercenaries will make us subject to criticism in all the countries of the world. Such alienation of world opinion would be worth the equivalent of six new radio stations to the "Voice of Russia". It would restore the militarists in Germany to power over the German people, threatening liberal forces there, and negating all the hard lessons of the last World War.

IN THE
ORIENT

Helen Mears, long a resident in China and Japan, and in 1946 a member of the official Labor Advisory Committee to our government in Japan, urges what she calls a tough program. It is much easier she says to keep on slugging, but

"Our record in the Far East has been one long tragedy of errors. Admittedly partisan politics makes it difficult for us to correct our self-defeating policies. Obviously the Russians are hard to get along with. Yet unless we are determined to prove our incapacity for world leadership we have to be willing to admit and correct our own mistakes; and to keep trying to find a basis for agreement with the Russians.

Common sense suggests:

(1) Recognize the Chinese Communist regime at once, and stop all aid to Chiang Kai-shek.

(2) In Korea, call for a truce to stop fighting at once. Accompany this by calling for an immediate conference, under U. N. auspices, to work out a program for a united Korea. It must be understood that the Korean people, not ourselves, will decide the form of government and choose their representatives. A Communist government must not be excluded if the Korean Communists should have majority support.

(3) Call for a general conference of the Far Eastern Commission at once to discuss the problems of a peace treaty for Japan. One of these problems is, of course, Formosa. Our position should be that we stand back of our wartime agreements with China and the U.S.S.R. but that we reserve the right to try to persuade them that some of these decisions were not in the best interests of Far Eastern stability."

DELAYED
PILGRIMS

There are still DP's waiting for an opportunity to come to America. A middle-aged couple (40-50) have just been personally recommended to us by one of our friends who visited Germany this summer. The man can do farm work and the woman is prepared to do housework of any kind.

Another family, also personally recommended, consists of father, mother and twin daughters, age 17. Father was watchmaker and business man in Riga. Can drive car and is willing to do factory or other work.

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By now you know that the overwhelming majority of these resettlements have been successful. If you can help us find an assurance for either family please ask for more information at once.

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