

IN SPIITE OF WIND AND FIRE AND STORM A brief respite in a series of severe snow storms aided attendance at the annual Syracuse Institute of International Relations, February 14 - 16. High attendance was 158. Low at 81 at the closing dinner when the snow began again. Average attendance was 121. Two people came from Warren, N. H.; others from as far West as Buffalo, as far North as Montreal, Can., and as far South as Philadelphia.

JAMES AVERY JOYCE -- English Barrister, Author and Economist reminded us that his country sometimes feels itself a huge "US aircraft carrier" which faces "annihilation without representation." It is not Sputnik which has terrified the people of Asia, but the West's response to it. People of Asia and Europe react to this "moral imbecility into which we have emerged" by asking can they any longer look to the United States for leadership?

Mr. Joyce is convinced that something of far greater significance than Sputnik is the developing framework of the UN's functional agencies. Agencies such as the Food and Agricultural Organization deal with problems of the empty shopping bags of the world's hungry. "What," asked Joyce, "are you going to put in those shopping bags? Missiles?"

The World Health Organization, said Mr. Joyce, operates on an annual budget of \$10 million. A contemplated Greyhound Racing Track in Brooklyn will cost \$15 million.

Joyce suggested that the "small nations are sending big men to the UN while big countries are sending small men."

HARROP FREEMAN -- Professor of Public Law at Cornell reminded us that the world is moving into the atomic power age and that the decision to do so was made in 1945. It is irrevocable. This means that the problems of radiation will be with us whether we have nuclear weapons or not. The waste products of peaceful uses of atomic energy are very dangerous and present a tremendous problem as to safe disposal.

Furthermore, the processes for harnessing atomic power for peaceful and for war uses are 95% the same. Therefore, we are dealing with an area where diversion from peaceful to war uses (and vice versa) is relatively easy. Thus the problem of international control of fissionable materials is made difficult.

Mr. Freeman reminded his listeners that both the United States and the Soviet Union have a foreign policy thesis into which their disarmament proposals fit. For the United States the thesis involves massive retaliation; negotiations from strength; the championing of those on our side; the using of a cheaper method of killing people than reliance on manpower, that is, nuclear weapons. Further, the United States has assumed that the proper pattern of negotiation is verbal unconditional surrender, a pattern unacceptable to a party which also has nuclear power. Nevertheless, the US and the USSR have been moving towards agreement over the years through the pressure of facts. Virtually the only problem not resolved is how to surmount the first hurdle. The USSR wants an action taken in order to promote confidence, for example, a ban on tests. The United States wants a climate of confidence before taking the first step. "Do you get confidence by first taking steps or do you have confidence first and then take steps?"

Prof. Freeman urged that we cannot shift responsibility for questions of disarmament and foreign policy from our shoulders to those of Dulles or Eisenhower or Stassen. They are trying to represent the thinking of American citizens. Pacifists need to ask themselves, "to what degree can you have disarmament unless you disarm the foreign policy of a group of Americans who are not themselves mentally disarmed?"

WILLIAM NEUMAN -- Associate professor of History at Goucher College, suggested at the outset that American Foreign Policies are made in several places besides the State Department. Some of these places are the Department of Commerce, the Defense Department, and the Department of Agriculture. For example, a scheme of the Department of Agriculture to get rid of surplus foods, such as wheat, may actually undermine a complex of international relationships, seriously affecting the markets of some other nation such as Canada, which it is to our advantage to keep happy.

There are no great differences in policies between the Democrat and Republican parties. Dulles continues the Acheson policy of negotiations from positions of strength. Assumptions of our policy are:

- 1) The major threat to the security of the USA is from the USSR.
- 2) In the long run the USA will be stronger than the USSR because internal difficulties in the USSR will make it easier to deal with.
- 3) War is not inevitable.

In carrying forward its policy, the United States has made a whole series of Security Pacts by which we are pledged to defend some 42 nations from attack. Further, we are also involved in protecting other nations where we have bases, as for example, Spain.

Dr. Neuman reminded his listeners that it is easier for a small nation to be flexible than it is for a large nation. The United States has many, many commitments, some of which are contradictory, for example, to Tunisia and to France. If we stand for the Tunisians in the recent bombing, we will offend France. And France is committed with us against Russia, the major threat to us.

What are the possibilities of change in American policy? We must remember that Foreign Policy expresses the wishes of a substantial majority of American people though we may disagree with it. Disarmament negotiations, for example, might proceed faster if the American people in substantial numbers want this.

We were reminded that nations are constituted to look after their own interests and not the interests of the rest of the world. (James Joyce urged that no longer are national interests a valid framework for this world. But how do we jump to a supernational framework?)

BAYARD RUSTIN -- now Executive Secretary for the War Resisters League discussed "security" with his listeners at the Fellowship of Reconciliation Breakfast.

This is an age of global revolution and an age of materialism. People want freedom and security because they want things and they feel that security can be found in things. But the attempt to secure security is elusive.

"Security can never be the result of the pursuit of it... Security is a by-product of the voluntary acceptance of insecurity."

"Justice cannot establish justice... It is a by-product of an Act of Love..."

"An Act of Love is the acceptance at this moment of the loss of power, the possibility of suffering..."

Citing incidents from the Journey of Reconciliation of 1946, from Montgomery and from Little Rock, Bayard pointed out that the people who found an alternative to violence were not members of the F.O.R. or similar groups, but were very ordinary people. After all, "Gandhi did not depend on saints and arrived people."

Bayard Rustin suggested that the real heroes of Little Rock are not the Federal Troops or Eisenhower or Faubus, but the 9 boys and girls (now 8) who day after day are bearing a load of ostracism and hurts and who are trying to maintain a discipline of love.

QUOTABLE "Most of us are specialists in avoiding situations rather than in dealing with situations." Charles Walker

NORMAN WHITNEY "The only way to defend democracy is to use democracy." Suggesting that never before has it been so difficult for rank and file citizens to communicate with the responsible heads of government, the former chairman of SPC urged that the real challenge to the peacemaker is to keep open channels of communication between citizen and citizen and citizens and government. Sometimes it takes a dramatic and sacrificial act to open up channels. Of such character is the voyage of the "Golden Rule" and her four crewmen into the Pacific to protest forthcoming Nuclear Tests by the USA. (Read the attached statement of Albert Bigelow, a "compelling human document.")

A NEW VOICE Senator Hubert H. Humphrey gave a little publicized but highly significant speech in the US Senate on February 4th. From it we lift the following:

Two Basic Delusions of U.S. Policy

"There is reason to believe that those who conduct and design foreign policy make two false assumptions regarding the Soviet Union.

"The first is that the United States has such political, military and economic superiority that it can force the U.S.S.R. to accept our terms in any series of negotiations.

"The other assumption is that the internal domestic difficulties of the Soviet regime are so great that all we need to do is continue to apply pressure and the collapse of the system will follow. Both of these assumptions have been stated or implied many times. Recent events have shattered the validity of these assumptions."

MEETINGS The Otsego Peace Council's next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 30th, 1:30 p.m., at the Community Center, 11 Ford Ave., Oneonta. Curtis Moody, National Youth Secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, will be the speaker.

The Syracuse Peace Council will sponsor a showing of "All Quiet on the Western Front" on Friday, March 14th, at 8:00 p.m. in Grace Church Parish House, Madison Street at University Avenue.

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