

In extending the season's greetings most sincerely to all its subscribers, the Peace Council offers two contrasting and challenging views on the Christmas theme:

To Jesus On His Birthday

For this your mother sweated in the cold;  
For this you bled upon the bitter tree:  
A yard of tinsel ribbon bought and sold;  
A paper wreath; a day at home for me.  
The merry bells ring out; the people kneel;  
Up goes the man of God before the crowd;  
With voice of honey and with eyes of steel,  
He drones your humble gospel to the proud.  
Nobody listens. Less than the wind that blows  
Are all your words to us you died to save.  
O Prince of Peace! O Sharon's dewy Rose!  
How mute you lie within your vaulted grave.  
The stone the angels rolled away with tears  
Is back upon your mouth these thousand years.  
-- Edna St. Vincent Millay.



The Measure

Being born in a manger has come to seem romantic, along with gifts and carols. But it was not romantic, and so those who could not face reality adorned the story with wise men and angel choirs.

Jesus lived with and for the unfortunate, the outcasts, the friendless. We may adorn his name with prestige, but the measure of our unity with him is the extent to which his interests are our own.

-- Arthur E. Morgan

PEACEMAKER ---- WHAT NOW?

Momentous events have taken place since our last issue; a major objective of our effort through the years has failed; our beloved country is at war; to many of us it seems that earth's last, best hope of democracy is gone. But remember this: no single fact on which our program was built has changed; no single conviction on which our policy was based has changed. And there are yet tremendous tasks which as loyal citizens we can and must perform. Indeed, it is quite possible that no one else can or will perform them. Our responsibility is not less, but more.

The original statement of purpose of the Syracuse Peace Council in January, 1936, read, in part: "To discover and unify the peace forces of this area for their mutual strengthening and support." That statement still stands.

Our first specific objective was "a continuing program of peace education" in the community. That objective is still valid.

For America must not again win a war to lose a peace. And the bases of a just and durable peace will be established only if there is an informed public opinion to demand and support such a settlement.

We are now not free from war, but the other three freedoms of our 1941-42 statement of policy must be maintained.

We can educate for a new world order: NOT ARMISTICE BUT PEACE. And so we announce our sponsorship and support of the Institute of International Relations on the theme, "Bases for Building a New World Order", to be held in Syracuse in February. Our January number will bring you a full announcement.

We can minister to the civilian suffering caused by war. We shall continue to serve the American Committee for Christian Refugees and to collect clothing and gifts for the American Friends Service Committee. We shall strive to mitigate inter-racial hatreds and intolerance such as are bound to arise in times of national excitement.

We can guard jealously the constitutional civil and religious liberties for which America stands. They are, as always in war time, in grave danger. In large measure the extent of their limitation and their future existence will depend on the alertness and the courage with which we exercise our responsibilities as citizens.

To work out a world in which peace will be more than a breathing spell on the mad relay race to destruction, WE CARRY ON!

ANOTHER ANSWER

Most of the current discussion of the war and foreign policy assumes that our choices are limited to two: that V must stand either for Victor or Vanquished; that either we are to go "over there" and carve up Germany into a number of helpless provincial states or that Hitler will come over here and carve us up into chunks convenient to his purposes; that the world must be dominated by Germany-Italy-Japan or by America-Britain-Russia; in a word, that the capital of the world is to be Berlin or Washington.

We deny both the validity and the realism of this view. There is now, as always, Another Answer: a "cooperative commonwealth" of nations. As steps toward the realization of this third alternative we urge your careful study of the "Call to America" enclosed.