

PEACE NEWS LETTER

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IN MEMORIAM

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Many of us will try to forget, as the days move on, the horror and shock of November 22, 1963. If time lessens that shock we must neither forget it nor stop our questioning of who is ultimately responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In an atmosphere of hatred and fear, violence grows. Howard K. Smith, the night of the President's death, suggested that Americans still consider violence as part of their way of life, as an easy answer to the complex problems facing us individually and as a nation. As the days move on, we must rededicate ourselves to the difficult task of eliminating the causes of violence, to the building of a world where men will find no need to resort to guns. We suggest that you join in one or more of the following programs as your affirmation that a world which does not turn to violence is possible, no matter how difficult to achieve.

Among the millions of words which have been spoken since our President's death, we think James Reston's column (11/25), Chief Justice Warren's eulogy at the Capitol (11/24), and Drew Pearson's column on Lyndon Johnson (11/26) are especially significant. Johnson's speech on civil rights at Gettysburg on Memorial Day of this year should also be required reading, and it gives some hope of what may lie ahead.

WILL YOU WRITE WASHINGTON, D. C., IN SUPPORT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION facing Congress? Letters should be addressed to Hon. R. Walter Riehlman, House Office Building; Senator Jacob Javits and Senator Kenneth Keating, Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

The Syracuse Peace Council's statement on race relations appeared in last month's newsletter. This statement read in part: "The Syracuse Peace Council is deeply concerned about the racial situation in Syracuse. Although the Peace Council is primarily devoted to the cause of peace, it realizes that peace cannot be achieved while a significant minority of our citizens must endure racial oppression."

The Syracuse Congress on Racial Equality has prepared a booklet, "Syracuse: How Far from Birmingham?" which discusses local myths about the racial situation in our community. These booklets will soon be available at the CORE office, 609 E. Adams St., for 50¢. You may also contact the CORE office for information about the Christmas boycott.

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WILL YOU JOIN IN A TRIBUTE TO LINUS PAULING, only American to twice receive the Nobel Prize? American peace groups are trying to raise a sum of money to match the amount given Dr. Pauling for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. The money will be given specifically for peace work.

Contributions can be sent to the Peace Council office, 841 University Building, and will be forwarded.

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WILL YOU CIRCLE January 30, 1964, on your calendar, and plan to attend the Syracuse Peace Council's Birthday Dinner? The Honorable Francis Plimpton of the United States delegation to the United Nations, second in command to Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, will address the dinner, which will be held at the First Presbyterian Parish House, 620 West Genesee St.

WILL YOU ANSWER, if you have not already done so, Dr. Robert Root's letter for the Executive Committee with your pledge for the continuing work of the Peace Council? Financial contributions always are needed for "a practical program of peace education and action through democratic methods," the stated purpose of the Council.

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WILL YOU JOIN IN COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS?

"South Africa: Pros and Cons of Expulsion from the United Nations" will be one of the program topics at the December 9th meeting of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Helen Buck, 701 Euclid, with coffee at 8 and the program beginning at 8:30. Also to be discussed will be the Declaration of Human Rights.

Great Decisions discussion groups will be sponsored in 1964 by the Syracuse World Affairs Council. If you are interested in joining or forming a discussion group,

send in your application blank (see the enclosed folder) by December 15, if possible; fact sheets must be ordered before the first of the year.

Alan Holmberg, Associate Professor of Sociology at Cornell, will discuss "The United States as Seen by Latin Americans," as part of the World Affairs Forum sponsored by the Adult Education Department of the North Syracuse Central Schools. The lecture will be December 4, at 8 p.m., at the High School Auditorium, Fay Road, North Syracuse.

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This issue of the Newsletter has been too long delayed. It had been my intention to compile the material for it today. But the day's tragedy makes that impossible.

This morning I opened a letter from a pastor in Mississippi. One sentence attracted my interest, concern, and admiration. Little did I realize that within two hours it would be a reminder of one reason for the tragedy. This is the sentence:

"It is both sad and heartening to see a congregation of over 250 members reduced to about 40 faithful followers who, despite the pressures of our society, courageously maintain an active Church program."

Why did the church dwindle in membership? Because its pastors courageously walked with some 60 of their fellow Americans to the ocean on a hot summer's day. The ministers were white; the others were Negroes. Certainly Race is one of the factors which may have led to the death of President Kennedy.

Then, on UN day last month, in Dallas, Adlai Stevenson was spat upon by those who believe that the U.S. should get out of the UN and the UN out of the U.S. Certainly foreign policy is a second factor which may have led to the death of President Kennedy.

In such matters as Race Relations, Foreign Policy, and the Powers of the Federal Government in Relation to those of the States, is our nation once more becoming hopelessly divided?

The city in which the tragedy occurred is a center where many members of Right-Wing extremist groups live, and from which many Right-Wing causes are amply financed. In 1960, when I moved to Texas, the Dallas Morning News printed a series of articles about Communism in Texas. A high Civil Defense official in Dallas was quoted as saying that he was compiling his own list of suspect people. Who were suspect? People who supported integration and the UN. There is a sickness abroad in our land, and not simply in a particular city. More of it may be concentrated in some places than in others. To people infected with that sickness, John F. Kennedy was a social revolutionary.

- He used Federal power to support the Constitutional rights of American Citizens against those who would restrict those rights.
- He sought to reduce international tensions and to reach understanding with the Soviet Union.

Those were dangerous positions to take, and in the lion's den, the President of the United States lost his life.

Although we sometimes disagreed with the positions which he took, we were often encouraged by the positions he took. We salute the memory of John F. Kennedy, and pray that he "shall not have died in vain."

Paul Quinn College
Waco, Texas
November 22, 1963

Senator McGovern (D., S.D.) introduced a bill on October 31 which would establish a National Economic Conversion Commission to explore ways of converting the economy from war production to peace production. This bill deserves our support. For copies of the bill write the Peace Council or Senator McGovern, at the Senate Office Building, Washington, 25, D. C.

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