

JULY 10, 1940

"That we are opposed to war is known not only to every American but to every government in the world. We will not use our arms in a war of aggression; we will not send our men to take part in European wars."
President Roosevelt to Congress.

208 to 202

The passage of the draft extension bill by such a narrow squeak is in reality a serious defeat for the Administration forces. If there had not been so much pressure brought to bear upon the Congressmen, the bill would certainly have been lost by a very substantial majority. Obviously Congress is not convinced that our national interest is imperiled, nor is Congress taking heart from Churchill's military alliance with Stalin. In fact that coup d'etat has strengthened the opposition to our involvement in war on the side of Communist Russia, particularly among Catholics. The slim margin of passage of this bill further means that a great many of the draftees who are being kept in the army for another two and a half years are worried about their future, since jobs cannot be held for them now and if now the President presses for the third proposal - that of sending the boys anywhere in the world - it would be defeated unless he has taken us into the war past retreat. And that would be dangerous with the nation so overwhelmingly opposed to involvement and in general unprepared for war.

RUB-A-DUB-DUB-

"Uncensored" has this to say about Mr. Churchill's and Mr. Roosevelt's meeting at sea: "The Joint Declaration by Roosevelt and Churchill is neither a Magna Carta nor a Declaration of Independence. It has not and apparently is not going to fire the imagination of men who would be free. As social documents go, the eight points fall into the category in which the platforms of the Democratic and Republican parties belong. Its joints are exposed. It was constructed to please the most and offend the fewest among the conglomeration of forces threatened by the Axis."

"FOOLS' GOLD"

While the ordinary citizen worries about taxes and is asked to make all sorts of sacrifices for national defense, the government allows so-called "commission" men to reap juicy fees for their part in landing defense contracts for manufacturers who have no access to official Washington. So says the "New York Times" of August 10, 1941. The Times points out quite aptly that this procedure runs up the cost of national defense and correspondingly increases taxes; and then this journal draws a parallel between such an agent and Sir Basil Zaharoff, munitions maker of World War I. Did someone say something about taking the profits out of war? Indeed he did, at Chautaugua, August 14, 1936: "Nevertheless, if war should break out again in another continent let us not blink the fact that we would find in this country thousands of Americans who, seeking immediate riches - fools' gold - would attempt to break down or evade our neutrality. . . . To resist the clamor of that greed, if war should come, would require the unswerving support of all Americans who love peace. If we face the choice of profits or peace, the Nation will answer - must answer - 'we choose peace!' -- President Roosevelt.

WE POINT WITH
PRIDE

The first New York State Institute of International Relations sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee at Cornell University during the first ten days of August was an unqualified success. 140 delegates - not counting those who attended single sessions when the attendance rose as high as 600 - were registered. Every part of the state was represented; Syracuse sent 9 registered delegates and 14 others attended one or more sessions.

The weather was unparelled; the accommodations were superb; the delegates were superior! For ten days they faced squarely the problems of international relations from points of view ranging from military intervention to religious pacifism; from the history of diplomacy to the science of race relations. If education of the individual means anything, there ought to be some influence felt on the thinking of at least 60 different communities during the coming months.

To all those who directly or indirectly helped make this success possible:
THANK YOU! To all those who wanted to come and couldn't, begin to plan now for the Mid-Winter Institute to be held on a week-end probably in February in Syracuse; and for the Second Summer Institute in 1942.

FAITH WORKS

Those of you who have faith in the "irresistible power of constructive good will" to change human relations may wish to know of two needs that are opportunities: The English Quakers need large quantities of bedding for use in their shelters for war victims. Howard and Gertrude Kershner, American Friends Service Committee Directors in France, urge more underwear for children up to 14 years of age. Such clothing must be new. We will be glad to receive your gifts at this office and forward them in quantities to the American Friends Service Committee.

LABOR DAY

The labor union movement, like political democracy, has its imperfections; yet it is the major expression of the democratic principle in industry. In many industries the men and women who work with their hands have become a great organic movement, involved directly in the worldwide struggle for the preservation and growth of democracy. In countries where liberty and equality prevail as ideals of human relations, there the labor movement is strong. Where democracy has been discarded, as in the totalitarian states, there the independent labor union movement has disappeared. Democracy, by the very law of its nature, must extend into industrial and economic as well as political relations. Industrial civilization must either extend more democratic control to those who produce and to those who consume economic goods and services, or it must center total power in a political state. There seems to be no other alternative.

---Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is meeting in annual conference at Lakeside, Ohio, September 5 - 7. By going a little farther west western members and friends will have more of an opportunity to attend. Stanley Jones, Muriel Lester, A. J. Muste, Douglas Steere, and Norman Thomas will speak. Make reservations early with Irene Ford, 2929 Broadway, New York City.

OUR GRATITUDE AGAIN

Miss Mabelle Jeens and Miss Mildred Schwenmer are proving that they are good friends of the Peace Council; for the second time they are mimeographing the Peace News Letter. Thank you again!

WHY NOT WAGE PEACE?

"Our immediate defense against dictatorship is not airplanes or warships. It is our own system of State Legislatures and the Federal Congress. ... We are being propagandized and hustled into thinking that speed is more important than direction. ... To preserve our system it must be kept functioning boldly. To insure this keep on urging boldly immediate favorable action on those measures that strike deepest at the root of today's problems.

First in scope and far-reachingness stand the Tamarowicz Resolution to create a Joint congressional Peace Commission to initiate, jointly with other non-belligerents, mediation in the war now, and to lay sound, democratic groundwork on which to create a world federation and government. Hitler claims international union as his aim. We know that his union would be created and maintained by force and fear. ... Why is our Congress loathe to pass this Resolution that would launch a mighty peace offensive today, when tomorrow our opportunity may be gone, and that asserts our universal desire for a union of a vastly different kind - a voluntary union of the peoples of Europe, or of the world, by consent, founded on a freely discussed and concluded basis of federation, or league, of peoples?" -- "Four Lights", published by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Write your Congressmen and ask them to support the Tamarowicz Resolution.

III-HO OFF TO THE FAIR

Come to the Peace Council's Booth at the New York State Fair, August 24 - September 1. It is located in the Harriet May Mills Building. A poll of public opinion on the question of intervention in the war is to be taken by means of a voting machine.