

CHRISTMAS EDITORIAL "It never occurred to me it would happen, Nelson thought, walking slowly and blindly away from the station. There was one war and that was all. It's my fault. I had a son, but I didn't take my responsibility seriously enough. I worked and I dressed him and fed him and sent him to a good college and bought him books and gave him money to take out girls and took him with me on vacations to Vermont, but I didn't take my responsibility seriously enough. I worked, and it wasn't easy, and I was poor for a long time, and only the poor know how hard it is to stop being poor....I worked....Nonsense! I'm guilty.... I should've been out stopping this....I am nearly the same age as Hitler. He could do something to kill my son....I should've been doing something to save him. I'm guilty. I should be ashamed to stand in the same room with my son in his lieutenant's green blouse....Money....I thought about the grocer, the insurance man, the electric-light company....Nonsense, nonsense....I've wasted my life. I'm an old man and alone and my son has gone to war and all I did was to pay rent and taxes. The war was being fought for twenty years and I didn't know it. I waited for my son to grow up and fight it for me. I should've been out screaming on street corners. I should have grabbed people by their lapels in trains, in libraries and restaurants, and yelled at them.... 'Love, understand, put down your guns, forget your profit, remember God....' I should've walked on foot through Germany and France and England and America. I should've preached on the dusty roads....."

(from Irwin Shaw's "Preach on the Dusty Roads," New Yorker, August 1942.)

FOR LATE SHOPPERS There are only 19 more shopping days left before Christmas! Are your feet tired and your brain fagged with trying to think of an appropriate gift for Great Aunt Sabrina or to find the right size and color combination in a sport shirt for Freddy Freshman at Dear Old Siwash?

Here's your answer! Christmas shopping can be made painless; you can do it from an easy chair. Just write two (2) names and addresses on the coupon below, attach a dollar bill and mail to Santa Claus, 841 University Bldg., Syracuse 2. Let Uncle Sam and US do the rest. You will be doing something real and tangible for peace by helping the circulation of PNL and, once each month for a year, reminding your friends of the purpose of the Prince of Peace.

What more do you want for a Christmas dollar?

GOOD NEWS Good News in foreign affairs is almost as rare as the proverbial hen's tooth, but in recent months there have been enough items to make an encouraging list at year's end. You might add others but here are a dozen:

(1) The armistice in Indo-China. For the first time since 1937, the world is free from organized shooting war; (2) The settlement of the dispute over the oil fields of Iran; (3) The final and peaceful withdrawal of the Dutch from Indonesia; (4) The withdrawal of France from its last tiny, imperial holdings in India; (5) The withdrawal of British troops from Suez; (6) President Eisenhower's vigorous refusal to accept the preventive war counsel of Syngman Rhee and Gen. Mark Clark; (7) The cordial response of East Germany to America's generous offer of free food for flood victims; (8) The apparent decline of McCarthy, if not of McCarthyism; (9) The fact that, in spite of adverse propaganda from some quarters, the UN has become the biggest tourist attraction in America. More than 2500 visitors, daily, see the machinery of peace, inadequately used but still established and workable, before their eyes; (10) The dawning recognition in high places of the decisive character of the new weapons; e.g., Churchill's moving admission in the House of Commons that the hydrogen bomb had made strategic conceptions which were well founded a year ago utterly obsolete today; (11) The widening gaps in the various "curtains" evidenced, for example, by the visit of British Labour leaders to China and the conference of Russian and "Western" Christians in Sweden under Baptist-Quaker auspices; (12) The increasing awareness of non-violent means as having realistic possibilities. Two illustrations:

French elder statesman, Edouard Herriot, one of America's staunchest friends in France and a believer in European integration, gave in a powerful speech a suggestion worth following in the discussions which must go on. He said that he preferred trying to unite Europe through "pacifism and disarmament."

It is reported that, speaking to the Catholic People's Party in September, Chancellor Raab of Austria warned the Allies that if the next conference failed, they would appeal to the people to carry out a non-violent campaign against occupation-- "We have no guns, no atom-bombs: we can fight only with weapons of the mind... but India's example shows that a nation can achieve its freedom with such methods and indeed, even more certainly than with military weapons."

PNL readers will not jump to the conclusion that peace is just around the corner, nor even a couple of corners; but they will all rejoice at evidences of relaxing tensions and growing awareness that creative alternatives exist and can be found.

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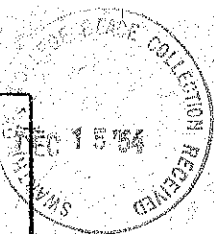
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For ONONDAGANS
ONLY !

The XIX Birthday of The Syracuse Peace Council
will be celebrated on Saturday, January 8, 1955.

Speaker: Amiya Chakravarty, advisor to Indian Delegation at the U N,
"India's Role in Today's World."

Save the date ! It will be good.



THE HARD
CORE

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas take a minute to think of the quarter of a million homeless and hopeless in Europe who are the Human Residue of War. They include 20,000 old folk and 80,000 TB cases and countless children, still living in barracks, camps and huts under unimaginable conditions. These are the left-overs and rejects of all the re-settlement programs and physically little can be done for most of them. But they are still human beings and they can be helped spiritually by knowing that somebody cares. Much can be done to relieve the feeling of lonely abandonment, bitterness and loss of self-respect by an expression of simple affection. If you would like to become "godparent" to such an individual by writing letters and sending an occasional parcel, let us know and we will introduce you to the British Headquarters of "Aid to Displaced Persons."

NOT SO RED
NOT SO PINK

By a reportedly unanimous vote, a Board made up of some of America's wealthiest and most conservative men, has recently reappointed Dr. Robert J. Oppenheimer to the directorship of the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton. This is real vindication for one of America's most eminent scientists who was the victim of what Chas. A. Wells calls "cheap primitive politics now prevailing in so many areas of American life."

WOLF, WOLF,
HAWK and RABBIT

Between the Lines reports "A new scare program now under way" concerning the Russian navy. It has been learned that the Russians are building "a small ultra modern fleet, scientifically geared for atomic missile warfare." (No \$100 million air carrier or \$50 million battle cruiser targets visible at 300 to 500 miles to be pursued and destroyed by atomic-headed guided missiles so fast they cannot be anticipated or intercepted, like a hawk taking a rabbit)

"False and misleading headlines, therefore, are now bombarding the American public" in line with a Pentagon policy described as "Scare hell out of 'em or you won't get it." The Russian navy is not overtaking ours in size although the Russians may be, again, out-thinking us.

USA and
CHINA

Comparing the situation of America and China in an address to a meeting of Labour Party delegates at Scarborough, Ernest Fernyhough, M.P., said: "America was once a colony of Britain--in 1775 it decided it wanted independence. It went to war with Britain. It won its independence by force. Not until seven years later was the American victory for independence recognised."

The American situation, he pointed out, was very nearly identical with that of China. Yet now America takes the line that China can not be admitted to the United Nations because she gained her independence by force. At what date did this doctrine commence?

If we turn to more recent events, he continued, we find in 1936-37 General Franco overthrew the legitimate democratic government of his country by force. Yet today America has bases in that country. The American line against China, he concluded, is a fantastic one.

IF THINE
ENEMY HUNGER

We are glad to cooperate in the distribution of the enclosed folder and to endorse its appeal. Please read carefully, pray earnestly and act promptly.

Pennsylvania

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