

# Conscientious Objector

Re-entered as second class matter Nov. 18, 1941 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Vol. VII—No. 8

New York, August, 1945

300

Price Ten Cents

## War Teaches Lesson of Disobedience, Writer Asserts

By Alex Comfort

(Reprinted from NOW)

The war is not over, but we can see the end of it. Millions of citizens everywhere are looking for a reprieve. Many of them will get it. Secret diplomacy is concocting the peace—we shall subscribe to it and be put back in our boxes. Intelligent people debate whether we shall occupy Germany for five, fifty or five hundred years. The intellectuals of the Allies seem to have been so far taken in by their own propaganda that they look at Germans shyly and are half relieved to find that they have no tails or horns. The most fantastic aspect about the impending peace will be the speed with which the nonsense which it is a moral duty to believe in wartime will

be forgotten: its consequences, the material commitments undertaken under the influence of the same nonsense, will not be so easy to escape.

Few people can remember what it was like to be sane, to live in a world where one could not earn a decoration for butchering a few thousand civilians, where a good many national heroes would have qualified for the gallows and the mental hospital and where a single news bulletin of the present time would have produced nation-wide nausea and vomiting.

### This War Not Unique

This war has not been unique. Its lesson is identical with the lesson of every previous war. The record of it is the record of the incredible, somnambulant heroism

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## Bishop Free After 142-Day Fast

### Demobilization is Deferred

### Favorable Vote Is Expected On Winstead Bill

#### Measure Would Eliminate Present Plan in Favor Of Army System

By Max Pawl

WASHINGTON—The House Military Affairs Committee last month favorably reported out an amended Winstead Bill which would eliminate the present point system for demobilizing Civilian Public Service (CPS) men in favor of one identical with that of the army, severely curtailing CPS discharges. Proponents of the measure, led by Representative Arthur Winstead of Mississippi, believe the bill will be placed on the unanimous consent calendar for an early favorable vote in the House.

Meanwhile, Selective Service deferred initiation of the point discharge system pending disposition of the legislation.

Under the Winstead Bill—the first measure solely concerned with COs—points for wives are eliminated, number of children eligible limited to three, and 85 points made necessary for discharge, making it impossible for a CO to be released on points since the highest possible score which an assignee can achieve under the army system is 84. It was observed that even if the minimum were lowered, few COs would be eligible.

The Bill is not applicable to regular physical or other discharges, nor to those for reasons of hardship or overage, but, if passed, would virtually eliminate the

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### A Nice Thing

"Editing a newspaper is a nice thing. If we publish jokes, people say we are rattlebrained. If we don't, we are fossils. If we publish original matter, they say we don't give them enough selections. If we give them enough selections, they say we are too lazy to write. If we remain at the office, we ought to be out looking for news items. If we go out, then we are not attending to business."

—Kansas Herald, quoted in Acumen

### Buchenwald Yields 300 CO Survivors, Document Shows

By Worldover Press

LONDON—Approximately 300 German religious objectors to Nazism and war were found to have survived under the horrors of Buchenwald, and 28 more in Belsen, two of Germany's most notorious concentration camps, according to a belated report in the British weekly, Peace News.

The report, hitherto unpublished in the United States, was based on a radio broadcast by Hr. Bjorn Hallstrom, London editor of the Swedish daily, Svenska Morgonbladet, following his discovery of a document in the Buchenwald camp shortly after liberation. Facts based on the same document were also released through the International Bible Students Association (whose members are Jehovah's Witnesses in the U. S. and Britain).

Some of the religious survivors, according to the document, were arrested and imprisoned as early as 1934, shortly after Hitler's rise to power. The greatest wave of arrests began in 1936, and by 1937, the number of objectors, most of them Jehovah's Witnesses, had reached 270. The highest figure of 450 was reached late in 1938, according to the document. (Dr. Emil Maurer, district chairman of the Socialist Party in pre-

war Vienna, who went to Buchenwald in September, 1938, asserted in The Tribune (London) that out of 6,000 inmates then in the camp, about 1,200 were religious pacifists of the J. W. sect.)

"Once," Hr. Hallstrom said, "they were going to compel the Bible Students to do military service. If they refused they were to be shot as conscientious objectors. Two SS companies marched up ready to fire. The prisoners calmly faced the rifles. They refused unanimously to fight for the State which had taken from them the freedom of worship. The rifles were lowered and instead of being shot there was a further deterioration of food and new ill-treatment." Some of the religious prisoners were later executed, Hr. Hallstrom added.

### SS Men Turn CO!

In addition to Bible Students, Hr. (Continued on page 5)

### Clark's Action Is Taken After Extended Delay

#### Absolutist Accepts Parole Without Signing Papers; Goes to Georgia

By Purnell Benson  
Special to The C.O.

Clark, of the Church of Christ, won his freedom from the federal penitentiary here last month, climaxing a 142-day period of refusal to eat or lift a finger to help the state conscript him.

He had been kept alive by force-feeding of liquids, and it was uncertain how much longer he would have survived. Following his release, he went to the Cooperative Community at Macedonia, Georgia, to recuperate.

Bishop accepted parole without signing any papers or making any promises. He intends to exercise complete freedom. His release was finally effected through favorable action taken by Attorney General Tom Clark after months of delay.

During his three years and three months in CPS detention camps, jails and prisons, Bishop came, through his words and actions, to be a living symbol of freedom.

Inducted into CPS at Patapsco, Maryland, on 10-day notice, he sought a deferment or an emergency furlough to settle his bookstore affairs in West New York, N. J. On June 26, 1942, he began to fast, drinking water only, until the government either paid him for loss of property, gave him maintenance and a "fair salary for acceptable work," or else released him altogether. He told his conscriptors: "To me the present choice is worse than death."

For three weeks Bishop continued to work in the kitchen. Then he was listed as sick, but was not confined to bed. Two weeks later Selective Service issued

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### CO Wins Reparole

Robert Currier, objector whose parole was revoked in May because he married without waiting for the consent of the U. S. Parole Board, was released from the federal penitentiary at Danbury, Conn., last month on a reparole, which expires in May, 1946. His original parole would have terminated in September, this year.

## Draft Referendum, Conscription Abolition Sought by Legislators

### Would Submit Question of Compulsory Training to People for Vote

WASHINGTON—A joint resolution providing for a national referendum on the question of universal peacetime conscription was introduced in the Senate last month by Senator Hugh Butler (Rep., Neb.).

In offering the measure, Sen. Butler said he realized it would have the effect of delaying action on legislation now under consideration by Congressional committees, but added that he thought it was "generally agreed that Congress will not act on these proposals this year, anyway." He said the referendum would clear up many doubts in the minds of Senators concerning the

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### House Member Proposes Nations Drop Policy of Military Service

WASHINGTON—World-wide abolition of compulsory military service was called for last month by Representative Joseph W. Martin, Jr., minority leader of the House. He proposed that while an international agreement to that end was being sought, action be withheld on the pending American universal training program.

Mr. Martin's resolution urged President Truman, James F. Byrnes, Secretary of State, and Edward H. Stettinius, Jr., "to work increasingly for an immediate international agreement whereby compulsory military service shall be wholly eliminated from the policies and

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## Asks Definition Of Peace Terms

**Senator Urges President to Define "Unconditional Surrender"**

WASHINGTON—Senator Wallace H. White (Rep., Mo.) urged the President from the floor of the Senate last month to define the terms of "unconditional surrender" to the Japanese people.

Sen. White pointed out that the President had said that "unconditional surrender does not mean the extermination or the enslavement of the Japanese people," but that neither the American nor the Japanese people had been informed in any detail what such surrender would entail.

"Unconditional surrender does not involve the destruction of the home or family life of the Japanese, interference with the religious beliefs of the people, abandonment of its agricultural activities and its other peaceful industries, and the loss thereby of the livelihood of the millions of people of the Japanese Empire," he said.

"It is my belief that the President of the United States should make as explicit a statement of this concept of 'unconditional surrender' as present circumstances permit. Such a clarification by the President, when made known to the Japanese authorities and people . . . might bring the restoration of peace, and might result in the saving of the lives of thousands of America's sons."

## Hitler Echo

*Special to The C.O.*

BUCKLEY, Wash.—An editorial in the Des Moines, Iowa, Tribune which quotes the opinions of a widely known public figure who urged peacetime compulsory military training has been used for a flyer recently released by Civilian Public Service Camp No. 95.

The speech emphasizes the interest the state has in its citizens' health. The need for self preservation in the event of a coming war is pointed up, together with the idea that the army educates its men "to be reliable, decent members of the community."

The editorial concludes that these arguments were voiced by Adolf Hitler in his writings and were used successfully in introducing peacetime compulsory military training in Germany.

CPS Camp No. 95 reports that over a thousand copies of the flyer have been distributed, and that orders for them have been coming in faster than they could be filled. Further information about them can be obtained from the Anti-Conscription Committee, Box 481, Buckley, Washington.

### Sentence Suspended

ASHVILLE, N. C.—Joe Felmet, who served a term in prison as a conscientious objector, was given a suspended sentence here recently following his second conviction. The court decreed that he serve in a hospital and he is employed by the Highland Hospital here.

## Objectors in South Strike as Warden Keeps Races Separate

*By Irving Ravin  
Special to The C. O.*

ASHLAND, Ky.—Continuing the action trend of COs in federal prison, 14 men recently refused to eat in the segregated dining hall at the Ashland, Kentucky, Federal Correctional Institution.

The strike started when eight walkouts from Germfask CPS camp, who were still in quarantine, remained away from the dining room. They were Alfred Partridge, George Yamada, Morris Horowitz, Jason Hopkins, John Neubrand, Arden Bode, Rodney Owen, and Bjorn Eikrem. They were joined several days later by Bayard Rustin, Bill Fogarty, Arnold Satterthwaite, Bill Hefner, and two Negro non-COs, Phillip Brooks and Charles Hall, who were transferred to other prisons the following week.

The men involved did not refuse to work, as had been the policy in other prison demonstrations against Jim Crow. Instead, they continued to work but remained away from the dining hall, most of them trying to subsist on \$10.00 worth of crackers, candy, peanuts, and fruit available through the prison commissary.

Bayard Rustin and Arnold Satterthwaite were fasting completely.

### All Segregated

Called before the prison disciplinary committee, all were placed in segregation for breaking the "institution rule" of not going to the dining hall. This rule was unheard of before, with one CO now released even having been fed for seven months in the hospital kitchen when he refused to eat in the regular segregated setup.

In their statement to James V. Bennett, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the men said "It is . . . impossible . . . to continue eating in the dining hall where the practice of race segregation is imposed. Three of us, in discussing the matter with Warden Hagerman, have asked for a time or place where Negroes and non-Negroes may eat at interracial tables if they desire to do so. We have not requested that any prejudiced Negro or non-Negro be forced to eat with the unprejudiced Negro or non-Negro against his will . . . The Warden has stated that he does not contemplate making any changes."

According to an inmate, the administration has given three reasons for not providing an interracial eating place.

"First, this is a Southern institution and must conform to the surrounding social pattern. Second, the plan would set a precedent for men from different housing units eating together, and men are put in various units to keep them separate from other men. Third, having a short line in addition to the main line would be too difficult an administrative problem."

"These points have not been convincing to the COs," the inmate said. "First, more than half the population is now made up of Jews (most of whom are from the North), Negroes, and COs. Thus, a small minority are inflicting their will on this other group which want to eat interracially. Also, the sports program, education, etc. here are interracial, thus not conforming to the Southern pattern. Second, such a precedent has already been set by the vegetarian table, and more important, the 3-hour yard period in the evening allows any man to spend time with any other man, and in a much better environment than the dining room. Third, trays could be gotten on the main line, and those who desired could repair to the Education Department or a recreation hall and have their separate, non-segregated dining-room."

The Ashland protest is the latest in the series of actions against the Jim Crow eating arrangement in federal prisons. In the past dining hall segregation has been eliminated at the Federal De-

tention Headquarters in New York City, and at the Federal Correctional Institution at Danbury, Conn., after inmates strikes and pressure by sympathizers outside of prison. Other protests have taken place in federal prisons at Lewisburg, Pa.; Milan, Mich., and Tucson, Ariz.

Negro papers have shown considerable interest in the Ashland strike. Stories have appeared in People's Voice, Pittsburgh Courier, and Amsterdam News. The strike is the first major CO action against Jim Crow in a southern prison.

## Justice Dept. Drops Charges Against CO

*Special to The C.O.*

MANCOS, Col.—He sang while he worked—but a man cannot be thrown in jail for that.

Such was the ruling of the Department of Justice last month when it administratively quashed charges against Frank "The Singer" Fielding, CPS assignee here.

Fielding was arrested in May and charged with refusing to work and "negligence in the performance of his duties" after he had become a source of annoyance to camp and government officials on the project through a program of loud singing on the job. His general theme, campers said, was: "This is a slave camp."

The Department's action followed intervention by the CO Problems Committee after Frieda Lazarus, the Committee's chairman, obtained and submitted to the Department a petition signed by 65 assignees here certifying that Fielding, despite his vocal efforts, was a diligent worker up to the day of his arrest.

Fielding, who had been out on bail, was ordered back to camp.

## Bailey is Transferred for Refusing to Work

*Special to The C.O.*

SPRINGFIELD, Mo.—Agard Hyde Bailey was transferred last month from 9 building in the Medical Center for federal prisoners here to 10 building cell unit which has housed Stanley Murphy and Lou Taylor. The transfer came after he notified officers of the Medical Center that he would do no more work for the rest of his time.

Bailey, who was given a four year sentence in November of 1942, was released under 8641 early in November of 1943 to the camp at Mancos—the only CO released under 8641 prior to the revision of this parole. In November of 1944 he vied with the administration at Mancos over work policies and was RTW before he decided to apply for return to prison. He was returned to Springfield in January of this year and notified that he would get no credit for any good time including the camp good time he had earned during his first trip to Springfield.

### "Peace Caravans" to Tour

*By Religious News Service*

PHILADELPHIA—Students from 16 colleges and universities in 12 states and Mexico will travel this summer in "peace caravans," sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. They will work on peace education in Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York.

## Requests 1AO; Gets Arrested

**SS Handling of Case Is Called Characteristic of "Confused Policy"**

The case of a conscientious objector in Civilian Public Service who sought a transfer to the Army Medical Corps and wound up being arrested for refusing to transfer to a defunct camp, last month focused attention on the "confused policy" characterizing Selective Service handling of individual cases within CPS.

John Peter Stevenson, 37, who pleaded not guilty at Jamestown, N. Y. late last month, filed application for reclassification into 1AO in August, last year, after two and a half years in CPS—in Werner, N. H.; Oakland, Maryland, and Big Flats, N. Y.

### Ordered Transferred

After the army rejected him on physical grounds, Stevenson placed himself under the care of a physician for treatment of a nose condition but was rejected a second time last March. When, a month later, he received an application for voluntary enlistment in the army, Stevenson refused to sign it in the belief his case was before the Local Board in Elmira and would be passed on in the routine manner. Despite his renunciation of his 4E position, Selective Service retaliated in May with an order to transfer to the Germfask government-operated punishment camp, but Stevenson refused and again requested a physical on the grounds he no longer considered himself a 4E. His arrest was delayed until last month, although the Germfask camp was closed June 1 and SS regulations were revised to provide for the discharge of CPS men who apply for army duty and are rejected.

The CO Problems Committee, which is handling the case, declared in a letter to Col. Simon P. Dunkle of SS that since the army is no longer calling men in Stevenson's age group, "prosecuting him for failure to transfer to another camp, especially since he renounced his 4E position, seems a matter of confused policy."

"Mr. Stevenson requested work in the medical corps of the army one year ago at a time when the war in Europe was at its height," the Committee said in a letter signed by Frieda Lazarus, chairman. "His request for reclassification was made in all sincerity and he did not anticipate rejection."

Stevenson said he had taken up his case with legal advisors of the National Committee on Conscientious Objectors and the American Civil Liberties Union, but that neither organization offered him any "encouragement."

## Non-Cooperator In Army Gets Reduced Sentence

PHILADELPHIA—According to information, word was received here last month that the sentence of Quentin Stodola, former CPS (Civilian Public Service) man who is in the Army Disciplinary Barracks at Ft. Missoula, Mont., for refusing to participate in the army training and duties assigned to him after he joined the Army Medical Corps, has been reduced to five years. He is hoping for clemency in the form of a transfer back to CPS.

The Chaplain at the Fort had this to say about him: "He teaches in my Educational Department and I know him quite well and am very appreciative of him and of the principles for which he stands. He is doing nice work in behalf of our objective in education."

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Published monthly by The C. O. Press, Inc., at 119 Nassau Street, New York 1, N. Y. Tel. BR 6600. Price: One dollar per year; 50 cents to CPS men.

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## Postwar Draft

As was expected, the House committee which held hearings on peacetime conscription, has issued a report signed by 16 of its 22 members favoring the idea of compulsory military training. Observers now expect a bitter congressional battle over the issue in the Fall.

The hearings served the purpose of revealing clearly just who wants peacetime conscription. The proponents turned out to be with few exceptions a combine of big business interests and Army and Navy brass hats. The cynicism which they expressed is an ominous comment on our country's alleged war aims of freedom and the destruction of totalitarianism.

No one now should be caught napping by this measure. As the New Yorker's sage commentator Mr. E. B. White recently put it "Conscripting American youth in peace time is the most revolutionary domestic idea that has ever been proposed in the United States." Mr. White for one sees the implications: "An American conscript army, in peacetime, would be a contradiction in terms; it would advertise a national desperation and it would build into the nation the thing the nation has twice taken up arms to lick."

The most dangerous result of peacetime conscription would be its effect on the national character. It is impossible to take every able-bodied young man and make him a part of a mass machine which demands only unqualified obedience and uniformity of behavior without injuring the American instinct for tolerance, individual initiative and democracy. The result might be some time in showing itself, but it would be there. By adopting such a measure this country would have begun on the long road which leads to regimentation, permanent militarism and finally national debility.

As we approach this fork in the road which may determine the direction in which this nation will go for many years, we would do well to ponder the words of a student of the militarism of Germany before the last war: "Every man who acquires the ideals and attitudes of the soldier in his youth is one more warrior lost for the battles of the spirit."

## Bishop Wins

Corbett Bishop has just won his unconditional release from the federal prison at Milan, Michigan, after a 142-day fast protesting his imprisonment. The victory is not merely a personal one.

What lies behind Bishop's triumph overshadows any petty question of personality or Bishop's individual grievance. Non-violent resistance, applied in a small sphere today, tomorrow can be the bright, strong means of defeating—without war—imperial oppression and aggression throughout the world.

It is ironical that those nations which were the arch-advocates of militarism in this war may conceivably have thrust upon them the great role of championing non-violence in the post-war world. Completely and effectively disarmed, these defeated nations will have no other means of resistance available to them.

The three great powers may thus still learn that military might is not the only weapon that shall determine the shape of things to come, and non-violence, by ameliorating the evils and injustices in the backwash of the war now concluding, may prove a vital stabilizing force in the long years of adjustment directly ahead.

Corbett Bishop is a forerunner.

## The Job Ahead

(This editorial by Ron Howell is reprinted from The Bulletin of the Christian Pacifist Society of New Zealand.)

The old men of parliament and congress and soviet proceed steadily and deliberately to sow seeds which, according to all the lessons of history and all the laws of God, can bring forth only one harvest—a harvest of renewed hatred and bitterness, of struggle and of war, a harvest of neat white crosses for my daughter and your son and their Russian and American and European and Oriental brothers and sisters.

In 1918 we remembered the unknown soldier and erected our monuments—we forgot the unknown baby and created our edifice on revenge and reparations. We said that "justice" demanded an eye for an eye—we would not forgive our enemies, and for such criminal folly and blindness the babies of those years have now paid the price.

The past five years have brought to pacifists several major tasks. We have been called upon to probe below the surface causes of the present war, to witness in the name of Christ against war in general and against this war in particular, we have had to fight a battle for freedom—a battle centered mainly around the wrongful imprisonment of Conscientious Objectors.

If the pacifists of the world could give, during peace time, to the cause of preventing war, the same amount of energy, thought and self-sacrifice as they display in resistance to war once it has come upon us, they might well make war impossible.

It is understandable that over the past few years we have been conscious of our "otherness." In a world committed to total war the pacifist cannot feel at home. But we Christian pacifists are not alone in our desire to build a warless world, and we do well to seek every possible opportunity of discussing with men of goodwill the problems which are our common concern. With our churches, our trade unions, our social groups, the tide of opinion is turning—men are not nearly so sure that a military victory will guarantee peace and goodwill. Let us strive to make common ground with such groups.

Then when it comes to questions of reparations, of national boundaries, of controlling "enemy" countries, of post-war armaments, and so on, the pacifist

## 63 Nisei Objectors Seek Right To Review; ACLU Files Petition

LOS ANGELES—Draft objectors should be able to test their status in court without having to join the army and run the risk of court martial, according to a petition for a U. S. Supreme Court rehearing filed last month by A. L. Wirin, counsel for the Southern California branch of the Civil Liberties Union, acting as personal attorney for Japanese-Americans.

Wirin urged the Supreme Court to reverse its ruling that the courts cannot review a Selective Service draft order unless the person receiving the order complies with it and enters the army. He held that a sincere religious or political objector is now prevented "from obtaining judicial review unless he is willing to submit himself to the army, where he would face the ignominy and contempt of military men and court martial, which may result in unlimited imprisonment or even a sentence of death."

The rehearing petition was filed by Wirin after the Supreme Court had refused to hear the appeal of Minola Tamesa and 62 other Japanese-Americans sentenced to three years for refusing to be drafted out of the relocation center at Heart Mountain, Wyo. The Japanese-Americans maintained at their trial and on appeal that since they were virtually prisoners of war, detained by force in concentration camps, they were not free persons within the provisions of the draft law, and hence not subject to army service. The Supreme Court presumably refused to hear their appeal because they had not first complied with the draft orders.

### Decision Appealed

A similar case involving 96 Nisei held at the Poston, Ariz., relocation center was recently heard before Federal Judge Dave Ling at Phoenix, Ariz., and resulted in the imposition of comparatively mild one-year sentences on three defendants, in order to provide test cases. Attorney Wirin is appealing. The majority of the defendants and applied for repatriation to Japan prior to their classification in the draft. A number of similar cases from the Tule Lake segregation center of allegedly disloyal Japanese-Americans came before Federal Judge Louis Goodman in San Francisco recently. He dismissed the charges on the ground that such persons imprisoned in relocation centers are not subject to the draft.

The decision of the Supreme Court on the petition for rehearing is expected to affect not only the Japanese-Americans but a number of religious objectors inducted into the army by force and court-martialed for refusal to obey orders. In the Billings case in 1944 the Supreme Court held that an objector inducted by force but refusing to take the oath was entitled to judicial review. But,

should be able to make a clearer judgment because he has read more widely and has out-thought his fellows—because he has faced, not some, but all the facts, and has not shut his eyes to the supreme fact—of God.

Unless capitalism makes way for some system of co-operation and brotherhood, unless international trade rivalries give way to a rational exchange of surplus goods, unless vanquished as well as victors find themselves respected units in the family of nations, unless hatred and bitterness of these war years is swallowed up by a common repentance, and a great manifestation of forgiveness, mercy and love—then turn aside and "kiss your babies farewell for upon their foreheads is the mark of death."

Herein lies the major task of the Christian pacifist in the immediate future, we suggest. Not to seek separatism and isolation but to seize every opportunity in Church and social life, in individual contacts, from platform and pulpit, to urge that way which has been likened to building upon a rock.

according to the ACLU, the lower courts have ignored this decision in at least two recent cases.

### Two-Edged Sword

Shooting "war criminals" is not "shooting a philosophy," maintains a serviceman writing to the editor of the Des Moines, Iowa, Register. These men are condemned for thinking they were right, but so could Germany and Japan "also condemn General Eisenhower, General Doolittle or Admiral Nimitz for destroying their countries." The important thing, he concludes, is that the philosophy of Nazism should be replaced with a new one.

## Civil Service Heads Seek Hospital Probe

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.—Heads of two State civil service organizations said they would request a "complete investigation" of personnel administration at the Hudson River State Hospital here, as a result of statements attributed to Dr. John R. Ross, the superintendent, by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Mrs. Roosevelt in her newspaper column reported that Dr. Ross said conscientious objectors working at the hospital had raised the standard of care and had been of "tremendous help in disclosing certain practices which existed there and about which he never before could get any real evidence."

Four attendants were dismissed last month by Dr. Ross following testimony by the conscientious objectors that the attendants had abused patients.

## Deny Isely's Application For Probation Transfer

Special to The C.O.

SALEM, Oregon—Philip Isely, released from McNeil Island prison recently, received word a week later from the Los Angeles probation office that his application for transfer to that district had been denied. He had expected to work for the Socialist Party in Los Angeles as manager of the Commonwealth Bookshop, following his release to his parents home here.

Isely stated that he would continue to oppose regulations which denied him free choice of occupation.

## Walkouts at Milan Jail After 17 Months' Wait

MILAN, Mich.—Wally Nelson and Joe Guinn, Civilian Public Service walkouts, arrived at the federal penitentiary here last month from Cleveland, where they spent 17 months in the Cuyahoga County jail awaiting a decision on their appeal. It was denied. According to The Grapevine, at least a year of the 17 months will not count on their sentences.

The objectors are said to have been segregated here as a result of their refusal to observe the Jim Crow regulations in the prison dining hall.

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## Withdrawal Of Friends Urged

### Hospital, School Units Say AFSC Direction Forces Compromise

Special to The C.O.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va.—Twenty-one members of the Eastern State Mental Hospital here, recently signed a petition urging the American Friends Service Committee to withdraw its sponsorship of this unit.

The petition said, in part, "The Friends CPS administration, in our eyes, has been reduced to the role of an agency of Selective Service and compelled to accept conditions and standards which violate traditional Friends testimony. We feel that the Friends can no longer continue in this relationship without damage to their religious integrity."

"Withdrawal of Friends sponsorship from this unit appears to us as an opportunity which should not be allowed to pass. It would demonstrate the willingness of Friends CPS to take at least a concrete step toward affirming their concern for the individual values which have been increasingly disregarded in the present program."

Ten of the 16 men at the New Lisbon, N. J., training school CPS unit have petitioned the Friends to withdraw their sponsorship of that unit.

## SS Postpones Demobilization

(Continued from page 1)

group of 800 to 900 men scheduled to be released on points during the first year.

In introducing the bill, Winstead emphasized those aspects of the CPS plan he thought more liberal than the army system, three points for wives, unlimited children, no minimum score.

"If Selective Service follows this plan," he declared, "it will be one of the most demoralizing blows to this country and to the men in service we have had during the entire war. If the conscientious objectors are conscientious, they will not want advantages over the fighting men."

The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Catholic War Veterans, Jewish War Veterans and the War Dads have strongly protested the partial demobilization of CPS men under the present plan.

### Veterans Protest

By Religious News Service

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Veterans of Foreign Wars have issued a statement here questioning the decision of the director of Selective Service to return conscientious objectors to civilian status under a point system designed for discharge of members of the armed forces.

In a letter to Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey, James W. Cannon, judge advocate general of the veterans' organization, asked that the Selective Service directive for release of COs under that agency's jurisdiction be withdrawn and nothing of similar character issued until the war ends.

Cannon said the Veterans of Foreign Wars acted to prevent objectors from "getting a head start over those remaining in military or naval service" in preferential adjustment back to private life. The objectors to service in the armed forces "do not deserve or merit this preference," he declared.

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### Fraternization

Ammon Hemmacy delivers a copy of The C.O. to each barrack in the German prisoner-of-war camp near his home in Albuquerque, N. M.

The German prisoners, Hemmacy reports, put out a paper of their own. In a recent issue, they ran a picture of Tolstoy and a short sketch of his life and works.

## Disobedience

(Continued from page 1)

of the peoples of both sides, and the bestiality, corruption and idiocy of their governments. The outcome of it has been the same outcome as in every previous war—the peoples have lost it. Every sacrifice made in it is futile, every citation of the enemy's brutality is made to justify the adoption of similar brutality. No matter what external semblance of justice a war may bear in its first days, these conclusions are the ineluctable result of the abandonment of personal responsibility. One is tempted to say—"Learn them—remember them—you will need to know them again, as they are your only footrule." It will be a new just cause next time and when they begin to say, "look, injustice" you must reply, "whom do you want me to kill?"

Yet the war has been unique in one respect. It has shown as never before that Society is the enemy of men—not one society, capitalist or socialist, but all society, and that in peace as in war the only final safeguard of freedom is the willingness of the individual to disobey. Fascism may or may not have been destroyed, but it is becoming abundantly clear that the partisan in peace will have the same role as the partisan in war. Society is rooted today in obedience, conformity, conscription, and the stage has been reached at which, in order to live, you have to be an enemy of society. The giant enemy of the next ten years will not be a class but society. The choice is not between socialism and fascism but between life and obedience. Every atrocity of the war was the direct consequence of somebody obeying when he should have thought. We have to learn the lesson of resistance, evasion, disappearance, which the occupation taught the people of France. Our own government, if it wants to make butchers or bomber pilots of our children, is as much our enemy as the Germans ever were. We have to unlearn what we have been taught—it may be dodging the column, but if the column is going to Eildice via Hamburg, then we do better in dodging it than obeying.

### Persuaded to Acquiesce

When the ordinary man acquiesces in war, he does so because he has been persuaded that he is "defending" himself—and in doing so he fails to recognize the urgent need to defend his home, his person and his family against his own government. It is difficult to see what worse impositions the "enemy" could make than those which are made by his self-styled and self-appointed defenders—to separate him forcibly and for years from his family, compel his wife to work in heavy industry for the commercial profit of its proprietors, remove his children or permit them to grow up as illiterate savages, employ him in interminable foreign campaigns where he will have the opportunity of encountering every physical and mental torment, or in interventionist adventures against the workers of other countries, and return him home, if he is fortunate, to an old wife and children he has never seen, privileged to inhabit some sort of shack, if he can afford it. "But the enemy would torture or imprison him..." Conceptions of torture vary. They would not torture him if he obeyed them, and

## Killer Can't Do It Again

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—When Chas. E. Humphrey was arraigned for refusal to enter the armed services, he gave as his reason the fact that 19 years ago he had been sentenced for killing another youth in a fight.

He said he was sentenced on a manslaughter charge for the 1926 slaying and served five years before being paroled.

"I am a conscientious objector," he said, "because I cannot kill again."

What would his own government do if he were to disobey? "He will be fighting for his children's freedom..." To go through the same bloody swindle in twenty years? To rot for people so nugatory that they mistake an operative attitude like Unconditional Surrender for a policy, so fatuous even in their own dirty work that every speech they make is a direct encouragement to the enemy to go on fighting, moral and intellectual eunuchs who cannot even recognize the lies they tell for their own ends? When a government intends war, then the attitude of the ordinary man who lives in its jurisdiction must be the same as it would be towards a foreign invader. Both are his enemies.

### ... It Can Be Done

The Maquis of the war may allow themselves to be reabsorbed into the structure of citizenship. We will be the Maquis of the peace. They have shown us that it can be done—that we can keep the shell of society while devouring its heart and undermining its tyranny. Our only weapon is responsibility. Murder and sabotage are not responsible weapons—they are the actions of desperate men or imbeciles. We are desperate men, but not imbeciles. We do not refuse to drive on the left hand side of the road, or to subscribe to national health insurance. The sphere of our disobedience is limited to the sphere in which society exceeds its powers and its usefulness. The chief of these excesses, the most impertinent and insupportable, is conscription. It is also the easiest to defy. I believe that in the interval of exhaustion which elapses between this war and the next we can so undermine that calf-like obedience which made possible 1914 and 1939 that when next the irresponsibles try to make it bear their weight it will precipitate them into the filth where they deserve to be. Everyone who attempts to make war, or to make the peoples acquiesce in war, is as much our enemy as the Germans. We must remember that, and direct ourselves accordingly. Up till now, it has been an article of pride among English politicians that the public would shove its head into any old noose they might show it—unflinching steadfast patriotism, unshakeable morale—obedience, and an absence of direct action. When enough people respond to the invitation to die, not with a salute but a smack in the mouth, and the mention of war empties the factories and fills the streets, we may be able to talk about freedom. I do not expect or hope for this. I only know what I myself am going to do. The people learn slowly, and learn incompletely. They remain somnambulists, but the pressure of the times moves them. They will be loudly congratulated after the Peace, and quietly diddled

## Bishop is Freed Following Fast

(Continued from page 1)

an ultimatum to him to return to work—ditchdigging. By superhuman effort he worked for four days before being rejected by the project leader.

Two days later, on August 9, he broke his 44 day fast, his weight having fallen from 173 to less than 129 pounds. Shortly afterwards he was transferred to West Campton, N. H.

At West Campton, Bishop started giving mealtime quotations aimed at war and compulsory service. Sometimes the "company" men showed their respect for freedom of speech by shuffling their feet and rattling dishes.

To the defenders of CPS he gave the words of E. Stanley Jones: "Let anyone be saturated with the thought of the Sermon on the Mount and he will not only not try to argue a man into slavery, but he will not rest until every man is free, including himself."

On February 11, 1943, Bishop undertook a fast simultaneous with the 21 day fast of Gandhi for Indian freedom. Bishop added that his own fast was also in support of those in the United States who were restrained, interned or imprisoned because of race, creed, color or national origin. Taking water only, Bishop remained at work through the three week period.

### Protests Peonage

He joined E. Myron Marks, Jr., also at West Campton, in a fast begun June 19, 1943, in protest against the AFSC, the NSBRO and Selective Service for "introducing and maintaining peonage and involuntary servitude." Assignees are required to work for the United States Government without compensation, in violation of their constitutional and moral rights as citizens and free men.

This anti CPS fast ended with an order to transfer him to the government camp at Mancoos, Colorado, on July 7, 1943. The AFSC told Bishop it had asked Selective Service to remove him from its camps. Bishop had previously refused to write on a ballot that he desired to

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after that. But they are learning the lessons of the war, not unique lessons, but as old as humanity, the lessons of responsibility and disobedience.

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## Democratic Front

By Max M. Kampelman

Reporting on the state of American corporations during wartime, a recent issue of Fortune magazine states: "They have nearly twice as much working capital, more than twice as many government securities as they had in 1939. They have paid \$1,000,000,000 in debt and have \$2,000,000,000 coming in tax refunds."

Meanwhile the Wage and Hour Division reported that as of the end of 1944, more than 4,000,000 workers, or ten per cent of those in industry, were receiving less than 40 cents an hour; about 3,000,000 between 40-50 cents an hour; and an additional 3,000,000 between 50-60 cents an hour.

A total of ten million workers, therefore, were receiving less than \$24 a week for a 40 hour week. Department of Labor statistics indicate that a minimum wage of \$1.27 an hour for a worker employed 40 hours a week for 52 weeks a year is necessary to support a family in health and decency.

Another study by the Department further disclosed that despite all Federal efforts to hold down the cost of living, there has been a fifty per cent rise since 1942 in the outlay for food for the lowest income group.

With the comment that this state of affairs has "meant poverty, ill-health, and degradation for millions of American citizens," a subcommittee of the Senate's Committee on Education and Labor, headed by Senator Pepper, has just prepared legislation, already introduced in both houses of Congress, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act. Under the bill, a new minimum wage of 65 cents an hour would be established which would, within two years, be increased to 75 cents an hour.

One of the most crucial decisions affecting our economy will be that of disposition of government owned plants so that they become instruments for social welfare. The necessity that they be fully utilized if we are to have full production, a prerequisite for employment, can be seen from the fact that the government now owns 10 per cent of the steel producing capacity of the nation, 50 per cent of the capacity to build machine tools, 70 per cent of aluminum, 90 per cent of synthetic rubber, 90 per cent of aircraft production, 90 per cent of shipbuilding and repairs, and 90 per cent of magnesium.

A survey of the growth of Swedish cooperatives shows that their central organization now owns productive plants in more than a score of industries and, as a result, the movement has become a very potent force in keeping prices down. Electric bulb prices, for example, which had previously been fixed by an international monopoly, were brought down by more than a third with the entry of cooperatives into their manufacture.

Cooperatives are now in fields as varied as: flour, mills, bakeries, margarine factories, fish canneries, shoes, phosphate, fertilizer, automobile tires, textiles, cash registers, earthenware and porcelain.

In the United States, Farm Bureau cooperative insurance companies reported sizable gain in auto, life, fire, and accident and health insurance for the first four months of 1945 over the same period last year.

The Farm Bureau Mutual Automobile Co. showed a 30 per cent gain in coverage, while the number of accident and health policies increased 55 per cent. The Farm Bureau Life Insurance Co. registered an increase of 22 per cent in volume of new business written and the Mutual Fire Insurance Co. an 18.2 per cent increase in new business.

The Rochdale Institute, national college of American consumer cooperatives,

will sponsor its comprehensive course again this fall for those who seek employment in cooperatives or wish to study the subject. The study program, which will be held at Lake Geneva and Chicago, will last from September 9 to November 2. Further information can be obtained from the Institute, 343 So. Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois.

## Bishop is Freed Following Fast

(Continued from page 6)

stay in Friends' CPS, although he also said he did not seek transfer.

From his first few months in CPS, Bishop maintained that he was under no obligation to do any more work than needed to keep out of jail. Foremen found they could get little out of Bishop except debate. For much of the time at Mancos he was left alone as librarian, a job he utilized to search through books for more quotes to prove his points.

When in May, 1944, Selective Service opened its camp to segregate non-cooperators, Bishop was on the list to go. To dramatize his servitude, he wore a ball and chain around his leg as he left Mancos.

At Germfask he pursued his quotes and queries with more vigor than ever. The camp manager, a Mennonite Minister, was persuaded by Bishop that no follower of Jesus could administer conscription to his fellow men, and he resigned his post.

### Issues Newsletter

Bishop circulated one issue of a newsletter from Germfask before walking out. At the end of a furlough in August, 1944, he turned his back upon the system he had so long fought.

He neither felt obligated to tell the government where he was, nor did he try to evade arrest. September 9 he was arrested in New York.

On the trip back to Michigan for trial, he was beaten and kicked by officers of the U. S. Marshal. After a hearing at Grand Rapids, the car in which he was being taken to the prison hospital at Milan for forced-feeding overturned.

While awaiting trial, his abstinence from food, except for liquids administered through a tube, lasted 88 days. December 6 Federal Judge Fred M. Raymond postponed trial and allowed Bishop to leave without bond or promise to return.

He used his liberty to travel to CPS camps and units, trying to awaken men to the evils of the system they accepted.

On February 20 Bishop was arrested on a bench warrant for another return to Michigan for trial. His passive body, carried by police, produced a jam of people who thought he was a wounded fugitive. Newspaper pictures showed him being carried by the collar and pants-cuff technique, seat dragging on the ground.

Called to trial on March 16 on short notice (one week after his 39th birthday), he was sentenced to four years in prison and a \$1,000 fine. Next day he was removed to Milan to begin his sentence.

He did not stir from his cot for any reason until the day he attained freedom.

## Hampton Letters From McNeil Reveal New Prison Brutalities

Further revelations of shocking conditions and revolting brutalities in Federal prisons were made recently by John Hampton, a conscientious objector inmate of the McNeil Island Federal prison, in letters made public by the Absolutist, organ of the Absolutist War Objectors Association.

In baring atrocities at McNeil, Hampton stated that "seven or eight" letters of complaint to the office of the Attorney General and to the director of the Bureau of Prisons had never been acknowledged. In one such letter Hampton wrote:

"Our Warden, Mr. P. J. Squier, has neither answered nor acknowledged the enclosed letter. Yesterday I was again kicked in the back by another of your guards, Mr. McShane, and this time more viciously and vehemently than before. I assume from yesterday's action that these guards are acting under your instructions and with the full approval of Warden Squier . . .

"It is generally believed among the inmates that many of the letters addressed to the Attorney General and Director, Bureau of Prisons, never leave McNeil Island. I am inclined to be of the opinion that this belief is false but that it is fostered and encouraged by the guards and officials to discourage complaints against them."

Hampton wrote in another letter:

"Regardless of proper channels of complaint, I claim my right as a citizen to free and unrestricted opportunity to inform my wife of any 'disciplinary measures' or physical violence used upon me and other inmates, denial of food, withholding medicine, smelly urine-saturated mattress and dirty greasy pillow, being moved in after inmate with itch, regular epidemics of 'athlete's foot', no T.B. segregation in hospital wards, positive syphilis handling food, legal rights taken away from inmates, non-coop COs being placed with sodomites and homosexuals with the obvious inference and implication."

In other letters, Hampton wrote:

"After attacks on another inmate, a patient with known suicidal tendencies was removed from the neuro-psychiatric ward of the prison hospital and finally put in segregation (otherwise known as the screen or the hole). Here he attempted suicide by slashing his wrists with a razor blade, and he might have succeeded had not the shouts of other prisoners finally drawn the attention of

guards (there is no guard on regular duty in segregation and a doctor makes but one daily visit) . . .

### CO Stripped

"Some time ago I called attention to the brutal behavior of Lt. Eckheart and Mr. Capel. More recently these two guards stripped naked a young CO, Phillip Isely, shoved him on his back, and dragged him around by his heels on a rough concrete floor for a distance of approximately 75 feet. This brutal 'disciplinary' action was occasioned by Isely's refusal to walk to the 'hole' . . .

"I believe the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) will likewise be interested in your staff members' attempt to incite other prisoners to inflict the corporal punishment that your cowardly guards no longer dare to apply themselves."

"On two occasions the prisoners in the McNeil Receiving Bldg. were gathered together and given a 'lecture' by Mr. Brock, the theme of which was that I was not hurting the prison set-up by throwing food on the walls and plugging up the sewer line, but that I was deliberately making it tough on the other prisoners. Because your prisoners are possessed of clearer understanding of the issue of conscience and have a fairer sense of justice than that of your guards, these attempts to turn my fellow inmates against me have come to naught."

The Absolutist, in commenting on the attempts at breaking the will of prisoners by brutality, observed:

"When a modern nation plans for war or goes to war, it must first enslave its own people. To do so it must spread the fear of government and terrorize the people . . . We are just going through the process of condemning the entire German people for submitting to the German terror, but the same American totalitarians that are doing the condemning are supporting the same terror in our prison system in America."

(Since these letters were written, Hampton was transferred to Springfield in the same building as Murphy and Taylor.)

## Draft Referendum, Conscription Abolition Sought by Legislators

(Continued from page 1)

public's stand on the controversial issue and that it would give soldiers at home and abroad the "right to express themselves . . ."

Sen. Butler declared that "most of the letters sent to me from Nebraska put the writers on record as being against" peacetime conscription. While every Senator is receiving "a large amount of mail" on the question, he said that "the mail we receive on a particular subject is not always an accurate cross-section of opinion."

Under the proposal the President would certify to the governors of the States for submission to the voters in the next congressional election the question:

"Do you favor by the passage of a law by the Congress of the United States to compel 1 year of military training for young men in time of peace?"

A similar measure was introduced recently in the House by two Republican congressmen, S. P. Taylor of New York and Lawrence H. Smith of Wisconsin.

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practices of all nations."

The resolution points out that compulsory military service has never prevented war in Europe or elsewhere, but, on the contrary, causes suspicion and fears to grow between nations and inclines the rulers of men to war rather than to peace. Such service would, furthermore, result in greater restrictions over the lives and activities of our people, would impose heavy burdens on them, causing greater taxes and profound changes in their way of life.

### Danish Peace Workers Active

By Worldover Press

LONDON—Word has been received from Denmark at the British office of the War Resisters' International that its Danish section carried on work throughout the German occupation, and that its publication, *Aldrig mere Krig*, has been issued every month without interruption. For the past year the Danish movement, in conjunction with the Society of Friends in Denmark, worked to prepare relief activities on the Continent, which they expect to start at once.