

Editorial — Comment — Bulletin

The Daily Nebraskan

FORTY-FIRST YEAR.

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The Letter Arrives

As expected, a letter has arrived from the acting secretary of the UN chapter of the America First Committee asking several questions about the policy which the Daily Nebraskan has adopted in regard to the present war—the only policy that can be adopted since the situation has become so grave.

The writer of the letter claims that the editor has changed policy from a plea for religious thought in an editorial Oct. 12 to demand an expeditionary army to die in Europe in an editorial Nov. 2. The editorial Oct. 12 was a plea for a swing back to religion as protection against the lack of religion and religious principles in the dictatorships, particularly Germany. The Nov. 2 editorial did not demand an expeditionary army to die in Europe, but to fight the irreligious, unprincipled designs of Hitlerism.

It hardly seems necessary to answer the questions put by a group that wishes to "keep us out of foreign war" when we are already in a foreign war. However, we will deal with the questions in order to satisfy the person concerned.

Question 1: "Is it the Christian duty to carry democracy to foreign lands with 'airplanes, tanks and destroyers manned by Americans?'" In partial answer, we would like to ask a question of our own. Does Mr. Paul believe that it is possible to defeat Hitlerism by the use of missionaries today? Over and above this, it is not so much a matter of carrying democracy to foreign lands as to prevent them from carrying totalitarianism to our shores. We think our first line of defense is not the three-mile limit around our shores but that it extends to the battle lines in Europe.

Question 2: "How many American men will die in this crusade . . ." We hate to see anyone die, but if England loses, it will be the United States alone against the rest of the world, and more American lives will be lost in that event than if we help England and Russia defeat Hitler now.

Question 3: "Where in Europe could a U. S. expeditionary force be landed to enforce the 'four freedoms' on the rest of the world?" An answer to this is quite out of our sphere. When the time comes we will allow the military experts of the country to answer that question—and it will be answered.

Question 4: "Why should American men fight and die in foreign mud? Perhaps the lady will contribute something new and different besides the trite phrases of 'save democracy, end war, etc.'" We will not be trite. We will answer from a purely selfish viewpoint and tell the America Firsters that England is fighting to protect our way of life—including representative government, freedom to practice our religions in our own ways, freedom to speak and act as we wish, our educational system, and countless other privileges which Hitlerism would take away. In helping England we are fighting for those privileges.

The last question: "Do you support or oppose

humanitarian aid to the Christian democracies of Finland, France, Norway, Belgium and Holland, whose citizens will suffer and starve this winter if the American people do not help them with gifts of food and clothing?" Our only answer is that we would support humanitarian aid to those countries if we could be sure that those countries would receive our aid instead of Germany, the nation we are fighting. Of this we cannot be assured.

Mr. Paul winds up his questioning with the hope that this editor will not be led into error again by quoting the propaganda of the war party's "Fight-for-Freedom" committee. By "propaganda" we assume he is thinking of the word with all of its worst connotations. It seems to us that Mr. Paul should not have mentioned propaganda because he laid himself open for this question: "Is not the activity of the America First committee based upon propaganda?"

Letters to The Editor

DEAR EDITOR:

May I respectfully quote three recent articles by you in the Daily Nebraskan:

Oct. 12—"In time of crisis it is time we gave some thought to the spiritual side."

Oct. 31—"Young people must help make peace!"

Nov. 2—"Our duty is to fight hand in hand with Britain to 'make the world safe for democracy.' We are convinced that this can only be accomplished by the immediate entrance of the U. S. into an active war. We must strike."

From a plea for religious thought and a call for young people to "help make peace," the editor reverses herself to demand an American expeditionary army to die in Europe!

We of the America First Committee would appreciate your answer to the following questions:

1. Is it the Christian "duty" to carry democracy to foreign lands with "airplanes, tanks and destroyers manned by Americans," as you so sweetly put it? Did you ever see a missionary inaugurate a revival with a bayonet attack or a bombing raid?

2. How many American men will die in this crusade to "save democracy," a million, ten million, perhaps twenty million? Have you ever visited a Veterans' hospital and viewed the lasting results of our last crusade?

3. Where in Europe could a U. S. expeditionary force be landed to enforce the "four freedoms" on the rest of the world?

4. WHY should American men fight and die in foreign mud? Perhaps the lady will contribute something new and different besides the trite phrases of "save democracy, end war, etc., etc," which we of the younger generation inherited from the last world war!

5. Do you support or oppose humanitarian aid to the Christian democracies of Finland, France, Norway, Belgium and Holland whose citizens will suffer and starve this winter if the American people do not help them with gifts of food and clothing?

May I humbly call to your attention a recent news story in the Daily Nebraskan of Oct. 28 reporting on the student opinion surveys. I quote: "14 percent of the students support the declare war and fight policy." And 79 percent of the youth oppose sending an expeditionary army to die in foreign wars! These figures speak for themselves. The facts are that the young men and women who will suffer refuse to support our entrance into other peoples' battles.

Sincerely,
LUCKEY PAUL,
Acting Secretary of the
UN America First Committee.

Religion—

(Continued from Page 1.)

Working two years in China with the co-operative movement, with Kagawa in Japan, and with Gandhi in India, the Rev. Allan A. Hunter is the author of *Three Trumpets Sound, White Corpses in Europe, and Secretly Armed*.

Dr. Hilda L. Ives, president of the New England Town and Country Church Commission, Newton Centre, Mass., was a delegate to the International Missionary Council held in Tambaram, India, in 1938.

Active in the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Rabbi Julius Gordon conducted the "Message of Israel" radio hour on a national hook-up. He has traveled extensively in Europe and Palestine.

Regional director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Mr. Willard Johnson served as Dean of Men, Drake University, from 1934 through 1938.

For 19 years pastor of the University Presbyterian church and director of the McKinley Foundation at the University of Illinois, Dr. Walter Malone is also a vice-president of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Dr. John Oliver Nelson, in addition to heading the sub-committee on Social Education and Action of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, Pittsburgh, Pa., is director of the Department of Student Relations, the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education in Philadelphia.

The author of 12 books on philosophy, religion, and science, Father John O'Brien is professor of philosophy of religion and politics at the University of Notre Dame, and has traveled throughout Europe many times and spent the summer of 1939 in Germany, France, and Spain.

A delegate to the Oxford and Edinburgh Conference held in 1937, Dr. Albert W. Palmer, president of the Chicago Theological Seminary, is the author of *Paths to the Presence of God, The Minister's Job, and The Art of Conducting Public Worship*.

Popular student conference leader Rev. Edgar M. Wahlberg is minister of Grace church and

Community Center, Denver. He has had over ten years experience in this many-sided social and religious project.

Dr. Gould Wickey, executive secretary of the board of education of the United Lutheran Church in America, is editor of the "Christian Education" magazine and is general secretary of the Council of Church Boards of Education.

A native of Tokyo, Japan, Dr. Hachiro Yuasa served as professor of entomology at the College of Agriculture, Kyoto Imperial University, from 1924-35.

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