

The Common Welfare

Demobilization—From Now On

ACCORDING to figures now generally available, 635,000 men were honorably discharged from the army in the two-year period December 1941 to December 1943. Current discharges are reported at a rate of seventy to eighty thousand a month. Battle injuries accounted for only a small portion of the men discharged up to last December—only 10,000. Two hundred thousand men were released because they were over thirty-eight years of age, most of the others for physical or mental disabilities.

The fact that during the months from December 1918 to August 1919, following the end of the last war, the demobilization monthly average was only 250,000 should make us realize that demobilization problems are here and now—rather than merely a matter of postwar planning.

The January *Federator*, published by the Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County gives a good picture of the considerable complexity of services organized for the discharged man in a local community. Pittsburgh's selective service boards have appointed volunteer rehabilitation officers to assist men who have difficulties in returning to their former positions. The U. S. Employment Service has a full time veterans' representative in the main Pittsburgh office. The Home Service Division of the American Red Cross, the Army Emergency Relief, and the Allegheny County Board of Assistance all offer case-work service and relief. Other agencies are also reporting discharged service men among their case loads. The Veterans Administration handles the adjudication of claims, and rehabilitation training for those with service connected disabilities, after compensation claims have been rated and approved. It is estimated that about one-fifth of the men returning to Allegheny County have been discharged on neuropsychiatric grounds. Psychiatric and psychiatric social work services are very limited.

Dangers of piecemeal planning are apparent. Now is the time to work for coordination, adequacy, and justice—in Washington, and in the local communities to which the 10,000,000 men of our armed services eventually will return. Utterly tragic would be anything less than the full use of present experience to perfect plans that will not only provide the right service for men who need help in making the inevitably difficult adjustments to civilian life, but will provide that service without confusion and delay.

The World and Its People

“WHAT is to be done with and for the people of the world?”

This question, basic to a solution of all other postwar problems, was posed last month to a panel of experts by Dr. Henry Pratt Fairchild at the twenty-third annual meeting of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Nobody had a pat answer, though all agreed that as long as some countries are so densely populated that they cannot supply a minimum subsistence to all their people, the rest of the world will be living on a powder keg.

Ely Culbertson, author of the “World Federation Plan,” maintained that overpopulation cannot be solved by migration, but only through positive controls based on “a broad

program of education . . . linked up with the medical and public health services of each country.” On the other hand, Clarence Streit, president of Federal Union, Inc., looked with foreboding on the prospect of slowed up population growth in the democracies while in overcrowded countries under despotic rule the population increased by leaps and bounds. Warren Thompson, director of the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems, who pointed to the great differentials of population growth between the East and the West, maintained that migration could be an effective relief for overcrowded countries but that “peace will fail if we do not learn to control population growth.” And Pennington Haile, executive director of the United Nations Association asked: “Can we hope that the pace of the spread of knowledge of the need to control the world's population can keep pace in the immediate postwar years with that very growth of population?”

“Population” became “people” again when Frank Notestein, director of the Office of Population Research, Princeton University, reminded the assembled company that planned parenthood, the scientific means of population control, cannot be forced upon people who are not ready to accept it. Suggesting that the first steps must be towards raising educational and health standards through “political and economic modernization,” he said: “The rational control of fertility can only develop in the presence of rising levels of living, new vistas of human welfare, and that reasonable prospect for healthy survival that gives the individual, child and adult, importance to himself and his family.”

Skeletons in the Closet

MISTREATMENT of children by the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children became front page news again last month on release of the report of the Domestic Relations Court's investigating committee. The findings themselves were bad enough: “The society has failed in its obligation to the child in every aspect of its shelter operation, has wrought incalculable harm to thousands of children entrusted to its care. . . . Children were confined as long as two days and two nights in a basement coop . . . no special care is provided for pregnant girls, although some are there as long as five months.”

Worse than the report itself is the fact that this is not the first time the SPCC has enjoyed public condemnation. (See *Survey Midmonthly*, November 1943, page 294.) Eight years ago the city commissioner of accounts reported on the lack of qualified personnel, and the general inadequacy of its program. Long since, informed social workers in New York City have known what was happening to children entrusted to the society's care. Yet no one ever succeeded in closing the shelter or improving its standards.

New York City is better equipped than are most towns with planning councils, professional associations, state agencies responsible for inspection, and national agencies—all concerned with better planning, raising standards, improving service in this and other fields. The city of New York itself pays to this society \$90,000 of its \$115,000 an-

nual expenditure, and presumably expects to get value received for its money. Each of the above groups can give legitimate reasons for its part in the inability to cope practically with this particular agency. The fact remains, however, that this skeleton stayed in the social work closet until an internal riot and a blast by the newspaper *PM* brought it once again into public view.

Here is a place for real heart searching, that need not be limited to New York City. There are plenty of similar skeletons scattered about these United States. When someone rudely pulls them out, their bones inevitably beat out the question: "When planning comes, why must action lag so far behind?" There is no simple answer, but national leaders as well as local community organizers must keep the search for a solution persistently in the forefront of their responsibilities. For in the public mind today, more than ever before, there is an interlocking conception of all social work, public as well as private. The undermining of public confidence which results from an exposure such as this is felt on every front of good and honest work.

Music for Everyone

IT is heartening to know that even in the midst of war, plans can be made for the extension of those things that enrich human lives beyond mere animal comfort. Strangely in contrast to the violent news items surrounding it came the announcement last month that Leopold Stokowski, one of this country's greatest orchestra conductors, is to devote his future to bringing good music to the people. At the invitation of Mayor LaGuardia of New York, Mr. Stokowski will organize and conduct a full-sized orchestra, the New York City Symphony, which will perform low-priced concerts at hours convenient for working people.

Auditions for the orchestra personnel, which is to be open to both sexes and all races, are now underway, and the concerts are scheduled to begin early next month. The orchestra's musical policy will be to present selections from the world's best music as well as to give a hearing to new American composers. There will be popular concerts and series for children and young people. One plan is to hold, in addition to evening performances, short concerts at 5:30 so that people can hear music on the way home from work.

Mr. Stokowski is donating his services, which he expects to take up the major portion of his future time, to this effort to make it possible for people less than "well-to-do" to hear the highest quality of music often. The orchestra will be financed by the City Center of Music and Drama. Under the law it must become self-liquidating.

A Step Ahead

LAST month there occurred in New York City's Harlem an event which, though it received little notice, may be just as important to the future of race relations in this country as the much publicized riots of last summer. This was the reorganization of Sydenham Hospital, which thereby became the first voluntary hospital in the United States to function on a completely interracial basis. The medical staff is composed of both Negro and white physicians. There are colored and white nurses, colored and white technicians, colored and white maintenance workers. The board also consists of members of both racial groups. The reorganization of the hospital, which is a member of the United Hospital Fund and the greater New York Fund, was carried through by an interracial committee organized by the New York Urban League.

A School Step

ANOTHER significant break in the Jim Crow line in the North was achieved in New Jersey last month, with a decision by the State Supreme Court that the segregation of Negro school children in that state is unlawful.

The decision was handed down in the case of two Trenton mothers who applied for a court order requiring local school authorities to permit the transfer of their children to a more conveniently located junior high school which was restricted to white pupils. The two Negro children had been ordered to attend the New Lincoln School, which has an all-Negro student body, and which is located at an inconvenient distance from their homes. Further, the parents submitted, the New Lincoln School is an old, overcrowded building, and its curriculum is narrower than that of Junior High School No. 2, from which their children had been barred.

Justice Newton H. Porter, who wrote the opinion of the court, stated: "The sole question presented is the legal right of the respondent—Trenton Board of Education—to refuse these children admission in the school nearest their residences. The only reason the admission sought is denied them is because of their race. We think it clear that the children are unlawfully discriminated against."

A Great Citizen

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE of Emporia, Kans., who died in his home town on January 29 at the age of seventy-five, was a newspaper editor who, from a middlewestern Main Street, became known throughout the country and overseas as a great American.

Descended from a line of New England preachers and town clerks, son of a country doctor who migrated from Massachusetts to Kansas before the Civil War, William Allen White grew up with the new country. He helped support himself as a typesetter when he was a college student, and left the University of Kansas before graduation to go into newspaper work. At twenty-two, he was an editorial writer on *The Kansas City Star*. Three years later he purchased the *Emporia Gazette*.

Best known and best loved as a Kansas newspaperman, William Allen White crowded many other activities into his long, busy life. Never ambitious for public office, he ran for governor of Kansas in 1924, in protest against the Republican nomination of a candidate whom he charged with Ku Klux Klan affiliations. Mr. White was not elected, but he rolled up the amazing vote of 149,811. In season and out, he urged liberal policies in the councils of the Republican Party. In the first World War he toured Europe on a Red Cross mission. He went to Haiti in 1930, as a member of President Hoover's commission to shape a program for the ending of American intervention. In 1933, he visited Moscow, sending back stories to *The New York Times* and the North American Newspaper Alliance. He contributed to many magazines and reviews, and was the author of a dozen widely read books. The editorial he wrote on the death of his beloved young daughter, Mary White, is regarded as a classic. But perhaps he will be remembered longest, not as writer or editor, but as a great citizen—tolerant, wise, courageous, with unflinching zest for life and new experience, and the conviction that Americans fight, and ask no quarter, when a principle is at stake.

The Social Front

Community Affairs

FINAL returns from 1944 community and war chest campaigns give evidence of philanthropic giving on a scale previously unheard of, a broader base of contributor support, the organization of many new chests, and a wider inclusion of local services, according to Esther McClure Moore in the January issue of *Community*. The total of \$149,345,000 reported raised in 378 local communities is 102 percent of their combined goal, and reflects an average increase of 17 percent over amounts raised locally last year. Approximately 37 percent of the total will go to the foreign relief agencies that are members of the National War Fund. Ten cities had goals of \$2,500,000, or more, and a total of thirty-six cities had goals over \$1,000,000. Regionally, chests in the Southeast led with a 60 percent median increase over last year; the Pacific Coast showed a 40 percent median increase, and the Southwest 36 percent.

Mrs. Moore forecasts that sound and careful preparation will be needed for future campaigns to offset the inevitable loss of freshness and spontaneity, which has already begun to show itself in this second war chest year. Employee solicitation, for example, presented more difficulties in 1943 than in 1942. Solicitation had to be organized in the face of manpower shortages, crowded production schedules, and high personnel turnover. Recommendations for preparation of 1944 campaigns include emphasis on employee education and participation, cultivation of management interest and understanding, increased attention to year round educational work in the schools, and campaign openings of a civic nature instead of the traditional dinners.

Interracial Code—The Detroit Council of Social Agencies recently adopted an interracial code for use by itself and its member agencies in a re-examination of administrative and service practices. According to its provisions, clients should be served without respect to race, and the existence of a special racial agency should not keep them from receiving similar service from other agencies. Staff should be employed and promoted on the basis of ability regardless of race. Emotional acceptance and intellectual understanding of minority groups should be a prerequisite for all staff members. Boards should include members from any racial group consistently represented in the community. In general, staff and board members should be encouraged to

participate in interracial activities; group-work agencies should promote interracial understanding; leadership should plan for the elimination of segregation; training schools should include courses designed to give interracial perspective; agencies should give field work training to students with different racial backgrounds.

Streamlining Goodwill—Organization of community goodwill in eight Michigan counties is reported in the January *Bulletin* of the Federal Council of Churches. Promotional work was undertaken last summer and fall by Professor O. Ulrey of Michigan State College under the auspices of the Michigan Council of Churches and Christian Education. Local committees were organized and followed up by a larger planning meeting of representatives from church, labor, civic, management, farm, and other groups. County conferences were organized on a round table pattern with discussion under adept leadership and no set speeches, no resolutions, and no plans for action. An initial general meeting at each conference chose topics for the round tables which were to follow on succeeding days. Favorite subjects included employment, wages and prices, juvenile delinquency, racial tensions, industrial conflicts. The conferences were usually held in a camp or summer resort conveniently near an industrial or farming center.

For the Demobilized—In announcing the organization of a new vocational service center, the YMCA of the City of New York emphasizes its plans to render service both to returning soldiers and sailors and to demobilized industrial workers. According to the announcement the new center will "help young men find employment in which they may use their abilities to the fullest." By merging into a central agency vocational services previously available in five branch Y's, the association can offer a full battery of resources, including vocational guidance with laboratory facilities for psychological testing, placement counseling through practical connections with employers in the New York metropolitan areas, coaching in job hunting skills, a special library with literature descriptive of all types of occupations and professions, and credit extension to young men who are without funds. Its director is Elmer Galloway, formerly executive director of the East Third Street Branch, who will have a staff of eight associates with special train-

ing and experience in vocational and placement counseling. Already in full operation, the center offers its services without cost to those who use them.

In Boston a Community Information and Counseling Center for discharged service men and women was recently opened under the auspices of the local Council of Social Agencies and financed by the United War Fund. Administered by a committee including representatives of business, education, vocational guidance, social service, and health agencies, the center employs interviewers to give information about insurance, taxes, employment, and other matters. Referrals are made to the appropriate agency when special help is necessary. Ultimately the center expects to serve displaced industrial workers as well as service men.

The Public's Health

INDIANA has set up a new division of tuberculosis control within the State Board of Health, with Dr. Holland Thompson as director. Immediate responsibilities of the division are to find undetected cases, and to secure treatment for known cases. The new division will attempt to keep a control upon the many chronic pulmonary tuberculosis carriers who have left their own communities, where they were identified, and become lost in war industry areas. The division will encourage extensive surveys by chest X-rays, and will offer consultation service and interpretation to rural practitioners. It expects to work in close cooperation with the Indiana State Tuberculosis Association, and with the U. S. Public Health Service, which furnishes technicians and portable X-ray machines for surveys in war industry areas.

Postwar Medicine—At a recent meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, Dr. Arthur Freeborn Chace reported on the progress of the academy's Committee on Medicine and the Changing Order, which was formed early in 1943 to study trends and possible developments in medicine and public health, in relation to the postwar world. The committee is composed of fourteen fellows of the academy and thirty-one outsiders, representative of labor, law, social work, nursing, medical education, dentistry, and public health.

After a year of study the committee has become convinced that planning by government, industry, labor and consumers will greatly influence the pattern of the future, and that the academy must