HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM COMPLETED

AFA is winding up District Finals of the High School World Peace Study and Speaking Program in 13 cities, and plans have been completed for the New York, United Nations and Washington, D. C. winners' trip. 42 winners and their teacher-coaches from all over North Carolina will make the trip. Goldsboro, Fayetteville, Raleigh, and Asheville had the highest number of schools enrolled, so they are sending 2 sets of winners and coaches.

Despite heavy competition from other High School programs, the AFA program had a good year with the Goldsboro district exceeding last year's enrollment by a good margin.

Congratulations to Reverend D. W. Charlton and all the other fine folks in Goldsboro; to Sarah Hill Moore and those civic-minded supporters in Fayetteville; to Mrs. E. L. Clasz and the many devoted members and organizations in Asheville, to Attorney J. Francis Paschal and those long-time loyal supporters in Raleigh; to Mrs. Pearl Teter and Mrs. John H. Bonner and the Woman's Clubs of Morganton and Elizabeth City respectively for piloting our two new districts through a successful year; and, especially to District Chairmen and their workers of the other districts: Attorney William L. Thorp of Rocky Mount; Attorney Thad Moser of Asheboro; Mrs. Louise Smith of Greensboro; Mrs. T. C. Karnes of Winston-Salem; Mrs. Grace P. Cooper of Salisbury; Mr. Paul Callaway of Mt. Airy; Miss Mabel Bacon of Charlotte; and Miss Bertie Cooper and the Home Demonstration Club of White Plains, who did such a fine job on the school level.

The enthusiastic interest and hard work of the Woman's Clubs, the PTA's, Rotarys, Bar Associations, Home Demonstration Clubs, United Organizations of Wayne Co., the Jaycees, Lions, AAUW's, American Legion, Ruritans, 20th. Century Club of Sylva, Kiwanis', VFW, Civitans, individual Churches and schools and businessmen—all made the High School Program possible and successful this year.

Plans are beginning now for a bigger and better year next year.

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Widening The Circle

Some local AFA Branches are faced with a problem. It seems that those who have joined AFA and participate in its work are the ones who are already better informed than their neighbors. If real and substantial effects from education on effective world law are to be realized, a way must be found to widen the narrow circle of "already saved" who comprise the largest part of participants in AFA work.

The "inner-circle-of-the-faithful-and-dedicated" absolutely must be retained, but it must reach more people and gain more recruits.

One way of doing this is to shift meeting times, places, length and program. Publicize meetings and activities—use radio, newspapers and television. Discussions might well take place on a lawn or back porch on a fine summer evening. You might try a semi-formal $25.00 per plate dinner with outstanding program. With a little imagination, there are practically endless possible combinations and variations, and the appropriateness of each will depend on local conditions and the audience one wishes to reach.

In addition, it is very productive to call people you want and have them help plan a particular project. Having helped plan, they will feel more a part of the program.

Invite, to participate in a program, people you know don't agree with you entirely (not to debate and force them to solidify their views). Get them to help plan events. They balance and enliven a program and help the educational process to start with different points of view and proceed towards agreement.

Another approach is to make use of real grass-roots leadership—the kind exercised in the barbership, over the back fence on washdays or at the Launderette, as well as the kind that may represent a civic group or other official group.

Every community has this kind of opionion leadership. People know for the authority of their views should be encouraged to participate in group discussions and projects. Anyone and everyone having ideas and opinions on this timely topic of peace and freedom should express them—at home, among friends, neighbors and business associates, as well as at group meetings.

Community leaders and other interested citizens should be shown that their ideas and opinions can best be utilized through joining with others in AFA.

And by all means, use "captive" audiences. Cooperate and aid existing organizations. Work through and with them. They need our services and we need them.

By increasing the membership of the "faithful few" and by effectively utilizing grass-roots opportunities for leadership, we can continue to expand our much needed work.

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Senator Guy M. Gillette

C'EST LA GUERRE

(From an article by Wilhelm Mensching in FELLOWSHIP, Jan. '54)

"The great powers of the West and the East are agreed that they must arm against each other. On this side and on that inhuman practices are carried on which must be attacked in God's name. Even Christians, on this side and on that, are in danger of becoming accustomed to the brutalities committed around them, of accepting them as inevitable and of comforting themselves more or less with the consideration that what the other side is doing is so much worse.

War only increases inhumanity. Even preparation for war, rearmament, espionage and propaganda set in motion the same process of deterioration. The necessary planning and large sums of money which should be given to the urgent services which social justice demands are used for war preparation. The fear of spies and hostile propaganda causes nervousness, suspicion and misrepresentations, and justifies the increasing limitations and suspension of civil liberties. We copy from one another methods of compulsion and the shelving of social duties.

But it is war itself which really multiplies the inhumanity. The world in its helpless fear can see no way of escape; yet Jesus can show the way.

The theological truth is this: all human beings have been given a higher, as well as an animal nature . . . Again we stand before the momentous decision. We must fight for God and man. What shall be the weapons of our warfare?"

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Voluntary Organizations And Education on World Law

(Partially filched from Adult Leadership, July-Aug., 1953)

Voluntary groups are among the most powerful instruments, potentially at least, for the education of adults on world affairs in general and on effective world law in particular. This power rests in the fact that so many citizens belong to voluntary organizations of various sorts. Many of these organizations are beginning to recognize their educational responsibility toward their members.

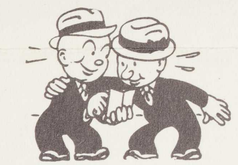
There are, however, several tough obstacles in the way of successfully educating most groups and gaining their active interest in such topics as the need for effective world law.

Old attitudes toward international affairs are deeply resistant to change. People's views on world affairs are protected by a mental fortress which often seems impossible to breach.

If wars have always begun in the minds of men, it is not going to be any simple task to construct in those minds the concept that peace **is** even **possible**, and **can** and **must** be attained—in our generation.

Since attitudes are the product of lengthy experience with environment and enable a person to cope automatically with old environmental problems quickly —without much conscious thought, when new problems arise there is usually some attitude available to meet the situation with a minimum of conscious adjustment. Even minimal change may be avoided if a person can choose to ignore the novelties of the new situation and treat the new problem as old and familiar ("Aw, the threat of modern war is no greater than the threat of crossbow and gunpowder warfare was at one time. There'll always be wars.")

To overcome old attitudes, it is necessary to interpret the new problems in light of, and in relation to understand, significant and tangible events and problems associated with our local and personal lives.



Associations with like-minded people tend to reinforce our attitudes against change. We tend to associate with people who think much the same as we do. Our attitudes are not easily changed in a direction that does not conform to attitudes prevalent in groups we feel important.

To change individual attitudes, it is often easier and more productive to **first** inform and influence the whole group, because it is usually thru association with the group that the individual seeks and gains support for his attitudes.

Facts are not enough for most people. It would be encouraging and comforting to believe that an educational campaign consisting of a good stream of factual information would counter old attitudes, overcome inertia, instill a sense of personal responsibility and initiate constructive action. Unfortunately, this doesn't usually happen.

Most people permit themselves to be exposed primarily to information that is fairly well in accord with their own firmly-held beliefs and to avoid or reject any that is not. In spite of most people's proclaimed objectivity, numerous studies indicate that they usually ignore or reject speeches of candidates they oppose and viewpoints they do not already hold. We regard sources of information we want to hear or read as credible and trustworthy, and other sources as slightly unreliable and perhaps suspicious.

Education consisting simply of "full and factual information" is more likely to be interpreted in accordance with existing attitudes and concepts, if it is listened to at all, than it is to provide a basis for change.

In addition to facts about a subject, we need to relate them to an individual's personal life and to local

(Continued on Page 6)