What Price Peace?

(From an address by Dr. Herman F. Reissig entitled, "Problems of Education in International Affairs," delivered October 29, 1953 at the Fourth National Study Conference on the Churches and World Order, Cleveland, Ohio).

"International justice and goodwill, we would all agree, rank very high in the list of Christian concerns. Yet the National Council's Department of International Justice and Goodwill gets one third of a cent in each National Council dollar and must try to serve all of us through exactly two full-time executives. Compare this with the dollars and the people we put into the missionary or Christian education departments. For Protestant America, this is ludicrous! It really looks as if we thought world justice and peace could be had simply by asking for them in sermons and high level resolutions.

"Put together in a room all the persons in our interdenominational and denominational agencies who are giving full time to this difficult business of applying the Christian faith to our world travail and how many would be there? Not more than a dozen! In some of our denominational social action agencies the same person must try to provide guidance to a few million people in race relations, industrial problems, housing, education, the liquor problem, civil liberties, Protestant Catholic relations and international affairs. Let it be repeated: THIS SITUATION ARGUES EITHER A VERY MILD CONCERN FOR WORLD ORDER OR AN ALMOST TOTAL FAILURE TO APPRECIATE THE COMPLEXITIES AND DIFFICULTIES OF THE PROBLEMS WITH WHICH STATESMEN HAVE TO DEAL.

"But our most serious failure is not on the interdenomination or denominational levels. There we have, at least, the beginnings of equipment for dealing seriously with world affairs. **The weakest point is the local church.** Most local churches have not even begun to order their life that they can give real help to their members. For those who are most deeply concerned for Christian action in international affairs, the frontier is the local church. It is pathetic, even tragic, to observe how much earnestness and desire to be helpful exists and how much of it goes to waste because our people do not know how or where to take hold. The absence of even elemental educational arrangements in the local church reduces much of this earnestness to ineffective sentiment.

Why is the local church so weak at this point. Partly, it is the consequence of a poor theology which creates the impression that a discussion on prayer is indubitably Christian but an examination of foreign trade is not quite religious. Much of our Christian teaching, with its emphasis on "the things of the spirit" is almost Buddhist in its suggestion that the farther you get away from the everyday world the nearer you are to the divine.

"Emphasis on the sermon, by preacher and people, also stands in the way of effective local church work in international relations. How we preachers are tempted to think that if we have preached a thumping sermon against militarism or power politics or pleading for love in international affairs we have just about settled the matter! Indeed, many a lay person has been heard to remark, "Just give me a good sermon and I can take care of the application." It is time all of us recognized that the sermon can stimulate, open doors, break up

complacency, but that it is not a good instrument for analysis of social issues. And we must help our people to understand that no one is clever enough to apply the Christian faith to foreign policy all by himself without any help from his fellow-Christians.

It is hard to see how we are going to do a much better job in grass-root education until local churches set aside in their midst a group of men and women whose assigned duty it is to lead the whole congregation in getting the facts on foreign policy issues, setting them in a Christian perspective, and suggesting courses of action — with as much help as they can get from the denominational agency."

(What is your church doing for world peace? What are YOU HELPING your church do? Write AFA for some action ideas).

★ ★ ★

Russia And The Latest Eisenhower Proposal

President Eisenhower has proposed that the Nations of the world, including Russia, hold secret talks for the purpose of establishing an agency, under the UN, for the storage and allocation of fissionable materials for peaceful purposes.

Russia has agreed to the talks, much to the surprise of many people, including the staff of the **Daily Worker.**

In attempting to discern why Russia's leaders have suddenly agreed to discuss an apparently sound plan for peaceful use of fissionable materials, let us examine the strategy and tactics of Russian Communists.

Russia is not communist. The last exponents in the original ideals of Marx and Lenin were eleminated in the 1938 Purges. Russia is now a tyrannical, dictatorial super-state whose leaders are primarily interested in personal power. In a society where classes and police state methods are more rigid than those that ever existed under the Czar, the ideals of social, economic and political reform are intended as far-distant goals for Russians, and never-to-be-grasped bait for the underprivileged, underdeveloped, unstable people throughout the world.

Stalin ripped the reins of State from the hands of Lenin and rode resolutely forward in establishing the present "Communism" in Russia. Through trial and reror, he succeeded in gaining absolute control at home. He made several mistakes on the international stage.

The conquest of Czechoslovakia, the Berlin Blockade, the Indochinese War and the invasion of South Korea caused the free world to reluctantly awake to the deadly danger of Russian aggression.

One of the major points of Russian strategy has been to avoid alarming the capitalistic world into taking steps to stop Russian aggression. The above actions violated this strategy and caused the Truman Doctrine in the Mediterranean, NATO, re-armament and UN collective action in Korea. Now Russia is trying desperately to lull us into a false sense of security and into relaxing our defense efforts.

Since Malenkov, who is more "non-Communist" than Stalin was, cannot undo the mistakes of Stalin, he can move to cover them up and help the rest of the world forget them.

Eisenhower's plan provides Malenkov an opportunity to do this.

First, the plan is attractive to most of the war-weary world and it would be hard for Malenkov to ignore it. To do so would cause him to lose face. By accepting the bid for talks, he raises the hopes of many confused people that Russia can be won over by ethical argument.

Second, Malenkov needs some international conferences to strengthen his prestige at home and abroad.

Third, Eisenhower's plan would be all to Russia's advantage **provided** the UN doesn't have a monopoly on the use of the atomic materials and **provided** there is no inspection and enforcement pertaining to the allocation and use of such materials. If the plan is supposed to be implemented on the basis of "good will" and "good faith," there would be nothing to prevent Russia from using the information gained to build up her own industrial and agricultural productivity as a more solid foundation for a bigger war machine.

In view of long-standing, fairly successful communist strategy and tactics — to strike at the free world whenever possible, in any manner, under any pretense and ruse by taking advantage of every free-world mistake of omission or commission, weakness or failure; by bobbing, weaving, fienting, strategically withdrawing, apparent compromising, subverting, dividing, and openly attacking — it seems that the only program that will stop communist aggression, and prevent a war between the free world and the communist world, is one that recognizes the true nature of communism — its strategy and tactics — and prevents it from using war as an instrument for achieving its ends. It should be one aimed at preventing all future aggression, not merely the present communist threat.

It is true that President Eisenhower's plan seems to be devoted more to non-security matters than it is to preventing atomic warfare, even though he advocates his plan as a step towards eventual international control of atomic weapons.

At present, now, when the whole world needs hope and direction, the United States, through the UN, should provide a standard to which the Anti-communist and "neutral" world can rally — the goal of effective world law to prevent the use of **all** weapons for aggression. It would give the world something besides rearmament and war to work and plan for.

Also, until a practical plan of disarmament under effective world law is agreed upon by the **United States and Russia**, the free and "neutral" nations must proceed rapidly to pool their military, moral and spiritual resources — men, materials and ideas — into a UN plan designed to stop aggression.

When the communist world sees that any aggression will be met by the instantaneous, overwhelming might of the rest of the world, it may well be interested in giving earnest consideration to a workable plan to prevent any aggression against itself.

When these communists realize that they can no longer extend their power through aggression and that their present power is in danger, they will be more likely to consider world law to prevent aggression.

At present, it isn't to their advantage to do so.

Let us hope and pray that President Eisenhower realizes the true strategy and tactics of the Russian Communists, and plans accordingly.

—P. P. C.

★ ★ ★

(Continued from Page 1)

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The winner in each district contest **and** the teacher-coach are **both** awarded a free, expense-paid chartered-bus trip to New York, the United Nations and Washington. This district award is made only to N. C. entrants. As AFA groups in other States grow, this award will be made in those states.

The Program, conducted by UNC and promoted by AFA, is sponsored on the school level by local, civic, church or professional organizations, or the school itself . . . To date, more than 300 local adult organizations in N. C. and 17 other states and Canada have sponsored one or more schools. This year, AFA will sponsor 12, and perhaps 13 district contests in N. C. These contests and awards are possible only through the cooperation and support of many loyal individuals and organizations throughout the state. With their continued active support, this year promises to be the best year of the Program.

Schools wishing to sponsor themselves should register through the UNC Extension Division as soon as possible, so that school contests can be held in time for the District finals.

District finals will be held in March and April. The winners and their teachers will leave for their tour on April 21 and return April 24.

AFA members throughout the Nation are urged to get this program in as many of their local schools as possible.

Any organization or individual wishing to sponsor the program in one or more schools can obtain complete information from AFA or from: UNC Extension Division, Chapel Hill, N. C., ATTN: Mr. E. R. Rankin.