High School World Peace Study and Speaking Program

By Oscar K. Merritt, Mount Airy, N. C.
Business Man, Originator of this Program

The boys and girls in our high schools today, tomorrow must take over the leadership, not only of our own nation, but to a large extent of the entire world.

Has any generation ever faced so great a responsibility?

Are we giving our young people the information and training they will need?

Purpose and Policy

The purpose of this Program is to stimulate interest and furnish information on the problems of World Peace. We aim to reach not only high school pupils, but through them the masses of our people, upon whose collective conviction eventual World Peace must hinge.

> "The sum total of the common sense of the common people is the greatest and soundest force on earth." — *Thomas Jefferson.*

High schools are in position to lead public thinking in their communities. Therefore, this Program of study and public speaking on World Peace is being offered to the high schools of our state and the nation.

The Program supports no one controversial thesis, but presents various responsible points of view in unbiased consideration.

Organization

The Program is directed by the University Extension Division of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C., as a special service to the high schools of the State. High schools in other states, also, are invited to participate.

Endorsements

The North Carolina State Legislature in Joint Resolution H. R. 945, Ratified April 5, 1947.

Four Governors of North Carolina and two State Superintendents of Public Instruction of North Carolina.

The North Carolina Bar Association.

The North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers.

The North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs.

Many other civic, religious, and educational organizations.

Program Subjects of the Preceding Years

"Is World Government the Path to Peace?"

"How Can the United Nations Be Strengthened?"

"What Is the Responsibility of the United States in World Affairs?"

"Building World Peace in the Atomic Age: What Are the Responsibilities of the United States in the United Nations and in the Atlantic Pact?"

"How Can We Help to Build World Peace in the Atomic Age?"

"Building World Peace: What Is the Responsibility of the United States in the Light of Communist Aggression?"

"Building World Peace: What Have Been the Achievements and What Are the Prospects of the United Nations?"

"Building World Peace: How Can the United Nations Prevent Communist Aggression and Preparation for Aggression?"

"The Role of the United Nations in the Building of World Peace."

"The Future of the United Nations in Helping to Build World Peace."

"The United Nations—Its Problems and Opportunities."

Report on the Past Eleven Years

2,180 high schools participated.

11,000 students prepared and delivered speeches.

33,000 students studied material and wrote papers.

Total audiences of 1,000,000 people heard the speeches.

More than 300 local adult organizations sponsored one or more Programs in their

communities in North Carolina and in 17 other states and Canada.

Many outstanding speeches were published in local newspapers and delivered over the radio.

High school administrations, participating students, and religious and civic leaders and organizations have expressed high approval of the Program.

Many participants of the Program have gone on to excel in other fields in later years, utilizing the experience gained in this Program.

Description of the Program

This is an educational Program designed to be used as parallel work in connection with regular high school courses such as English, History, Social Studies, Public Speaking, Government, Sociology, Civics, International Relations, Dramatics, and other courses. The contest feature is included to stimulate interest on the part of the students and the public.

The winner in each high school is awarded the especially designed "World Peace" Gold Key.

The handbook is published annually by the University Extension Division of the University of North Carolina. It contains reprints of articles or addresses bearing on the topic from authoritative sources, references to sources for additional material including films, and rules and suggestions for conducting the Program.

The Program is designed to operate on the registration fees paid by the local sponsors or the schools.

Sponsorship

The Program is sponsored in each high school by any local organization or individual acceptable to the local high school admin-