

LEONARD V. FINDER
SACRAMENTO UNION
Sacramento, California
October 24, 1964

3rd
Prize
Editorial

The United Nations For World Peace

With the United Nations celebrating its 19th birthday today, hope is felt that it will demonstrate growing maturity as it emerges from its teen-age state.

In many ways, the United Nations has been a wonderful success, even though its weaknesses in moments of crises or some of its partial victories might loom more dramatically than its genuine achievements.

People make the mistake of expecting too much from the United Nations. Being devised by men, it has all of the frailties of men. Being a product of nations, it inherits all their suspicions, fears and prejudices.

The very persons who deplore the lack of ability in the UN to meet crises with greater firmness are the ones most likely reluctant to grant it greater power. They are torn between the desire to see an effective instrumentality for world peace and fear lest its possession of major influence might become a threat to the particular interests of their own countries.

The ability of the UN to have made any real contributions in the face of these contradictory aspirations by individuals and conflicting ambitions by nations should be a matter for deep thanksgiving.

As troubled as the peace has been, nevertheless, it has been maintained upon a global scale. While local wars have occurred, other conflagrations

have been prevented.

If nothing else, the United Nations provides a forum where diplomats can save face in speeches rather than having no recourse excepting military action. Even the most powerful of nations have shown their sensitivity to world opinion as manifested through the sounding board of the general assembly.

But the United Nations has accomplished far more than this. Through its many vital agencies, it has helped to fight poverty and starvation, to bring education to areas where peoples have lived heretofore in nearly primitive ignorance, and in far too many ways to recount here has worked diligently and successfully toward the improvement of man's condition.

These successes are triumphs for the sake of human dignity as well as contributing to the diminution of a number of the causes leading to war.

Since no political organization can ever attain Utopian perfection satisfying all, and yet since some system is necessary to substitute peace through international law and order for war and international anarchy, the United Nations deserves the wholehearted support of all—to the end that people everywhere joining to strengthen it will find they have common cause and thereby awaken some day to the realization that they can find also a common brotherhood.