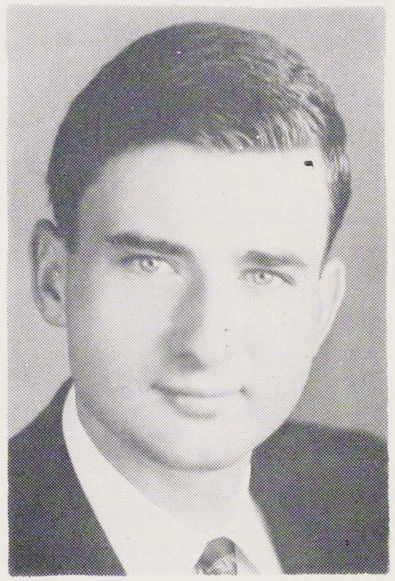
Can we have World Peace with Justice?

By J. W. Lasley



John Wayne Lasley

Biographical

John Wayne Lasley, born 1925, in the State of North Carolina. *Education*—B.S. in Commerce, University of North Carolina, 1949; LL.B., University of North Carolina, 1953. *Professional*—Member of the North Carolina Bar, practicing Attorney in Chapel Hill, N. C.; Agriculturist. *Miscellaneous* — Veteran, United States Navy, World War II.

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The most vital question in international affairs today is:

Does "world peace" have a lasting and practical meaning capable of realization?

If we think of peace as the absence of all violence then surely as long as there are evil men we will not have this kind of peace. But if we define "peace" as a condition under just law in which violence is controlled, then we know without doubt that this type of peace is not only possible but exists here in America between our citizens, towns and states. Thus, every day each of us witnesses peace under just law at the various levels of our existence within our nation.

While we have peace between the citizens and political units of our nation today, this has not always been the case. As we are all aware, the early days of our Western states were filled with lawlessness; there were no courts, and practically every-

one carried a gun and was a law unto himself. But people tired of unbridled violence and enforceable law began to be used to keep the peace. In time, citizens could put away their guns and leave law enforcement to peace officers.

There is, I feel, a direct analogy between our early frontier days and the present world situation. Today we have no enforceable law between nations. There is no world government. There are no courts to try those who start armed aggression. There is no police to contain and deter the forces that start international warfare, and there is no control of the manufacture and use of weapons.

The United Nations seemed powerless to stop the Russians from entering Hungary. Many observers believe that Russia's armed intervention in Hungary could have been averted if there had been a permanent UN emergency force available at that time. While the United Nations represents man's best effort to bring law and order to the world level, without such a force the United Nations will certainly fail again in the future when similar situations arise.

The problem of world wars affect all men. It is truly international business that can be dealt with only by an international organization representing every nation. No single national unit has the economic capacity or the moral right to police the world, while exclusive compacts lack universal authority and appear to be military alliances to those nations not included. In a single representative body there lies the great promise that peace with justice can be achieved between all nations. In such a body would rest the will of all mankind and, if democratically constituted and given adequate powers, such a world organization could bring to the international level of man's society the peace with justice which we know each day within the confines of our nation.

Let us examine the war related problems that might be solved by strengthening the United Nations into a more effective instrument for world peace.

At present our able-bodied teenage boys are required to spend six years of their youth in military service. We are not traditionally a military nation, but we have now resigned ourselves