

## AFSC TEEN-AGE PROGRAMS: A GROWING CONCERN

By WILBERT BRAXTON



Campbell Hays

Students at Washington Seminars (photo above) visit embassies and question diplomats. At a meeting of School Affiliation Service participants in Germany (photo below), students evaluate the experience with an AFSC staff member.



Dave Myers

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THE recent creation of a national high school program office reflects the AFSC's belief in the growing importance of work with teen-age groups. Under the coordination of a national director, it is hoped that programs which the AFSC has been sponsoring for high school students since 1940 will be encouraged and expanded.

During the past 15 years several AFSC regional offices have initiated and developed institutes, world affairs camps and seminars. The institutes and world affairs camps bring together 35 to 50 young people for week-long discussions during the summer in a setting of cooperative living and recreation.

The seminar idea was first suggested in 1947 by high school students at a world affairs camp, and at the urging of students it was started a few months later in cooperation with the Friends Committee on National Legislation. It was thought that some solutions to current problems would be found through discussions with legislators, government officials and representatives of other countries, as well as through discussions among students themselves. Later, out of the response to these programs, United Nations Seminars were formed. Some programs now combine both Washington and New York locations.

All of these programs have proven to be popular and effective ways to bring teen-agers together to look at the issues of peace. The work of high school secretaries includes visits to local schools to interpret these programs.

Along with this regional activity, two programs have been administered on a national basis. High school work camps have been offered as part of the regular work camp program in the United States since 1937. School Affiliation Service began in 1946 as a project of material aid and developed into a program which unites schools here and abroad through

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## RACE RELATIONS, TRAVEL RIGHTS GET SUPPORT

THE AFSC Rights of Conscience Program gave greater attention to race relations in its third year and continued to support cases involving the individual's right to travel without having to answer questions about political beliefs.

In the first two years the program had concerned itself principally with significant conscience issues in loyalty-security and pacifist cases. It provided

legal aid in 41 cases and made suffering grants for economic assistance to 16 persons or organizations.

In the period a total of 123 cases were considered by the committee of 22 lawyers and laymen.

A race relations case of primary concern to the Committee has been that of the Koinonia Farms, near Americus, Georgia. This interracial farm community has been harassed legally and

physically and became the object of a strangling boycott because of its racial policies.

Financial assistance from the program enabled the farm to get legal representation in an injunction proceeding which was dismissed. Had the injunction and the legal harassments been sustained, the farm would have been put out of business. Some economic

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## ... A PREREQUISITE FOR SURVIVAL ...

Philadelphia, Pa.  
May, 1958

Dear Friends:

How is our eyesight? Do we have 20-20 vision on human issues? Are we blind to our responsibilities to rectify injustice, to eradicate discrimination, to build conditions of peace?

There are at least three kinds of special vision needed today.

1) HINDSIGHT. Are we learning from the past the lessons for today? For example, previous arms races have nearly always led to catastrophe. What are we doing to reduce this ominous risk? How can we stimulate vigorous efforts for disarmament?

2) INSIGHT. "O wad some power the giftie gie us  
To see ourself as others see us!"

Only the callously indifferent disregards the attitudes of others towards himself. Nations, too, cannot with impunity ignore the views of other countries. Heavy emphasis on psychological warfare and propaganda reflects this. However, even more important than molding the attitudes of other peoples is being sensitive to their views, modifying our policies because of an appreciation of their legitimate aspirations. How do Africans regard American practices on racial discrimination? How do Japanese feel about U. S. nuclear bomb tests?

3) FORESIGHT. Particularly important is the capacity of individuals, organizations and nations to foresee the future and to make wise plans accordingly. This is not crystal-ball gazing. Rather, this is a profound understanding of the forces at work in the universe. Long-range trends in human affairs reflect both natural and spiritual influences. A recent AFSC public statement quoted this scripture from Matthew:

"Ye can discern the face of the sky, why can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

Such a broad perspective is vital for individuals. Organizations, to have relevant programs, need it in high measure. In today's world it may be a prerequisite for survival among nations. "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

*Yours reflectively,*

*Lewis M. Hoskins* Executive Secretary

### RACE RELATIONS

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assistance coming from all quarters of the country has enabled the farm to continue despite the continued local boycotts.

The program helped provide legal assistance for a group of teachers in a Southern state who refused to execute statements that they were not members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The teachers' case raised the constitutionality of the state statute. After it was dismissed in a district court, preparations were made to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Meanwhile the state legislature repealed the statute and substituted another requiring all applicants to list organizations to which they belong.

The U.S. Supreme Court later ruled that the legislature's action removed the validity of this specific case.

Some of the teachers were promptly re-employed and others received substantial grants from the program to meet some of their economic needs.

Three passport cases supported by the program are currently before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Two of them challenge a State Department ruling that a person desiring a passport can only get a hearing before the Board of Passport Appeals by filing a non-Communist affidavit.

Another case raises the question of the right of the State Department to use secret information and refusing to disclose its source in denying a passport.

The program was established in 1955 and supported by a \$150,000 grant from a foundation.

### Days of Discovery

The Educational Materials for Children program has published Packet IV of "Days of Discovery" (25 cents each). Among the materials is a new project, "Trees for Italy," which includes craft activities, a playlet, games, riddles and a dedication ceremony. Other projects for the period, June through September, suggest ways to assist handicapped and migrant children and American Indians.

A special "Wells for India" packet (15 cents each) encourages children to contribute to an AFSC project at Barpali.

A new series of packets for 1958-59 will be titled, "Friendly Things to Do." Packets for each season will be available at 25 cents each. Orders may be placed for the series and each packet will be sent when ready. "Days of Discovery" packets will continue to be available and may be used as supplementary materials.

### Petition Campaign

An AFSC petition calling for a cessation of nuclear weapons tests was delivered to the White House by a Quaker delegation on March 26. More than 47,000 citizens from all parts of the U. S. had signed it during a special nationwide campaign during January and February.

### Institutes, Camps Scheduled

Twenty world affairs institutes and camps—4 for adults, 8 for families and 6 for high school students—are scheduled by 7 regional offices this summer. One office has a peace caravan planned. Most of the events are scheduled for about a week but others are two or three days long. Details may be secured from AFSC offices.

### Asian Seminars Resume

The AFSC has resumed its international student seminar program in Southeast Asia with headquarters in India. The first of three Asian seminars was held at the Agricultural Institute in Allahabad December 27 to January 4. The 43 participants represented fourteen countries and seven major religions.

A two-week seminar in Thailand was scheduled to begin on April 26. In Ceylon a three-week seminar will run from May 17 to June 6. This schedule of one mid-winter and two spring seminars coincides with academic vacation periods in the area and will be continued.

### New Publications

FACT SHEET (March Issue)—A one-page "newspaper" giving places and costs of summer work and study projects for high school and college-age young people.

REPORT FROM MATERIAL AIDS PROGRAM (Spring Issue)—Discusses continuing needs in Italy, Austria and Germany. Reports on closing program in Korea.

U. S. WORK CAMPS—A folder describing summer camps for high school and college-age young people. Has interpretation and history of the international work camp movement.

### Rufus Jones Biography

"Friend of Life: The Biography of Rufus M. Jones," will be published next fall by J. P. Lippincott, Philadelphia. Elizabeth Gray Vining is author of the book. Rufus Jones was one of the founders of the American Friends Service Committee and was for many years its chairman.

## NEW CHALLENGES OPEN TO YOUTH IN ALASKA, U. S. AND ABROAD

THE village of Beaver, Alaska, 15 miles below the Arctic Circle, will be host to an AFSC work camp this summer. The townspeople — 110 Indians and Eskimos — are already at work.

Plans are for a volunteer group of 16 young men and women to help build 12 of the 16 cabins needed to reconstruct the village. The eight-week Beaver project will represent the first AFSC work in Alaska since 1953, when a work camp was held in Kake in the southeast portion of the territory.

Beaver is located on the banks of the Yukon River, 100 miles north of Fairbanks. But the river bank is eroding away and the windowless, floorless huts in which people live afford unhealthy and inadequate housing.

The project to reconstruct the village has begun under the support of the Alaska Rural Development Board, which has supplied the tools and heavy machinery needed. A scale model of the proposed cabins shows windows, flooring and simple partitions to form rooms in the dwellings.

The college-age participants will gather in Seattle, Washington and Fairbanks, Alaska, for orientation. They will fly in small aircraft to a landing strip near the village.

### Demonstration Garden Planned

Beaver has more than 100 clear days a year and an average temperature of 62 degrees during July. Despite permafrost, which permits workable soil of only six inches in summer, simple gardens may be grown in the area. The

work camp plans to have a small vegetable patch.

Other 1958 summer projects will emphasize increased East-West contacts among young people.

In Poland a work camp will be held in cooperation with Friends Service Council, London. The personnel is expected to include 16 Westerners, 16 Poles, 2 Yugoslavs and 2 East Germans. Campers will work on a school and playground in one of the poorer provinces of Poland.

In Woodstock, Vermont, an international student seminar with emphasis on East-West exchange will be held from July 11 to August 8. About 20 participants will be selected from among foreign students who are now in the United States. Six places will be reserved for American students of graduate status or above. Ten participants will be brought from 5 Eastern European countries. The students will travel in the country after the seminar.

### To Survey Race Problems

Two other projects will emphasize interracial understanding and cooperation. A "working seminar in merit employment" will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina from June 13 to August 1. Participants with previous AFSC or similar experience will do survey work securing, compiling and analyzing information on integrated employment. These volunteers will be assisting in an established merit employment program.

In Des Moines, Iowa, a unit of 14 high school students will participate in a workshop in human relations. The

project is primarily to interview Negro families who must move because of the construction of a new highway and the urban renewal development program in Des Moines. Information is needed from the families to assist a city-wide program to integrate them into other areas of Des Moines. The participants will also work in community center programs in Des Moines and with church youth groups.

A late summer work camp will offer opportunity for some young people to work with the pacifist and interracial community, Koinonia Farm, near Americus, Georgia. Volunteers will work on the farm during harvest.

More than 65 summer and year-round project locations and opportunities for young people are being offered by AFSC in 1958. Over 1000 participants will be appointed to projects at home and abroad.

### An American work camper helps improve a German residence.

Don O. Noel, Jr.



### A 'CRAZY WHITE HAT' OR THE AFSC?

A "crazy white hat" was pitted against the AFSC in a non-violent tug-of-war last spring. In the encounter, the hat lost and the Service Committee got \$7.00.

This was the story related by a regular contributor whose letter, enclosing the contribution, reflected a woman's normal impulse for a pert hat. However, the concern for the AFSC was uppermost.

Other motivations often result in contributions to the AFSC. Last year several thousand dollars were received from contributors who sent memorial gifts. But life's other memorable "events" frequently inspire gifts to the Committee in honor of others. Births, weddings, birthdays, Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas are occasions which may stimulate contributions.

A recent contributor celebrated her 86th birthday with a \$25 gift to the Committee. In another gift, the Committee received the first day's earnings of a person starting his professional career.

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exchanges of projects, of students and of teachers.

Also during the past two years, the AFSC has sponsored a series of civil liberties conferences for high school students. These were made possible by special foundation grants. Held in California and in Wisconsin, the conferences had outstanding panels of speakers—Ralph Bunche, William O. Douglas, Jackie Robinson, Clark Kerr—and 1300 student participants. The third of the annual California conferences was held in February.

What is the special purpose of high school programs among the many activities of the Service Committee? Whether it is a work camp or an overseas exchange or a field trip to the United Nations or a well-led discussion group, the programs have in common that which is basic to all AFSC effort. They aim to contribute to peace in the world. High school projects enlarge the horizons of a group which has felt with particular keenness the pressures of militarization and conformity. It is a group which has inherited tomorrow's leadership and must somehow be helped to inherit also the will to peace. Many high school students of today are two or more years beyond their counterparts of 10 or 15 years ago in their grasp of national and international issues.

### What Are the Fruits?

What have been some of the fruits of the programs we have been sponsoring with these young people? The fruits of



*Russ Jorgensen*

**Middle East faculty members dramatize the Arab-Israeli dispute at a high school institute in California.**

the spirit are difficult to measure. But here is an expression from a French high school student who spent a year at Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia as an exchange student in the AFSC School Affiliation program.

"My stay among you was profitable to me in Algeria. It is sometimes difficult not to be led into violence when you are surrounded by it on all sides and when none understand you. In such moments I used to remind myself that there were people, even though thousands of miles away, who understood me. Then I was no longer alone and could act."

In a high school work camp held in Morris Fork, Kentucky, this past summer students of widely differing religious and economic backgrounds lived

together in a community which was totally unlike anything they had ever known before. City-bred youth from New York, Chicago or Los Angeles, could scarcely believe that 30 years ago the people of Morris Fork had never heard of Christmas or the Fourth of July, so complete was their isolation. When the campers attended a simple mountain funeral for a young woman of the community, after digging the grave and helping to make the pine coffin, they realized that they, too had been isolated.

### Loyalty Oath Comment

In one of the civil liberties conferences a high school student commented on the day's discussion of loyalty oaths with this thought: Loyalty programs seem to show that man is losing faith in his fellow man and in doing so is losing faith in himself. And without believing in himself, man cannot stand up very long.

A high school student who had been in a seminar said this:

"Out of all the discussions and interviews there came useful information, thought-provoking questions and abstract ideas. All of these have increased my knowledge of world situations and of human nature and have helped me in the formulation of my beliefs and a set of values with which to guide my life."

These examples of the experience and thoughts which arise from teenagers in the projects are eloquent testimonies. We of the AFSC believe firmly that all mankind can know life more abundantly. Students on the high school level are not too young to share the responsibility and promise of that future.

American Friends Service Committee  
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THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, a Quaker organization, attempts to relieve human suffering and to ease tensions between individuals, groups or nations. We believe there is that of God in every man, and that love in action can overcome hatred, prejudice and fear.

Our work is open to anyone regardless of race, religion or nationality. We depend upon your contributions. Checks may be sent to the American Friends Service Committee at any of its offices.