

## East meets West at Austrian Seminar

A participant at the Austrian seminar complained he could never find anyone interested in taking time to play tennis, and three card players failed the whole week to find a fourth for bridge. Such was the pace and pleasure of 25 young research associates who met at Garsam-Kamp, Austria, April 20 through 30. Here was an unusual opportunity to tackle topics of common interest without distraction or interruption, so they kept at each other with unprecedented intensity to the exclusion of everything else. Even when the long sessions adjourned, informal discussions continued over coffee in the lounge, during meals, or in the rooms late at night. Long talking-walks and a day's outing were almost the only chosen diversion from seven days of stimulating discussion.

### Theme was peace in Europe

"Peace in Europe" was the theme of the seminar. The research associates were from institutes of international affairs, mid-career men between the ages of 30 and 40 who were concerned with exploring practical ways of achieving peace and security in Europe. They arrived from thirteen different countries representing the ideological "East" and "West" and the non-aligned. All were specialists in some phase of the problem and all were well informed.

A spirit of friendliness pervaded the seminar as they searched together for

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# AFSC promotes change in farm labor practices

Unorganized and inarticulate, migrants go unnoticed, their problems unsolved. Program emphasis is education of workers for leadership. Crew leaders, growers involved.

When killing frost cut down the bean crop in the Pompano, Florida, area last January, the market price of beans jumped from \$4 to \$8 per hamper, but the wages for the pickers went down from 80¢ to 70¢ per hamper because the frost damage created a surplus of labor. During 1965, 150 potato growers in the Hastings area netted a profit of \$13.5 million while the bagger could make a maximum of \$4.35 per day packing and lifting.

"We've got nothing to show for a lifetime of work." When AFSC aide Sam Jackson read these words from a National Committee on Farm Labor booklet to a group of migrant field workers, one declared, "That's the whole story in one sentence!"

The Service Committee's community relations staff members say that housing conditions are an accurate reflection of the status of migrants. Workers in Florida often pay \$12 a week for a shack so small and miserable that a man can reach from wall to wall by stretching out his arms and can see the ground through the cracks in the floor.

A month or two later, the same workers may be assembling before dawn



The average worker earns an annual income under \$915 and works less than 115 days a year.

under Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Bridge, where ramshackle yellow buses wait to carry them to adjoining farm areas for a day's work. Here in the big city, while looking for a room he can afford, a man may sleep in some rat-infested condemned house in Hell's Half Acre or buy himself a ticket to oblivion amidst a welter of canned sound effects, curled up in the flickering dark and stale air of one of the city's all-night movie theaters.

This most neglected sector of American society is present one day, when needed by the farmers, and gone and forgotten the next. Unorganized and inexperienced in speaking for themselves, the migrants are unnoticed by urban society. Pressed by social reformers, the Government creaks in its ponderous way toward better legislation for farm laborers, but in the opinion of Service Committee workers like project

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Seminar participants explore constructive plans for Europe's future.

## New halfway house welcomes women parolees

Last year 250 women prisoners were paroled in the Los Angeles area. They were given \$40 and turned loose to find a place to stay, buy clothing, and get a job. Some had families; 77 had no place to go.

The Elizabeth Fry Center, recently opened by the Service Committee in Los Angeles, will be a home for 20 such women next year. Five are already in residence. It is the only halfway house for women on the West Coast.

The difficulties of making a fresh start on \$40 are only a small part of the problems for many of the women. Fears, hostilities, feelings of unworthiness, and self-condemnation are common. Jobs for ex-convicts are hard to find. Alcohol and narcotics may seem like the easiest way out, but they're more likely to be the way back to prison.

The new center, under the direction of Tom and Grace Nelson, provides comforting support in the period of readjustment to life outside prison. It gives the women an opportunity to talk about their problems and reach a better understanding of their attitudes toward other people and themselves. Expert counseling is available to them.

### No questions asked

Any woman is accepted at the Elizabeth Fry Center as long as there is room. It doesn't matter what crime she committed or what her race or religion is. No limit is put on the length of her stay, although it is expected to be between two and three months. A fee of \$21 per week is charged for room and board.

This is a specially appropriate undertaking for an organization like the

Service Committee because a halfway house run by the state government must be operated for efficiency, which makes it too big to provide sufficient support for the individual residents, and because the women are largely at the mercy of state officials while they are on parole and feel insecure in a state institution.

No newcomers in the field, Tom and Grace Nelson directed Crenshaw House, a halfway house for men, from its beginning in 1958 until they started the Elizabeth Fry Center. Crenshaw House was the only such facility in California when it opened, but now there are eight or ten in Los Angeles alone. Many residents took an active part in the Crenshaw House program after they had become established in the community, and some became active members of the AFSC prison committee.



**Sudanese refugees** *In recent months, refugees from the Sudan have thronged into the Congo fleeing persecution in their homeland. Estimates place the numbers as high as 150,000. Refugees are in grave condition. They arrive undernourished, without proper clothing and in need of medical attention. In April, 1966, a 5,000-pound shipment of clothing arrived at Stanleyville as the AFSC responded to an emergency call. Subsequent shipments have been made to other Sudanese refugees in Kenya and Uganda, and more are contemplated.*



## Workers *continued from page 1*

leader Bill Channel, a real reform movement can never get off the ground until the people involved take the leadership. Workers themselves must learn, for example, to look up the health facilities in their neighborhoods, know what inspection laws can be invoked, and be aware of what wages a fair day's labor should bring.

And that is the job the Committee's Migrant Leadership Education Program has begun. This summer, after a nine-week training program, 15 people chosen as potential leaders from 15 groups of migrant workers started "up the road" with their crews. The three-man AFSC field staff moved along with them as they put their new knowledge to work. In each community, the representatives of the more than 100,000 men and women of America's East Coast migrant stream were being met by volunteers, which AFSC workers call "community associates," to help them find solutions to the problems they meet and feel a part of the community.

Problems next year are expected to be even greater. The agricultural economy is the most highly mechanized branch of the national economy and there is enormous potential for further automation. Hank Mayer, erstwhile business agent for the Hod Carriers Union and labor organizer for the United Furniture Workers of America, now one of the program's three field workers, declares that next year there will be little work for migrants in the

Elizabeth City and New Bern area of North Carolina, because virtually all the potatoes in that section will be mechanically picked. There will be some work for men at the graders—large machines for sorting potatoes. But migrant workers average under \$915 annual income anyway, and already work, on an average, less than 115 days a year. They have the highest percentage of adult illiteracy in the United States, averaging little more than a fourth-grade education. Yet they can and must go a long way toward helping themselves, and the AFSC's test program is geared to encourage and train them to do it.

### Crew leaders meet

Effective strides can be made when crew leaders, who direct the actual work and are in a position to bargain with employers, can be involved in a planning program that promises improvements in their own conditions. Here some AFSC efforts fall on poor ground, some on fertile soil. There are crew leaders like Tallahassee Tim (a substitute name), who reportedly has TV in every room in his house and a red Cadillac convertible with four bodyguards, provides radios in all his labor buses, and sells liquor to his workers with a 30% markup. But once in a while there is a helpful person like the one who agreed to plan a meeting for his fellow crew leaders and got 17 of them together within four weeks. The men elected as their chairman the hero of Ed Murrow's "Harvest of Shame," held state-wide meetings, produced a

mimeographed labor price list with pickers' rates included, and applied holdout pressure that eventuated in improved wages and even, in some cases, impressed growers.

There are some forward-looking growers, too, like the ones in the New England Apple Council who recognize the desire of the migrant workers for dignity and better wages and realize that housing, education and transportation must also be improved.

Although the AFSC's program is primarily focused on the education of the workers themselves, it finds its efforts enriched and its purposes enhanced when the way opens to work with responsive crew leaders and growers.

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## CHRISTMAS GIFT PLAN

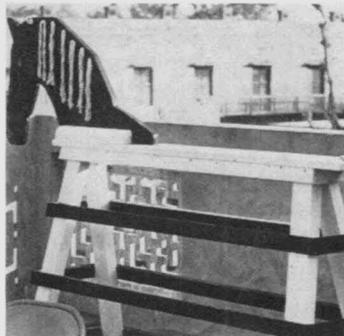
*Honor your friends through the AFSC Christmas Gift Plan. You and those you wish to greet can share the satisfaction of serving people in need at home and abroad. Participate by sending us a list of your friends in whose name you wish to make a gift of not less than a dollar. At Christmas time the Committee will mail those on your list an attractive card inscribed with your name . . . a gift in the spirit of Christmas.*

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**Pakistanis** are flocking to the new kindergarten and clinic in Lahore. Counterclockwise—local leaders are actively involved in the work and will ultimately be responsible for it. Toddlers are pried away from big sister to give them another view of the world than the one over sister's shoulder. Side by side, two signs represent a relationship. A realistic climbing horse made by the boys in a carpentry class is the joy of the kindergarten children. These three women are taking a kindergarten teachers training course.



## AFSC summer projects involve young and old

This July, students from U.S. high schools will travel through Canada interviewing people in and out of government to get some insights into the attitudes underlying the friction between French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians. Other high school students will attend institutes, world affairs camps, work camps, and institutional service units throughout the United States.

"Operation Discovery"—this year's series of peace caravans—will take an international and interracial team of young people on a tour of each of five regions: the Appalachia region of the

South, New England, the Midwest, the West Coast, and the Pacific Northwest. In each community they will hold a public meeting on peace issues.

Young people of college age will tour New England in a caravan theater playing Bertold Brecht's *Mother Courage*. Others will participate in work camps and community service assignments.

Abroad, there will be a Japanese-speaking work camp in Japan and an English-speaking work camp in Korea. Participants in these two work camps will subsequently attend a seminar in Japan on international relations and

disarmament. Work camps will also be held in Turkey, Austria, Yugoslavia, and Mexico.

Four adult institutes and ten family camps are being held by regional offices of the Service Committee. The Avon Institute, at Lake Winnepesaukee, N. H., will discuss social revolution in modern society. The institute at Pocono Pines, Pa., will examine our role in Southeast Asia. At Camp Sierra, Shaver Lake, Calif., an institute will ponder U.S. responses to social revolution. And the Midwest Institute at Williams Bay, Wis., will ask how we can learn to live in a new world.

## Buyers *continued from page 2*

housing—especially of new housing developments built with Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Administration money and properties made available through foreclosures on FHA and VA mortgages. In preparation for this meeting, she had sent a news release to the newspapers, given spot announcements to radio and TV stations, and distributed 3,000 flyers.

Julia had opened the workshop with a welcome on behalf of the Service Committee and presented the Service Committee slide show "It's Your Move." Then she introduced Richard Taylor, executive director of the Fair Housing Council of Delaware Valley, the umbrella organization that coordinates and supports the efforts of about 30 fair housing groups in the Delaware Valley area. He told his audience of the years of effort that lay behind the fair housing movement and the problems they faced.

He told the classic story of the Negro couple who arrived at a house after making an appointment with a real estate agent over the telephone. The agent was nowhere to be seen, but the house was open and the couple strolled through it while they waited for the agent and found it very much to their liking. Getting more and more interested, they examined the kitchen cabinets, looked in a bedroom closet . . . and there stood the embarrassed agent!

When Richard Taylor had ended his talk, chairs were rearranged in a circle



Most of the prospective buyers were young people. Some were very young!

and the audience was invited to put questions to the many resource people on hand. The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations was represented, and so was the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Real estate salesmen from two nondiscriminatory agencies were there, and members of several fair housing councils.

Now Julia was seeing her efforts bear fruit as prospective buyers explained their problems and asked advice on mortgages, lawyers, and contracts of sale. In the months to come, there would be many more such workshops—each with its questions and problems, each with its quiet determination to break down the walls of segregation and discrimination.

## Sales *continued from page 1*

*Monitor*, Associated Press, and ABC radio and television networks. ABC technicians put in a special telephone line to connect the conference with their studios. As George Kahin described how the working party wrote *Peace in Vietnam*, AFSC regional offices across the country were simultaneously either holding or preparing to hold additional press conferences in their own areas.

### Second printing added

Meanwhile, Hill and Wang had added a second printing of 15,000 copies to the original 40,000-copy first edition of *Peace in Vietnam* in response to a brisk advance demand from bookstores. Foreign publishers were making inquiries about publication rights before the American edition was off the press.

The book, which documents peace overtures and other aspects of the history of negotiation, declares that the actual negotiating positions of the United States, North Vietnam, and the National Liberation Front are not so far apart as mistaken assumptions of U.S. policy makers have led anxious Americans to believe.

In their introduction to the book, the authors commented, "In such a rapidly moving situation it is impossible to be completely up to date; yet we believe the basic analysis and general line of solution will be relevant for some time to come."

Quaker  
Service 