

Nov. 14, 1944

Enclosed herewith find two copies of a communication received by a friend of mine who has just returned from a trip to the vicinity of Detroit, the University of Michigan, etc., from a friend in public office.

Understand Ed saw the writer of these communications and talked to him like a father, but Ed is very fearful of the angles involved there. Says there is distinct swelling of the cranium, feeling of all-importance, superiority to all, including those who had original involvement in the making of positions now reached, etc., is fearful that the other side will use, through flattery, etc., this individual to split and destroy. Personally do not have knowledge or factual information on which to base a conclusion as to whether these fears are justified. Attempted to communicate without extreme criticism or commitment in order to determine reaction, and same is enclosed.

Believe one thing all important, if it meets with the same view from you, and that is that all friends be firmly and as unmistakably and directly as possible advised to terminate their efforts, and that further discussion, efforts or promotion at this time would be embarrassing from standpoint of service, as well as otherwise. Believe this is particularly necessary in the case of Rosen. As you know, shortcomings have brought him to a position where he does not have any standing with his business associates and his one claim to fame and glory is connection with this movement. Upon the recent defection of the individual above discussed, he leaped back in and became very active with usual telephonitis and used that event as an excuse requiring his re-entry into the picture. I think that you will understand the psychosis involved. A letter directed to him or to Ed with copies to all concerned would probably accomplish this purpose, but such letter should be very direct and unmistakable in its terms. Believe that while definite contribution was made in the past, the future activity when and if it becomes advisable should start on a much substantially higher plan with recognized leadership, which probably only one man who isn't here can supply. Apparently, there is no need now for buzzing about and meetings between those who have no great stature.

Understand Vic has communicated along this line and he very firmly believes this as he is the recipient of a number of phone calls and knows the connections in the East and elsewhere where this irresponsible talk and ill-matured planning is harmful. Julian and others feel the same.

Had a nice visit with Esther this noon, and she, of course, is writing you.

One serious mistake, which I believe Ed made, was not to write the letter suggested in memo. For some reason (timidity and inaction is one fault which always occurs there in the face of anything doubtful) he felt it inadvisable and substituted conversation with the candidate

and others along that line for the act of writing; so that misfired. P.J. talked with him almost by hand but was unable to accomplish the result. The undersigned, of course, was away.

Understand your friend who was at Ann Arbor is going to the Seventh Service Command J.A.G. Replacement Pool at Omaha and destination thereafter is unknown.

Believe Ed did very well generally and should have communication recognizing that fact. Vic has done well and will remain over there. Believe Burnett should be promoted to fill his job but doubt with Les and other opposition whether it can be put over. Vic is going to try. All the young group feel result here indicates need for rejuvenation but don't suppose old group has any feeling that they are at fault, particularly in view of action of individual originally discussed herein.

This has been rather hurriedly put together, but I think involves the main reactions. Rather busy with variety of things to do.

Have been in Carver County and everything is fine there, except that I fear for the situation if no direction is available because believe the results may get to be too good. Have stressed the need with our mutual friends of substantial means that their attention should be directed almost equally to both sides and anticipate some favorable response there if it is possible to have enough time to work it out.

Consensus is general that Mel beat himself electing to run against Roosevelt instead of Starkey, and believe Dick Gale instrumental in setting up his own opposition and then feeling so safe he could forget all about it, which he did, with dire results.

Regards,

AL

ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH, CHAIRMAN

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND LABOR

PAUL L. BADGER, CLERK

November 16, 1944

AIRMAIL

Harold E. Stassen  
Commander USNR  
Staff Command Pacific Fleet  
c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco

Dear Harold:

I am enclosing some literature sent to me by Charles G. Bolte, who is Chairman of the American Veterans Committee, which strikes me as one of the better efforts to set up a new veterans' organization.

As you will gather from his literature, he is 100% right on foreign policy and is hitting it the hard way.

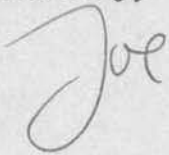
The election, I think, turned out very well, with the elimination in the primaries and final of at least nine isolationists in the Senate, including Nye, Danaher and Clark, as well as several like Ham Fish in the House. I was a little sorry to see Dick Gale defeated in Minnesota, although it was largely due to his overconfidence and lack of campaigning. Mel Maas asked for his defeat by the irrational charges he made, virtually charging that the President had connived to have Pearl Harbor attacked in order to get us into war. Mel never learned to keep his mouth shut.

The final figures I have on Minnesota gave Roosevelt 590,130 and Dewey 523,793, while Thye got 690,916, compared to 429,295 for Allen.

Saltonstall and Wayne Morris came through strong, in spite of their states going for Roosevelt. In fact, the voters all over did about the most selective job on the foreign policy issue that I can ever remember.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



JHB:T

enclo.



# DEAR JOE:



Americans are natural-born builders. In the midst of history's most destructive war, the U. S. fighting man begins making something; making an organization of his own that will help to strengthen America when the war is over . . .

**W**E LIVE in an age of bigness, Joe. American businesses are bigger than they ever were before, and consequently our government has to be bigger in order to do a decent job of umpiring and settling disputes among businesses and between businesses and other groups.

Naturally the individual citizen, who remains approximately the same size year in and year out, is in some danger of being stepped on or squeezed to death in the midst of all this bigness.

The only way for human beings in a big country like the U. S. A. to safeguard their individualism is to organize, as individuals, into groups that are so large and strong that they will be treated with respect and listened to by big business and big government.

If we Americans learn to get along in organizations of our own making and our own choosing, we will retain the quality of individualism that has characterized Americans since Daniel Boone. But if we can't or won't organize ourselves, we will end up a nation of boss-controlled Casper Milquetoasts.

**A** NEW and growing American organization that you will be interested in is the American Veterans Committee. This organization was born out of the natural impulse of fairly serious-minded U. S. servicemen to communicate with each other about the meaning of the war and the possible fruits of it. Guys began writing to each other from battlefields all over the world. They passed one another's letters along. An organization slowly began to take shape. Soon there were 100 members. Then the founders decided that they ought to have a central office, so that they could send their questions and their ideas to one person, who would track down answers and pass along ideas.

Today the AVC is still a baby, as organizations go, but a lusty, promising one. Twice a month it issues an offset-printed, four-page publication called *The Bulletin*, which goes to nearly a thousand

servicemen and servicewomen in all parts of the world. *The Bulletin* is edited by the chairman of AVC, a 24-year-old veteran named Charles G. Bolte.

I have seen *The Bulletin* and I highly recommend it to you and your friends, Joe, servicemen and civilians alike. It contains edited excerpts from servicemen's letters—good, provocative reading; and informative pieces on such questions as postwar jobs, votes for soldiers and preserving the peace-to-come through international co-operation.

Such a periodical could be stuffy, but this one isn't. It has the qualities of its audience: youthfulness, frankness, optimism and hard-boiled realism. It is politically conscious and politically hep, but non-partisan, because lads of all political shades contribute to *The Bulletin*.

yours as always,

*Bolte*

William Jennings O'Brien

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 1944

## New Veterans Group Gets Tips From Foxholes

**U. S. Soldiers Tell What They Expect of Nation, but Seek No 'Santa Claus'**

Hundreds of pungently-worded letters from the foxholes, telling what the American soldier expects of the country for which he fights, have been received during the last few weeks at the headquarters of the American Veterans Committee, strengthening the hopes of its founders that it may soon speak for hundreds of thousands of American veterans of this war.

Charles G. Bolte, twenty-five-year-old disabled veteran who is chairman of the organization's planning committee, disclosed yesterday that membership had grown from 300 two months ago to 1,000 now, that a Washington branch had been founded, and that the organization would incorporate soon, with the view of immediate expansion.

### V-Mail From Italy

An account of the formation of the new veterans group, published in the New York Herald Tribune on May 25, before it had adopted its present name and platform—"to achieve a more democratic and prosperous America and a more stable world"—was reprinted in the Mediterranean edition of "Stars and Stripes," the Army newspaper, early in June. In the next two weeks Mr. Bolte received more than 300 V-mail letters from Italy, requesting application blanks.

Several soldiers found fault with that section of the statement of intentions which called for "continuance of the United Nations as partners, acting together to stop any threat to peace"—their objection being that neutral nations should be taken into the partnership as well.

"Objections like that are all to the good," Mr. Bolte said. "They show the writers are thinking along the same lines we are—that they are worried only that we are not going far enough."

Of more than 1,000 letters received from service men and women in the last few months only two expressed opinions of such a nature that the writers' applications for membership were held up.

### Two Applications Held Up

"We wouldn't say the two letters were undemocratic, or even potentially Fascist," Mr. Bolte explained. "We just weren't certain that the two writers were not somewhat confused, so we bypassed their applications until we could make sure they believed in the same things we believe in."

# PROPAGANDA FRONT

By WILLIAM L. SHIRER

I am going to toss in a little propaganda today concerning the seven or eight million citizens fighting, or about to fight, or who have fought overseas and who will be coming home one fine day to make this country and possibly this world either better or worse, either secure for peace and a decent living or ripe for more wars and more idiotic chaos.

One of them, only three years out of college but already minus a leg he lost on an African battlefield, came in to see me last week. And because I have a feeling he may be representative of an American generation of which the nation knows very little, not having shared its bloody experiences at the front or ever paid much attention to its hopes and fears, I would like to tell you about him and what he and some of the young veterans are up to.

## Edited His College Paper

His name is Charles G. Bolte. Three years ago he was editor of his college paper, "The Daily Dartmouth." A year or so later he was a young lieutenant at El Alamein. In the holocaust there he lasted for three days and the terrible distance of one-and-a-half miles. Then the Germans shot a leg off.

In view of the widespread reports that Americans in the armed services do not know what they are fighting for and care only about getting home as quickly as possible to ma's apple pie, this young man's ideas and present activities may be of some interest to the rest of us.

One of the first products of the group was a statement of intentions, the joint work of service men scattered around the world. It is a preliminary statement, but the group sincerely believes it honestly represents the thinking of the overwhelming majority of the fighting men.

Since, as Russell Hill pointed out in a recent dispatch to the New York Herald Tribune from Algiers, the Army newspaper in the field, "Stars and Stripes," avoids controversial subjects, apparently partly because of the Army's fear of Congressional wrath, Mr. Bolte's young veterans publish a monthly bulletin whose purpose is to inform the men overseas of the real goings-on at home and also to serve as a forum for the G. I.'s.

The May number will give you an idea. It contains a resume of Mr. Hull's speech and the local and foreign reaction thereto. It gives the lowdown on the recent mutinies of Greek soldiers and sailors in Egypt.

It tells the soldiers the sad truth about their chances of voting this fall: "You have been deprived of your part in the election, unless you write NOW to your state election board. If you're from the right state and have good mail connections, your vote may count." And it advises that a Washington bet "is that if 25,000 soldier votes are counted it will be surprising; if 50,000, a miracle."

Judging from these items it is not so easy to fool the American war generation as some of our politicians seem to have imagined. A biting cynicism runs through most of the letters sent in.

Take this letter: "We want to stay alive; we want to get home."

... We want to do work we're trained for and enjoy doing. We want to be paid enough for that work to have a car, a decent place to live and decent food. If we're going to have kids we'd like them to find the world in less of a mess than we found it. Above all, we want no more wars!"

Now, the author of this letter is not naive, for he continues: "But the hell of it is that we're very likely to find after a while that the things we thought we won the hard way weren't won at all. We're likely to find the same old cut-throat competition for the underpaid, dirty job, the same old empty pants pockets we wrapped our fingers in during the thirties and a new war all set to tip us over the edge again. These things will happen ... If we let them. ... We can prevent wars by stepping on any nation trying to start them. The best way to get another war is to listen to the boys who told us this time we could keep out of war by pretending the world didn't concern us."

I get the impression that Mr. Bolte and his fellow veterans, despite their youth and what they've been through, are both intelligent and adult about the problems of their generation. Maybe they are too cynical but maybe they have reason to be. The kind of America they will make after the war may be even a little better than the one they left to defend.

New York Herald-Tribune, May 25, 1944

## 300 Veterans of This War Form Group to Win a Lasting Peace

By John G. Rogers

Charles G. Bolte, a former Dartmouth College student, who lost a leg while fighting with the British in North Africa, provides a one-man national headquarters of an evolving organization which hopes eventually to enroll hundreds of thousands of American service men and women of this war.

The idea is the one which failed of realization after the World War—the proposition that international co-operation should be set up to prevent future wars, and that rational domestic economy should be set up at home to insure jobs and prosperity.

The roster of 300 includes persons ranging in age from twenty-two to thirty-three and in rank, in the Army, from private to lieutenant colonel, and in the Navy from third-class seaman to Navy lieutenant. One Wave and one Wac are members.

The statement of intentions asserts that World War veterans "found that military victory does not automatically bring peace, jobs or freedom. To guarantee our interests, which are those of our

country, we must work for what we want."

"What we want," Mr. Bolte explained yesterday, "does not mean the largest possible soldiers' bonus that can be pressured out of Congress."

## New Vets' Organization Run By Guys Themselves

(Stars and Stripes U. S. Bureau)

NEW YORK, May 29—Small and generally short-lived veterans' organizations have been cropping up since the beginning of World War II. Now there's a new one which looks more vigorous than most of its forerunners.

Headed by Charles Bolte, former Dartmouth College student, who lost a leg while fighting with the British in North Africa, the new organization started last week with 300 members and this week it received 700 more applications from service men all over the world.

As yet the organization doesn't have a specific name or plan but does have specific principles.

"This outfit belongs to the guys themselves. It will be whatever kind of outfit they want it to be. It will do whatever they want it

to do," said Bolte, a serious-faced, 24-year-old military news writer in the Office of War Information.

"And what the boys want, according to long letters from Italy and the Southwest Pacific, is not to make the same mistake their fathers did when they forgot about winning peace after winning the war."

This new veterans group was really born on the West Coast when 25 widely-scattered friends in the Army started writing and worrying about the postwar world. The correspondence grew into a monthly bulletin and when the group began hunting for a discharged veteran to edit the bulletin, Bolte volunteered.

## AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE

To achieve a more democratic and prosperous America and a more stable world.

### STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS

We look forward to becoming civilians: making a decent living, raising a family, and living in freedom from the threat of another war. But that was what most Americans wanted from the last war. They found that military victory does not automatically bring peace, jobs or freedom. To guarantee our interests, which are those of our country, we must work for what we want.

Therefore we are associating ourselves with American men and women, regardless of race, creed or color, who are serving with or have been honorably discharged from our armed forces, Merchant Marine, or allied forces. When we are demobilized it will be up to all of us to decide what action can best further our aims.

These will include:

Aid for every veteran and his family during demobilization.

A job for every veteran, with private enterprise and government working together to provide full employment for the nation.

Thorough social security.

Free speech, press, worship, assembly and ballot.

Disarmament of Germany and Japan, and the elimination of the power of their militarist classes.

Continuance of the United Nations as partners, acting together to stop any threat to peace.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_ Service address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## EXPLANATION

If you agree with the aims of the accompanying Statement of Intentions, we invite you to sign and send it to: American Veterans Committee, 654 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.

The Statement is a product of the thinking of servicemen now scattered around the world who believe there is post-military work to be done. The power of returning servicemen and women will be great. It is natural for these men and women to want a world in which recurrent wars and insecurities cease to threaten freedom. An association is in order through which their voices can unite to achieve a more democratic and prosperous America and a more stable world.

Here is how AVC started: we began exchanging ideas in January 1943, when one of us wrote a letter to a small number of his friends in service. He recommended that thoughtful men and women in service consult one another on the job to be done and that they pledge themselves to assemble as soon as possible after demobilization. Since that first letter the number of interested persons has steadily grown. We must, of course, wait until demobilization before organizing formally or devising a final program. Many changes will occur in the world before the war is won, and the men who come home late will need to be heard. In the meantime, however, we have asked some honorably discharged veterans to lay the foundation for our future activity.

These veterans, who form our Planning Committee, are recruiting fellow-veterans and members of the armed forces. As AVC grows, its voice will be raised more powerfully on problems which already affect the veteran and the world he will live in. We invite you to add your voice to ours, and to increase our circle through your personal effort, writing and speaking to your friends of the aims and activities of AVC.

AVC has no initiation fee, no dues and no assessments. Its work is supported by the subscription price of \$4 a year for The Bulletin, which appears twice a month and includes a Progress Report on AVC, a Newsletter on foreign and domestic developments, and a Letters section which is a forum for your ideas.

Each member of AVC is committed to only two propositions: the Statement of Intentions and a free conference after demobilization, when the Planning Committee will pass out of existence and the association will be put into the hands of all the members. Then we will decide democratically on specific means of achieving our aims. Such means will include use of press, motion pictures and radio to inform our associates of the issues before them, and to convince our fellow-citizens that our right judgments are also necessary and practical judgments; and will include political and social action within the community, state and nation, as well as on the international level through an international veterans council, whose establishment we will encourage.

# THE BULLETIN

OF THE

★ ★ AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE ★ ★

1 November 1944

## AVC PROGRESS REPORT

We are now installed in the new office at 654 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y., complete with files, secretaries, typewriters and telephone (REgent 7-1007). The office includes a large conference table, so we promptly expanded the Planning Committee to fill the chairs. New members: Robert Pershing Brown, Lincoln W. Lauterstein, Harry Zucker. Brown is Coast Guard Reserve, Lauterstein and Zucker both medical discharges from the Army. Appointment of Kermit Walker as secretary and Bill Caldwell as treasurer makes business transactions more efficient. Visiting servicemen are invited to sit in on Planning Committee meetings: Wednesday nights at 7:30.

We're now ready to expand rapidly, having laid the firm foundation of 1,000 members in service and out. Planning Committee has drawn up a budget covering estimated income and expenses for the period November '44-November '45, which shows a big deficit, so if you know any sympathetic civilians who have extra money kicking around in their jeans, refer them to AVC. We're sure we've got a worthy cause, but the idea will fail without capital. Copies of the budget, giving details of how and where we plan to spend the money, are yours for the asking.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Washington is moving ahead with organization rapidly, holding meetings for both veterans and servicemen stationed there, setting up committees on chapter affairs, and recruiting new members. Walter Lippmann and Raymond Gram Swing addressed meetings last month. The editor went down for another, found much interest and considerable hard work.

Arthur Freedman, ex-army, our new Ohio representative, is forming a chapter in Cleveland, plans to branch out through the rest of the state.

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## BANZAI FOR THE HERALD-TRIBUNE

High-spot of our public relations career to date was the annual New York Herald-Tribune Forum on Current Problems in mid-October at the Waldorf-Astoria. Two servicemen and two veterans spoke during the three-day sessions; all four are members of AVC. 'Twelve Million Veterans--a New Force' was the theme of the opening session; speakers included Admiral Nimitz (by radio from Pearl Harbor), Generals Somervell and Osborne, Walt Disney, the editor, ex-Sgt. Bill Caldwell of the Planning Committee, and Lt.-Comdr. Oren Root

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Charles G. Bolte, Chairman & Editor; Kermit Walker, Secretary; William J. Caldwell, Treasurer.

\$4 yearly.



Jr., USNR, one of the original AVC men just returned from Normandy. A/T Harris Wofford, AAF, founder of the Student Federalists and a new member of AVC, spoke at a later session on 'Leadership in International Action.'

The response to AVC's program and plans, especially for the international veterans council, was--in a word--sensational; Caldwell and the editor were promptly invited to speak at other places, and our phone has been ringing ever since. Talking coast-to-coast over the Blue Network on the second session of the Forum, Henry J. Kaiser said:

'No one in the Forum audience last night and no listener on the air will ever forget the stirring challenge from Lieutenant Bolte and Sergeant Caldwell. There can be no doubt that they spoke from the mind and heart of every man in uniform.'

Next appearance was at a Vote for Freedom rally in New York sponsored by Americans United for World Organization, when the editor spoke with Senator Ball (R., Minn.), Rep. Baldwin (R., N.Y.), Charles Boyer, Justice Ferdinand Pecora, and President Hopkins of Dartmouth. Our chief point was made in an attack on the isolationists:

'Really, the gentlemen talk as if America were doing someone a favor by joining the world. Yet I don't know a single soldier or veteran who wants a world organization because he wants to preserve the British Empire or guarantee the borders of the Soviet Union. We want an international organization with power to stop aggression before it happens because we know that little wars make big ones, and big ones always involve the United States. The simple truth is this: we don't want our sons to go through the hell and boredom of another war, and that is the deepest self-interest I know of. So I say to you--and I hope Senator

Ball takes the message to his reluctant colleagues--that an exaggerated regard for sovereignty begins to look criminal to a man in a foxhole, who sees that the preservation of the nation's manpower is the vital issue before us.'

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## CASH IN NOW!

Now is the time to cash in on this publicity. We're sure that many more servicemen and veterans would join us if they only knew about us. If there's a camp, unit or theater newspaper near you, do what Sgt. Hal Levy did at Fort George Wright AAF Convalescent Hospital: talk to the editor, show him the AVC literature, and chances are he'll run a story on us. The Fort George Wright Reporter gave us a column, called us 'among the most vigorous, the most promising' of World War II veterans organizations.

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## SOUR NOTE ON CENSORSHIP

First word of censorship directed at AVC comes from England, where an AAF private had letters containing the Statement of Intentions and The Bulletin held up. He wrote another AVC man in England that he could not communicate directly with the New York office via the mails, said: 'All this is final, and there is nothing that can be done about it, as the regulations appear to be quite positive on the point.'

He's being done in by a local brasshat, as a matter of fact: AVC is known to the War Department, has permission to use the Army mails for THE Bulletin and for recruiting literature. If you run into any trouble like this, try to trace it to the officer in charge, and refer him to Brigadier-General Edward Greenbaum,

Executive Officer, War Department,  
Washington.

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## NEWSLETTER

### GI BILL GETS INTO OPERATION

It is incorrectly stated in the 1 October Bulletin that 'not one veteran has gone to college at government expense.' Several colleges are accepting veterans on the strength of Veterans Administration eligibility papers; word from one college is that 'actual payment may be a thing of the future but the bursar is taking the gamble.'

Veterans Administration has now announced first details of how the fuzzy loan-provision of the GI Bill of Rights will be put into effect. The announcement covers loans for homes only; the word on loans for farms or for setting up small businesses will come later. You won't be able to walk into a bank and say, 'Where is my \$2,000?' --the bank will check on your credit rating, then the National Housing Agency checks the house, the Veterans Administration checks you again, and if everything is OK the VA tells the bank to make the loan, with the government guaranteeing 50% of the total, or up to \$2,000. You still have to furnish collateral for the unguaranteed 50%, but if you can't supply collateral the bank will make the loan provided you get endorsers who are sufficiently responsible.

In other words, the loan provision is not a fraud, but it's certainly no blank check.

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### DUMBARTON OAKS DEBATE IS ON

Nearly everyone accepts the ideal of international collaboration, but, as predicted in 15 October Bulletin,

the debate over Dumbarton Oaks is raging on the question of how to do it. Senator Ball asked both major presidential candidates to answer three questions: Do you favor immediate formation of the United Nations security organization, with the U.S. joining before peace treaties are written? Do you oppose reservations which would weaken the organization? Do you support the use of U.S. armed forces to stop aggression without specific Congressional approval in each case? Governor Dewey said 'yes' to the first two questions, President Roosevelt said 'yes' to all three; Ball jumped party lines, announced he would vote for FDR. The New York Times and Walter Lippmann came out for the president the same week, largely on the same internationalist grounds

The Bulletin's stand on these issues ('yes' to all three) has drawn complete agreement from the director of the Pledge for Peace Committee of the Writers' War Board, who previously attacked our foreign-affairs position in the Statement of Intentions as vague and weak. The Committee is now circulating the following statement with the Pledge for Peace:

'The statement of President Roosevelt, in his speech to the Foreign Policy Association on October 21, that the American delegate to the Security Council of the United Nations should be empowered to commit us to positive action to preserve the peace, without further reference to Congress, was of the utmost importance as an essential step toward the ultimate objective of the Pledge for Peace. It therefore needs and deserves immediate and vigorous support.'

The Planning Committee wants an immediate answer to these three questions from every member of AVC: if we are to take a public stand in the debate, we will need evidence to support our claims. The real heart of the matter, however, hasn't yet been



touched. Here it is, in the form of a fourth question for you to think about:

'If the United Nations Security Council asked for United States armed forces to take positive action to preserve the peace, would you be willing to serve?'

This is a rough question to ask a man in a foxhole, but unless our answer is 'yes' we don't really mean it when we say 'yes' to the three earlier questions. If enough of us say 'yes' to this crucial fourth question, however, that will be the strongest possible warning to potential future aggressors that they'd better not aggress. Which also means it will be the strongest possible guarantee that we won't have to serve.

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## LETTERS

In the 1 September Bulletin, Sgt. Lewis talks of AVC becoming the liberal minority in a conservative organization. I would like to voice my complete opposition to any such idea.

After all, we soldiers will not want to belong to a veterans group just so that we can go out and parade every Memorial Day. Rather, we need an organization through which we can continue the struggle for freedom and peace we are supposed to be conducting on the battlefield right now.

The results of the last American Legion convention should be enough proof that one American Legion is too much.

*Pvt. Roy Helfgott, Infantry.*

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I would like to see some discussion on Atherton's remarks for the

American Legion about the taking over of bases by the United States. Some clarification of the dangers and the shortsightedness of this imperialist policy would be in order. The devious and specious patriotism that Atherton uses needs more than denunciation. It needs facts, an explanation of why the 'American Century' is a grave danger. It would be well to point out that our investment in a variety of bases was not the only investment, that other nations have sacrificed, have been bled. It would be advisable to place a call for international cooperation in the control of all our bases on your agenda, rather than power expansion. This is the type of thing that deceives and is so dangerous. Yet a representative American Legion could come out for progress as well as this type of power diplomacy.

*Capt. Herbert Schreiber, MC*

-o-

Sgt. Bellush's September comment: . . . If we can produce plenty for a mammoth military machine in wartime then we can certainly produce plenty for an economy of peace' is a point to be hammered and hammered and hammered. Haven't met anyone overseas who doesn't agree with that thesis. The sooner we can take economics out of the range of discussion the better for the building of a world where I can be as much of an individualist and as free as I want to be. It has always disappointed me that so much effort is spent in talking about getting a reasonable living income to everyone. With our industry it's a cinch--in any of about fifteen different ways of dividing up the pie. Let's get it agreed that there is plenty of pie to go around, and start talking about something else than pie. Food's a boring subject at best.

*Major Robert C. Brown, AAF*



November 16, 1944

Dear Harold:

I'll bet you thought I forgot about you, but I haven't. In fact we all are thinking about you constantly, and with much concern when we read reports in the press, and with much pride when we know what an important part you are playing in a job well done.

Butchie often talks about you and says he wishes Uncle Harold would hurry and get back here because he likes to talk to you because you are so nice. I told him one day that when you were here he wouldn't even talk, and he said, "Well, no, I didn't, but I always listen to him when he talks." The day after election at the dinner table he said "You know, Dad, if Uncle Harold had been in there running instead of Dewey, he sure would have beat the pants off of Roosevelt, wouldn't he." I can't imagine where he heard that, but he seemed to have figured out this election business pretty carefully. And then, one day he wanted to know - if God wanted all people to be good, why did he make so many of them bad like the Japs. We explained to him that it wasn't God that made the people bad, it was Satan, and that sometimes people don't do what God wants them to do and that's why they turn out bad. He couldn't quite get that straight, however, he must have put a lot of thought to it, because, a few days later, he spilled a lot of water around the bathroom and I was scolding him telling him that he knew that wasn't nice to do. He said, "Well, Mommie, God didn't tell me not to do it, and Satan told me to do it, so I did it." He sometimes just astounds me with his sense of reasoning. I'm so anxious to have him go to school to see how he will get along. I suppose when it will come to book learning he won't want to study.

Rowene is getting cuter every day. She's so much fun and so good. The only trouble is I spend so much time playing with her that I don't get all my work done during the day. But - I don't worry much about that because before I know it she'll be running down to Grandma's all day and I probably won't see her from morning till night, just like Butchie. The other day Butchie was out in the woods helping Grandpa haul wood and when he came home he said "I don't know what Grandpa would do without me, he'd get so lonesome and I help him so much. I sure do keep him occupied, don't I Mommie."

You've probably heard that Mr. Badger had Bronchial Pneumonia for a couple of weeks. I guess he's going back to the office next Monday. It was impossible to get him in to any of the hospitals because of the crowded conditions, so they just had to take care of him at home.

Pete is up deer hunting this week. He left on Tuesday and plans on coming back tomorrow. He called me last night and in their first day of hunting shot two deer. They plan on hunting all day today and early tomorrow morning, so that each of the five fellows can bring home a deer. That sounds like a lot of animals, but I guess they enjoy trying. Then in about two weeks I presume we'll have a little canning bee around here. He went up to Detroit Lakes duck hunting a few weeks ago and brought home 28 ducks, which we canned. Doesn't that sound funny - me - of all people, canning meat for the winter. It almost sounds like I've really gone domestic or something.

I just got a long letter from Bernhard today and he tells me that he just missed seeing you by a day or two at one of his stops. He saw Bick Guinan and Grant Anderson and a few other fellows from St. Paul.

Dorothy Nolan is now working for the United Press in Chicago and Agnes Dunwoody from South St. Paul has taken her place at the switchboard.

Fred Hughes called me the other day when he was in town and we had quite a talk on politics, Joe Ball and the like. It always does me a lot of good to talk to him. He always seems to think things out so clearly and on so many of the things that happened I was so concerned, but he always seems to figure out angles that make it look less important at a long range.

Dad has been digging ditches with his little tractor and scraper. I wish you could see his meadow. It looks like a system of Panama Canals. Someone asked him why he was doing that now, and he said, "Oh, I guess for the coming generation." He gets more kick out of sitting on that ~~xxxxxx~~ tractor. Now he has his whole meadow draining good, so the other day he called Lothenbachs and asked them if it would be O. K. if he would ditch their meadow so that there would be through drainage off his property. So - he's been across the street here ditching some more. Pete suggested that probably he could use the tractor to snake trees out of the woods and down to the house - that was about a month ago. Pete cut down a lot of dead trees for him one Saturday afternoon. Pa said "no, it would be too hard to get around. The horses were better for that." You know how he always maintained that there was nothing like a horse for getting work done on the farm. Well, the other day, Lo and Behold, there goes Pa up in the woods with the tractor and in about a half hour here he comes down the hill with about ten big trees hooked on to the back. That night he said to Pete, "You know that little tractor sure works good up there in the woods. You can haul twice as much as with the horses." I think our father's going modern.

Mom has been fine and is very busy doing her Christmas shopping, knitting mittens for Butchie, and soakers for the baby. I'm always glad when Winter comes because then she doesn't work so hard and it seems so good to see her taking it easy. She takes care of the baby ~~xxxxxx~~ a lot for me when I have to go to the Capitol for the Committee, and Butchie gets so jealous. He asked her the other day why she was so sweet to the baby.

Billy has been out riding his horse just about every evening. He has more fun rounding up the horses that Dad has in the pasture. Some fellow has about 15 horses in the meadow and Billy pretends he's out West. When John Quinn was here from Nebraska he saw Billy and his horse one day and told Billy that next Summer he should come down on his ranch and work for him. Billy has really taken it seriously and is definitely planning on doing that. I hope Mr. Quinn really meant it, because there will be a terribly disappointed boy if he doesn't.

It seems that my child is asking for something to eat, so, I suppose I had better feed the little angel.

Good Luck to you, and I hope that the possibility of your coming home very soon will be a reality.

Love

Violet

November 16, 1944

Dear Commander,

This is Phyllis Cleveland  
of Oslo Lodge No. 2 Sons of Norway  
and the "Osloites" extending  
their best wishes to you for  
a very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year.

We the "Osloites" are the  
Young people of Oslo No. 2.  
At the present time our Club  
is very small and not  
very active. Although these  
factors are against us now  
we still have our regular



meetings and write to our  
service men.

We would appreciate hearing  
from you very much because  
at our meeting the mail of  
the service men is one of the  
most important items.

Until then

We are

The Asloites

17, NOV. 1944

Dear Harold: -

a lot of water has gone somewhere since I talked with you in August. Shortly after you left I requested as you suggested, transfer to Officer's Pool, Pac. Flt, for further transfer to Carrier or advance base unit in an active area. & if neither of those could be effected to the inactive list. In effect, put me to work in the Navy or let me go back to work as a Civilian.

It worked eventually, early in October Supers advised that the need for officers of my experience & training was too great to put me on the inactive list. Then for thirty days I sat wondering what might happen & when.

~~Then~~ ~~for it~~ On Nov. 6, I got proceed without delay orders & here I am somewhere in New Guinea. at present I am assigned to NABU #7 as Exec. & we expect to stage

⑦  
Somewhere around here for several weeks before moving up.

It sounds like interesting duty & except for the fact that I should have liked to be in your organization, it is just what I asked for, quite an unusual circumstance in this man's Navy.

It is entirely possible that we may get together out here some when, & if you ever get time I would thoroughly enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely

Charlie Cook

LT. COMDR. C.C. COOK USNR

NABU #7

FLEET P.O. S. F.

I saw a friend of yours on the way out. Cdr. Bill Cleveland, he was nice enough to give me lift with bags etc, as here transportation was tough.



*File*  
Editorial Appearing in LINCOLN JOURNAL as of November, 17, 1944.

MR. BALL STAYS IN THE PARTY

.. Members of the senate republican steering committee, numbering among them Nebraska's Senator Wherry, exercised wise restraint when they decided not to try to read Senator Jec Ball "out of the party" for his action in supporting a Roosevelt fourth term.

.. From the party's standpoint Mr. Ball's was a serious breach; he risked party wrath and incurred it. But wrath and disagreement are one thing; and reading capable people out of the party because of a difference of honest conviction is another thing. As the level-headed Austin of Vermont said, "We've got to stand together because we need all we can get."

.. The republican party leaders could not help but recognize that the Ball is in republican disfavor now, time may cast new perspective on his action. Any effort to read him out of the party might, under the circumstances, in time work more harm on the party disciplinarians than on the Minnesotan who, right or wrong, put his convictions above party loyalty.

.. As the party may have learned in the case of Wendell Wilkie, "reading" out able individuals for asserting their independence is old stuff, and small stuff. It succeeds chiefly in "reading" the party out of intelligent, independent minds. There is, on the other hand, as the last election demonstrated, a type of narrow, bigoted office-holder which both parties safely can read out, to the advantage of the nation.

-----

Mankato Minn  
Nov 17 '44

H.E.Stassen Comm. USNR  
Staff - Command 3rd Fleet  
Fleet P.O. San Francisco Calif.

My dear Commander Stassen;

This letter asks No Favors  
and has No important Significance. Mrs Stassen was  
kind enough to give me your address, I asked her for  
it, one of my sons had requested that I get your ad-  
dress, two of them are perhaps very near to you. I  
will give you their address. Also a copy of five  
letters sent out to my Boys, today, every other day  
when I am home.

Lt.A.E.Gruber-USNR- Uss #PC1198- Fleet PO New York City

Lt.CJ.Gruber-USNR-USS CONY-Fleet PO-San Francisco Cali.

ENS.G.W.Gruber-USNR-POTAWatomi-ATF109- " " "

P.H.Gruber-Slc-BksC-Gr8A- Naval Torp.School-Keyport Wash.

Lt Stan G. Ledin-Naval Hospital, 40A Oakland Calif.

The last name is My son-law, lived with us while he  
went to G.A.College with My Children At St Peter.  
Married my own and Only daughter, they never left Home.  
He was badly injured at Guam Jul 21 - May recover in  
a Year. My daughter is teaching English at Highschool  
and receives \$50 a week. Her child, Scott 20 Months  
stays with us, we moved to Mankato Last Year. I used  
to be in a Bank in Martin Co. Now look after Farms  
and investments for Private parties Only. My mother  
from Lakefield - Mrs John Gruber sends her regards.

Best Wishes.

I re-organized the  
H.H.Flowers Bank  
At Cleveland/ in  
1931-

Sincerely

*G.W. Gruber*  
G.W.Gruber  
Mankato Minn

Box 13

# THE EAGLE MAGAZINE

ROBERT W. HANSEN, Editor

MILWAUKEE 3, WISCONSIN

November  
18  
1944

Mrs. Harold E. Stassen  
741 Stewart Lane  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Stassen:

Some years ago, your husband gave a short, noncontroversial talk on brotherhood that we shall never forget. That talk was reprinted in "Vital Speeches," which is a pretty good index as to the outstanding quality of the talk.

Since the Governor is a member in good standing of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie in St. Paul, we are wondering whether he would be gracious enough to permit us to reprint excerpts from that talk in the Eagles' national magazine. Perhaps we could ask you to write to your husband and to forward our request. Or, if you prefer to have us write him directly we shall be happy to do so if you will kindly send us his present address. As Governor of Minnesota and a lieutenant commander in our great Navy, his words will have a double-barrel message of interest to the Lieutenant Commander's 850,000 brother Eagles in the United States and Canada. We shall appreciate your good offices in getting your husband's "go ahead" or in letting us know where we may reach him.

With every good wish, I am,

Cordially yours,

*Robert W. Hansen*

Robert W. Hansen  
Editor-in-Chief

RWH:ws





Commander South Pacific Area and Force  
Staff

20 November 1944

Dear Commander,

From all reports, the THIRD Fleet has been dealing devastating blows against the Nips and I have wished many times that I were there.

This morning we received the promotion list from BuPers and after taking a physical examination I donned the gold oak leaves.

When Admiral Carney and General Riley were last through here I expressed a desire at some future time to get back with the gang. Business here is becoming slower and slower and many of our key people have left or are leaving.

Admiral Newton told me this morning that since I was now a Lieutenant Commander, if I had ambitions to get with the THIRD Fleet, to write Admiral Carney telling him that if I could be of service to them he would release me for assignment to the THIRD Fleet and would drop a line to Admiral Nimitz accordingly. This was a mighty fine gesture and I have written Admiral Carney in accordance with this conversation.

Already I have in mind a possible relief as Flag Lieutenant and Aide in the event the GO sign comes through.

I will appreciate very much any good word you may put in for me and hope that things will work out successfully.

Thanking you again for your many past kindnesses and with warmest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,



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