

PSYCHOLOGY

Peace Societies Ineffective; Patriotic Societies Powerful

Survey By Psychologist Reveals That Policies of Patriotic Organizations Are Those Being Followed

AMERICANS seem pretty generally to share a fatalistic attitude that "We don't want war, but we'll be dragged into it."

An explanation for this paradox may be found in a recent study of the programs and effectiveness of peace societies conducted by Dr. Ralph H. Gundlach, University of Washington psychologist.

Despite tremendous membership, peace societies have, he said, as little chance of effectiveness as the prominent and conscientious wife who seriously wishes to rid the community of poverty, and can only go so far as to distribute Christmas baskets.

With smaller membership but with representation from powerful economic groups are the "patriotic" organizations whose policies are diametrically opposed to those of the "peace" societies, and who are determined to "sell business to the American public as a patriotic duty."

The peace societies Dr. Gundlach found to include most of the religious, educational, women's and educational groups. "One congress of such organizations claims to represent over 60,000,000 persons. In contrast is the rather slender membership of the patriotic societies, lead by three major groups, the American Legion, the Navy League and the D.A.R."

On eight scores, the peace societies are opposed to the patriotic societies in this matter of peace and war, the survey revealed.

"In practically every instance," Dr. Gundlach declared, "the actual policy which is being carried out in the United States today is the policy advocated by several of the patriotic societies."

Here is the comparison between patriotic society policy and the U. S. policy as made by Dr. Gundlach:

1. The patriotic societies support increased armaments. Our budgets for army, navy, coast defense and aviation are the largest in all history.

2. The patriotic societies advocate military training in the school. The number of schools offering training and the number of students participating has greatly increased.

3. The patriotic societies advocate the conscription of men for soldiers and for work, and the plans for M-Day have already been drawn up in minute detail.

4. The patriotic societies oppose socialization of the armaments industry and favor government subsidy. Congress has appropriated millions for "educational" contracts; the Government is forbidden to build but a small per cent of battleships in public yards despite lower costs; the airplane industry is aided by Government contracts for planes and mail subsidies.

5. The patriotic societies frowned on membership in the League of Nations, and we remained out.

6. The patriotic societies urge aggressive foreign trade protected by the armed forces. Our marines and navy carefully protect our industrialists' trade and the investments of the wealthy in Mexico, the Caribbeans, the Orient, South America, in the world.

7. The patriotic societies oppose radicalism, and in carrying this out, they oppose extension of the rights of labor and favor restriction of immigration. A number of bills have been in Congress designed to harass the alien, and the United States has not been permitted to offer a haven for a few thousand refugee children.

Why are the patriotic societies so much more effective than the peace societies? Dr. Gundlach offers this answer:

"The main difference, I think, is to be found in this: the peace societies are groups concerned with remote ideals, while the patriotic societies are carrying out a program of economic immediate benefit to their leading members.

"The peace societies are in a sense, not mass organizations with a push from the bottom, but top organizations built around a few leaders who are either churchmen or liberal intellectuals. Their aim is to get a mass following through education and a feeling of moral responsibility."

The membership of peace societies, he found, is mostly of "morally-minded middle class." Many are women church members, but their husbands' "week-day

morality more than counter-balances whatever pressure they may exert as peace advocates."

Science News Letter, October 7, 1939

ARCHAEOLOGY

Priest Amid Sacred Birds Found in City of Dead

EXPLORING great underground galleries in the old Egyptian city of Hermopolis, modern Egyptians have come upon a high priest who chose to be buried among sacred birds and beasts.

Hermopolis has proved to be a dual city, above and beneath ground, and the dim subterranean streets and galleries are an eerie place, ranged with remains of dead ibises and baboons.

The thousands of ibises in mummified ranks and numerous baboons testify to power and popularity of the Egyptian god Thoth. Private citizens all over Egypt apparently sent mummified ibises to show their devotion to this god. Pilgrims at the shrine could pay for a bird to be sacrificed and mummified during days of ceremonial preparation.

Hermopolis was the center of this curious cult, because it was the city sacred to Thoth, and the central headquarters for his temples and priests. To ancient Egypt, Thoth was a god who had lived 3,000 years, and written 36,000 books. He was credited with the brain work of giving early Egypt its laws, formulae to guide the dead, its lore of magic and its science. Adding another ibis in a jar to the host of them in Thoth's realm was a good deed calling the donor to the attention of the creator patron for art and magic.

Dr. Sami Gabra, archaeologist of the Egyptian University, has been exploring Thoth's underground realm for nine years. This year he has had the fortune to dig his way into sand-barred corridors that discouraged ancient robbers, and so he has found some entirely undisturbed regions of the place, including the resting place of the high priest himself.

The birds that the priest venerated in life seem to guard him in death. The whole corridor throngs with jars containing the bird mummies sealed with linen. And on top ride 15 large wooden ibises, gilded, alertly watching the entrance through which no one ever came—until now—through 2,500 years.

Science News Letter, October 7, 1939

Yellowstone National Park has six broods of the rare trumpeter swans this season, with a total of 23 cygnets.