

SOCIOLOGY

Key to Greater Peace

A belief in absolute right and wrong in the world makes it much more difficult to gain international accord. India values harmony rather than rightness.

► IF we can make ourselves believe that there is no absolute "right" or "wrong" in the world, we can come much closer to living in peace.

Dr. Byron L. Fox, of Syracuse University and formerly with the cultural relations program of the U. S. Department of State, in an exclusive Science Service interview in Syracuse, N. Y. explained that India comes closest to achieving harmony in spite of sharp differences in religion and race.

In America we have been brought up to place great value on the "right." We are willing to fight for the right, would "rather be right than President." And the person who holds "wrong" beliefs is regarded as a menace. In general, we are unwilling to compromise with the wrong and label any effort in this direction as "appeasement."

In India, by contrast, it is not so important to be "right" as it is to get along with others even when they are "wrong." Harmony is more valued than "rightness."

In order to build a peaceful world, it is necessary for American social scientists to become aware of their own biases which result from the way Americans are brought up to think and feel. We also need to understand the peculiar cultural biases of other people, Dr. Fox says.

The cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union is usually explained in terms of differences in philosophy or ideology based on differences in our cultural traditions.

But America itself is not without its own internal differences. Actually, Dr. Fox points out, America is striving for four different kinds of world—all at the same time. We are working:

Toward a one-world: Through cooperation with the United Nations leading to world government.

Toward a two-world: Through such devices as the Atlantic Pact, the rearming of Europe as an ally and military intervention in Korea.

Toward a three-world: By building up a "third force" in Europe through the Marshall Plan to serve as a buffer between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Toward a no-world: By hanging onto the traditional policy of isolationism and trying to cure world problems through preventive war.

During World War II, scientists discovered the value of "area studies." Instead of studying or teaching the different disciplines without reference to others—economics, anthropology, sociology, history,

language, each in its own classroom—scientists of the different fields collaborated in an over-all study of a single part of the world.

It is time for further cooperation on the part of scientists. Experts in the various areas of the world should get together and compare notes and pool knowledge so as to arrive at an understanding of cultural processes going on in all the various parts of the world and discover a basis for global thinking on world problems.

Dr. Fox is reporting his conclusions in the *AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW* (Aug.).

Science News Letter, August 19, 1950

ENGINEERING

Water Stretches Steel Tubes to Larger Diameter

► WATER is used in McKeesport, Pa., in the new electric weld mill of the National Tube Company to stretch heavy steel tubes

as much as a half inch in diameter.

The tube to be expanded is put within a form to prevent it from swelling beyond the exact outside diameter desired. A fixed plug is fitted in one end and a movable ram in the other. Three pumps force water into the pipe, the thickness of the steel in the pipe walls determining the amount of pressure needed. When the tube has expanded to fit the form, a die it is called, water pressure is lowered and the expanded tube is ready for inspection.

Pipes expanded by this process are made from heavy plates 40.5 feet in length, from 0.25 to 0.5 inch thick and from about 80 to 110 inches in width. The plates are put in presses which round them into tubes, and the seams are welded inside and out.

Expansion by water under high pressure is the final step. Pressure as high as 3,000 pounds per square inch may be used.

Science News Letter, August 19, 1950

SAFETY

Radioactive Materials Minor Hazard in Fires

► THE small quantities of radioactive materials now being used in several hundred research laboratories present only a minor hazard to firemen in case of a fire, according to the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

These hazards, however, should not be



PIPE STRETCHED—Water gushes forth after stretching diameter of steel pipe. Pressure is reduced before the ram is withdrawn from the unusual machine which uses the power of water under pressure to stretch the diameter of heavy pipe as much as one-half inch.