

GENERAL SCIENCE

# To Shun New Wars

**Immense battles for control of world envisioned by speaker at dinner meeting commemorating Alfred Nobel. Many famous prizewinners in attendance.**

► A PLANETARY conflict in 1964, with immense battles raging over the Arctic and control of the whole world as the prize, was the apocalyptic vision presented before a dinner meeting commemorating the late Alfred Nobel, establisher of the world's most famous prizes, attended by most of the Nobel prize winners now in this country. The speaker was Prof. Harold C. Urey of Columbia University, who in 1934 was Nobel prizeman in physics for his work in isolating heavy hydrogen and other notable researches.

Prof. Urey projected his apprehensions of present distrust of our Russian ally by many Americans and Britons into a picture of future catastrophe. Three possible courses appear to be open, at the close of the present war, he said. We can set up Germany as a strong buffer state. In his own opinion, however, no buffer state would serve to absorb the shock of such a collision as he envisioned. A second alternative would be for Britain and the United States to attack and smash Russia immediately after the Axis is defeated, establishing a world-wide Pax Americana; but this course, Prof. Urey held, would not be assented to by either the British or the American people.

The third possibility, and the one which the speaker considered workable, would be peaceful collaboration with Russia in policing the world. Prof. Urey declared that Russia has at present no more desire than we to conquer the world. But "if this collaboration is to be effected we must revise our approach to Russia. It must be neither from the standpoint of our own communists nor our 'red-baiters' but rather from the standpoint of respect for a hard-working and hard-fighting ally."

Praise for the American spirit was sounded by another Nobel prize winner, German-born Prof. Otto Loewi of the New York University School of Medicine. Prof. Loewi received the coveted Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology in 1936. Since 1940 he has been teaching and conducting research in this country. He said, in part:

"The people who settled this land came from very different countries and brought with them and preserved peculiarities of their national life. Upon this background has been superposed something that has welded them all into a unique characteristic unit.

"That something is the American spirit. As early as 1776 this had already found expression in the Declaration of Independence, guaranteeing to all men the same rights, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"This principle is not merely the expression of a dream or hope for a better and happier world, but is actually at work in all branches of American life. Its realization has been effected through the granting of freedom to one's fellowmen, through cooperation and respect for other men's opinions.

"There is hardly another land where

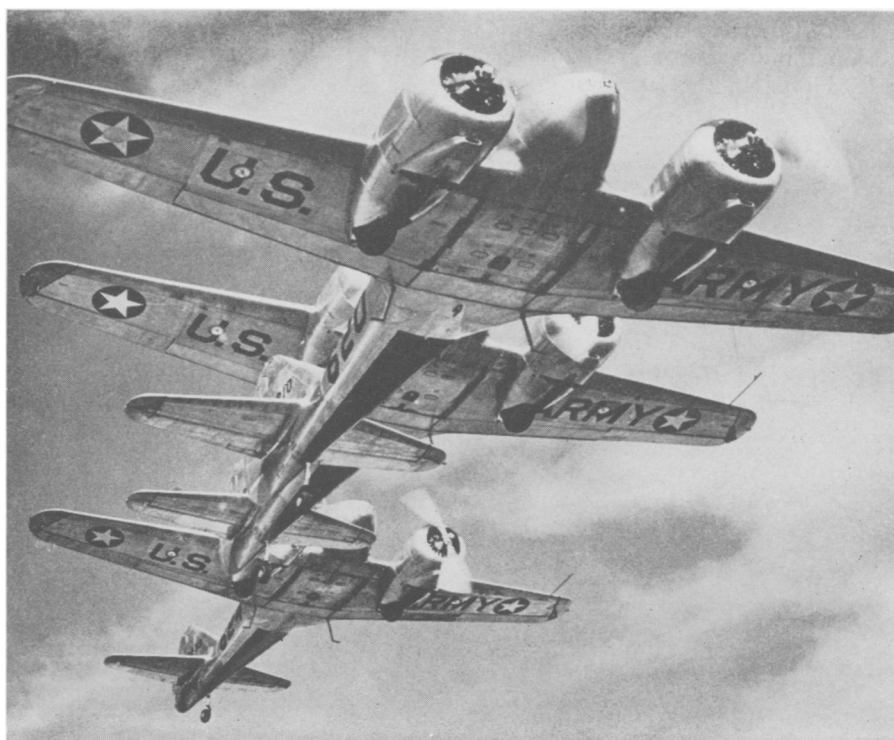
this spirit is manifested to such a degree as in the United States. The rapid progress of human achievement in all fields in this country tends to show that the spirit of freedom is not merely the only dignified human attitude, but also that it in no way interferes with efficiency.

"We are at war. I can think of nothing better, nothing more to be hoped for, than the extension of the principle of the American spirit guaranteeing freedom and happiness, spreading as a gospel over the whole world."

The dinner was given in lieu of the annual banquet in Oslo, at which the year's group of Nobel awards used to be presented. The date, Dec. 10, is Nobel's birthday. The present memorial was arranged by the Common Council for American Unity, and was sponsored by the heads of 235 American colleges and universities.

Invited guests included all the 28 Nobel prizewinners now in this country. Among this brilliant array of guests were such famous names as Dr. Irving Langmuir, Dr. Arthur H. Compton, Dr. Albert Einstein, Fru Sigrid Undset, Pearl Buck, Thomas Mann, Eugene O'Neill and Sinclair Lewis.

*Science News Letter, December 19, 1942*



**TIGHT FORMATION**—This photograph taken at an advanced training base of the U. S. Army Air Forces, shows how future pilots are taught to fly the twin-engine "Jeep," the At-9, in tight formation. Close formation is used in actual warfare to provide maximum protection against enemy air attacks.