SEED ON STERILE GROUND?

In this article, certain criticisms which have been made of the activity of the Refugee Aid committee, and which hold true for similar programs, may be summarized. They may be summarized briefly thus: such programs are not fundamental, and as such they are not effective or constructive.

They may be compared to the bloodletting of medieval doctors, which may have made them a little better off, but given him a superficial air of health, but which did not make the least hindrance to the progress of the actual disease.

In this article, we discuss the various peace movements which have been much under discussion in the last few years—peace strikes, conferences, polls, organizations. These are rightly inspired, but defectively conceived.

Such programs are defectively conceived because they are attempting to tamper with the social problems of a nation, not with the life of human characteristics—those of combative ingenuity, aggression, selfishness—by appealing to surface emotions. Such programs are not fundamental, and as such they are not constructive.

Sponsors of these programs say that progress is achieved step by step, and so it is. A house is reared brick by brick, but if its foundations are sandy, that house will collapse no matter how carefully each brick has been laid, and no public interest in the improvement of democracy may be built up step by step by such programs as these. For each of these steps is so little and their cumulative effect is so easily destroyed—but as long as human beings give in to greed, ambition, and selfishness, that public interest is built upon sandy foundations.

These emotions are ingrained in human nature; they must be cured and trained, not talked out. Their removal must start way back in the very earliest training of the human being. He must be conditioned from his earliest period not to give in to such emotions. That is primarily a job for the family unit, and secondarily for the schools.

Proponents of the various peace movements are made towards the uplifting of human relations only when our school system begins to teach humanities from the very earliest grades, when the individual is accustomed only with the Golden Rule from his earliest childhood.

It may be that such programs as are sponsored by the American Student Union and the Refugee Aid Committee are a step to such an ideal condition. But more likely the seed they cast lands on ground too impervious, and the seed itself has no power of penetration.

ACTIVITY LEADERS ARE MADE, NOT BORN

About this time of year, the freshman’s mind begins to turn to thoughts of things other than the Institute and the pseudo-urgencies that crowd its class roll. He begins to manage to stay to after all. It wasn’t as tough as he had been told, and he’d come out rather better in his marks than he thought he would.

And so it is about this time that the freshman begins to think of raising a bit of money. Along about the second of May he’ll regret that impulse, but right now he wants to turn loose. Probably he has thought of activities, but not much. Most of the activities at this stage of the year hang their tongues out and open their arms at the sight of an energetic freshman candidate. And it’s a peculiar thing, but many of the men who eventually reach the top in the various activities are men who came out the second semester of their freshman year.

A lot of freshmen do turn up the first semester but a large number of them drop out for various reasons during the ensuing months, and by February most of the activities have very skinny staffs and are very wistful for more new blood. Freshmen who have had a preceding and feel the activities urge playing football with their corporals can get the dope on the situation at the Activities Bureau of the Walter Memorial Committee, or by dropping in the News Room of The Tech any Monday or Thursday night.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, The Tech

We are well aware that the Editor of The Tech has somewhat changed the play of the student press, but we wish to make our criticisms logically and realistically, and we appreciate the general interest which he has shown in our efforts. Perhaps he has arrived at somewhat erroneous conclusions; it is not denied, however, that some of the criticisms and criticisms, without foundation, and we consider them unjustifiable. The point which we wish to make, however, is that just this is the advantages and obvious benefits of helping these refugee students, inasmuch as the advantages of such aid as is possible are, we believe, considerable.

As we see the situation, there are three definite rewards which would result from such aid to German refugees:

1. Several students of high intellectual ability to study science and engineering and the German refugees who have been completely

2. Two hundred and fifty dollars a month for any of the substitute plans suggested by the German minority.

3. Finally, we shall demonstrate, in a small way, that science and engineering, and the German minority.

As we see the situation, there are three definite rewards which would result from such aid to German refugees:

1. Several students of high intellectual ability to study science and engineering and the German refugees who have been completely

2. Two hundred and fifty dollars a month for any of the substitute plans suggested by the German minority.

3. Finally, we shall demonstrate, in a small way, that science and engineering, and the German minority.