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TOP TO TOP

Tournelle

**DELEGATION FRANCAISE
AUX NATIONS UNIES**

New York 3 Février 1947

Madame,

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre du 27 Janvier adressée à M. Parodi et relative à M. Marko Jurincié.

L'Ambassadeur, actuellement à Paris, sera absent des Etats-Unis jusqu'à la mi Février. Je ne manquerai pas de lui communiquer votre lettre dès son retour.

Veillez agréer, Madame, mes hommages très respectueux.

G. de la Tournelle

G. de la Tournelle

Town Hall Association of Norwalk, Connecticut, Inc.

February 25, 1947

~~SECRET~~
MARIO EDWARD J. KELLEY
Honorary Chairman
ARTHUR D. SILVERSTEIN
President
EAK MALLINGHOFF
LOUIS F. GAGLEY
Vice-Presidents
HENRY MEYERS
Treasurer
MRS. CARL GOODWIN
Secretary

Silver
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park
N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt: -

I am enclosing with this note, a little brochure about our Town Hall in particular and the Town Hall Movement throughout the country.

In compiling it, I took the liberty of using your picture, for you were one of our honored guests and speakers at an important forum.

You will note that you are in good company - at least I hope you will think so.

We of the Town Hall Association shall long remember your visit to us - not because you were the First Lady of the United States with a most wonderful husband, but because of you, yourself - your charm, your utter selflessness, and your extremely fine speech and keen facility in answering the many questions which were hurled at you.

Hoping that you will again consent to be one of our speakers, I am, with warmest regards and admiration,

Sincerely

(No A. H.)
Merion Hamilton Diller
Merion Hamilton Diller
Ferry Avenue
Silvermine
Norwalk - Conn.

AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE PROGRAMS ARE:

Helen Abard
Sis Norman Angel
W. V. Archanski
Gen. Donald Armstrong
Roger Baldwin
Suzanne Ball
Catherine Beck
Edward L. Barnes
Dr. Eugene Bate
Dwight Bradley
Dr. Richard M. Brickey

Julian Bryan
G. M. H. Chamberlain
L. Alan Chase
Robert Chase
Leo Cherna
John Corbin
Ed DeSantis
Mark Gatta
Paul Gatta
Albert Haake
Emily Hahn

Paulington Hale
Harry Hobb Hall
Paul John Homan
Herbert Harro
Henry Healy
Marion Hays
Arthur Oswald Hayes
Henry Hiram
Lynn Henderson
Capt. Gordon Herin
Ray Hirsch

Quincy Hines
Dorothy Huntington
Alexandra Kerenky
Perry Knapp
Carline Latham
William L. Lawrence
Max Larson
William L. Lygan
James MacConnell
James Marshall
Dr. James Miles

Hiram Matherwell
Edgar Axel Mowbray
Benjamin Williamson Overstreet
Richard Peterson
Prof. Arthur Lyman Pope
Miss Lily Pons
Fletcher Pratt
Vivian Rorer
Blaise Ross
Col. Charles P. Rowan

Mrs. Frankie D. Rowan
Dorothy Russell
David Schiller
Gen. Dewey Sigler
Dr. Anne Smith
Eva Smet
Leola Starn
Dorothy Thompson
Henry J. Taylor
Lester Velle
Dorothy Wriggall
Walker Wiley



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
Hear Ye!

LET'S TALK IT OVER

Town Hall Association of Norwalk, Inc.
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

THE TOWN HALL OF NORWALK

Incorporated



Entrance to Norwalk High School where all Town Hall meetings are held.

OBJECTIVES

The Town Hall Association of Norwalk, Inc., is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-political, non-sectarian, educational organization, founded in 1942 by a small group of forward-looking, public-spirited Norwalkers. It aims to promote an intelligent and well-informed public opinion by bringing to its speaker's platform, national experts to debate and discuss up-to-the-minute vitally important national and international topics of the day.

1942 To 1947



Norman Cousins
Editor, Author,
Lecturer, Moderator
Norwalk Town Hall

HOW NORWALK'S TOWN HALL STARTED

By Norman Cousins

There isn't much to tell. It happened, as many things happen, because there were people who believed in it and who were willing to work for it.

One such person was Carl Goodwin. Another was Everett Baker. They drove out to Wilton to see me one evening early in August, 1942. They wanted to talk to me about starting a current events course at the YMCA. Carl Goodwin was Secretary of the "Y" at that time, and Everett Baker was a high school teacher interested in community activities. They spoke about the real need for information on and discussion of important issues. They said many people felt themselves really affected by the news for the first time in their lives, and were fumbling for what Carl Goodwin called "a handle on what's happening."

Remember, this was August, 1942. Germany was in command of the continent and was striking deep into Russia. V-1's were dropping everywhere in London. American troops had seen no action yet; and there was much speculation about a "second front" and whether we really had the power to crack our way into Europe. It was one of the lowest points in the war for us, and people seemed to be thinking a lot more deeply than ever before on what was at stake. They thought about institutions that took many hundreds of years to build up, about values in their personal lives, values in the community, values in government.

I was turning all this over in my mind as Carl Goodwin spoke. I was thinking, too, what an empty tub I would be if I didn't agree to help. I had just written a little book on democracy in the course of which I had glibly said that unless people were able to make democracy work in their own communities, unless they were willing to participate in establishing and maintaining their public forums and town halls and discussion groups, they couldn't expect to have a vital democracy on a national scale. And now Carl Goodwin and Everett Baker were asking in effect, whether I really meant what I said.

When they left that night, several things had already been decided: we were going to see whether the idea might not be attempted on a community scale; we were going to experiment with public debates involving many speakers instead of making it a lecture course; we were going to hold a preliminary meeting of representatives of Norwalk's organizations and attempt to carry on from there.

In order to do all this, a few key people were needed, people who could catch the spark and pass it on to others. Carl Goodwin and Everett Baker went out and found them. They found Howard W. Gorham, who became our first President; Louis P. Gallet, who became Vice-President and who later succeeded Mr. Gorham; Marion H. Diller, who was to become Director of our Publicity; Henry L. Meyers, who alternated as Treasurer and Chairman of the Membership Committee; Eric

(Continued on page 11)

THE TOWN HALL MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

By George V. Denny, Jr., Pres. The Town Hall, Inc.

At this crucial time, Year II of the Atomic Age, the Town Hall Movement offers America a formula that will help find the right answers to the urgent problems of today, just as the early New England Town Meeting helped our forebears to live together in peace and security three hundred years ago.

The key to the problem lies in how we use our minds. Having used our minds to learn the secret of how to destroy the human race, we stand trembling before our own handiwork, apparently impotent to prevent the coming cataclysm. Instead of seeking honestly for universal principles in the realm of human relationships—as scientists seek to discover universal laws—we are bound by ancient concepts of nationalism, racism, groupism and creedism which lead inevitably to war and destruction. The mind is a very docile instrument, as we have discovered. Man easily believes that which he wishes to believe. Until we can learn to use our minds in the realm of human relations with the same ruthless integrity that the scientists have used theirs in the world of physical relationships, there is little hope that we shall find peace or security.

Because the Town Hall Movement offers free men the opportunity to find the right answers for themselves, it has made a widespread appeal to men and women throughout the nation. Town Hall's forums and discussion groups, at educational institutions, are flourishing today in this country as never before.

A few weeks ago I received a letter from a former member of our Town Hall staff with our occupation forces in Japan describing "the most exciting Town Hall Meeting I've ever seen . . . as 4,000 Japanese jammed into Tokyo's Hibbya Park Theater to speak freely, expressing their opinion on a matter of life and death, food." Four years ago we received word of a Town Meeting in Chungking. Last week we received at Town Hall letters from radio stations in Germany and Holland asking for help in setting up Town Hall programs. Yes, the Town Hall Movement is spreading around the world, too.

We, in the Town Hall Movement, do not pretend to know the answers but we have an abiding faith in the essential decency and goodness of man. We can and should use every ounce of spiritual and physical energy we can devote toward bringing the astounding facts of the Atomic Age to the attention of the widest possible audience. We are confident that then, if we will but give our minds and hearts a chance to function with the integrity of the pure scientist, we can and will find the right answers.

I at this time extend the heartiest congratulations to the Norwalk Town Hall which is holding high the banner of the Town Hall Movement in another great crisis in the history of the American people.



Geo. V. Denny, Jr.
Founder, Moderator
"America's Town Meeting of the Air"



Arthur D. Sylvester
Manufacturer
1948 Pres. of
Town Hall Ass'n.

THE PLACE OF TOWN HALL IN COMMUNITY THINKING

By Arthur D. Sylvester

The tempo of change has risen in our generation to a pitch never experienced before in all world history. Today man's greatest need is ability to adapt himself speedily to the changes with which he is confronted — his greatest danger that too many of us fail to do so.

As never before, the most important thing in the world is for every human being to learn how to get along with his neighbors — for now the whole world is one great neighborhood in which every man is neighbor to every other man.

Norwalk's Town Hall aims to help the community learn how we can best get along together in this fast-shrinking, swift-changing, modern world.

In this effort it does not depend, as our forefathers largely depended, solely upon local leaders for inspiration and guidance in their old time town meetings, but it draws upon experts in their several fields, wherever they may be found.

Rather than through the lecture as an educational device, Town Hall uses debate and discussion.

The work of the moderator deserves special emphasis. He must always maintain the atmosphere of open-mindedness.

In addition to providing great speakers and a moderator Town Hall provides opportunity for the large audiences to participate in the question and answer period. This forms an important part of each meeting.

In the end the many hundreds of subscribers are impelled either to conclude that one speaker had the better of the debate, or to think out their own answers to the problem presented. Whether well educated or ill informed, regular attendants gain new knowledge and better judgment about many widely varied problems of current interest and importance.

Subjects on the national or international level are usually selected for discussion. Local problems may some day be added for we have many of these which are highly provocative and not a few of them are not well understood.

Many people wonder "Why our Norwalk Town Hall does not" regularly broadcast. The answer lies in technical difficulties; arranging time; and cost. Perhaps technical advances may some day make possible a purely local broadcasting station. Should this ever happen we might reach out to the whole community as an audience. For the present, personal attendance is necessary in order to secure Town Hall's benefits.

Thus it is the business of The Town Hall Association of Norwalk, Inc., to challenge complacency in the community; to provide it with sound information and well-considered opinion; and to give it inspiration toward practical idealism. It has already made a unique and secure place for itself in relation to community thinking. Its potential importance for the future is incalculable.

THE TOWN HALL FROM A WORLD VIEWPOINT

By Sigrid Schultz

Those of us whose duty it was and is, to report on foreign affairs from points all over the globe, in books, newspapers, magazines and over the radio, made a heartbreaking discovery in the past quarter of a century. Before the totalitarianists and experts on mass psychology got together we believed that if our reports appeared in the publications for which we worked, if our broadcasts were heard in America, we were doing our job. Today we know that is not enough.

After Hitler and his partners had been at work for some time, we found an alarmingly big number of our countrymen falling for the tales, claims and distortions disseminated by men and women enamored of the various styles of totalitarianism. What is worse, we find that even after Hitler and Hirohito declared war on us, after we licked them as no one was ever licked before, agitators and their dupes continue to work assiduously — and much too effectively — in our own country — to steer us away from the sound horse sense, the practical wisdom and alert energy which are part of the American heritage and which alone can enable us to protect and improve our way of life.

In the past, the victims of enemy propaganda often included the tourist and conventioner who went to Europe for a few months of fun, the businessman who travelled to put over a deal, the student and professor who were sure that what they learned in Europe was better than anything in America. Many considered themselves amateur diplomats. Their gullibility was surpassed only by their stupidity. In Nazi and fascist countries we saw these innocents abroad feted and flattered as never before in their lives.

Today we see this same expert bootlicking and flattery being lavished on the victors of the war — including the hundreds of thousands of Americans on duty overseas. Correspondents who know Europe and Asia well are deeply alarmed by the adroitness with which foreign propagandists are working on our representatives of all groups. Our enemies lost the war. They lost nothing of their ability to create trouble and carry on propaganda. Therefore, if our men are not to have died and won in vain in this greatest war of all times, we must learn to distinguish the news wheat from the chaff of propaganda.

At Town Hall meetings we can watch agitators froth at the mouth, beat their chests and try to envenom our mutual relationship as the Hitlers of this world did before World War II and an alert audience can deflate the little and big imitators of totalitarianism who threaten our communal and international peace.

Any foreign correspondent who has been abroad in the past year knows that regardless of race, color and creed the inhabitants of this, our steadily shrinking globe, have one basic idea in common. They crave security. Millions witnessed



Sigrid Schultz
Author, Foreign
Correspondent
Town Hall Ex. Com.

(Continued on page 11)

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AND NAMES OF SOME OF NORWALK TOWN HALL SPEAKERS



A Eleanor Roosevelt
B Joseph P. Kamp
C Carl P. Romulo
D Walter White
E William L. Lawrence

Hilbert Abund
Prof. Norman Angel
W. V. Archawski
Gen. Donald Armstrong
Roger Baldwin
U. S. Senator Joseph H. Ball
Carlton Beale
Edward L. Bernays
Dr. Ernst Boas
Douglas Bradley
Dr. Richard M. Brickner

1942 AUTUMN
"The Second Front" — 1 Speaker
"The Indian Problem" — Debate, 2 Speakers
"Foundations for Lasting Peace" — 1 Speaker
"How Should Government Regulate Manpower?" — 2 Speakers.

1943 SPRING
"Post-War Peace Problems" — Debate, 2 Speakers
"Will Collective Security Work This Time?" — Debate, 2 Speakers
"Can Democracy Survive This War" — Debate, 2 Speakers
"Is the World Ready for Democracy?" — 1 Speaker

1943 AUTUMN
"Election Issues" — Local
"Can Russia Go Democratic Under Stalin?" — Debate, 4 Speakers
"Is Germany Incurable?" — Debate, 3 Speakers
"The American Destiny" — 1 Speaker
"Must America Remake the World?" — Symposium, 2 Speakers

1944 SPRING
"What To Do With Germany?" — Debate, 2 Speakers
"What To Do With Japan?" — Debate, Symposium, 2 Speakers.
"The Eve of The Invasion" — Symposium, 3 Speakers
An overall analysis of Military Strategy, Naval and Air Powers

"Does America Need a Fourth Term?" — Debate, 2 Speakers

1944 AUTUMN
"Candidates Meeting" State, National.
"Prosperity or Depression After the War?" — Symposium, 3 Speakers
"What Does Russia Want?" Debate, 4 Speakers.
"Will Fascism Lead to War in the Americas?" — Debate, 4 Speakers
"Is the Emergence of Labor as a Political Force a Healthy Development in American Life?" — Debate, 2 Speakers

Earl Browder
Julian Bryson
Wm. H. Chamberlain
J. Alan Chase
Stuart Chase
Leo Cherns
John Corbin
Norman Cousins
Bil Culbertson
Prof. Thomas Dickstein
Mark Gayn

Alan Green
Paul Groke
Albert Haake
Emily Hahn
Pennington Hale
Henry Noble Hall
Prof. John Hanna
Herbert Harris
Murray Harris
Mortimer Hays
Arthur Garfield Hayes

Henry Harlett
Leon Henderson
Capt. Gordon Heriot
Guy Hickok
Quincy Howe
Howard Huntington
Alexander Kerenisky
Percy Knauth
Corliss Lamont
William L. Lawrence
Max Lerner

Clare Boothe Luce
William Lydgate
Innes MacCammond
James Marshall
Dr. James Miller
Hiram Motherwell
Edgar Ansel Mowrer
Bonarzo Wilkinson Overstreet
Dr. Harry Allen Overstreet
William E. Patterson
Randolph Paul

Houston Peterson
Dr. Lena Madison Phillips
Prof. Arthur Upham Pope
Lily Pons
Fletcher Pratt
Victor Riesel
Victor Riesel
Elmer Rize
Col. Carlos P. Romulo
Eleanor Roosevelt
Beardsley Ruml

Bertrand Russell
Sigris Schultz
Dr. Guy Smery Shiger
Dr. Anup Singh
Rex Stout
Justin Sturm
Dorothy Thompson
Henry J. Taylor
William D. Turner
Lester Velle
Dennis Weigand
Walter White

1945 SPRING

"What Can We Expect From the San Francisco Conference?"
1 Speaker, Panel of 4
* Special Report of this Meeting will be found on the inside of back cover.

"How Can We Create 60,000,000 Post-War Jobs?" 1 Speaker, Panel of 4

"How Can We Devise An Adequate Medical Program For All?" — Debate, 2 Speakers

"How Can America Protect Her Minorities?" Symposium — 4 Speakers
March of Time Moving Picture "Americans All" — shown.

1945 AUTUMN

"Candidates Meeting" — Local Election Issues
"I Saw The Bombing of Nagasaki." 1 Speaker
"How Can We Control Destructive Atomic Energy?"
1 Speaker, Panel of 3

"Is Fascism In South America A Threat To The United States?" 1 Speaker, Panel of 4

"Shall Government Increase Its Regulations Over Labor Unions?" Debate, 2 Speakers, 1 Speaker for the Public.

1946 SPRING

This series of Debates, Symposiums and Forums was omitted by vote of the Executive Committee of the Town Hall of Norwalk Association, Inc., which has its Annual Meeting in February, and meets weekly or fortnightly from August to July.

1946 AUTUMN

"Candidates Meeting" — State, National
"Labor-Management Strife — Does It Endanger Our Democracy?" — Debate, 2 Speakers

"Russia — How Can We Build a Common Peace?" Debate, 2 Speakers

"The Atomic Bomb versus Human Intelligence" 1 Speaker, Panel of 4

"The Battle Against Inflation — How Can Your Dollar Be Protected?" Debate, 2 Speakers.



F Dorothy Thompson
G Leon Henderson
H Max Lerner
I Henry J. Taylor
J Roger Baldwin



Eric Malmquist
Principal Nor. High
Vice President of
Norwalk Town Hall

THE TOWN HALL FORUM AND THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

By Eric Malmquist

When the Town Hall came to Norwalk, the Social Studies Department of the Norwalk High School grasped the opportunity to have its students see and hear in person the leaders of American thought and action. The faculty had long wanted the opportunity to give students first hand knowledge from the lips of those people who are shaping the future of the world in which we live. It was obviously impossible to have world famous figures come to their classrooms. Town Hall made it possible to take the classes to the speakers.

The Board of Education was quick to appreciate the fact that this opportunity should be given to the students. To help in bringing the speakers to Norwalk, our Board of Education made the Norwalk High School Auditorium available at the minimum rental. Not only the students but the people of Norwalk are benefited by this farseeing policy.

High School Students are given free tickets to the Town Hall Series. The instructors give them out and check on their use. In this way we know that our students attend the sessions in large numbers.

Students like to review the points made by the speakers. Part of the class period on the day following the forum is devoted to the discussion. It is apparent that these young people not only appreciate the significance of the subjects they discuss but they also feel their responsibility for knowledge of them. They are learning citizenship in a most practical way — the way it was learned in the early days of our country — the Town Hall way.



TOWN HALL PRE-FORUMS

By Louis P. Gallet, Leader

For a period of a half hour before each regular Town Hall meeting, a pre-forum is conducted, with a moderator presiding.

During this period, members in the audience are encouraged to get up and give their opinions on the topic to be discussed by the regularly engaged speakers, later in the evening. Any one in the audience with the urge to speak can do so, up to three minutes, being limited in time so that as many as want to can tell their fellow townspeople what they think. Many interesting and spirited discussions and debates result when the topic is a particularly controversial one, and not infrequently some heat is generated, which makes for a lively pre-forum.

The moderator, at the beginning of the pre-forum, and after a brief introduction, asks as many leading questions as are necessary to prompt the first response from the audience, and after that condenses for the benefit of those present, the remarks of a speaker. At times even this isn't necessary, as our Norwalkers have both strong convictions and good lungs, and on a night when an issue is clearly drawn and we find strong opposing schools of thought the moderator frequently doubles as a demonstrator of Roberts Rules of Order.

The pre-forums are very stimulating, and serve two purposes: they give opportunity to those who have decided opinions to relieve themselves of any sense of oratorical frustration, and they also serve as a challenge to the ability of Norwalkers to keep abreast of current situations. That they have done so is attested by the fact that, on many evenings several of our impromptu speakers have heard their own ideas simply advanced in greater detail by speakers of considerable renown, later in the evening.

Our pre-forums have unfailingly meant the development of very enlivening evenings, and we confidently expect those in the future to follow the same pattern.

FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN HALL ASSOCIATION OF NORWALK, OCTOBER 20, 1942

"The meeting was called to order by General Chairman, Howard W. Gorham. Those present at the meeting were: Marion H. Diller, Grace V. Gorham, M. D., Grace K. Sartor, Ruth S. McMahon, Margaret R. Brendlinger, Rabbi Benjamin H. Tumim, Alice K. Cole, Helen L. Patterson, Robert M. Goodman, John W. Dean, H. R. Wilkie, Eric Malmquist, Irving Freese, L. P. Gallet, W. E. Grindrod, Louis Lemaire, Harold Rockwell, Everett Baker, Henry Meyers, H. Truman Horton, Howard Gorham, Norman Cousins, C. H. Goodwin."



Louis P. Gallet
Honorary, 1942 Pres.
of Town Hall
Vice Pres. 1946



Howard Gorham
Executive
1912-14 Pres. of
Town Hall

NORWALK'S TOWN HALL CANDIDATES MEETINGS

By Howard W. Gorham

When our country was young and our communities were small, the practice of Democracy was a comparatively simple process, because when a citizen was nominated for office, his qualifications and integrity were well known in advance by his fellow townsmen.

Today, in the complex society we move in and have our being, it often happens that a person does not even know his next door neighbor and cares less about his neighbor's problems. With such a condition existing it is important that the electorate have an opportunity to observe and hear the candidates in person and not just rely on stimulated Press Reports.

Norwalk's Town Hall Non-Partisan Political meetings do just that. For a number of years it has invited all candidates to present their party's platform and state their views on pertinent questions affecting the general public welfare. The meetings have always been promoted by the Town Hall with the cooperation of the Norwalk League of Women Voters. No admission is charged; the Town Hall Association paying all expense and a full house has always been assembled for the candidates to talk to.

Marion Hamilton Diller, a charter member of the Executive Committee of Town Hall, has acted as Publicity Director for the Association since the spring of 1943.

Henry Meyers, charter member of the Executive Committee of Town Hall, has acted as Membership Chairman for the Association, and at present holds the office of Treasurer of the Town Hall Association of Norwalk, Inc.



Marion H. Diller
Housewife
Public Spirited Citizen



Carl H. Goodwin
Founder T. H. A.
Y. M. C. A., Red Cross
Executive (Deceased)

There is no doubt but what these Political Meetings have been of immeasurable benefit to the voters in choosing national, municipal and state officers best fitted to serve and who meet with general public approval.

Carl Goodwin, one of the founders of Town Hall, was the Association's first Secretary, a post he continued to fill until he went with Red Cross overseas in 1944. Since his death in Germany, in the line of duty, his wife, Mrs. Dorleska Goodwin, has been acting as Secretary.



Henry Meyers
Manufacturer
Civic Leader

HOW NORWALK'S TOWN HALL STARTED

(Continued from page 2)

Malmquist, who was to take charge of the Arrangements Committee; and Truman Horton, who was to work on membership, and others.

Then, one night in October, 1942, some sixty people representing Norwalk's Churches, her civic, social and business organizations came together. The question was put to them directly, even bluntly. Would they be willing to support a Town Hall? Would they help in the membership drive? Would they be willing to help us get nationally known speakers?

To each of these questions, the group replied with an emphatic "yes." Once that was known, it was possible to get the Norwalk Town Hall Association formally organized, elect our officers, and plan our meetings.

Well, all that was eight series and about seventy speakers ago. It's been a lot of work but I know I speak for all of us when I say that we can't think of any work we've enjoyed more. Town Hall has grown; they say we've become the largest public forum group of any city our size in New England. For all of which we are properly thankful. One face, however, we continue to miss. Carl Goodwin, who fathered Town Hall and whose sense of public responsibility was such an inspiration to all of us, died in France shortly before victory in Europe while in the service of the American Red Cross.

THE TOWN HALL FROM A WORLD VIEWPOINT

(Continued from page 5)

and felt the horrors of this war. Millions know that the atomic and other weapons which our scientists devised threaten mankind's survival. Security is what they want.

It may be utopian to assume that we can develop security on a world-wide scale in our lifetime. It would be cowardice not to attempt to work for it.

As foreign correspondents who saw the poison of hatred and distrust and greed used to foment World War II in secret well-organized campaigns, we feel the need of public debunking and discussion most strongly. We know that much of the fact finding that is vitally necessary for any attempt at building up a better peace can be done in public, in our Town Hall meetings where we can mercilessly expose the professional emotionalists or panicmongers, and where we can do constructive work by throwing in our lot with those who show the understanding dignity, energy, vision and the joyous vitality which made the miracle of America possible.

PUBLIC SPIRITED SPONSORS

1946 FALL SERIES

Norwalk's Town Hall has had the financial and moral support of a large group of its citizens who have contributed generously. Among those who made the 1946 Fall Series possible are the following who subscribed to special memberships:

Florence B. Adler
Dr. Jason Burack
John Cavanagh
Ward B. Chamberlin
Paul R. Connerly
Norman Cousins
Dr. Lewis Fox
Edwin A. Georgi
Dr. Grace Gorham
Howard W. Gorham
N. H. Greenberg
Jack Hausman
Samuel Hausman

SUSTAINING MEMBERS:

Mortimer Hays
Mayor Edward J. Kelley
Judge Freeman Light
Frederick Lovejoy, Jr.
Casper Lowenstein
Harry S. Mayer
U. S. Sen. Brian McMahon
George Meyers
Henry Meyers
Samuel Meyers
Douglas Nash
Harold L. Nash
Leo Nevas

Robert B. Oliver
Samuel Roodner
Mrs. Hedwig Schultz
Michael Steinberg
Senator S. Stroppolino
Victor J. Sudman
Arthur D. Sylvester
William F. Tammany
Dr. E. J. Tracy
Thomas J. Wall
Ray Werme
Lawrence A. Wien

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS:

Anna S. Ambler
Oscar Amundsen
Morris Aron
Fred B. Ashbey
Robert C. Axley
Warren J. Buck
Ruth Burr
Marion H. Diller
Monroe L. Dinell
Mrs. M. L. Dinell
Judge Arnold R. Fasano
Irving Freese
Louis P. Gallet
Marshall Gans
John Glover

G. Francis Gray
Dr. H. Howard Green
Charles Hazz
Edwin Harris
Louis Harris
Robert E. Howard
John Sherman Hoyt
W. Irving Hubbell
Richard H. Ireland
Dr. Philip A. Jakob
Dr. W. H. N. Johnson
John Keogh
Currier Lang
Ethel Lenore

William Levine
Faith N. Ogden
Leon K. Paris
Dr. Fred A. Patterson
Lawrence K. Paul
Sherwood Prothero
Joseph Robins
Herbert Rothenstein
Carl B. Rowilson
Samuel Sallick
Horace Seymour
Dr. L. G. Simon
Mabel Thomas
John Vassos

The Town Hall Association of Norwalk, Inc.

Mail Address: P. O. Box 292
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

SPECIAL REPORT ON DISCUSSION OF

"WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE?"

The U. S. Government O. W. I. reported this meeting, April 18, 1947, considering Norwalk Town Hall outstanding and typical of "Democracy in Action." Subsequently, the photographs and story achieved by the O. W. I. were put in pamphlet form, translated into over 20 languages and distributed all over the world. One of these pamphlets was found by Guy Hickok — a member of the Panel that night — in a public building in Yugoslavia in the autumn of the same year. It was written in Serbian and Croatian. Captions under the 12 photographs have been translated and photostatic copies of the pamphlet are now the property of Town Hall. Any interested member of the Town Hall Association may buy one of these copies at cost, although they are not very good.

This was a particularly important meeting because the capacity audience unanimously adopted a Resolution in favor of World Organization. This was sent to San Francisco to the Conference, to Congressional representatives in Washington, and the Resolution is quoted in toto in the Congressional Record and in the Yugoslav pamphlet.

Three of the photographs are reproduced in this booklet: 1. The frontispiece, showing Norwalk High School main entrance door. 2. The interior of auditorium showing Speaker, U. S. Senator Ball, Panel, and Moderator. 3. Some of the young students in the audience.



Town Hall

George Denney is taking Town Hall on a tour of Europe this summer. They want you to make a 30 second recording which will be used on ABC between now and when they leave, stating you think this a contribution to the promotion of democracy or anything you like. They will arrange for a studio, or you can do it when you do other recordings.

Miss Wood - Town Hall

~~OK~~
ack

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

Towne

March 1 '47

Mrs. Roosevelt

The comment on page 7 on one of
your recent "My Day" editorials
may interest you.

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AN INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE FOR BUSINESS EDUCATORS

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ELEANOR ROOSEVELT ON DISCIPLINE IN THE SCHOOL

Whenever classroom teachers in larger cities and in many smaller ones too, get together, their first topic of conversation is what to do with the "kids." Frankly in many communities teaching has become a distasteful profession not only because of poor salary, but even more because working conditions are so unpleasant. In the meantime college teachers and school administrators continue to spin grandiose ideas of pedagogical theory.

We recently heard a learned educationist lecture a faculty on what is "good teaching." This faculty spends its time propounding what is good teaching, and presumably can read and has read books dealing with principles of good teaching — some of them have written such books. What a beautiful case of bringing coals to Newcastle! Yet never once in this talk did the professor mention classes of 45 and more with seats for 37; teachers with five different subject preparations; compulsory passing of all students; frequent cases of mayhem against teachers by overgrown students; thousands of boys who just yearn to be thrown out of school and enjoy the idea of a session in reform schools; and principals who have developed to a fine art the technique of being elsewhere when trouble is brewing. This situation prevails in far too many schools in the community in which the learned doctor talked—yet never once did he mention it.

Teachers would love to do what the theorist demands. Give the usual teacher classes of 15 to 18 students; a room in which they can collect the teaching materials so urgently demanded; a little free time to plan for teaching; just a bit of support from the administration and the home; and a decent living wage, and you will find miracles performed in many classrooms. Precisely the opposite prevails in the usual school of today. Children have learned to be insolent and irresponsible in the home, and yet teachers are supposed to get perfect working conditions with kind words! The little darling who is an angel when he is receiving constant attention from mother and dad and from his sisters and his cousins and his aunts becomes a demon when he is one of forty. Give him individual attention says the case worker who has a pleasant *tete-a-tete* with the problem child in her well ordered office. Naturally he is a darling—he's getting attention. Sister, you do it with a class of forty impatient uninterested individualists. Sister, you know better—that's why you are preaching instead of teaching.

It is time we placed the responsibility where it primarily belongs—first, with the parent who lets her little sugar dumpling think he is the creature of the ages instead of just another mortal; second, with the administrator who sits in his office and ignores the problem of the teacher; third, with the college teacher who falsely applies teaching theory that can work with well organized classes of 15 to ill-planned mass schooling with typical classes of 40; and finally with the public for failing to provide the facilities for taking care of what we all recognize as the only important possession we have—our children.

Fortunately many administrators, a few college teachers, and even members of the lay public now and then, recognize the problem. We were delighted to note that Mrs. Roosevelt is aware of the relationship between juvenile delinquency and faulty conceptions of progressive education. She gives evidence of awareness that better teaching conditions must prevail before we can put into practice the splendid teachings of Dewey. As it now is, with poor parental control and bad school conditions, the application of progressive methods is a farce. Create good working conditions and then apply your theory—it will work! Apply your theory in the hope that it will improve a bad school situation—the result is chaos. More power to you, Eleanor — keep on presenting the facts — we want more of them—and more like you to present them.

Herbert A. Lonne
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