

WHAT SHALL I DO ABOUT IT?

As the struggle toward "The Brotherhood of Good Men" on this world progresses, the foremost needs of the day change. In 1917 the need of the day was for military action and the need was filled by the entry of the United States into World War I. When the armistice came in 1918 some people understood the need of the day for international cooperation, but this need was not understood by enough people, so the need was not filled.

The failure of the League of Nations to solve the international problems arising between 1938 and 1939 indicated that the people of the world had not yet learned how to put into practice the commandment "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" which had been preached for over 1900 years.

In 1939 the situation reached the point where problems could be solved only by military action or by universal passive resistance. Since passive resistance was not adopted by sufficient people at the right time, the situation changed to conditions that required military action for solution. The United States was slow to comprehend the international situation, but finally responded to the need in 1941 by entering World War II after being attacked by Japan.

As the European War is nearing the end, and the toughest part of the Pacific War is about to start, we have a United Nations Conference on International Organization which gives hope of producing something much more successful than the old League of Nations.

Even though the hopes for a world organization look bright now, there are many social problems which must be solved in order to guarantee continued successful operation of the United Nations organization. A part of the need for military action is the need for developing and designing new devices for the use of the armed forces. The need has been met and is still being met by the concentrated attack upon these problems by the scientists of the United Nations.

Although we still have a war to finish I am giving some thought to the situation after the Pacific War is over. Rapid advances have been made in recent years in physics, chemistry, biology, physiology, and related fields. Comparatively more complex fields such as psychology and religion have farther to go to make possible the proper use of the new inventions that man can use either for war or peace.

I question whether I can adequately do my part in solving the social problems of the day, if I continue specializing in electrical engineering and physics, leaving the social problems to my spare time. I am considering doing some study after the war on the problem of establishing the "Brotherhood of Man" in our time. This resolves itself into two parts. The first is the philosophical approach to establish the interdependent relationship of all men to one another in this world. The second is to study, propose, and try out improved practical techniques of cooperation between men so that people can really say that they love their neighbors as themselves.

When the Pacific war is over, I propose to do some studying¹ on two inter-related subjects. The first would be more theoretical, consisting of research in some special combination of physics, chemistry, zoology, biology, physiology, psychology, and religion. The second part would be more practical, comprising research in the field of economics on the problem of utilizing that which is gained in the first problem for the benefit of man. This plan may be too comprehensive for any one person to handle, but I believe that I could make some progress along organizing and liaison work between experts in the various fields after becoming more familiar with the fields of knowledge mentioned in the first part for which I am not specifically trained.

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¹Note: Combination of certain undergraduate courses in social sciences with graduate study in fields for which I am qualified.