

# THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

## Misuse Of The Charter

Dear Sirs:  
Every earnest advocate of world organization and every sincere lover of peace should put on mourning following the news of Aug. 9. Unfortunately, the first "use" of the new world organization is a sordid misuse! Under the prominent headline, "Truman Used Charter as Nudge to Help Stalin Decide," the news release from Washington in the *Christian Science Monitor* says:

"The six-weeks old United Nations Charter, though not actually in force, played its part in persuading Generalissimo Josef Stalin that Russia should join its Allies in their war against Japan . . ."

"Quoting Charter provisions and excerpts from the Moscow Declaration of 1943, President Truman pointedly explained to the Russians that prior commitments—such as the Russo-Japanese pact that still has 9 months to run—were inoperative under terms of the United Nations agreement."

Thus, even before the world organization has formally come into existence, it receives a heavy blow from its own misguided proponents.

It has been all too clear during the critical decades between World Wars I and II that the "noble experiment" of the League of Nations failed, not primarily because it lacked "teeth," nor even because America failed to join, but rather because the League was tied to the unjust, iniquitous Versailles Treaty and almost from the start was used by the big members not primarily as a dynamic agency for building a new order of increasing justice and integrity in international affairs, but rather as an instrument to perpetuate an utterly unbalanced and impossible "status quo" and as a pious cloak for the continuance of the sordid poker game of power politics.

Now, lured by the bait of a temporary military advantage, of questionable expediency at best, America's representatives at Potsdam deliberately used the new Charter as a means of bringing pressure upon Russia to continue, rather than to abandon, the traditional thesis of international poker-power-politics that solemn treaties become mere scraps of paper when it appears to be the immediate self-interest of their makers so to regard them.

The first League of Nations was handicapped by the United States' absence. Imperfect as it was, we ought to have joined it—especially since we had participated in the war—and to have made our powerful influence count towards correcting the League's weaknesses and re-directing its course.

Is the new attempt at world organization to be endangered by our presence? Not only have we acceded, however reluctantly, to the subjugation of Poland and the Baltic and Balkan States, as well as to the division of Germany, and indicated our purpose to seize for ourselves bases in the far Pacific—thus setting up a "peace" even more vicious than Versailles—but even before it has had a chance to be decently born, we have helped to steer this new venture in world organization—in which the suffering, agonizing millions around the world have been led to place their hopes—into the same old channel of irresponsible opportunism!

Sometimes, unfortunately, chickens come home to roost. If in five or ten years we should seek to hold Russia to some treaty obligation—because at that moment it should be to our interest to have her observe it—she can thumb her nose at us and remind us of when we suggested an "excuse" for her to violate her solemn treaty with Japan in 1945.

When the full implications of this reversion to type in world affairs dawn upon a suffering world, it will be seen that in order to gain the immediate advantage of Russia's military participation we have "paid," in the words of Benjamin Franklin, "too much—far too much—for our whistle."

MARK R. SHAW  
Melrose, Mass.

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Pass The Progressive Along

## Everyday Movies

By Wortman



"I'll get this very nice one to send to our butcher."

## Britain And India

Dear Sirs:

The cartoon you use in the issue of Aug. 6, Page 5, showing Clement Attlee presenting a banner reading, "Leftward the course of empire takes its way" amply upholds your statement that our liberals who expected improved conditions in India were in for a sore disappointment.

However, the editor whose words you quote, namely, "All British parties have been as one regarding that country," should be corrected.

The Independent Labor Party (Socialist too like the British Labor Party) is and has been for many years for drastic changes in India. Its organ *The New Leader*, edited by Fenner Brockway, calls today for full and complete independence for India with no ifs, ands, or buts. However, the I.L.P. refused to go along with the coalition government and to support its "war pilot," Winston Churchill!

BLANCHE WATSON  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

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## Pro-German

Dear Sirs:

In reference to Mr. Villard's article, "The Potsdam Pact: Disaster for Europe," in your Aug. 13 issue, I want to point out that this is one of the dirtiest articles I have ever read. Articles like this only stir up dissension on the home front. He condemns Russia when President Truman himself said that Russia suffered the greatest loss of the Allies in soldiers, civilians, and property destruction.

While he was writing his malicious propaganda against Russia, she already had declared war on Japan.

He also is against a strong policy to break the Nazi system of fascism, and we know from our own experiences that by being kind and generous, we are only laying the seeds for a 3rd World War. So we must be in full accordance with the Big Three to knock Germany down to her knees and make her an agricultural nation, because I have served in this war and I don't want to have my son fight in the next one.

In conclusion, after reading *The Progressive* for several years I can only say, and the records prove, that you continually show a pro-German attitude in your magazine because there is a majority of German people in your state.

As far as Russia is concerned, the records prove that she has never lied and that we can always be on the best of terms, even though our forms of government may be different.

GEORGE RODEL  
Wheaton, Ill.

## Russian Life

Dear Sirs:

A time ago your People's Forum gave a harvest of pro-Stalin letters. As the leader goes, so go his followers. Most of the letters were brutal and insincere.

My brother is in the Red Army. He fought in the battle of Stalingrad, and chased the German murderers to the gates of Vienna. But when he writes me: "Dear David: The war has ended, and I am now in Austria," here come the censor's scissors and all the rest of the letter is cut out, till the last line, "My brother."

This letter represents all Russian life. A life with freedom, mercy, and decency wiped out. It is life as expressed by the Russian poets: "A life on a cemetery."

DAVID BERKINGOFF  
Bronx, N. Y.

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## Dewey's Playmates

Dear Sirs:

Mr. Calvert of Jackson Heights, N. Y., was crying his pretty eyes out in the People's Forum of July 16 because the people chose not to elect Mr. Dewey as President last November. Mr. Dewey, the cure for war.

Well, I have a stake in this war that includes an only son who'll be 18 come next December. He's crowding in one semester of pre-law this Summer before entering the service on his 18th birthday. And, I voted for Mr. Roosevelt. And, I hate war.

I didn't vote for Mr. Roosevelt as such, but rather, against Tom Dewey. I really wanted to vote for a Republican and still do, but last November the Republicans wouldn't let me.

I have nothing against Mr. Dewey personally, but I dislike his playmates. A vote against Mr. Dewey was a vote against his late godmother, Mrs. R. H. McSimms. Against the *Chicago Tribune*, against Hoover of Anacostia Flats, against Gannett and his ilk.

I'm hoping against hope that the Republicans will give me the opportunity of helping to elect a Republican President come 1948. I'm not thinking in terms of our own home-grown, synthetically inflated "Hero of Frisco", Mr. Stassen, either.

Z. MERRITT  
St. Paul, Minn.

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## Praise For Clair

Dear Sirs:

Louis Clair's "The American Victims of Nazism," in your Aug. 13 issue was fine and courageous. Let us hear more from him.

S. K. BENTON  
Chicago, Ill.

## What's The Matter?

Dear Sirs:

Like most of the articles in *The Progressive*, "What's The Matter With America?" in the Aug. 6th issue should have a circulation of 10 or more million. Or are there that many people with open minds?

What's the matter with the newspapers? What's the matter with the inarticulate, the silent, the common people, of whom there are so many?

But why speak of "see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil" as representing the American Liberals? Because a man calls himself a Christian does not make him a Christian. Surely you are wrong if you have reference to *The Nation* or *The New Republic*. No sane individual would call those papers liberal. You now have the only liberal editor *The Nation* ever had.

What stumps me about your intelligent writers is that they all seem to be under the impression that by handing out charity to the workers by way of the Government we will make progress.

There is much talk of freedom but where is the freedom while most people have no right to stand upon the land excepting by permission of some individual, even though that individual is an organized Government with the power to tell the individual where he may go and how, if he wants something to eat?

There can be no actual freedom unless the land is made free for use, that is, freed from monopoly control, and the easiest way to bring that about is for the community to take that which goes into the pockets of land speculators and landlords who do nothing to improve the land but live on the labor of others by taking the rent from the users of the land while they do nothing to improve it.

If I improve my house or enlarge my shop a tax is added to discourage my industry, even though I use no more land. If I start to manufacture some thing that might be wanted by the community I am taxed for my industry while the man who holds a title to the land, no matter how he got it, collects rent for the mere use of the land.

The more government does for the individual the less able does he become to do anything for himself. He becomes an object of government charity.

ALEXIS C. FERN  
Stelton, N. J.

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## Atomic Bomb Crime

Dear Sirs:

Truly you may ask in the Aug. 6 issue, "What Is The Matter With America?", with her boasted so-called civilization, her humanitarianism, her righteousness *ad nauseum*.

By her unbelievable inhuman conduct in this war she has forfeited any claims she may have had of being civilized, but has proved beyond a doubt her fiendish savagery and predatory traits.

Whatever Germany or Japan may have sinned against this world, it is as nothing compared to the monstrous evil committed by this country in the name of justice, freedom, and equality.

Any person but a moron or a sadist is horror-stricken at the hellish crimes committed against the Japanese people by the use of such an infernal invention as the atomic bomb.

What monsters of cruelty are those so-called scientists who lend their knowledge and technical equipment to devise such fiendish instruments of death and destruction and then glory in its results?

Your high minded noble protest and just indictment of America is commendable beyond words, but I fear it is a cry in the wilderness of the American people, who have shown by their callous indifference and criminal silence that they approve of and applaud this predatory conduct by the powers that be.

I thank you most humbly for the brave and noble protest in *The Progressive*, one of the few (if not the only) redeeming voices that still have the courage of their convictions to fight evil at its source.

THORSTON LINDBERG  
Milwaukee, Wis.

## Punish Money Changers

Dear Sirs:

Walt Whitman, in his *Leaves of Grass*, says:

"I think I could turn and live with animals, they are so placid and self-contained . . ."

They do not sweat and whine about their condition,

They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins

They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God,

Not one is dissatisfied, not one is demmented with the mania of owning things,

Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that lived thousands of years ago . . ."

If Whitman lived today he would doubtlessly classify man as the lowest of animal creatures, motivated by his lust, greed, and dishonesty while mouthing idealistic and high-sounding bromides about freedom, justice, and domestic behavior. The whole show would nauseate him.

I am sure he would be for the punishment of the war criminals, and so am I. Let us really punish them and establish a not-too-pleasant precedent for future aggressors.

But while we are at it, why not go to the bottom of the war guilt and punish those who were responsible for Germany and Japan rearming—the British and American money changers who furnished the wherewithal for the aggressors?

I have heard of no one howling for their skins as yet. Are they not all equally guilty? Let us not single out only the actors but the producers as well. The names of the actors are publicized far and wide but the names of the producers are adroitly shielded.

If we really want peace, let us punish all of the criminals from top to bottom, starting with those who made this war possible—the money changers.

GAYLORD YOST  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

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## Socialism Precedes Fascism

Dear Sirs:

In the People's Forum of July 16, J. L. Haines contends that the way to abolish poverty and establish a "just economic society" is to support consumer purchasing power at a high level, artificially if necessary.

But because a just society is characterized by high purchasing power, it does not follow that society can be made just by such pre-occupation with the by-products of a healthy society.

Mr. Haines would grant prosperity or ample security to those unemployed through no fault of their own. I take it he is prepared then equally to prevent from making exceptional earnings those who by no particular merit of their own are able to make such earnings.

Is it not clear that this would require an authority with an absolute scale of values which could decide the relative social usefulness of each and every human endeavor?

Is Mr. Haines sure that reason can settle all the questions of the relative importance of different men and groups?

Does not common sense and observation tell us that a democratic solution of the prolific problems of a planned economy would necessitate more agreement upon ends and means that can reasonably be expected?

The result would be that the values imposed by central government would not be those even of a majority, but those of whatever group could become master of the intricacies of the coordinated administration of affairs.

It is worth remembering (however inconvenient to our several ideologies) that fascism in all countries has always been preceded by a socialist movement, laying the ideological foundation of public ownership, state control, social security. Mussolini took the logical step from socialism to fascism. Roehm and Hitler built the Socialist Workers' Party in the early '30's. Lenin's socialism preceded Stalin's National Socialism.

R. H. CRUM  
Middletown, Conn.

# THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

## Jim Crow Battles

Dear Sirs:

With the ending of the war, more attention is being given to the battle which Conscientious Objectors are still waging against Jim Crow in prison. Action against Jim Crow which began in April with two Negroes at Milan, Mich. prison and which was added to by several white CO's is continuing.

Also, at Ashland, Ky., 12 CO's and two non-CO's initiated action against Jim Crow in the dining hall in early June. Failing to break the Ashland protest by placing the men in a form of semi-solitary confinement, the prison administration is now attempting a policy of transferring the CO's to other prisons. Six men have been transferred to other prisons but the protest continues at Ashland.

Similar action was initiated at Danbury prison in August 1943 by two dozen CO's. After a four and one-half month work strike coupled with publicity and public pressure, segregation in the dining hall was abolished. Ex-Danbury men are attempting to secure widespread publicity and public pressure to correct the two situations listed above.

Edward R. Dudley, assistant special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has written Warden Hagerman of the Ashland Institution, pointing out that even in Nazi prisoner-of-war camps the chief propagandists of race superiority did not practice racial segregation of American prisoners.

Also, Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., has asked U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark for the Government's policy on segregation of Negro and white prisoners in Federal institutions.

Bayard Rustin, race relations leader now participating in the Ashland protest, points to the fact that the men are only requesting a dining place where those opposed to segregation may eat together. The ex-Danbury objectors are urging all people to write Warden Hagerman, Federal-Correctional Institution, Ashland, Ky.; the Warden, Milan, Mich.; and James V. Bennett, director, Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C.

JOHN M. MCCARTNEY  
Columbus, O.

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## Protest Atomic Bomb

Dear Sirs:

As American citizens we strongly protest the outrageous barbarism of atomic bombing and hope that The Progressive will likewise raise its voice in vigorous protest.

In the face of our use of this weapon, which indiscriminately wipes out 200,000 lives, prosecution of enemy war criminals becomes an utter farce.

The implications of man's use of atomic force for destruction are overwhelming, and to call it a force for peace is at best wishful thinking. The airplane, too, was supposed to make war so horrible that it would be outlawed—and that was only 25 years ago.

To have withheld the atomic bomb would have been a greater act than to have used it, for if it has temporarily saved thousands of American lives it has done so at the expense of the ideals for which the Allies have been fighting and has sown the seeds of even greater destruction.

We must look for other ways of ending war than by increasing its destructiveness, or we shall end by the total destruction of humanity.

CAMILLA H. FLINTERMANN  
PETER C. FLINTERMANN  
Chicago, Ill.

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## Rodell Hits The Target

Dear Sirs:

Fred Rodell's article, "Surplus Property and Scarce News," in your Aug. 13 issue certainly hit the target. I think it would be a great service to readers of The Progressive if you have Prof. Rodell report periodically to us on the status of this vast treasure-house of "Surplus Property."

HOWARD J. SMITH  
Minneapolis, Minn.

## Back Home Again

By Dodd



## Gentler Shouts

Dear Sirs:

I like The Progressive very much. Your articles are well written. You don't shout insanely at those on the other side of the fence as so many other radical papers do.

I can't see the point in Mr. Rubin's Aug. 6 article, "What Is The Matter With America?" I haven't read of the raid mentioned elsewhere. From what I could gather, it was to round up hiding Nazis. Nobody was murdered, robbed, or raped. You seem to have been trying to balloon the incident out of all proportions to have something to shout about. (I said you don't shout. I'm wrong. All radical papers have to shout. I should have said you shout more gently.)

I found all three book reviews in the Aug. 6 issue interesting. Mr. Mayer took Mr. Field apart as any shrewd master of words can take any victim apart, but Mr. Mayer was honest enough to admit his dislike for Mr. Field. I liked Mr. Dalin's review—simple and sensible.

Mr. Netboy sounds a little foolish. He seems to think that we'd be happier living in the poverty of the dark ages and slaughtering each other with clubs and bricks rather than enjoying the luxuries of today while killing each other with atomic bombs and rockets.

EDWARD ROSE  
Danielson, Conn.

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## Comical Comrades

Dear Sirs:

The articles by Rubin and Barnes in the July 30 issue are worth all of a year's subscription alone.

I confess I'm more critical of Russia than other nations because Russians claim they are a people's Socialist government but their actions and methods do not appear to confirm their claim.

I have no criticism for The Progressive. It's good and in a class by itself. However, when our comical comrades state Russia is only "taking territory that Poland stole from her," I think the Editor in a footnote should state there is no foundation for the statement.

Also I would be much pleased if you would definitely come out for a party "of, by and for the people." The 2 major political parties are controlled by the same old exploiting gang as always, and I see little hope for the masses unless they form a party of their own.

C. E. ROBEL  
Lewiston, Idaho

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## Outlaw Armaments

Dear Sirs:

Now is the time when people of good-will all over the world must get together to outlaw armies and armaments. After all, atomic or any other bombs are harmless if there are no human agents, who will make or drop them.

MOLLIE TANTER  
Elmhurst, N. Y.

## Tears Over Poland

Dear Sirs:

Why all the tears over Poland? When Czechoslovakia was being carved up, "poor" Poland was right in line with other "friendly neighbors" to grab a slice of the carcass. Also that a certain slice of Lithuania seemed very palatable to Poland at the time, and no tears shed.

Czechoslovakia truly was a democracy, quite contrary to Poland with its fascist-blended government.

Now that Poland is scheduled to get a dose of that very medicine she helped dish out to others, the world is supposed to weep, notwithstanding that Poland may now carve itself a slice of another carcass in redress. Czechoslovakia had no such redress; it was carved to the bone.

How about apportioning those sympathetic tears somewhat?

MAX DORN  
Seattle, Wash.

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## Any Christians Left?

Dear Sirs:

Now that we have achieved victory, how many of us are actually thinking of that "brave new world?"

Does anyone question the motives and authenticity of the news commentators and the press? If so, are there any Americans who believe we can build a "just and durable peace" while entertaining vulgar, nauseating delusions as to our national superiority and parading before the rest of the world displaying our halo, thanking God that we are not as other barbarians?

Blowing several thousand human souls (men, women and children) to hell with one atomic bomb should make the most hardy Christian shudder—if there are any left in this land of the free and home of the brave.

I think it is time to ask this Christian nation just what has happened to our sense of reason and justice? Have we no humility or compassion? Where is the love and understanding of all mankind—and I mean ALL mankind—that will lift us above the level of our primeval ancestors?

CLAIRE ANDERSON  
Portland, Ore.

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## Cause For Shame

Dear Sirs:

During recent hours our daily papers have been filled with glowing descriptions of the unbelievable power of the atomic bomb. This is hailed as a great discovery, a signal triumph for America.

This gloating over the destruction of thousands of our fellowmen is unworthy of us as Christians. Our country's use of this agency for indiscriminate, wholesale slaughter is a cause for shame, not for congratulation.

ROBERT L. SIMKIN  
MARGARET T. SIMKIN  
Los Angeles, Calif.

## Veterans Face The Future

Dear Sirs:

Everything that James Foster McCloud has to say in his article in the July 16 issue of The Progressive with the title, "We've Let The Veterans Down," is true, but, as much as we've let the veterans down through the so-called GI Bill of Rights, through the Veterans Administration, etc., it will be nothing to the way the veterans will be betrayed if the democracy they fought to save literally turns to ashes in their mouths.

And not only the veterans, but the countless millions of citizens who have made enormous sacrifices to the end that fascism and all that it stands for may be forever removed as a threat to the peace and prosperity and freedom of all of the people.

Already there are forces at work that are seeking to group the veterans into organizations that are a definite threat to democracy. The New York World-Telegram last week exposed the notorious Gerald L. K. Smith as the guiding genius behind the National Veterans of World War II and Committee of Veterans of World War II.

These two organizations, seeking to organize the veterans into groups of Protestant, white, 100 per cent American ex-servicemen and women are a definite extension of a fascist ideology into the American scene.

Unfortunately, they appear to have a good deal of financial backing; they have been able to put organizers into the field. Tragically, they have been able to carry on an extensive and effective promotion program, and according to reports, they have succeeded in signing up a considerable number of veterans, particularly in the Mid-West.

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FOR some time West Coast publications have been carrying an anonymous advertisement, signed only with a Los Angeles street address, headed, "Can A Few Ex-Marines Help You?" and stating... "Given a moment's notice... we can supply you with... a hundred men to protect your plant. (Incidentally, we're doing that for some 50 plants in this area right now.) Perhaps you don't have a factory. Let us interest you in our most unique specialty, the ex-Marine Guards Intelligence Service."... "We're pretty sure our veterans can fill your bill."

If this isn't an attempt to use the veterans to serve as strikebreakers, to smash labor unions, to use them as stool pigeons and finks, then I'll eat my last pair of GI boots, laces and all. The veterans were so used

after the last war and they'll be so used after this war.

Also, unfortunately, the Bilbos, the Eastlands, and the Rankins are too much with us, and in positions where they are able to affect the thinking of thousands of Americans. These, along with groups seeking to use the veteran as a union-buster and the Gerald L. K. Smiths, are a definite extension of a fascist ideology into the American scene, and as such constitute a danger both to the veteran and the people as a whole.

These efforts, coupled with the efforts being made to set up the veterans as a group apart from the great majority of Americans who depend upon either the farm or a weekly wage for their livelihood, and attempts to sell the veteran the idea that as a veteran he is entitled to all sorts of special privileges—super-seniority, all sorts of bonuses, etc., constitute a serious threat to the future economic and social welfare of both the veteran and the country at large.

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AGAINST such attempts to use the veterans in the interests of reaction, a group of forward-looking and liberal-minded servicemen and women, in and out of uniform, organized into the Veterans League of America, with national headquarters at 45 Astor Place, New York 3, N. Y. has pledged itself.

The keynote of the program of the VLA, as expressed in the Statement of Purpose, to which all members subscribe, is that the servicemen of World War II are not a group apart from the American people as a whole. The desire for economic security and individual freedom and equality are shared by all men. It is the hope of every citizen that neither he nor his children shall again have to endure the horrors of war and the miseries of militarism.

It is our belief that the future of prosperity for the greatest number of Americans depends largely upon the continued growth and increasing influence of the organized labor movement, the organized farm groups, and the cooperatives. The VLA will cooperate with the efforts of all of these groups in building a postwar world that will provide full economic security and freedom, not only for the veteran, but for all of the people.

MICHAEL C. ARNONE  
Veterans League of America  
Ex-Sergeant,  
Medical Dept., AUS  
New York, N. Y.

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