Sept.-Oct., 1953. "OUR GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING BILLIONS FOR WAR AND PENNIES FOR PEACE." - W. REUTHER. Page 3

DU ERS MEET THE PEACE PILGRIM

In the January-February BLAZE we published an article by "Peace Pilgrim", which described the beginning of her coast-to-coast pilgrimage across the United States to dramatize humanity's hunger for peace. Since then, many DU members and other readers of THE BLAZE have had the opportunity of meeting Peace Pilgrim in person.

When she came to St. Louis, DU-ers arranged an informal outdoor meeting at which Peace Pilgrim discussed the purpose and events of her pilgrimage with a group of interested individuals, including members of DU, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, the Camps Farthest Out, and an "Internes-in-Industry" project sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee.

Previously, she had been given a week's "vacation" from her pilgrimage at one of the Camps Farthest Out, in Arkansas, where her three petitions were signed by Dr. Glenn Clark, head of the CFO movement, who is a member of DU's National Committee. Later, she spent "ten very full and interesting days" in Chicago, where she spoke with DU National Committee member Fred D. L. Squires and DU member Darrell Randall, who she said added much to her visit there.

Regular readers of THE BLAZE and a number of new friends have received a mimeographed folder which tells the story of Peace Pilgrim's pilgrimage. A few copies of this folder, and of the petitions for disarmament and for a Peace Department in the U.S. government, are still available to those who request them. Please specify how many copies of the folder and of each petition you wish. (The petition for peace in Korea is no longer being used since the signing of the armistice, although, as Peace Pilgrim says, "it certainly hasn't been fully granted.")

AND HELP GET NAMES FOR HER DISARMAMENT PETITION.

The Peace Pilgrim is not a member of DU or of any other organized group, and her pilgrimage was undertaken entirely on her own initiative, not suggested or sponsored by any organization. (We emphasize this because there has been some misunderstanding of DU's relation to it.) However, members of DU have been helping to get signatures to the petition for world disarmament and reconstruction which the Peace Pilgrim plans to present to the United Nations at its headquarters in New York when she reaches the end of her pilgrimage.

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Bringhurst of Felton, Delaware, has the distinction of being the first to return her disarmament petition filled with signatures -- we might even say, "filled to overflowing," since it is filled on both sides, with a total of 44 names. Mrs. Bringhurst has also suggested that we send copies of the petition to some of those who signed the one she turned in, so they may get additional signatures.

Several others have returned their petitions with smaller numbers of signatures, and some of those who have not yet sent theirs in have asked for additional copies to circulate. One DU member has requested copies to send to friends in Japan and Honduras. If these early responses are any indication, DU's part in this petition campaign will probably prove to be the biggest action project our young organization has worked on thus far.

While in St. Louis, Peace Pilgrim was asked why she undertook her pilgrimage. As part of her answer she said that she is the kind of person who, when she has a conviction about something, such as world peace, just can't help acting upon it. If you want to act on your convictions, be sure to read the ACTION Suggestions on page 7.

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