

# U. S. IS QUESTIONED ON SECURITY POLICY

## F. B. I. Inquiries Bar Hiring of Americans by the World Health Body, Parley Hears

United States security checks make it virtually impossible for the World Health Organization to employ American health experts, it was charged yesterday.

The accusation was made at the first annual meeting of the National Citizens Committee for the World Health Organization by Dr. Frank W. Reynolds, former medical officer of the world group, now medical director of the Saratoga Springs Commission. At a forum on "World Health and the American People" at the New Yorker Hotel, he asserted that the present inquiries by the Federal Bureau of Investigation made employment of Americans by the World Health Organization "so difficult that in actual practice none has been recruited since the requirement went into effect."

Moreover, he added, the inquiries "are costly; they have proved to be unproductive; and they compromise the effectiveness of W. H. O. by denying the organization the services of competent American health experts."

In some of W. H. O. projects, he said, Americans appointed to the teams have not participated because of the delays caused by the investigations. Clearance takes from three to six months, and in some cases as long as eight months, he said.

Dr. Reynolds recalled that during the first World Health Assembly a proposal that all members of the Secretariat be cleared by their respective governments before they were accepted "was roundly denounced."

Despite this, he said, the United States requires a full field investigation of any prospective American employes. It was "difficult to understand," he said, "why this should be necessary."

"One can and should question whether this requirement serves the best interest of our country since it compromises the efficiency of W. H. O., an organization whose work is dedicated to world peace," he said.

Walter M. Kotschnig, of the State Department, declared that the security checks were made as a means of assuring the American people that Americans appointed to world health work teams had satisfactory backgrounds.

The forum was held in connection with the annual meeting this week of the American Public Health Association and forty related organizations at the Statler and New Yorker Hotels.

Prof. Samuel Z. Levine of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, Medical Consultant to the world health group, said the United States could not "go it

alone" without the organization. International cooperation has become essential for the effective fighting of disease, he emphasized.

Dr. Clyde V. Kiser, who is on the staff of the Milbank Memorial Fund and as authority on population problems, challenged those who contended that promotion of world health "will inevitably create world over-population." Eventually the birth rate may be expected to be balanced by the death rate, although the reduction of the death rate may come first.

Furthermore, he pointed out, there is no alternative to the promotion of better health among backward peoples, unless it is

NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1953.

assumed that it is morally right to let people die.

Dr. Henry van Zile Hyde, member of the world health body's executive board, told the forum that the organization was without authority to force health programs on the people of the United States. Under its charter, he said, W. H. O. could adopt agreements with member nations concerning health policies, but had no actual authority to force any nation to accept a health program.

Dr. C. E. Winslow, consultant in public health administration to W. H. O., said this country was guilty of a "shameful betrayal of our responsibilities" by putting a ceiling on United States appropriations to the group's budget. This nation, he said, provided one-third of W. H. O. funds, and that when Congress fixed \$5,000,000 as the maximum United States appropriation, it froze the budget at \$9,000,000.

Mrs. Oswald B. Lord, United States representative on the Human Rights Commission, who addressed the forum in the afternoon, reported that a recent survey of public opinion established that the American people were overwhelmingly in favor of the United Nations and were convinced that it held the greatest hope for peace. The survey also showed, she added, that 84 per cent of those questioned admitted "they are doing nothing to back up their views."

Dr. Thomas Parran, dean of the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh, and former Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, was elected president of the National Citizens Committee.