

Peace Now

Has Got It

PM 2/2/49
Movement Is All Dressed

Down and No Place to Go



A deathly chill that crept over the office of Peace Now at 15 E. 40th St. yesterday had nothing to do with the weather.

The Peace Nowers were being cast out into an unfriendly and warring world not only by their landlord, but by their own organization.

The chapter in Detroit, where the field for peace work is more fertile, left the fold yesterday after giving the New York group up as inept and unlikely to get anywhere.

This was putting it mildly. After two days of unsuccessful office-hunting, Bessie Simon, executive secretary, sat on a table in the bare office surrounded by half-a-dozen of the faithful, while the landlord grew more and more peeved at their delay in getting out of his building.

No Place to Go

He indicated that he didn't much care where they went. The difficulty, however, as Bessie pointed out to a half-dozen disciples perched wraithlike on empty tables around her, was that she didn't have any place to go. Most landlords feel the same way about Peace Now as the one at 15 East 40th St.

In Detroit, Peace Now leaders severely criticized both Miss Simon and Dr. George Hartmann, chairman, for their bungling in failing to build up the group in the East. They indicated that they would continue their work for peace in the Midwest by themselves, and would also be more cautious about the people they let join.

Cautious Now

This did not mean that the Detroit headmen particularly minded the influx of America Firsters, Christian Fronters and other subversive elements into a "pacifist" group. On the contrary, the Detroit chapter, the only one outside of New York which has operated with any amount of activity, has welcomed these groups into the fold.

What it meant was that they

would watch out for "unsympathetic" volunteer workers like the two—or maybe three—who offered their services to Miss Simon and then left with confidential documents and other information not likely to point up the patriotic nature of the group.

Any would-be volunteer worker for Peace Now in Detroit is going to get a thorough going-over.

In New York, that won't be necessary.

Would-be workers haven't any place to volunteer—as of yesterday.