

'PEACE NOW' Wants To Be Political Party

NY Post 1/28/44
"I understand that Churchill and Roosevelt have had a spat, and that Chiang Kai-shek is displeased. Certainly things are in an awful mess, and we ought to hit out as hard as we can while they are so vulnerable."

This revelation of how the PEACE NOW Movement would like to capitalize on rumors of a split among the Allies was contained in a letter written last week by Miss Bessie Simon, executive secretary of PEACE NOW, to the chairman of the group, Dr. George W. Hartmann.

The letter was written by Miss Simon, an ex-America Firster, as a report on a recent trip to Washington. She discussed the plans of PEACE NOW with isolationist members of Congress, including Sen. Wheeler and Rep. Jeannette Rankin. Rep. Rankin appeared to favor a plan for converting PEACE NOW from a simple propaganda organization into a political party.

The conversion, The Post has learned in the course of its investigation of the organization, is under consideration by Hartmann now. A Harvard professor on leave from Columbia Teachers' College, Hartmann has been a Socialist party candidate for various public offices in New York and Pennsylvania.

"Jeannette Rankin also thought we ought to organize on a Congressional District basis," Miss Simon reported. "But it seems to me that all of our time would then be spent in building up an organization. I can very well be wrong, but I have a feeling that it will all be over before we would have the time to organize a political party."

For Some Republican, Of Course Not Willkie

Miss Simon, instead, favors throwing the weight of PEACE NOW behind any Republican candidate for President—except Wendell Willkie. The Post learned.

"It looks to me as if the Re-

publicans are getting hold of themselves," she wrote. "They are still quite shaky, but they seem to be heading in the right direction at last. Wouldn't it be better to try to help and influence them than to dissipate our energies in opposition to them?"

"As far as using a political party for safety purposes," she added, mysteriously, "that does not seem adequate to me."

PEACE NOW, according to its chairman, is "a one-plank outfit; viz., a quick end to the war on the basis of a negotiated peace." The propaganda which PEACE NOW has distributed nationally through the mails and through its members ranges from weighty essays to snappy pink and green "throwaways."

Widely distributed because of the circulation it obtained in John O'Donnell's columns in the New York Daily News and the Washington Times-Herald, was a record of the United States' so-called "loves and hates" through all its wars.

It was written by Miss Dorothy Hutchinson, PEACE NOW treasurer, and a Quaker. In one of her booklets, called "Must the Killing Go On?—A Peace Catechism," she calls this war "a betrayal of millions of people who are our nearest and dearest, namely our boys who are fighting."

A particularly insidious pink leaflet demands, "How many times a day do you wish the war were over? Are you doing anything more than wishing to stop the war? Or are you one of the do-nothing group who say 'I can't stop it?'"

It continues: "The people who