

Committees on Public Issues
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A group of University of Illinois faculty members called for the formation of Committees on Public Issues to "meet the challenge of the nuclear age" and stimulate "local and national leadership on the paramount public issue confronting humanity."

A statement mailed to all members of the University of Illinois academic staff called attention to "the need of a University community for an informal, independent organization through which concerned and active people can make a special contribution to meeting the challenge of the nuclear age." Committees are to be formed in areas of activity ranging from campus forums to legislation. Committees are expected to plan and initiate independent activity in their own spheres of interest, coordinated through a Coordinating Committee of representatives of each group. Response to the appeal will determine the future composition and leadership of the organization.

The statement expressed these beliefs as motivating the appeal: "the nuclear age opened an era in which many conventional policies and forms of political action have lost their former relevance; the cold war, continued long enough, will lead to nuclear war either accidentally or otherwise; nuclear war threatens the existence of civilization."

Some Committees are expected to be formed within the next few days, and to issue their own call for participants. Others will be organized during the summer and fall. Officers and a full program of activities will be announced next fall. Signers of the initial appeal propose to "conduct research, discussion, and public communication on the unprecedented policy problems of the nuclear age; explore

(more)

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and develop alternatives to a collision course; and act on our beliefs in the full spirit of democratic freedoms."

The statement includes an invitation to interested persons to form Committees in such areas of activity as:

"Publication and information activity -- to collect and distribute information and comment useful for stimulating discussion and action on policy alternatives in the nuclear age.

"Political activity -- to help nominate and elect candidates qualified to formulate policy in the nuclear age . . . to work toward constructive alternatives in legislation and administration.

"University activity -- to stimulate campus participation in the discussion of policy problems of the nuclear age . . . to work for a University research center on problems of peace and war.

"Mass media activity -- to observe and monitor local and national media . . . to work for adequate representation of views consistent with the beliefs expressed above.

"Community activity -- neighborhood, person-to-person work to stimulate community participation and action.

"Special projects -- to organize major public events . . . conduct special campaigns . . . assist the Committees in specific efforts."

Distributed along with the appeal were reprints of an article on "Steps Toward Disarmament" by P. M. S. Blackett, Professor of Physics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology of the University of London, and winner of the 1948 Nobel Prize in Physics. The reprint was made available to the entire academic staff through the courtesy of the Scientific American in which it appeared in April, 1962. Copies of the reprint and the statement may be obtained

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by writing Committees on Public Issues, P.O. Box 206, Station A, Champaign, Illinois.

University of Illinois faculty members issuing the appeal were:

Joseph H. D. Allen
Thomas J. Anton
Robert S. Bader
Joseph B. Casagrande
W. Ellison Chalmers
Mahlon M. Day
Joseph L. Doob
Murray Edelman
George Gerbner ←
Fred M. Gotthei
Charles B. Haga
J. Thomas Hasti

Lloyd Humohreys
James R. Hine
Bernard Karsh
Joseph Landin
Solomon B. Levine
Harry Levy
Oscar Lewis
JoDean Morrow
Gerald J. Moyer
Richard Nuenke
Charles E. Osgood
Joseph D. Phillips

Eugene Rabinowitch
Irving Reiner
Cameron Satterthwaite
Louis Schneider
Webster L. Smalley
Dallas W. Smythe
Robert L. Spaulding
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Harry Tiebout
Harry C. Triandis
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