SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
AMERICAN STUDENT UNION
NEW YORK CITY
December 27 to 30, 1940

More appropriate than tinselled fir-trees and gay carols this Christmas arc rows of little white crosses and dirges for the dead. For war has wrapped Europe in its misery. War-cabinets will pray for military triumph; for control over vast colonial domains; the peoples will pray for peace. Still the bombs fall in Europe and the devastation of China continues with American supplies. America itself stands at the very point of total participation in the worldwide conflict, the steps "short of war" becoming shorter and shorter.

But Student America stands for peace! Magazine Writers record it in amazement. Academic Napoleons bluster and threaten—but the fact remains, Student America wants to use its skills and energies in the construction of an expanding democracy, giving greater security and happiness to all the people. And we are not alone, for throughout the land there is a mighty movement, based solidly on the men and women of labor, to prevent a repetition of the disastrous Wilsonian path of 1917. We cannot betray the great traditions of the student movement; we must organize and join forces with the rank and file of America's citizenry for the maintenance of civil rights, the protection of American living standards, the preservation of peace.

From the moment of its birth five years ago, the American Student Union has charted the path, led great demonstrations for peace and social progress. Now, in this hour of crisis, the Student Union must accept the responsibility of organizing even larger numbers into a solid peace front. For this purpose, we hereby summon a great CONVENTION or STUDENT AMERICA to meet this Christmas Week in New York, to take counsel, share experiences, and clear away the rising temer of hysteria and intolerance with a program of action for America's future.

AMERICA CAN STAY OUT OF WAR! This Convention will propose to students the practical measures they can take to keep America at peace, to move our country in cooperation with other nations not at war, toward bringing this slaughter to a close—not on the basis of a victory for an imperialistic war-cabinet, but on a basis which will encourage the peoples of all lands to make a peace in the image of national independence, democracy, security and international cooperation.

AMERICA CAN DEFEND HER DEMOCRACY! This convention will spur the organization of students to answer in realistic terms those who claim that the defense of democracy begins with democracy's suicide.

DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION DEFENDS THE NATION! This convention will demonstrate how students can be effective in protecting the heritage of liberal education against those who would militarize the schools and goose-step our generation off to war.

Student America will not permit the destruction of our free school system. We will not accept proposals to compel labor-camp service as a degree-requirement, to conscript all male students for four months of military drill each year, to emasculate college education into a three-year "mass production" process. We will defend the economic needs of the student body against such cuts in NYA aid as that which forced 250 undergraduates to drop out of the University of Colorado. We will have an answer to the investigating committees which conduct witch-hunts into textbooks, teachers and democratic procedures which hinder complete use of the schools for war purposes. We will secure the reinstatement of the peace-minded undergraduates expelled by the University of Michigan without stated cause and without trial.

To this Sixth Convention of the American Student Union, thousands upon thousands of students will look with expectation and hope . . . hope that this generation will have the courage and the patriotism to build a movement that will meet the compelling needs of today with confidence in the triumph of mankind tomorrow.

Convention Sessions:
THE FRATERNITY HOUSE
110 West 48th Street

Closing Rally:
MANHATTAN CENTER
34th Street and 8th Avenue

For further information write
NATIONAL OFFICE, AMERICAN STUDENT UNION, 381 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY