

the next five years to constructive economic aid for devastated and needy countries, including Russia. The press has consistently misrepresented this proposal by ignoring the fact that Mr. McMahon has made it contingent on the willingness of other countries, the Soviet Union among them, to do the same thing with two-thirds of their present military budgets. One of the factors which may have made Senator McMahon return to his attack on the do-nothing attitude of the administration was the Round Table broadcast by the University of Chicago on February 26. Four of the world's top-ranking atomic scientists in this broadcast told how hydrogen bombs could be made in such a way as to wipe out all life. Dr. Hans Bethe, of Cornell, offered the slim comfort that it would take at least three years to make such bombs, with the possibility that they might never be proved feasible. But the broadcast reached its climax when Dr. Harrison Brown noted that with the H-bomb "it becomes easier to kill all the people in the world than just a part of them," and Dr. Leo Szilard, "the father of the atom bomb," responded, "That is definitely so." For saying this these scientists, who really know the facts, are now attacked as "horror-mongers."

### Federal Education Aid Snarled Again

**B**Y A VOTE of 13 to 11 the House education and labor committee adopted a resolution the other day pledging not to report any bill on federal aid to education until the President redefined the duties of the U.S. Commissioner of Education. The resolution was meaningless, for the duties of the commissioner are defined by law enacted by Congress and not by the President. But that did not bother the committee members who voted for it; what they were after was some new device to stall off action on a federal aid bill for a while longer. Their adoption of this flimsy dodge was another proof that the committee is still as badly snarled over what to do about aid to schools as it was during the first session of the current Congress. What the committee's next move will be cannot be forecast. If it recommends any bill to the House, capital observers say it will probably be the Taft-Thomas Senate bill 246, with perhaps one or two minor changes. This would leave the question of federal funds for parochial schools to be settled by the states; the funds would be available if the states wanted to use them that way. The Barden bill, H.R. 7160, although greatly improved in its revised form, is not given much chance. Catholic opposition has become so fixed on the very name "Barden," that any bill the chairman of the subcommittee on education might sponsor would have hard going. Meanwhile, delegates to the annual convention of the American Association of School Administrators, meeting at Atlantic City, by a vote of 7,000 to 2 adopted a resolution in support of "the American tradition of separation of church and state," which declared, after upholding the right of churches to maintain parochial schools meeting educational standards, "We believe that these schools should be financed entirely by their supporters. We therefore oppose all efforts to devote public funds to either the direct or the indirect support of these schools." The Barden bill, plus the Senate health services bill (S. 1411), would seem to fit exactly the pattern

which these school administrators recommend for federal aid to education. But will the parochial school forces allow Congress to act as the educators recommend?

### To Protect France from Coca-Cola's Ravages

**C**ATHOLICS and Communists have at last found something on which they can agree. They are both against Coca-Cola. In the French National Assembly the Communists combined on February 28 in a solid bloc with the M.R.P. (the Catholic party headed by Premier Bidault) to pass a bill giving the health ministry power to exclude the American soft drink from France. The bill must be passed by the upper chamber before it becomes law, but if that body fails to do so, it may be returned to the lower house and there, if passed again, put on the statute books. The bill does not mention Coca-Cola by name, merely giving the health ministry power to keep out of the country any beverage "made with vegetables, vegetable extracts or any product of vegetable origin." But the Catholic and Communist deputies who put it through made it clear it was Coca-Cola they were after. An amendment was adopted extending the prohibition to overseas departments, which means that this soft drink is also to be excluded from North Africa, where it has become popular among the Moslems, who are supposed to be total abstainers. Newspaper reports indicate that the M.R.P. voted against Coca-Cola more in deference to pressure from wine-producing regions than for any reasons of church teaching. The Communists joined in simply to make trouble for one more American interest in Europe. Both these strange allies managed to convince themselves, before the debate ended, that, in the words of one of the most passionate deputies, "the moral landscape of France is at stake." Perhaps it was. Now James A. Farley, who heads the export end of Coca-Cola, is threatening that if France goes ahead with this exclusion of his product there may be a countermove to keep French wines out of the United States. Mr. Farley is not without influence at Washington. He is a teetotaler; he is also a foremost American Catholic layman. It would be interesting to know what he thinks of this demonstration that when the wine industry feels itself endangered, Communists look like friends to the leaders of a Catholic party.

### Alien C.O. Granted Citizenship

**R**EVERSING a verdict of the Kansas supreme court, the Supreme Court of the United States has voted, 5 to 3, to grant citizenship to Martin Cohnstaedt, a German alien pacifist. The Supreme Court had previously ruled that aliens who would not bear arms but would do noncombatant military service were eligible for naturalization. Cohnstaedt, a Quaker, refused to do any army service whatever. The Supreme Court's decision completes the reversal of the position taken after World War I in the Macintosh and similar cases. . . . Msgr. Mathias M. Hoffman, of St. Francis Xavier Church, Dyersville, Iowa, says that plans to convert the Roman Catholic high school there into a public high school (see "Another College Hill



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