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Harbeson lauds 'battle for peace' at Armistice day assembly Nov. 10

Pasadena junior college, November 17, 1939



DR. JOHN W. HARBESON, Principal of Pasadena junior college is shown here as he addressed the student body in the Armistice day assembly for Moral Re-Armament. From this microphone, the program was broadcast throughout western America.

33 stations broadcast peace message as Moral Re-Armament sweeps campus

Thirty-three radio stations on the Mutual Don Lee broadcasting system from San Diego to Seattle, from Salt Lake City to Hawaii, picked up last Friday's Moral Re-Armament assembly and broadcast the Armistice day program to the entire west.

On Friday morning KHJ set up their microphone on the

Scot's kilt causes stir in assembly



Participants in MRA program are, left to right: Cecil Broadbent, canadian cowboy, Dr. John W. Harbeson, PJC principal, Willard Hunter, Cleveland Hicks, Scotsman George Fraser, Howard Clapp, student body president, Granny Lee, John Anson Ford, Barbara McColm, and Randolph Haslund of Oslo University, Norway.

stage of the east campus. By nine o'clock 1800 students sat in profound silence in the darkened auditorium while before the lowered curtain Howard Clapp, student body president, as is the tradition, read out the names of the 19 PJC students who died in the last war.

"It is to those men and millions of others who gave their lives that this program is dedicated," he said as the sound of taps and muffled drums faded and the curtain rose.

WILLARD HUNTER

"As we celebrate today the 21st anniversary of the Armistice, we are going to consider why millions of people the world over see in Armistice the framework of a mighty answer," said Willard Hunter, former president of the student body at Carleton college, Minnesota. "It can mean the permanent cure for war, because what we are talking about this morning is a change in human nature."

"I suppose all of you at some time or other have heard or seen the three letters MRA, standing for Moral Re-Armament. There are a lot of things I could tell you about what MRA has done and is doing. For instance I could say that it takes fellows out of the doghouse and out from behind the eight-ball. I could tell you it takes the chips off shoulders and the stiffing out of shirts."

SOLVE STRIKES

"I could also say that it is solving strikes, settling disputes between competitors, uniting homes on the brink of divorce, bringing a new spirit of honesty into politics, and giving youth a new hope and a new purpose. MRA has kicked out the lie that youth has no more opportunity."

"But just what is this MRA anyway? Moral Re-Armament is a race with time to remake men and nations. It is a con-

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'Battle for Peace' goes to roots of problem

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structive program of immediate action for every American. It means a job and a brand new life for everybody, based on those four standards of absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness, and absolute love. It means finding God's plan for your life and then for your nation. That's a program that will give you something to live and something to fight for."

ON THE AIR

At 9:15 the band began to play and PJC went on the air.

"Marching down the aisles of the crowded auditorium are 50 members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps, carrying the national colors and the flags of the 48 states," the announcer described the opening minutes of the broadcast.

"Above the brilliant red and white uniforms of the band tower four massive pylons, symbolizing the four standards of MRA."

The men took their places holding the flags and Tom Lockhart, baritone, and the Euterpean male chorus stepped up to the microphone and sang the stirring song of youth: "Vanguards."

BARBARA McCOLM

"As thousands of youths are preparing for war in the front trenches of other countries, we are meeting here today for peace," said Barbara McCole, secretary of activities, who introduced the speakers. "We have just heard the names of those who were killed in the last World War from PJC and we have also heard the song 'Vanguards.' 'Vanguards of a mighty host are we, Free for remaking the world,' is echoing in our ears. It is most fitting that in this Armistice day assembly we present the message of Moral Re-Armament—the Battle for Peace.

"For a year and a half I had known about this work, but it wasn't until last summer that I met this crowd of youth and realized the part I had to play as a youth of America in bringing peace to the world. I began to see the reason why we were having world problems. If there were many people as conceited and self-centered as I, the world didn't have a chance for peace.

For we as individuals have made the world what it is today.

"I realized, then, that we of college age are all living alone on our own plans for our own lives, and the peace of hearts, homes and communities was being shattered because these plans conflicted.

"It is up to us, the youth of America, living in this free land, to give to the youth of the warring countries, this answer to personal, national and world problems.

MISS MARGARET HATFIELD

Miss Margaret Hatfield, Spanish instructor at PJC, was the next speaker, saying: "We heard the roll call a few minutes ago. That was more than a mere recital of names to me. The tall forms and fine faces of the boys that I knew passed in review before me. They went out from this place with grave countenances to give their all to make the world safe, as they thought, for democracy. They gave their all, but that did not solve the problem of making this a safer place to live in.

"The aftermath of that war leads us to conclude that they sacrificed their lives in vain. I hear another roll call to the service of our nation. This is the call to each of us to enlist in a new army under the leadership of the Supreme Commander—a call to life, not death—a life of discipline hard work, prompt and thorough obedience, too, but one that leads to victory."

RANDULF HASLUND

Oslo, Norway

Coming from Europe, I am very grateful for the opportunity of being with you and for seeing the chance that America has, and which an institution like PJC has in the life of this marvelous nation of yours.

Some 30 foreigners came to my country five years ago. And they were different from the many who used to come to admire the beauty of the mountains and the shining bright summer nights with the Midnight Sun. Because they were so interested in the people of Norway, that they gave us a new outlook on life and a new national policy. So much so

that one of the leading papers in Oslo wrote: "The mental outlook of Norway has been changed."

And since then it has been going on, and we have realized along that long stony coast and in the closed valleys that it is true, human nature can get changed. And I know that the new life that has been springing forth because of the work of Moral Re-Armament is the background for the strength and calm with which Norway is facing the present situation.

"As I sat back there listening to the Euterpean chorus, I was wondering what you are going to do about it. Because we must have reached the point where we know neither wealth or education or what we call happiness is going to be an adequate answer. Something which we have never thought of, something which very few have experienced, must come in, and the greatest privilege that has ever been handed to any place is handed over to you today—of seeing how God can direct us, and giving your whole lives to the service of your nation.

"We have realized that we are morally unfit to survive."

"And that is what faces each one of us today; the tremendous challenge to become fit and begin to live."

The Euterpean singers were next on the program, singing "America, Your Sons Arise," an MRA song, featuring baritone Tom Lockhart in the solo.

DR. JOHN W. HARBESON

Principal, PJC

Speaking not only for the faculty, but for the entire community of Pasadena, I want to express our gratification that the students of Pasadena junior college have enough appreciation for moral and spiritual values to present this program in the interests of Moral Re-Armament. At a time when huge numbers of our people are seeking to solve their problems by quick and easy money, when whole nations are exalting physical force as the most worthwhile achievement of national life, you students of this institution have put yourselves on record for the great imperishable values of the moral life which, after all, constitute the only pos-

sible solution for the world's ills.

If the world is to be saved from its present state of international and economic chaos, it will not be accomplished by the exercise of brute force or even the amassing of physical wealth. It can only be accomplished by the devotion of mind to a new world order in which the cultivation of the mind is the first concern. We the people of this community, compliment you on this discriminating vision, and you may be sure of our support as you proceed with courage and youthful enthusiasm toward the attainment of your worthwhile goals.

JOHN ANSON FORD

Los Angeles Politician

You know, boys and girls of Pasadena junior college, I am supposed to be a politician, and I am more in touch perhaps than anyone in this room with life in its raw aspects. I just want to say this simple thing to you: that while I am interested in progress and while I am interested in bringing peace and social security to hundreds of thousands of suffering people in this state, I am convinced that without Moral Re-Armament in the inner life of each of us individually, all the other efforts are going to be futile. We must begin in our own hearts. I am trying to begin myself to morally re-arm.

Cleveland Hicks, Harvard graduate, was the last speaker on the program. He has traveled with the Moral Re-Armament group in Europe, South Africa, and the Orient. His message follows:

Moral Re-Armament—the call to a New Enlistment. It means a summons to think and challenge to act. Think of our world. We all realize our civilization is in a desperate situation. A world war in the east and the west. MRA not only causes people to consider why we are in this mess, it also gives the answer to threatening disaster by creating a renaissance of living that builds a golden age of culture. When we think how we are living throughout the 24 hours, each one of us can clearly see how we add to the chaos of the world. Consider how we live, how we behave with our families and our friends, our Saturday nights, what we do for our country, etc. We know we cannot change a world which is selfish as hell while we are selfish as hell ourselves. MRA is a world war on selfishness. The aim of MRA is to restore God to leadership in everybody's life, and to then work together for a strong and healthy nation.

PASADENA jr. College

17. Nov 1939

Moral Re-Armament means establishing in each life the daily habit of listening to and obeying God, so that this philosophy becomes the thinking and living of the college and the country.

Here is the challenge to action. A full time job for everybody!

As a result of this program for Moral Re-Armament, PJC has received nation-wide attention. Reports of the assembly have appeared in the Palo Alto Times, in Stanford city, and in the Carlton College Daily in Minnesota among many other papers in western America. Telegrams of congratulations were received from Pasadena's tennis star, Ellsworth Vines, and from the former student body president of Vassar college. Many telegrams were also received from San Francisco.