

Out of the Mouths

Four Washington county school children had nothing but scorn for the United Nations charter in speeches sponsored by the American Legion at Central High yesterday afternoon.

The four spoke on a subject given them by the American Legion: "The Threat of the United Nations Charter to Our Constitution."

Such words of hate from youngsters have never been heard before in our experience. This United Nations business must have been cooked up by the Devil and Joe Stalin, we learned.

And the communists—well, the whole thing was a plot against God, the American flag and the American Legion.

We were a bunch of idealists. We wanted to do anything to gain peace. And in our eagerness we gave away our birthright, our freedoms, and our right to privacy in our own home.

"Give up the United Nations," concluded the youngsters. "It's a bad job. The communists have used their veto power to destroy all chance of ever getting peace through the United Nations.

"If they couldn't bring peace by now, something else should be tried." "I have never known peace in the eleven years of my life," said a pretty little brunette. "I want to know peace, but I also want my freedoms," she said.

"Give me our constitution and Old Glory, or give me death," said another young philosopher.

We do not choose to ridicule these young grade school students. They were given a conclusion instead of a subject—and their orations could only be written along the line of thought of that conclusion. It was a question for debate not oratory.

This writer is a member of the American Legion. But being a member does not preclude forming an opinion which may conflict with an opinion of the "Americanism" committee of that organization." And disagree I do.

We have not yet lost our idealism. We think the hope of the world lies, if not in the United Nations, then in a world Christian movement which would bring our cherished freedoms to the other nations of the world.

Yes, youngsters, the Russians have made some United Nations sessions seem like a farce. They have come dangerously close several times to dealing a killing blow to the organization.

But please, do not come to the conclusion that because a problem cannot be solved in a year, a few years, or in a century that all is lost and we must pull back into our shell of isolationism and nationalism.

Far better would be a study of the people of other nations of our world, youngsters.

Understanding is not accomplished by outbursts of prejudice.

And prejudice is the usual cause of war—not love, Christianity or understanding.