

Urges Reform of Alphabet

LONDON, March 30 (AP)—George Bernard Shaw declared today that he was willing to bequeath his entire fortune to establish a new forty-two-letter English alphabet that would represent all speech sounds in the language.

In a letter to The Times of London endorsing Basic English, Mr. Shaw said he had used the alphabet—which he devised himself—for years to save time in his own writing.

"If only the British Government were as intelligent as I am," he glibed.

"We have no English alphabet," Mr. Shaw wrote. "English speech has forty-two sounds which must be spellable before the language can be written or read intelligently. To do this with twenty-six letters we have to resort to permutations and combinations."

"The fact that Russia, with her thirty-five-letter alphabet, can spell my name with two letters instead of four may conceivably make it impossible for us to compete economically with Russia," he said. "I have saved years by using the alphabet for my own works, but they all have to be transcribed and typed and set up and printed in Phoenician, so nobody's time is saved except my own."

Robert L. Owen, Wash. Post Sends President 1/44 'Global Alphabet'

A former United States Senator from Oklahoma sought President Roosevelt's aid yesterday in promoting acceptance of "a global alphabet" which, the author said, could be made a world language and increase production of 60 per cent of the world's inhabitants by "400 or 500 per cent."

Robert L. Owen, now a Washington attorney, made public a letter he had written to the President describing his alphabet as "a mechanism by which the English language can be taught as a world language."

The phonetic stenographic alphabet, written by sound symbols and not by spelling, consists of 18 consonants, six compound consonants and 18 vowel sounds which Owen said have "one immutable primary sound of the human voice with no silent letter."

WASHINGTON, D. C.

One Language Urged to Erase World Hatred

Immediate adoption of a universal language was called for yesterday by Dr. Harold Benjamin, director of International Educational Relations, U. S. Office of Education, as he headed a discussion before the Washington Luncheon Forum of Youth Serving Agencies.

"One word describes the barrier that stands in the way of better understanding among the world's nations and that word is ignorance," Dr. Benjamin said. "Hatred is dissolved by dispelling ignorance," the educator added.

Some Propose English

He said one of the quickest ways of dispelling the ignorance that blocks the path to better world co-operation is the adoption of a universal language. Many of his foreign friends, he said, have advocated the adoption of English as a world language, but he did not voice any favoritism for any particular tongue.

Dr. Benjamin was one of the U. S. delegates to the United Nations Organization's Education Committee when that group met in London recently. A veteran of both World Wars, he was dean of education at the University of Maryland before entering the army at the beginning of this war.

Cites Anglo-U. S. Friendship

The educator attributed the friendly relations that have existed in recent years between this country and England to the fact that the people of both countries speak the same language and to the efforts of educators of both countries to dispel the type of ignorance that causes international friction.

He said the UNO education committee must spearhead the fight for adoption of a universal language.

Prof. M. S. Sundaram, Oxford educated East Indian, was the other leader of the discussion. He said all the nations of the world, both large and small, are looking to the United States for a share of the moral, intellectual and economic prosperity this country is enjoying. He advocated abolition of the veto powers of big nation members of the UNO.

Commissioner John W. Studebaker of the U. S. Office of Education presided over the discussion which took place at a luncheon in the Y.W.C.A., Seventeenth and K Sts. NW.