

Those feet were the ones that blistered when he fled from the Nazis into the Netherlands and on into France. That finger was the one that pulled a trigger for the French Army and later for the American Army.

"Yes?" Dean Edward Allen of the University of Denver asked.

"Could even an enemy nation take part?"

"Yes, provision has been made for that."

And that's the way it goes when the serious-minded members of the Veterans Association of the University of Denver make their weekly invasion into a land of international mysteries once considered the exclusive domain of the gray-beards of the world.

YOUNG MEN for the most part, with service pins in the lapels of their civilian coats, they devote themselves to international politics and economics. They are convinced that Bretton Woods and Dumbarton Oaks must be more than words to them if peace is to be maintained in the future world.

In an effort to find out what our returned veterans are thinking, I sat in on their last seminar. They had a good dinner in the YMCA and then they listened intently while Dean Allen discussed international finance after World War I and the prospects for the present and future in the light of current world planning.

"Many persons emphasize the political arrangements of such international conferences as the one in San Francisco, but you have only to look at the League of Nations to see how that type of thinking has failed," Dean Allen said.

The 10 young veterans nodded their heads in solemn agreement.

"I don't hold that the economic factor is all-important, but careful consideration must be given to the monetary system proposed at Bretton Woods," Dean Allen said. "We must remember that international economic cliques give rise to power politics."

IT SEEMED strange that young men just out of the army would spend their evenings discussing such weighty subjects.

"We saw the one side and now we want to find out what's behind it all," the veteran in the next chair whispered. "We want to know what makes it tick."

Dean Allen outlined the proposal for an international fund to stabilize the currencies of the world and an international bank to assist private enterprise in every country through loans.

On the wall behind him was an oil painting of a young, blond-haired boy sitting on a river bank, staring intently at the river below him. It might have been the young veteran who sat at the end of the table staring at Dean Allen. The same youthfulness, the same intentness were there.

"Are we going to have full employment in Denver and Colorado after the war?" Dean Allen asked, and quickly answered his own question: "Students of international trade tell us American exports will have to aggregate 10 billions annually to maintain a net income of 140 billions in the United States. Our income last year was 158 billions."

"AREN'T ALL our industries protected

here?" asked Jim Watson of 1000 S. Logan st. Jim is a Canadian and flew a Spitfire for England during the darkest and bloodiest days.

"No, I wouldn't say that," Dean Allen replied. "Many of our industries are not sub-marginal. Even our sugar beet industry is rapidly approaching a marginal level through increased mechanization. The sugar industry confidently believes it can compete with Cuban sugar within the next few years."

"Our recreational facilities are certainly not sub-marginal, and our cultural resources, our folklore have not been tapped. There are long lists of new industries that can be developed. We have a potential source of wealth in our oil shales. A new plastic industry is developing."

Dean Allen stressed the value of hard work and alertness to capitalize on the breaks, contending "unless we can reduce production costs in the United States we cannot hope to increase exports."

The young veterans were interested in Colorado prospects, but more interested in international questions. Eugene G. Soots of Pueblo, second national junior vice commander of the Disabled American Veterans, wanted to know how much the United States would have to put into the proposed international bank and if American bankers were not more interested in their own foreign interests.

"Our total contribution to the international fund and bank would be about six billions, or one-third of the total sum," Dean Allen said.

"BUT AREN'T the bankers interested only in their vested interests?" Mr. Soots asked.

"I wouldn't put it that way," Dean Allen said. "They are interested in all plans. I am sure our bankers are deliberately pointing out the dangers, but I am certain they're not hindering inter-national plans."

It was then that Kakies, who has seen war and concentration camps in Europe and Africa, wanted to know if the enemy countries could participate some day. And it was then that Veteran Joseph Fabinsky pointed out that the plan provides for participation by self-governing nations "while our enemies will not be self-governing for a long time—they will be controlled."

"That's true, but the door is open," Dean Allen replied.

THERE WAS no frivolity at the meeting. It was a deadly serious affair. The idea of the weekly seminar originated with Dr. Ben M. Cherrington, chancellor of the university. Its purpose is to stimulate interest among veterans in international issues.

The seminars have been so successful thus far that returned veterans who are attending other Colorado institutions have been sitting in, and there are indications the seminar will spread until it becomes a national project.

The veterans like it. They feel they are getting a look at the time clock in the international bombs that threaten world peace.

"This is the stuff that makes it tick," a young veteran said with a faraway look in his eyes.