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Bronson

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
 NEWS RELEASE
160 NORTH 15th ST., PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19102 ■ ROBERT S. JOHNSON LO 3-9372

John A. Sullivan
(Victor 4-3687)

Louis W. Schneider, staff director of the worldwide program operations of the American Friends Service Committee for 14 years, today was named the national executive secretary of the American Quaker organization. He is the eighth person to be named to one of the highest posts in world Quakerism.

The 58-year old Quaker, who lives at Highspire Farm, Glenmoore, Pa., will succeed Bronson P. Clark of Philadelphia, Pa., the current executive secretary, when he leaves the post next June.

The choice of the new head of the AFSC staff was announced today at a regular meeting of the national Board of Directors held at the historic Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia, by Wallace Collett of Cincinnati, Ohio, chairman of the board, and Virginia Barnett of Bainbridge Island, Washington, who headed the selection committee for the new executive secretary.

The new executive secretary-designate, in accepting the post, stated, "Today, when international peace is so precarious, when our country is suffering from a sense of moral failures, when the poor and the powerless in this nation and abroad are crying out for the means of survival, the American Friends Service Committee is challenged, as perhaps never before in its history, to make a significant contribution to peace and social justice".

"It is time," Schneider said, "for Americans to get **our** national and international priorities set in order, so that human life and dignity are finally seen as having greater value than profits or power. If we fail in this regard, the human race faces an increasingly bleak future."

Schneider was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., attended New York public schools and graduated from Columbia College before obtaining a degree in theology from Union Theological Seminary in 1938. That year he was ordained by the Middle Atlantic Conference of Congregational-Christian Churches and served as minister of the Morse Mere Community Church in Ridgefield, N.J., from 1938 - 1941. He joined the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in 1946.

In 1942 Schneider became a camp administrator in wartime Civilian Public Service camps for conscientious objectors operated by the American Friends Service Committee, beginning a 32-year period of service with the Quaker agency which he is now to head. He became Assistant Director of Civilian Public Service in 1944 and the following year became Assistant Personnel Secretary for AFSC, and head of personnel in 1946. From 1948 to 1950 he served as European Commissioner in the AFSC Foreign Service Section and from 1950 - 51 as Director of the Korea program. From 1951 - 60 he was Assistant Secretary and then Secretary of the Foreign Service Section. In 1960 he became Associate Executive Secretary with responsibility for program administration, a post he now holds.

Schneider's foreign travels for the AFSC began in 1948 when he became AFSC's European Commissioner and brought him over the years to 38 countries, including a wartime visit for AFSC international service work to Hanoi in 1969 - 70.

Schneider's predecessors as Executive Secretary of AFSC were: Vincent Nicholson 1917-18, Wilbur Thomas 1918-29, Clarence Pickett 1929-50, Lewis Hoskins 1950-59, Colin Bell 1959-68, and Bronson P. Clark 1968 to present. The late Dr. William Lotspeich was named to succeed Colin Bell, but fell ill and died before he could

serve. Stephen G. Cary, now vice president of Haverford College, served as Acting Executive Secretary in 1968 until the appointment of Bronson Clark.

Schneider is a Trustee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends and a member of Representative Meeting of that body. He and his wife Frances, who is a teacher at Westtown Friends School, are members of Uwchlan Monthly Meeting of Friends in Downingtown, Pa. They have three children.

The American Friends Service Committee was founded in 1917 to provide war-time civilian service in Europe for young men with a conscientious objection to taking up arms. It has since then expanded into a worldwide organization with programs of service and reconciliation on every continent, with regional offices in ten U.S. cities and with thousands of volunteers and staff of every race and creed.