

TUITION HIKE

Rumors are spreading and gaining credence, to the effect that the powers-that-be (or that are to be) are planning a step disastrous to the cause of youth education in Texas—namely, the reduction of appropriations by the state legislature for the maintenance of state collegiate institutions, and the corresponding increase in tuition charges upon the students.

Various reports of statements made by Mr. O'Daniel (soon to be inaugurated Governor of Texas) at teachers' meetings and on other occasions, seem to indicate that he favors such a move. And a number of our state legislators likewise appear to be in favor of it. The Battalion cannot state these to be absolute facts; but we can urge that our new Governor and our legislators ignore the privately maintained colleges and the lobbyists, who are clamoring vociferously for the reduction of state appropriations for state schools, and the corresponding increase of the tuition rates of these schools.

This is a problem which, though it may not appear to be of immediate concern to us Aggies, actually is of pressing import to every student, not only of A. & M. but also of the several other state-supported colleges and universities. An increase of \$50 or \$75 in the small tuition fees each one of us has to pay for each semester of college education would prevent many thousands of Texas youths from going to college and getting the education and training they deserve. Particularly would this affect Texas A. & M., whose low fees have made it possible for hundreds of boys, poor but deserving, to get a college education.

College, with its well-rounded program of knowledge, practical technical and vocational training, discipline and guidance, citizenship-training and character-building, athletics, culture, and recreation, is one of the greatest institutions in man's entire civilization. Not only does it educate the youths of the country and prepare them to fill high positions requiring intelligence and of incalculable service to humanity, but also it builds citizens for the state. That anyone could seriously think of endangering it is unthinkable. Yet the plan described above that we have heard advanced would be a catastrophe for A. & M., for education, for the state, and for the youth and the citizens of the state.

We earnestly hope and urge that our legislature will not entertain any such proposal. But just in case it should, here is one way we can help to check it: by writing our relatives and friends all over the state, getting them all to appeal to their respective representatives in the legislature to defeat when it should come up for consideration by the legislature any such measure that would seek to reduce the appropriations from the state revenue for the support of the state schools, and/or increase our tuition rates accordingly. By so doing we can reach every legislator in the state, and might well be able to defeat any such proposal in its infancy.

UNAMERICAN?

Periodically some element in the United States finds occasion to complain that some of us are not sufficiently American. An early organization that advanced the feeling of "America for Americans" was the Know-Nothing Party, whose members had grown anxious over the rise of immigrants to positions of power in American government and business. The name of the party came not, however, from the inability of the party to define its "Americans," as we might think today, but as a result of its refusal to enter the slavery controversy.

Later on other parties professed to be for "America for the Americans," and factions of one sort or another, many of them making real and valuable contributions to the welfare of the nation, were formed on this premise. The Ku Klux Klan of the 1920's was an expression partly of this feeling.

The American Legion is constantly giving attention to the cultivation of more Americanism among Americans, and we cannot complain of the Legion's

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ideals and sincerity in this program. We list is, however, as one of the organized forces which has felt the need of promoting and stimulating what is called Americanism.

Laws have been proposed which would insure that teachers in the schools would propound Americanism so that young citizens might come to have a high regard for American institutions. Efforts have been made to curb the study in classrooms of certain forms of government believed to involve un-American ideals.

And, lately, a committee of Congress has been investigating what are called un-American activities in this country. The people of the nation are divided on whether the committee is performing any real service, but that is a problem with many implications that we do not propose to discuss here.

However, we do propose that, while this particular open season on "un-American influences" is on, an attempt be made to define what is "American" and what is "un-American." The Dies committee has not done this, and the American people, living in a world of words, have neglected to find out what is meant by such glittering generalities. The line of distinction between "American" and "un-American" activities is certainly hard to draw, if one is to be honest with himself, and contemplation of the national scene might suggest the formation of a Congressional committee to investigate "American" activities.

—CAMPUS CHAT

Dr. T. F. Mayo's Column

In a leisurely conversation over Casey's coffee last Sunday morning, a very intelligent and well-informed Aggie (believe it or not!) made a rather alarming remark to me. We had been talking about Hitler, and from that gentleman the session had broadened into a comparison of various forms of government.

"There's no doubt about it," said the i. and w. i. Aggie, "that a dictatorship would be the best form of government if we could only be sure of getting a good dictator."

I replied with the gentlemanly equivalent of "Booh!"

"Oh yes," the Aggie insisted, "a dictatorship is so much more efficient than a democracy."

Now, I hope Dr. Ludlum will tolerate for once my trespassing on the territory of public affairs which he covers so adequately in the Friday Battalion. For I really must take time out to express my disagreement with this Aggie who thinks that a dictatorship, even under a good dictator, is the best form of government because it is the most efficient.

It seems to me that my friend has confused "good" government with "efficient" government.

What he meant by "efficiency," I gathered, was roughly the ability to make trains run on time and to carry out penal sentences promptly. I take it for granted also that his "good dictator" would also manage national finances in an orderly fashion, prevent graft, slackness, and waste in government operations, and perhaps even (if he was pretty smart) see that everybody got food, clothes, shelter, and free Sunday afternoon movies.

Now these would all be excellent things, and I wish we had every one of them—especially if we could choose the movies. But I don't believe they are worth the price of dictatorship. They would constitute the marks of an "efficient" government, perhaps, but not necessarily of a "good" one. And, personally, I want a "good" government.

To me it seems that a "good" government is not only one which not only gets things done with a reasonable degree of smartness, but also calls out in its people an active and creative interest in and a free discussion of its actions, its policies, and its future; which makes its people feel that collectively they are the masters and the moulders of their own way of life.

No dictatorship, no matter how good the dictator may be, can give its citizens this feeling of combined freedom and responsibility. A dictator, even a good one, must (by definition) insist on absolute, uncritical obedience. In other words, he must silence all criticism. Now it may be that you and I have no very useful political criticism to offer anyhow. But it is nevertheless worth a great deal to us, worth far more than we now realize, to feel as we in America do feel subconsciously, that we are free to criticize if we want to. We are accustomed, it is true, to speak with humorous contempt of political arguments. But as a means of education, of mental stimulation, and of broadening and strengthening our sense of responsibility for the fate of society and of humanity, these same political arguments are not to be despised. And it is of course only under democracy that political discussion can flourish.

So, my Aggie friend, I must differ with you about the "goodness" of a dictatorship, even under a good dictator. As I see it, a dictatorship is not even partially justifiable except as an emergency measure and a very temporary measure at that. Such restraints and advantages as it may bring, even under a good dictator, cost entirely too much. They would cost us not only our right of political discussion but also our underlying sense of freedom to participate in shaping our own collective destiny. This last sounds a bit high-falutin and far-fetched, I admit, but it actually means a lot. Where it is absent, morale is in grave danger.

It is not that I object to a large measure of government control. It seems to me, on the contrary, that since our national life has become more complex and vast, a good many of our affairs, especially of our economic affairs, need more attention from the central government than they had in a simpler age. But I want it to be a democratic government which manages those of our affairs which have grown too big and too complicated to be entrusted any longer to profit-seeking individuals or corporations. I want a government which we can promptly vote out of existence if we don't like its policies, and which we can criticize and argue about, as much and as openly as we like. Such a government may possibly talk too much and act too slackly once in a while. It may be less "efficient" than a good dictator, but I believe that it is "better."

And speaking of "good" dictators, please show me a few.

THE (MULE) TIDE GOES OUT!



PREVIEWS and REVIEWS

"Artists and Models Abroad." Produced by Arthur Hornblow. Directed by Mitchell Leisen. Screenplay by Howard Lindsay, Russel Crouse and Ken England. Art directors, Hans Dreier and Ernest Fegte. Released by Adolphe Zukor.

Buck Boswell..... Jack Benny
Patricia Harper..... Joan Bennett
Mrs. Isabel Channing..... Mary Boland
James Harper..... Charles Grapewin
Dubois..... Fritz Feld
The Yacht Club Boys.

Buck Boswell and his "Artists and Models Abroad", an American theatrical troupe, are stranded in Paris.

The hotel-keeper takes advantage of a rehearsal period and locks them out of their rooms still in their costumes.

Buck passes a sidewalk cafe in time to rescue Patricia Harper from a waiter who is badgering her for not paying her bill. Buck invites her to join his troupe, not knowing she is the daughter of James Harper, Texas oil tycoon.

Joining the troupe as a lark, Pat is found by her father, whom Buck also takes in for his show, the Harpers then share a series of mad escapades that keep the audience well within the spirit of the production.

Before he leaves the show to go back to the hotel to put through a big deal with a Dutch oil syndicate, Harper "borrows" from the Exposition, Empress Josephine's diamond necklace which he wants to duplicate as a present for Pat. Buck finds the jewels in the old man's room and when the head of the oil syndicate arrives he convinces him that old man Harper is a fake and proceeds to tear up a very nice contract.

From this point the show becomes a real mad house, gaining ground with every movement. After the mad house settles down, Buck explains to Pat that her having all

that money will make a difference. Marrying her will mean a life of idle luxury. But, he adds, he thinks he'll be able to get used to it.

Jan. 12, 13, 14 The Palace theatre will feature, "You Can't Take It With You." Make plans now to attend this highly acclaimed picture.

What's Showing

PALACE, Tuesday and Wednesday, "Spring Madness" with Maureen O'Sullivan, Lew Ayres, Ruth Hussey, Ann Morris, Burgess Meredith and Joyce Compton.

ASSEMBLY HALL, Tuesday and Wednesday, "Stablemates," with Mickey Rooney, Wallace Beery and Margaret Hamilton.

PALACE, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, "Artists and Models Abroad," with Jack Benny and Joan Bennett. (Reviewed to-day).

The lowly flea, long a trouble-causer to man and beast, is going to live the life of a king at the University of California.

But his new-found kingly existence will be a life with a purpose, for his life in a new air-conditioned home will be subject to the whims of scientists who seek to determine his habits and activities.

The new flea laboratory, believed to be the first of its kind in the world, will be used to study the causes and cures of sylvatic plague, a disease prevalent on the west coast and known to be transmitted to man by fleas.

A University of Michigan scientist has unearthed evidence which indicates the first barbeque was held 1,100 years ago.

New York University has established a new Fellowship House to further better understanding among students of different nationalities and religions.

KNOW YOUR COLLEGE

BY BILL MURRAY

Perhaps one of the least explored buildings on the campus is the Veterinary Hospital—that long, low, flat building directly northwest of the Administration Building. But it should not be so little known, for it really is an interesting place. What goes on inside is far different from the ordinary happenings on the campus just outside. And that "atmosphere" is certainly far different!

If the visitor is lucky, he may be allowed to go through the wards in which are kept the sick dogs and other small animals, in all sorts of physical condition and manifesting all types of behavior. Their various symptoms and ways of acting are interesting for the casual visitor to witness.

Then one may also see the big hall in which are usually a number of sick horses or mules or cows. It is also interesting to watch the study and treatment of these ailing animals by the students of veterinary medicine. And by the way, A. & M. boasts of possessing almost the biggest veterinary school in the country; our vet students number only slightly fewer than those of Iowa A. & M.

The hall where the sick horses are treated usually gives off quite a stench. But if you really want to smell a smell that is a smell, take a look around inside the small post-mortem building just back of the main hospital. The sights and smells there are pretty sickening, to one not used to such things. However, they become just ordinary routine to those who study the subject, just as a surgeon becomes inured to "cutting up" a sick person. And really both surgeon and veterinarian do a great service to humanity with their work. Their long hard preparation for a career we should appreciate more than we do.

On the second floor of the post-mortem building the vet students study the skeletons and skulls of

horses and other animals. But the first floor is the one that's most unusual. Here takes place the "post mortems" (examinations after death) on the corpses of deceased horses, mules, and cows. Here you may see many bled and embalmed carcasses, cut up and with the hide stripped off, exposing to view the various internal parts of the animal for study. In barrels and trough filled with evil-smelling chemicals mixtures repose the heads and legs and other parts of the anatomy of various animals.

All of this is most unusual to one who has never seen the like. But to the student of it it is most serious business. Some time when you have some leisure time, you could spend it profitably by making a tour of the Vet Hospital, to see the things that are there and the actual work a vet student does there in preparation for his life work.

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