

CONGRESS - EUROPE

Few congresses in history have produced as little in so long a time as the current one. Of the dozens of major bills introduced, to say nothing of the thousands of minor bills, of which a considerable percentage falls into the crackpot category, less than half a dozen have been definitely acted upon. But that doesn't mean that Congress is lazy or incompetent or is more than ordinarily dominated by buck-passers. It does mean that one issue, of the most immense significance, has been uppermost—and so far no one has offered a solution that has met with really widespread approval. That issue is the role of the United States in today's complicated world affairs.

As Newsweek puts it, "The Seventy-sixth Congress offers no more striking contrast than the calm unanimity with which it votes hundreds of millions for defense, compared with the hectic uncertainty with which it carries and postpones decisions on foreign policies. Senators and representatives who can agree on the number of ships, planes, and guns needed cannot agree on what they are needed for."

The conflict between the isolationists and the nationalists has been going on for a long time. Today it is more bitter than ever—and seems destined to become constantly more so in the future. It is a known fact that this administration definitely falls into the internationalist classification—the most potent Presidential advisers, such as Ambassadors Bullitt and Kennedy, seem convinced that we must eventually throw in our lot with France and England, and the sooner we do that the better off we shall be. The Republicans in Congress, led by stern isolationists Borah, Johnson, and Nye, are convinced that this course is suicidal, spells the participation of the United States in a possible war which is not our concern. Republican opposition is not particularly important to the White House—in spite of G. O. P. gains last November, the Democrats still have a handsome majority. But this issue has split party lines to some extent. Effective democrats such as Clark of Missouri are as strongly isolationist in feeling as is Borah. And many lesser lights in Congress, whose views have not yet been put on record, will vote for isolation when the time comes.

Still more important, judging by all the available indicators, the American people are tending isolationist in view. A recent Gallup (Institute of Public Opinion) Poll showed overwhelming disapproval of United States involvement in Europe's troubles. The Gallup polls have accurately indicated the drift of public feeling in the past, and many a Congressman whose prime interest is in pleasing his constituents, irrespective of what he personally thinks, is certain to cast his vote according to their findings.

Summing up, the advocates of the strictest kind of United States neutrality have the edge at present. Whether or not they will hold that edge depends upon many potentialities, tangible and intangible. But the force they exert today is indirectly indicated by the Administration's recent hands-off policy in the matter of neutrality legislation. Mr. Roosevelt is not giving orders now—Washington observers say he apparently feels that Congress is in no mood for dictation.

In the meat time, practically everyone seems agreed that we must build up our national defense to the limit. And Congress has voted military appropriations with a lavish hand. So far more than \$1,500,000,000 has been appropriated at this session for national defense purposes. A recent bill (passed by the House, and apparently sure of Senate approval) shows the kind of fighting tools we are making. It provides for two 45,000-ton battleships—larger than anything we now have afloat—two big cruisers, a number of submarines and destroyers, hundreds of naval planes, etc.

If the Navy gets its way, the shipyards will be kept even busier. In addition to the two 45,000-ton monsters, the admirals have asked for six 35,000-ton battleships, eighteen heavy cruisers, twenty-three light cruisers, 150 destroyers, fifty-six submarines, and eight aircraft carriers, plus 3,000 planes.

And the army is not being neglected. Its force is to be increased to 400,000 men (this figure includes the National Guard), it is to be given more planes, and tremendous quantities of weapons, including the new Garrard semi-automatic rifles of which amazing reports are heard.

So—while Congress fights to keep us out of Europe, the lawmakers are doing everything possible to make sure that Europe keeps away from us. —Exchange

FOR DEMOCRACY

American college presidents and school administrators were recently urged to turn their commencement exercises into a demonstration for democracy. The call was made by seven outstanding Protestant churchmen. "It is important now more than ever," the call stated, "for the schools and colleges of our nation to stand forth as bold champions of the democratic way of life based on the concept of man derived from the Bible."

According to Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, spokesman for the group, the cue for the appeal was taken from a recent editorial in The New York Times entitled "Class of 1939." The call proposed as a way of implementing the editorial the Manifesto on Freedom of Science and the Manifesto of Educators, issued by the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom, be read at every commencement exercise and in every pulpit.

Including a number of members of the staff of the University, the two Manifestos, Dr. Leiper pointed out, have been endorsed by over 4,000 American scientists and educators, including such outstanding figures as Frank Aydelotte, Franz Boas, Karl T. Compton, William David Coolidge, Guy Stanton Ford, Alonzo G. Grace, Robert M. Hutchins, Robert A. Millikan, William Allan Ueilsen, Harlow Shapley, Wilter Dill Scott, and Harold C. Urey.

"During the past twelve months democracy has been placed more and more on the defensive by aggressor nations which scoff at peace, justice, tolerance, and human liberty. We have witnessed these aggressors in the act of swallowing up weaker nations by force and instituting among them the principles of militarism, racial and religious hatred and totalitarian dictatorships," the call stated.

"We are still a free people. But our freedom is based largely on what is taught. It is precisely the kind of freedom which has made it possible for our teachers to triumph over ignorance, prejudice and dogma, the kind of freedom for which battles must still be fought. If that freedom is lost, our schools and universities will go down with those of Germany and Italy, and with our schools, democracy as a way of life. The moral is worth driving home to the class of 1939," the New York Times wrote.

Over twelve hundred seniors in the University will receive their diplomas shortly. For most of these seniors, Commencement Day will end their collegiate and scholastic careers. Most of them will begin their life's work for which they have been preparing themselves during their scholastic careers. Few of them will think of the fall or preservation of democracy.

Those graduates who choose to remain at the University for further study will have a greater opportunity to consider the trends of international affairs—the trends of democracy and the totalitarians.

Whether the graduate continues to be a student or whether he begins work in other fields, every student receiving a diploma this spring should consider the plea of the call made by these religious leaders. They should consider the call for the preservation of democracy and hope that their education will in some way, some day, aid in this preservation.

—The Daily Texan

DR. JOHN A. NIETZ, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH education professor, possesses the largest private collection of textbooks in the United States. It contains 2,000 volumes.

Parade of Opinion

Each spring there pours into the ears of college seniors in all sections of the land, thousands of words of advice and condolence, of praise and inspiration as they "commence" their life-long journey along the pathways of the world. Because it is lacking in sentimentality, because it is realistic, because it is down-to-earth, we believe this editorial word of parting from the University of Iowa Daily Iowan is worth passing on:

"Now that the school year is coming to a close and the seniors are dusting off their caps and gowns, we might say a word or two about what college has done for us. Not the usual generalities about the higher plane of living which has been laid before us. Such talk is for commencement speakers and others equally far away. There are other things which we can talk about.

"You can, for example, list the really meaningful people with whom you've associated during the last four years. Those from whom you gleaned new ideas or with whose help you developed old ones. There have always been those professors and friends who meant more to you than just the classroom.

"Some of us, you know, came from families which sheltered us by the conventionalities of life. We may have begun life as lordly plutocrats, musty bourgeois or cocky radicals. But somehow college injects you with the idea that it isn't where you started but where you're going that's important.

"If your college training has taught you what it means to live with people, to make the best of what comes your way, then it has succeeded in giving the term liberal education some meaning. There are, after all, modern problems which can't be solved within the binding of a university textbook. Sometimes, psychologists call those problems self adjustment."

In a worthy, but not often enough expressed evaluation of a college education, we believe that this particular writer has something.

Thoroughly in accord with the current drive to clean up the government of Kansas City and oust those who corrupt it, collegians are applauding the move to make government more efficient. They are urging other cities to follow the lead of Kansas City reformers.

Many believe, with the University of Minnesota Daily, that "those persons who are inclined to be shocked at the vice and corruption often need look no further than their own city to see the same condition exist. Machines and corruption exist only because the public is apathetic, and Kansas City, with its Pendergast, is not much worse off than many other cities that have escaped having their records scrutinized."

PREVIEWS and REVIEWS

By BOB NISBET
"DODGE CITY"—A Warner Brothers' release directed by Michael Curtis from an original screen play by Robert Buckner, with music by Max Steiner. Showing Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the Palace.

The cast:
Wade Hatton
Abbie
Ruby
Jeff Saret
Joe Clemens
Rusty Hart

This show has been praised to the skies all over the country so in the face of such prevailing opinion who would I be to say it is no good?

Errol Flynn plays the part of a rip-snorting buckaroo who cleans up the most lawless town in the wild West, Dodge City. His sweet and delicate woman on whom he showers his attentions is Olivia de Havilland. At times she seems almost too delicate for the environment in which she lives. Bruce Cabot makes a good villain. Ann Sheridan, the red-haired "oomph" girl from Dallas, Texas, gets by the Hays' office with her portrayal of a cabaret girl in a western dance hall and gambling point.

Wade Hatton, rail boss for home seekers in the West, brings a wagon on train into Dodge City. As a trouble-hunter the first thing he does after his arrival is to have a run-in with Jeff Surret, the local "big shot". At the request of some of the more peace-loving citizens, particularly Abbie Irving, Hutton takes over the duties of sheriff and sets out to clean up the town. During the campaign the editor of the local paper is killed, and in a series of gun battles Hatton pins the murderer on Surret. His reward is marriage to Abbie, whom he takes with him further west.

What's Showing

At the Assembly Hall:

Tuesday and Wednesday—"The Cowboy and the Lady", with Gary Cooper and Merle Oberon.

Thursday—"Let Freedom Ring", with Nelson Eddy.

At the Palace:

Tuesday and Wednesday—"Tell No Tales", with Melvyn Douglas.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday—"Dodge City", with Errol Flynn, Olivia De Havilland, and Ann Sheridan.

COLLEGIATE REVIEW

More than 10,000 individuals last year contributed to a special Harvard University fund.

A total of 92.6 per cent of Rutgers University students use the college library during the year.

Eamon de Valera, premier of Ireland, has been awarded an honorary degree by Catholic University.

A drive has been started to raise \$100,000 in U. S. colleges to send the American team to the 1940 Olympics.

Alpha Phi Omega, national scouting fraternity, has donated a stone fireplace to the University of Wichita.

A twenty-million year old turtle skull has been given to Oregon State College.

Enrollment in the Indiana University R. O. T. C. has grown 389 per cent since 1917.

The American College Publicity Association was founded in 1917 in Chicago.

The University of Alabama R. O. T. C. unit has earned an excellent rating 11 years in succession.

Pennsylvania State College scientists have discovered a new way of growing mushrooms.

Twenty-five per cent of the Holy Cross College student body is studying Greek in the original.

The University of Virginia's first curriculum was written by Thomas Jefferson.

There are 62,000,000 bound volumes in the libraries of the U. S. institutions of higher learning.

The University of California at Los Angeles has been given \$1,350 by a film company for using its campus as a set for a movie.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology drama students are making a movie called "The Dictator."

New Records

Wayne King goes continental with his recording of "My Man" and "Arrancame La Vida". "My Man," the well known French Apache love-song, is coupled with a Spanish tango. The first selection is to be featured in the Twentieth Century-Fox film, "Rose of Washington Square." Both recordings are styled in the smoothly smart Wayne King fashion.

"Beer Barrel Polka" has taken the country by storm. Gray Gordon has waxed it in an out of the ordinary manner. Cliff Grass is vocalist for this selection as well as for "But It Didn't Mean a Thing," a medium slow Mack David and Jerry Livingstone ballad. Gordon's sophisticated rhythms are pleasantly suited to this type of popular music.

Kate Smith sings a new pair of popular ballads in her usual enthusiastic fashion: "Don't Worry 'Bout Me" is taken at a rather slow tempo while "And The Angels Sing" is picked up a bit and given a more rhythmic "lift." In both selections the rich orchestral background adds greatly to the whole effect.

"The Little Fishes" and "Wish-in" make an exceptionally valuable coupling. Marion Hutton, Tex Bencke, and her orchestra join forces in relating this newest fish story. Glenn Miller's arrangement of the tune is unique; it is taken at a medium fast tempo and is, of course, distinctly in swing style. The beautiful coupling is taken at a slower tempo with Ray Eberle vocalizing. Here the brilliant sax section again scores a hit. This feature of the Glenn Miller orchestra is largely responsible for the sensational success of this new Bluebird swing band.

Goings On

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 1, Junior Prom, Mess Hall, 9 p. m. to 1 a. m.
June 2, Final Ball, Mess Hall, 9 p. m. to 1 a. m.

PARADE GROUND FOR 50,000

The sodded fore-court in front of the U. S. Government Building at the New York World's Fair forms a parade ground so large that it would be possible to review there as many as 50,000 persons.

In the copper and brass exhibit at the New York World's Fair, primitive man, with his family, is to be shown in an animated diorama working on the first use of copper, that of fashioning spearheads for use in combat and hunting.

In the one hundred 56-passenger intramural buses to be in operation within the grounds of the New York World's Fair, the patrons are to sit back to back along two continuous seats running the full length of the buses. Each of the two lines of passengers will closely face high, wide windows affording unobstructed view of the scenes through which they pass.

Flushing, the semi-rural community adjoining the site of the New York World's Fair on the East, was once under consideration as the Capital of the United States.

J. C. Susuki, of Tokyo, Japan, was among a group of visitors being shown through Baylor University's famous collection of Browniana.

"And here," said guide John Reising, "is the Japanese collection. More of Browning's poems have been translated into this language than any other, and this is the largest collection known of those translations."

The group moved on, but Susuki remained to look.

After a few minutes the foreigner laughed loudly. He then pointed out to the guide that most of the Japanese books were placed in the shelves upside down and also that various numbered volumes were out of place.

But thanks to the visitor, everything's straight now.

Astronomy Course Will Be Offered In Summer School

An introductory course in astronomy will be offered by the Physics Department during the first term of the coming Summer Session. It will carry four semester hours of credit and will involve a weekly total of nine clock hours of theory and six of practice.

The course will constitute a survey of the general subject, including such topics as the following: the earth, moon and sun; time, tides and eclipses; the physical characteristics and motions of the planets, comets and meteors; stars, clusters and nebulae, and the determination of their temperatures and composition, their distances and distributions in space. There will be lectures and laboratory exercises, assigned readings and discussion. Occasional evening observation periods will be devoted to constellations study and the telescopic examination of objects of special interest.

Students who contemplate taking this course or who desire further information concerning it are invited to get in touch with Dr. D. F. Weekes of the Physics Department.

Columbia University has broadened its program of training for public service in law.

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