Battalion

EDITORIALS

Page 2 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1947

Discrimination Rides Rampant . . .

The seething question of racial discrimination in State Public Schools is growing as additional charges reach Governor Beauford Jester and State School Superintendent L. A. Woods.

Three University of Texas student organizations, in a letter to Jester last week, declared the existence of illegal segregation of "Spanish-name" children in many school systems throughout the state, naming five Texas communities as specific examples. The letter pointed out that these five school systems were merely selected as illustrations from a large group of similarly discriminatory groups and were not singular examples.

The charge of illegal operation was based on the fact that "Spanish-name" school children are segregated in numerous Texas communities without reference to valid tests equitably applied.

The State Attorney General held earlier this year that segregation was legal only if valid tests, equally applied, indicated the need for separate classes or schools for students with language deficiencies or other individual needs or aptitudes.

The letter pointed out that under segregation, the "Mexican" schools are generally inferior to those provided for "white children." The buildings are poor, teachers are ill-paid and less well trained, and general facilities are below standard.

That these conditions do exist is doubted by few Texans.

However, until sufficient free minded, public spirited citizens assume their responsibility toward this unfairly treated minority, "Pablo" and "Juanita" will continue to receive schooling far below that of their "white" contemporaries, and little better than "Sambo" and "Liza" receive in their part of town.

Many custom bound and prejudice clad "educators" will have to be educated to the mode of present times and many of this same class will have to be removed from office before state institutions become anywhere near balanced.

Until such time as these changes occur, Texas cannot claim the distinction of free and impartial educational opportunity for all.

Puzzle from West Texas . . .

If you want to get your tongue twisted in your mouth, try explaining the College Building Amendment imbroglio to an out-of-stater. You can't do it and make good sense.

The amendment, authorizing TU and A. & M. to issue bonds against interest from oil revenue, and authorizing a tax for the benefit of all other state-supported colleges, was passed this summer by a slim margin. The vote was extremely light in all parts of the state except West Texas. Folks out there contended that the amendment was unfair to Texas Tech, although Tech officials had agreed to the plan, and that college would receive seven and a half million dollars during the next 20 years.

Although the bill was passed by the electorate, action is held up pending clearance of suits brought by West Texans on technical grounds.

Now State Rep. Harley Sadler of Sweetwater has announced that he intends to run against Governor Jester next election on the sole grounds that Jester approved the Amendment!

Unless a governor discharges his duties "in an equitable fashion to all of our people and each section of our great state," Sadler said in a recent statement, he should not seek or expect a second term.

This, he added, was a direct reference to Jester's advocacy of the College Building Amendment adopted by a close vote in August. It was violently opposed in West Texas. Jester's outspoken approval of the plan to finance 60,000,000 in construction for state-supported colleges stimulated a Sadler-for-Governor boom there.

In view of the fact that a majority of those who voted also favored the amendment, it is hard to see how Governor Jester could be accused of "using the good graces and prestige of this high office to promote selfish interests, crusading on issues that could work a hardship on the small property owners, taxpayers and farmers and by such actions possibly retard the growth and service of some of our state institutions."

Yet Sadler has made just such a statement.

Behind the whole program seems to be a feeling that Texas Tech should be made a constitutional school, like Texas University and A. & M., rather than a statutory school as it is now. But to be logical about such a change, we should make all state colleges constitutional, including the teachers' colleges and the new State University for Negroes. Would Tech benefit by such a change?

We think it is fine that West Texans are so deeply interested in Tech; but we wonder if they are doing either Tech or the entire state college system any service by their "dog in the manger" attitude. Except on the football field, we are not out to "cut Tech's throat." We respect our brother school and predict a great future for it. We ask the same consideration for ourselves.

A Chance to Sound Off . . .

Best news of the semester to many people is the fact that A. & M. will again have a discussion society and debating team this year.

The new group will be formally organized Tuesday, October 14, and The Battalion hopes that many Aggies will turn out, eager to raise their voices in controversy. Certainly there is no lack of important matters to debate today—United Nations, the new Comintern, President Truman's food policy, etc. and still more etc.

Back in the 1930's A. & M. had a debating team which won the respect of other schools. Coached by C. O. Spriggs, it won its share of intercollegiate laurels. But like many other activities, it succumbed when war came.

Last year, when copies of the Battalion were being studied by the Associated Collegiate Press at the University of Minnesota, some one noticed a remark in the editorial column to the effect that A. & M. had no debating team. "Hmm" remarked the reviewer, indicating the general belief that a college without a debating team is as incomplete as one without a football squad.

During the years before the war, debating did slump in interest, nationally. But since the war, "forensic contests" have been more popular than ever before. Years ago, school debaters would talk about affairs of Afghanistan or Indo-china in ringing tones but without much knowledge about or interest in those far-off countries. Today we know well how important those distant regions can be; how trouble in any of those regions can come home to us violently.

In the meantime, interest has shifted somewhat from old style formal debates to more modern methods of discussion such as the panel forum, which is so effective on the radio. The Battalion is glad to see that such panels are an important part of the plans for the new Discussion and Debating Club.

"Debating is at the root of our citizenship." says Karl Elmquist, one of the sponsors of the new society. "It is used in our legislatures, our city councils, and in our courts. Less formally, it appears as bull-sessions. But we are always debating, one way or another."

Here's our chance to sound off. Let's take full advantage of it.

AN AP report from Hendersonville, N. C. said: "The Governor flew here from Raleigh today to make his speech and to drown the Apple Blossom Queen."

A PUBLICITY release for "The Miracle of the Bells" informed movie columnists that Jessy Lasky would produce the film version with Fred MacMurray in the "title role."

The Battalion

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HOW TO FIX A FLAT

As MacKenzie Sees It . . . .

France, Italy Get Brunt Of New Drive by Communists

By DeWITT MacKENZIE
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

Bolshevism has seized upon a highly strategic moment for reorganization of the dread Comintern—that is, the general staff for world revolution—and for a formal declaration of ideological warfare on the Democracies, headed by the U. S. A.

Eastern Europe, and part of the Central Continent, already are in Moscow's grip. Most of western Europe is in the throes of a fierce economic depression which renders it vulnerable to political attack, for people who are suffering privation, even hunger and cold grasp at straws to save themselves.

DeWitt MacKenzie

So Bolshevism will strike with all its might at western Europe, and try to communize it right through to the English channel before American aid has a chance to become effective. The way it looks now, Italy and France, both of which have powerful Communist parties, will be the earliest prime objectives, with politically and economically chaotic Italy marked down as the first victim.

In opening this article I used the expression "Ideological Warfare", and on second thought that's too much of a Euphemism. This is no time to mince words.

The Bolshevist offensive is for the purpose of establishing the red "ism," all right, but the Communists have been employing force, including widespread liquidation of opponents, in both Europe and the orient. We may expect to see these strong-arm methods intensified, for this is a fight to a finish.

And let none be unwise enough to believe that the conflict will be confined to the Eastern Hemisphere. Any nation in the Americas which dallies with that idea is playing Little Red Ridinghood to the Big Bad Wolf. It may be expected that the intensification of strikes, and the creation of other hazards to recovery in Europe, will be accompanied by an increase of Communist activities in the western hemisphere.

And supposing the Bolshevists are able to drive through to the English channel and consolidate their grip on the whole continent? This column has said before, and says again, that such a situation must almost inevitably produce another world war.

There is only one barrier which will halt the Red drive, and that is a physical one. Public opinion among the democracies is no greater deterrent than a feather would be to a battle tank. Bolshevism must come up against a tangible barrier. That can only be provided by a quick rehabilitation of the nations of western Europe so as to give them the strength to defend themselves—and the time in which to effect that rehabilitation is very short.

This new Communist declaration of action against the democracies naturally has given rise to the question of how the reds can carry on in the United Nations now. And there is quiet and unofficial discussion whether the U. N. wouldn't be better off if it were reformed, leaving the Communist bloc out.

We are likely to hear much more of that as time goes on. At this writing one can only comment that the Bolshevists and their minions will think twice before voluntarily leaving an organization which provides them with such an admirable theatre for creating obstruction and at the same time spreading Red propaganda.

Letters

SPECTATOR

Editor, The Battalion,

Your article on The Texas Spectator was a very interesting one, and I enjoyed reading it. For quite some time The Spectator seems to have hit on a lot of issues. You brought that out too. But did you bring out the little fact that the paper seemed to have hit on a lot of things that happened at this College last spring?

No, I don't believe that you did. Nor will you ever bring out that fact.

Now how about one of your little sarcastic remarks to this letter?

ARCH D. BARNES, '44

Hollywood Roundup . . .

Texas War Hero Buys House From Movie Income

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 8 —(AP)— Cornel Wilde, who has told 20th Fox he is not well enough to work, is planning to go to New York next week. He just returned from Hawaii . . . Trend Dept.: If Paramount plans to return to full-scale production, then why is it releasing stars like Dorothy Lamour and Diana Lynn on one-picture-a-year deals? . . .

Audie Murphy says he has earned enough here to buy a house for his orphaned brothers and sisters in Farmersville, Tex. Meanwhile, the much-decorated soldier-actor sleeps in Terry Hunt's gym . . . Sax Rohmer is reported coming here from England, armed with a new Fu Manchu story for the screen . . .

Charles Korvin, back from the "Berlin Express" location to Europe, reports that the London and Berlin stages are bristling with creative activity. With the theatre in Paris and New York at a low ebb, Charles thinks that the reason for the boom in the other capitals is the devastation they suffered in the war . . .

Ingrid Bergman is in practically every scene of "Joan" and there's not much chance of her being absent from work. The other day she was suffering a sore throat and hoarseness. Her husband, Dr. Peter Lindstrom, treated her and she didn't miss a take . . . Is the Hedy Lamarr-Keenan Wynn whirl the real thing? Some think so . . .

Bob Hope has received 2,000 photos of ski-nosed moppets whose mothers want them to appear with Bob in "Sorrowful Jones." But the gal won't play his daughter in the film. The comic says he has been flooded with so many youngsters that "I'm finding them in my oat meal" . . . Melvyn Douglas is reported set to star in the Groucho Marx-Norman Krasna play, "Elizabeth." It will break in here on the coast . . .

European Agriculture Is Hopeless, Farmer Reports

By HAL BOYLE

GARNER, IOWA, Oct. 8 (AP) —Big-boned Jack Dethmers, comfortably well-to-do after years of rugged work in the black rich soil of Iowa, went abroad to see how the farmers of other lands were faring.

Hal Boyle

He was one of 22 curious Iowa farmers who paid out $1,500 a piece for a month-long air trip to see European conditions first hand.

Dethmers has come back appalled at the hopelessness of Europe's economic situation.

"Seems as if we knew less when we got back than when we started," he said soberly.

"We'll have to feed them—the people over there. And we can't sell it to them because they're already bankrupt. We'll just have to give it to them.

"It's either that or turn them over to the communists. The feeling is pretty strong over there already."

The six-foot farmer, who worked his own way up from hired hand, was considerably shocked at caste and class barriers in European lands which make it difficult for men to better their lot. Summing up his memories of Europe's distressed, he said:

"They can't understand why we were so lucky to have been born here and they so unlucky to have been born in Europe."

He told with a look of wonder on his face of hungry Germans searching potato fields that had already been harvested.

"They picked up potatoes no bigger than a pea," he said. "But I suppose when one is hungry he'll pick up anything."

Dethmers brought back a conviction that European farming methods are outmoded and will have to be changed before machinery can be used well.

"They don't use the manpower and the tools they have efficiently," he said. "Even large farms are cut up into small, irregular pieces.

"In England they complained of lack of manpower, but they had 58 men working on one 1,400-acre farm. One farm had ten hogs and all one man did was take care of them."

Commenting on Germany, Dethmers said:

"You can see everything you need to see in one day. It is all blown to pieces."

He met a group of German mayors and asked:

"Why don't we see any young or middle-aged German men around—are they all working in the mines or factories instead of on the farms?"

"All our young men," said one mayor, shaking his head, "are under the sod between here and Stalingrad."

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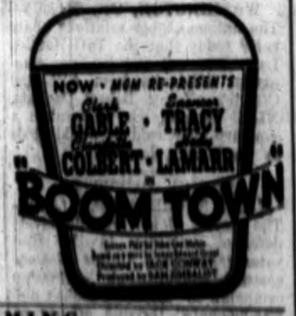
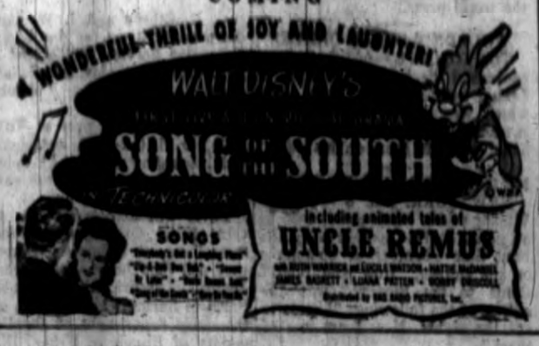
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