

Battalion Editorials

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1950

ROTC On the Firing Line . . .

Yesterday on this page we published a report that a score of well known men had protested against what they called the "systematic and well-financed efforts of the National Military Establishment to penetrate and influence" civilian education. These men cited the ROTC program, military science classes, government research contracts with universities, and "a trend toward putting military men in high educational places" as evidence of this alleged effort by the military to "penetrate and influence" modern education.

They complained that "warmaking is taught in more than a hundred colleges, each of which has its department of military science and tactics, while only two or three colleges in the country have specific courses in or departments of peace."

We would like to take exception to this protest by the National Council Against Conscription. But first, we would like to make it clear that we and the council agree on one thing—the "spirit of free inquiry" should be unhampered by "narrow military considerations". We might add that "free inquiry" should be unhampered by ANY narrow considerations, military or otherwise.

But on to our disagreements.

We are reluctant and sad to express our belief that this nation's educators alone cannot at this time provide all the leadership needed to assure world peace. Most assuredly they must be the ones upon whom we must rely for the final recipe for world peace. However, until such time as we can be positive that our nation is not in danger of attack while negotiations for world peace are being carried out, we must also rely on military leadership to protect us from the designs of the powerful and ruthless nation with whom we must deal. We cannot afford to neglect our military forces in the hope that education alone can lead us to world peace.

The council's implication that the ROTC program is a threat to academic freedom is baseless and unwarranted if we may consider our own college as a typical example. In fact, it seems so foolish that we don't feel the need to challenge it.

We feel the same in regard to the council's condemnation of security measures taken by the military when it farms

out research projects to colleges and universities. We would be blind fools if we did not investigate the loyalty of persons directly concerned with developing our military secrets.

The council cited Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's appointment as Columbia's president as indicative of a trend toward putting military men in high educational places. If such a trend means more men of Eisenhower's caliber in similar high posts we're all for it. Unfortunately, however, not all men are of his stripe. We would point this out to the council. Since the last two world wars required so many capable men to enter the military service it is not reasonable to expect a large proportion of the leaders in any field to have been active in one of the services during his lifetime? And, if these leaders have been on active service is that any reason for calling their return to normal pursuits a trend toward military invasion of the educational field? We think not. Eisenhower is one exception for his profession was the Army. There are others, of course. But if the retired professional soldiers are capable of assuming the responsibility of high posts in any field then is their former profession to be a barrier to their present activity? Again, we think not. These men have their place in all our fields, educational and otherwise just as do engineers, scientists, or what-have-you.

Finally, it is not the fault of the military that there are but two or three colleges offering courses in peace. The military has seen its duty to the nation and established courses in the nation's colleges which will provide the services with a steady flow of dependable and educated men. That is common sense. The educators should do the same because the need for peace-education is great, greater even than the need for military education. Let the educators do their duty as well as the military. Together they can produce men who will form an unbeatable team, a team that can show the need for peace, can talk peace, and persuade other nations that the peaceful way is the best way. At the same time, this team can protect us until such time as there is peace in fact and not just in a temporary cessation of hostilities.

Peppy's Extra-Special Concern . . .

From Friday's AP wire: (quote) Austin, Tex., Feb. 24—(AP)—Rep. Peppy Blount proposed today the Texas legislature name an interplanetary committee to Mars. He suggested it could restore peace between Texas and the planet. Blount's resolution suggested "Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Cassity be appointed chairman and co-chairman."

Reps. Milton Wilkinson and O. A. Cassity, Jr., reported seeing a cigar-shaped ob-

ject" high in the skies over East Texas last week.—Unquote.

Perhaps Rep. Blount has something there. Perhaps he could be persuaded to serve in the capacity of Texas' Diplomatic minister to Mars.

And perhaps Rep. Blount could think of better ways to spend our legislature's time and our taxpayer's money than proposing such frivolous resolutions.

a paper roll of "quarters."

She became curious and opened the roll. Iron washers fell out.

The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knighly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

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ALL OUR EGGS IN HIS BASKET



Churchill Holds Power Over Atlee Government

By J. M. ROBERTS, JR.

Winston Churchill's Conservative Party appeared Monday to have the power to decide how long the Socialists can continue to rule Britain.

Indications Monday were that a sort of unofficial arrangement would permit the Labor Party to continue for a while so pressing routine could be disposed of.

That presumably will be decided today, however, when the Conservatives meet to chart their policy. The party might adopt a wait and see attitude, however, keying its ultimate acts to the program which the Laborites are expected to adopt Wednesday.

Atlee is expected to produce a policy of "walking softly," although labor's left-wingers will demand continued expansion of the socialization program. The left-wingers, however, were hit hard by the voters, practically all of the extremists being defeated. This not only weakened their voice within the party, but could encourage Atlee to believe that the public is against further nationalization. This may even cause him to back down on the already-approved nationalization of steel.

He can hardly expect to win on this issue, and its presentation to parliament probably

would be the signal for the end of his government. Formation of a corporation to take over steel has yet to be approved, and there is always the possibility of a direct Conservative move for repeal.

The big question for Americans was whether anyone could now speak for Britain on numerous international issues which Washington would like to see settled.

There were indications that some members of congress will hold back on financial aid for Britain to put pressure on Atlee and support the Conservatives in a new election.

In some quarters it was believed that Churchill would be playing it smart to let Atlee run on for a while. Britain has not yet felt the inflationary effects from devaluation of the pound which many observers feel must come this spring and summer.

AICE Men Meet At Convention

American Institute of Chemical Engineers is holding its national convention this week at the Rice Hotel in Houston, according to J. D. Lindsey, head of the Chemical Engineering Department.

The convention began Sunday with a social cocktail hour and will end Wednesday afternoon after a convention of the various student chapters.

Most of the Ch. E. students at A&M will attend at least one day and several will spend all three days in Houston, Lindsey said.

A job clearance department will be set up in connection with the convention to facilitate placement of students who will be looking for jobs.

Arrangements are being made for a bus to go down Wednesday to carry students desiring to attend. Cars will be going down on the other two days so that there will be transportation for those who wish to attend, Lindsey said.

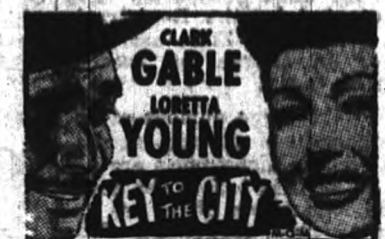
Bible Verse

Tuesday 28 Feb. 1950.

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. —I Corinthians 1: 18

Campus

TODAY & WEDNESDAY
Features Start
1:50 - 3:50 - 5:05 - 7:55 - 10:00
ONE OF THE
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THURS. — FRI. — SAT.
Rita Hayworth
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PLUS — CARTOON — NEWS

Striking Workers Not Guilty Mine Union Lawyers Contend

Washington, Feb. 28—(AP)—The United Mine Workers pleaded innocent yesterday of contempt charges, insisting the union had called no strike and that each of its 372,000 members individually had decided to knock off work.

The union argument: Since no strike officially was called, the union can't be in contempt of federal court which on Feb. 11 ordered the men back to their jobs.

Government attorneys began to build up their argument: The men all quit at the same time, and the union is responsible for its members' actions.

Actually the trial was but one prong of a two-pronged effort the government is making to get the miners back on the job before the nation's alarmingly low soft coal supplies give out.

Federal conciliators again arranged for contract talks between the miners and the operators. These lasted only an hour. Some negotiators had to testify in the contempt proceedings.

There wasn't even a time set for a resumption of negotiations. A contempt conviction could cost the union millions.

Agreement Pushed

Officials have been pressing hard for an agreement, some fearing that staggering blow at the union treasury would make the miners more defiant—and perhaps make negotiations even tougher by causing John L. Lewis, UMW president, to increase his demands.

On a third possible settlement front—government seizure of the mines—there was this report: Presidential Press Secretary Charles Ross told reporters there would be "nothing here on coal" today.

And House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas, after the regular Monday meeting of congressional leaders with the president, told reporters that although coal had been discussed there was no talk of seizure. In answer to a question, Rayburn said, yes, he thought congress would pass a law enabling President Truman to seize the mines—if Mr. Truman asks for one.

If Mr. Truman doesn't ask for such a law, Rayburn said, he isn't likely to get one.

Seizure Speculative
Seizure is only speculative. President Truman says he has no such power and doesn't want it.

Anyway, the miners swear they won't work without a contract.

The most positive news Monday dealt with the other side of the problem: The nation's emptying coal bins.

Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation said its coal supplies are so low in the Pittsburgh area it will cut from 96 to 53 per cent of capacity. Other steel companies made similar reports.

The Army said posts with less than a 30-day supply of coal had been ordered to cut consumption drastically. Orders along such lines were said to have been issued by the Navy and the Air Force.

From all over the nation the story read about the same . . . schools closing in Indianapolis . . . Boston apartments, hotels and theaters asked to hold heat to 65 degrees . . . Hunting College closed so students can hunt firewood.

Government Point

Peculiarly, in view of all this, the government's main job today in the contempt trial was to prove that no coal is being mined.

Witness after witness took the stand to make this point.

Dr. W. H. Young, chief of the bituminous coal section of the Bureau of Mines, testified that probably 95 per cent of the Uni-

ted Mine Workers—or more than 350,000 men—were idle on Feb. 20, 21 and 22.

Welly K. Hopkins, the union's chief counsel, asked Young whether he was aware that some miners are digging coal under newly signed contracts.

"I am," Young answered. Then he added:

"There are some men who have signed a new contract who are not working, too."

The operators then came on to testify that their mines have been shut down since Feb. 11—the day U. S. District Judge Richmond B. Keach ordered the men back to the mines.

La Fiesta

REGULAR PLATE

65c

Chalupa Tamales Frijoles Rice Tea or Coffee
Compuesta Enchiladas Chili Tortillas Pralines

Bryan's Original Mexican Restaurant
303 N. College Avenue Bryan

BANK HOLIDAY

The banks of Bryan and College Station will be closed Thursday, March 2, 1950 in observance of Texas Independence day, a legal holiday.

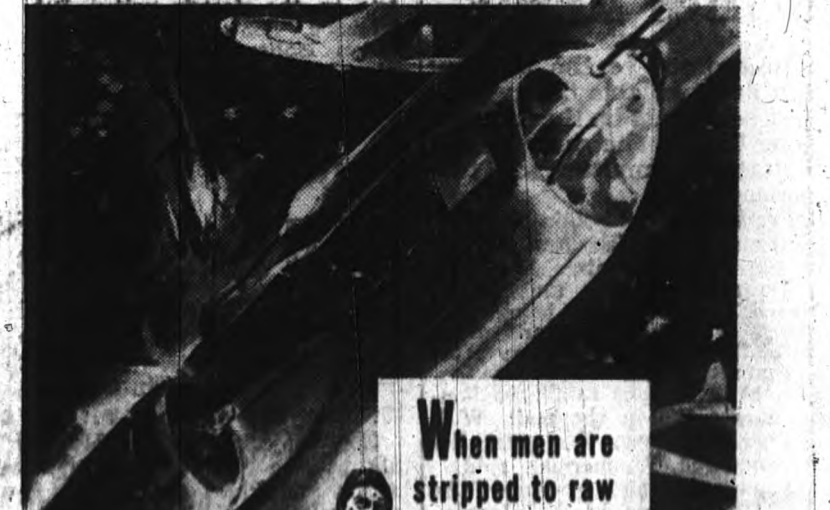
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WEDNESDAY — THURSDAY
Joan Bennett — James Mason
— in —
"RECKLESS MOMENT"