

Fundamentals . . .

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS controversy involving the Legislature and Dr. Clarence E. Ayres calls for the reconsideration of certain fundamental facts upon which our Constitution is predicated.

It is fashionable today to "purge" Communists, Socialists, and Fascists on the premise that they advocate, by definition, the forceful overthrow of our form of government.

If Democracy is defined as the absolute rule of the majority, then Nazi Germany was a Democracy. Yet, destruction of the minority in favor of constructive changes is foreign to our concept of government.

This protection of the minority is one of the fundamentals that contribute to our greatness, and it should not be denied under any circumstances.

A static government was not the intent of the founding fathers of our Constitution.

'Seven Decisions That Shaped History'

One of the sanest analysis of world affairs in these times appears in Sumner Welles' new book, "Seven Decisions That Shaped History".

Welles was Under Secretary of State during the Roosevelt administration and played an important part in shaping U. S. policies.

We predict that this new book will receive international acclaim. Welles authored, "The Time for Decision" which has been widely quoted since it was published in 1944.

His book seemed to pack such a wallop that we include some of his answers to present international riddles.

The book backs a policy of containment of Russia by military and economic force as the only hope of avoiding general world conflict, and insists that only a "truly bipartisan" foreign policy offers hope of national security at a time when Americans face "what may well be the gravest national crisis that they have faced since the years of the Civil War."

If by such a policy war can be avoided, he says, "there is the chance that little by little the Iron Curtain will rust away and that the people of the East and West can eventually work together as partners in the United Nations."

Discussing former President Hoover's suggestion that a Western Hemisphere Gibraltar be built, Welles says Mr. Hoover typifies the rising of a "neo-isolationism that would be as pusillanimous as it would be disastrous" if adopted by Americans.

"What Mr. Hoover has urged upon his fellow citizens that amount nothing less than the scuttling of all forms of collective security, the cynical breach of all the obligations into which we have entered since 1945 to help other free peoples resist Soviet aggression, and the abandonment of all Europe except perhaps Great Britain—all Asia and presumably all Africa the Soviet Communist control.

"If Mr. Hoover's advice were followed, it would mean that the United States would soon find herself without an ally in the world."

Mr. Hoover declined immediate comment on the Welles criticism.

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

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An Editorial

Needed: Senate President Elected by Student Body

THE STUDENT SENATE has an opportunity to streamline A&M's student government tonight.

On the agenda is a proposed resolution for a constitutional amendment which would make the Student Senate Presidency an office voted on by the entire student body. It would also change the title to Student Body president.

Reasons are several and excellent for supporting this needed change.

We believe the student body is more fully aware of its responsibilities now than when the Student Senate was originally created. To continue having this topmost representative of the students elected by only a few is a slap-in-the-face to the student body.

The Senate president is too limited in his present position. If he were elected in a Spring campus-wide election, he would have the support of the student body in an official move, rather than just that of the Senate.

As for the name change, the Senate president is now at a disadvantage. He must operate with representatives from other schools who are

titled Student Body President. He is unable to say that he fully represents the student body.

A pressing need exists for these alterations, although they would effect small changes, indeed, in the present method of student representation and government.

The age-old Senate argument will probably come up against this motion, however. "Most of us are graduating. Why should we establish a new system for those behind us?"

On the contrary—you will be removing an obstacle to better student government for the classes remaining. And we believe the underclassmen here will appreciate it.

We have the utmost faith in the decisions of the 1950-51 Student Senate.

This body has made some excellent moves. Time is running out, however, and by passing tonight's resolution to have a campus-wide election for a Student Body President, these senators will enter A&M's student government annals as the most outstanding group in Senate history.

'All Time Low'

What Has Happened To Public Morality?

By RELMAN MORIN Associated Press Writer

THIS is a diseased generation—but the next one, if it isn't destroyed by war, will be better.

That is the opinion of Dr. John Haynes Holmes, pastor of the inter-denominational church of New York since 1907. In more than 40 years of church work, he says, he has never seen moral standards in America so low as they now are.

These Are Causes

These are the causes, Dr. Holmes said, in an interview, underlying recent disclosures of corruption in government and the stories of great bribery and influence uncovered by the Kefauver and Fulbright committees.

The clergyman said he believes the present condition of public morality in America is new and aggravated, rather than an ever-present situation which has suddenly been brought to wide public attention.

"Something very serious has happened to the moral fibre of this generation," Dr. Holmes declared. "Like a human body, a society can fall victim of a disease and die of it, as Toynebee and other historians have demonstrated."

Mortal Danger

"This country is in mortal danger today. It could die as other societies have died."

"Americans are trying to live without God and it can't be done. They have been trying it for about 30 years. But the laws of morality are as exact and inexorable as the laws of physics or chemistry. When they are violated, things go wrong—even to the extent of a terrible explosion."

The great corrosive agents, Dr. Holmes said, have come directly from the two World Wars in which the United States was engaged.

LETTERS

All letters to the editor must be signed by the writer and free from obscene and libelous references. Letter writers wanting their name withheld must make a personal request to the co-editors. No unsigned letters will be published.

Thoughts on Vital Aspect of Education

Editor, The Battalion: Testing is one of the most important parts of our grade determination and the method used is of interest to the students.

Unless a quiz makes a student think the quiz is a failure in measuring that student's education. For we know the greater part of education is thought training. If students must depend on rote memory to get by, what kind of education do they get?

Does a true and false quiz stimulate good clear thought? It is my humble opinion that it does not. On the contrary a true and false quiz confuses good clear thought.

J. W. Boldman '50

(Reader Boldman, The Battalion has long held your same views. We commend you for expressing yourself on this all-important issue and invite further comment on the matter from students and faculty alike.—The Editor.)

Bull Session

Democracy Needs Constant Change, Progress to Live

By THOMAS M. FONTAINE Battalion Staff Writer

IT IS SOMETIMES discouraging to attempt to take any side in a political controversy when we observe the unintelligent, uninformed antics of some of the people on our side of the argument. During the last few months it has been very embarrassing at times to admit to being a conservative, a disciple of capitalism when daily we are informed by the press of another ignorance-inspired attack on Socialists or other believers in a planned economy.

Perhaps if the people who demand drastic measures against the Socialists gave a more careful study to the overall picture of a wellbalanced, working democracy, they would not be so anxious to deny the Socialists their rights.

For a democracy, or any form of government, to remain strong, it must constantly change, must constantly progress. If in any nation only one political line of thought is allowed, that nation stagnates and eventually falls to some more progressive nation.

Despite all the many political and social plans and ideologies there have been since governments were first organized, either one or the other of two viewpoints has been the dominant cause or theme for any certain plan—either the plan favors a government that provides security for the individual or it is more concerned with the personal freedom of the individual.

Balance is Ideal of Democracy

The ideal of a democracy is to strike the best balance between those two points of view. The ideal democracy will give the citizen as much individual security as possible without too much interference with personal freedom; it will guarantee him as much personal freedom as possible without infringing on the rights and security of others.

Today's American liberals favor the security idea; they hope to achieve this security with a national planned economy. Our conservatives, on the other hand, fight for individual freedom and opportunity; they place their faith in limited capitalism. The liberals want a strong central government, the conservatives believe in local self-government.

In the early periods of United States history, the situation was reversed. At the time of the writing of our constitution, and for nearly a hundred years thereafter, the liberal thinkers, the people branded as radicals, were the defenders of individual rights.

Jefferson was the leading radical of his time—not in economic but in political theory. He advocated and fought for in our constitution the provisions which limit the power of the federal government and glorified the individual's right to govern himself.

Such a political theory was regarded as almost anarchy at that time. The United States conservatives, tradition bound to the strong monarchies of Europe, hoped for a strong central government—he trusted the individual and sought to control his mob tendencies.

US Constitution Was the Result

The balance struck between those opposing ideas produced one of the greatest political documents of all time—the United States Constitution.

If that constitution had been the result of only one political ideology—either Jeffersonian or Hamiltonian, progressive or conservative—we can be sure it would never have survived as long as it has.

In present day politics, it is fairly easy to see that the extreme of

planned economy is Communism. Too few people realize that the extreme of capitalism is fascism or nazism. Communism and Fascism are at opposite poles on the economic scale; on a national government or political scale they are practically identical. Both constitute dictatorship, loss of freedom, and collapse of democracy.

Only a minute minority would favor Communism or Fascism for the United States. But their less intense counterparts are needed and can exist in a democracy.

Ideas Are Changing Constantly

We will never strike the perfect balance between security and freedom, for people constantly change their own ideas as to what that balance is. But the existence of two strong elements each striving for the idea it considers most important will guarantee our never straying too far from the ideal balance.

The security minded person and the freedom minded person must realize the importance of each to the other. He must never attempt right to believe in and fight for to forcibly deprive the other of his own ideas.

In the end the greatest threat, (past, present, and future), to a democracy is that either of the ideas becomes so dominant it forcibly ends the other. For then, inevitably the path leads to the extreme of the dominant idea.

Interpreting the News

How Europe Sees Senate Actions

By J. M. ROBERTS, JR. AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

THE STATE DEPARTMENT is faced with the immediate necessity of explaining to Europe that the exhibition in the U. S. Senate over the troops-for-Europe issue is not solely isolationism.

Europeans, depending heavily on actions of the American Congress for ten years, are infinitely better informed than they used to be about its characters and political workings. But millions aboard will take the Senate action in its worst light because, in their critical attitude toward America, they wish to do so, or because of fear and insecurity.

German Reaction

Germany is one spot where the reaction will be most important. Some Germans will take the Senate's effort to keep a check-rein on presidential dispatch of troops as notice that the U. S. does not intend to do the whole European defense job, and will perhaps be spurred into action toward greater German self defense. Others will fear the U. S. intends to set up an adequate screen between Germany and Russia for protection during the mobilization period, and therefore will consider rearmament as a dangerous dare to the Soviet.

Which school will predominate is a vital question.

These same lines of thought will exist in France. But will be less important because France is al-

ready committed to full military cooperation.

What Russia thinks about it is less important. The Kremlin has its fixed policy of aggression by infiltration. All suggestions of weakness and indecision in the West are an encouragement to Russia, if not an actual invitation to speed her schedule. But she will move when she is ready and not much before. She will like anything, of course, which causes America to conduct its troop dispositions in a goldfish bowl.

The Senate idea that President Truman should come to it for approval before sending more than the already-promised four divisions to Europe is, for one thing, a part of a long conflict between that body and the executive department of the government for control of foreign affairs. The President is constitutionally the general manager of foreign affairs. But because of its right to pass on treaties, the Senate has always liked to consider itself a sort of board of directors.

Isolationism

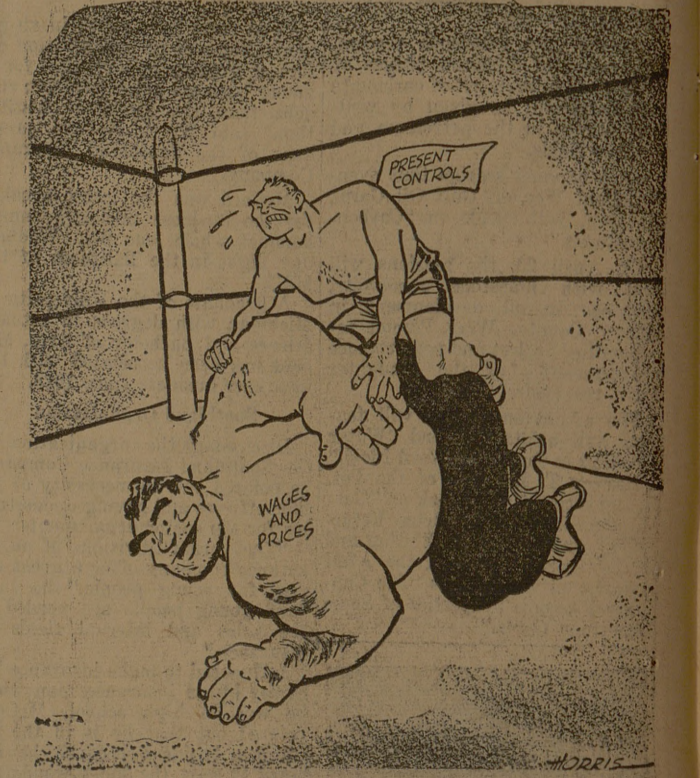
Isolationism itself is of course, a factor, but most of the rabid stay at homers have been forced to compromise their views with the facts of life.

When the chips are down, the Senate nearly always rises to the occasion—the League of Nations fight being the principal exception which proves the rule. But Europe badly needs some reassurance about it right now.

LIL ABNER Romance Rears Its Ugly Head



IS THIS MATCH FIXED?



By Al Capp

