

— Sound Off —

Purpose? Use?

(Editor's note: This is the final letter that will be printed concerning the film "Operation Abolition.")

Editor, The Battalion:
In your recent editorials concerning the film, "Operation Abolition," you have indicated that the nature of the charges being made against this motion picture were to some degree unknown to you. Most of the criticisms have been directed at the film's accuracy. Critics have main-

tained that the film has been so edited as to distort the actual sequence of events in the San Francisco disturbances; that undocumented statements have been made by the narrator; and that the lack of credits at the film's beginning makes it impossible to fix responsibility for its production. While other criticisms have been made, these seem to be the principle ones. A study by the undersigned in an effort to determine the true facts of the situation has thus far been fruitless. The atmosphere seems filled with charge and counter-

charge, and responsible individuals are to be found on both sides of the controversy. The House Committee on Un-American Activities has admitted some discrepancies in the makeup of the film but has insisted that they are of negligible consequence. The Bay Area students in their statements have made much of the words of the examining magistrate in dismissing the charges against 67 of the 68 students arrested in the melee, yet seemingly his words have been taken out of context and his full statement does not give the students the complete vindication they would claim.

Incidents of the smear, the unsigned charge of "Communist!", the attempt to create suspicion of one's neighbors, all of which are part and parcel of a danger perhaps as insidious as Communism. This disease is on the increase. At a recent "Anticomunist" rally in Austin, the speaker is reported to have labeled President Roosevelt, Senator Jacob Javits and others as "Communists," while President Eisenhower was more charitably termed "little more than a Communist tool." Further questions concerning the use of this film are raised by the words of a speaker in introducing the motion picture at a showing at a local civic club to the effect that our efforts against Communism must be guided by "the principles of American jurisprudence before they were corrupted by the United States Supreme Court." All of this activity, local and statewide, brings to mind a statement by J. Edgar Hoover, whom you rightly term "a great fighter against Communism," in his book, Masters of Deceit: "We must be absolutely certain that our fight (against Communism) is waged with full regard for the historic liberties of this great nation. This is the fundamental premise of any attack against Communism. Too often I have seen cases where loyal and patriotic but misguided Americans have thought they were 'fighting Communism' by slapping the label of 'Red' or 'communist' on anybody who happens to be different from them or to have ideas with which they did not agree. Smears, character assassination, and the scattering of irresponsible charges have no place in this nation. They create division, suspicion and distrust among loyal Americans—just what the Communists want—and hinder, rather than aid, the fight against communism."

J. Edgar Hoover carefully documents the part known Communists played in the affair. On the other hand, usually reliable observers indicate that a great majority of the students involved were completely free of Communist influence and were staging a genuine protest against the committee's hearings, and that the Communists then capitalized upon a situation already aggravated by an alleged breach of faith by the Committee in dealing with the students. In other words, it seems that the facts are not all in. It would be well for every interested citizen to reserve final judgment until they are.

What is the purpose of this film? Some have said that it is simply an effort to alert people to the dangers of Communist infiltration among immature college students. If this is its real objective, it is worthy of our commendation provided that the charges mentioned in the paragraph above prove to be unfounded. If these charges are true, however, then we can hardly approve of the use of an immoral means even in the attainment of an end as worthy as this one. But again there are many who are saying that the film has been issued for the sole purpose of justifying the Committee's continued existence, since for some time its discharge or curtailment has been urged by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Paul Tillich, Dr. Robert Maynard Hutchins, Harry Emerson Fosdick, Reinhold Niebuhr, J. Frank Dobie, Gen. Hugh B. Hester and many others who, while we may not agree with them politically, are nevertheless above suspicion at the point of their loyalty. If self-justification is the motive behind this film's release, it would seem that there is room for considerable discussion concerning the propriety of such action by a congressional committee.

But what of the use to which this film is being put? It is certainly commendable if its consequence is heightened interest upon the part of our citizenry to what is one of the great problems of our day. Again, however, many fear that it is being used to generate a rebirth of McCarthyism. Your editorials have done little to allay such fears. There have been local

Another thing: Time after time in this book," continues J. Edgar Hoover, "I have mentioned that honest dissent should not be confused with disloyalty. A man has a right to think as he wishes: that's the strength of our form of government. Without free thought our society would decay. Just because a man's opinion is unpopular and represents a minority viewpoint or is different he is not necessarily disloyal. Hence one should have the facts before accusing anyone of propagating the Party line." Surely these words of J. Edgar Hoover have immense relevance to the present situation in our community.

James B. Argue, Allen L. Fowler, Tom Shepherd, William R. Oxley, John R. Combs, Cliff Harris, Charles W. Elmer, George Fry, Bruce Felker

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"... you could buy a front row seat for th' Intercollegiate Talent Show Friday night and when th' Kilgore Rangerettes come out—bang. You've got yourself a Rangerette."

Job Interviews

The following organizations will hold job interviews for seniors in the Placement Office this Friday:

The Cabot Corp. for those majoring in chemical or mechanical engineering.

The De Kalb Agricultural Association, Inc., for those majoring in agricultural economics, agronomy

and animal husbandry.
The Ingersoll-Rand Co., for those majoring in chemical, civil, electrical, industrial, mechanical or petroleum engineering.

The Southwestern Investment Co., for those majoring in agricultural economics, business administration or economics.

The Central Intelligence Agency,

for those majoring in agricultural engineering, entomology, accounting, chemistry, economics, English, history, mathematics, modern languages, oceanography, meteorology, physics, aeronautical engineering, chemical engineering, electrical engineering, geology, geophysics, industrial engineering, industrial technology, mechanical engineering, nuclear engineering and petroleum engineering.

Corps Juniors & Sophomores Year book Portrait Schedule
JUNIORS & SOPHOMORES in the corps will have their portraits made for the "AGGIELAND '61" according to the following schedule. Portraits will be made in CLASS A WINTER UNIFORM at the Aggieldand Studio, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM on the days scheduled.
Mar. 6-7 Squadron 5-6
7-8 Squadron 7-9
8-9 Squadron 10-12
9-10 Squadron 13-17

Social Calendar

The following organizations will meet on campus tonight:
The Amarillo Hometown Club will get together at 7:30 p.m. in Room 203 of the Academic Building.

The Red River Valley Hometown Club will meet in Room 2-D of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30 p.m.

The El Paso Hometown Club will meet in Room 3-C of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30 p.m. Members should bring pictures of girls so a hometown sweetheart can be chosen.

The Deep East Texas Hometown Club will meet in Room 2-C of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30 p.m.

The Big Thicket Hometown Club will meet in the Lounge of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30 p.m.

The Rio Grande Valley Hometown Club will meet in the Second Floor Lounge of the Memorial Student Center at 9 p.m. Pictures will be taken for The Aggieldand.

The Tyler-Smith County Hometown Club will get together in the Gay Room of the YMCA at 7:30 p.m.

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PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz

THE BATTALION

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The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

MEMBER: The Associated Press Texas Press Assn. Represented nationally by National Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

News contributions may be made by telephoning VI 6-6615 or VI 6-4919 or at the editorial office, Room 4, YMCA. For advertising or delivery call VI 6-6415. Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$8.50 per full year. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 4, YMCA, College Station, Texas.

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Coming

Your RIGHT TO VOTE

MR. AND MRS. VOTER, do you feel that you should have an opportunity to vote on legalizing Parimutuel Horse Race Betting?

A constitutional amendment (H.J.R. #4) is being considered whereby Texans will be given an opportunity to legalize horse race betting in Dallas, Tarrant, Harris, Galveston, Bexar, Midland, Hidalgo, Cameron and Webb Counties, subject to approval by LOCAL OPTION.

H.J.R. #4 provides for distribution, ANNUALLY, among all counties that do not have race tracks, one-half of the STATE TAX REVENUE obtained from horse racing. Each county would receive approximately \$1.00 per capita population the first year. Counties where the tracks are located would receive 2% of parimutuel handle. The state's tax income from horse racing alone would run close to \$12,000,000 the very first year—possibly more—besides all the income tourists would bring to Texas—which would amount to millions of dollars, plus a great deal of value from race tracks, breeding farms and many valuable race horses.

Please express your opinion by checking the appropriate box below. You do not have to sign your name unless you like, but we would prefer it.

POLL

- YES: I feel that the people should have an opportunity to vote on horse race parimutuel betting.
- NO: I am not in favor of letting the people vote on the subject.

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