

Letter-Signers Express Views

A controversial film and a controversial congressional committee recently received a great deal of play in the editorial columns of The Battalion.

The film, "Operation Abolition," and the committee, the House Un-American Activities Committee, have been the subject of several Battalion editorials and a large number of letters to the editor.

One of these letters, reprinted in The Battalion's "Sound Off" column Feb. 22, was signed by 24 A&M faculty members.

The 24 faculty members, representing the departments of economics, mathematics, physics, English, geography, agricultural economics and sociology, history, entomology, biology, chemistry, oceanography and meteorology, and plant physiology and pathology, criticized the showing of the film without any explanation of its controversial nature.

"At the very least, each presentation of the film should be accompanied by some mention of protests against the committee by various religious groups, by journalists, by the labor movement and by 700 faculty members from Stanford University, the University of California at Berkeley, San Francisco State College and San Jose State College," the letter said.

A Dallas Morning News columnist, Lynn Landrum, picked up the story and in his "Thinking Out Loud" column of Mar. 3 said:

"None of these professors was at San Francisco. None of them prepared either to say or to get reputable witnesses to say that the student participants of what the film records were hired actors. . . . What the camera shows was not rehearsed. It took place. And every viewer can say for himself what it means."

Landrum then said, "The column does suggest that these gentlemen (the faculty members who signed the letter) may be representative of a large class of clergymen, educators and others who lead to the defense of the so-called 'liberties' of people who are engaged in seeking the destruction of the actual liberties of us all. That they do it innocently does not lessen the harm of what they are doing."

"Educate the students and let them make up their own mind," he letter and the Landrum column said another.

"There is a question as to what is fact and what is fiction in the film. There are two sides to the question. Both should be presented," said another signer.

When asked what should be done to combat communism at A&M, the faculty members interviewed seemed to believe our biggest need is education.

"We must freely discuss controversial issues and know what communism is," said one. "We can't learn just one side of these issues, but must know what both sides think."

"Students must be able to decide for themselves what is good and what is evil. To do so, they must first know the backgrounds of both communism and our own heritage," said another signer.

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CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"... I was nervous as a cat at home durin' th' holidays. I was afraid that th' postman would bring my grades!"

INTERPRETING Cuba's 'Good' War What Khrushchev Had In Mind

By J. M. ROBERTS
Associated Press News Analyst

The State Department's pamphlet on Fidel Castro and the capture of his revolution by the Communists is an outline in detail of just what Premier Khrushchev of the Soviet Union promises revolutionaries everywhere.

In his statement of Jan. 6 interpreting the Communist manifesto of 1960 for Soviet purposes, Khrushchev promised intervention in such civil wars as "good wars" for promoting the world States.

In this connection it cites the grievances of other Latin-American states against Castro, as a warning but not as an actual demand for action.

This attitude, of hoping the other states will carry the ball against Castro, has made the United States appear indecisive ever since the emergency was recognized. It has its points, however, of big-power pressure.

The Castro revolution in Cuba, which has now become the Communist revolution, may fail of its own shortsightedness, and of its own subversion to interests with which the Cuban people have nothing in common. As yet, because many of the people are still befogged in dreams, there is small hand-hold for counter-revolution.

The picture of Castro coming to power in Cuba through a "good" war, then finding that he had to rely on such organizers as he had available, the organizers being in many cases Communists, is typical of what Khrushchev had in mind. The International Communist movement intends always to be Johnny-on-the-spot with such help.

The White Paper lists a number of important Cubans who helped Castro to success, then quit him when the Communists took over. Incidentally, it makes quite a list of possible leaders of counter-revolution, whether the State Department intended it that way or not. But Castro, holding to power vested him by a trust-eev, in avoiding the semblance

ful people, preferred to out-Communist the Communists and retain his position. Dictatorship attracted him, and so did dreams of spreading his revolution throughout Latin America.

The State Department is trying to rally Latin-American opinion against these dreams. It hopes that hemispheric organization can be solidified as against any tendency toward merely Southern Hemisphere organization—which would inevitably be directed against the United States.

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USAF Okays A&M Frosh, Soph Propellant Project Math Contest Set May 2

The U. S. Air Force has recently approved support of a new A&M research project dealing with missile propellants.

Dr. Walter W. Heck, associate professor in the Department of Plant Physiology and Pathology, and principal investigator and coordinator of the project, said the initial contract is for one year and provides a budget of \$25,270 to be administered by the A&M Research Foundation.

Purpose of the project, Dr. Heck said, is to study effects of missile propellants on environmental pollution.

In addition to Dr. Heck, A&M researchers to participate in the program are Dr. Luther S. Bird, associate professor of the Department of Plant Physiology and Pathology; Dr. Morris E. Bloodworth, professor of the Department of Agronomy; and Dr. William J. Clark, assistant professor of the Department of Biology.

The new research program is of fundamental importance, Dr. Heck said, because of the increasing use of missiles and their possible wide geographical distribution. He said some of the missile propellants are known to be toxic materials. This research effort will add to knowledge of the effects of these propellants and provide a foundation for sound public health and agricultural safety.

Four areas of investigation will be studied by the different specialists.

Dr. Heck will study effects of missile propellants on plant growth and development. Dr. Bird will investigate effects on soil bacteria and fungi. Dr. Bloodworth will study effects on soil, soil structure and run-off water, and Dr. Clark will concentrate on the effects on aquatic life and water supplies.

The annual Mathematics Contest examinations are scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The freshman contest will be held in Room 223 of the Academic Building, and the Sophomore contest in Room 225.

Prizes offered this year in each of the contests are: first prize—gold wrist watch; second prize—\$15, and third prize \$10.

All freshman awards and the second and third sophomore awards are provided by the Robert F. Smith Memorial Fund, established in memory of the late Professor Robert F. Smith. The first prize for sophomores is obtained through the Halperin Award Fund, established by the estate of the late Professor H. Halperin. Professors Smith and Halperin were for many years members of the mathematics staff of the college.

Job Interviews

The following firms will interview graduating seniors on campus:

April 6
Texas Highway Department, District No. 9 (Waco) will interview graduating seniors majoring in civil engineering.

April 7
The Connecticut General Life Insurance Co. will interview graduating seniors majoring in agricultural economics, business administration, economics and industrial distribution.

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