PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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Thursday, January 7, 1937

"A NIGHT IN MADRID"

THE NIGHT BEFORE MURDER" was the 1936 variety of Night Before Christmas for the people of Madrid. The next day Spanish rebels let loose as their present to the citizen's the heaviest bombardment of the siege.

While you and your family gathered around the tree, families in Spain-or the members who were still alive-hunted for shelter from the bombs and shells.

While you wondered whether you should eat another piece of turkey or save space for plumb pudding, people in Spain wondered whether they should save a little of their meagre food supply or eat it while they were still alive.

While "Sis" laughed over her new doll Spanish mothers were weeping over dead children.

Tonight one of those mothers will be here to speak. With her will be two men, Prof. Pedro Villa Fernandez, of New York University, and the Rev. Julian Hamlin, of

Nearly every important student and faculty organization is represented on the local Spanish Relief Committee which is sponsoring this meeting. It is being held to enlist support for the drive for food, clothing, and supplies for the civilian population of Spain which the committee opens today.

Every student and every faculty member should be vitally interested in this meeting. International war is actually going on in Europe today. By the time of the *meeting a declaration of war may have been made.

All three of the speakers tonight can tell you dramatically about the causes, the nature, and the possible results of that war-

Years ago we fondly believed that war in Europe did not directly concern us. The last war demonstrated how false that belief was.

Everyone who wants to relieve suffering and everyone who wants to know more about a subject of vital significance to himself should attend tonight's meeting. And that includes just about everybody.

THE CASE OF GLENN FRANK

BECAUSE the University of Wisconsin, like our own college, is a state institution, the fight there between President Glenn Frank and Governor Phillip LaFollette is of particular interest to us.

So many issues are involved in the case and so many false ones have been raised that it is difficult to judge the merits of each side. Phrases like "academic freedom" come as glibly to the lips of reactionary educators as does "freedom of the press" to the columns of newspapers of the reactionary press.

Briefly here are the facts of the case: Glenn Frank has been president of Wisconsin for nine years. His administration has not been completely satisfactory, but it was not until recently that there was any concerted move to get rid of him.

The presidency of the University is under the control of the Board of Regents, a body of fifteen men appointed by the governor of the state. Ten of the present Board were appointed by LaFollette and eight of these are in favor of dismissing Frank.

mestion that this brin men opposed to Frank because he is an unsatisfactory president or is it because he is a Republican, active in politics, while they, and the man who appointed them, are members of the Progressive party?'

In either case it would seem that there is no question of "academic freedom" involved since Frank is not under fire for anything that he has said or for any theories or ideas which he has professed. There is, however, a very real question of "political domination."

We have tried in this country to keep our educational system free from political control. If, when the Frank case is finally settled, it seems apparent that we have failed to do this, then we need to reorganize the system so that politicians can no longer control the affairs of a state university. But if an examination of the facts shows that Frank is not fit to continue as president, then his supporters (and it is interesting to note how many men like Mark Sullivan and Walter Lippmann who kept their typewriters discreetly in their cases when Yale fired liberal Jerome Davis are now coming to the defense of Republican Frank) should stop their shouting about politics in education

OLD MANIA

We were pretty hard up for copy last night so wandered around to the Hugh Beaver room where a meeting of the Spanish Relief Committee was going on. Some of the more impassioned youths who guide the destinies of this great sheet have been yapping at our heels for weeks to get down off our Olympian height and see what goes on about this U.

Somewhat tongue-in-cheekishly we listened to the proceedings and gradually our tongue relaxed (we won't carry that figure too far). What went on at the Committee meeting was pretty boring-for us. Dry stuff about publicity, collection systems and little details about the mass meeting tonight. The atmosphere sort of got us though-all these earnest people doing a hell of a lot of damn hard and timedevouring work for Spain's devastated civilians whom they never saw, probably never will. Why?

What the hell do we care if Spain gets blown clear off th emap, we here in America? What the hell, we're safe!

But are we? There's an old saying: "There, but for the grace of God, go I." It's pretty true, too.

We got to thinking about Spain, while the Committee settled down to a hot argument about tactics. It came to our mind that the hottest fighting in Madrid is centered about the University of Madrid-Penn State . . . ("There, but for the grace of God.") It's sort of hard to picture machine guns in Old Main though. A school the size of the U of Madrid would have a college paper too . . . and probably a columnist . . . Whew! . . .

We looked around the room again, at the earnest faces of the men and women, co-eds, students giving of their time and efforts to bring some measure of relief to the hundreds of thousands of people who are being subjected to poverty and desolation by the rain of lead from the skies over Spain ("Every Time It Rains It's Raining-Death from the skies."-- Spanish version) and we wondered.

Is this then the true end of education? The raison d'etre for Penn State and other institutions of learning? To gain a feeling of kinship, of responsibility, of fellowship with persons less fortunate than ourselves and to help our fellow humans even if they're across miles of ocean-in Spain? Could a higher education have a greater, more noble aim than this? We doubt it.

Penn State has a tradition-the "hello spirit." Let's enlarge its scope a bit. Over in Madrid students, like ourselves, "searchers for truth," are deprived of all that we have here. Yes, even of life itself! We can sympathize with them, sure. We can do more. We can attend the mass meeting tonight and we can given to the local fund, "Hello" Spain!

At Cornell, R. O. T. C. students who did not return their uniforms at the end of the year sent them to Spain.

At Vassar, groups are knitting clothing for Spain's dispossessed.

At colleges all over the country large sums of money have been raised to alleviate the misery of war torn Spain.

What will Penn State do?

Overheard at the Committee meeting: "Not guns, but food, clothing, medical supplies . . . The headquarters in New York with which we here in State College are working presented three ambulances to Spain at a huge meeting in Madison Square Garden last Monday night . . . They have a warehouse where all garments which are not in good condition are repaired before being sent . . . Thousands of pieces of clothing sent already . . . Cold weather in Spain has aggravated the terrible conditions immeasurably . . . There's no risk; the medical units, clothing and supplies are put on Spanish ships in New York harbor ... U. S. seamen run no risks, are not involved . . . First time in the history of war that a civilian population has been subjected to a merciless and continual bombardment from the air . . . Aid is needed des-

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