

With the Editor—

Dr. Butler Attacks What Democracy Holds Dear. Can He Be Right?

What Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler propounded to the Columbia University faculty last Thursday is a sign of the times—troubled times. Because he urged members of his academic staff to resign if their convictions brought them into open conflict with the university's pursuit of its ideals in "the war between beasts and human beings," Dr. Butler has been roundly criticized. It is true that what he did was to deny freedom of thought and freedom of speech. He clothed this in a different doctrine: that the individual's academic freedom is subordinate to the institution's right to follow its policies. This doctrine smacks plainly of the fascist doctrine that says the individual is subordinate to the state. The only difference is that fascism is carried out on a larger scale.

Yet, undemocratic as his policy is, we are hot sure in our minds that it is all wrong. Fascism has shown us very plainly that it knows how to capitalize on democracy's inherent inability to get immediate unified action. In time of crisis may we find it necessary and even desirable to forego democracy in order to gain that speed? This, apparently, is what Dr. Butler thinks. He propounded a similar doctrine in the World War.

There are two important differences, however, between 1917 when Dr. Butler first introduced his theory and 1940 when he re-introduced it. In 1917 the United States was already at war and his demand for unified thought and speech was less irregular, though it did not go unchallenged.

The other and more important difference is in the minds of the American people. Domination of thought by the state is fascist and dictatorial, two things which the United States did not need to fear in 1917.

The years since 1929 have made a difference. We have suffered depression and we are no longer sure we want rugged individualism. The New Deal has taught us to depend on the state and not on ourselves, and now we are so near the brink of socialism and fascism that no one can be sure a temporary suspension of free action will not become a permanent one.

How we regard Dr. Butler's thesis depends then partly on how we regard ourselves in relation to the war. If we think we are in it, and all signs say that we are, we had better accept it. We are so far gone that now we must run the risk of sacrificing democracy today for more democracy tomorrow.

Mark Sullivan remarked when he visited State College last spring that if once we get into this war we will be sorry we had not entered it sooner. Mark Sullivan is a thoughtful man. The signs say now that we can't stay out. Perhaps it is time to go whole hog and stand with Dr. Butler. That must be what Dr. Butler is thinking.

It is time for us to start fighting now. It is time for us to marshal our every force so that we can put up the strongest possible fight against the aggression which faces us. It is time for us to forego democracy to save democracy. This point can not be reiterated too often. We may still lose democracy. Our faith in it may be so far gone that we will not have the will to fight to regain it once peace has returned. But we are headed now straight for war. And we must agree that once we are in, we will wish we had been in sooner.

Dr. Butler is right.

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LION TALES

Dear Dads:

Sorry you couldn't make the trip to State this week-end but business is business and we would be the first to complain if the checks were to stop coming regularly.

You didn't miss much in not seeing the Bucknell game. It was uninteresting as the devil. Bucknell put up the great fight they always do and the best play of the game was a fake Bucknell kick. But you read that in the paper.

When the Blue Band came out on the field between halves, it had two drum majors. Jimmy Leydon, the regular, led the band and a freshman from Warren, who is a past master at that art gave a beautiful performance. Perhaps you'll get a chance to see him when we play Temple.

The freshmen this year are a cocky bunch and they certainly don't seem to realize that freshman is synonymous with lowly. We used to yell at the hat men but this year's crew barraged the shots with rotten tomatoes and apples. Then, some fool who was feeling high and happy walked right across the field and sat down on our players' bench. A flock of firsts and seconds flew over to oust him and he spied an officer of the campus patrol. He threw his arms around him, talking and gesticulating at a mile a minute.

The house was packed at dinner but we had several sittings and everyone was taken care of. All the brothers from Bucknell were there with dates and I was thinking seriously of doing a good wolf job. The only catch was that they left right after dinner.

Lots of the fellows took their families to "Margin For Error" that the Players put on. I spoke to one girl in the play and she said she had never played to such an appreciative audience. They laughed and clapped at the right time in spite of the fact that some of the kids got stage fright or something and skipped lines. The whole thing went off very well.

I am rather glad that you weren't spending the night here. With that sonorous snore of yours you would have been in the same fix as one of the other fellow's dad who was clipped in the head with a shoe by one of the brothers who thought he was a freshman.

Do you remember the girl you and mother thought looked like one of the gang at home, Harriet Stubbs was her name? Well, the best story of the week-end concerned her. She had a date with Pappy Bartholemew, the dictator of State, and on her way home she tripped over a skunk. The poor kid smelled to high heaven and had to soak her clothes that are probably finished.

You ought to plan to come up soon. I promise not to keep you up late for it is a custom around here to put the family to bed at nine and then get a date and go out.

That's all for now and while I hate to mention this, could you manage another check soon?
Spike.

Footlights—

Players Present 'Margin For Error'

A near-capacity house in Schwab Auditorium Saturday night marked the opening of a successful season as the Penn State Players presented "Margin for Error," a humorous melodrama on life in a German consulate.

Three curtain calls were accorded the Players as the audience signified their approval of Claire Booth's "no-punch-pulling" attack on Hitler and his associates.

Orchids for the evening were pinned on Leon Rabinowitz for his splendid portrayal of Officer Moe Finkelstein, the Jewish policeman responsible for safe-guarding the life of Karl Baumer, the German consul. Determined that his record should not be blemished in the face of a murder, Finkelstein produced in a manner which had the audience hanging onto their seats for support. Never stepping out of character in a very difficult role, Leon Rabinowitz turned in a magnificent performance, sparking a play which otherwise might have fizzled.

Karl Baumer, the German consul, was handled by Robert Shellenberger and his German accent. Shellenberger did an excellent job of being a heel, and his acting could be labeled far above average.

The American Fuhrer, Otto B. Horst, was played by Jack Sacks. Sacks depicted Horst in a manner that would have even won applause from Claire Booth.

Don Taylor as Thomas C. Denny, Don Taylor, as Thomas C. Denny, and Barbara Davis, as Sophie Baumer, did very well with parts which refused to make them stand out.

The play was a hit and the Dad's Day audience appreciated it; technically it was obvious that several characters weren't well-versed in their roles. The action dropped off considerably midway in the second act, but a hard-hitting ending saved the day. The scenery was very pleasing to the eye and the direction—good.
—R.H.L.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY:

Compulsory short meeting of all candidates for the editorial and business staffs of The Daily Collegian in 313 Old Main at 7 p. m.

Meeting of the Engineer business staff at 7 p. m. Editorial at 7:30 p. m. Bring all sold subscriptions.

Camera Club meets in 418 Old Main at 8 p. m.

Campus '43 meeting in 405 Old Main at 7:30 p. m.

MI Student Council meeting at 7 p. m. in Room 121, Mineral Industries Building.

Free three-reel talking picture, "Poultry—a Billion Dollar Industry," in 10 LA at 7:30 p. m. Everyone is invited. Sponsored by the Poultry Club.

Engineering smoker in the Sandwich Shop at 7:30 p. m. Sponsored by the Penn State student branch of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Student draft discussion at 10:15 p. m. over CBS network.

Archery, Fencing, and Tennis Club meet in White Hall at 7 p. m. Free Peté Smith specialty movies on golf demonstrated by Bobby Jones in rifle range of White Hall at 7 p. m.

TOMORROW:

Call for assistant wrestling managers. Report to wrestling mats in Rec Hall at 4 p. m.

Nibbling At The News

J. GORDON FAY

Now that the Axis team has come out of its huddle at Brenner Pass and is awaiting the opening whistle of a blitzkrieg which will eclipse all previous blitzkriegs perhaps by the time this column is off the presses, that whistle will already have blown, Russia is beginning to give the world just an inkling as to where it stands.

Of course, Stalin has by no means let the cat entirely out of the bag of Soviet censorship yet, but a couple of inches of the feline creature's tail seem to be projecting in the Soviet Free Press' praise of British defense and a certain Russian war commissar's warning against "provocations which may threaten our border."

That warning could hardly be against England; in other words, it could quite conceivably be directed at Germany or Japan, particularly since Russia has never in recent years been too chummy with Japan, and Hitler was once upon a time heard to remark as to what he would do to "those Russian dogs."

On the other hand, there is the cartoon of Chamberlain "In Retreat," also given out by Soviet censors. While this was not especially complimentary to the British nation, it was certainly little more than the type of cartoon which might have appeared in England's own "Punch" before the war. If Soviet satirists were really trying to land a slap that would sting, they missed the boat on that one.

Folks are not finding an optimistic note in all this, because they think Joseph Stalin, never less of a dyed-in-the-wool dictator than the men who head Germany and Italy, has suffered a change of heart and is now all for the cause of democracy and freedom. No, they simply feel that Stalin, the dictator who was snubbed by not being invited to the Brenner Pass party, could quite effectually take the minds of a certain two Axis powers off their work if any of Russia's several million square miles were trespassed upon.
Could be.

Paraders Asked To Pay

(Continued from page one)

fun should be willing to pay for it themselves," he said.

After the joint meeting, the regular meeting of the Borough Council was opened with a report by Burgess Wilbur Leitzell on the overnight parking problem.


In his report, Burgess Leitzell made the following recommendations to the Council:

1. That all those who have garages use them.
2. That all who have private drives park in them.
3. No parking on narrow streets.
4. Apartment houses should be made to take care of tenants' cars.
5. Tourists should be allowed to park overnight.
6. Fraternities and Council should come to some agreement about fraternity parking.

No action was taken on the Burgess' recommendations by the Council but they were referred to H. L. Stuart, who is in charge of the parking investigation.

Jack Harper
HATTER HARBORSHAMER TAILOR

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