

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Wednesday Morning, January 15, 1941

Short Steps Toward War

Senator Nye, the professional peace man, made a good statement last week. He exactly described our present situation when he said we are "taking short steps toward war."

We have been taking short steps toward war at an ever increasing tempo since long before the war began. We have been taking them selfishly for our own benefit. We will continue to take them because most Americans are beginning to believe that the price of peace will be higher than the price of war.

Wars now are popularly undeclared. No one in the future is likely to know just which one of our short steps took us across the delicate line that divides peace and war. When historians balance the books some may set the date of our entry as September 1940. Others may place it at January 6, 1941. Others may place it still later.

Those who regard only the sending of troops as an act of war may never find us in this war. We have been promised that no American Expeditionary Force will go into Europe. As long as the English Channel separates the two fronts there seems no need for one.

If Germany refuses to fall of her own weight and an invasion of the mainland becomes a prerequisite of Allied victory the situation may change. From a military standpoint American public in its present state of mind could probably be induced to send them. Senator Nye estimates that there are already 35 senators who would vote for this kind of war.

After the last war the American people decided they would never fight again for idealism. It is going to take purse selfishness to move us now, we have agreed.

The possibility of forestalling American invasion is a good selfish reason.

The possibility of breaking an attempted German world domination is a good selfish reason.

The desire to preserve our own democracy and self-determination is a good selfish reason.

Now let's add the best one of them all. Before we give Britain all-out material aid, let's strike a Yankee bargain.

Let's guarantee that aid with some real security—more British possessions in this hemisphere. Horsetraders that we are, let's start the bargaining with Canada. That will be the best short step we have yet taken.

Elections Date Set

It is to be hoped that as many other groups as possible will fall in with the action the All-College Elections Committee took last night.

By setting March 11, 12, and 13 for the All-College Elections the committee made it possible for the successful candidates to have two months to understudy the positions they will assume in May.

More than any other way now suggested, this seems capable of increasing the strength of the student government. It will help even more if other groups fall in line.

In addition to the class officers, the student leaders now chosen early include the Panhellenic Council officers, and the Penn State Club officers.

Steps are being made in the right direction. We can hope they will be continued.



A LEAN AND HUNGRY LOOK

The senior class gift committee has made the observation that it is in something of a quandry over the expenditure of the monies extracted over a period of years from the class of '41. This is indicative of almost anything. Perhaps the College needs naught else to increase its present approach to perfection. Or perhaps the committee has simply been unable to discover a suitable white elephant. At any rate, the situation is not without interest; no transaction wherein five thousand iron men are juggled about is entirely dull so far as we're concerned. Frankly speaking, we have nothing to offer the committee. The campus is already theoretically adorned with a Lion Shrine (whereat, it is to be supposed, little groups of the devout will gather to chant and utter prayers), a Greek Theatre, and many other lovely and mostly neglected items. Somewhere in the mountains there is to be a cabin erected for winter sportsmen and ladies. And who has not heard of the munificence of the class of '22? Those noble and generous citizens donated funds for a swimming pool. The college still uses the facilities offered by a local apartment building. The classes from '27 to '30 left funds for a skating pond, but the tennis courts continue to serve the purpose. Surely some worthy cause can be served by the class of '41. Perhaps the tower of Old Main might be painted mauve, or the Krupp gun before the armory plated with gold and studded with semi-precious gems. Again, it might be best to wait, and follow the example of the classes of '16, '17, and '18. They built a memorial gate. The war, you know.

Far be it from us to level the barbs of criticism at the agriculturists. The poets have sung them, from Vergil to Sandburg; their fame is as old as the world, and in all the lands their works are shewn. They are, as some one has rather aptly phrased it, nature's noblemen and guardians of the soil. Nor is it within our province to cavil at the great American educational system, grounded as it is upon the bulky foundations of sociology, psychology, home economics, and manual training. When the agriculturists and educationalists intermingle however, the results are, as Queen Pasiphae discovered after her unfortunate experience under somewhat different circumstances and in another time, a trifle confusing. For instance, if one is determined on the matter, one can become a master of science in vegetable gardening. This is pretty heavy going. It points the way to even greater specialization; to vistas undreamed of by even the prophetic Maro. One day the youth of America will be able to undertake courses leading to, let us say, a degree of Bachelor of Science in Mushroom Culture. Then we shall have better mushrooms. They will have been grown under the benevolent wing of Science! The thought is a happy one.

We read in the newspaper the other day that Air Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding of the R. A. F. made the statement that American-built airplanes were proving quite satisfactory in foreign combat service. The Air Marshal went even further in his praise; he said that with a few added devices peculiar to the British air arm, the American planes could be brought nearly to the standard set by the English manufacturers. This is, we think, damned white of Sir Hugh. But don't you despair, Hughie old thing. Give us a couple more years, and then we too will be able to muff a war almost as well as you Britishers. With our antiquated aircraft. And our inferior breeding. After all, one can hardly expect to achieve that awe-inspiring English stupidity in a few hundred years.

Having had our say concerning the English, may we close with a rather absurd idea. It occurs to us that an ambulance or a couple of tons of food sent across to the blighters would be quite as satisfactory a balm to the class of '41's conscience as any other thing their class funds might purchase. Even if we do hate the Vickers-Armstrong crowd we still admire the guts of the common people.
Cassius.

"War or peace does not change, by one jot or one tittle, the boundaries of academic freedom. War lays upon the university no obligation to surrender its essential functions of truth in teaching and the enlargement of the borders of truth. Only as those who teach feel confident that they can express the truth as their minds see it, only as they have firm assurance that in their search for new truths they will be unhampered, can either the perpetuation or the expansion of knowledge really be effective." President Henry M. Wriston of Brown University pledges maintenance of freedom of thought and of teaching regardless of world conditions.

Collegian Candidates

(Continued from Page One)

Smyser, Thomas Aberant, Jack J. Bard, Kenneth White, Morrison Arthur, Robert Redmount, Benjamin aBiley, Donald Webb, Robert Faloon.

Women's business candidates—Suzanne M. Clouser, Natalie Daveson, Betty Friedman, Eleanor Friedman, Esther Mae Hartos, Louise Henry, Virginia Lee Jackson, Grace Judge, Mary Lou Keith, Margaret Maginnis, and Adrienne Miller.

Margaret K. Ramaley, Mary Roelofs, Helen Schmelz, Anne Serocca, Betty Lou Schaeffer, Ruth Shanes, Winifred E. Spahr, Joyce Strope, Shirley Tetley, Mary Lee Ullom, Nell Wartman, and Marian Whitcomb.

Men business candidates—Milton Bergstein, George J. Cohen, Robert Dierken, Philip P. Mitzkevitch, Edwin L. Partridge, Donald H. Shaner, Kenneth Sivitz, and Marlin Zimmerman.

CINEMANIA

What would you do if you were about to be wedded a second time and your first husband decides to make his appearance at the wedding? Katharine Hepburn as Tracy Lord is the woman in question. Cary Grant is the first husband. "Philadelphia Story" promises to be more than an hilarious film version of the New York stage hit.

Complications arise when Cary as Dexter Haven hires Mike Conner a writer for a keyhole society publication to reform his ex-wife. Through Mike, played by James Stewart, Tracy learns it is better to be a human being than a goddess.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY:

First figure skating lesson on the tennis courts rink, 6:30 to 7:30 p. m. A fee of 50 cents will be charged.

American Chemical Society meeting, Room 119 New Physics, 7:30 p. m.

PSCA Board of Directors meeting, Hugh Beaver Room, 4:10 p. m. Freshman Independent Party, Room 318 Old Main, 7 p. m.

Varsity basketball, Penn State versus Syracuse, Rec Hall, 8 p. m.

PSCA Freshman Council Project committee meeting, Hugh Beaver Room, 4 p. m.

Alpha Lambda Delta, Grange lounge, 6:30 p. m.

Home Ec career lectures: "Teaching Homemaking," 1 p. m., Room 110 Home Economics; "The Hospital Dietitian," 1 p. m., Room 5 Home Economics; "The Home Economics Woman in Business and Commercial Food Work," 1 p. m., Room 106 Home Economics; "The Textile Field and Research," 1 p. m., Room 112 Home Economics; "Nursery School Teaching," 7 p. m., Nursery School; "Journalism and the Home Economist," 7 p. m., Room 106 Home Economics.

Ellen H. Richards Club, Room 224 Home Economics, 6:45 p. m.

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