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Friday, January 14, 1944

Luxury As Usual

Managing Editor

Collegiate ears must have been burning Tuesday night when President Roosevelt stated, in a radio address to the nation, that "if ever there was a time to subordinate individual or group selfishness to the national good, that time is now."

It is hardly possible that there was any remote thought of college students, in particular, in the President's mind when he made that statement, but the label does apply, especially to Penn State. We have not been engaged in the "bickerings, self-seeking partisanship, stoppages of work . . " that he cited, but we do come in for criticism on the item of "luxury as usual" which was on his list of "influences which can undermine the morale of the brave men ready to die at the front for us here."

One of the main points in President Roosevelt's message which called for a sweeping win-the-war program, was the proposal for a part of a fivepoint program of war time legislation, calling for curbing of living costs and undue profits, increased taxes, and maintainance of the price-wage

The national service act would draft every ablebodied man and woman for war production or other essential work—and that means us.

In the face of such an eventuality, it behooves every student to seriously face the propiem and. ask himself, "Just what am I doing in college? What right have I to be here?" And in the majority of cases the answer will unfortunately be that he is struggling through courses, doing nothing very constructive, and that he has little right to be here.

Not by actually bucking the war effort, but by remaining passively resistant where we should have been actively contributing—that is, how we have had a part in undermining the war. Aside from the fact that we have failed miserably in the comparatively simple duty of responding to any of the war bond drives, we, as students, have failed to organize any really comprehensive plan which would show a whole-hearted response to the duties which are naturally ours, since we, too, are a part of this war.

This lack of response has probably not been intentional, it has just been a part of the general apathy on campus-whether we realized it or not, our slogan has been "luxury as usual."

It is possible that the fault lies in the fact that our duty to contribute is still on a voluntary basis, and that we lack the initiative to make that contribution voluntarily. However, if such is the case we may soon find ourselves called upon to respond, whether we like it or not, for if the national service act is passed, college students may easily be among the first to be taken.

Most college students pride themselxes on being fairly adult individuals and resent being told "you must" rather than "you should." We may be told that we must. But in the meanwhile, there is still time for us to respond to the milder injunction. There is still time for us to abandon our policy of luxury as usual.

The Fourth War Loan Drive is beginning next week. If All-College Cabinet could see its way clear to undertake the job of coordinating all the groups on campus into a vital organization to put the drive across, we might be able to vindicate

ourselves so that we may feel that we are being referred to by President Roosevelt's statement that "the overwhelming majority of our people have met the demands of this war with magnificient courage and understanding. They have accepted inconveniences; they have accepted hardships; they have accepted tragic sacrifices. And they are ready and eager to make whatever future contributions are needed to win the war as quickly as possible—if only they are given a chance to know what is required of them." L.H.L.

Encore Soldier Suffrage

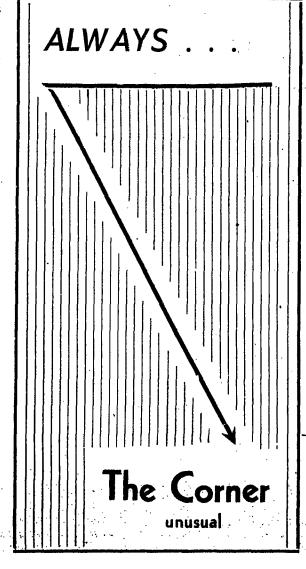
Staunch supporters of the now defunct Green-Lucas soldier-vote bill are no doubt deriving a bit of compensation from the realization that from all indications the American populace has little intention of allowing Congress to quietly shelve the issue and turn its attention to the more immediate question of politics 1944. The difficulty for Congress, of course, lies in the effect that improper handling of the problem can have on a voting citizenry that has already decided rather definitely that it wants a cargo of ballots launched in the direction of battlefronts.

At any rate two compromise proposals intended to reincarnate the essence of the defeated Green-Lucas attempt have found their way into the United States Senate. The two bills, one by the already familiar partnership of Green-Lucas and the other by the combination of Henry Cabot Lodge-Warren R. Austin, aim to evade the pitfalls of constitutionality by giving to the Federal government authority to engineer overseas voting but leaving the matter of qualifications to the states.

It was this question of determination of qualifications which doomed the first Green-Lucas bill. Since the Constitution by its silence on the matter of suffrage requirements puts this department among the reserved powers of the states, passage of the soldier-vote bill in its original form would probably have involved an additional amendemtn. At least that was the stand taken by those who sought a legitimate means of blocking the bill's passage.

Although the new measures, designed to avoid offending touchy states' rights Southerners, could do nothing about the disfranchisement of the Southern negro through the poll tax, they at least represent an effort to insure suffrage for the ma. jority of men in uniformfl Certainly it would seem to any logical thinker that machinery for handling 10,000,000 absentee voters could be most efficiently managed by one central authority.

It would seem also that this sort of compromise would require little constitutional elasticity. Even the most fantastic states' rights enthusiast could hardly be expected to complain if, after conceding nothing in the way of his authority to determine who may cast a ballot, he was asked to give the federal government no more than the right to address a few envelopes, handle the red tape, and pay the bill.





It Says Here

LEE H. LEARNER

Cabinet is putting into the forth- thy name is mud! coming Winter Ball, it certainly You Have To Be Subile . . . should go over big-we hope it Just about the last word on rushdoes, especially from a financial ing was uttered by one wise young angle. It would be a pretty thing freshman the other day. She was to have to cash in any of the War wondering how she should go Bonds that were bought with stu- about telling a certain sorority that dent funds in order to meet ex- she was a legacy of theirs; since penses as one Cabinet member they didn't seem aware of the fact. blithely suggested might be done A friend suggested that she should

State. For every slip, slide or fall isn't done." that an unfortunate coed took on Art 'n' Stuff the ice, there was a combined. Maybe art is going to the dogs. watching the far from graceful an- hind the ears" inspection.

What with all the work that tics of novice skiers . . . cnivalry,

if the dance finances went into a just mention it in the course of conversation. The little trushee turned horrified eyes on her ad-Among other things that the re- viser and explained, "Oh, no, I do cent snowfall brought was a very could never do that. Why, on a definite indication of sadism rush date, you talk of just sabout ally among the armed forces at Penn everything but sorority are it just

audience of Air Corps, ASTP, and after all! A shoulder-looker-over V-12'ers to stand by and roar hilar- in an art 74 class last week noted iously. But as for helping the that one V-12 student had unconbruised young lady to her feet-cernedly written "Venus and the world heck, no, that's sissy stuff! And dogs" in his notes, every time the there's always a peanut gallery of prof mentioned "Venus and uniforms out on Holmes Field at Adonis." Or maybe the V-12 ers 4 o'clock every afternoon, gleefully ought to be subjected to "dirt be-

Over Hill And Dal

By Frank Levy and Hank Kalette

the weekly edition of their paper, A little late, but still good, Conand it is the hope of the authors of this column that we will be grats to Papa Felzenberg upon able to fulfill their request ade- the arrival of a baby daughter. quately. This will be your column, fellows, and news from you, think him to be of draft age, but of you, and by you, will be its believe me, he's a father. For only contents.

This month has seen the departure of our commandant, Col. Ardery, Company C Commander, Captain Bush, and Company D Commander, Captain Mayne. The latter was the only one with whom we were acquainted, it is with deep regret that we see him go. He is the kind of a fellow that a G. I. dreams about for his C.O. A fine man, and we sure will miss him.

woman can do, we shall at least G. I. Purnell and Marty break attempt to do. After a few months up With what higher-up has of steady company, Dick. M. now. Elmer Draper been seen recenthas to wait in line for his dates ly? You guessed it!

Collegian has asked for volun- . . . and behind, of all people, an teer service men to contribute to ordinary gob! For shame, Dick . . To look at him you wouldn't that matter, so is Frank Sinatra. The boys have been complaining _ that Pvt. Cantillo has been a little too G. I. Let's relax a little Nick . . . It seems that Bks. No. 3 has taken over the women's dorm across the street. Don King, and Vicki, Joe Connor and Peggy, Don MacAusland and Binnie. And Ken Kaul with Cy . . . A more appropriate name for the dorm would be Bks. No. 3 Annex . We Yankees get quite a laugh at seeing our rebel boys Quite a few of the barracks bundle up for their surveying have taken it upon themselves to labs. Among the shivering are form basketball teams and book Pete Lindsey, Frank Holman, and games. Bks. No. 1 defeated Bks. "Whiney" Noel . . . Bks. No. 2'ers No. 3 in a close game Saturday are under the impression that afternoon in the Rec Hall, 51-44. they are the most spirited group Few columns, especially about of ASTP'ers on Campus. They the army, would be complete claim they can defeat any other without the mention of campus team in any sport. Oh Boy! . . . gossip. We shall try to dig up a We are told that Hugh. Moore little dirt on some of you boys likes 'em young-just ask Corkey' as do the female columnists on and Timer . . . Bks. No. 12 claims campus. How they garner all that the most married men, and the chatter is beyond us, but what a most courteous ment Sorry to see.

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