

The Safety Valve

Letters to the editor must be signed for inclusion in the Safety Valve, although names will be withheld on request. Telephone numbers and addresses must be included to facilitate verification of authenticity of signatures. Letters exceeding 200 words in length may be cut when required by space limitations.

'Not a Draft Evader'

TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Collegian of March 18 printed a story on Larry Gara and the recent U.S. District Court decision which found him guilty of supporting and abetting Charles Rickert, of Bluffton College, in non-registration for the present conscription law. The story on Gara was very objective and well done. The purpose of this letter is to point out that Charles Rickert is not a draft evader.

Charles Rickert, as a pre-ministerial student and a pacifist declining to serve in the armed forces, would be eligible for classifications IV D or IV E under the Selective Service Law and thereby exempt from active service in the armed forces. He does not believe in supporting war and further feels that the present Selective Service Law actually promotes war and counteracts any practices of goodwill this country might undertake. Since he possesses this belief he is unable to cooperate in any way with the law that makes possible the conscription of men for promotion of war. Quite logically he has refused to register for the draft. Charles Rickert is thereby a non registrant with no intentions of evading life but a person who is facing his inner religious leadings and being consistent.

Not at all incidental to this whole matter is the fact that Gara was convicted without a fair hearing; not to mention the fact that a U.S. Court is limiting freedom of speech and religious liberties. The case is being appealed to a Circuit Court and is under the care of the Civil Liberties Union.

—Eugene L. Mercer Jr.

Against Council Politics

TO THE EDITOR: Lost, or entirely forgotten, in the current "Politics in student councils" con-

troversy is the opinion of those the issue might affect. Perhaps if some of the opinions of councils and their members on the issue were voiced, more light might be thrown on the subject and a more objective decision arrived at.

Members of the Liberal Arts student council in a straw vote were overwhelmingly against allowing politics to enter their council. Briefly, some of the reasons for these many nays were:

1. Interested people not affiliated with a political party would have little or no chance to become elected to a council.

2. If politics determined who was to be a council member, politics could more easily determine who was to be president of each council. Since council presidents sit-in on All-College Cabinet, students would have a politically packed cabinet.

3. Political party influences might cause politically elected council members to act more toward benefiting their party than toward benefiting the student body whom they supposedly should represent.

In the light of the above potentially ruinous situations, many members of the LA student council voiced their hopes against allowing politics to enter student councils.

—Karl Borish and Jean Moore.

Edit Brief

● Pressure of official duties has caused President Truman to cancel a speaking engagement at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a news story says. Of course, MIT hasn't the pretty coeds of Rollins College, either.

Truman Keynotes Rent Fight, Attacks Real Estate Lobby

Late AP News. Courtesy WMAJ

WASHINGTON — President Truman sounded the keynote of a fight to extend federal rent controls yesterday in a speech before the United States Conference of Mayors.

The Chief Executive blamed what he called the real estate lobby for Congressional backwardness in working out a bill along the lines he asked. He and Congress, said the President, are working together and will continue to work together for the good of the country.

Without Congressional action, rent controls will expire altogether after March 31. Senate Democratic Leader Scott Lucas expressed the hope that Senators will not use up time talking about other matters. Otherwise, he said, night meetings will be necessary this week. Chairman Burnet Maybank of the Senate Banking Committee said repeal of rent control would be hazardous and unwise.

The House of Representatives, meanwhile, passed and sent to the Senate a bill continuing rent ceilings in the District of Columbia. The bill contains the strict controls which President Truman has been seeking without

success for the country as whole.

Coplon Pleads Innocent

WASHINGTON—Judith Coplon, the former government girl who is accused of giving confidential information to a Soviet agent, entered a plea of innocent, yesterday.

The plea of innocent was entered in Washington on a charge of removing secret information from government files. Miss Coplon also is under indictment in New York on a charge of conspiracy to commit espionage.

Almost simultaneously her attorney, Archibald Palmer, disclosed that she contends that the papers involved were merely notes for a book which she intends to write. He told Washington newsmen that the whole case in his opinion is "much ado about nothing."

Soviets Control Mark

BERLIN — Soviet-controlled German police have been attempting to prevent western Berliners from going on a buying spree with their surplus marks. So far this is the only public Soviet reaction to the action Sunday in which the Soviet-backed fast mark was outlawed in the western parts of the city.

News Briefs

Eng Student Council

Opening nominations for student council officers to be elected April 5 will be held at the Engineering Student Council meeting in 106 Old Main at 7 p.m. today. Constitutional revision and reports from the course rating program will complete the business.

Froth

Pinnings, engagements and marriages to be announced in the April issue of Froth must be turned in at Student Union by 5 p.m. tomorrow.

Civil Engineers

A short course in concrete construction will be offered to chapter members of the American Society of Civil Engineers by the Portland Cement Association. The meetings will be held in 219 EE from 7 to 9 p.m. tomorrow and Friday.

Camera Club

Instruction and practice in portrait pictures will be offered to Penn State Camera Club members at the Penn State Photo Shop at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

ASCE Banquet

The ASCE will hold its annual banquet in the Penn Belle Hotel in Bellefonte April 5. Members are requested to make reservations as early as possible.

ROTC Training

All veterans wishing to begin advanced ROTC training in the fall should report to 101 Carnegie today. Information concerning physical and other requirements for the four semester course leading to any army commission are available in 101 Carnegie.

Wednesday Reading

Dr. Phillip A. Shelley, professor and head of the department of German, will read from Goethe's Faust at the fourth in the series of Wednesday Readings in 106 Library at 4:15 p.m. tomorrow.

This year marks the 200 anniversary of Goethe's birth. The Library plans an exhibit later in the year.

Group Meetings

The General Electric Company will hold a group meeting in 10 Sparks at 7 p.m. today.

The Corps of Engineers will hold a group meeting in 417 Old Main at 7 p.m. today.

State Party

The State Party Steering Committee will meet in 210 Old Main at 7 p.m. today.

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