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The Daily Collegian

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The Budget, and John Public Jr.

Some weeks ago we wrote about the terrible circle budget-cutters got themselves into whenever the Federal budget came up for approval in Washington.

At that time we said that this also applied just as well to the state governments. This problem is easily brought down to the University's situation when one reads about the efforts currently being made by Dr. Eric A. Walker to get what he feels is necessary for the University to function for another two years.

What affects the state economy also affects the University since a goodly amount of the University's income comes from state aid.

The problem becomes more acute each time the University appropriation comes up. It is known that the University didn't get as much as was asked last biennium. Of course, this is probably true for every group (with some exceptions) which asks money from the state. If everyone got exactly what he needed, the state would likely be spending twice as much money as it had available.

From our remarks in that past editorial we hope we have made it clear that we are not in that group which just rears up on its hind legs and blasts away when it doesn't get what it considers a fair shake.

We have the utmost sympathy with the state legislators who, just like their counterparts in Washington, have to make some cuts somewhere. Governor George M. Leader and other state officials have pleaded that there is just not enough money to go around. This is true.

But from Dr. Walker's recent efforts to get an increase in the \$27.7 million appropriation which the Governor suggested to the Assembly, we sense that things are much worse than two years ago.

In Pittsburgh Monday night Dr. Walker told a Alumni Fund meeting, "We consider this to be a disaster budget. It would barely permit us to maintain our present programs."

Pennsylvania has always been ranked rather low on the list of states when it comes to money spent for education. In a rich state like ours (compared to some others which rate higher) this is slightly incongruous.

As Dr. Walker said, this thing goes farther than the University itself. It reaches right down to the elementary schools. There the pangs of too little money are being felt also. And when these children are being deprived of a decent education then the problem can become no more serious.

We have never been able to explain why the people refuse to recognize the importance of what is perhaps their most precious heritage—a clear-thinking, well-educated generation to follow. This kind of generation may not be forthcoming if things continue the way they have been going.

Yet, we are not, in writing this, issuing a warning to the state legislature to get on the ball and give Penn State a decent appropriation. This is because the blame may lie elsewhere.

More taxes would be one way to solve this problem. Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public wince when this is mentioned, but John Public Jr., age 6, may be sitting squeezed into an inadequate classroom with classes only half a day because his parents are loathe to pay more taxes.

Also we implore the public to become more conscious of the need for improvements in educational facilities because they are precisely the ones who can do something about it.

If Pennsylvania has ranked low in education for a number of years, it would follow that a worried citizenry would be up in arms. However, it seems that people of the state like the status quo. If their child complains that he isn't getting the correct treatment in school they will be quick to take action, but why wait until then? Why not now?

—The Editor

Don't Lower the Voting Age

To lower the voting age to 18 would be a serious mistake and would lower the overall quality of the votes.

Those who say that the voting age should be lowered claim that if a person can go to war and die for his country he should be allowed to vote and help decide who will be its leaders.

We see no correlation between the two whatsoever. Any person who is not physically disabled and is not an idiot can fight in a war. Some soldiers are known to have I.Q.'s below the normal range.

In fact, a person with high intelligence, and a person who likes to think for himself can be a real hazard in a war or a battle. The military tends to train men to take orders without question and generally discourages a great deal of free-thinking on the part of the men. The fact that a person has the physical capability and the mental ability necessary to follow orders does not qualify him as a good voter.

Generally speaking people at 18 are more immature than those of 21. We realize that this is a nebulous topic, but we must say that in the long run this will be true. It is also difficult to say who can cast an intelligent vote and who cannot. Probably it would be better to let all college students vote regardless of their age, but then a new difficulty arises in that some college students have no interest in politics and do not read up on the questions at stake in the vote. All that can be done is to let anyone in the population between certain ages vote. We

can say that the intelligent voter is the person who reads the news on both sides and does not formulate his opinion with too much bias behind it.

The person of 18 is often economically dependent on his family. If he has not been out working and living on his own he does not have any conception of taxes, prices or labor conditions, except by what he reads. In other words, it is hoped that by meeting up with situations first hand it will help the person have a base for formulating his opinion.

It is also claimed that people voting at 18 would just duplicate their parents' vote. This, of course, would not be true in all cases, but we suspect that it would be true in a good many. Particularly when the person is still economically dependent on the parents.

Even the college student who has better perception perhaps than the older person without a college education, cannot claim the advantage of experience which tends to make a person weigh the pros and cons more carefully without jumping to a decision.

On the whole the person of 18 is less mature than the person of 21. His conditions often put him in a position where his thought is too easily affected by others and he lacks experience.

Letting people vote at 18 would provide more votes, but we doubt if it would improve the quality of the votes. Do the people want just votes or good votes?

—Sue Conklin

Safety Valve

Fraternity Men Better Scholars?

TO THE EDITOR: I was amused by the remarks of Professor Arthur M. Wellington at the Outstanding Pledge Banquet as reported in the Collegian yesterday.

It seems that one should join a fraternity because he would then have a far greater chance of graduating than if he remained an independent. This conclusion, of course, was based on statistics. May I point out that it could be shown by statistics that freshmen who "join" the West Halls dormitories after their freshman year have an even greater chance of graduating.

Taking statistics and applying them to such conclusions is plain and simple propaganda. Here at Penn State the fraternities will have a higher graduation percentage than the independents because of the scholastic requirement

for joining a fraternity and because the independent group includes the freshmen who have the highest rate of failure of all classes.

It is true that the fraternity members have a better scholastic average, but this no proof that the fraternity membership gives them this scholastic advantage.

Professor Wellington should take English Comp 5 to learn how to analyze statistics and Psych 2 to see that in scientific experiment or analysis it is necessary to have both an experimental and a control group for comparison in order to draw conclusions. Maybe fraternity membership helps scholastically, but it is not proved from these statistics.

—David Houghton

Gazette

Today
CHESS CLUB, 7 p.m., 7 Sparks
A.S.A.E. CLUB, 7 p.m., 106 Ag. E. Bldg.
Lecture: Prof. A. W. Case on Catholic Marriage, 7 p.m., 104 Eisenhower Chapel
PHI Upsilon Omicron, 8:45 p.m., Home Economics Living Center
RIDING CLUB, 7 p.m., 217 Willard
THETA SIGMA PHI, 8:30 p.m., Alpha Chi Omega Suite

University Hospital
Bette Bingham, Frederick Condon, Sara Cushman, Donald Daum, Marjorie Heaster, Janice Hochberg, Carl Hoffman, Pauline Hoffman, Patricia Kelly, Margaret King, John Lewis, Richard Liedy, Stanley Lindenberg, Samuel Markle, John Marshall, George Nagorny, Richard Poole, George Sellers, Valerie Sigelen, Marilyn Smith, Ira Storer, Darwin Teitel, Paul Tholan

Little Man on Campus by Bibler



Interpreting the News

Containing Russia May Be Expensive

By J. M. ROBERTS
Associated Press News Analyst

The American public is pretty well convinced by now that it is going to be required to pay and pay for containment of Soviet expansionism and the search for ultimate peace.

When President Dwight D. Eisenhower says world peace is an objective that overrides high taxes, because without it

the world faces virtual destruction, it is taken as merely routine.

There is less unanimity, however, when it comes to the question of whether money is really the answer, and how it is to be spent.

The President was talking more about the budget and the possibilities of a tax cut than about ways and means to peace. He sounded at one point as though social problems at home and the foreign aid program were just parts of the budget.

But then he brought in the importance of making the world truly understand America's position in it.

All of these things are more fatefully joined together than merely through inclusion in the same budget.

One of the things that gives Americans pause as they contemplate their outlays for peace is that they can't see what has been done so far as a concrete, definite program with definite results.

After 10 years of foreign aid as it has been practiced from time to time, the taxpayers still see a world which moves from crisis to crisis with the brink of war as a familiar shadow which follows them throughout the day.

A great many of them are convinced that what they see is not the prosecution of an American policy, but a series of reactions to Russian deeds.

This is true only in degree. However, it is true that there would be no such policies and no such reactions except for fear of Russian expansionism.

Perhaps it is time not so much for a revision of policy as a revision of outlook under which the public can be given added reasons for different programs.

If the rest of the world is to be given an understanding of what America means, then America must be that which she professes. By that token, social programs which enhance rather than diminish the dignity of the individual must be carried out in that light, and presented to the world in that light, rather than as political sops to pressure groups.

If the United States believes that the world must be lifted by America's economic bootstraps until its component parts can af-

ford to live freely without fear, then more attention must be paid to broad general principles of development, rather than be centered, as now, on a few countries bordering the Communist bloc which the West wishes to use as buffers in containment.

America is at her best as a proponent of principles, as an example of the good life which men can attain when truly determined to live together in peace.

Chemistry Prof To Go Abroad

Dr. John C. Aston, professor of organic chemistry and director of the Low Temperature Laboratory, will leave for Europe Thursday.

While there he will participate in two conferences and lecture at several universities.

He will deliver a paper at the Conference on Surface Activity to be held in London from April 8 to 12.

Dr. Aston will serve as chairman of the theoretical section of the "Chemical Purity" symposium in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, from April 24 to 26.

He will give lectures at the University of Wales, St. Andrew's University in Scotland, and Oxford University in England and will visit the University of Leeds in England and the Universities of Louvain and Brussels in Belgium.

Mrs. Aston and their son will accompany him. They will return to the United States early in June.

Metallurgy Prof Given Committee Appointment

Dr. Robert W. Lindsay, professor of metallurgy, has been appointed to the 1957-58 nominating committee for national officers of the American Society for Metals.

Dr. Lindsay, who is chairman of the University chapter of the society, will represent the local chapter. He is the first officer of the University chapter to be appointed to this national committee.