

Editorial Opinion

Sputniks & Oppenheimer

With America being at the advent of the space age, an increased number of persons want to bring J. Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the A-bomb, back into official government "respectability."

There were a few signs of desire to do this before the Russians put up their Sputniks, but the number has increased significantly since then.

Oppenheimer, you will remember, was removed as a security risk during the very first year of the Eisenhower Administration.

Let's look at some of the post-Sputnik developments:

In October, Oppenheimer was invited to participate in the 12th American Assembly seminar on nuclear power at Columbia University's Arden House. These discussions originated with a former Columbia president, Dwight D. Eisenhower. And Harold S. Vance, a new addition to the same Atomic Energy Commission which branded Oppenheimer a risk, was a fellow participant in the conference.

In November, Trevor Gardner, former Eisenhower Administration Air Force Assistant Secretary for research and development, noting that Oppenheimer has "one of the finest minds in the world," suggested that Eisenhower's new missile czar, James R. Killian, "ask himself" whether Oppenheimer should be brought back into government service to aid the lagging missile program.

Also in November, Sen. Harry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), an active member of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, said it would be "entirely proper" for the AEC to arrange for a rehearing and a reconsideration of the Oppenheimer case.

In December, a Washington Post poll showed that nine of the 17 members of the President's Science Advisory Committee favored bringing Oppenheimer back, four declined comment, two expressed "high personal regard" for Oppenheimer, one wanted more time to think it over, and one couldn't be reached for comment.

Also last month, Adlai E. Stevenson voiced his hope that Oppenheimer's "genius is re-enlisted in the nation's service."

And even Thomas E. Murray, a former AEC member and the only member to declare Oppenheimer not only a risk but a "disloyal" American, now says he neither advocates nor opposes bringing Oppenheimer back. This is indeed the most significant of all the developments.

Although many persons now want to see Oppenheimer return to government service, there has been no indication that he is willing to live and forgive. He is apparently happy as director of the Institute of Advance Study at Princeton University.

There is no doubt that Oppenheimer's knowledge of theoretical physics—especially in the light elements and the monuclear field—and his experience in organizing the Los Alamos, N.M., A-bomb laboratory during World War II would make his technical advice invaluable.

But whether Oppenheimer returns or not isn't the most important thing here. Professor I. I. Rabi, chairman of the President's Science Advisory Committee, writing in the London Times, says:

"It is still too early to judge the long-range effects of McCarthyism, but the exclusion of Prof. Oppenheimer, a man who accomplished so much for this country, is indication of the failure of this country and the authorities to value correctly such contributions, both intellectual and substantial, to the welfare of the United States. Only when he is returned to more active government service will it indicate that a change of heart has occurred."

Whether Oppenheimer, then, returns or not isn't the most important thing. The big thing would be the government asking him to return: a symbol to American scientists that the heat of McCarthyism was really off.

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Safety Valve

'Socialism Is Superior'

TO THE EDITOR: It is time to call a spade a spade. Socialism is superior to capitalism.

This has been proved, in spite of the Communist dictatorship and American propaganda, by the Soviet Union's remarkable progress from a backward Russia of 1917.

Free enterprise exists primarily for ambitious men of greed. It has always placed the dollar above the intellect. Free enterprise has plundered, debauched, demoralized our country and, in return, has given it nothing that socialism cannot give it. American socialism would be compatible with religion, democracy, and a Bill of Rights.

The American people are as propagandized as any people in the world. The Republican administration will offset the embarrassment of a possible depression by pouring billions into armament. I can no longer laugh at Lenin's statement that capitalist nations are by nature warmongers.

Our country is under the subtle dictatorship of big business. The Nazi leaders could operate in this manner by making "Jew" a dirty word. Our leaders have made "Communism" a dirty word. They say that Communism's advance is a threat to our people, to our freedom. It is only a threat to our businessmen, to our free enterprise. History shows that whenever two countries arm heavily for war, they always end in war—without exception.

There are men at this University with the intelligence to denounce Washington's policies. But they will not speak up. They are cowards. Many Americans are cowards.

I am not a Communist, but I am ashamed to say I am a constituent of the Eisenhower administration and I am proud to say that I now sympathize with the Russians.

—Daniel Rodill, '59

•Letter Cut

2d Non-Pork Dish Wanted by Student

TO THE EDITOR: Being a freshman, I am required to live in the University Residence Halls and to eat my meals there. I am a member of the Jewish faith, and as is well known, I am not permitted to eat pork or pork products. Also, as is well known, for the benefit of Catholic residents, two dinner plates are offered on Friday evenings—one meatless dish, and one meal consisting of meat.

I would like to know why a similar plan is not incorporated for Jewish residents when pork or pork products are served. In other words, I feel there should again be two dishes offered—one without pork, and the other with (pork).

I have taken this up with the proper officials in my dining hall area and have gotten no satisfaction, but I am of the opinion that something should be done about this in fairness to all students.

—Marshall L. Goldstein, '61

New Class Officers Explain ROTC Vote

TO THE EDITOR: This is an explanation, not an apology. We did not iterate empty campaign promises; we were in full accordance with the abolishment of compulsory ROTC in light of the evidence then produced.

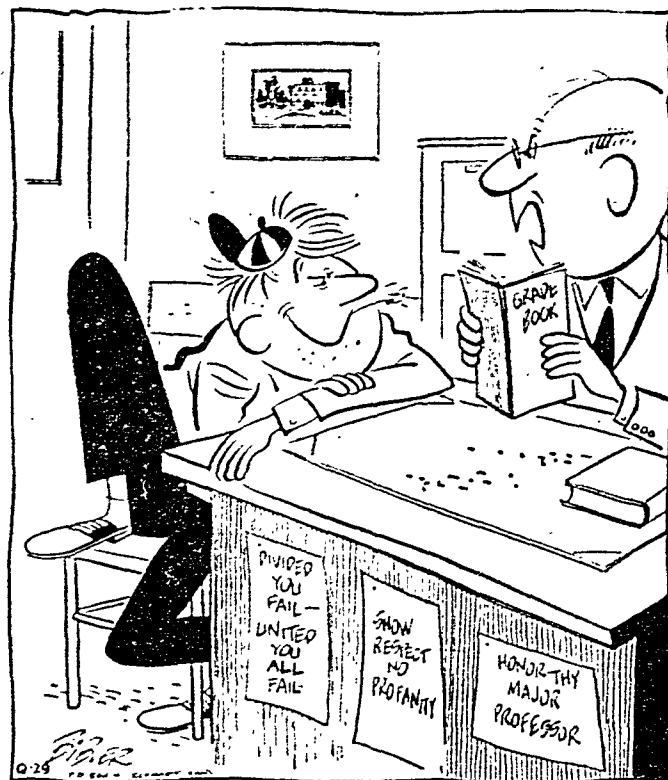
We feel, however, that we could not jeopardize the officer quota of our university and possibly the good of the nation. Our past political ties cannot override our consciences, which are in this case in conflict.

—J. Stephen Ott, Sophomore Class President —George W. Thompson, Freshman Class President

Two Patents Granted To Engineering Prof

Dr. Paul H. Schweitzer, professor of engineering research, has been issued two patents, the first on "Tandem Engine Compressors" and the second, "Piston and Connecting Rod Assembly for Internal Combustion Engines."

Little Man on Campus by Dick Biblee



"Since it's one week 'til finals, I called you to ask just what you plan to do about the 18 weeks BACK work you owe me?"

Interpreting the News

Problem: How Hard To Wave 'Big Stick'

By J. M. ROBERTS

Associated Press News Analyst

The United States is facing once again the question of how much influence a big democracy can exert in the internal affairs of a small neighbor threatened by communism.

The question was answered in Guatemala in 1954 by strong encouragement of a military coup which overthrew the pro-Communist government.

The revolutionary leader, Castillo Armas, exiled many Communist and pro-Communist leaders.

Agitation continued, nevertheless, and most of them were permitted to return by 1956.

Guatemala is inexperienced in democratic administration. It adopted democratic forms only in 1944, and the conservatives never developed effective administration.

The Communists, on the other hand, were trained in administration and in legislative effectiveness, were able to put their bills through Congress and worm their way into the government, which they finally took over.

After he ousted them Armas had a fairly stable government for more than a year, with aid from the United States. But even some non-Communists did not fully support him, fearing a dictatorship. Leftist agitation became serious early in 1956. Riots occurred, and Armas was assassinated last July.

A special election in October failed to produce decisive results, there were fraud charges. Congress annulled the election and called another for Jan. 19.

Disturbances have continued, and two of the three leading candidates are openly seeking Communist support.

In this situation the United States would like to lend assistance to conservative factions, but

they are not unified, and a false step would bring immediate charges of imperialism not only from Guatemala, but from other Latin American sources. And this at a time when the United States is already seriously concerned by such charges from Asia and the Middle East.

Washington, is, therefore, walking very softly so far.

Some observers fear increased Communist activity means Guatemala actually leans to communism, and that the United States could not act against it without a serious breach in the old policy favoring self-determination of peoples.

The impression at the State Department, however, is that no Communist takeover is imminent. The Congress, which frequently has to decide the issue after catch can elections in which there is no decisive result, is still controlled by the Armas faction.

Conferences have been held in Washington in the last few days attended by the American ambassador to Guatemala, but there is no indication so far of a decision on what or how to do, or whether anything can be done.

Gazette

TODAY

Freshman Council, 7:30 p.m., 209 HUB Newman Club Discussion Group, 7 p.m., 104 Program Center West Halls Council, 7 p.m., Waring Lounge

