

Editorial Opinion

Repeal the Loyalty Oath

The state has a law on its books requiring teachers to sign a loyalty oath. The law, the Pechan Act, has been on the books for six years. It affects Penn State's teaching staff.

The bill, an outgrowth of the Red scare, should be repealed.

The loyalty oath is an invasion of academic freedom. Freedom is not only in danger from Communists but from those who want the government to regulate mind and spirit. The external Communist threat should not drive Americans into suppressing their own liberties.

Former President Harry S. Truman drew this analogy: "Those who want the government to regulate matters of mind and spirit are like men who are afraid of being murdered that they commit suicide to avoid assassination."

In other words, bills like the loyalty oath, designed to oppose communism, impair the very freedoms Americans cherish, and the very freedoms which are their best safeguards against communism.

The loyalty oath should be repealed because it destroys the American tradition of free inquiry and free expression of ideas without fear of reprisal on intimidation. It also imposes a limit on the pursuit of truth.

Dr. R. A. Tsanoff, professor of philosophy at Rice Institute, says the chief function of a college or university is the preservation, the transmission and the expansion of knowledge. Its main purpose is the attainment of truth.

Truth, says Tsanoff, can be defended in only one way, by being proved and established by fair inquiry. And error, he says, is not destroyed by being prohibited, but by being disproved and refuted.

Communism cannot effectively be fought by prohibiting the teaching of it and penalizing persons who believe in its doctrines. It must be fought by proving it wrong.

The oath forces good teachers, the thinkers, the seekers of truth, to compromise in their quest for truth. There is a chance they may become timid and may not follow wherever truth may lead, and thereby no longer be good teachers.

The loyalty oath is not even effective. The loyalty oath hasn't rid the colleges and universities of Communists, for if Communists have the complete lack of morals, the complete disregard for truth, which their critics claim, they will take the oath without protest.

And the loyalty oath cannot measure freedom, as treason cannot be prevented by registration. Loyalty can best be measured by deeds.

The loyalty oath, therefore, should be repealed because it is an invasion of academic freedom, because it limits free inquiry and the pursuit of truth, and because of its ineffectiveness.

America—and especially backward Pennsylvania—must wake up to the fact that free men must be free to live a life of intellectual integrity, to seek and find the truth.

The highest proof of virtue is to possess boundless power without abusing it.—Thomas Babington

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Safety Valve

Student Wishes Disregarded?

TO THE EDITOR: Is student government making an effort to represent the views of the students, or are those who represent us merely glory seekers who, once elected to office, disregard our wishes?

At the last meeting of the Senate Committee on Student Affairs, a few days before the Christmas holiday there was a

The Daily Collegian welcomes letters from its readers on topics of public interest. Letters should be brief and to the point and all are subject to editing for space requirements and good taste. All letters must be signed, and the withholding from publication the names of writers, when requested, will be left to the discretion of the editors.

strange occurrence. The social calendar for Penn State culminates with a group of events called Spring Week.

Approximately one-half or more of the students take some part in at least one of the events. In a surprise decision, the senate committee suddenly decided to curtail Spring Week to a three day period.

The schedule presented by the Spring Week chairman was similar to those of previous years in that it called for a 4-day celebration. It should be clear to everyone, including the Senate Committee on Student Affairs, that it is almost impossible to include all the events (which have been approved by the committee) in three days. If this could be accomplished, it would entail more work by the students, crammed into a few days.

Another important factor to consider is the threat of rain. In previous years we have had enough time to schedule a rain-date for the carnival and other out-door events. This year there are three events that should be held out-doors—the carnival, the float parade and the he-man contest (this could be held indoors, but doing so is quite impractical.)

Since most of the expenses are paid from the carnival receipts, and since the net profit is given to the Student Scholarship Fund, a rained-out carnival would mean the financial downfall for Spring Week.

In conclusion, it seems that the Senate committee would like to see an end or a sharp decline in the week's activities. But where our real concern should lie is in our student representation.

Why did the All-University president, the All-University vice-president, and the president of WSGA, all of whom have seats on the Senate Committee on Student Affairs, vote for the cut in Spring Week, without first determining student opinion or without consulting the Spring Week chairman, who incidentally is appointed by the All-University president with the approval of All-University Cabinet?

It seems that our student representatives are again not very representative.

Dan Keiner, '59 Spring Week Variety Show Chairman '57 and '58

Gazette

- TODAY American Society of Agricultural Engineers, 7:00 p.m., 206 Ag Eng; AISM Judicial, 7 p.m., 218 HUB; Association for Childhood Education, 7 p.m., Grange Playroom; Bible Fellowship, 12 noon, 218 HUB; Cabinet School Year Committee, 6 p.m., 214 HUB; Cabinet Committee on Student Welfare, 7 p.m., 216 HUB; Camera Club, 6:45 p.m., 212-213 HUB; Fresh Advisory Board, 8:30 p.m., 203 Willard; Graduate Student Association, 8 p.m., 218 HUB; Neu Bavarian Schuplatzlers, 7:30 p.m., 1 White; Newman Club Novena, 7 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church; Newman Club Lecture Series, Dr. Case, 7 p.m., 104 Program Center; Newman Club Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church; Phi Delta Kappa, 4 p.m., 214-16 HUB; Phys Ed Student Council, 8 p.m., 215 HUB; Riding Club, 7 p.m., 217 Willard; Soph Advisory Board, 6:30 p.m., 209 HUB; T.M.L., 7 p.m., 205 HUB; WSGA Honor Code Committee, 8 p.m., 209 HUB; WSGA Senate, 8 p.m., 209 HUB

- TONIGHT ON WDFM 6:45: Sign on and news; 7:00: Telephone Bandstand; 7:50: State News and National Sports; 8:00: Jazz Panoramas; 9:00: Local, National and World News; 9:15: At Your Service; 9:30: Music of the People; 10:00: News; 10:05: Virtuoso; 11:30: News and Sign-off

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"Are we around to grading finals again Professor Snarf?"

An Oldtimer Opens Sputnik Congress

By ARTHUR EDSON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (AP)—Sam Rayburn slumped so low in his chair that only reporters in the front row could see him at his news conference today.

Only occasionally did those in the back get a glimpse of him, yet even this meagre look at his familiar bald head was somehow reassuring.

In this day of Sputniks, with its steady succession of what appear to be Russian triumphs, this thought keeps bobbing up:

Problems come and problems go, but House Speaker Sam Rayburn—and the democratic processes he represents—seem to go on forever.

Rayburn took note of the Russian successes by saying he thinks most of us feel "greatly humiliated."

But he quickly left this to go on to plans for meeting the problem: How much money should be spent? And where? And as he wandered all over the legislative lot—the gas bill, the civil rights bill, the Hawaii-Alaska statehood bill, the education bill—he finally reached this conclusion:

"All down the line there'll be plenty to bring about controversy, I think."

Many find the built-in inefficiencies of democracy irksome—the long delays, the long debates, the long conferences.

But Rayburn spoke of controversy matter of factly, like an old-time surgeon who discusses a difficult operation, aware of problems ahead but also confident that the patient will come out of it healthier than ever.

Well, Rayburn has been around long enough to build up his confidence. He arrived in this town before many reporters listening to him were born.

March 4, 1913. Great excitement in Washington that day. A new President, Woodrow Wil-

son, was taking over, the first Democrat in the White House in 16 years.

"The great government we loved," Wilson said in his inaugural speech, "has too often been made use of for private and selfish purposes."

Wilson, of course, planned to change all that.

Even then congressional investigations made big news. Next to the inauguration itself, the biggest item in the paper dealt with a proposed investigation of what had happened here the day before.

A bunch of females had been parading, urging woman suffrage, and police had been unable, or unwilling, to stop roughnecks who broke it up.

Appropriately, words were spoken in the House March 4, 1913, that could have had special meaning for Rayburn.

The 62nd Congress was winding up its work, and Speaker Champ Clark for 10 minutes turned the gavel over to a former speaker, Uncle Joe Cannon, who wouldn't be back in the new Congress.

"The office of the speaker of the House is a great office," Cannon said, "with great responsibilities."

And no one was to believe this more sincerely than the young Texas congressman who was to stay around until he was (Continued on page eight)

