

Editorial Opinion

# A Quasi-Ridiculous Policy

The time has come to reconsider the University's quasi-ridiculous transfer housing policy.

The policy is an insult to Commonwealth Campus students who supposedly have equal standing with students at this campus and a sore reminder of a lack of administrative forethought.

Two reasons have been given by the Administration for requiring that all transferring upperclassmen without "valid" excuses stay in residence halls for at least a year.

**The first is that the residence halls must be filled or the University loses money. When the Board of Trustees made the ruling in December there were over 1,000 vacancies in the dormitories.**

This was brought about by the combination of a poorly constructed business deal and a foolish faith in the State Legislature. The University made an oral agreement with the State, saying that it would float loans and build residence halls for the predicted higher enrollment. The State then would supply the funds for the building of sufficient classrooms for the additional students.

Unfortunately the State took advantage of the University's naive business outlook and failed to supply the necessary funds to build the classrooms. There was no written agreement to force the State to live up to its responsibility.

The University had to fill the halls with the students it had already enrolled.

**The second reason is to give the incoming student a chance to take advantage of the residence hall counseling service and to make sure he has what is supposed to be the fortunate experience of living in a dormitory with other college students.**

The first reason has finally solved itself. The enrollment has risen of its own natural accord so that it is now large enough to insure the filling of the residence halls.

The second reason was never more than a rationalization — the advantages of living in the dormitories is, for quite a few transferring upperclassmen, very debatable.

**The actions of the Dean of Men this term offer ample evidence of this. When notified that the halls would be filled in the fall, he had the exemption forms reconsidered and every one that had been turned down for not being valid was immediately stamped valid.**

And previous to last week, the task of deciding the validity of an exemption excuse was relegated to the Dean's very liberal secretary. Up until the time an article on the subject appeared in this paper excuses which were not even considered valid by those giving them were being accepted.

Right now there is no valid excuse for even having this policy. Let us see an example of some administrative flexibility. The Board of Trustees can abolish this ruling just as quickly as they established it.

## Threatening Softly

President Kennedy's speech to the nation Tuesday night was a grave example of threatening softly while calling for a bigger stick. There can be no doubt now on our stand on the Berlin issue.

By showing that we are not only willing to uphold our legal obligations, but are preparing to uphold them, Kennedy has shifted the burden of conciliation onto Premier Khrushchev's already weighted shoulders.

**If Khrushchev wants war, then there will be war. If he has requests — not demands — we shall hear them, but the freedom of Berlin is not negotiable.**

Kennedy put the Berlin issue into perspective by saying that this isolated outpost is not an isolated problem. Specifically, the threat of Communism in Southeast Asia was mentioned.

Let us hope that the President's charge of making an effort "equally wide and strong" over the whole world is an indication of a stronger world-wide policy than we have witnessed in the past.

Snowed

# Behind the Berlin Crisis

by joel myers

Despite complaints by some that Kennedy is carrying the nation to the brink of war and cries from others that he isn't doing enough to meet the Communist threat, his policy declaration Tuesday night has the support of most Americans.

In the Presidential campaign last fall, Kennedy warned that the 1960's would be a critical and perilous time, and he told the nation he would be a strong president who would require sacrifices of its people.

But, he was also determined to take certain steps that would increase the internal strength

of the country.

These measures included a boost in the minimum wage, federal aid to education, medical aid to the aged, housing legislation, changes in the structure of foreign aid, aid to depressed areas, a change in the social security rules and action on civil rights.

Through the careful use of behind-the-scenes tactics, Kennedy has had amazing success in steering his controversial program through Congress.

He purposely avoided a legislative showdown on Civil Rights this year in order to gain support for his other proposals.

Nonetheless, some of Kennedy's favorite bills have been sidestepped by Congress. The last of these important measures, the aid-to-education bill, was killed in the House Rules Committee last week.

The Berlin crisis will now force Congress to reconsider many of these pigeonholed

items, and Kennedy's proposed measures for closing tax loopholes and increasing postal rates are almost certain to be revived.

But of more immediate interest to Kennedy, the Berlin crisis will secure public and Congressional support for his pet project — the buildup of conventional forces so that we can actively halt communist aggression and infiltration anywhere in the world.

Kennedy wanted to take a strong stand in Laos several months ago, but Congress and most Americans did not favor such a stand.

The Berlin crisis has provided him with an excuse to sell the idea of an arms buildup to the American public. Apparently, Kennedy hopes to gradually boost our conventional forces to the point where they will be able to act as a deterrent to Communist aggression in Southeast Asia as well as in Berlin.



MYERS

Washington Dateline

# No Civil Rights Battle Seen

by kay mills

The present Congressional session enters its final stages with no major fight on civil rights in sight.

This situation may seem incongruous with the strong rights plank in the 1960 Democratic platform. The narrow mandate in last year's election, however, plus the status of other administration bills and the South's position on integration line up as the reasons Kennedy men are keeping civil rights legislation off Capitol Hill.

The Democrats decided early in the session not to introduce the controversial legislation this year. The president said he would enforce the civil rights measures on the books through the government's administrative branch.

Lawmaking, the political scientists say, can be done by the president as well as Congress

through powers granted the chief executive.

In this manner, Kennedy can temporarily avoid a battle that could tie up Congress and still (through the Department of Justice) hit such things as alleged denial of the vote to southern Negroes.

Many Democrats feel they need to concentrate on passing the aid to education and foreign aid bills — now floundering in Congress — rather than squabbling among themselves on civil rights.

A civil rights measure would indeed provoke most fight from within the Democrats' own southern delegations. Looking ahead to future elections, the party cannot afford so dramatic a split.

The issue is far from dead, though. Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., has introduced civil rights legislation at this session, but it was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee,

chaired by Sen. James O. Eastland, D-Miss. Without administration backing, it will die there.

Sen. Javits believes the first step in successfully pushing civil rights measures through Congress is changing the filibuster rule. Senators now may talk on bills forever if they choose, a provision which allows civil rights bills to be talked to death on the floor.

At present this debate can only be limited by a two-thirds margin of those present and voting. Earlier this year Senate liberals tried to revise the rules so that filibusters could be gagged by vote of three-fifths of the membership, or 60 senators. The attempt failed.

The prospects for any such legislation in Congress in the future? One Washington reporter said no one can say for certain, but it seems doubtful until after 1962. But in politics, exceptional actions seem the rule.

megaphone-at-large

# Niagara: Beautiful Cacophony

by meg teichholtz

NIAGARA FALLS—This is one of the few towns in the world where the natives are well acquainted with their major tourist attraction.

They could hardly help it, for this mecca of honeymooners and hearth-dwellers alike may be the noisiest attraction the nation offers, Cape Canaveral excluded.

Cacophony aside, however the falls have a mesmerizing

effect on the throngs that gather daily to view their aloof glory. They're a sophisticated bunch, these falls, never reacting in the slightest to the oogling of thousands.

The Canadian side presents the most magnificent view. But for those unsatiated with optics, there are aerial trips over the whirlpool rapids, an expedition under the falls (yellow slickers provided), and the renowned "Maid of the Mist" which makes a daring hourly voyage up to the "Horseshoe Falls."

(A group of nuns on a holiday expedition made that last trip at dusk the day we visited, their black habits flying in the wind and spray.)

Dusk brings even greater beauty to the falls when a battery of lamps, each 36 inches

in diameter and each giving off 210 million candle power (that's a total of 4,200,000,000 candle power) illuminate the tumbling waters from a hill opposite.

The colors change every five minutes and weave intricate humanly engineered rainbows through the omnipresent mist and darkening sky. (The mist only dissipates at mid-day, when the sun is strong.)

One native we encountered told us that he is numb to the magnificence of Niagara after living there for many years. "The only time it still captures me," he said, "is in the winter — when it freezes over, inert. It gets so quiet you can hear yourself think."

(Miss Teichholtz is presently touring the USA).



Miss Teichholtz

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