

Editorial Opinion

First Things First

The "nothing-new" speech of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to the United Nations Tuesday was a sad disappointment after the U.S. proposals presented by President Kennedy the day before.

The Soviets' immediate rejection of the U.S.-British proposal to draw up a treaty ending nuclear tests clearly indicates that they gave no thought to the proposal, and have never had any intentions of seriously negotiating for a permanent nuclear test ban.

The shoddy excuse that any nuclear test ban must be merged into the over-all consideration of a treaty on general and complete disarmament is an assinine argument.

To hold off any phase of disarmament until all phases are agreed upon is merely to prolong the dangerous weapons stockpiling indefinitely while both sides dicker over innumerable details.

There is only one logical way to start disarmament and that is to prevent the production of mass-destruction instruments from mushrooming further.

Getting rid of the pistols and firecrackers can wait. The weapons that must be destroyed first are the nuclear ones.

The initial step towards eliminating the possibility of nuclear war is to agree to a test ban which would certainly inhibit the production of weapons capable of great destruction.

The Soviet attitude shows that they do not have a sincere desire to end the arms race that may lead to ultimate annihilation of the human race, but intend to continue pursuing their policy of merely using the United Nations as an instrument of their own national interest.

Cinema Celebration

While we have been safely cloistered in academia for three years an art form reached a new high in its field.

This of course is the foreign film, which aside from sporadic appearances of Bergman, has not fully premediated the Pennsylvania Hills.

Two independent students, in conjunction with the staff of the Hetzel Union Building, have broken this cellulose barrier and have arranged an impressive schedule for prize winning cinema for this year.

These are films that have been shown the world over, films that draw crowds willing to pay theatre-ticket prices. The price to the student is only \$.50.

The only thing that worries us about these showings is that the HUB Assembly room may not be large enough to accommodate the large audiences expected.

But when the project has been proved successful, as we're certain it will be, a larger viewing area can be found.

Meanwhile, we give one loud, long, standing ovation and in addition—BRAVO!

Mash Miami—In Comfort!

Unless the rate of ticket sales for the closed-circuit telecast of the Miami-Penn State game improves, the University will probably decide not to televise other "away" games this season.

Although the athletic department did not reveal the number of tickets sold, the number of available seats indicates that the University is going to lose money on the experiment barring a last-minute rush on the Recreation Hall ticket office.

The lack of student enthusiasm for this project is a sad commentary on the student body and particularly reflects on those students who claim the University never indulges in functions for the student body without a "profit motive."

The University went to a great deal of trouble to arrange this special telecast and the prices were kept as low as possible.

We hope this lack of enthusiasm for viewing the Miami game does not indicate a decrease in school spirit from that demonstrated during the past few football seasons.

—snowed—

Housing Background

by Joel Myers

The Off-Campus Problems Workshop of Student Encampment made a recommendation that the list of rooming houses approved by the fire inspector in last spring's housing survey be made available to the students.

A tricky legal situation involving the University is connected with this idea of approved housing.

The University being a state institution cannot be sued. However, it must be careful not to become engaged in activities that could jeopardize its legal immunity.

In 1953 the Dean of Men's office, realizing the existence of unhealthy fire-traps in town, began a program of housing inspection based on voluntary request of the landlords.

Houses were checked for minimum requirements, and if

they met the specifications established by the Dean of Men's office, they were placed on an "approved housing" list.

The Board of Trustees went a step further in 1957 when it forbade students from living in houses that weren't approved by the University.

This decision was reversed, however, when it was learned that such action might endanger the legal immunity of the University.

As an alternative to prohibiting students from living in unsafe or unhealthy town housing, the University initiated a more indirect approach by accelerating the rate of building residence halls.

A sharp rise in the number of town vacancies has been observed in the past two years as a consequence of this policy. Obviously, students have tended to rent the more desirable rooms, and the increased competition has prompted many landlords to improve their real estate.

Unfortunately this process has been slow, and several years will probably be required for many of these houses to reach what the state con-

siders to be minimum standards of health, sanitation and safety.

In the meantime a disastrous fire could occur or health problems could develop.

The Off-Campus Problems Workshop of Student Encampment, of which I was chairman, debated this topic at great length and consulted State College Mayor Roy Anthony and Borough Council President Lawrence Perez.

It was concluded that the information gathered by the Borough's fire inspector in last spring's housing survey could be made available to the student without any risk to the legal immunity of the University.

The Workshop also recommended that SGA establish a committee or assign to an existing committee the task of working with the Borough Council in order to develop a building code, which would set minimum standards for health, sanitation and safety in town rooming houses.

The State College Mayor indicated that the Borough Council has discussed this issue for 10 years, but had taken no action.



MYERS

Campus Beat

Prof Wayne: HUB Hangout

For those of you who have been wondering, there isn't any charge at Willard for adding my course to your schedule, but I've noticed there are less people attending this year. Must be the rigors of the 4-termer.

More things you'll like at Penn State:

You'll like the 75-minute classes even when they forget to turn the heat on and the air conditioning off.

You'll LOVE to stand on the steps of Boucke — even if you're freezing, even if it's raining, even if the steps are slippery, even if you have a mid-term in the next class.

—Prof Wayne



Interpreting

Balance of Power Fight Dangerous

By J. M. ROBERTS
Associated Press News Analyst

Congress closed on an extremely sour note.

An attempt to tote up some of the things that have happened in Washington this year produces a certain sense of uneasiness about trends in American government.

The House passed the final compromise appropriation

bill and then adjourned without allowing time for the Senate to act on it. The Senate was thus left to swallow the House-approved figure or leave the administrative departments without their appropriations. Senators were outraged.

During the last weeks of the session, in the dispute over the foreign aid appropriation, even a Solomon could not have told who was acting within his own conception of the best interests of the nation, and who was trying to harvest political hay to feed upon during the forthcoming election campaign.

There was little or no statesmanlike explanation to the public which would help it pass judgment on whether the administration had asked more than was really needed in the hope of a favorable compromise.

It was just as difficult to

assess the opposition to the actual money figure—as opposed to the issue of methods of financing which involved a fight over legislative and administrative prerogatives.

Was it based more on economy, on dissatisfaction with the results of the aid program abroad, or on maneuvering for bargaining positions on other issues, such as civil rights?

There has been uneasiness for years over the transition within Congress from government under majority and minority party responsibility to government by bloc.

The actions of both the liberal and conservative coalitions this year serve to heighten that unease, regardless of the merits of the issues involved.

A strong argument can be made for individual independence in Congress when it represents a conscientious effort at flexibility and objectivity in dealing with the nation's welfare. When this deteriorates into coalitions and a mere fight for the balance of power it can become dangerous.

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