

Editorial Opinion

For Higher Quality

President Kennedy's proposal to raise the pay level of federal jobs is basically a good one, and we urge that it receive favorable consideration from Congress.

Because of inferior wages, the federal government has failed to attract many bright college graduates and has lost many top-rate men in all fields to private industry.

Many agencies and bureaus of the government, such as NASA, have no counterparts in private enterprise. However, many qualified men who might otherwise have elected careers in government have switched into related fields in industry because of greater pay attractions.

Governmental employees are performing duties that are important and in many cases crucial to the welfare of the nation. It is only natural that the best personnel should be obtained to fill these jobs.

President Kennedy has estimated that the pay raises will cost about \$1 billion. In the long run, however, the pay increases might save the taxpayers money.

Better qualified individuals will not only do a more efficient job, but will tend to have a more conscientious and business-like approach — something that is sorely lacking in many branches of government today.

No Moral Justification

State Senator Jo Hays has indicated that the bill to eliminate the sales tax on text books will probably not come out of committee this session.

Even if it does, he has said there is little chances that it will pass because no means of replacing the lost revenue has been proposed.

The concern of the legislature and the Lawrence administration in balancing the budget is commendable.

However, when it is considered that mail order catalogues and direct mail advertising literature are exempt from the sales tax, any argument for retaining the text-book tax seems to have no moral justification.

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Letters

Religious Displays Criticized

TO THE EDITOR: This letter is being written in protest to a barrage of religious material now on display in Waring Lounge.

The display, sponsored by the Committee of Religious Affairs, has been placed on every wall of the main lobby of the lounge. It is a series of paintings and extensive reading matter which concentrates solely on Christian beliefs.

I feel that this display is definitely out of place in a public lounge such as Waring. Waring is a building where diversified student groups of all religions eat and congregate for social purposes.

This display not only subjects people of different faiths to religious material they may not wish to be surrounded by, but also degrades the nature of its content. I also think it infringes on the rights of students to worship as they please, and is not consistent with the liberal and tolerant policies of this university.

I also cannot see any cultural value to the display which would be of intellectual interest to the student body as a whole. I think displays of this nature should be restricted to the religious buildings in which they belong.

—Mary Klein '64

A Phi O Thanked

TO THE EDITOR: Too often we at Penn State are over critical and pessimistic. As a result we fail to give credit and thanks for the good deeds of students, organizations, the administration, and faculty.

I will now try to remedy this situation slightly by giving a big "thank you" to the Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity for aiding the Town Independent Men's Council in the project of sending a questionnaire to each of the approximately 3,000 town independent men.

This project required over 100 man hours of repetitious work such as pasting address labels on envelopes and stuffing envelopes.

Without the help of Alpha Phi Omega, TIM Council possibly would not have been able to send the questionnaires which will determine the social and recreational interests of the Town Independent Men. Again "Thank You," Alpha Phi Omega!

—Arthur Pergam '62
Vice-President TIM

To John Glenn

astronaut
living in extremes:
too much courage foolish
or Divine
too little, cowardice
of course ----
Where draw the line?

we have to
find the ephemeral mean
it's vanishing on the
modern scene.

—Bruce Thompson '63

WDFM Schedule

SATURDAY
2:00 Texaco Metropolitan Opera
5:00 News
5:05 Saturday at State
6:55 Weatherscope
7:00 Hi-Fi Open House
9:00 Offbeat
1:00 MTGOOB
1:15 King's Corner

SUNDAY
5:00 Chapel Service
6:00 Chamber Music
6:35 Mormon Tabernacle Choir
7:00 The Third Programme
12:00 Sign-off

Interpreting

New Tensions Hinted As Negotiations Drag

By J. M. ROBERTS
Associated Press News Analyst

Soviet expressions of discontent with the dragging negotiations in Moscow, and the pressure contest in the Berlin air corridors, have brought new expressions of Western jitters over the possibility of a return to the high tensions of last summer.

There seems to be fear that the Soviets will break off the barely existent negotiations with U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson, sign a treaty turning over control of the Berlin access routes to the East German puppets and thereby create a new crisis.

It seems more reasonable to assume, at least from surface indications, that the Soviets are acting up in Berlin, and publicly criticizing the Western refusal to compromise its Berlin position, with the principal purpose of creating jitters during the North Atlantic Treaty Organization conference now going on in Europe.

The Soviets know there are more issues than merely Cuban trade to come up at this conference. In the background and not very far in the background—lie American relations with her European partners on such issues as the whole trade picture in the Atlantic community, and the colonial-anti-colonial conflict. The Soviets never fail to take a stick to any waters which already are a little roiled.

Yet while the Soviets seem to have the initiative—the burglar trying to break into

your house always does—they appear to be in no better position to really force an issue than they were last summer.

The Allies are in a much better military position now than when the Communists suddenly threw up their wall in Berlin. There has been more time for contingency planning—as shown by the immediate and unwavering reaction to Soviet demands in the air corridors.

The Soviet Union, then, can sign a treaty with East Germany, and proclaim East Germany's sovereign rights. But unless they are willing to run risks they cannot conceivably be willing to run, they cannot give the proclamation any real meaning as long as the Allies just calmly oppose power plays with power plays and refuse to be budged.

The Soviet stake in merely formalizing a partition which actually exists cannot possibly be sufficient to warrant any real risk of war.

That has been the weakness in their Berlin harassment program throughout.

Letters

Bible Decision Supported

TO THE EDITOR: Having followed the "Great Bible Controversy" in State College's Centre Daily Times with increasing horror and amusement at the seeming density of the human skull, I should like to congratulate you and Dick Leighton for the cleanest, clearest, and least emotional statement of the situation as it now stands which I have yet seen.

It is easy for me to blame the stereotyped "small town mind" for the letters I see reprinted on its editorial page, but I realize that this is not fair, nor is it a valid accusation.

The faith—or perhaps guilt-inspired vehemence—exhibited in so many of the religion versus non-religion argument, as Mr. Leighton labels it, is obviously not dependent on the size of any given community, though, perhaps the sophistication of the letter-writer (or lack of it) does.

In any case, it does my heart good to see an occasional letter which attempts, however vainly, to remind both reader and writer alike that the decision being discussed is the constitu-

tionality of religious training in our public schools, not the comparative morality of various biblical passages, many of which are painfully misused when stripped from appropriate context.

I am sorry to say I have seen only two such letters in the Times, since I imagine that the state-wide representation is similar.

I often wonder if those persons who protest the loudest would be willing to supplement the religious training of their children by including ten minutes of Bible reading followed by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer at breakfast before the children go off to school.

Surely a period of voluntary family meditation similar to the present practice in schools, would be more meaningful and more desirable than compulsory prayer usually unappreciated, and frequently unwelcomed by students who are concerned with catching up on last night's uncompleted homework or getting a day's complement of pencils sharpened.

—Mrs. W. Melvin Walters, Jr.
State College

'Regulaton' Questioned

TO THE EDITOR: As a student at this university, I have been subjected to many rules and regulations. I have obeyed these measures because I could understand why they were made, even though they were personally distasteful.

Now, I have been confronted with just one more regulation that is simply impossible to swallow.

The worm has turned! I own a phonograph, and one of my greatest pleasures in life is listening to music. I live in East Halls where night tables or any form of support, excepting the bed and desk, are not provided.

On October 21, 1961, I acquired a small table which was a capable means of support for

my phonograph. Today, the supervisor of the maids came into my room and told me that a table of this sort is not allowed. I could not understand why this new rule was suddenly created. Upon questioning her, sage decision, the only reason she could give me was simply, "it just isn't allowed."

If an intelligent reason could be given I certainly would be willing to comply. It is impossible to study at a desk that is overcrowded with a phonograph. It is unfortunate that tables are not provided here, as they are in the older dorms.

My table is no trouble to the maid when she cleans the room. I take care of its maintenance. My only question is why can't we provide our own tables?

—Susan Conn '64