

Oregon Daily EMERALD

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Wanted--Campus Polling Places

It seems to us that one of the chief attributes of Virginia Wright's proposed ASUO-sponsored primary for both campus political parties—the Associated Greek Students and the United Students association—is its provision for campus polling places.

In past years USA has held its primary election at an afternoon nominating assembly on campus. Many party members, due to jobs or afternoon classes, or just to general lethargy, failed to attend the assembly. AGS members, including ASUO President Bill Carey have pointed this out (and rightly so) as a failing in the USA system.

But although the AGS-dominated ASUO senate stalled action this year on Miss Wright's proposal by sending the matter into committee, USA is proceeding to correct its former failing. That party will utilize voting booths located throughout the campus on April 16, so now a member can drop his vote in the box while hurrying to class.

Now AGS argues that its new system, of going around to each of its 33 member houses with the ballots and box during meal time is really much more democratic because ALL party members will be polled. All who eat at the houses, that is. And all members living off campus—married or single—may come over to their respective houses at the specified time and vote too.

So is it a fairer system than a polling booth method? It would seem that social pressure would just about force a student to vote, under the AGS plan. And although we think everyone should want to vote in an election, national and state as well as campus, not everyone does. That is our privilege in a democracy.

The practice of one house calling another and saying "we'll vote for your candidate if you'll vote for ours" has been common in the past. This new system, where all the members are voting together—though on separate individual ballots—would seem to intensify the power of vote trading. The woman who didn't really know anything about the candidates would have only to lean over to her sorority sister and find out for whom she was supposed to vote.

The factor that makes it so difficult to say a certain something is good for BOTH parties is their incompatibility. How could USA, with its individual membership basis, at least theoretically, use the AGS system. Yet AGS could easily follow the ASUO-sponsored proposal.

-- Letters to the Editor --

The Opening Blast

Emerald Editor:

I have petitioned and desire to be nominated and elected to the ASUO Senate from the next junior class as a candidate of the Associated Greek Student party. If elected, I will support the following policies which are needed for the betterment of the University of Oregon.

1. "Hell week" vs. "help week"—the doctrine of popular sovereignty should be applied within each Greek living organization, since it is a matter for each fraternity to decide for itself. Each house should decide for itself whether it wants a "hell week" or a "help week."

2. Grant the Emerald more freedom in printing news. A free press ceases to operate when the school administration takes steps to censor some news so it is never printed. If one boy or group of boys do wrong, their wrong should be known to all so that their actions reflect on their living organization. In turn, the living organization will probably take steps to prevent further misfortunes.

3. Inaugurate a speakers' forum. Have interesting speakers such as the governor of Oregon, the mayor of Eugene, etc., address the student body at noon once every two weeks. Following these talks students would be allowed a period to ask the speakers questions.

4. Less restriction of fraternities by the administration. By extensive restrictions the administration has hindered school

spirit until it has been reduced to a whisper of what it was three years ago. And what school spirit does exist now is mainly due to the efforts of the fraternities. How many dorms had signs up for Dad's Day?

The administration has organized the so-called "independents" until they are no longer independent living groups. If a student wants independent life, he should not be organized into a semi-fraternal organization by the administration.

The administration upholds deferred rushing and living for freshmen. What happened last fall term? The two lowest grade point averages for living groups were those of Cherzey and French halls, both composed of freshman boys.

I challenge the administration to apply the doctrine of popular sovereignty in the forthcoming spring elections among the freshmen to determine whether those freshmen prefer the present system or whether they would like to return to the old plan of getting it done in September before school starts.

In conclusion; I will support these proposals along with the constructive planks of the AGS platform, but if I am not nominated by the AGS, under no circumstances will I consent to run on the USA ticket or as an independent candidate. If a man cannot abide by the decision of his party, of what use is he to that party and that party to him? What is most needed in politics is party responsibility.

Robert E. Hooker

Communism in Japan

Leaders of Japanese Reds Going Underground

(Ed. Note: Outbreaks of Communist activity have occurred intermittently in Japan since the end of the war. For instance, Thursday's Oregonian contained a photo of a recent raid on a Communist hideout. Naturally we are interested in the intensity of the Communist program in Japan, and its present degree of success. So some time ago we asked a Japanese student, Mrs. Fumiko Kurata, for information, and she mentioned this interest of ours to her husband, a Tokyo journalist. A short time ago the mailman brought a letter from Tokyo containing the article below written especially for the Emerald.)

By Yasuo Kurata

TOKYO—The present plight of Communists in Japan is one of a cat belled around but not caged yet with eight Communist party leaders having gone underground since early June, 1950, and having remained "incommunicado" to date, in spite of all-out, nationwide "sherlock-holmesing" by police authorities.

These Red leaders went underground immediately after they had been purged and banned from political activities under the directive of General MacArthur's headquarters, which was issued shortly before the outbreak of the Korean war.

A total of nine leaders had originally vanished, but one of them was fished up by police a few months later, while the remainder are still at large. Most of them are believed still hiding within the country and pulling the wires of the party machinery.

60,000 Registered

According to a recent government estimate, the present Communist strength in Japan is broken down into 60,000 registered party members, 20,000 secret members and about 250,000 sympathizers.

The Japan Communist party, while it is yet to be outlawed, has been almost completely devitalized as a political organization, and it now retains but a modicum of seats in the National Diet—23 in the 462-seat Lower House and only 3 in the 250-seat Upper House.

It seems almost certain that the Japanese Communist party then and now has been under the direct control of the Russian-engineered Cominform and thus groomed to act in accordance with specific decrees issued by the Kremlin.

Before its 24 Politburo members, including the above eight "AWOL's", were purged in 1950, the Communist party had been outspokenly advocating the overthrow "by force" of the Government and the establishing of a "peoples government" through its available organs and stumping tours by party members throughout the country.

After the purge and the subsequent tightened control by the government over their subversive activities as such, the Reds switched their tactics to underground propaganda activities based on clandestine publication of anti-government and anti-occupation pamphlets put into "hush-hush circulation" with innocent-looking trick covers designed to fool the eyes of government agents.

At the same time, they apparently moved the center of activities to Hokkaido, a northern island of Japan, which is bordering perilously close to USSR-occupied Sakhalin. (Hokkaido Island was severely rocked by a series of earthquakes Mar. 4. The tremors left in its wake 20 persons killed, four missing, 235 injured and nearly 3,000 houses and buildings either destroyed or washed away by subsequent tidal wave.) The island's northernmost tip has already been known as a rendezvous between Soviet and Japanese Communist couriers.

The government has already

sent a sizeable force of police reserves to Hokkaido Island where the Reds have been allegedly mustering their strength.

Patrolman Murdered

Indicative of such Communist build-up, is the recent frequent occurrence of Communist-geared organized attacks against police on the island, culminating in the latest cold-blooded murder of a local patrolman.

Another Communist-inspired plot is held responsible for the murder of a patrolman in a suburban district of Tokyo late in February, which occurred amidst reports of a catalogue of riotous incidents involving mostly young factory workers in the nation's major cities since the beginning of this year.

As such, there is no denying that the Communists are now set to spread organized terrorism by staging hit and run guerrilla attacks mainly against policemen and law-enforcement offices on a regional basis.

Their propaganda campaigns, in the meantime, are being undertaken in the direction of stirring up the public opinion against the garrisoning of American forces in post-war Japan—"for the sake of liberating our fatherland from foreign colonialism."

As a matter of fact, however, the Japanese people are now generally developing a sound thinking about their security position after the coming into effect of the peace treaty and therefore supporting in principle the government's bid for American military assistance in tooling up Japanese preparedness to meet the present threat of aggression.

In this sense, the current Communist activities in Japan should amount to but a belled cat, and the government, having under its control a 150,000-man police force, including 75,000 nest-egg police reserves, is now in constant readiness to squelch any vest-pocket Communist uprisings.

It is a fact that Japan, following the end of the occupation, is bound to give birth to a vacuum of power which is quite allergic to Communist aggression as in the case of Korea, but this danger can be largely met by the presence of U. S. garrison forces under the U. S.-Japan Security Pact.

It is a foregone conclusion that an independent Japan must have her own defense to cope with the danger of foreign aggression, but the present situation—particularly from an economic

standpoint—does not allow her to carry out any full-dress rearmament plan.

Police Reinforcements

Under the circumstances, the government has already decided to reinforce the present 75,000 police reserves up to 110,000 by this autumn and establish a 20,000-man marine security force.

These forces are to be integrated into a single defense corps equipped with modern arms to be supplied by the United States.

Meanwhile, the government proposed a defense budget of 180 billion yen (\$50 billion) or about 20 per cent of the total budgetary outlay of 850 billion yen (\$23.1 billion) for the fiscal year of 1952, which is now under Diet consideration.

It is to be noted in this connection that a recent public opinion survey conducted by Japan's most widely-read newspaper Asahi Shimbun (circulation 6 million) revealed that a total of 56 per cent of the Japanese people believed that Japan needs an army to build up her security strength against the danger of aggression.

It is to be recalled, incidentally, that Japan, under the existing constitution, is not entitled to maintain "land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potentials" in accordance with her avowed principle of renouncing war forever.

Peace Offensive

Turning to external aspects, while party wheel-horses are savagely prancing around at home to the tune of Communist underground big shots, the Kremlin authorities have been making eyes at this country in what is believed to be a new Russian peace offensive in the Far East since the beginning of this year.

The curtain-raiser of this offensive was Stalin's New Year message to the Japanese people, expressing the hope of establishing "friendly and peaceful relations" between the peoples of Russia and Japan.

Close on the heel of this move came various seemingly juicy trade offers, including Japan's badly needed coal, followed by an official invitation of leading Japanese businessmen to the International Economic Conference to be held in Moscow in April.

In conclusion, Japanese Communists, though presently strait-jacketed in their internal activities, are still "a formidable fly in the ointment" for the nation's post-war security position, particularly when considered against their alleged link-up with the Soviet Union.

... And Speaking of Politics ...

