

Our Visitors Speak ...

GERMANS WILL MISS HST.

(Ed. Note: On request of the Emerald staff, Hans Stephani, special student in journalism, agreed to comment on what is, in his mind, the European reaction to Truman's decision to retire from the White House. Stephani, who is here on a State Department grant, was a newspaperman in Western Germany.)

By Hans Stephani

Some days ago I happened to show up in the "Emerald Shack" in order to say a friendly "hello" to those people there. I should not have done it.

Since that time I am trying to figure out what the people in my country or at least some of them might think about President Truman's decision not to run again for the presidency. Because that's what the "Emerald" asked me to write about and because that's exactly what I don't know. So I told them I could only guess and they agreed with it. This guess is based upon previous German newspaper comments and the correspondence with friends back home.

Shortly after Mr. Truman's sensational statement was published a big American news-agency told American readers about the reaction abroad. Among many others, there was also a reaction from Western Germany, saying that the government of the German Federal Republic in Bonn showed deep concern about this newsflash from Washington, D. C.

Was that only a diplomatic gesture, just a polite "I'm sorry" or could there be a serious reasoning behind that? I think there is a serious and sincere political thought behind the "deep concern" and I will tell you why I think so.

Don't Understand

There is one thing which you always should have in mind if you hear something of the opinion of people abroad about your country. Very many people in Western Germany and perhaps in the other parts of Europe too (you have probably realized already that I am trying very hard not to use any generalizations in order to avoid inter-European complaints) don't care and really don't know too much about the present domestic political issues

and problems within the United States.

They are predominantly concerned with the policy of the USA as it finds its expression in the conduct of affairs with their own country or with their regional entity.

And now comes my first point. I dare to say that in regard to Europe, the foreign policy of President Truman and of his Secretary of State, Dean Acheson did a comparatively good job.

By means of the Marshall Plan, the ECA and various other programs the present administration succeeded in morally and physically reshaping and rebuilding Europe to a large extent, a Europe which was only some years ago a smashed and tired continent. This recovery is definitely true in regard to Western Germany and I have every reason to believe that it is also true in regard to the greatest part of Western Europe generally. It might have had other reasons too but the American incentive and initiative undoubtedly played the most important role.

Trying Their Best

Very many people in Western Germany are convinced that the present government in the USA thinks Western Germany to be a crucial spot in Europe, and Europe itself to be one of the most important parts of this world. And they also are very convinced that President Truman and Secretary Acheson try their best in order to rebuild Europe and to strengthen it against a possible Communist attack.

Now President Truman has resigned from a possible renomination as a candidate for the next presidency. What do the people of Western Germany, for instance, think about other possible Democratic candidates? Keafauer, Stevenson, Russell, all of them are practically unknown. Nobody knows what their policy towards Western Germany and Europe would look like once they became president of the United States.

How About GOP?

Now let's take a look at the possible Republican presidents. Senator Robert A. Taft from Ohio is almost well known. But that is not very good for him, he is known as isolationist. This belief—may it be justified or not—

provides for a very unfavorable attitude towards him. Very many people definitely believe that the election of Mr. Taft would inevitably bring about the collapse of the joint US-European defense system of Europe and that the Americans in general would turn their official back towards Europe. Whether that would really happen or not does not make much of a difference right now.

And last, not least, there is General Dwight D. Eisenhower, supposedly a good general, and a statesman who headed his quarters at the NATO headquarters as Supreme Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. He did a tremendous job in bringing Western Europe together militarily and I think he is now about to succeed in giving these different Western European nations an idea of belonging together, an idea of either working or succumbing together. It is a predominant idea that General Eisenhower might make a good president of this country; this is based however on a not too thorough knowledge of the domestic political problems of the US. And quite a few people also believe that this new president would not change basically the policy of the old president towards Europe. And they also know that General Eisenhower has a very broad knowledge about Europe and its specific problems which might enable him to do an even better job than the people in charge before him.

Will Ike Change?

But—and this a very often asked question—can Ike remain the old Ike on the political battlefield in the White House and in Washington? And who is going to replace him in Europe?

That is the point. Truman as U.S. President in Washington and Eisenhower as NATO Supreme Commander in Fontainebleau near Paris formed a team which did Europe a lot of good. Nobody knows anything about the team which is to take over after November. Chances are that it is very likely to be worse, even with Eisenhower as the "ideal" president. Who is then going to replace his experience, his knowledge and his skill in Europe? And this is the reason why I think quite a few people are concerned about Mr. Truman's decision.

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Things are Rough All Over

So you think campus politics are a nonsensical mess here in Eugene?

Try the University of Washington. Up there they have a new student body president—an "unknown journalist" by the name of F. M. (Spud) Bunker.

Seems only one fellow from the 12,000-strong student body indicated an official desire to become ASUW president. Application deadline drew near. Some students (rumored to be journalists) thought the sole contender needed some opposition. So shortly before deadline time, Spud, a member of the Washington Daily staff, was in the running.

His opposition had held many student offices. He was a Greek, too. Spud had neither of these qualifications, apparently.

But the Daily gave him front page news and picture space. One of the more intriguing of the photos was of Bunker, lantern in hand, searching like Diogenes to find an honest man in the HUB, the UW student union.

Bunker's platform was one for the "common man." They must have lots of "common men" at the UW because he won in one of the largest election turnouts they've had for years.

And the Associated Press story afterward was a bit reminiscent of spring term 1950 here on campus. It told of the 400-student "riot" along Greek row, with boards and nails in the streets and six students in the Seattle jail.

(Incidentally, we notice that Bunker, who appeared as "copy editor" on the Daily's masthead before the election, has now advanced to "managing editor.")

Try our closer neighbors, Oregon State.

Over there a fellow who didn't even exist gained 113 votes in the presidential primary.

And who was one of the two perpetrators of this plot? The student body president, Donn Black. He and another well-known student dreamed up "Dick Hastings" as candidate a week and a half before the election when it looked as though there would be only one candidate for president. (There were two, besides "Hastings," incidentally.)

Black explained to the OSC senate that "Hastings" was simply a ploy to get more interest in student elections which were showing signs of definite apathy, according to the OSC Barometer.

The Barometer was quite indignant at the whole situation, running an edit entitled "Dirty Politics Ruin Election." We'd hardly call this "dirty"; seems "screwy" would be a more appropriate term.

Campus Headlines...

U. of Alabama Gets Gun-happy

By Rae Thomas

A University of Alabama boy is hospitalized as the result of a bullet wound in his left leg from a shot fired by a prowler behind one of the halls on campus. He is the third to have been shot within the last year. One boy was killed last April and the other was shot in March while drinking coffee in the Snack Bar. Police have no clues in the latest shooting. (Wild West.)

From the Utah Daily Chronicle comes this unique ad: "Lost Delta Phi pin. Will give diamond ring for it. Call Frank—6-3786."

A student at Tufts college, Mass. commented on the honor system: "As has been shown at other colleges, an honor system is fool-proof. However, there is one thing essential for proper functioning—namely, honor."

An interesting headline comes from the Roosevelt Torch in Chicago: "50 Beautiful Girls; 25 Lovely Costumes."

Letters to the Editor

Pointing the Way

Emerald Editor:

For all intents and purposes the student body has rejected the Honor Code. Yet, let us not hope that the principle underlying the work of the Honor Code committee (i.e., increased student responsibility will "give the students a greater amount of pride in the University and make them better citizens") will also be temporarily rejected.

For increased student responsibility is possible and can readily be brought about by, for instance, giving the students full control over the athletic department (as at California); or by investing in them complete power over the budget of the Student Union (as at Washington).

There are, of course, other areas. But the point is that student responsibility can be greatly increased—increased to the point that the student body as a whole will feel that they are a vital part of their University.

Let us hope that the student Senate, which up to now has shown itself totally unprepared

to work for an, if necessary, fight for increased student participation in non-academic areas, will avail itself of the opportunity afforded it by the challenge of the Honor Code committee.

For if the Senate does show itself willing to work toward these goals, it can readily be assumed that both those forces that were for the Honor Code and those who opposed it will band together and work collectively with the Senate for the attainment of these principles.

Bill Lees

From the Morgue...

10 YEARS AGO

Apr. 28, 1942—The class of '44 waited 30 minutes Monday before scraping up the necessary quorum of 25 members in order to adopt a new class constitution.

Plans are now being laid by heads of Junior Weekend for a campus-wide campaign to elect Wintergreen for president. The campaign will include a campus plebiscite and campaign managers.



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"Aha! So THIS is where we're holding class this afternoon!"