

Educational Channel



"Dear Friends: Congratulations to your fraternity for taking top scholastic honors this year; heard you didn't have a TV set—please accept this slightly used one as a reward for such outstanding—"

Notes to the Editor

Dear Eugene Friends:

Christmas has passed and has brought to me as a most precious present (there were not too many others anyway) more than a dozen letters from friends all over the USA, mostly from Oregon and particularly the Eugene campus.

Therefore, again my thoughts went back to the happy and interesting time I spent there last year.

Now I have been back in Germany three months. At first glance things seem to have improved here the year I was away. There are quite a few new buildings, many people look better dressed and fed, there are now developments in industry and various other fields.

Still Difficult

But if you take a closer look and if you live here for some time you will recognize that the situation is still pretty difficult and may be even more so than the year before.

In the political field the treaties of the Western German Federal Republic with the Allies (which are generally expected to be ratified soon) have been the topic of discussion during the last few months.

Some Questioning

There has been some questioning and doubting, especially abroad, as to the stand Western Germany takes in this question. I think that is no question whatsoever. Knowing what it means to live under the occupation of the Eastern power it is not hard to decide with whom we shall go.

If there has been and still is opposition to those treaties in Western Germany so for the fundamental question: What

will happen to our brothers in Eastern Germany who have to live under even this occupation?

An East-West Shift

Because the terror and the pressure there has been getting worse since the Western German-Allied negotiations, a constantly increasing number of refugees have shifted from Eastern into Western Germany.

There are hundreds of people pouring in every day. About 2000 crossed the border in one day. This creates a situation almost unbearable in a country which has already the still unsolved problem of 10 million refugees from the Eastern European countries, which has more than 2 million unemployed and which under normal conditions would need at least 15 more years to establish enough housing facilities to place everybody now living there.

Ike Satisfactory

As a comparison I would like you to consider that Western Germany has almost exactly the size of the State of Oregon but that in this area 49 million people are now living.

The election of Dwight D. Eisenhower as president has generally been received with satisfaction over here as he is supposed to know best about European problems.

This letter is getting long as I am going to say "Hi" to all my friends on the Eugene campus (it's a good way to save some postage which is as high as all the other prices over here). Wishing you all a successful, happy and peaceful year.

Eva-Marie Vogler
Germany

EVEN OLD POGO

Investigation Pattern Questioned

By E. A. Van Natta

According to Republican Senator Homer Ferguson of Michigan, in an interview appearing in last week's Newsweek magazine, the new 83rd Congress will have to be the "investigatingest" Congress ever if it is to be a "good" Congress.

In the words of the Senator, "the Congress must investigate, 1) to get the facts and to determine what evils must be eradicated, and, 2), to create an informed public opinion which will back the laws that are passed."

Investigation Necessary

Taken at its face value the Senator's statement shouldn't cause anyone any great alarm. The 83rd Congress as the "investigatingest" Congress ever could spell out nothing but good for the general welfare of this nation if this inquisitive energy were to be expended toward worthwhile legislative goals. Any legislative body which hopes to formulate and pass intelligent and fair laws must use its investigatory powers in order to familiarize itself with all the pertinent facts and implications involved in a situation calling for legislative action.

Even during the past four or five years of investigatory hysteria in Congress many pieces of good legislation resulted from a reasoned consideration of data compiled by various standing and select committees in the course of their investigations. If Mr. Ferguson is speaking of an increase in congressional investigations in the new Congress which will be oriented toward helping our legislators give us better legislation then he is to be admired for having such a worthy project in mind.

No Change of Heart

However one would be rather naive to think that the majority of men who will compose the 83rd Congress, including Mr. Ferguson, will suddenly have a change of heart and will wield their power of investigation with dispassionate objectivity while working for the general welfare. In fact we can probably expect, not a diminishing in the indiscriminate use of the investigation but sooner an increase in such uses and for two very good reasons.

First of all the Republicans are now in power and since they are human beings and politicians they can be expected to do everything this side of Moscow to maintain their position. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to resort to the old political tactic of ferreting out the sins of the past administration and publicizing them to the four corners of the country.

What Better Way?

What better way to pry into official past of your political opponent than by the use of the congressional investigation, especially if you are in the majority as the Republicans and their Southern Friends are at the present time?

Senator Ferguson announces that he plans to call for a re-examination of the Pearl Harbor disaster, apparently feeling that the Roosevelt Administration got off too handily once they sacked Kimmel and Short.

GOP Not Alone

One shouldn't get the idea that the Republicans alone are guilty of this "retrospection" into the preceding administration. The Democrats have used the same tactics many times themselves and they would have had a glorious time of it in 1933-34 if they had not been so hard pressed to straighten things out after the preceding administration.

The second big reason why one can look for an increase in the abuse of the congressional investigation is of course the Communist question. During the past few years the methods employed by Congress in investigating Communism in the United States have caused a great deal of harm and concern to many people.

Strayed from Goal

The original purpose of such investigations of Communism by the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee was to determine to what extent the re-armament effort and the internal security of the United States was endangered by foreign spies and saboteurs. However, such investigations, when conducted by men like Mundt, Nixon, McCarthy, and McCarran, to name only a few, have strayed far from their original goal and have instead become the tools by which such men discredit their political foes and further their own political fortunes.

McCarthy promises to use the congressional investigation during the 83rd Congress to hunt out "Communist thinkers" while Senator McCarran in all likelihood will continue his one-man war against the United Nations and "internationalism" under the pretense of looking for subversives.

"Political" Investigating

These men are not half so interested in the facts concerning Communist infiltration as they are in keeping their names before the public and they realize, as do many of their congressional colleagues, that the best way to get ahead politically in these times is to become the champion of a hysterical movement such as the

"Inquisition" in which many so-called patriotic groups and individuals are presently engaged, while believing that they are fighting Communism.

In short, the 83rd Congress will more than likely be the "investigatingest" Congress ever but if these investigations follow their present pattern it will certainly be debatable whether it will be a "good" Congress from the viewpoint of the welfare and liberty of the nation. Even poor old Pogo and Albert are probably not above congressional suspicion today.

Dishes Start Chain

At Texas Christian university a student tripped in the cafeteria, broke all the dishes on his tray and started an incident which ended in enough dishes to fill a 50-gallon can.

It happened on a Sunday afternoon. After the student stumbled and broke the dishes, several more students dropped their trays and ran from the room, apparently in protest over the meal.

Then came a volley of soft drink bottles from the lounge. The cashier stopped serving the lines and pleaded for order. The cafeteria manager asked that a committee meet with her and discuss the grievances.

But no one is really sure that grievances were at the bottom of this. The Skiff, student newspaper there, claims that some students are loud in their complaints about cafeteria food, while others praise it highly. The entire incident might just have been a psychological chain reaction.

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the **BIG 6?**

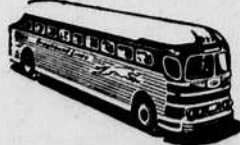


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