

# + EMERALD EDITORIALS + THE LOOKING GLASS

## UW and Oppenheimer

The University of Washington has broken open a real hornets' nest in the form of the debate on whether or not to invite Atomic Scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer to deliver the Walker-Ames science lectures at the Seattle campus this spring.

Students and faculty members who have followed the case are apparently splitting into two rival camps on the question. The latest evidence of such a split came to light Tuesday when a group of full professors and department heads released a public statement saying that it was not the University, but the president alone who refused to approve the unanimous nomination of Oppenheimer as the lecturer.

In all that has been spoken and written concerning the case of the Atomic Energy Commission vs. J. Robert Oppenheimer, it has never been proven to our satisfaction that the brilliant physicist is actually a "security risk" or that he possesses a character of "questionable loyalty."

We think that anyone who gives serious thought to the Oppenheimer case, whether in its current manifestation at the University of Washington, or in review of the initial AEC hearings on Oppenheimer's loyalty, should keep in mind the charges against Oppenheimer—"Persistent and continuing association with Communists... substantial defects in character... and persistent and willful disregard for the obligations of security."

To us, only the latter could have been a serious charge, if it had been proven. The former two are more reminiscent of the trials in Revolutionary France of the 1790's, when persons went to the guillotine when government witnesses had testified that the defendants were "bad patriots."

Even if these charges had been proven, and we don't feel that they have, no question has been raised concerning Oppenheimer's knowledge of science, which after all is more important for a scientific lecturer than "acceptable" associations in his personal life.

No one knows what will finally come of the mess at the University of Washington. We imagine that the stigma of this action will neither soon nor easily be removed. And rightly so.

## INTERPRETING THE NEWS

### Tax Action Expected Soon

By PAUL W. HARVEY, Jr.  
Of the Associated Press

SALEM (AP)—The Oregon Senate traditionally rips the heart out of House tax programs and then writes its own, and the House is forced to accept what the Senate says.

But this time, it probably will be different. Senate Tax Committee members seem agreed that the House program, including a 32 per cent income tax increase and a 3-cent cigarette tax, is the only solution.

Therefore, the Senate tax men see their main job is to stave off a referendum, which would wreck the whole tax program and give Oregon its first state property tax since 1940.

Labor and farm groups say they'll refer the cigarette tax to the people. They are thinking about giving the same treatment to the income tax boost.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce has indicated it would refer the income tax increase if it included a big surtax.

So, heading off the referendum is the primary task of the legislature. And that's where the Senate Tax Committee comes in.

One veteran member of the

Senate committee said:

"Our main job will be to knock some heads together to convince these groups that the state would be hurt by a referendum against any part of the tax program."

If only 20,000 persons sign referendum petitions against a bill, it is automatically prevented from becoming law until the November, 1956, general election. This means such a little group could stop a tax from going into effect for most of the biennium in which the money is needed.

If any of the tax program is referred, a property tax would take its place. The state property tax limit is 6 mills plus extra amounts needed to retire state bonds. So it could raise a total of \$30,000,000 in the biennium.

Labor, the Grange and Farmer's Union long have been against cigarette taxes. The people have defeated cigarette levies four times. The proposed tax would raise \$10,000,000 in the biennium.

They object to the income tax bill because it affects some low-income groups which now aren't taxed. This is done by reducing the \$600 personal exemption to \$500.

## New Senator?

Dick Neuberger should come back to Oregon, we have plenty of squirrels for him.

Oregon's junior senator is currently engaged in a campaign to save the White House squirrels. We wonder if he's responsible for the furry animals that roam the Oregon campus.

Neuberger and our erstwhile squirrel chaser Waldo would never have gotten along. Waldo, the former mascot of the Theta Chi's hated squirrels more than the keepers of the President's putting green.

Waldo didn't deport the squirrels, he ate them—if he could catch them that is.

When the big dog was on campus no Oregon squirrel dared venture far down a tree—or Waldo would come up after him. So the squirrels lived high in the trees while Waldo roamed.

Therefore it seems only logical that the way to save the putting green and still keep the squirrels around the White House is to send Waldo to Washington.

This would solve everyone's problem. Neuberger could go back to worrying about things like Formosa and the White House groundskeepers could return to pruning the bushes or whatever White House groundskeepers do.

Just think, Waldo would be a natural hero. He might even get to be senator himself someday.—(J.W.R.)

## Just An Inspection?

The whereabouts of Russia's ex-premier Georgi Malenkov had caused considerable speculation among Western observers until a member of a Swedish power delegation to the Soviet Union revealed Tuesday that his group had received a personal note from Malenkov.

The one-time Premier, now minister of electric power stations, explained his absence from Moscow as being brought on by a "wide inspection tour" of Siberian power plants.

We just wonder if maybe the former top man might not be out in Siberia for more than just an inspection tour—maybe to supply some of the power himself, in a work camp for former Communist officials guilty of the crime of inefficiency.

## 'The Long Gray Line' Good Movie Fare

By Len Calvert  
Emerald Columnist

"It's been a great life for Marty," says one of the characters in "The Long Gray Line," currently at the Heilig, and, if anything, the movie will serve only to make Martin Maher's life even greater.

A film biography of Maher, who for 50 years was a coach and trainer at West Point, "The Long Gray Line" is truly a tear-jerker from start to finish. Packed with West Point tradition and sentiment, the movie takes the viewer from one emotion-filled moment to another all the way through.

Under John Ford's direction, Tyrone Power as Maher gives one of the best performances of his career. From a cocky young recruit to one of the most respected men at the "Point," Power gives a feeling interpretation to his role. We were particularly impressed with his playing of Maher as an old man.

Equally as good as Power was Maureen O'Hara as his wife, Mary. Usually cast as the beautiful girl in pirate and desert sagas, Miss O'Hara at last is given a chance to prove she can do more than just look pretty and does it very well.

However, stealing the show from them all, is Donald Crisp as Maher's sharp-tongued father who followed his son from Ireland. Crisp, who has been seen too seldom lately, fits the part to near perfection.

And through it all runs "The Long Gray Line," the cadets who make up the heart and spirit of West Point and all it stands for. The West Point Glee Club is featured and throughout the film such songs as "Army Blue" and "Benny Havens, Oh," are used with fine effect to achieve the proper mood.

There is never a lost chance in the film to impress upon the audience the fine traditions, spirit and goodness of West Point, its history and its greatness. The movie is filled with shots of marching cadets, West Point buildings and the view of the Hudson from the Academy.

The film has all the ingredients of what should go into a good movie. There is drama, sentiment, humor and folksiness. With the exception of what is possibly excess sentiment, the work comes out a well-rounded evening's entertainment.

However, the practice of double-billing "Long Gray Line" was not too good, we felt. The main feature is right at two hours long, but apparently the management felt that this was not long enough to hold an audience. They had to add "Charge of the Lancers," a film which should never have charged in front of any camera.

In addition, the added attraction makes the whole program too long, what with closing hours and all.

## Misplaced Persons



"I think we should ask the Grand Dragon to rearrange the beds in the pledges' rooms."

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