

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Best Program Yet

The plan for a revision of the campus political structure made public in Tuesday's Emerald by a group of UIS and AGS political leaders appears to be the most carefully thought-out program submitted so far.

There is no doubt that it has some distinct advantages over the present system.

First, it would allow every candidate for office to present himself to all the voters, rather than just the two candidates who survive their own party primaries. It is true that a candidate who loses in the primaries can now run as an independent, but unless he has the unofficial backing of one of the parties, as was the case twice in the last three years, the independent has very little chance of being elected.

Furthermore, the independent often is unwilling to bring the wrath of the party down upon him, especially if he as an underclassman with later political ambitions.

Secondly, it breaks away from the present artificial Greek vs. Independent organization. We have said many times that we believe this alignment is false and unrealistic.

If there were any real issues or differences between the Greeks and Independents, then such a party alignment would have a purpose. But there aren't. In fact, student politicians have been hard put to find any issues at all recently.

This brings up a third advantage. We believe that abolishment of the rigid party structure will result in increased political activity. This should force the candidate to do some real digging for issues on which to base his campaign. We cannot believe that no issues exist; there are too many people going around griping for the University to be perfect.

There may also be some points on which this new proposal is weaker than the old system; although no one can be too certain of this until the plan is tried.

It would seem that this plan is more susceptible to abuses of the "dirty politics" variety. The same flexibility of system that its backers say will restore interest in campus politics could lead to more serious transgressions by would-be political leaders bent on controlling student politics.

However, we do not say that this will

happen automatically. We say it could happen. It might be worth the risk if the plan renewed interest in student government, or it might be that renewed interest in student government would preclude anyone trying to gain control by illegitimate means. Vigilance and interest are supposed to be the best defense against corruption.

Another potential weak point is the method of electing a student body president and vice-president. The new plan suggests that "it might be advisable to have a preliminary run-off" election for these offices if there are too many candidates.

Such a run-off would have to be held in advance of the general election to permit defeated candidates to file for senator-at-large if they wished. However, it seems necessary that some sort of a run-off should be held to narrow the number of candidates to the point where the student body president would be elected by a majority, rather than a plurality, of the students.

These are, however, only potential weaknesses, whereas there are some very definite strong points. It appears that only the application of the plan can settle some of the questions it raises.

To Fireproof Or...

To fireproof or not to fireproof—it's quite a question. Some women's houses evidently didn't bother to do this until the last minute for last Saturday night's dances.

Actually, the whole thing turned out pretty humorously. The Emerald has traditionally run an editorial about the time of the first house dances winter term, or at the time when most of them will take place. Last Saturday was such a night, and the Emerald didn't bother with it this year.

Now, speculation could arise as to whether this year's escapade with the firemen resulted from the fact that the Emerald did not run the traditional editorial.

It would appear on the surface that this would be the case.

However, there's always another side to it—the Emerald also runs a "Jupe Pluvius" editorial for Junior Weekend, pleading with the rain god for nice weather. And it rained last Junior Weekend. (A.R.)

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Western World May Find Itself Stymied Behind Same Old Ideas

By J. M. Roberts
AP News Analyst

There was a long line buying subway tokens. Near its end, an elderly woman searched her purse, and the line moved off without her. A day-dreaming young man stood behind her unaware of what was happening, forming a queue of two in the middle of the lobby.

The Western world, unless it keeps its wits about it, may find itself in the position of the young man, stymied behind old ideas while the Russian line moves off without it.

Top leaders of the Soviet Communist party, apparently without even a warning to the international party machine, have been rewriting history with a vengeance during the last few days.

A lot of it is confusing, such as the announcement of a policy of "massive retaliation" against any attack coupled with various statements that the advance of communism will prevent war rather than encourage it.

Some of it is perfectly clear, whether its authors intend to

live by it or not. In this category is the renunciation of the Stalin - Lenin line that revolution, if it is made to stick, must be climaxed by violence. Parliamentary processes are now the proper vehicle of revolution, say the Reds, and procedures may be adapted to local conditions.

Instead of fighting socialism as it has for so long, communism now wants to form alliances with it in different countries, Molotov said, in announcing what he called a "flexible" foreign policy.

In the big countries, like the United States, however, Red revolution with all its old-time meaning will be necessary, party boss Khrushchev said.

In the meantime, Moscow stresses peaceful coexistence.

True coexistence is what exists between people living in the same neighborhood, and between nations in times of real peace. What the Reds are talking about of course, is a period in which they would be permitted to work, unobstructed, for overthrow of the free world.

In their propaganda they

point to a reduction in their army as one of the "deeds" by which the West has demanded that they prove the intent of their peaceful words. Remarks during the party congress, however, make it clear that the schools and party youth organizations are being used deliberately to make the whole country a military reservoir.

The Reds are making extraordinary efforts to convince the world that theirs is no longer a personal dictatorship, hoping thereby to lessen Western aversion to totalitarianism. They claim to have reduced the secret police to activities normal everywhere.

They have launched economic warfare along with this political warfare. They are moving smartly, with a determined purpose, avoiding the constant irritations which Stalinism heaped upon the West.

The West is going to have to come up with a lot more than guns to win this war, and it cannot remain queued up behind a roadblock of old ideas.

Rusty Tryout



"Little TOO rusty, huh?"

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

JCR, in a rush to defend his well-worn cliché that political debates change nothing but the fatigue factor of the politicians, betrays his own need for enlightenment when he writes that the Coon-Neuberger debates "may have stimulated the public's thinking, but they didn't necessarily give them the 'truth' and the 'fact.'"

Unfortunately, JCR chose a poor example to prove his point. It is true that the two contestants differed as to whether the rates would be 2.5 mills (Coon) or 8 to 10 mills per kilowatt hour (Neuberger). It is also true, however, that after three nights on the eastern Oregon tour the two debaters were much closer to agreement on the facts of the rates than the newspapers would have you believe. (Incidentally, a journalist JCR should know better than to fall into the trap of confining his source materials exclusively to what he reads in the papers.) In Pendleton on September 28, 1955, Coon said that the cost would be 2.5 mills at the dam site but that the remaining charge would be for distribution, and what was the Senator going to do, carry the electricity to the consumer in a paper bag? At this point Neuberger replied that as far as he was concerned they agreed on the cost of power, since 2.5 mills would represent only 25 per cent of the cost, thereby bringing the total cost to 10 mills, a figure which he had previously quoted from the Standard and Poore analysis of industrial rates in the area.

In the first place, wouldn't the debates be justified if they did no more than stimulate the public's thinking? Actually they brought out the facts and helped to inform the voters about a very complex issue. It is certainly not the prerogative of cynical journalists to establish criteria for judging the value of debate. If the criterion is to be the outcome of elections, why not wait until we have the verdict? Why must journalists come forth with preconceived judgments before new debates can be held? Rather than scoff at politicians who are willing to debate issues, we should encourage public meetings where the statements of opponents can be challenged immediately. My hat is off to both Sam Coon and Dick Neuberger for reviving the political debate.

Bert E. Swanson

From the Files

February 9, 1952

Lyle Nelson, director of public services received several rather unique birthday presents from his Johnson hall friends, including an un-housebroken puppy, two guinea pigs, two baby chicks, a rooster, a mouse and a hunk of cheese, and one duck.

February 29, 1940

One player each from Theta Chi, Beta Theta Pi, Duds, Sigma Chi and Alpha Tau Omega made up the Donut All-Star hoop team. Sigma Alpha Epsilon picked up one trophy—for water polo.



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