

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Premonitions

The Catch Phrase

The catch-phrase is a handy gadget. It has an emotional appeal that often precludes an intelligent analysis of its validity. Perhaps this account for its wide usage in politics. Democrats and Republicans alike employ it and apparently win votes with it. The most popular phrase in circulation at present is the term, "giveaway." It's a brand applied to the GOP for its past dealings with natural resources, and it may have a potent effect on the election results.

Whoever coined the phrase has undoubtedly hit the Republicans in a sore spot, and the Demos are showing no reluctance to use it. Now Harper's Magazine (May issue) has come out with a so-called objective study of the charge. Warren Unna lists specific instances in which the Republican administration has supposedly given away natural resources—such as tidelands, timberlands, synthetic fuel, and rubber plants, wild life refuges, and power sites.

Adlai Stevenson indicated that he is a well-read candidate when he quoted the examples almost word for word during an address in Klamath Falls. But like all catch-phrases, the "giveaway" charge is not as valid as the Democrats or Harper's magazine in its "non-political" article are prone to make it.

It's true that the present administration has turned over some resources to the states or to private interests. For this it may deserve censure, depending on who profited from the handout. But often these "giveaways" were for legitimate reasons.

For example, Unna cites the abandonment of the proposed Nez Perce federal dam on the Snake river in favor of two private dams which will result in less power and flood control. But the fact is that the 600-foot high structure would block all fish from the upper Snake and Salmon river spawning areas. This should be considered before the charge "giveaway" is used so freely.

Then Unna, a veteran Washington newsman, says that the administration may forfeit all future power development in the Northwest because it has curtailed the Bonneville budget for further long-range planning in the Columbia River basin. Unna points out that this function has been taken over by the Northwest Governors' power planning committee, composed of outspoken foes of public power. This is a political charge with little basis.

The author does not consider the corps of engineers and bureau of reclamation, both federal agencies, which have been planning and building dams in the Northwest ever since Bonneville was first conceived. And the former was responsible for preparing the famous "308" report, the most complete plan yet made for comprehensive resource development in the Northwest. Neither of these agencies has shown any desire to refrain from future activity in this realm.

"Giveaway" sounds good. It is short and easy to remember. But as we have noted, like all catch-phrases, it is less than wholly accurate. This is something that voters should realize when they feel their emotions aroused by such political weapons.--(J.C.R.)

Complete Stifling

From the Stanford Daily:

UCLA has finally reached the end of its travel down the road toward complete stifling of student freedom. It has indeed reached its destination, for the university administration has now taken over the whole area of student government.

In 1954 students had to stand by while university officials issued a directive telling them how they should elect the editor of the campus newspaper.

This was the last step in securing com-

plete administrative control over the student press at UCLA. As is the case at many state universities the phrase freedom of the press has been redefined to mean freedom of the press to print anything—anything of which the administration approves.

The big factor in such control from above is that student writers may say some things that, even though true, may "hurt" the university, financially, politically or otherwise. They substitute security for freedom.

Smug in the security of a controlled and uncritical press, the administration has expanded its "control from above" policy.

Early last month the dean of students' office sent a directive to the associated students calling for a redistribution of representatives on the student legislative council.

The council rejected the directive. The administration's reason for sending the directive was a classic example of double talk which fooled no one, especially the student legislators. It went something like this: "To continue democratic government and to clarify the position of the associated students as an official department of the university (i.e., under direct administrative control)."

If the student government at UCLA was indeed democratic then one would think the directive would have died on the vine, for it was rejected by that government. But the university administration would have none of this. They know what is "right" for students' own government and they aim to see their directives implemented, freedom be damned.

They forced the student legislature to compromise itself on an issue of freedom—on which there can never be any compromise. Freedom is an absolute thing, either a student government has it in an absolute form or it does not have it at all.

The compromise involved putting the provisions of the administrative directive on the ballot in a referendum. Putting issues or personalities before students is a privilege in absolute custody of students—no administration has a right to make such a move.

The council's compromise is just as disheartening an action as would have been an approval of the directive. Both acts would attack the students' right of initiative in his own government, free from any outside interference.

Even the compromise was wasted on the all-knowing UCLA administration.

The administration has decided—and this is unbelievable—to hold ASUCLA elections itself, without approval of the governing body of the ASUCLA; in fact, without the approval of any students at all. This is an odd interpretation of democracy.

But the most unbelievable action of all: The elections, conducted by the university administration, without student permission, will be financed by student funds. Shackling student political freedom is not enough for these Southern California tyrants, now they are hitting the pocketbooks.

The latest move of the tyrants was the removal of Drasin as ASUCLA president for "conduct not in the best interests of the university." (He had cast the deciding vote in the council decision not to accept the administration's directive.)

Following the ouster came another move which takes the right to vote from graduate students.

There are two alternatives to a solution of the UCLA difficulty:

- Abolish student government all-together. It does not exist now, except in name.

- Remove from the UCLA administration the men who would practice their academic tyranny on students in their charge.

If you believed in the ideals and practice of American democracy and the liberal educational practices which it inspires, which alternative would you choose?



"NOW, LESSEE ~ WHOSE TURN TO GIVE THE NEXT SPEECH?"

College Capers ... From Coast to Coast

BITS OF THIS AN' THAT:

THE TESTING TIME:

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—This is the time of year when final tests start looming on the horizon. We don't like to emphasize the unpleasantness to come, but thought you might be interested in some appropriate comments on the subject, as compiled by the Minnesota Daily's Ivory Tower Edition.

Oh lift me from the grass!

I die! I faint! I fall!

My cheek is cold and white, alas!

My heart beats loud and fast!

—Shelley

Now hast thou but one bare

hour to live

And then thou must be damned perpetually.

—Marlowe

An event has happened, upon which it is difficult to speak and impossible to be silent.

—Edmund Burke

I am afraid to think what I have done;

Look on't again I dare not.

—Shakespeare

Nobody is on my side, nobody takes part with me: I am cruelly used, nobody feels for my poor nerves.

—Jane Austen

Letters to the Editor

Emerald Editor:

At 3 a.m. Sunday morning I was awakened by a terrific crash. I walked out of the house to the nearby intersection where two cars filled with U of O students were surveying the damage of the collision. Several spoke to me about being "loaded" and having acquired said "loads" at various house dances held that night. Having house-hopped at four of them myself and observed enough mixed drinks being served from well-stocked bars to float Commonwealth (excluding Campbell club's straight grape punch—being just off social probation), I remember the action the IFC and the administration at Stanford was forced by public opinion to take several years ago.

At Stanford it took the death of Claire Boothe Luce's daughter

in an accident in front of the University post office to force administrative action on this problem. For having a little beer in the house, the Beta Theta Pi fraternity (Stanford's second largest) was forced to nail their front door shut and the entire fraternity to live completely off campus for an entire year. The Kappa Sig's had to close their house for seven months for another slight infraction.

Since very few guys will walk their dates to a house dance, or home again, at least in the downpour we had Saturday night, there would seem to be plenty of chances for the type of accident just described, to occur, except with more tragic consequences.

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