

Oregon Daily EMERALD

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KEN NIEHANS, Business Manager

Unreasonable and Unfair

Members of college living organizations were pleased last week to hear of the unanimous passage by the State House of Representatives of a bill to kill their retroactive personal property tax.

Unanimous passage in the House would indicate that the bill should have no trouble getting through the Senate.

If the bill becomes law, the state cannot charge fraternities, sororities and co-ops, for the past five years, which it has tried to do at Corvallis. But destroying the retroactive feature of the tax would be a shallow victory if the tax itself is allowed to stand in the future.

College living organizations pay a tax on their real property, as does everyone else. But they have objected to a tax on which homeowners do not pay. This property is taxed in profit-making businesses, such as a hotel, but is not taxed in private homes.

The question, then, is whether college fraternities, sororities and co-ops are bas-

ically private homes, or are profit-making ventures, such as a boarding house would be.

Technically, in most cases, the living organization members do not own the property. Most such houses are owned by house corporations. So unless the state legislature changes the law, college living organizations are apparently going to have to pay.

A bill which would kill this tax entirely has been introduced in the Senate, but since then nothing has been heard about it. When the retroactive feature was killed, a Eugene legislator sent The Emerald a press release strongly supporting the change, and terming the retroactive tax "unthinkable." But he was silent on the merits of the tax itself, when applied to college living organizations.

This personal property tax levied against our groups seems unreasonable and unfair. The Emerald hopes that the Senate bill which would kill the tax will not be allowed to suffocate in some pigeonhole.

Carter: 'Go Slow' on Integration

Hodding Carter is a Pulitzer Prize winning Mississippi editor famous for his fights against "racist demagogues," such as the late Huey Long and Theodore Bilbo. He has been a leader in the fight against the "White Councils" and for equal criminal treatment for both races.

His advice to "go slow" on racial integration, given at a campus lecture Friday, cannot be dismissed as the words of a Southern white supremacy bigot. He has been a sympathetic champion of the Negroes in probably the most backward Southern state.

His caution that it is a mistake to force school integration too quickly was based upon several facts. He cited the great progress that has been made in the past generation. Within his memory it was considered very radical and sinful for a white man to endorse separate-but-equal schools facilities. Now this is the Southerner's answer to pressure for integration.

Carter said great progress has been made,

and will continue to be, if the nation will let nature take its course. But progress takes time, he asserted, in a culture that for 300 years has viewed the black man as an inferior.

"Determination to oppose integration is strong and widespread," he said, which is fairly obvious even from 2,000 miles away. By forcing the issue, he fears outbreaks of violence, which would set the cause of racial progress back 100 years.

Without having ever lived in the South and therefore relatively uninformed, we can't help but admit that his theory makes sense.

If the goal is a better integrated society, it would seem that the process must be gradual. Any feeling of brotherhood between races in the South will not be developed in courts of law. It must be gained in the minds and hearts of Southerners, and as long as progress is being made it would seem a mistake to apply too much dangerous pressure.

— Letters to the Editor —

Emerald Editor:

We do not understand why you said our last letter was satirical. Why, obviously we were speaking sincerely! What could be more fair than the equitable maxim, "If you cannot catch the guilty, make the innocent pay?" The justice of this philosophy is self evident. If anyone doubts this, he can ask those on the University administration; they will agree.

James A. Cox

Third Year Law Students
Fred A. Granata

Emerald Editor:

We are indebted to Young Jack Tanzer for showing us that the hard-headed and tough-minded law student is capable of sentimental attachments. However, I suggest that Jack stick to pleading his case through aqueous argument rather than by verbose statement. In fact, it is curious how one so intel-

lectually acute can be so linguistically obtuse.

I am sorry and surprised that our good friends at Fenton have resorted to threats of physical measures if their demands are not complied with. This implies a lack of confidence in their own training. Frankly, I think the lads are entitled to their steps. No other group of equal numbers can so amply fill it.

E. P. McKean-Smith
Junior in Journalism

Open Letter to The Rally Board and the ASUO Senate:

In the Friday, February 15 edition of the Emerald I read an article about enforcement of segregated seating at basketball games and it reminded me of a story:

Once there was an animal school called Hog U. The athletic contests were usually well attended. An "outstanding" feature of all its contests was the tradition called "no-humaning,"

a rule by which all male and female hog students were separated at athletic contests, and the best seats in the student section were allotted to the "no-humaners."

At one crowded contest, one hapless male hog student "humaner" and his mate (or date) tried to sit on one side of the two preferential sections.

Immediately the Order of the Oink, traditional enforcing body of "no-humaning," forcibly removed the "humaner" and his mate (date), and told them to go to the spots designated for the lowly "humaners."

All the other "humaners" who had long keenly felt the discrimination against their right to bring mates or dates to athletic contests, retaliated spontaneously against the Order of the Oink, demanding to sit where they please in the student section.

When the bristles had settled, the Hog U. Tradition Board

Office, Sweet Office



Interpreting the News

American Communists Merely Change Front

By JAMES MARLOW
AP News Analyst

WASHINGTON (AP)—The first question that can be fairly put to the newly-organized American Communist party is: Whom do you think you're kidding?

All the party did at its New York convention this week was to rearrange the furniture to make itself look like a native, national American party, concerned only with American welfare and no longer a Russian agent.

That's exactly what Moscow a year ago told Western Communist parties to do. The reason was simple: everywhere they had run into stone walls and their membership was dwindling.

If they could change their front they might be able to work with, and infiltrate, other groups—like labor, Socialists, liberals—which would have nothing to do with them so long as they were plainly Moscow errand boys.

Thus at the very moment of declaring itself its own man at last, the American party was following the new Russian post-Stalin line just as slavishly as it had followed Stalin while he was alive.

The Russians—after seeing what a little taste of independence had done among Polish and Hungarian Communists who had taken Moscow's advice too literally—did not want other parties to go too far.

hastily met and decided that the tradition of "no-humaning" was discriminatory and undemocratic, and abolished the tradition. Thereafter all Hog students were allowed to sit where they pleased, with whom they pleased in the student section on a first come, first serve, basis, and the Order of the Oink enforced the new edict.

Merle E. Davis
Second Year Law Student

The American Communist party didn't go too far. Since Russia's bloody intrusion in Hungary, the party's newspaper, the Daily Worker, under the editorship of John Gates, had been critical of Moscow.

The press was barred from the convention in New York. But it can be said on the best authority not a single resolution adopted at the convention was critical of Russia.

And Gates barely got himself elected to the new 11-man administrative committee which will now boss the party. The party leadership, despite some rearranging, remains the same.

Until the convention William Z. Foster had been chairman for years, just as Eugene Dennis had been secretary. They had caused dissension among rank-and-file party members by the nature of their leadership.

Under them the party had reached the edge of disaster, suffering tremendous membership losses and finding itself isolated from all other groups in American life.

As a sop to the dissatisfied, Foster and Dennis were stripped of their titles but wound up on the administrative committee just the same. This is supposed to be a kind of collective leadership. That's what the Russians have. They set it up after Stalin's death.

In the past the American Communist party had attracted many intellectuals. It should have small appeal to intellectuals in the future if they have any morality.

The American party stands intellectually degraded to a degree almost unbelievable among thinking people. It had never questioned Stalin, either on his tactics, his interpretation or his murders until his successors in the Kremlin denounced him and revealed him.

Then the American Communists acted surprised. It had as one of them said at the convention, always considered that what the Russian party did was "ipso facto valid." This was a complete confession that the American Communist party had abdicated thinking.