Oregon Daily EMERALD

Tuesday, Fedruary 11, 1958

Should Ike Resign?

The idea that President Eisenhower should resign from office, for the twin sakes of his health and the nation's well-being, is probably abhorrent to a majority of American citizens, most of whom hold the President in highest personal regard.

Harper's Magazine Editor-in-Chief John Fischer agrees in part, but boldly calls in the February issue for a step without precedent in American executive history: a presidential resignation.

The prospect that President Eisenhower could not finish his elected term of office became a talking point during his heart attack three years ago. The chief executive's subsequent disorders have resurrected many of the original arguments.

Fischer likens the present American status in the world situation to a battlefield. His analogy attempts to show that few military leaders would remain in command if they were physically impaired in any way.

Cognizant of what has been called a "drifting" administration, Fischer paints the distressing picture that politics may force many Congressmen to endure the status quo to insure election victories for their party in 1960.

And the controversial matter of Vice President Nixon, the heir-apparent in any resignation or death situation, is for personal and political reasons a virtual powder keg.

Fischer does imply that whatever Nixon's failings might be, at least a young, healthy chief executive would assume an air of definite political commitment, one way or the other. And it's hard to deny—like him or not—that Nixon would be a strong President.

The article cites two alternatives to its main point that Eisenhower should "perform one last great service for his country—resign."

One: The more or less existing system is called by Fischer government-by-committee, where several advisers and high officials absorb much of what rightfully is the presidential burden.

Two: A pattern of delegation of authority, presumably to the Vice President, would be called government-by-deputy. The president would turn much of his decision-making and actual executive performances over to his assistant.

It is difficult to analyze the mass of material on both sides, concerning the real status of the President's health and his capacity (and desires) to do his full-time job, a back-breaker at the least.

Certainly any argument is worth consideration in such a time of world crisis. Leadership is badly needed if the recent Sputnik-Explorer debacle is to be taken as a result of the administration's tangled bureaucracy.

Three years of the Eisenhower administration remain. These years will witness many grave situations—military, economic, social and the inevitably petty political. Is this burden too much for one man, admittedly not in the best of condition and one year away from being the oldest President in American history?

President Eisenhower's immense leadership qualities and personal prestige abroad have been invaluable in the recent past. But would they be equally so in the dangerous future ahead?

One thing is certain. A positiveness not always characteristic of the administration will have to be shown if the stature of the United States as a world power is to remain secure.

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Tenure for Coaches

The business of athletic coaching assumed a new, more secure status at Oregon last weekend. Nobody was hired or fired by the athletic department, but the announcement that full academic tenure will be granted to three veteran members of the University staff is loaded with implications—favorable, we think.

The statements of Athletic Director Leo Harris and President O. Meredith Wilson concerning Duck coaches Len Casanova, Bill Bowerman and Don Kirsch, in effect, mean that these three "senior" Oregon coaches (they have a total of 28 years as Duck mentors) will now have each the rank of a full-fledged member of the academic staff.

With tenure (which has been heretofore denied veteran Oregon coaches because they were not considered full-time professors) this trio will receive the security of an indefinitely extended contract with the University, rather than signing a contract every year.

The proposal still faces the approval of the State Board of Higher Education at their next meeting, but opposition is not expected.

Some critics of the University's current stand on collegiate athletics may attack this move as inconsistent with the rest of its policy ("Oregon is opposed to big-time college athletics, but makes professors out of its coaches") but we think such criticisms would be unfounded.

As has been suggested in previous proposals for coaches' tenure, a good coach's responsibilities to and influences on his players extend far beyond the techniques he teaches them. Though he rarely has enough of a teaching-load to be considered a full-time academic professor, a good coach should be as eligible for tenure as a good professor. And there has been general agreement for several years that Bowerman, Casanova and Kirsch are good coaches.

We're sure that the fact that they have also been successful coaches too, was not overlooked in the making of tenure plans, but we are gratified that their win-loss records were not the only factor involved. To quote President Wilson: "The decision to give tenure to these men follows naturally on the excellent work they have done with their athletes, both in preparation for contests and in encouraging them in their academic work . . . There is no higher compliment that an academic institution can provide for its staff than tenure."

Footnotes

From an OSC Daily Barometer editorial: "The drunken serenades have certainly been increasing this year. When an entire house goes around serenading and they can't even sing decent songs, much less clear enough to be understandable, something ought to be done." We're not too sure about that; perhaps its a good idea for the drunken serenaders to sing their indecent songs indistinctly.

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The televised history course reversed techologically briefly Monday, as technical difficulties subjected students to an hour of radio instruction. No picture!

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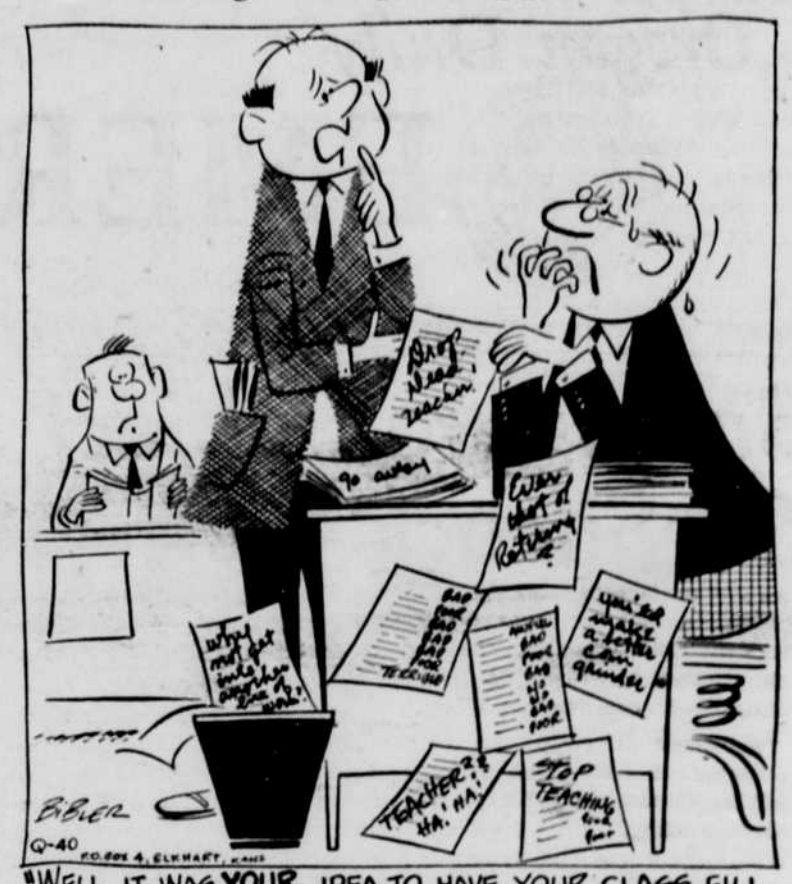
An instructor turned athlete briefly in a 10 o'clock class Monday, narrowly mising one of his students giving a report with a well-aimed chunk of paper fired across the room to a waste basket.

'Agonizing Re-appraisal'



"WELL, IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO HAVE YOUR CLASS FILL OUT THAT 'TEACHER EVALUATION SCALE!'"

William Cook

College Students Today: Conservative or Liberal?

A sub-topic in the many studies of American youth, lately becoming so popular, is the question of the political attitudes of young people, particularly college students. One article, from the right-wing young people's magazine Human Events, quotes Philip E. Jacobs, University of Pennsylvania political science professor, on the question. Asked whether many students have radical ideas, Jacobs replied:

"Quite the opposite. This is a conservative generation. In fact, they tend to be more conservative than the general run of the population on such questions as the relationship of business to government.

"They believe that the government should have a very minimal role in running the economic life of the country. Sixty per cent, in one survey, felt the welfare state tends to destroy individual initiative."

* * *

What Jacobs said is probably true as far as he goes. This is explicitly a conservative college generation, but not, however, because of the force of conservative political thinking in the country. Rather it is because of the nation's general prosperity and "good times," the lack of any burning social and economic issues (which closely affect students), changes in students' ideas of conservatism and because most students' parents are from the middle class—traditionally a conservative social element.

During the "great depression" of the 1930's, students were more inclined to be radical in their political thinking. The problems of the depression subjected our social and political institutions and philosophies to serious doubt. This doubt was naturally reflected in the politics of students and others.

* * *

Out of the depression, which forced more liberal governmental policies, came some changes in popular American conservatism.

We may agree that government interference in our economy and society is categorically bad. At the same time we'll support such "interferences" as social security, farm price-support programs, tariffs, credit and re-discount rate controls, public utilities and a host of others.

As a result, conservative students today are implicitly nearly as liberal in their thinking as were the leaders of the New Deal in the 1930's. Conversely, the liberal students of today are more conservative than were their counterparts during the depression.

The same reasons for today's explicitly conservative students doubtlessly also help explain why we're called the "quiet generation."

Our Contemporaries

(ACP)—Fort Smith, Ark., local sentiment is running against Pres. Eisenhower, indicated a poll taken by the Collegian, Fort Smith Junior College paper.

Of 32 who voted for him in 1956, only 11 would vote for him again, were he eligible to run, the Collegian reported. Staff members interviewed 51 voters, 32 of whom had supported the President. Change in their attitudes was caused mainly by his health, the paper said.

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