

A Bad Proposal

A bill, introduced into the Legislature this session, would prohibit the State System of Higher Education from increasing college tuition or other fees without legislative permission. We hope that this bill will fail, as did a similar measure introduced during the last session.

The proposal asks that legislative control over dormitory and other fees, plus tuition, be granted on the grounds that such fees are an indirect taxation on the parents of students within the State System and therefore should be reviewed by the Legislature. A great amount of legislative control of education is possible under the existing procedure; further control could hamper education greatly. The State Board of Higher Education's budget is submitted to the Legislature each session for approval. At this time, reductions are frequently made and the entire tax program is evaluated by elected representatives.

Over a year ago, a referendum election defeated the legislature's proposed tax program, forcing the state to cut many budgets, including higher education's. Following the tax defeat, enrollment increases and programming already begun by the state system forced the State Board to consider raising tuition to cover the year's expenses. At the time the Legislature adjourned, it appeared that tuition would have to be raised for this fall term. Although the increase was later rejected, the legislature was no longer in session by the time this decision was made.

Placing the power to lower or raise fees in the hands of the legislature would reduce the State System's ability to deal with such emergencies, and others such as sudden increases in demands upon facilities or faculty. In an extreme year, with public opinion running high against education, and we hope this situation never arises, legislators

could conceivably cut budget requests and deny the State System the right to raise tuition to meet existing costs. Such action could only result in curtailing the activities of state institutions.

The new proposal would not only give legislators power to determine how much could be spent for higher education, but also how it should be raised. Many factors affect the level of tuition, compulsory fees and dormitory fees each year. The dormitories must be operated on a self-liquidating basis, making their prices dependent upon current prices, the percent of occupancy and other factors. One of the factors affecting tuition annually is total enrollment. Budgets are established after estimating the number of students who will be enrolled in the state system and therefore will be paying for education in a given year. Although enrollment projections generally give a close picture of future enrollments, a sudden drop or rise could make a difference in Higher Education's financial picture for a given year.

The State Board of Higher Education is the body legally constituted to operate the state's colleges and universities. This group is extra-political with members appointed by the governor.

This procedure places the men and women responsible for operating the state's "smokeless industry," education, before the public but does not subject them to the constituent pressures which would be present if they were popularly elected. At the present time, the legislature reviews education and weighs its budget in terms of the state's total taxation structure for a given year.

The proposed bill is not a necessary change and could conceivably be a harmful one. We urge that this bill not be passed.

The Unjust McCarran Act

The Oregon Journal, January 18, 1965

The seeming injustice of the Internal Security Act of 1950, also known as the McCarran Act, is likely to be brought to local attention again this week.

On Tuesday the Subversive Activities Control Board is scheduled to open a hearing in Portland to determine whether Ralph Nelson, formerly of North Bend and now of Portland, is a Communist and should be required to register as such.

The injustice involved is that if Mr. Nelson is a Communist and did register, he might lay himself open to prosecution under various other anti-subversive laws such as the Smith Act. To force him to register, therefore, might violate his rights against self-incrimination under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.

That this is a real danger was recognized in December, 1963, by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. Chief Judge David L. Bazelon wrote then that a series of Supreme Court decisions had confirmed that "mere association" with the Communist party amounted to criminal conspiracy.

In that decision, the appeals court ruled

that in view of the Fifth Amendment, the Communist party itself could not be convicted of failing to register under the McCarran Act unless the government could show that some representative of the party was willing voluntarily to sign the registration statement. Last June the Supreme Court let that decision stand. It has not yet decided whether individual Communists can be punished for refusing to register, as several have refused.

It may seem galling to insist on the civil rights of Communists who would not hesitate to deny them to their opponents if they had a chance. But the Bill of Rights was written precisely to protect people with unpopular ideas from harassment. When they turn from ideas to action against the government they should be prosecuted for that. But a federal hearing aimed at forcing a man to confess himself a Communist is too reminiscent of the show trials back of the Iron Curtain.

The registration provision of the McCarran Act should be repealed if the Supreme Court doesn't declare it unconstitutional first.

Machine-Age Artists

From the Daily Iowan

The many talents of computers are just now becoming apparent. SUI is planning to hold a computer dance, where partners will be matched by an electronic Ann Landers, and a Fortune magazine release says that computers can write poetry.

"Auto-beatnik" verses are being written by R. M. Worthy's computer at General Precision, Inc., in Glendale, Calif. One of the samples from the pushbutton bard is

Lament for a Mongrel

To belch yet not to boast, that is the hug,

The high lullaby's bay discreetly crushes the bug.

Your science was so minute and hilly, Yes, I am not jade organ's leather programmer's recipe.

As she is squealing above the cheroot, these obscure toilets shall squat, Moreover, on account of hunger, the room was hot.

Judging from this verse (?), it will be a long time before a computer is accepted in the Writer's Workshop. This is one area where automation won't take over.



"I Guess I'm A Natural-Born Deviationist"

Letters to the Editor

Viet Nam
Emerald Editor:

What a coincidence! The 18 January edition of the Register-Guard prints an editorial entitled "Traacherous Friends," concerning the "lunatic fringe." Among other comments was a quotation from an Eisenhower administration official: "He (the extremist) reserves his sharpest shafts for the man relatively close to him in the political spectrum..."

The next day the Emerald carries a letter from Barry Barlow, in which Mr. Barlow flips a neat barb into the Johnson administration with the comment that "... even Dean Rusk, in an unusual moment of candor, admitted..." From the context of the letter I assume Mr. Barlow to be at least a liberal. As I recall the recent election the Johnson Humphrey ticket enjoyed the support of everyone to the left of moderate Republicans, including socialists and communists. Funny thing, they get their team elected and even before they are inaugurated, we find that the top team members have been lying to us all along.

Mr. Barlow further states that "... these realities (of the Viet Nam war) do not coincide very well with what one reads in most newspapers..." I recently completed 28 mos. of military duty on Okinawa, which is one of the major staging-out areas for operations "down South," i.e., SE Asia. I was exposed to intensive news coverage of the situation, in addition to having the opportunity to discuss it with personnel intimately involved, such as Special Forces men, fellow medics returned from temporary duty down there, various Intelligence personnel, and Viet Nameese trainees on Okinawa. I also had plenty of time for outside research on the situation. I thought that I had a fair idea of what was happening and I rarely find any points of agreement with Mr. Barlow's interpretation. As one with an earnest desire to know the "truth" I wonder if Mr. Barlow could supply me with a list of publications which do report the situation accurately?

I had to chuckle, albeit grimly, when I read the line: "While led by Communists, the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam includes individuals of any different political beliefs..." So did Castro's movement. Mr. Barlow fails to mention what happens to those adherents of different political beliefs after the Reds take over. I suggest that he spend an evening or two visiting Cubans who got out after Castro got in.

Mr. Barlow makes one statement from which I could make no sense. Following what sounds like a rehash of the socialist's solution to the problem, he says "... If either side rejects a

cease-fire, the United States should end its illegal military involvement..." Which, as I interpret it, means that regardless of what happens we should pull out. If so, why bother with cease-fires, Geneva Conventions and all that diplomatic fanfare?

Yours truly
Walter Lenington
Graduate, Anthropology

Behavior Theory

Emerald Editor:

In Mr. Powell's second muddled letter, he says that "simulated conflict situations can solve a learning process, even beyond their cathartic effect." In fact, there is evidence that "effective catharsis occurs only when an angered person perceives that his frustrator has been aggressively injured" (L. Berkowitz, "The Effects of Observing Violence," "Scientific American," Feb. 1964). It follows that simulated conflict situations may stimulate real violence. Furthermore, I hope that in his reply Mr. Powell will describe how simulated conflict situations "solve" learning processes.

Mr. Powell attacks my contention that interpersonal conflicts between growing children can be healthy. Rather, he "always thought that the accepted thesis was [that] the frustration led to aggression." In the first place, his "accepted thesis" and my contention are not mutually incompatible, as he implies. As to my contention, it is supported by Dr. A. T. Jersild, a well known child psychologist, who describes several situations in which conflict between children is healthy (Child Psychology, Prentice-Hall, 5th edition, 1960; pp. 183-191, 199-200). From such conflict, a child learns what other children will tolerate of him,
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