

Criticisms of UN Are Refuted By Dr. Whitaker at Meeting

Often - heard criticisms of the United Nations were stated, examined and then refuted by Dr. Urban Whitaker, associate professor of International Relations, San Francisco State College, at a dinner meeting Monday night at the Jackson House.

Dr. Whitaker, a member of the board of the American Association for the United Nations, was brought here by the Jackson County chapter, Oregon United Nations association, for three speaking engagements in the one day.

"Who opposes the United Nations and what are their complaints?" Dr. Whitaker asked.

He listed first the complaint that the United Nations has taken away the sovereignty of the United States and that the complainers "prove" this by saying the UN got the U.S. into the Korean conflict. Dr. Whitaker said the fact is the United States "got the UN" into the Korean conflict, that our generals took charge for the UN and that all military orders were directly from the Pentagon. The military committee of the UN meets, but only in an advisory capacity and never issues orders, he stressed.

Bankrupting U.S.?

Another often-heard charge is that the UN is bankrupting the United States. The speaker dismissed this by saying that what the UN costs is "peanuts" compared to the monies spent by this nation and others on military preparations, highways or even the operations of cities.

"If you throw in everything this country contributes to the UN it still isn't as much as the budget of San Francisco for a year," he added.

Turning to the accusation that the United Nations is "communist dominated," Dr. Whitaker denied that this is true and then said "if the Communists want us out of the UN, why should we give in? Why do we have so little faith that we can hold our own with the Communists?"

He charged that those in this country who oppose the United Nations are really "lining up with the Russians" since they too would like to destroy the UN. He said a study of UN actions shows that the Communists and the right wingers in this country "sleep together on many issues."

Quotes Birch Blue Book

Dr. Whitaker quoted from "The Blue Book" of Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, in which Welch states that he would organize "many fronts" just as the Communists do to promote his beliefs. The professor noted that several of the far-right groups in this country will give the same address, 79 Madison ave., New York City, as their headquarters.

He also noted that the Welch book states that democracy "leads itself to disruption." "It is a perennial fraud," and that he will tolerate nothing but "authoritarian" control in his group.

The speaker said that "The John Birch Society won't just go away," but must be combated with truth. He said misinformation spreads, and breeds violence. He urged his listeners to take time to find out the truth, to have confidence in the system and "speak up" and support it. "We have the real secret weapon," he declared. "That weapon is democracy."

Speaks of Changing Course

In the early part of his talk, Dr. Whitaker spoke of the changing course of the United Nations saying that the Russians would like the UN to remain "static," and merely a talking group controlled by the Big Five and with the veto power in the Security Council. The United States, the United Kingdom and the new Afro-Asian members want the UN to be a dynamic organization and it has evolved in this direction, he declared.

Now the General Assembly meets more often, makes more decision and the new, small countries have more power and "say." He suggested that those interested in the evolution of the UN read the Morse-Aiken report.

During a brief dinner talk, Dr. Whitaker reviewed a closed circuit television broadcast heard at Station KBES-TV in the afternoon on the financial problems of the UN. He added that these are actually political, and stem largely from the cost of the Congo operation.

Intervention Too Risky

During the question period, moderated by George H. Bell, Dr. Whitaker asked how a more equitable voting system could be brought about. He answered that this problem is not yet solved, said there is no consensus on values and that the U.S. doesn't favor a vote on the basis of population.

Asked what the UN has done to free people who would throw off Communist control Prof. Whitaker pointed out that "they" in the organization had decided intervention in Hungary was too risky, since it might provoke a world war. He stressed that the UN did "do something" in Korea and the Congo.

Questioned about financial

aid to Communist countries, such as Poland, the speaker said that many believe this aid may be the way to turn the tide away from communism. He stressed from time to time that Communist is actually an imperfect and weak system of government.

Moderator Bell asked Dr. Whitaker what would happen if the United States did with-

draw from the UN; the answer was this country would lose one of its most important sources of communication and information about other countries.

Indispensable As Organ

"The UN is indispensable as a communication organ," he declared, and added "it is a gigantic mirror of political reality, whether we like it or

not." The professor added that one of the most important accomplishments of the UN is in the social, health, cultural and economic fields and that 80 per cent of its employees are engaged in these activities all over the world.

The professor said "education is our greatest weapon" for democracy and was then asked why "our universities

are centers of communism." Dr. Whitaker challenged this as being untrue and warned his listeners, "Be specific when you make charges about Communism."

He added that it is a crime to be a Communist in this country and loose statements can cause serious trouble. He expressed his faith in this nation's universities, the teach-

ers and students and said that because of his work with the UN, he is often called a Communist but "that doesn't make me one."

At the dinner, Mrs. Harlan P. Bosworth introduced high school students who had participated in the annual UN Pilgrimage competition of the Odd Fellows and Rebekah lodges and Mrs. Riley Applegate, Central Point, explained the pilgrimage. Roy Neal, Ashland, president of the county UN chapter, presided.

'Sympathy' From Pal

Boston - (UPI) - An enterprising greeting card dealer found a sympathy card for a customer who wanted to send it to a friend who had just gone to jail.

Actually a convalescent card, it read: "To a shut-in pal: I cannot grin my widest grin when I am out and you are in. But on the day when you come out my smile will rival yours, Old Scout!"

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