

# Reverberations of 'Patriotic Rally' Are Still Being Felt

Reverberations are still being felt locally from the "patriotic rally" held here recently under the sponsorship of the Freedom Center, a militant anti-Communist organization from Portland.

Near the end of the meeting, which was held in Hoover school on the night of Sept. 19, the city police were called about 10:20 o'clock by a Jeanine Swanson, Talent, who said that some students were "heckling the speaker."

When Officer Richard Hurner arrived at the school a few minutes later there was no disturbance. The meeting was over and people were leaving the building and getting in their cars to go home. Hurner stood by in the parking lot to insure the orderly departure of those who had attended the rally.

**No Incidents Reported**  
There were no incidents, according to Hurner's report. The officer, curious about the kind of meeting that had been going on, gathered up a few brochures and pamphlets that had been dropped on the parking lot by members of the audience as they left. He attached them to his report.

The Mail Tribune, due to prior commitments of its staff, did not have a reporter present at the meeting. But when rumors began to circulate later about "Communist-inspired students" attempting to break up the rally, a reporter was encouraged to check into the matter.

By reconstruction and interviews with persons present at the rally, it appears that the flurry of rumors and talk are products of excitable imaginations.

**Advance Publicity**  
Advance publicity for the rally, and arrangements to use the room in Hoover school, were made by Mrs. Boyd Lawton, 2350 Meadows lane. School officials said no charge was made for use of the facilities when it was explained to them that it was to be a public meeting and no admission charge was to be made.

Featured speaker was Dr. Kenneth Goff, billed as a former member of the Communist party and currently national director of the "Soldiers of the Cross," and editor of and major contributor to that organization's monthly publication, "The Pilgrim Torch."

The meeting was conducted by Rev. Walter Huss, director of the Freedom Center, Portland. Some 150 persons, among them six student-age boys, attended the rally, which was slated to begin at 7:30 o'clock, but which did not actually get underway until about 7:50 o'clock.

**Leads Audience in Pledge**  
Huss led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the singing of "America." He then delivered an invocation and introduced Goff.

The former Communist spoke for about an hour, covering a variety of topics having to do in general with the Red conspiracy in the United States.

One member of the audience was George Winne Jr., 16, of 612 Pierce rd., a senior at Medford High school. Winne had gone to the rally "just to see what would happen." As a student in Advanced American Problems at the high school, he was interested in what the speaker would have to say. He took notes on Goff's speech and later asked the speaker some questions.

**Contribute to Disturbance**  
It was the youngster's questions—or attempts to ask questions—that apparently contributed to the disturbance.

After the speech and prior to the question and answer period, Huss made an appeal to the audience for financial contributions, alluding to the cost of carrying on the fight against Communism and mentioning specifically that expenses for the evening's rally were about \$150.

When questions were finally invited, Winne said he stood and asked Goff what had been accomplished by efforts to keep Communist Speaker Gus Hall off Oregon college campuses about two years ago.

Goff replied that the Communists "had forfeited their right to free speech," and that they "ought to be in jail."

**Raises Hand Again**  
Questions from several older persons in the audience followed. From time to time, Winne said he raised his hand again, but Huss cut him off by announcing, "Only one question per person."

A group of three college-age youths in the audience, later identified partially as sophomores from the University of Oregon, also asked the speaker some questions, and were, according to reports, vocal in

their disagreement with what he said.

One of the three stood and asked Goff if God were a "segregationist."

The speaker replied "yes" and referred to the dietary laws of separatism in the Old Testament to support his answer.

The question, however, apparently aroused Goff into comments about the Negro situation in general, which, according to Winne, were largely derogatory.

**Makes No Progress**  
Goff concluded with a remark to the effect that the Negroes hadn't made any progress toward developing Africa.

With that, one of the three university students yelled out "Wrong" three or four times. Winne said he stood up at that and started to speak, but Huss ordered him to sit down, and the youth complied.

A bit later, Goff said that there were "90 textbooks" currently in use in schools in this country which told of the benefits of a Communist society without giving any counter arguments in favor of a capitalistic society.

**Holds Up Text**  
Again Winne stood up, this time holding up the text which is used in his American Problems class at Medford High school. He asked, "Is this one of the 90 books?"

Goff became angered and snapped at Winne.

"Shut up! I won't put up with young snobs like you. One more word from you, and I'll have you escorted out."

Abashed and upset by Goff's threats, Winne got up from his seat and began to walk out of the room. He was joined by the three university students, and the four of them left together.

As they were leaving, some members of the audience jeered and shouted after them. "Yes, get out. Go on, get out." Outside, Winne and the three

students (whom he had never met before) stopped and chatted for a few minutes, and were just getting ready to go home when a police car drove up.

**Youngsters Leave**  
Anxious to stay out of trouble, the youngsters left.

Winne, who describes himself politically as a "moderate conservative," said last week that he "probably was a little brash" in his conduct at the meeting.

"I feel I probably heckled the speaker a little," he said, "but I didn't go to the meeting with that in mind."

He was quite critical, though, of those in charge of the meeting.

"Huss and Goff seem to have a great fear of viewpoints other than their own," he said.

"If I had it to do over again, I'd probably still try to ask questions, but I wouldn't press the point if the speaker didn't want to answer."

**No Questions Asked**  
Another Medford High school student at the meeting, whose parents have requested that his name be withheld, did not ask any questions of Goff. He and a

friend about his age sat together near the front of the room.

The youth said that he had intended to go to church that evening, but attended the meeting at the request of his mother, who had planned to go but at the last minute was unable to make it.

"Those other students were unfairly treated," he said.

**Changes Impression**  
"This certainly has changed my impression of these so-called anti-communists."

He pointed out that when older members of the audience asked questions of the speaker, Huss would repeat the questions, but when any of the students asked a question, Huss did not repeat it.

Winne's final comment on the incident was filled with irony.

"I don't understand people who go to such meetings," he said, "but at least I have a better understanding now of the aims and objectives of the Freedom Center."

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## Trailer Park Owner Complains of Noise On Freeway Route

The owner of a trailer park adjacent to Interstate 5 overpass complained to the Medford city council Thursday night about the "excessive noise" of trucks on the highway structure.

A. H. Webster, who operates the Twelfth Street Mobile Home park, said the noise was damaging his business.

Webster said the noise was particularly bad when north-

bound trucks shifted gears as they proceeded down the overpass incline. He recalled that several times prospective customers had left his trailer park after hearing trucks drive past on the freeway.

**Appeals To Council**

He appealed to the council to take some action to reduce the noise. "This must be of concern to a lot of other people in Medford," he said.

On the advice of City Attorney William Mansfield, and the motion of Councilman Richard Travis, the council voted to have state police, who are responsible for patrolling the freeway overpass, contacted in an effort to see what can be done.

In other action, the council voted to:

—Accept a completed 6-inch water main on Crestbrook rd. from Modoc ave. to Barnett rd.

—Grant a package liquor license to Safeway Stores Inc. for their new market at West Main and Hamilton sts.

**Approve Licenses**

—Approve issuance of operator's licenses for coin operated amusement devices to the Eagles club and William Konopasek, operator of The Spot, 17 South Riverside ave.

—Grant a request from the Eagles lodge for an asphalt concrete sidewalk on Stevens st. and an asphalt sidewalk on Bidle rd. The lodge's building is located on a corner lot at the intersection.

The 45-minute meeting, the shortest session in almost a year, was presided over by Mayor James Dunlevy. All councilmen were present. The next regular meeting of the group is scheduled for Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers in city hall.

## Bibles Destroyed In Highway Mishap

**EAGLE POINT** — Two old Bibles dating back to the 1880's apparently were destroyed in an auto accident on Highway 62 Wednesday afternoon.

Lowell O. Pogue, of Route 2, box 142, Eagle Point, had the Bibles with him in his pickup truck when the accident occurred. Later pieces belonging to one of the Bibles were found but no trace of the other.

Pogue, who is recovering from injuries at Rogue Valley hospital, asked that anyone who may have found remains of the books to contact him.

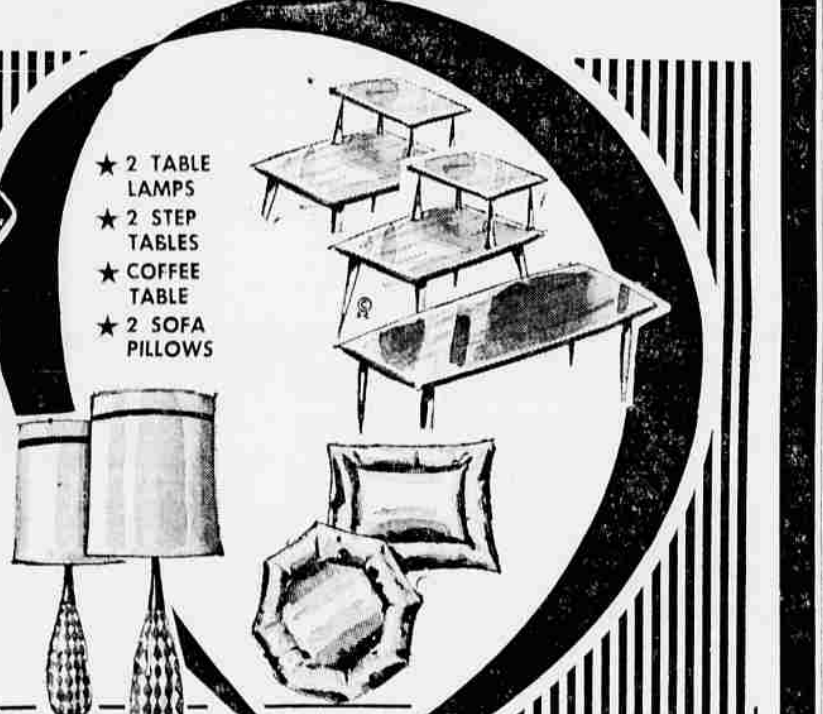
The accident occurred on Highway 62 near the entrance of the Veterans Administration domiciliary about 2:40 p.m. Wednesday.

According to Pogue, the accident occurred when the brakes on his pickup, which was pulling a flat bed trailer, grabbed, causing the two vehicles to jack-knife. The pickup, as a result, was thrown into the path of a log truck operated by Leo Carl Graves, 61, of Tiller.

## Eagle Point Youths Held for Theft of Car

Two 13-year-old Eagle Point boys were lodged in the Jackson county juvenile detention home early Saturday morning on charges of stealing a car.

State police apprehended the two boys about 10 minutes after Don Eccles, route 1, box 50, Eagle Point, reported the car stolen. The pair is awaiting action by juvenile authorities.



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