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Don't Be Deceived By Primaries

Mr. Adlai Stevenson and Senator Estes Kefauver, the two major contenders for the Democratic nomination for the presidency, recently met at the ballot box in the Minnesota primary. Although Senator Kefauver came out the victor, Mr. Stevenson may be just as sure now, as before the primary, of the nomination.

Mr. Stevenson has been the preferred candidate all along, and this primary does not affect the viewpoint of those who held it before. The conditions under which Senator Kefauver won the primary are of some note. Minnesota is ordinarily a Republican state; but this being a nonpartisan primary, the Republicans expressed their reaction to it by voting for the Democratic candidate likely to give Mr. Eisenhower the least amount of trouble. Another condition which contributed to Senator Kefauver's victory is that he is carrying on a much more strenuous campaign of "stump" speaking and handshaking.

Primaries, to agree with former President Truman, do not prove or change anything but rather are a sounding board of public opinion. In the Minnesota primary, it was an artificial opinion that was created by a devious Republican faction.

Today's Question: What To Do?

By ANDRESS TAYLOR
(Guest Editor)

Probably the most difficult task a democratic government can undertake is that of re-orientating its citizens to the basic principles upon which a free society is based; principles which, in our case, have long since become empty platitudes because few have ever taken them seriously. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court set the stage for the American government to undertake such a task. Now that the stage is set, the all important question of how to proceed rises to challenge all who would try to overcome the inertia that decades of indifference have instilled in our citizens.

In the March 5, issue of LIFE magazine, William Faulkner, a native of Mississippi and a winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, said, among a good many other things, that everyone should stop a minute and give the South time to work out her problems. Apparently he thinks that too much has been done already, and that nothing more should be done for a while. The only objection that I can offer to that suggestion is that the South always solves the race problem to the disadvantage of the Negro. The South has never started, or even met half-way, any reform that would benefit the Negro. Whether these past actions are an index to the future I will not venture to say, but there seems to be little room for optimism. The minute Faulkner asks for might, if granted, be stretched into a decade or more.

Many whites would maintain segregation by force if necessary; they have joined together in a vigilante-like organization called the Citizen's Councils. To them there is no question of what to do; they wish to keep things as they always have been. In Washington they are separated in fact if not in name by the Southern congressmen who recently issued a pro-segregation manifesto to the nation. It is a curious document; I wonder if the congressmen read it before they signed it.

This ultimatum (it is precisely that) takes Mr. Faulkner's argument to its illogical conclusion. The two following sentences are illustrative. "It" (the Supreme Court) "is destroying the amicable relations between the white and Negro races that have been created by ninety years of patient effort by the good people of both races. It has planted hatred and suspicion where there has heretofore been friendship and understanding." Let us examine the facts, particularly those relating to "amicable relations." Since 1865 over 5,000 Negroes, including 100 women, have been lynched. There have been race riots in Wilmington, North Carolina; in Atlanta, Georgia; and in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to name a few places. In all these outbreaks, Negroes have suffered heavily in loss of life as well as property. As yet, no white man has ever received the death sentence for killing a Negro. How anyone can say that "there has heretofore been friendship and understanding" in the South is confusing to me.

The NAACP proposes that the constitution of the United States be upheld in all cases, regardless of race. For taking this position it has been loosely called the Negro counterpart of the White Citizen's Councils. Such characterization is inaccurate and unfair to the Association. Nowhere can one find a single instance in which it has, by word or deed, used force in protest of government policy. Its officials have been beaten and threatened more than once, but the Association has relied solely upon judicial decisions to overcome the opposition.

Labor unions had to fight for years before they were granted their rights. Likewise the women of America had to struggle ceaselessly for their political rights. Why then should the Negroes stand and wait? It is now a long time since 1619.

From Where I Sit by W. Sherman Perry

The files of the Student Government contain more little notes and bulging portfolios on the subject of proposed and rejected constitutions than it does on any other subject matter. These files tell a story in themselves.

To our knowledge, Norman H. Calvin Jr., who was president of the NCC Student Government in '51-'52, began the crusade to get a constitution. Presidents prior to him may



PERRY

have been interested in this phase of Student Self Direction, but we know that it was Calvin who put the word seriousness into the movement. He did a phenomenal amount of work on what must be considered as one of his major projects while he was in office. According to records, however, Calvin failed to get the required signatures on the drafted constitution that are needed to make it a valid document.

After Calvin, there were three other presidents who worked toward attaining a constitution for their constituents and for posterity. Perhaps the president most interested in doing this (according to personal contact and records in the S.G.

Office) was Elliot Palmer. He worked with his personal advisors at lengthy and arduous meetings every week on the matter but at year's end, the proposed constitution was filed away...unratified. It is obvious that the attaining of an acceptable and desired constitution has not been an easy task.

It must not be construed that the present administration is to be given all of the credit for giving NCC undergraduates its first constitution. This would be a gross injustice to past administrations who desired a constitution no less than the present one did. They laid the groundwork and set the machinery up that made the attainment possible. The present administration was one that specialized, more or less, in alterations, oiling of clogged machinery and paper work.

ATTENUATED

The present constitution is not the strongest one ever ratified. But an attenuated constitution is better than no constitution. The NCC undergraduate constitution is one that can be strengthened through amendment. It is not an inflexible document that permits no changes.

It is believed that the students of NCC have much to be jubilant about in saying that they, at long last, have a constitution that, even though it ad-

mits of defects, has the virtue of specificity and the still greater virtue of potential development.

NEW BILL

A bill has originated in the Student Congress that will cause a lot of controversy among the student body unless I miss my guess. The bill concerns itself with two of the problems that have caused much lamenting in certain circles.

Line cutters in the dining room are becoming more popular than Dennis the Menace Scotch and Milk, and Adolescent Psychology on this campus. But there is something about habitual line cutters not as wholesome as any of the three items listed above. Therefore, the Student Congress is proposing that individuals caught cutting line the first time have their meal books revoked for a day. Caught the second time the student would have his book revoked for a month.

The other problem that the bill concerns itself with is that of individuals who pilfer plates from the line. Not as popular as line cutting, the practice is still too widespread to be ignored. The Student Congress, in its bill, is proposing that any student caught filching a plate be required to pay for it...and to be the guest of the Student Welfare Committee as soon as such an afternoon party can be
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New German War Novel May Surpass 'All Quiet'

By WALTER DAVIS

Ten years after the end of World War I a tremendous novel came out of Germany, became an international best-seller, and was made into an Academy Award-winning motion picture. That novel was "All Quiet on the Western Front." Now, some ten years after the end of World War II, a novel which bids fair to equal, if not eclipse, the record of the earlier novel has come out of Germany. This book is entitled *The Revolt of Gunner Asch*.



DAVIS

The Revolt of Gunner Asch is a story of brilliantly subtle satire, tender and riotous love and the uninhibited behavior of barrack life. In its satire, the story saucily pokes fun

at the pettiness of the German Non-Commissioned Officers and the machine-like efficiency they exacted of their recruits. In its love story the novel contrasts the romance of the reticent and shy Verbiën, with the bold impetuous love of Gunner Asch.

Gunner Asch is a young cog in the Germany pre-World War II military wheel, but he is an exceptionally crafty one; in fact, Odysseus of Homeric fame could almost be said to be his prototype. Gunner Asch constantly finds himself in, what for a man of less ability, might be catastrophic situations. In every case, however, his sharp wit carries him through. For instance, there was the occasion on which the Gunner had lost all his clothes but a shirt and had been forced to return to the military installation virtually naked. When he entered the post he was stopped by a drunken officer, who demanded to "know

what the hell's going on around here." The Gunner calmly explained to the officer that he had been sleep walking. The officer, naturally accepted the explanation, so sure is he that no recruit would dare "put one over" on an officer of the German Army.

Throughout the novel is the gently, though often pointed satire, of German complacency and suggestiveness. *The Revolt of Gunner Asch* is the story of a people caught in a fever of nationalism and self-sufficiency, who thought that all must fall before German might.

The revolt of Gunner Asch comes when the gunner's friend, a timid, little pid-squeak of a soldier named Verbiën, has been driven almost to the point of suicide by the German N.C.O.'s. Asch vows that every man who has had a hand in the "treatment" of his friend will suffer, and they do.

The Gunner begins a one-man campaign in which he literally creates havoc on the post, by defying all his superior officers and then standing pronely on the army regulations. He was careful never to go beyond his legal and literal rights, but in coming to the brink of these rights, he succeeded in thoroughly harassing every one of his superiors. In the end, each of the superiors was released of his rank because he was unable to maintain discipline among his men. The Gunner, incidentally, received a promotion.

The Revolt of Gunner Asch was originally written in German by Kirst and it was translated from the German text by Emery. It may be due to the translation from one language to another that the story seems to be lacking in vigor and style. The love stories, though beauti-

fully conceived, are rather tepid and inconsequential to the story. Another factor which may not be in the favor of the novel is that it has no plot to speak of. However, the story is interesting and amusing, and the satire is brilliant—both of which make the novel well worth reading.

Student Chapel: Opinion Divided

Lavon DeGrady, Mt. Olive, home economics: Frankly, I prefer speakers from outside even though the student-sponsored programs are usually informative and give students opportunity to develop important skills in expressing themselves in public.

Ann Corpening, Morganton, social science: Great! They are a step in the direction of true democratic living; furthermore, most of the students enjoy them.

Napoleon R. Vance, Winston-Salem, commerce: Such programs are no substitute for experienced speakers who have excellent backgrounds and have "toed the rubber." We need contact with such experienced people who can help us in many ways.

Culey M. Vicks, Jackson, health education: I'm enthusiastic about student-sponsored programs because they are usually quite interesting and encourage larger numbers of students to attend chapel.

Ruth O. Robinson, Acme home economics: Good. They offer an opportunity for students to get first hand experience as platform guests; they also change the familiar pattern of programs featuring outside speakers.