

# Letters to the Editor

Madam Editor:

It was very pleasant to find Dick Murphy's clear and outspoken letter in such a prominent place in Thursday's paper. I thought it to be one of the best things I have read there for some time, and would like to express my appreciation to the author and to the editorial staff. May I also say a few words on the subject of intellectual freedom?

It is indeed amazing that so much premium has come to be placed on conformity in ideas in this country, which was originally a haven to those who wished to dissent. One must remember that conformity spells the stagnation and ruin of a society, as can be seen from history (of both remote and recent times); whereas, for continued survival the first essential is adaptability. But we cannot have adaptability and reliable guidance for change unless we

have complete freedom of thought and discussion and unless we attempt to divorce sentiment from reasoning (as far as this is humanly possible).

But in this country, one finds a trend away from these; not only is there a policy, direct or indirect, of curtailment of thought, but there seems to be a concerted attempt by a large part of the press and radio to rouse the sentiments of anger and hatred in certain serious matters which are in urgent need of dispassionate reasoning from all. The consequences of these policies may be ruinous, and it is to be hoped that your recent articles make readers aware of the gravity of the situation.

S. G. Ghurye

Madam Editor:

During the present discussion on the preservation of academic freedom, it might be well to point out the reason behind the

loyalty oath. International Communism, directed from Moscow, employs certain techniques which the people feel are dangerous. Rather than come into the open with its ideas, gaining power and prestige from the merits alone of its beliefs, it seeks control of organizations through subtle infiltration of their offices until finally the policy making branches of the organizations no longer represent their memberships. Through crafty misrepresentation, Communism attempts the eventual overthrow of our constitutional form of government.

All educational institutions are naturally high on the list of desirable organizations of which to gain control. In order to expose and curb these disguised activities, we have devised the loyalty oath, which fundamentally is a declaration of the individual's adherence to our constitutional form of government and to his not being a member of the Communist Par-

ty. Now in this day and age, no Communist who desires to overthrow the government, bloodily or peacefully, is going to get anywhere if he admits his plan. We are happy enough as the economic and political situation stands not to accept seriously proposals that we adopt the Soviet form of government. Thus to become instrumental in seeing the triumph of Communism, the Communist must work in secret. If he is to continue aiding the cause, I doubt that he will admit his affiliations. But by denying any association with the Communist Party, the Communist immediately subjects himself to the danger of imprisonment because of perjury. Here then lies the strength of the loyalty oath: it enables the government to prosecute because of a lie rather than an ideology. And it is the lie we must fear, not the ideology.

Robert Brehme

# Not Guilty

Rio De Janeiro, Jan. 26—The second day of the Inter-American Congress of Students saw most of the delegations abandon diplomatic subtlety and fall into one of two clearly defined camps—the communists on one side and the anti and non-communists on the other.

The Uruguayan delegation sparks the Marxist team and never misses an opportunity to stick a rusty harpoon through Uncle Sam. Then, reading from left to right, we have the Argentine anti-Peron student federation, the delegation from Cuba, the Panamanians, El Salvador and the single delegate from Honduras. The Peruvian delegation is split, one pro-communist and one anti.

This left wing aggregation, which the Brazilian spectators bitterly refer to as the "Cockroach Clique," came to Rio mainly to embarrass the United States and to stall, block, and delay the formation of a Pan-American Student Association which they claim would "be used as a tool of Wall Street to split the student world and further subjugate the masses of Latin America."

On the opposite side of the fence are the United States National Student Association (which, ironically enough, is sometimes labeled pink here at home), the Brazilians (the Communist Party is outlawed in Brazil), Costa Rica (where students beat down a communist revolution in 1848), Colum-

bia, Nicaragua, the Canadians, Paraguay, and Ecuador.

The stalling tactics of the "Cockroach Clique", based on a keen knowledge of parliamentary procedure plus iron-clad vocal chords and supercharged glands, are clever, disgusting, and even amusing. Early this morning the student statesmen filed into the meeting chamber to find the delegation tables arranged in two long parallel columns stretching the length of the room. Uruguay took the floor and for three hours protested that "Uruguay was shoved clear up against the wall and the acoustics were lousy and the principles of group dynamics would put Uruguay at a disadvantage and the whole thing was a Brazilian-American plot to weaken Uruguay's position."

They made a motion to arrange the tables in a semi-circular pattern and Cuba second-

ed with a ten minute harangue on freedom of speech. Then Uruguay claimed that a member of their delegation was denied a Brazilian visa because he was a communist. Argentina insisted that the Congress disband until a committee could deliver an official protest to the Brazilian Foreign Minister. The chairman, who was strangely enough a lad from Uruguay temporarily chairing the session while the Congress President (a Brazilian) was investigating a riot outside the building, came up with this parliamentary gem, "All those in favor of disbanding the session remain seated." Before the Americans and Canadians had even tuned in on the translated the session had broken up and fifteen exuberant Latins were piled into a taxi headed for the Foreign Minister.

And so ended the second day of this Tropical Zebra Derby.

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