

The Daily Tar Heel

In its sixty-ninth year of editorial freedom, unhampered by restrictions from either the administration or the student body.

THE DAILY TAR HEEL is the official student publication of the Publications Board of the University of North Carolina.

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January 13, 1962

Tel. 942-2356

Vol. LXIX, No. 77

Uncaring Legislators

Discussion of the new election laws ground to a premature halt in the last meeting of Student Legislature when it was discovered that ten members had left the hall, bringing the total present below the quorum necessary for a vote.

According to the Student Legislature roll, the meeting opened with 30 members present, seven more than the necessary quorum. During discussion, 10 members left, reducing the number to 20, three less than the number required.

Of 50 legislative seats, only 20 were filled when an important piece of legislation was due to come to a vote. This is a disturbing fact considering that the Student Legislature is the heart of student government.

It is even more disturbing when one considers that of the 50 seats available, only 44 are filled at present due to resignations. One seat has been empty since the resignation of veteran legislator Chip Woodrum last spring upon his graduation. The failure to appoint a replacement in seven months is an inexcusable show of disinterest and inefficiency on the part of the party which controls the seat.

Of the 44 legislators still active, only 20 had the interest or felt the obligation to attend the meeting

and stay until the bill was acted upon. With this sort of shirking of responsibility, it is hardly surprising that Student Legislature is often inordinately slow in acting on bills. Some of the legislators absent, we are sure, had valid reasons. However, we are equally sure that some did not.

The Legislature will face an imposing array of bills in the coming months, including honor system legislation, budget appropriations totaling well over \$100,000 and action concerning the student constitution. All these will be time-consuming and important. None of them can, or should be, acted upon by a skeleton Legislature. It would be wise for that body to consider tightening up its policy concerning absences.

As for unfilled seats, it would be a simple matter to deny a party control of any seat which is allowed to stand vacant for more than two meetings. Turning control of the seat over to the opposing party after that period would be an effective means of insuring that seats stay filled.

As things now stand, disinterested legislators and delinquent parties are denying representation to much of the campus and unnecessarily stalling action on legislation.

Coates Can't Retire

It doesn't seem either possible or right that Albert Coates is about to retire as director of the Institute of Government. Of course, the Institute he fathered and raised to such a useful maturity will keep right on being so very useful to the people of North Carolina. But it just won't seem exactly like the Institute of Government without Albert Coates actually being its director.

Those of us who aren't so very old can remember so well the days when Professor Coates was riding up and down North Carolina seeking support for his idea for such an Institute of Government. We can remember how he used to come to Raleigh on his own time and at his own expense to buttonhole legis-

lators and tell them of what this idea could mean to all the people of the State. He was such a persistent buttonholer, and such a patient talker. It took him a long time to really get enough money to turn the Institute into anything more than a dream, but that is understandable when one remembers how hard it was to find any sort of money in the early 1930's.

The Institute is a big thing now, with a big building and a big staff and a big job. Fortunately, its bigness hasn't gotten in the way of its only reason for existing: The doing of a job for all the people. It has continued to do that with the same care and the same enthusiasm it showed when its only staff was a man named Albert Coates.

It has provided excellent training for so many public officials. It has helped public officials explain their jobs to their own people, and such explaining sometimes doesn't come easy but is more valuable the harder it is to do.

The Institute has provided the excellent service of sending out detailed reports of legislative action, on new bills, committee action, amendments to bills, etc. Its legislative reporters have had the time and the skill to do the digging which makes its service of such value to the newspapers, to others of the State.

The law says that Albert Coates must retire as director of the Institute because he is now 65. The law may force somebody to take his name off the door of the director's office, but as long as there is a really good Institute of Government functioning as part of the University, the work Albert Coates did in forming it and helping it grow up will still be a major factor in directing its work.

—The Raleigh Times

The Race To The Rancho



Many, Many Answers Would Be Needed

There is a movement on foot in Raleigh to revive the Dixie Basketball Classic as a purely commercial venture, with private sponsors handling it. If the Classic is to be re-

vived, this would be the best way to do so, but there are many points which should be considered before there is any real consideration given to the idea.

First and foremost, this question should be answered: Would State and Carolina participate? That leads to another similar question: Should Carolina and State be permitted to participate in such a tournament?

Until those two questions are answered, there could be no real serious consideration given to reviving the classic as a commercial venture. In their statements killing the Dixie Classic as an aftermath of the basketball scandals, the heads of the Consolidated University talked about

athletic participation not directly connected with the campuses. Presumably, unless there should be a change in that thinking, State and Carolina wouldn't be permitted to play in a revived Dixie Classic.

Actually, if the University heads wish to keep basketball on a level below the highly emphasized state which it had reached at both State and Carolina, it is doubtful if the teams should be permitted to participate in such a non-campus-connected tournament.

The next thing to be considered would be whether a Dixie Classic without State and Carolina would go over. There is much interest in basketball in this section, but would

that interest hold up without the presence of State and Carolina?

Would such a commercial tournament be able to draw the really top-flight teams of the country? It is true the tournament probably would be commercial in name only since it presumably would be a non-profit thing, but it still would be commercial.

Maybe there should be a Dixie Classic. Goodness only knows it would add much to the merriment of the Christmas holidays in this whole section of the state.

But if there is to be one, get some real, solid answers before going too far into the deal.

—RALEIGH TIMES

Cuba And The OAS Problem

The chanceries of the Western Hemisphere are busy these days preparing possible resolutions for the foreign ministers' meeting of the Organization of American States on January 22 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The aim is to agree on a collective attitude toward Cuba. Meanwhile, as he announced at a military celebration in Havana this week, Premier Castro is preparing a monster rally for the same day "to reply to (Yankee) imperialism and its lackeys."

The issues are far more complicated than North Americans seem willing to admit. There is no firm evidence, for instance, that Premier Castro's defiant proclamation of his and his revolution's "Marxism-Leninism" has influenced the situation in a significant way. Nevertheless, Washington hopes that its White Paper on Cuban communism, published on Jan. 3, will impress Latin Americans by its massive array of facts. These facts could have come as no surprise in any Latin-American capital; but there has been a tendency below the Rio Grande to look the other way when Cuban communism is mentioned.

It has to be recognized that there are subtle but important differences between the United States and the Latin-American attitude toward Fidelism. Our basic concern is with the cold war, which is a matter of national life and death to us. Latin-American Governments are all anti-Communist internally and all anti-Communist externally and all anti-Communist in their countries. However, they think the cold war only touches them indirectly; local Communist movements are weak, and the Latin Americans do not have our intense fear of "international communism." They fear and dislike United States interventionism even more. Besides — to be realistic, if cynical — they profit by our reaction to Fidelism. The Alliance for Progress plan is, essentially, the United States answer to Fidel Castro.

All things considered, some careful and skillful diplomacy will be required before the foreign ministers' conference. The essential problem is to censure and isolate Cuba without dividing and weakening the O. A. S.

—NEW YORK TIMES

Freedom Of The Press—Today

A REPORTER is required to report what he believes is the truth and he is responsible for what he writes. When an Ambassador calls a reporter into his office and complains that his published reports do not correspond with the Ambassador's reports to the State Department, the reporter should notify his publisher, who should print the story of the illegal interference on the front page of his newspaper. When an Ambassador tells a reporter that the latter is confusing "liberalism" with communism, the reporter should tell the Ambassador to go to the Devil after reading to him the First Amendment to the Constitution.

A reporter tells me that when he described "Che" Guevara, then an adviser to Jacobo Arbenz of Guatemala, as a Communist and said Guevara was a liaison between Arbenz and the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City, the Ambassador was particularly annoyed. This Ambassador was ultimately removed and the issue is not the particular man, who was succeeded by a first rate anti-Communist. The issue is the danger that comes to the United States when such men hold important offices and a President and a Secretary of State depend upon them for information to returning Communists or Fellow-Travelers are imitation Joe Mc-

Carthy. It is the United States that needs to be protected, and when men are appointed to office solely because they were dismissed under pressure by McCarthy, the United States may suffer. McCarthy must have been right about some things. None of this developed in the Eisenhower or Kennedy Administrations but goes way back to 1952 and it seems silly to bring up this old stuff now for the sole purpose of giving a job to someone who had either been a Communist or had used bad judgment.

NO ONE WHO realizes the seriousness of the moment wants a renewal of the excitement of the McCarthy days; on the other hand, whoever permits the gang that he treacherous conduct to return to office, is not serving this country. It may be true that some are emotionally pledged to support and protect those who have "suffered" because of congressional investigations, but the fact remains that the peril becomes very grave to this country when such men are appointed to offices and policies about which responsible men only know when they read what they are responsible for in the newspapers. It is now not important which Administration has been responsible for the suppression of and guidance.

It is an error of judgment for the President or the Secretary of State to assume that those who call attention to the important is that we find out who the little boys are who set themselves up to play at greatness. Unfortunately the American people are as weary of what they call the Extreme Right as they are of the Extreme Left, but the truth is unrelated to whether anyone is Right or Left, extreme or moderate. Sooner or later, facts will come out. Even in a dictatorial country like Soviet Russia, the facts ulti-

About Letters

The Daily Tar Heel invites readers to use it for expressions of opinion on current topics regardless of viewpoint. Letters must be signed, contain a verifiable address, and be free of libelous material.

Brevity and legibility increase the chance of publication. Lengthy letters may be edited or omitted. Absolutely none will be returned.

AMA Poses Friend To All Except Self

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

Which group do you imagine was the biggest lobbyist in Washington during the first half of 1961? Which group spent the most money as a means of influencing legislation in the Congress of the United States?

It was none other than our old friend, the American Medical Assn. For the first six months of 1961, a Congressional Quarterly study of spending reports shows the AMA topped the 274 lobby organizations with half-year expenditures of \$146,894.

This was nearly \$80,000 more than the second-running group is the listings, the AFL-CIO. Most of the AMA money was spent in opposing the Administration's proposals for medical care for the aged through Social Security.

Now there is no doubt that the AMA has a right to do this—indeed, has a duty to do this if it believes such a program is against the best national interest. But what are some of the other bills that the AMA lobbied against—and effectively—during the year?

It opposed Social Security benefits for physicians, liberalized Social Security disability benefits, creation of a U. S. Commission of Aging, and several proposals for expanding medical treatment under the Veterans Administration.

And what did the AMA lend its support to? Bills to provide construction grants to medical schools, to give doctor and other professional

people a tax break on income set aside for retirement, and to grant deductions for lobbying expenses.

In addition, the AMA said it was submitting this lobby information "under protest," because it did not consider itself subject to the Federal law regulating lobbies.

The bills the AMA supported would take money away from the U. S. Treasury, but the doctors are most zealous that no money be taken away by other segments of the population, where medical care is concerned.

Now, the AMA has a legal right to do this—to ask as much for itself as it can get, and to oppose the milking of the Treasury by other groups. But then the AMA has no right to put itself on a pedestal and to resent criticism of itself as a trade association.

For this is what the record shows it to be—a group no better and no worse than the labor unions, the farm interests, the truckers, the steamship companies or the post-office clerks. Devotion to the public, and the sacred duty of medicine, have little to do with the case. It is time the AMA stopped posing as a friend to anyone except itself.

Our New Stake In Vietnam

Fresh details are slowly emerging from reticent Administration sources about the expanded program of American participation in South Vietnam's anti-Communist struggle.

From now on Americans will be flying Vietnamese troops into battle and accompanying them in combat on the ground; Americans will help run the Vietnamese intelligence system, assist in military planning and have a voice in measures to improve social and economic conditions. If some of the more than 2,000 Americans now in South Vietnam get shot at in combat zones, they are authorized to shoot back.

These new arrangements, added to the many other steps the United States has taken to bolster South Vietnam, represent a very extensive American commitment. Americans certainly will be shot at; some will almost certainly be killed. Communist China has just sent to Hanoi a Chinese military mission headed by Marshal Yeh Chien-ying, Vice Chairman of the National Defense Council in Peking. Marshal Yeh is a tough and capable soldier well known to many Americans as the Communist member of the truce agency set up by General Marshall during the latter's attempt fifteen years ago to halt warfare between the Nationalists and Communists in China. It can be assumed that Marshal Yeh will, with North Vietnam leaders, try to counter the stepped up American-Vietnamese effort in the South.

The extensive new American involvement in South Vietnam has been made on the basis of parallel commitments by President Ngo Dinh Diem to improve his regime. The effectiveness of what the United States is doing will largely depend on how far he proceeds in this respect. He has made commendable moves. Military pay is to be increased, command channels improved; he will consult frequently with his advisory National Council and take new steps against nepotism and corruption. We do not yet know whether these and other actions he contemplates will be sufficient to produce the governmental efficiency and popular morale required for the struggle ahead.

What is certain is that the increased American stake and American risk in South Vietnam now needs, more than ever to be accompanied by a fresh, resilient and imaginative effort by President Ngo to mobilize resources for a fight that is certain to get harder before it gets easier. President Kennedy can only justify the new United States role to the American people on this basis.

—WASHINGTON POST

—NEW YORK TIMES

Reflections

First things come first, we suppose.

Extremely unofficial word has it that a recent high-level conference between a Russian official and an American went like this:

RUSSIAN: When do the Americans plan to put a man through space in a rocket?

AMERICAN: I'm not sure. We're still trying to get a Negro through Alabama on a bus.