



Scholarships for Communists?

The United States Government is giving certain scholarships to permit selected students to continue their studies in specific fields at government expense.

A scholarship, worth \$1600, was recently given to a Communist graduate student for advance study in nuclear physics. When publicity was directed to the fact that the U. S. Government had given a scholarship to a Communist, the Atomic Energy Commission said that such awards were made without a security checkup when no atomic secrets were involved.

The recipient of the scholarship is a native of Austria, having joined the Communist Party a few years ago, after becoming naturalized. How long he has been in this country, we do not know. At the same time, it appears to us that the Atomic Energy Commission, in dispensing its fellowships to deserving students, might well have found a native American with the ability to profit by advanced study in nuclear physics.

Certainly, if the Commission continues to dispense its funds to scholars for advanced study, without making inquiry as to their origin and philosophies, there is distinct danger that some of the fruits of the Government-financed program will not inure to the benefit of the people of the United States.

Experts Discount Arctic Invasion

A full-scale invasion of North America, across the Polar Region, is ruled out on the basis of the experience of the military forces of Canada and the United States, which have completed a three-year test on the icy, barren lands along Hudson Bay, within the Arctic Circle and centering on Fort Churchill.

Top secret reports, sent to Ottawa, Washington and London, according to Reuters news service, reveal the satisfaction of the men involved that, if a military campaign has to be fought in the Arctic, the Western allies will have the men and the equipment for the job. Nevertheless, the test seems to establish the impossibility of large-scale warfare in the Canadian Arctic. Any military action would be on a small scale, less than a division strength and probably confined to forces not larger than brigades.

The military planners of the Western countries know that a potential enemy might establish a foothold on some island in the Canadian Arctic which would keep large bodies of Canadian and American troops tied up. Consequently, they are working to involve techniques that will take care of such enemy forces, quickly and decisively, with the minimum number of troops.

It should be understood that one of the great tasks facing the troops engaged in the experiment was to "adjust" themselves to the rigors of the weather. After some weeks' training, the men reached the point where only ninety per cent of their time was devoted to the business of moving and keeping alive and thus leaving ten per cent of their time available for fighting. An effort will be made to improve these percentages but it should be remembered that the Eskimo spends almost one hundred per cent of his time providing food and shelter for himself.

While the experiment seems to indicate that large-scale fighting in the wastes of the Arctic is not to be expected, one should not overlook the possibility that an enemy might seize an area, establish an air base and use it against Canada and the United States. This is the reason why it is necessary for the two countries to prepare themselves for military operations in the Arctic. This, it seems, will be on a limited number of battle-

trained men, armored vehicles, guns and aircraft.

Congress Caught In A Squeeze

The Congress of the United States now finds that it is faced with making a very important decision in connection with appropriations and the income necessary to pay for what it votes.

It should be said, in this connection, that the President has suggested a program to Congress that involves a large budget, with the accompanying insistence that the budget be balanced. This means, according to the Chief Executive, that there must be an increase in taxation to raise an estimated \$4,000,000 in order to prevent a deficit.

It is probably too early to assume that the President has submitted his full program to Congress. The cost of national defense, international commitments, interest on the public debt and money spent in behalf of the veterans of former wars are the big items in connection with Federal expenditures. In addition the President seeks sums for Federal housing, a medical insurance program, increased social security measures and, no doubt, other items that will cost the taxpayers money.

The general impression in Washington is that the Congress is faced with the choice of reducing Federal expenditures, providing for increased taxation or returning to what has been called deficit-financing. It is pointed out, in this connection, that the prospective deficit is due, in part, to the tax cut made by previous Congress, which, immediately after the war and thereafter, reduced the taxes on corporations and individuals.

The people of the country should expect both the President and Congress to operate within the income and, in addition, to have something left for annual reduction of the national debt. Such a policy seems necessary in order to protect the financial stability of the country. If it is applied, the obvious result is that, despite what the country needs, it must limit its expenditures to its receipts.

Against this, however, is the contention that the first concern of those in responsible positions should be to avoid anything which might widen the present economic recession into a pronounced depression. Past experience indicates that a repetition of the economic collapse of the Thirties would be the most expensive experience that the nation can undergo.

Undoubtedly, one of the features of the political life of the nation today is the insistent demand of the people of the country for an expansion of

governmental services. This is accompanied by a facile championship of such policies by many of those holding, or expecting to seek, public office. In view of the voting power of the masses, there is little reason to expect that this pressure will subside and every reason to believe that the nation must expect a widening flow of benefits to the men, women, and children who make up the nation's population.

Another factor in the situation is the determined effort of the so-called business segment of the population to resist the suggestion of increased taxation. The propagandists of the upper-financial bracket, including financiers, industrialists, capitalists and corporations, whether operated for profit or eleemosynary purposes,

are constantly giving their views to the public with engaging and enticing arguments.

The distressing dilemma which faces government arises from the effort to meet popular demands without the economic and political consequences of increased taxation. This explains the current consideration of "economy" in connection with appropriations and the gradually developing trend

against spending huge sums for national and international defense, which includes what we spend on our armed services and for the rehabilitation and assistance of other democratic nations.

There is danger that these items will suffer from the conflict, not necessarily severely in 1949 but in the next few years. Already, the trend appears in the insistent demand for

"economy" in connection with the armed services, which, in reality, is the backbone for the drive for a unified defense establishment.

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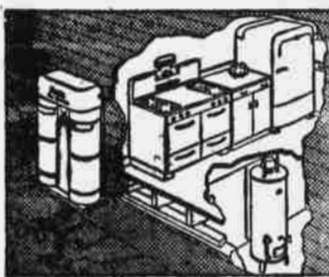
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