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The Student and the State

Even such a cursory acquaintance with the students of Scandinavia as has recently been my privilege to get will establish the fact that in one respect at least the American student body is not living up to its possibilities. Why is it that our students do not exert, or care to exert, the same degree of influence upon American politics as the students of Europe do upon theirs? Should the blame rest upon American politics, upon the student body itself, or upon the educational system? Something makes strangers of the students and the state.

Forty-two students accompanied the Henry Ford peace expedition. The American public wondered why. They had never heard of students doing anything in the interest of peace because the students never had. To be sure some had read Norman Angel's "Great Illusion" or "The History of the Hague Peace Tribunals," or the troubles of Finland or Poland. Some had even taken advantage, all expenses paid, of attending the Ithaca peace conference, but they had never looked upon themselves as workers in the real world. They regarded themselves and were regarded as "students," with the sting of impotentiality and aloofness which that implies in the United States. Turn page after page of the history of the United States. Like the sons of the rich, where are the students? Have they ever, as students, exerted a concerted influence upon our national policy, not to mention exerting a continued influence?

On the other hand, have they ever been appealed to in a way which would create an interest?

Forty-two students with the Henry Ford peace expedition landed on the shores of Norway. The Norwegian public did not wonder why. To them the term "student" implied not impotentiality, not aloofness, but studious interest in the workings of state, thorough knowledge of affairs past and present, and intelligent efforts to assist in civic and national matters.

The implication, moreover, was not without warrant. The Students' association of Norway was the first organization to greet the expedition. Under its auspices the first meeting was held. Its members arranged interviews, acted as interpreters and guides, gave all the historical and political information needed—offhand,

as if it were the multiplication table. All this without being asked. It was spontaneous, but it did not surprise the Norwegians. It was the usual thing.

The government, for its part keeps a jealous eye on the student body. This is their recognized source of statesmen, politicians and diplomats. The president of this same students' association is already known to all Norway as "our future prime minister." Imagine the president of the Michigan union, whoever he may be, being hailed in his undergraduate days as "our future secretary of state."

So apparent was this difference of relationship between student and state and so much in the favor of our Scandinavian cousins that one of our number, a Texas student, has remained abroad to study the proposition. Two things he has already found to be spurs to a more vital interest in governmental policy. One is a thorough grasp of geography as a foundation for history. The American kiddie of 13 years is "through jawgerfy." The second is the universal study of foreign languages as an avenue to the understanding of the national consciousness of other peoples. To enter the universities of Scandinavia one must be able to read and write German and English and to speak one or the other. And we, for the most part, begin or study of languages after we enter.

Perhaps the work of our Texas student will so illuminate the nature of American politics or the nature of our students that they will share the blame with our primary and secondary educational system.

William F. Noble.

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RELIEVES ACTORS' FEELINGS
"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party."
Repeat six times.

"Oh, God, please help this act. The audience is numerous and perfectly capable to mob us all."
"Now is the time"—repeat ad infinitum.

The above, torn from the typewriter wielded by one of the actors who put on the Sigma Delta Chi stunt at University Night last Saturday, and saved and given to a Nebraskan staff member last night, explains much to those who saw the skit. It was a good act, but the players were plainly relieved when it was over.

Cornell Loses Valuable Apparatus
Fire destroyed one of Cornell's valuable chemical laboratories filled with scientific equipment. The loss is estimated at \$300,000 and is partially covered by insurance. More than

2,500 students will be compelled to rearrange their schedules as every course except that of law requires the study of chemistry.

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MAX G. TOWLE

A graduate of the Law college in the year 1914, announces that he is a candidate for the office of Justice of the Peace upon the Republican ticket at the April 18th primaries.

It is desired that all students of voting age having resided in the state six months, county forty days, and the precinct ten days, register at the City hall any day before April 8th and then get out and support Max for this office. —Adv.