

# Grad makes news with youth congress plan

## Idea calls for advisory body in capital

Dean Kerl believes he has solution to youth representation problem

By Chris Peterson.

Must the youth of this country have an active voice in its government?

Does youth already have adequate representation thru their elders?

Can men above 40 years comprehend and act accordingly to those things which are of most importance to youth?

Could youth hold responsible legislative positions?

During this age of so-called "youth movements," in which we hear the constant cry from plan as though he was a medium, up to 30 years of age, comes Dean Kerl, just graduated from the university with his plan for a youth or junior congress.

Presented in TIME.

In a recent issue of TIME magazine, Kerl presented to the youth of this country a plan whereby they would take an active part in the legislative procedures of the United States.

Crying that the youth of America do not have a voice in their government, his plans call for:

A youth congress, comparable to the senate, which would sit in Washington during each legislative session—act as an advisory or pressure group to the congress of the United States—reflect the ideas and opinions of the youth of America.

Flood of letters.

Within a week after the contemplated project had been presented thru the magazine, young Kerl, now casting his lot with an insurance company in Lincoln, found his mails being flooded with letters from young men and women all over the country. TIME, itself, was swamped with inquiries wanting to know more about the plan, how they could get in touch with its founder, what were its chances of becoming an actuality. Letters to Kerl wanted to know more of the project, made suggestions, and offered aid in setting up the idea. It was a good indication that the youth of the country was interested.

Sitting with his feet propped up on the desk, Kerl described the plan as though he was a mediator, peering into another realm and then telling what he saw there.

48 man congress

The youth or junior congress would be made up of 48 members representing the youth (those between the ages of 21 and 30) of 48 states at the nation's capital during those times when the congress of the United States is in session.

The members, under Kerl's plan, would be elected every four years on a ballot which would be voted by men and women the country over, between the ages of 21 and 30. Each state would select its "junior senator" as the members of the senate are now elected.

Purpose is advisory

Their purpose would be purely advisory. They would consider legislation as it is being considered in the house and the senate, come to a decision either pro or con on what should be done, and then hand that decision to both legislative bodies as that typical of the youth of the country. In short, they would supplement particular legislation in regard to foreign and interior policies.

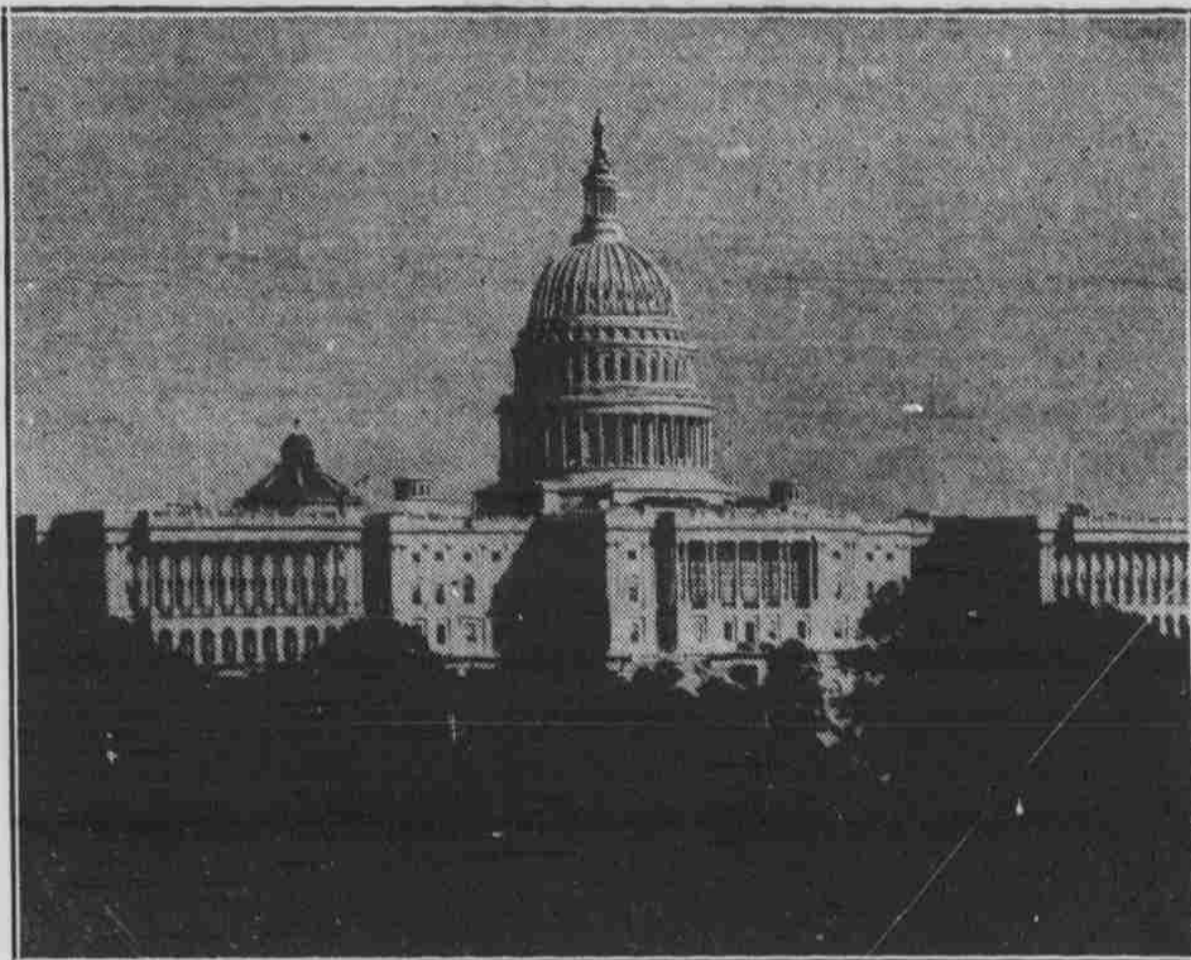
Immediately after the plan was presented, the controversy began to rage. Some contended that there was no need for such a plan and that Kerl was a typical fanatic. Others agreed, claimed they would do everything they could to help him, and that if this country had any one need, it was youth representation.

Author agrees

Perhaps most forceful of the arguments in favor of the plan was that of Gouverneur Morris, well known author and no youngster himself. A fiery writer, Morris poured his best into a letter to Kerl and TIME, advocating the plan. Decrying the belief that youth would not be capable in a responsible legislative office and that men of years should hold these offices, he wrote:

"Napoleon, Alexander the Great,

Does youth need a voice here?



—Lincoln Journal and Star.

Pitt—innumerable others—touched the high places when they were much too young according to our constitution, which is soft in places, to become presidents of the United States. At 32, Alexander Hamilton became the first and greatest of all secretaries of the treasury but was, of course, much too young and inexperienced to have been president.

Young fools better

"In this country, men from 40 to 60, having failed at every venture, worm, shout and lie their way into congress. Once there they will stop at no lie, slander, or debt wished upon posterity, if they think it will keep them there. Members of the congress, of course, should not be allowed to serve successive terms. Youth should not ask for representation. Youth should take it and plenty of it. A young fool is better than an old fool."

Professors disagree.

Meanwhile, professors of political science on the campus disagreed with the plan. Prof. L. W. Lancaster, head of the department said, "I do not think that European experience with youth movements gives us any reason to think it wise to subsidize one here."

From Prof. David Fellman, "The great necessity of a democracy, and its greatest virtue, perhaps, is that it emphasizes the importance of the general interests of the community. It seeks to minimize our differences, and the conflict of special interests, by insisting upon finding out what we have in common, as neighbors, friends, and citizens.

"What concerns me about the plan is that it would have a fissiparous tendency, the same sort of thing we dislike in efforts to set one class against another. Furthermore, it is a mistake to think that the government, as it is constituted in a democratic country, is not interested in the youth of the land, or that men past thirty are not concerned with men under thirty. But the government is also concerned with the problems of the nation as a whole, of which the youth

### COMMENTS

Law student: "I think it is something that is now missing in our government. Youth, with all of its vigor is ambitious and desirous of getting ahead. They would not be a liability but rather an asset to congress."

Arts and Sciences student: "Good for Dean Kerl. He has a good idea. If the plan goes through, I'll vote for him as our state senator."

Engineering student: "Things are running along all right the way it is. These reformers are always trying to change something that doesn't need changing."

Biz Ad student: "Whether such a plan is practical I cannot say. However, I do believe that it will give the youth a feeling that they have something to say about what will happen to them. That is enough justification for such a plan."

problem is only one, the solution of which must be considered in terms of our total situation."

Stoke questions need.

Dean Harold W. Stoke of the graduate college and professor of political science first questioned

the need of youth representation. He then said, "Youth as youth is now being so well served in this country that it does not need special representation."

But about Kerl. In his own words: "Not a communist, anarchist, or fanatic. Just a biz ad graduate who sells enough insurance to live comfortably or otherwise, who has enough time to contemplate such problems, and who thinks youth has a case."

Idea just came.

The idea. It just came. No particular origin.

He numbers among his extra curricular activities a "lady friend" and smoking a pipe. Says that now one will have to give way to writing answers to letters. Probably be the pipe.

Such an innovation into our political system would necessarily come through the United States congress. It would be their job to enact legislation which would set up the youth congress and to appropriate money at each session to provide for its continuation. The question naturally arises, "Would congress be willing to enact legislation and grant money for its existence knowing that they are creating and supporting another pressure group?"

A democratic country.

When the question was put to Kerl, he smiled and queried back, "Isn't this a democratic country? Could congress keep from creating and supporting such a group if public opinion warranted it? Answer these questions and your original question is answered."

Time will tell.

Meantime, letters pour in, some of them asking for positions as organizers, others offering financial aid, still others asking for jobs as publicity agents. Kerl, spending his spare time, attempts to answer letters and shape his plan further. TIME, saying that it's work is done now that it has brought the plan to the attention of the general public, sets back and waits for developments which may be revolutionary. Just what will come out of it. To use a time honored axiom, "Time will tell."



—Lincoln Journal and Star.

L. W. LANCASTER

... Didn't work in Europe

## Not communistic

The youth congress plan as presented by Dean Kerl is not to be confused with the Youth Congress mentioned recently as having communistic tendencies, by Major Hampton Wilson before the Dies Committee.

The Youth Congress mentioned by the Dies committee investigator is a full organization which deals with peace organization and youth desires over the country. They have chapters or units over U. S. with the organization head in the east.

Kerl's youth congress is merely a plan or idea centering around the establishing of an advisory or pressure group to reflect the ideas of the youth in Washington legislation.



—Lincoln Journal and Star.

HAROLD W. STOKES

... Is there a need?



—Lincoln Journal and Star.

DAVID FELLMAN

... Fissiparous tendency

## Arndt says war money easy to get

"The ministers of finance have the easiest jobs in running a war," states Karl Arndt of the economics department, analysing the methods thru which supposedly bankrupt nations are able to raise money enough to start and maintain military operations.

Concerning himself with the general question of "how to finance a war," the head of the university's convocation committee pointed out that a nation cannot increase its total output of goods much more rapidly than one or two percent but thru financial "trickery" succeeds in taking a large share of needed goods from the people.

"There is nothing easier than raising funds—if you have a government," the economist explained and proceeded to outline five methods or techniques which governments have employed to secure war materials.

Ways to do it.

The first method of raising funds is that of taxation, and the second thru "nice" government bonds. Arndt explained that governments which make use of this latter procedure content the people by assuring them that the money they give up for the bonds will be returned to them later as a result of the gains from the war.

"Altho these bonds resemble the securities of private companies they are essentially unsound," he added, "for they do not represent an investment in productive capacity."

"Technique number three" is apparently a method of painless finance. Citizens of a country are told that the government is not going to take any of their income or savings. Then the government manufactures paper money, inflation results, prices go up (three billion percent in Germany during the last war) and the public can buy only a fraction of what it formerly could with the same income. The government buys with its newly manufactured money, the fraction which the public fails to receive.

Have trump cards.

But should the long-suffering public awake to the meaning of this form of "trickery," the economist continued, the government merely switches to a fourth practice which in its early stage resembles that of selling bonds. This time bonds are sold to the commercial banks. The banks buy the bonds and credit the government's account, after which the government writes checks to pay for its purchases.

At present Germany is using the fifth and newest method. This method, Arndt explained, is "ideally adapted to a dictatorship." It may be described as compulsory saving. The government pegs prices and regulates the amount which the public may purchase.

## Bizad group to initiate 8

Beta Gamma Sigma holds dinner Tuesday

Nebraska chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, honorary business administration fraternity, will initiate eight newly elected seniors into its ranks at a dinner program Tuesday evening in the Student Union.

Ceremonies will be held at 5:30 p. m. and the dinner will follow. New members of the honorary are Beatrice Andrews, Alexander Damm, Mary Louise Speidell, and Arthur Hill, all of Lincoln; Sylvester Wright, of Silver Creek; Kenneth Worland, of Kearney; R. Lloyd Jeffrey, Allen, and Neil Hadsell, of Table Rock.

Dean J. E. LeRossignol will be toastmaster at the dinner; Earl Constable of Wymore, biz ad graduate student, will preside, and Dr. Nels A. Bengtson, chairman of the geography department, will speak on "The Economic Significance of the Venezuelan Oil Industry in the Present Crisis."

## Study curricula problems

Miss Clara Wilson, chairman of the department of elementary education, spent Tuesday in York conferring with teachers on problems of the elementary curricula.