

EDITORIAL OPINION

Fire Safety Question Involves Many Facets

Just how safe are we against fire destruction? This question hit the University community hard last week, when Business Manager Carl Donaldson told a legislative committee that it would cost in excess of \$1.6 million for the school to comply with fire safety rules as set down by a new state fire safety code that went into effect last Sept. 1.

Donaldson told Gov. Dwight Burney that the University "would challenge" some orders of State Fire Marshall Joseph Divis, "because a university campus is not strictly comparable with elementary schools, which authors of the code considered uppermost."

Even with the challenges, the business manager said, the school would still have to make modifications having an estimated cost of perhaps \$800,000. The problem of where the money will come from now faces administrators who had not included any allotment for improved fire safety in the proposed 1961-63 biennial budget.

Donaldson maintains that the new fire code was "hurriedly developed in the frame of reference to the Chicago grade school fire." We see nothing wrong with this, as far as grade schools are concerned. Something had to be done in a hurry, before tragedy struck in Nebraska. However, Donaldson has a point in questioning whether standards be the same for universities as for elementary or even secondary schools. Also, the fact that the deadline for making the costly changes was Sept. 1, allowed little time for the University to study the code and to comply with it as closely as it felt necessary.

Considerable disagreement seems to arise as to whether the University has taken any steps toward improving the fire safety of its physical plant. Marshall Divis claims that a "do nothing" policy has been responsible for the high cost in bringing buildings up to code requirements.

Divis says that an assistant deputy from his office inspected the University and "told me that some of the recommendations were made to the University seven years ago and some four years ago . . . Had the University followed recommendations when they were made, the cost would have been half of what it now is."

According to Donaldson, however, improvements have been made annually on buildings, in regard to fire safety, with money coming from both the institutional building fund and current maintenance cash.

All this discussion brings up an interesting question, one paramount to fire safety. How would students react if fire were to break out in one of the more crowded buildings, such as Social Sciences or Burnett Hall?

We shudder to think of the bottleneck that could very well occur. If one stops to consider that few students use the west door of Social Sciences and the south door of Burnett, plus the fact that literally hundreds more enter and exit through the north door of Social Sciences than the south, and that many more use the east door of Burnett than the west, we might find a tragedy on our hands before we could organize an orderly evacuation.

Since it is not likely nor expected that the University will introduce \$1.6 million of fire safety improvements in the next month, it might be wise to plan a temporary solution until the two parties can agree on a permanent one. So, we suggest that evacuation instructions be placed in every room of every building, with special attention brought to these instructions by being read to every class in the room at least once.

It would not be out of the question to have instructors dismiss their classes five minutes early on a given day, in order that all students could "test run" the evacuation routes. This may sound childish, but if one remembers the panic that has resulted in many fires where adults were present, it is quite in line. This would take some of the financial burden off of the University and the money saved could go to improve salaries of those faculty members who might object to being cut short five minutes of a few periods one day.

The Daily Nebraskan will cooperate fully with the administration in publishing instructions of evacuation of buildings for those who might not be exposed to their reading in class or to the fire drills. We urge all students to maintain a constant awareness of all exits in buildings where they have classes. In addition, we would like to see the Student Council pick up these suggestions for study and possible implementation through cooperation with administrative officials.

It is hoped that a satisfactory solution will be reached on both counts of improving building safety and educating the students without a sudden tragedy occurring to jolt our senses.

Dr. Dooley Summons New Courage for Work

Of those who heard him speak here last year, who can forget the words of Dr. Tom Dooley, the young physician who has devoted his life to his village hospital in the jungles of Laos. Since then his deeds have made him known to nearly all.

Not long before he spoke at the Student Union, he had been warned that the cancer which he suffered might take his life within a year. We who saw him knew that the idea of death only a short time away had driven him to work all the harder, in order that he might be that much closer to his goal of a hospital in every valley before he died.

This past week, after spending nine days in a Hong Kong hospital because of back pains, he headed back to spend Christmas with his Laotian friends. He took with him \$20,000 in medicine and equipment, plus a brace which he wore from hips to shoulders. He also took back the knowledge that his cancer may have spread to his spine. Dr. Tom called his brace "the embrace of my iron maiden."

Reporters who interviewed reported him much thinner than when they had seen him a few months before. He admitted that his spirit was sagging, but that the beast in him would not give up. "I'm no quitter . . . If I stop working now, I probably will die sooner," were his parting words.

Few Americans have made an impact on the underdeveloped countries of the world than has Tom Dooley. In a country that is nearly torn apart by political upheaval, he has accomplished more in the short time that he has been there than all the foreign aid Laos has received from the United States. Were he to live for another half century, he doubtless would be known throughout the world as another Albert Schweitzer, to whom he has already been compared in those countries where his name is known.

We are reminded of the lines of Douglas Malloch's poem, "Courage." Courage is to feel The daily daggers of relentless steel And keep on living.

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MAN THE BARRICADES! MAULDIN ©1960 STOUT AND DRYBARK

Many European Obstacles To African Development

By Eric Sevareid

The distant observer has the impression that the head of the family-elect jumped up from the Sunday lunch table and exclaimed "Any one for a fast game of touch-Africa?"

Whereupon brother Ted ran to the closet for the butterfly net in which



Sevareid

to snare the "facts," and G. Mennen Williams sent out a rush order for a polka dot pith helmet for the historic moment when he would say, "Mr. Lumumba, I presume."

Mad dogs and New Dealers go out in the midday sun, which has been a good thing for most people; but it has not diminished the sun. It might be wise for all latter-day Tugwells, rolling up their sleeves to make Africa over, to understand that the infestation of Africa's political, economic and emotional mosquitoes is old, in places immune even to patented American DDT, and loves fresh, exposed flesh, however muscular.

What I am expressing here is not the spirit that built America; but it is, I think, the spirit of the wisest Europeans and Africans who are trying to build Africa. And if Mr. Kennedy's New Frontiers lie in equatorial, not north American climes, as it begins to appear, I hope Mr. Williams will let the earlier scouts trace at least a rough map in the dirt by his camp fire before his safari treks toward the hinterland.

I am glad there is at least one enthusiastic, unweary democratic country left in this world so stained and soiled with public problems, and I am glad it is my own. Most other peoples, if forced, would confess they too are glad. But let us not risk the fate of another Children's Crusade.

Let Teddy understand that the "facts" about modern Africa already fill volumes and innumerable wiser heads than his, that statistical methods will not lay bare the hidden source-springs of much African behavior. Let Mr. Williams avoid the gossip fate of the lady emissary to whom Pope Pius supposedly said, "But, Mrs. Luce, I am a Catholic!" — and not be told by some African chief equipped with Oxford accent and degrees, "But, Mr. Williams, we have been discovered!"

I am troubled by the President-elect's judgment

that Africa (like Asia and Latin America) has been "short changed." I do not like the suggestion of guilt and moral responsibility in this. Africans have not been short changed by America, and only in degree and in places by European colonists. Africans were short changed by fate, according to the iron law of anthropology by which the weaker races of man continued to reside at the poor addresses, whether equatorial Africa, the Aleutians or the Australian bush.

I am troubled by the concomitant reports that Mr. Kennedy tends to regard Europe and Africa as two separate sets of problems, that American energies and ideas can, in large measure, be switched from the former to the latter. This is surely illusory. The American road toward massive amelioration of the dangerous African chaos runs through London, Paris, Bonn and Rome.

The direct and exclusive American opportunities for effective work in Africa are sharply limited. Americans in Africa must move through the corridors and around the obstacles of European investment, institutions, procedures and attachments almost everywhere they set foot; and they will find that nearly all, if not all, their brightest ideas have been thought of and often tried, before.

What Americans can do and must do, first of all, is to make African nationalists abandon their comfortable hatreds and acknowledge that the British and the French, if not yet the Portuguese, truly are moving out of Africa, truly do seek free and viable Af-

rican states. By no means must they be given to think they can play off the United States against its European allies.

The ex-colonial powers of Europe are not getting rich. Their politics are now dominated by a whole new attitude toward Africa. African leaders ought to rejoice at the thought of what a combining and cooperating Europe could do with its new money, its old talents and experience to lighten the gloom and griefs of the Dark Continent.

For this reason — this midwifery at the birth of the new peoples into the 20th century — as well as for the fateful reason of the world's power balance, the overriding objective of the '60s must be to accelerate the movement toward a new and unified Europe. This movement is now endangered by the growing trade split between the continental "Six" and the British-led "Seven."

Let Mr. Kennedy, and all of us, remember the anxious words of Gladwyn Jebb upon his retirement as British Ambassador to France: "Unless a real effort is soon made to achieve the politico-economic unity of Western Europe, we shall all — and I mean without exception — go into a slow decline in comparison with the bloc of the Eastern countries. And we know in our hearts where such a process must inevitably lead."

It will lead, of course, to the remorseless spread of Russian influence and control, with the new Africans among the earliest and easiest victims. Dist. 1960, Hall Syndicate, Inc.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



AS A MATTER OF FACT—WE DON'T EXPECT PROFESSOR SHARP BACK IN TH LAB FOR TH' REST OF TH' AFTERNOON.

Staff Views

BOVINE VIEWS

by Jerry Lamberson

Agriculture was practically the only profession in the pioneer days but modern times find it has strong competition from many other professions.

Such competition has made the field one of the most technical and specialized professions of all. No longer does anyone that desires to farm just plant wheat and corn and call himself a farmer, but he is finding that an education is almost essential. Without this education, many farmers are being forced off the farm because they failed to produce a good living.

With this technology and the need for college education in mind, it would seem that Ag College enrollment would be on the steady increase. But contrary to this we find that Ag enrollment has dipped for a number of years. Last year's 960 students is four more than the total this year.

Decreased enrollment seems invalid when you consider that a college education almost seems to be a necessity for the farmer of ten years in the future. But as the number actually associating themselves with the agricultural profession of farming has decreased, specialization has increased.

One farmer produces many times the product that several farmers did 20 years ago. Mechanization has made it possible for one farmer to increase his acreage as much as four times that of days when horses and manpower were the big machines.

Such specialization has increased a number of off-

farm agricultural positions. Increased research, new industries such as fertilizer and more need for agricultural educators has helped to take up the slack in the decrease of farmers.

Of the total 960 students in Ag College today, probably only around 30 to 35 per cent will ever go back to the farm. Another 40 to 50 per cent will probably work in an indirect agricultural profession. The remainder will leave agriculture as a profession and will go into some other profession.

What has lured the youth away from the farm is a question that has been asked many times. Often times when there are two or three or more in the family, the father has a setup for only one to continue upon his retirement; therefore, the rest of the youngsters begin looking for off-farm work.

Unstable farm prices compared to a guaranteed salary in other professions has lured other youth from staying on the farm. Many of the youth do not want to take a chance on an income when they can go into a profession that has a designated salary.

The lush city life and the increase in the importance of social life has also taken some of the farm boys away from home.

Urban life has claimed the working day with the evenings off for occasional social events. Many of the farm boys apparently feel that an eight hour day is an advantage over the 12-15 hour day that occurs frequently during the summer on the farm.

Campus Roundup

Student Civil Rights Groups Gain Momentum

By UPS

Efforts to end local discriminatory practices are mounting at colleges and universities across the country and new civil rights action groups continue to form.

University of Texas students held peaceful demonstrations before five non-integrated restaurants and the Texas Theater last week. More than 100 white and Negro students demonstrated at the theater one weekend, recently.

The students passed out cards prepared by the University Religious Council stating, "I will continue to patronize this establishment if it is integrated," an effort to convince owners that they would not be economically hurt by integrating.

Wilson College (Chambersburg, Pa.) student council approved a policy to boycott the Penn-Wilson, a local restaurant as long as it practices racial discrimination, and the faculty has authorized the appointment of a faculty committee on civil rights to work with the student government.

Roosevelt University (Chicago) student senate voted last month to send letters protesting civil rights policies to Governor Ernest Vandiver of Georgia and Mayor William Hartsfield of Atlanta.

Colleges United for Racial Equality (CURE) was formed in late October to coordinate New York area campus civil rights activities. Participating are students from Barnard, Columbia, New York University, Queens and City College of New York. Projects include picketing at Woolworths and publishing a civil rights newsletter.

The recently reactivated Human Relations Commission of the University of Minnesota Student Association is studying University policies in various areas including admissions, scholarships, employment and also plans a campaign to bring campus discrimination problems to the attention of the entire student body.

The University of Wisconsin

sin Student Council on Civil Rights and the Wisconsin Student Association Human Relations Commission are investigating discriminatory problems in Madison.

Over 70 students attended a conference in Ithaca, New York sponsored by the Cornell Committee Against Segregation designed to "educate, direct and strengthen students in the fight against segregation."

The Chicago Youth Committee on Civil Rights is planning a series of demonstrations to protest what they consider the Board of Education "lack of concern" over segregation in Chicago. In addition, the committee plans to testify at the board's budget hearing.



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