

Just Between Us . . .

By DON PIEPER
Editor

Charley Wilson, the president's hard-bitten Secretary of Defense, said recently that America can get along just fine with less men in the armed forces. We need an army, Wilson said, that will adequately defend our borders—and help defend the borders of our friends—but will not be capable of starting anything.

In other words, Charley Wilson asked that draft requirements be slashed.

On the surface, there could be two reasons for Wilson's decision. We could be answering Communist taunts to provide the world with positive proof of our peaceful intentions. Or, we could be trying to make good the Republican promise to balance the budget. Now, there is no reason in the world why both these reasons couldn't have helped Wilson make his decision. Let us hope, however, that the latter wouldn't be used without the former and that neither would be used unless we actually don't need more draftees.

This is the way Wilson's announcement looks to the mid-western college student: Sure, it's good news that we might not be drafted immediately after—or before—we receive our diplomas. But, how about our nation, can we adequately defend her without more men? We college students pay taxes and we like balanced budgets—but we like America too and we'll endure deficit spending if that is the only way to defend her. Sure, it's nice to show Russia that we aren't building an army ben on aggression—but let's not lose our heads and make our walls too thin. Would a cut in the draft hurt the defense effort?

Obviously, Mr. Wilson thinks that it wouldn't. Mr. Wilson is in a good position to come to logical conclusions about our defense position. He has access to maps, charts, reports, conferences and advice of all types. Undoubtedly, he uses all these. At any rate, it would be not a little presumptuous of me, if I tried to indicate that he didn't.

But, from the outlook of a mid-western college student, is it wise to cut the draft calls? From the papers, we see that the Soviets are conducting peace offensive. Very few of us have any faith in Communist proposals. We know that there is a clamor for a high-power meeting. Collegians from this part of the country are convinced that it would be impossible to trust the Russians even if agreements were reached. We know that there is a chance that the Korean War will be settled in the near future—but the talks have been going on for so long that it is hard to get very excited about some new proposals. We know that Stalin is dead and a new team is running the game. But we have seen nothing which has convinced us that the new boys are any more sincere than their predecessors.

In other words, it looks from here as if our defenses had better be as strong as possible. There is no use being naive about the situation.

But, still, it would be nice to have a secure future. It would be nice if our graduating seniors could know what to expect. And, since it isn't our decision to make, we will have to trust Mr. Wilson's judgment. Let us hope that his past record speaks the truth about his integrity and administrative abilities.

NEBRASKAN EDITORIALS

Confidence And Criticism

The University chapter of Sigma Delta Chi should be commended for its condemnation of the national organization's abandonment of a proposed investigation of press conduct during the last election.

In criticizing the organization's action, the local chapter has questioned the investigating committee's report that no methodology exists to determine whether the press was objective in its reporting of the campaign.

The chapter's resolution, passed unanimously, astutely points out:

" . . . The University of Nebraska chapter believes that the negative action taken by the special committee involved comes dangerously close to an admission that 'fairness' and 'objectivity' in news columns are relative expressions and thus have no universal application since they cannot be measured, which in turn would leave every editor free to determine for himself what these terms shall mean in his news columns with no trouble from his conscience."

In other words, the chapter is saying that, if the press's conduct cannot be determined in the election, there is no way to determine fair news play in the newspapers at any time. Denying that a methodology exists is dangerously close to saying that no standards exist in the world of journalism.

The newspapers, supposedly, would be the last to disavow the existence of a right and wrong in handling news. At least the press is the first to support the right of criticism of public officials and policy. Unless the press is criticizing just for the sake of criticizing, its stand implies that a right and a wrong do exist—and that the press is qualified to determine what is right and wrong.

But suggest an investigation of the press to evaluate its morals and ethics—and a wave of publishers immediately rises up in indignation at the very thought of invading the private domain of the quill and scroll.

It was therefore somewhat of a surprise when Sigma Delta Chi, in its 1952 convention in Denver last November, voted to investigate the press's performance during the campaign. A special committee was appointed to begin work. It met, talked and decided that such a survey "is not feasible."

Just why the investigation was abandoned is not clear—despite the fact that the committee cited the supposed lack of a methodology. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch speaks of the committee members as "the editors who were bent on killing off any investigation of these sins of the press."

Are the editors afraid that uncovering "these sins of the press" will destroy confidence in the press? Or lose readers? Or lose advertising revenue?

Judging from criticisms during the last campaign (from Sens. Taft and Morse, Roscoe Drum-

mond of the Christian Science Monitor, Eirc Severeid, CBS and many others), readers right now are losing confidence in the press. Right on their heels are advertisers.

It would appear therefore that American editors have nothing to lose in an investigation except their own misconception of the performance of the press. And they have the world to gain. Either they destroy the growing illusion that the press is not playing fair or they build confidence through strengthening what the investigation shows is weak.

But editors want no part of a self-examination. The Sigma Delta Chi committee report indicated that. And so did the action of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, meeting recently in Washington. After a resolution to investigate criticism of newspaper coverage in the campaign was tabled, Walter M. Harrison, of Oklahoma City, according to the Post-Dispatch, "made it crystal clear that the editors' interest in the people's right to know did not extend to self-examination of the charges against the press itself."

This represents the attitude of the professional press. The Sigma Delta Chi resolution passed last November and the University chapter's resolution appear to represent the opinions of younger journalists.

If potential journalists in our universities are as desirous of improving the press as these resolutions would indicate, perhaps the picture of the American editor is not so dark as Mr. Harrison would cause us to believe.

All we have to do is wait until the old guard passes from the front page and its position occupied with a new generation. That is, we have nothing to fear in the long run—unless present editors succeed in killing off reader confidence in the press.

In that case, the new crop of journalists may find they have no press to inherit. It's no wonder University journalists favor an investigation of the performance of the press.—K. R.

To Open The Meeting

Rocky Yapp, the new president of the new Student Council, opened the first meeting of next year's Council Wednesday with a prayer.

Eldon Park, the new president of the new Innocents Society, decided Monday night that Innocents meetings ought to be opened with a prayer.

There is a trend, a most heart-warming trend, toward a re-affirmation of faith on this campus. Let us hope with all our hearts that it flourishes because the world needs it very badly.

The Daily Nebraskan believes, like the author of the analysis of today's generation published in Wednesday's paper, that it will take faith—in God and man—if this world is going to pull itself out of the rut of defeatism.—D. P.

Yesteryear At NU . . .

By DICK RALSTON
Staff Writer

Since the editor deems it advisable to reprint value studies on this generation of ours, I hope I may be excused for bringing up the same insipid subject.

An editorial from the 1933 Nebraskan: "In the great world, philosophers tell us, people spend a great deal of time bustling about under the impression that they are busied with matters of great concern. The philosophers deride this attitude and many, from Lucian and Marcus Aurelius to the present, have tried to turn the thoughts of men to more serious things, but their success has been by no means complete. "In life, the philosophers pose embarrassing

questions about death and the fruits of earthly endeavor. 'What boots (benefits) it?' they ask, 'when in a short time we'll all be dead?'

"On the college campus, the editorial writer apes the philosopher with similar questions about the worth of the closing school year to the individual student. There is, however, this difference: The students are not a bit embarrassed by such questions.

"They reply variously, 'Oh, I had a good time,' or 'Isn't my meeting Alice enough?' or 'What difference does it make?' Students in short, are little concerned with analyzing the fruits of their year at college. Some are indifferent, and some are incapable, but almost all unite in caring little for the spring term introspection.

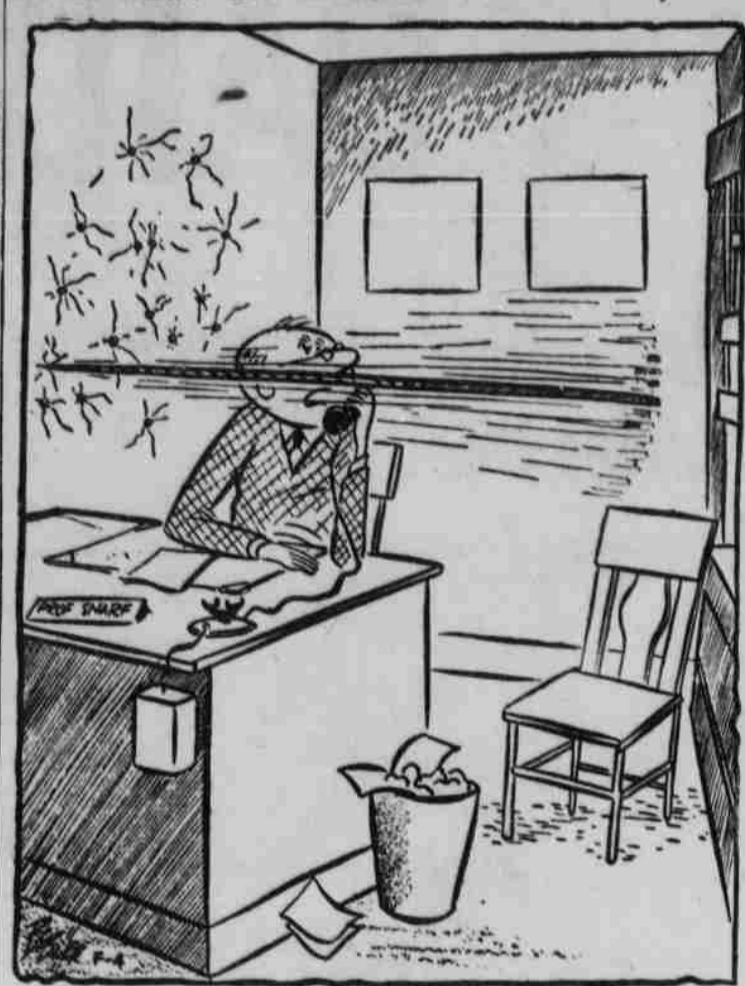
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LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS By Bibler



"Hello, coach!—Am I gonna have trouble with someone on your Javelin team again this season?"

WORLD REPORT

By PAUL MEANS
Staff Writer

TODAY'S HEADLINES . . . The U. N. Command has handed the Communists a new blueprint for an armistice in Korea . . . It was a sweeping 11-point plan for exchanging prisoners of war, last big roadblock to a truce . . . Anglo-American relations grew worse this week . . . In the British Commons, Clement Attlee, former prime minister and leader of the opposition, raised the question Tuesday whether President Eisenhower or Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis.) is running American foreign policy . . . Sen. McCarthy retorted that he recalled "a picture of him (Attlee) in Spain reviewing the Communist troops and air power."

giving the clenched fist salute." . . . Rep. Short (R-Mo) said Congress is tired of taking "dictation from our so-called allies." . . . He made the remark in joining angry congressional reaction to statements in the British House of Commons that some Americans do not want to settle the Korean war . . . The quarrel among the armed forces over roles and missions and over giant bombers vs. giant aircraft carriers became a major issue again as Secretary of Defense Wilson announced that Adm. Arthur W. Radford will be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff . . . Adm. Radford has been an outspoken advocate of Naval and air power.

Wechsler's Quizzing By Sen. McCarthy Constituted Intimidation Of U.S. Press

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following editorial appeared in the May 7th edition of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.)

Some 10 days ago the Post-Dispatch printed an editorial which called for the release of the testimony in the secret sessions of the McCarthy investigation committee at which the Wisconsin Senator grilled James A. Wechsler, editor of the New York Post. We asked the question whether the text of the hearing was being held up because Senator McCarthy might have met his match?

The text is now belatedly public and it is clear that the purpose of the hearing was to try to silence critics of McCarthyism by hauling up Mr. Wechsler, as an easy entrance into the area of a free press. "An easy entrance" because Mr. Wechsler, a vigorous opponent of Communism and its tactics through his adult life, was a member of the Young Communist League in his college days.

The New York Times, which last Friday devoted most of a page to exchanges between Sens. McCarthy and Symington, and the editor, has studied the text carefully. In a leading editorial, "Freedom and Fear," that distinguished newspaper comes to the conclusion that the Wisconsin Senator was using "his undoubted right of investigation as a cover for an attempt to harass Mr. Wechsler as an editor who has bitterly and uncompromisingly opposed Mr. McCarthy."

Says The New York Times: "The whole tenor of the questioning was to show that, inasmuch as the editor had never had a good word to say for the leadership of the various congressional committees investigating Communism, he must be serving the Communist cause. The repeated references to the editorial policy of The New York Post revealed clearly what was in Mr. McCarthy's mind."

The Senator has every right to attack The Post or any other newspaper if he wants to, but we think it gets very close to an infringement on one of America's basic freedoms if he uses his vast powers as chairman of an investigating committee to accuse an editor of continued subservience to "the Communist ideal" because that editor's writings are not to his liking.

The editorial of The New York Times then goes on to point out that Senator McCarthy was unimpressed by such facts as Mr. Wechsler's resignation from a newspaper because the editor thought it was being manipulated by Communists, as his participation in organizations formed to oppose Communists, as his writing of "innumerable articles and editorials against Communism."

Then says The Times: "Mr. Wechsler's crime seems clearly to be that he has also fought Mr. McCarthy's methods, a fight in which this newspaper, too, has been proud to participate."

To his credit, Sen. Symington of Missouri, after missing the first session because he was not notified of its important nature, attended the second and stood on the side of fairness and decency. When Sen. Symington told Mr. Wechsler that he was "the most forthright witness formerly interested in the Communist party that we have had before this committee," the Missourian was in effect rebuked by Senator McCarthy.

The chairman told the minority member of the committee that was

Should Blue Print Sales Coincide With E-Week

John Marks

The Monday night meeting of the E-Week executive committee went on record as recommending that Blue Print sales credit definitely be retained as a part of E-Week.

The age-old problem of proper judging was again brought up and some very good points brought out. There has always been a question whether or not a display was properly classified as new, revised or old by the department showing it. Some suggested that an old display would be considered new after being awarded for five years. Others wondered if a new wiring diagram for an old display constituted a revision.

Suggestions were voided as to limiting the number of floors of displays, number of displays and of using student judges, all of which would tend to put all departments on more equal footing.

An excellent idea in reference to judging was to judge only a few, say six displays in determining the winner of Open House, all other displays being constructed to make the whole Open House more intriguing to the public. Someone suggested breaking it down further and judging certain displays for originality, some for crowd capacity and others for demonstration of scientific principle involved. At any rate, the problem was re-hashed, and some improvements are bound to be made if the suggestions made this year are recorded for next year.

Mention was made of the efforts being expended to seed Professor Haack's lawn. The societies are cooperating to complete this seeding either this week or next. Work will commence this Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. sharp; those wishing to get a ride, contact Hank Wolf at 3-0595. Let's all turn out this time and do a bang-up job. This is your chance to meet your fellow engineers.

NUBB THURSDAY

- Alpha Phi Omega meeting at 7:30 p.m. Union, Room 316.
- Sinfonia piano concert at 8 p.m., Union Ballroom.
- Red Cross dinner at 6:30 p.m. Union, Parlor A.
- Psi Chi dinner at 6:30 p.m. Union, Parlor B.
- Sinfonia luncheon at 12:00 p.m., Union, Parlor X.
- University Flying Club meeting at 8 p.m. Union, Parlor X.
- Planning committee luncheon at 12:00 p.m. Union, Parlor Y.
- Community health section luncheon at noon, Union, Parlor Z.
- Citizenship Club meeting at 8 p.m. Union, Parlor Z.
- Inter Varsity meeting at 12:30 p.m. Union, Room 313.
- Builders Campus tours meeting at 5 p.m. Union, Room 313.
- Christian Science Organization meeting at 7 p.m. Union, Room 313.
- Psi Chi meeting at 5:30 p.m. Union, Room 315.
- Inter-Varsity meeting at 7:30 p.m. Union, Room 315.
- Inter-Fraternal Council meeting at 4 p.m. Union, Room 316.

LIFE IN THE WORLD

The Plaintive Story Of Elsie

JERRY SHAPNACK

Sam touching was Elsie's plea. Sam could hardly speak. "Ah, shaddup," he said, choking down a tear.



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