Foot In Door

The United States seems to be in a serious dilemma in regard to her foreign policy, and the two solutions offered so far make it a situation of picking the worst of two evils. According to Wednesday's paper, President Eisenhower has said definitely that he is opposed to admitting Communist China into the United Nations, but is also opposed to the suggestion recently submitted that the United States withdraw from the U.N. if and when the Peiping Regime is admitted.

Certainly, the Peiping Regime, with Moscow encouragement, has been fighting and will continue to fight to become a U.N. member. Their sitting in on the talks at the Geneva conference was somewhat of a "foot in the door" situation, and one can help but wonder if, as in Dagwood, the Red supersalesmen won't manage to force themselves all the way in.

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The other Western nations are watching all this with equal doubtfulness, but it must be remembered that although they would not be pleased with the new U.N. member, they might favor it if they thought such a step would ease world tensions. The United States could not afford to be placed in the position of a stubborn nation standing in the way of even temporary rest from continual near world blow-ups such as Korea and Indochina.

So with the insistence of Red China and Russia and the lack of confident opposition in some of our Western friends, it seems as though the Communists might have their own way. The ironic thing, and everybody knows it, is that the Chinese Communists, in Korea and Indochina have committed acts in direct opposition to the moral obligation of the U.N. to be a world force for "justice, fairness and right in international affairs."

The question is: can the free nations of the world keep their self-respect while sitting across the conference table wth a nation like Communist China? If admitted she would become another power of the Communist block in the U.N. and could throw even more cold war water on what the organization is trying to do to bring about a lasting peace.

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If it happens that the Red Chinese win a seat in the U.N., it has been suggested, then the only self-respecting thing to do would be for the United States to pull out of the U.N. This would put us right back where we were before the second World War, and that position, if we remember, was not good. The United States is a world leader and a world organization without us could not hope to exist as such. Such an act then. would probably mean the essential decline of the United Nations The U.N. has not been enough of a failure as yet to warrant such an end.

If the Red supersalesmen have their foot in the door, we are still in a position to argue. But if we attempt to run out the back door, then we may find them waiting there too. As in Dagwood, we just may have to buy their wares whether we like it or not, and they will be in a position to ask a higher price.

Summer Nebraskan

Member: Associate Collegiate Press

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What Do You Think?

Negro Housing—Foresight Needed?

By DARWIN L. McAFEE
Columnist

A SITUATION which exists nationally—and Lincoln is no exception—is the problem of housing for minority groups. In Lincoln the re-activation of the Lincoln Air Base has magnified this problem especially as pertaining to housing for Negroes.

In 1951 the city council defeated a resolution for a proposal of public housing which was designed to provide low-cost rental units, eliminate substandard dwellings and relieve the tight situation of minority housing.

It was hoped then, by various groups and individuals associated with the problems, that they could be solved before re-activation of the air base with an estimated 350 Negro families accompanying it.

Has the problem been solved? Despite claims by the Home Builders Association president that all airmen, Negro and white, desiring rental units have been placed and that units to be and now being built will take care of all future needs, it was found, after a series of interviews with persons directly associated with the problem, that an unhealthy situation still exists.

It is a generally recognized fact that the majority of Lincoln's estimated 1,900 Negroes are crowded into the so-called "restricted area" encompassing 19th to 25th streets and R to Vine.

Some Negroes own lots outside the "area" but have not built on them because they can't qualify for loans.

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SIDNEY ALEXANDER, executive director of the Urban League, maintains that finance companies object to mortgages for Negroes because they feel they are a bad risk and fear other investors will withdraw loans if the company loans to Negroes. George Randall, Lincoln's only Negro realtor, states that mortgagors are not fully cooperative and that they want to loan Negroes money to build houses only on lots where the mortgagers think the Negro ought to live.

Alexander feels that there is an agreement among **realtors not to sell or rent** to Negroes.

Randall, however, asserts there is no such agreement among realtors. He points out that he has rented homes to Negroes in areas where no Negro has lived before, that they moved in without any publicity or fanfare and have had little if any trouble.

Ray Bartlett, a Lincoln realtor, supporting Randall's stand, claims that as a builder and realtor he is in business to make money and therefore he will build or sell or rent a home in any location to any man providing he has the lot to build on and money to pay for it and keep it up comparable to the surrounding property.

Bartlett states that the reason Negroes have not purchased homes is that they are generally in a low income bracket and have larger families and therefore lack the down payment and cannot afford the monthly payments necessary for home ownership.

Alexander points out that 30 per cent of the Negroes in the "area" are home owners while most of the rest rent from white owners at excessive rents (Randall cited one case where four families were living in one house and a garage for which they were paying $180 rent).

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THE ARGUMENT which many white land owners, who oppose Negro infiltration, use in debating the problem is that property values drop when a Negro moves into a neighborhood. Alexander maintains, and is supported by Randall and Bartlett, that this is an immediate hysterical reaction or state of mind. "It is not a problem but a situation," he said, "which could be alleviated, but it remains a problem in people's minds only because they want it to."

What about Negro airmen who are looking for living quarters? Have they been taken care of as the president of Home Builders Association maintains? Col. Ervin Wursten, air base commander, reported that 13 Negro families had been placed in town as of the first of June with 22 men residing at the base who have not brought their families here because they cannot find satisfactory housing.

What is to be done in solving the problem?

Randall believes that non-segregation in the forthcoming Home Builder's Northeast Lincoln building project could contribute much toward solution of the problem. He points out that the Air Force, with its policy of integration, has become a minority within itself with a great amount of cohesion built up among tthe whites and Negroes. He feels that "if Negroes are not allowed in the project it will not be the Negroes who will object so much as the whites who have gone through a great deal of service with them."

WHAT DOES Ervin Peterson, president of Lincoln Home Builders Association, say concerning the situation?

Petersons feels there is no problem. "We are not crusading for any certain group," he said, "and therefore the problem of making a decision as to whether Negroes will be able to rent in the new project is not the pressing thing at the moment. We must get the new units built and hope that no difficulties arise as long as the Negroes can be housed satisfactorily elsewhere."

It seems to this writer that the above statement reveals a very important aspect of the entire problem concerning not only housing but all other petty hates and prejudices and many of the problems which plague minority groups. That is, that the majority of citizens tend to avoid the situation in hopes that it will pass them by or will never catch up with them and force them to make a decision which they feel might have unpleasant consequences.

However, the status of minority groups, although leaving much to be desired, has been and is continuing to be much improved. Eventually theirs will be a loud voice in affairs which the majority groups now control and govern. Are the majority groups then to sit back and ignore the situation, letting a few interested persons or groups take responsibility for improving the lot of the minorities? Or should they meet the problem head on and thus avoid eventually being slapped in the face with the realization that the lot of the majority has been hurt because they had not taken enough swift and positive action? What do you think?

Main Feature Clock

(Schedules Furnished by Theaters)

Lincoln: "Johnny Dark," 1:35, 3:35, 5:40, 7:40, 9:45.

Stuart: "The Student Prince," 1:00, 3:12, 5:17, 7:29, 9:40.

Nebraska: "Stage Door," 1:08 4:32, 7:56. "Without Reservation," 2:49, 6:13, 9:37.

Varsity: 'Indiscretion Of An American Wife," 1:00, 2:50, 4:40, 6:13, 7:52, 9:42.

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