

Editorial Comment:

France Joins Atomic Race--for Good or Bad

It's now official—France has an atomic bomb.

The Western Allies may stand up and cheer the French development, but before they feel secure at having a fourth member and a third partner in the nuclear arms race, perhaps they should watch the French nation a little more closely.

Already President Charles de Gaulle has said that French atomic information is available to Russia and that it should not be kept secret from a friend, the United States.

De Gaulle has the aim of gaining full membership for his nation on atomic councils. And apparently the release of information on the French atomic experimenting will be given only if France does join the United States and Britain on these boards.

But so far French claims to atomic knowledge have been based on a single explosion in the Sahara Desert last week.

So the question arises: Does France

Freshman Game Could Have Used Better Scheduling

Congratulations to the Husker freshman basketball team on hauling down its second win in as many outings.

The freshman cagers beat McCook Junior College 61-52 Wednesday night.

But there weren't many people there to see the frosh in action.

First of all, the event was scheduled for a Wednesday night, right in the middle of the academic week. And admission was charged, too; 50 cents for students and \$1 for adults.

The athletic department probably can use the money but certainly didn't clear much from the meager turnout for the game.

More important to the freshman players would have been a larger crowd cheering for them.

They would have had the crowd, had the game been scheduled before a regular varsity home game; paying game viewers would have had an opportunity to see two good basketball contests instead of the varsity game plus a preliminary of somewhat less interest.

We know you can't always get what you want when scheduling athletic events.

Staff Comment

Balm and Sage

By Herb Probasco

Rejoice! I'm back at the typewriter. According to several readers they have been anxiously awaiting my comment regarding the exodus of one Jack Paar. For example, the one who asked, "Who's that Basco that writes for the Rag? I thought he was going to talk about Paar."

I had intended to devote my entire column to this subject. On second thought, however, it occurred to me that Mr. Paar is just shrewd enough, immature as he is, to be going through with all of this just to gain publicity, as if he needed any more.

Therefore, my only comment is that NBC should have had a bouncer take Paar over his knee after he had walked out crying and spanked him. Mr. Paar would have been in a sorry state if the television VIPs had just flushed him when he quit and replaced him with another personality. In my opinion, he wouldn't be hard to replace. Enough of this, however, as I find myself giving him more publicity.

You may have noticed that a picture which appeared in Wednesday's issue of the two colonels congratulating each other (For what, I don't know.). Anyway, it was out of focus. This is exactly the impression which I have of the idea of compulsory ROTC—out of focus.

Not that I am against the military, because I'll serve my stint with the rest of the guys, but the compulsion aspect detracts from any desire to enter the program. It is only human nature to rebel against anything one is forced to do. Naturally, it is harder then to select the



Probasco

have the know-how to warrant equal-member status on such councils? And if so, will de Gaulle favor sharing the information equally with Russia as well as Great Britain and the United States?

A first attempt to answer these questions was to occur this week when two members of the French Atomic Energy Commission discuss atomic secrets in Washington with U.S. officials.

With the addition of another big power possessing atomic weapon knowledge, it also appears that there is an increased possibility of world war. The internal instability of France adds to the threat.

Egyptian premier Nasser disapproved of the explosion of the first French atomic weapon on Arab soil in Algeria; student demonstrations resulted in Damascus.

It may be that this arms control for nations will conflict before it is able to bring about a more secure, perhaps a lasting peace.

But on the other hand, perhaps atomic weapons will be the tool, the common ground of interest, that will make France cooperate more readily with NATO in the future.

Such would be a more encouraging proposition.

Men in Selleck Should Choose Their Own Paths

The squabble between "Independents" and "independents" in Selleck Quadrangle seems to be a little nonsensical.

The RAM Council apparently is worried about the "do-nothing" attitude of those termed "independents;" apparently the "independents" are concerned that they should be attacked for holding their concepts of dormitory living.

Dorms traditionally have the widest range of character types and interests. Trying to mold all of them into somewhat of an organized group will never work.

Many "independents" would have joined or attempted to join fraternities if they had desired organization, social events, etc.

It is hardly likely they will change their views now, after several years in the dorm.

The same concepts will never be shared by all the many inhabitants of Selleck.

AUF Charity

To the Editor:

We agree with you thoroughly that education needs a boost through scholarships—both here and in foreign countries. One can't be sure which students need more help.

AUF welcomes both suggestions and criticisms. It is our duty to investigate all aspects of charity and to help the individual recognize his obligation to his fellow man.

However, AUF does stand for "all university." AUF only suggests and presents new ideas. The final decisions are left to the students' discretion through the charity poll in the fall.

The question is this: could AUF finance a foreign student? We must consider the pros and cons.

1. AUF already gives to foreign students through World University Service. (Perhaps we could increase our contribution in this area.)

2. There is a problem in selecting a person who is both worthy and needy.

3. The United States does need to strengthen foreign relations, and better understanding is gained through foreign leaders with first-hand knowledge of our way of life.

Some suggestions have been offered to aid foreign students:

1. To have the State Legislature reduce the \$240 semester tuition required of foreign students.

2. To have the University lower the 6 average required for scholarships in upper division.

3. To have AUF finance one foreign student.

AUF has been given a suggestion; it is now for the students to discuss and decide — through letters and participation in the fall poll.

GAIL SIMON Vice president of Publicity All University Fund

Not Do-Nothing

To the Editor:

In reference to a recent letter by Tom Eason, RAM Council president, directed to all the residents of Selleck Quadrangle, we, the undersigned, firmly believe that Selleck exists for the purpose of providing the male student with a place to study, sleep and "eat"—only.

If we had desired an organized social program, a fraternity would have been the solution. However, since this was not the case, Selleck Quad remained as the only residence available for the following reasons:

1. Incoming freshmen are required to live in organized, approved housing.

2. Those students who are not freshmen are hampered in their search for other, more satisfactory housing by the inconveniences of time and distance.

Is a student required to meet RAM Council-instituted obligations which are not in his contract? Perhaps Mr. Eason should take another look at the contract which all residents are required to sign before he complains of the reluctance to pay "house" dues or enter into organized social functions. The little "is" that Tom

Eason refers to are not do-nothings! They are rabid participants in the "fine art" of getting an education.

Lloyd J. Hoppner Donald R. Robison Richard L. Marsh

Defend ROTC

To the Editor:

In reference to a letter written by a Mr. J. L. Murphy criticizing the advanced ROTC units, we are inclined to disagree with him.

While we are not juniors, but only basic freshman cadets in the Army and Air Force, we are subject to similar inspections by our commanding officers, and we feel that the standards of inspection are fair and just.

The ROTC courses prepare young men to become leaders and train them so they will be better prepared to defend the freedom and sovereignty of our great country. Those who have had the initiative and desire to enter the advanced courses should be considered as having the ability to become leaders.

Mr. Murphy has made the unwarranted accusation that all cadet officers are unpopular with their fellow students, which we know for a fact is not true.

In closing we feel that Mr. J. L. Murphy has made a very unfair and unethical accusation concerning the advanced ROTC units.

Cadet H. Martin Swan Army Cadet Jerry H. Bainbridge Air Force

For the Heck of It

Practically every textbook on American education contains a section discussing the tremendous increase in students in American schools, the projected increases to come and the hopeless and growing inadequacy of the teaching profession to quantitatively meet these needs.

Not only is the current ratio of teachers college graduates to new students wholly inadequate, but the long-run trend shows a decline in the percentage of persons selecting teaching for a profession.

Still, scarcely any of the modern texts are willing to suggest any measures to partially alleviate this situation.

It is apparent to even the casual observer of the problem that in order to meet the teacher requirements in the future and still provide satisfactory and improving standards of education that the American system of education needs a drastic administrative overhaul.

It seems to me that the first change to be made should be the elimination of the local educational system that predominates in the nation. Under our current system, education is primarily in the hands of inept local school districts scattered throughout the states in varying numbers, ranging from 17 in Wyoming to more than 3,900 in Nebraska (by far the worst offender in the nation).

This results in myriad numbers of small, inefficient schools, particularly at the secondary level, which provide in most instances a poor curriculum, too broad and heavy a workload for teachers and little experienced guidance from the non-professional people who set local school policy.

By re-rationalizing the administrative aspects of

the American school system and placing schools under state boards of education, many of our worst education problems could be at least partially solved.

First, by consolidation fewer but larger and better staffed schools could provide a greater variety and better standards of education.

Second, by uniform taxation and appropriation, uniform expenditures for education could be made across the state, probably at an overall saving.

Third, by placing school administration and policy under state control, education would become more dependent on professional rather than amateur leadership; education policies would become more uniform and consistent; and teachers, superintendents and other professional people in education would be removed from the detrimental interference of local pressure groups.

Lastly, the state departments of education would be more capable of efficiently utilizing federal aid to education funds which will become more and more important for American educational advancement and the provision of incentives to prospective teachers.

Perhaps if teachers were responsible to state-appointed officials rather than local superintendents in turn responsible to local school boards, some of the prestige and status that American educators lack could be returned.

This in turn might provide the nation with more competent teachers. Certainly, for most states, salary scales for nine months' work are not the prime factor in making careers in teaching undesirable.

By Hecht

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