

—U.S. Problems: Through A European Eye—

Swedish Do Not Discriminate, But . . .

This column I want as a means of contact between the U.S. and Europe by way of a Mid-West University and a Swedish University. In general I intend to bring up current topics, politics mostly maybe, but also anything else that is worth chatting about (go perhaps

ing about, as Robert Frost said), and I want to try to bring you the views of Europeans.

I read the most important European newspapers; I have friends who do like-wise and we discuss. In fact I have an old-fashioned open house every Sunday evening

when any of my friends who feel like it buy a bottle of cheap Spanish wine or a package of California raisins and come up here to talk. You will get their opinions as much as my own, and also those of my friends all over Europe, mostly former AFS-ers but also others I have met traveling and now keep up correspondence with. In this way I hope to be able to give you varied aspects of each problem.

And there is no lack of problems!

The overall dominating one right now is the race question and not only that of the USA. The South Africa question will be brought up in the UN again, although I am rather certain that nothing will come of it. The U. of S. A. says the UN has no right to meddle in the internal affairs of a member country, and the UN majority claims the government of South Africa is committing a crime against mankind — and they are both right. Sweden is one of the countries almost enemies of South Africa; we boycott all we can on the consumer level. In the liquor stores Cap Constantia stands on a special shelf marked "South African goods" and everybody is self-conscious about asking for it; we have had trouble with harbor workers refusing to unload South African ships. Here in Lund the student committee on the boycott has been rather active, printing big posters that can be seen all over Southern Sweden and in Lund in almost every grocery store, listing South African goods that we should not buy. Naturally a small country can never harm the South African economy substantially — and Volvo businessmen claim that a response boycott would hurt us much more—but we have formed a strong opinion, which is worth a lot, and more and more countries are following. India just decided on an official boycott, and India is important.

The largest newspaper of Sweden was criticized recently for running advertisements on South African fruit, and the big strong newspaper apologized!

Why is Sweden so anxious to correct the wrongs of South Africa? Honestly, I think it is pure idealism. South African fruit is the cheapest we can get and often the only one: grapes in the winter for example. But we don't buy. We have a genuine heart-felt horror of the crimes that are committed down there.

It may seem easy for us — we don't have a Negro problem ourselves. We have it even less than other European countries (excluding Norway, Finland and Iceland), because we are relatively isolated. Not many tourists bother to

come here and students even more seldom. I remember very well the first time in my life I saw a Negro — it was an American jazz musician: I was 13 years old and I thought he behaved like any foreigner, so I did what I always did to foreigners — stared and tried to listen to the language.

Colored people visiting Sweden sometimes say we don't discriminate officially, but deep down we are the same as everybody else, we stare unfriendly-like. No wonder we stare at such different persons and no wonder we don't smile. Swedes don't smile unless they have a reason. So this, I would say, is a misunderstanding.

But we have similar problems. We have Gypsies and Laps, two odd groups of people, of a different race, with their own languages, with their own very special ways of living. But they are two small groups and so special it is more of a cultural question: is it worth the trouble saving their (uncomfortable) way of living or should they be encouraged to assimilate (which they could, rather easily, I think)? Gypsies are often called thieves; Laps are considered backward, but they are so few that people don't stop to ask whether a person is a Gypsy or not.

So the Swedes can afford to look down on racists.

Lund, by the way, is the only town of Sweden where Negroes are a regular part of the city's looks. The university dominates Lund completely, one-fourth of the population being students, and we have lots of scholarships; especially those which the students themselves pay for and which are given to Asians and Africans, right now 16 persons on that type alone. One of my girl friends is going steady with a Northern Rhodesian. Another one is married to an Indian.

No one thinks bad of that. But there are racists in Sweden, too, even among university students. Talking about the race riots in southern USA recently, some of the comments were:

"I guess we have to try to understand them, civil war and everything. Poor stupid."

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EDITORIAL PAGE

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Wednesday, Oct. 9, 1963



The Right Way

YD's Go Left?

By Steve Stastny

Resume diplomatic relations with Cuba! NATO should have a non-aggression treaty with the Warsaw Pact nations! We should withdraw our troops from South Viet Nam! Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee! Repeal the McCarran Internal Security Act! Recognize East Germany!

At first glance, you might suppose that these incredible statements came from a Young Socialist meeting. Wrong. This scene was a Berkeley, California, meeting of Young Democrats from thirteen western States. The date was Sunday, August 18, 1963. The above resolutions were passed by these Young Democrats at this time.

According to these radical resolutions, it appears that "The Far Left" is in control of a great part of the Young Democrat organization. These "extremists" constitute a great danger to the security and freedom of our country since they control an organization which has a strong voice in the present administration.

How can this group call for negotiation leading to "normalization" of diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba when less than ten days before Castro had kidnapped Cuban refugees?

How can this group call for a non-aggression treaty between NATO and the Communist Warsaw Pact Nations, when it would seriously weaken NATO and become one of the greatest appeasements since Munich?

How can this group call for withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam

when doing so would crush our entire Far East defense structure? This would result in our surrender of South Viet Nam and the rest of Southeast Asia to Communist control.

How can this group call for the abolishment of the House Un-American Activities Committee when it has proven itself so necessary to guard against internal Communist subversion?

California GOP Chairman Cas Weinberger has termed the YD policy statement as "dangerously irresponsible and fantastic . . . laughable if we did not remember that this represents the thinking of a great many people actively working for the election of a Democratic U.S. Senator and more Democratic congressmen and legislators."

Republican National Chairman Bill Miller has challenged John Bailey, the Democratic national chairman, to explain these resolutions to the American people. Up to this moment, Mr. Bailey has remained "curiously" silent.

Instead of ranting and raving about the extreme right, the Democrats should tend to the weeds in their own back yard. California Assembly speaker Jesse Unruh, Democrat, has shown his distaste of this weed-filled yard by stating, " . . . I have no intention of criticizing them even though I disagree vehemently with the content of the resolutions."

I am sure that many students would like to know if the YD's on this campus support the fanatical resolutions of their Western counterparts.

The Daily Nebraskan has added a Swedish columnist to its staff.

Britt-Marie Thuren, 21-year-old Spanish major at the University of Lund, in Sweden, is the new addition.

Miss Thuren describes herself as 1/21 American because she spent 1 of her 21 years in Los Angeles, California, as an exchange student in the American Field Service program.

Miss Thuren returned to her native country with very pro-American feelings, but when she encountered anti-American attitudes she became very confused. Now she reflects on our country as "a strange country of dreams, a country of incredible successes and cruel disappointments, the hope of the future and also very dangerous."

Included in Miss Thuren's forthcoming columns will be topics such as Swedish and European attitudes toward political situations, modern race problems, sex, and others.



BRITT-MARIE THUREN

"Californians do, I think" (me)

"Oh, come on, always California!"

There I had better stop. My coming back to Cali-

formian topics all the time may not be any more popular in Nebraska than it is in Sweden. That might also be a clue to why I al-

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Subscriptions rates \$3 per semester or \$5 per year.

Entered as second class matter at the post office in Lincoln, Nebraska, under the act of August 4, 1912.

The Daily Nebraskan is published at Room 51, Nebraska Union, on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday by University of Nebraska students under the jurisdiction of the Faculty Subcommittee on Student Publications. Publications shall be free from ownership by the Subcommittee or any person outside the University. Members of the Nebraska are responsible for what they cause to be printed.

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