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BARD WEEK

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BARD WEEK

Vol. I

April 11, 1949

No.1

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Third International Student weekend at Bard College took place last Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 8, 9 and 10. The theme of our conference, The Dimensions of Security, reflected a realistic attitude towards present international crises. The themes of our two previous conferences were examples of the theoretical, idealistic method of solving world problems, which has been the prevailing approach for the last two years. Today, without discarding our idealism, we are able to approach the problems by more practical means.

Three discussions of groups of foreign students examined the foremost problems connected with the three important aspects of security - economic, military and individual. The moderator of each panel delivered a summary of the salient points of each panel, Saturday afternoon in the Gymnasium.

Four prominent public figures spoke before the community and guests during the weekend. Congressman Jacob Javits, Mr. Adolph A. Berle, Mr. Ernest M. Davies, M.P. presented their analysis and their ideas regarding international friction and its solution.

ECONOMIC PANELS

Fireworks began flying, so that even Dr. Sturmthal couldn't maintain order for awhile in the Economic Panel, held in Albee Social, Saturday. Can full employment be attained under our private enterprise system, brought a thunderous acclaim of 'No'.

Our European neighbors have scrutinized our policy and evaluated America in rather skeptical terms. 'There is no one responsible for the economic situation' claimed the delegate from Norway. 'One of the functions of the government must be to look ahead and prepare for changes'. The English delegate declared that capitalism

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Security and Freedom - can we have both? This question was the title and theme of the address by the Hon. Jacob K. Javits, Representative to Congress from New York, whose remarks opened the Third International Student's Conference last Friday night.

Mr Javits emphasized that in the ideological war between Russia and the democracies, we would have much more to offer if, besides our acknowledged greater political freedoms, and higher standard of living, we could offer as much, or more economic security than Russia does now.

Mr Javits outlined a five point program which he feels would establish and maintain economic security in this country especially due to our importance in the economic welfare of all the democracies.

(1) An Economic Planning Board, to represent all economic groups, which will set goals for the economy. It would enforce conditions agreed upon. It would differ from the Soviet planned economy in that it would proceed by agreement, not decree.

(2) A greater democracy in the large corporations by the fuller exercise of franchise by the security holders, which would give them a greater voice in management policies.

(3) Establish better Labor-Management relations by giving the worker a more personal interest in his job, mainly by greater voice in management policies, and in the sharing of profits.

(4) To expand our systems of social security, both government and private to be more all-inclusive and coordinated.

(5) The Economic development of the world by developing and exploiting the many untapped riches of the world in more backward areas. It would be done through a partnership of government and business

(Speakers continued page 4)

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PROSPECTUS

What we think a newspaper at Bard
should be

The first duty a newspaper has to its readers is to present an account of events which will be of interest to the majority of its readers. In terms of Bard, this means covering all of the activities on campus and giving objective, truthful resumes of these events to enable the whole college community to be aware of what takes place.

A newspaper must provide a regularized channel of communication. If it is limited to a few it loses its function as a newspaper and becomes merely a tool for the dissemination of propaganda. It must appear regularly and provide diverse points of view on controversial matters. The editors are entitled to express themselves on any issue they choose. It is their duty, in evaluating these issues, to present their facts accurately, and even more important, to provide a means for the alternate interpretation of these facts.

This is democracy.

Furthermore, we feel that a college newspaper should strike a reasonable balance between news coverage and the expression of opinion.

The Editors

ECONOMIC PANEL (cont. from page 1)

italism has not solved the problem of unemployment or economic stability thus far. What indication do we have that signifies a change in her policy? she asked the delegates.

America has the greatest responsibility in the world, it was concluded. Without some economic planning, by which she will be able to maintain a stable economy, she will not be able to assume the leadership in the world today.

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EDITORIAL

Perspective

The main asset of Bard College is also her greatest danger. We are all grateful that the Bard community has never contained much more than 300 students. Her small seminar classes is one of her most attractive features. The students of Bard have a great amount of contact with both the Administration and Faculty. Because of the size and intimacy of the college, we can all become involved in each other's problems. On one hand that is an excellent environment for social living. But on the other hand, our size and the distance from any large community is threatening us with isolation.

Last week the school felt a sharp, internal rumble. It decided to take measures against it at Convocation. The school was buzzing with rumor and excitement and discussion. But suddenly something happened. A number of people who were born in Europe or Asia, and who were studying in America, paid us a visit.

Then there was greater excitement, and a greater rumble. We were no longer faced with local issues, but problems on an international scale. These problems we could not solve in Convocation. These new problems which were presented to us, the danger of insecurity, could only be solved by continual work and thought. Minds were no longer confined to the affairs of the community, but gained international scope.

We have our problems here at Bard. They need due consideration and action on the part of the student body. But we must be careful of the neglect of other problems of greater importance. We can not confine ourselves to thought equal to our physical size, but be able through an easy interchange of ideas, to broaden our scope. We must not imagine a rumble to be a great, big roar.

J.L.

MRS. ROOSEVELT'S SPEECH

'The U.N. is an organization to maintain peace, but it has become an instrument for returning to peace', Mrs Franklin D. Roosevelt declared at the last meeting of the International Student's Conference Saturday evening. Disappointment over the shortcomings of the U.N. is due to the fact that people expect a great deal more than the U.N. was designed for.

Mrs Roosevelt stated that several organs within the U.N. which are doing the work that they have been created to do, are living up to the expectations of its originators. She stated the four activities:

(1) The World Health Organization is functioning on a world-wide basis and is now conducting an all-out battle against Tuberculosis.

(2) UNESCO is trying to create understanding in the minds of men through cultural bases.

(3) The Food Agricultural Organization has been working with the motto 'To distribute, to grow, and to give to all the needy parts of the world'.

(4) Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The PANELS (continued from p.1)

MILITARY SECURITY

A dismal view toward the present state of international affairs was taken by the panel concerned with Military Security. It was decided however that there was a hope for future improvement through the organs of the U.N. If we can avoid war for a few years, we shall be able to strengthen the U.N. as a powerful force to command peace.

Universal disarmament would not be effective, it was realized, without a strong body to enforce it. It was also concluded that individual military strength presented no long-run solution to military security. But as a strong instrument for maintaining peace, the U.N. would effectively be able to curtail the production of armaments.

But until the U.N. will be able to achieve this status in international relations, the formation of an alliance among the peaceful nations of the world will be best to serve as a block against any aggression.

INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

Political freedom is complementary, rather than in competition with economic security, was the conclusion drawn by the Individual Security Panel, moderated by Miss Thompson. Because of the nature of Individual Security the discussion lent itself to moral evaluations.

Democracy, it was felt, should be able to withstand criticism. The teaching in colleges by Communists should be permitted unless the Communist Party is declared outlawed. But Communism is a way of thinking, it was declared, and under a strong, stable, democratic country, no parties of of political thinking should be forbidden.

The Russian delegate remarked 'Americans have more freedom than they know what to do with'. This led to an evaluation of American movies, novels and Dick Tracy. The delegate from Austria tried to bring the discussion back to political security but the kaleidoscope of ideas continually turned, and the panel had to end in the middle of a debate on Socialized art.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

As a participant in the Third International Student's Conference, I still find these weekends as stimulating in 1949 as I did in 1947. Their growth has in no way impeded their efficient timing and refreshing informality. But I'm talking like the visiting fireman who knows what's awaiting him at the other end of his trip. This however, is not the case with students attending a Conference for the first time. Many of them come with the impression that they must accomplish something definite, arrive at certain conclusions, and feel most frustrated when they don't achieve that end. Others just don't know what is expected of them.

May I suggest then that there be some way of more thorough informing your participants of the purpose of your conferences, of the informal way in which they are run (emphasize this point) and of what each student can contribute towards them. Some sort of pamphlet containing pictures, extracts of panel reports of former conferences etc, would help convey the atmosphere of these weekends to future participants.

The student themselves think very highly of these meetings. They appreciate the chance of getting together with American students, as well as meeting fellow Europeans, Asiatics, or South Americans. They also appreciate the interest taken in them, and their views, as contrasted with the indifference elsewhere.

Bard College, I think, lends itself specially well to these International weekends. The foreign visitors feel at home very quickly in its familiar atmosphere and among its friendly 'natives'. We all would like to sum up our opinions of Bard's I.S.C. with this one comment: More power to them.

Anne Raick,
Manhattenville College of the Sacred Heart.

CONVOCATION NOTES

Convocation passed two motions requesting that everything possible be done to maintain the services of Dr. Louis Koenig, and to reconsider the resignation of Dr. Lincoln Reis at its last meeting on April 6th.

The request was addressed to the Social Studies faculty, the Administration, and the Board of Trustees. A precedent was set by acting Moderator Haviland in the counting of abstention votes.

HYDE PARK

About 10:30 on Sunday morning a group of sleepy students, with and without accents, piled into one beautiful bus and a collection of collegiate taxis, headed for Hyde Park to view those historic grounds. Cameras appeared in an abundance. Some lucky fiends had motion ones.

Before entering the Roosevelt house at Hyde Park, the guide gave an explanation of why the house looked the way it did. The general consensus of our group was that they were glad they did not live there, but that it was an amazing collection of furnishings and mementoes. The odds and ends of items in the museum, the collection of ship models, paintings, drafts of speeches, costumes and documents made it very difficult to get us back to our cars at noon.

In the bus the occupants were serenaded both down and back by Miss Deschko of Russia and Mr. Brun of Norway.

Bard collectively sighed: we were worn out, but it seemed as though something had really just begun, not ended. Bard had itself an informative and thoroughly enjoyable weekend - on campus.

To insure the full carrying out of the BARD WEEK policy as outlined in the Prospectus, the staff invites letters to the editors concerning events important to our readers on a local or national scale. From time to time we will print as many of the letters received as we have room for.

Along with the eventful International Students' Conference, the Bard College Fire Department have figured in the news. A representative of the New York Times took pictures (you can't see the smoke that they 'made' to have it look real) of the Smoke Eaters saving South Barracks from a fiery doom. The pictures and newsitem, which will appear soon in the Times, ended a busy week for the Fire Department, which began for them by ably stopping a blaze in the Summers apartment in Gerry House.

MR. BERLE SPEAKS

The necessity for recovery in Europe sponsored by aid from the United States was stressed by Adolph A. Berle, former Roosevelt 'Brain-Trust' member. Berle spoke at the afternoon session of the Conference, where he remarked that the spirit of optimism which he observed was present during the panel discussions was reminiscent of the attitude during the formation of the peace in 1918.

He emphasized the need for a world federation. 'But first we must base it on a system of state's rights', he declared. There will always be an inherent desire among people for both freedom and security and a strong Western front will eventually lead to a federation and to peace. It is up to the youth of the country to combine their ideals and their practical methods, to achieve democracy and economic security.

MR DAVIES SPEAKS

'WE must offer the nations of the world an alternative to Communism which will give them a better standard of living and a better way of life', stated Mr. Ernest M. Davies, M.P. from Enfield. 'It must be an economic system which will offer these people the best parts of Communism and Capitalism, and that system is Socialism'.

Regional military pacts are a possible solution, but they are ineffective as a permanent answer to Europe's situation. The Marshall Plan and the North Atlantic Security Program will help Europe to recover, but it is also necessary to foster the Social Democratic elements in these countries which will be able to maintain both economic stability and political freedom when European aid has ended.

April 12: Spring Recess
 April 20 " " ends
 June 17 End Spring Semester
 June 18 Commencement