



SOVIET AMBASSADOR, Amasp Aroutunian addressing members of the Philosophical Society, The Humanities Association and John Barr.

photo by Heinz Moller

Ambassador Disappoints Masses: Reveals Nothing

Amasp Avakimovich Aroutunian, Soviet Ambassador in Canada, spoke recently to the Philosophical Society and Humanities Association here, as well as to the Political Science Club and the United Nations Club.

Dr. Aroutunian is a Soviet economist and diplomat. He has a scientific degree of Doctor of Economic Sciences and the title of Professor of Political Economy.

Gateway staffer Manfred Rupp expresses his views below on the text of the Soviet ambassador's remarks.

By Manfred H. Rupp

One can, generally, expect to be spending a worth-while evening following an invitation by the Humanities Association-Philosophical Society. The speaker, the audience, and the discussion following each talk are usually of the quality that justifies our calling this place a university.

On the occasion of Dr. Aroutunian's visit, we saw undoubtedly the largest crowd ever to attend one such meeting. Even the Army, Navy, and Air Force were there, which was another first, and which led the Journal photographer to the disputable conclusion that their presence added a note of importance to this gathering. It didn't. Nor did the size of the audience. Quantity in such meetings is usually detrimental to quality, and it certainly was on December 13.

If the above sounds like a critic-

ism of the sponsor's decision to bring Dr. Aroutunian to this campus, then this is unintentional. I do, however, feel that the evening would have been more successful, the discussion more like the discussions we have come to expect, had less propaganda preceded it. Especially since the sponsors did not, to my knowledge, use this welcome opportunity to fill their purpose.

MASSES DISAPPOINTED

It is also not my intention to give a neutral report of the talk given by the Russian ambassador. Dr. Aroutunian did, to the disappointment of the masses, not see the Math-Physics Building as a fit platform to reveal anything earthshaking about the Soviet Society, or its changes. Anyone whose thinking is not entirely running along the Birch-Schwartz track knows by now that social changes are taking place in Russia, that the Soviet system is not now what it was 20 or even 5 years ago, and that it will, quite naturally, keep on changing and progressing. There were a lot of facts and figures, reported in a matter-of-factly manner and without the "We-shall-bury-you" trimmings the audience had undoubtedly expected.

It was the talk of a scholar turned politician (or perhaps diplomat), of a man who is obviously not above injecting a certain dosis of propaganda into his report, but who is sincere enough about it to deserve being taken seriously. This, I think, the majority in the audience was not willing, or rather not able, to do. One staff member of this university, who has not been seen at any previous meetings of the two societies, kept giggling throughout the whole talk and behaved as conspicuously as would a co-ed in a lecture on the birds and bees.

SOME UNEASINESS

One did, however, have some uneasy feelings about the frequent recurrence of the word 'scientific'— "A society to be built on scientific principles", science as the new redeemer. And when the ambassador said that the ultimate goal of Soviet government is the withering away of the political organization, and local self-government instead, we hear Thoreau, and we wonder.

"Today we no longer need the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the character of the state machinery has fundamentally changed". (Snickering in the audience)

I was reminded of a passage in Dr. Esther Milner's book *The Failure of success*: (p. 17)

"I find the colossal irony of our times that the hostility of the two major antagonists on the world scene originates in their mutual commitment to the same economic fallacy, the doctrine of 'economic man'. Both the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics espouse social ideals of the highest order, but in practice, the leaders and the people of both countries believe that the economic aspects of man's life are not merely of primary but of ultimate importance. Our disagreement lies essentially in our insistence that our own economic system is the better pathway to the goal—but the goal is essentially the same."

That was really what Dr. Aroutunian was talking about, and that, if anything, is what should make at least some of us feel uneasy about the 'changes' that are taking place—both here and there.

Blood Drive Apathy Cited

Bob Lampard, Med 3, 1963 co-ordinator of the Red Cross Blood Drive, in an interview Monday levelled a blast at campus apathy toward the blood drive.

"As the blood drive is one third complete, one might hopefully have expected one-third of the campus to have donated." In particular, the faculties of Dentistry, Law and Medicine, whose percentage contributions this year are: Dentistry—5%; Law—7%; Medicine—7%, were singled out," Lampard said. He pointed out the fact that Law perennially ranks in the lowest ranks of the donors.

He also expressed concern over the conspicuous low donation by Medicine, since the doctors are, after all, the ones who need and use this blood.

"This does not absolve faculties such as Commerce, Pharmacy and muscle-bound Phys Ed who, in spite of previous good donations seem to have lost their spirit this year," he added. "The low donations by these faculties may be contrasted with Physiotherapy, who are to be congratulated for their donation, which is already close to 100%."

The clinic this year is characterized by two innovations—first—three separate clinics are being held, instead of one, as in previous years, and, second—the last half of the second clinic will be held in the Education Gym on Jan. 30 and 31, in order to accommodate dental, medical and nursing undergraduates. For those unable to donate in January, the third and last clinic is scheduled from February 11-14 in SUB.

The objective of the drive this year is 4,000 pints, which, although

representing only about 50% of the total campus, is urgently needed by the Canadian Red Cross.

During the blood drive this year, three trophies are up for competition. First, a keg of Alberta's finest goes to the engineering section first to register a 100% donation. Second is the Ash trophy, monument to a twenty year old competition between Medicine and Engineering. Third, and most important, is the Corpuscule Cup, which is given to the campus with the highest percentage donation, taking size into account.

This cup is perennially won by the University of Saskatchewan, which annually gives a scaled donation of about 130%. Last year, our donation was 38%, which works out to about 62% on the scale. A 50% donation and this year's objective would come to about 100% on this scale.

Lampard summarized by saying that he hoped we would "accept and heed this challenge in the blood drive of 1963 and, while helping the Red Cross to meet its urgent need for blood, for the first time bring the Corpuscule Cup to Alberta."

NFCUS Forced To Cancel Flights

OTTAWA (CUP) The props have been knocked from under the National Federation of Canadian University Student's travel program. The federation has learned it must cancel all five of its scheduled group fare overseas travel plans.

The move follows a ruling by the International Air Transportation Association, a cartel of most of the world's major air carriers, that organizations with a membership of more than 20,000 are now ineligible for group fare reductions. NFCUS now has a membership estimated at 106,000.

The new ruling affects only

Charter Flight Interest Shown

University of Alberta students have shown a definite interest in travelling to Europe this summer on the Students' Union Charter Flight.

A maximum of eighty-eight members of the Students' Union will leave Edmonton for London on June 2, 1963 and return on September 6. The application deadline for the Flight is today; however the Charter Flight Secretary, Lyn Irwin, law 2, feels confident that an extension of the deadline can be obtained due to the response which students have shown.

"Nothing definite can be announced at this time, but if the deadline is extended our advertising program will be increased so that every interested student can be acquainted with the details of the Flight," Irwin stated.

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TRAVEL TO EUROPE nixed by Airline cartel. NFCUS bonus plan has been axed and the thousands who planned to spend the summer in Spain will have to work instead or win a scholarship.

photo by Heinz Moller