

COUNCIL REPORT SOBER

Committee Visits Oregon Reports On U.S. Methods

By Wes Cragg

Thursday, Nov. 1 at 10 a.m. a small group interested in various aspects of Student Union operations boarded a T.C.A. Jetliner. Our destination was Eugene, Oregon. Our purpose was to participate in the Region XI Conference of the Association of College Unions. Of the delegation two represented the SUB expansion committee, three represented Students' Council and one, the Union's professional staff. Each member of that delegation went with a specific purpose. Each returned satisfied that his aims had been fulfilled.

Let me begin by describing Region XI of the Association. Its membership includes College unions in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Idaho, Northern Montana, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand. The Association promotes co-operation among the various Unions in its region. It also coordinates exchanges in such fields as entertainment and fine arts. In addition the Association plans and carries out the annual conference. CLEAR UP MISCONCEPTION

It is necessary at this point to clarify a common misconception. A Student Union is to an American what SUB is to U of A students. The operation of their Unions is usually divorced from student government. It is a non-political organization.

In the past, our delegations have returned convinced that the conference is of no value to us. Their attitude was probably caused by a misunderstanding as to the purpose of the conference. They have participated in hopes of gaining new ideas concerning student government. However, the conference is dedicated to improving the operations of student union buildings. SIDE TRIP, TOO

This year the conference was particularly useful, for our purpose was to learn as much as possible about the planning and operation of a building. We were able to talk

at length to many professional Union directors. The information gained would have cost in other circumstances \$100 per day plus expenses.

Four of our delegation, myself included, managed a side trip to Corvallis. The student director of Memorial Union at Corvallis spent two hours showing us around and explaining the operation and organization of that amazing union. This experience alone would have justified the conference expenses.

Over the course of the week-end we were introduced to a rather different conception of a union. In the past the policy behind SUB operations has been that Students' Council will supply the building for student use.

The college union in the States endeavours not only to supply the building, but also to plan to carry out a comprehensive program in that building. Thus the union brings in entertainment, puts up art displays, organizes concerts and tournaments and so on. This attitude has influenced greatly the thinking of our delegation.

SPACE DOES NOT PERMIT

There were many other aspects of the conference worth relating but space does not permit. It suffices to say that many problems were brought out clearly as well as a number of methods of solution. New ideas, new approaches and criticisms of our approach were all to be had for the asking.

ALSO VISIT VANCOUVER

Our trip home was interrupted at Vancouver. Iain Macdonald had made arrangements for a brief conference with the UBC expansion committee which is at about the same stage as ourselves. Thus Sunday afternoon was spent reviewing plans and exchanging ideas.

Sunday evening we entered on the final day of our journey arriving back in Edmonton 5 a.m. Monday morning. The hour of arrival was caused by fog and rain which greeted us as we rode into Edmonton via Greyhound from Calgary airport. My last recollection of that grey morning is one of happy confidence that with a little luck I might wake up in time for Tuesday's lectures.

featurette

TRIBUTE TO A LADY

By J. King Gordon

J. King Gordon is Professor of International Affairs at the University of Alberta. He arrived here this fall after working for a number of years with the United Nations. While at the United Nations, Professor Gordon had some association with the late Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. His tribute follows.

* * *

Last week the world lost one of its great women. Eleanor Roosevelt died at the age of 78 at her home in New York on November 7.

In her way, Eleanor Roosevelt became one of the living institutions of our time. But she was a very human person.

As wife of the President, she played her part in an efficient and, indeed, unique way. She was not a glamorous first lady and Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a massive enough figure to fill all the limelight there was. But behind the official hostess of the White House was an active woman leading a life of her own.

UNEMPLOYED AND DISILLUSIONED

She wrote a daily column for a newspaper syndicate and a monthly page for a national magazine. She lectured and travelled. And there was scarcely a liberal cause in those critical depression years in which Eleanor Roosevelt was not involved—whether it had to do with the miners' housing conditions in West Virginia, the position of Negroes in the South, share croppers and migrant workers, or the plight of unemployed and disillusioned youth.

Her activities were often an embarrassment to Roosevelt's political opponents and sometimes their delight.

When Roosevelt died, Eleanor

Roosevelt retired for a time from public life. But when she emerged it was as if she had been reborn. The United Nations was holding its first session and President Truman had appointed Mrs. Roosevelt as a member of the US Delegation With Special Interest in the Commission on Human Rights.

NEVER BORED

This work at the United Nations to most people would have seemed a full-time job. Not to Mrs. Roosevelt. She kept up her other work—her writing, her lecturing, her massive correspondence.

And she was always open to people who sought her advice. She wrote once: "I have never known what it was like to be bored or to have time hang heavily on my hands. It has always been difficult to find time to do the things I want to do."

I was in Paris in 1948 at the time of the Third General Assembly of the United Nations. I had asked Mrs. Roosevelt if she would appear with me on my CBC program and she agreed.

A time and place were set for meeting before the broadcast, making allowance for a preliminary discussion and the long, tortuous descent into the lower basements of the Palais de Chaillot where the studio was located.

NOT MUCH TIME

I was at the door of the Palais fifteen minutes before broadcast time as had been agreed. No Mrs. Roosevelt. Five minutes passed. Then ten. Finally Mrs. Roosevelt stepped out of a car and hurried to meet me, full of apologies for having been held up.

I wanted her to speak about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was then in its last stages of discussion, and what it might mean for the people of the world. I gave her all the time, since we had just four minutes.

We arrived at the studio with

less than a minute to go. I made my introduction and Mrs. Roosevelt began. She spoke without notes in her characteristic way, with short pauses and an occasional nervous half-laugh. But what she said was clear, direct, well-ordered and drove logically to a conclusion. She stopped and I thanked her and signed off. I glanced at the clock: there were just three seconds to spare.

With the coming of the new administration in 1952, Mrs. Roosevelt lost her place on the American delegation. But this, so far from ending her career, opened up a new one.

She began a series of trips to various parts of the world and visited those countries whose delegates she had met at the United Nations. She made a point of meeting people where they lived and worked, in their villages and factories, in their schools and churches.

UNPREPARED AMERICAN

I heard her speak to a group of teachers shortly after her return from one of these trips. She spoke sadly of how unprepared Americans abroad were to understand the peoples and the cultures in the lands where they were stationed, and insisted that this kind of preparation had to begin in the schools.

A couple of months ago I was hurrying through the doors of the International Affairs Building on the United Nations Plaza in New York and nearly bumped into an elderly lady who was hurrying out. I stopped and apologized. Mrs. Roosevelt smiled, said a few words to me and went on her way.

Mrs. Roosevelt was always in a hurry. At 78 she must have known that she did not have time to do all the things she wanted to do.

Adlai Stevenson summed it up when he said: "She spent her life lighting candles rather than cursing the darkness."

Whatever became of:

G. Fawkes,

CLASS OF '08?



Voted the student likely to rise highest in his class, Guy will be remembered for his major thesis "The Raising and Lowering of Buildings by a Revolutionary Method". Cognizance was taken of this project by Parliament. Always keenly interested in problems of rapid movement of mass, Mr. Fawkes became attached to an early space programme which failed due to non-ignition of the propellant. Results of some of his earlier experimental space work are clouded due to excessive blast-off. However—who knows?—due to good old Guy, this college might well have been the first to put a man on the moon. Conclusive evidence must await more sophisticated lunar exploration.

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