

Impressions of Senate Debate on McCarthy

by ALLAN MARSHALL

PART I

I went down to Washington on the last day of general debate on the resolution to censure Senator McCarthy, and the first day of voting. The galleries had been packed on the first day of debate, much less so on later days, although McCarthy supporters were still coming. (Does the losing side fight harder?) On the day I was there the galleries were full but no more. To get in, I needed a pass from the office of a Maryland Senator. This was on the third floor of the Senate Office Building, a sort of monumental Italian Renaissance rectangular doughnut. There had been talk of severe inspection of all visitors after the shooting in the House of Representatives last year. The only precaution they took with me consisted of asking me for my address perhaps John Hopkins University sounded safe.

Outside the Capitol stood a large group of newspaper photographers. I asked what was going on, and they told me that they were waiting for a car to bring a batch of pro-McCarthy petitions, but that is putting it mildly. The petitions arrived later, while I was in the Senate chamber, in an armoured car, no less, and protected by guards carrying loaded revolvers. They got no farther than the entrance hall in that style: it is against the rules to bring weapons into the Capitol, and the Capitol police stopped them. The petitions, however, got farther than the guards. A few of them were shown to Vice President Nixon, while he was off the floor. I don't know if the Senators saw them or not. At any rate, they did not cause any debate on the floor, except for a request that the Sergeant-at-Arms look into the matter of the armed guards.

The Senate sits in a small room, but it is surrounded by wide galleries, therefore, looking into the Senate chamber is like looking into the top of a shallow box. The colour scheme is unusual, and restful. The floor is covered with a patterned mauve carpet, the walls are pastel green if I remember correctly, the presiding officer's chair is set in a recess of dark stained marble, the ceiling is off white, and the desks are mahogany. There are sofas for the senators at the edge of the chamber, and the atmosphere is rather cosy. The senators talk to one another rather than orate, and debate is rather informal even though the parliamentary rules are strict and well enforced.

The senators sit in a horseshoe formation: four rows, cut in half by an aisle to separate Democrats

(on the left) from Republicans (on the right). The majority and minority floor leaders have the best seats: first row on the aisle, left and right. Senator Knowland of California, the Republican floor leader, is tall, well built, with a good speaking voice, impressive manner, and (this time) a bad case. He decided at the last minute not to go along with the McCarthy resolution: rather a blow for Eisenhower. His disputes with the Administration are driving him over toward the right wing. A little later, Senator Johnson of Texas, the Democratic floor leader, (tall, thin, with grizzled hair and a small bold spot, a quiet voice, a mild manner, and soberly dressed) got into the debate. He said that he would vote for censure. Both of them stated their opinions as announcements, so I gather that they had not got into the debate before. I must say that I am rather surprised to learn that in one of the most important senatorial debates (the senators knew it was important and said so repeatedly), the two most important senators took no part in it whatever until the end: one having just made up his mind and other speaking only because he disagreed with the first. Neither made any attempt to convince the other senators, and neither went into the merits of the case except that Knowland suggested that the Senate had no authority to censure McCarthy for acts committed in an earlier Congress. It is disappointing to see senators trying to get out of a debate: they ought to be getting into it.



Campus Comments

What's Your Opinion of the New Canteen?

In my opinion, the renovated canteen is a decided improvement over the old one. The color scheme is pleasing, and the atmosphere is ever so much more cheerful. Most important of all, it is clean, and to keep it that way, I have one suggestion—that the floor be washed once a week. The new set-up is much easier on the waitresses who don't have to travel so far.—Lalia Dauphinee.

The new canteen is definitely better in many respects. It seats many more people, and the table arrangement allows you to get together with your friends with less conflict and congestion than in the old canteen. Various campus groups can get together for meetings with more success than before. There is only one criticism I have to offer—there is still not enough counter space and thus the service is no faster than before.—Anne Churchill.

I agree with most people that the new setup in the new canteen is very good, and I think that when we get more used to it, it will be better. Now, however, the students are inclined to stay around the counter when just running in for a bottle of pop or a bottle of milk. This causes congestion at the counter—the students should move to a table immediately and make room for someone else. One thing I don't like is the idea of chocolate milk going up to 13 cents—true, you can get your refund on the bottle, but sometimes it takes so long that it's not worth the effort.—Julie Dobson.

The new canteen looks pretty good to me in a lot of ways, but I still think there could be some improvement. I wish there was some place to hang your coat, because I usually end up slinging it over the table or else on the back of a chair, with the coat-tails hanging in the dirt. This idea of chocolate milk costing 13 cents doesn't appeal to me, because I usually feel too cheap to go and ask for a nickel back. However, some fellow with ambition could make a living off the canteen by taking a basket, collecting all the bottles and cashing in.

—Maurice Lloyd

THE KING'S COLUMN

The post-mortems having been attended to quickly, King's men and women showed their customary resilience last week as they bounced back from their brooding states to resume the cheerful, carefree routine of student life. No organized activities had yet been resumed for the winter term but it was expected that another week would have a different tale to tell.

Among the many who took up a station at King's following the Christmas holidays was a distinguished newcomer, Rev. John Hibbotts. Having recently completed extensive post-graduate studies at Oxford, he joined the divinity faculty this month and became one of the youngest priests to hold a post on a teaching faculty in the Anglican Church in Canada.

The chapel, library and dining room were all functioning on

schedule as soon as the students got back. Classes also resumed at once and, in no time at all, the last tangible link with the leisure and gaiety of the holidays was snapped.

The re-organization of student activities for the new term was being eagerly awaited, however. The inter-bay debating schedule for January and February will probably be posted by the time this column appears, as the first debate is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 16, and King's is also looking forward to three MIDL debates, two at home and one away.

The first social event of the new term took place last Saturday evening when the President, Rev. Canon H. L. Puxley, and Mrs. Puxley were at home to the faculty and students of the university. It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion for the students, many of whom were meeting Canon and

Mrs. Puxley for the first time. In his first year at the university the president has shown a praiseworthy interest in student affairs and has endeared himself to all by his untiring efforts to become fully acquainted with each individual student, necessarily a long process at King's, which is occupied by well over 100 students.

Meanwhile, plans are going ahead for the first student council dance of the term, according to committee chairman, Graham Laing. Mr. Laing, working tirelessly to assure that everything is shipshape, assures us the dance will be one of the highlights of the season. The dance is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 28. Music on that occasion will be provided by the orchestra of Les Single. Dave Millar, Charlie Piercey, Kathy Gosnell and Jessie Drysdale make up the committee.

The sport program is expected to get under way this week. On the varsity basketball front, at least,

Fresh Out of Ether

by ARCADES AMBO

WHAT ABOUT GREEK LETTER SOCIETIES?

Among the many fraternities and sororities located in the Halifax area are seven fraternities and two sororities, composed basically of Dalhousie men and women, but definitely unrecognized officially by the university as being representative of or associated with the university, or intended as campus organizations.

Yet, the average student and citizen of Halifax considers them a part of the university. No matter how sincere the desire to leave them unattached from university life, they appear to be very much a part of it.

CUP Takes a Stand

In recent months, the policies and practices of these groups have come in for much discussion throughout Canada and the United States—both internally and by outside interested groups. Probably of greatest and most direct interest to university students was the main resolution of the Committee on Editorial Policy which was unanimously presented to the 1953-54 Canadian University Press Conference in Toronto. The resolution stated, "Be it resolved that the national conference of the Canadian University Press urges that member papers take an editorial stand against racial discrimination in all campus organizations, including Greek letter societies, and urge these societies on Canadian camps to present a strong, united, anti-discrimination front at their inter-national conferences." And this resolution was passed by the large number of delegates composed of the editors and their assistants of nearly every University newspaper across Canada representing over 40,000 Canadian university members.

The Maritime Attitude

East of Montreal, discussion of racial discrimination or color prejudice is almost "taboo", and unlike our fellow collegians in the rest of Canada we are afraid to voice our sincere convictions.

Several of the fraternities and sororities which have local chapters have written into their constitutions clauses which permit them to justify any discriminatory tendencies by quoting the text of their constitutions. In this regard we should point out that by discrimination we don't mean exclusiveness or selectivity inasmuch as we feel that a group of persons with similar interests have every right to establish and maintain a society to foster their special mutual interests. From a financial aspect, while expensive, the local fraternities are certainly nowhere as open to criticism for financial exclusiveness as those of our Upper Canadian universities or many of those in the New England and Southern states.

Can It Be Done?

On Page 43 of the Canadian University Press Conference report the editorial policy committee also noted, "Fraternities are frequently guilty of racial discrimination and such discrimination is often demanded by their own society constitutions."

A good deal of the attitude of the local fraternities has been excused on this ground. In comment it may be observed that if members of individual chapters were sufficiently anxious to open the

doors of their fraternities to all, regardless of race or religion, (as most of them say they are) they would instruct their delegates to their national or international fraternity conferences to take a firm stand on this issue, and if the majority of an adequate number of fraternities really wanted to do something about it—that aim could be achieved almost immediately regardless of extra pressures exerted by chapters from certain territorial areas of the United States.

It may also be observed that even strong resistance from alumni members of fraternities to contemplated policy changes could be eliminated within a maximum of three decades with the rise of a new generation of modern-thinking youth.

To those local groups who proudly announce that their organizations have no clauses which may be interpreted in a manner which will excuse a discriminatory practice the question may be put, "Why is your fraternity or sorority void of members belonging to certain specific groups which represent a sufficient portion of the student body and as individuals are adequately eligible to render their total absence highly irregular?"

Cold Hard Facts

It is no longer fashionable to be discriminatory. Since the days of the Ku Klux Klan and Naziism up to our most recent ban on racial segregation by the United States Supreme Court there has been a growing trend toward a realistic and rational attitude regarding racial and religious discrimination which, after all, is a product of an unreasoning emotionalism. We could find no better support for the foregoing views than the recent decision of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. to encourage churches, "To venture more courageously into racial and cultural inclusion and repudiate completely all forms of racial discrimination". The National Council represent more than 35 million Protestant members.

Although it is generally acknowledged that fraternities and sororities have no religious affiliations, it must be admitted as cold, hard, scientific fact that while those who exclude Negroes and Orientals do so on a racial basis, those who exclude Jews or Gentiles as the case may be, do so on a religious basis.

In either case we feel that the majority of the local fraternity and sorority members agree with the sentiments of the man who said, "The democratic world has

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Feature Editorial

The above article is the first in a series, written exclusively for the Gazette by a former Dalhousian, Allan Marshall, who is now studying at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. While at Dalhousie Mr. Marshall distinguished himself in the study of physics, history, political science and economics, proving his ability to discuss the above issue.

There are one or two positions available on the features pages for reporters, who are interested in this type of work. Salary is a maximum of 25 pts. per annum, depending upon the amount and quality of the article submitted. For further information see the feature editor.

If from time to time you read an article on the feature pages with which you disagree, remember that these pages express student opinions, that should be respected as such, apart from whether you agree with the expressed opinion or not. It would be a poor student newspaper that would curb a student from submitting constructive criticism on various aspects of student affairs. Since they are opinions, however, the reader should not take it for granted that these are necessarily the opinions of the editorial staff of the Gazette.

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