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## LIBERTY FOR STUDENTS, TOO

*"The following editorial was printed in the Ottawa Citizen."*

Voices have been raised in Canada in condemnation of the decision of the National Federation of Canadian University Students to join the International Union of Students which meets at Prague and includes representatives from universities in countries with semi-Communist governments.

Canadian students who went to an international gathering at Prague last summer found the event interesting and stimulating. In voting 14 to 4 for affiliation, their federation feels it desirable for students of different countries to become acquainted irrespective of politics.

Dr. A. E. Kerr, president of Dalhousie University, defending the students' decision, makes it clear that the federation is an independent organization whose views and opinions it is not the business of a university to control.

Championing academic freedom as this newspaper has lately emphasized it, Dr. Kerr declares: "It is not in the authentic university tradition, especially in the democratic countries, to endeavor to interfere with freedom of speech or action on the part of students within the wide limits permitted by the reasonable requirements of discipline. On the contrary, universities have encouraged students to satisfy themselves as to the truth of things and to bring a critical judgement to bear on all disputed issues."

Admirably said. Obviously a refusal to allow students to join an international body because it has some Communist members would logically involve Canada's refusal to join the United Nations for exactly the same reason.

If Canadian students cannot hold their own in discussions with those who debate a different ideology, then the relevant conclusion is that the universities have failed in the duty of teaching them to think for themselves.

## EDITOR'S MAILBOX

Dear sir,

With reference to the letter by L. V. Blofield, who "is neither a Fascist or a Werewolf" but is obviously a misinformed student of political science or even a maliciously-informed student of persecution with all its subtle arts, some of which he has apparently acquired, whether intentionally or otherwise.

Blofield's knowledge of history is accurate as far as it goes, but unfortunately, it doesn't go far enough. Historically, it is a matter of opinion as to whose ancestors give modern people the right to claim the Holy Land, although a Jewish bid, on such grounds, would go back a little further than the poor Arabs who "by accident of birth, had been born in Palestine as had your ancestors for the past two thousand years". Using such a basis

for a claim to the Holy Land, our poor ancestors had been born in Palestine for the past five thousand years or so. 'nuff said!

"You must make way for an alien people", Mr. Blofield next states in holding the Arab case, the people who are "after all doing little more than fight for their birthright". Surely Mr. Blofield was just a slight bit absent-minded, in making such remarks, otherwise he would be aware of certain historical facts, which, I must admit, are quite insignificant when compared with such authoritative statements, but nevertheless, facts which I managed to discover after diligent searching.

The so-called Arab birthright dates back the great total of about 30 years, as far as I can make it, since prior to 1917, it is rumoured that a strange race

of people, the Turks, probably unknown to Mr. Blofield, are said, by some writers of admittedly little consequence, to have been the proprietors of Palestine and all the other lands of Arab birth in the region.

Furthermore, when Britain made her promises, both to Jews and to Arabs around 1919, a certain gentleman, known as Prince Feisal, who was merely one of the top leaders of the Arab world, made a statement and I fear he failed to send a copy to Mr. Blofield, which statement might have clarified the Arab attitude towards the birthright situation.

Prince Feisal stated, referring to the Jewish people-- "We welcome our cousins home". So much for Mr. Blofield's birthright.

Has Mr. Blofield heard of the McMahon promise made to the Arabs when England agreed to give the Arabs a homeland, namely Arabia, among other places such as Iraq, Syria, etc. When England, through her representative, McMahon, drew up the agreement with the Arabs, this agreement expressly stated, in terms understood by even the simplest of people, that the Arabs were NOT to get Palestine, NOR Transjordan for that matter, which they now have.

Mr. Blofield's concern over the American Indian, I must confess, deeply moved me, and showed his true democratic spirit. I, along with Al Capp (his recent portrayal of the American Indian) in the L'il Abner strip) feel he has a legitimate claim and am quite willing to support such a claim if he is prepared to press it.

Then again, Mr. Blofield probably just got his ENGLISH mixed up when he confused 'reservations' and 'ghettos'. After all, we have his word for it that he is neither a fascist nor a werewolf, and who else but such characters could make such a statement without malicious intent. I sincerely believe Mr. Blofield let his ENGLISH slip slightly, nothing more than that.

With reference to the power of the Jewish press, I need but refer Mr. Blofield to the pages of his daily Halifax newspapers.

Mr. Blofield is so concerned with the harming of the Arab birthright, perhaps he might find a small space in his heart to justify the claim of the Jewish birthright, if only to the extent of 5000 sq. miles of Palestine. After all, 37,000 sq. miles of Transjordan were completely liberated by 12,000 Jewish soldiers, while the main organized Arab strength was turned against the Allies. Surely the Jews deserve at least a reservation, which is about all we are offered, in the form of a partitioned Palestine.

Remember, Mr. Blofield, fourteen Arab liberals, their only liberal leaders, who have spoken in opposition to Arab control of Palestine, have been assassinated for their opinions, favouring the Jews.

And remember, Mr. Blofield, it was merely the Greek Catholic Archbishop of Lebanon (rumoured to contain a few Arabs) who stated-- "the fascist moslems who would take over Palestine represent Aggression; the Jewish people represent Civilization and we welcome them to Palestine"

Do likewise, Mr. Blofield; do likewise!!

DON HARRIS

(Continued on page 7)

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