

CHAPTER EMBRACES BOWDOIN PLAN

Next year the chapter will participate in a program designed primarily to aid international understanding and to acquaint American college students with the problems and viewpoints of students from other lands. This movement, now in either the planning or active stages on several eastern campuses, is sponsored by the Institute of International Education and is referred to as the Bowdoin plan, for it was at Bowdoin College that the first interest was shown and action initiated.

The need for a program such as this is severe since the number of foreign students studying in American Colleges and Universities has dwindled from the healthy abundance of a few years ago to a pitiful few today. This retrogression is not at all due to a lack of interest on the part of our foreign contemporaries, but is attributable to a lack of funds as a result of the war and the consequently meagre rate of monetary exchange. The Bowdoin Plan removes this large obstacle by soliciting the joint cooperation of different colleges and their various Fraternities.

According to the proposals of the plan, each Fraternity is asked to take in a student from a country in Europe or South America *of its own choice* and to defray his room and board expenses for a one year period. The college is asked to provide free tuition for as many students as its Fraternities accept. The Institute of International Education serves as the coordinating body, promoting the program here and carefully screening the candidates abroad.

Student Chosen from Denmark

At Union the program has been well accepted; all save three of the Fraternities with houses have made plans to include a foreign scholar in their next year's activities. At Alpha Delta Phi it was unanimously voted to accept the plan and it was decided that we would prefer to have a student from Denmark with us next year. If this is not feasible, our second choice is a visitor from Norway, with Switzerland running third.

A LETTER FROM GERMANY

Jamie Dennis received a letter from Alumnus Brother T. D. Palmer '18 who is at the moment in Germany with the Bi-Partite Control Office. The letter was dated April 20th and contains so many interesting observations on life in Germany that it was thought advisable to reprint most of it in this sheet.

"From where I sit the battle for Germany now taking place may be the decisive struggle in the great political and economic war we are engaged in. Our struggle with Germany has not to date resulted in too many victories, but we have to increase our efforts, for the result is so important to us in the States and to the world.

The formation of the Western European Bloc, with Western Germany a part, and possibly the Scandinavian countries will help providing it embraces political and military as well as economic considerations. We will, of course, have to be tied into it in some definite way. I view what may come as a union of Western European States such as Churchill talked about. The Marshall plan will, of course, help but it is a gamble. So will some sort of selective service and universal military training in the U. S. It is also essential that we keep our military in Germany and strengthen it. These will tend to slow down the Russians but will not stop them.

Western Germany, including the French Zone, will have to be organized politically as well as economically. I believe it will in fact become a nation again before very long, except for Eastern Germany which has been lost to Russia.

Someone recently said that "Democracy" in Western Germany is a debased political currency. I would not put our efforts on that level, but we do find a "Communist Democracy" and a "Western Democracy" fighting with each other with most of the Germans watching the

show from the side lines. I do not feel we will effectively be able to install our ideas of democracy on the German people. Certainly nearly three years of occupational effort has not materially overcome many of the indoctrinations of Hitler and Goebbels. A good example is the continuance of strong anti-semitism. The big mistake in the German's minds is losing the war—not starting it.

While the anti-occupation spirit in the Western zones is at present lulled by fear of Russia, it is also true that an increasing number of Germans, particularly workers in factories, are being taken in by the lies told to them by the Communists.

There is little chance of growth of democratic political institutions without industrial recovery. There is no chance of overcoming the "all hope lost" attitude one encounters everywhere in Germany without it.

Politically, financially, spiritually and partially economically Western Germany today is still bankrupt. Particularly discouraging is the lack of progress in training children and adolescents in democratic thinking as these are the future leaders of Germany.

However, in spite of the present situation I firmly believe that, given a worthwhile currency and ability to buy necessities with it, a large proportion of Western Germany's ills will disappear and we will witness an upwards surge in industry that will surprise us. When and if that comes Germany will play a most important part in European recovery.

Russia's attitude towards Western Germany is naturally uppermost in our minds over here. The Germans especially, but the English and Americans as well, have a bad case of the jitters, but are keeping calm.

Serious border incidents are increasing and acts of terror, including kidnappings, beating, and threats against non-communists in the Russian Zone and Berlin Sector multiply.

The present lack of passenger train transportation out of Berlin, anonymous telephone calls to wives of American officers and civilians advising them that their husbands may disappear anytime, and numerous other actions on the part of the Soviets or Soviet sympathizers

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