

St. John's Collegian

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War Meeting

If you haven't heard it already the joke about the Sunday night meetings is: "Whose turn to talk about cartels is it tonight?" In an unconscious way that makes an accurate mot, for the question of cartels has been examined this year by people who could least inaccurately be described as political historians, lawyers, economists and philosophers, who spoke without over-emphasizing the truth in any one interpretation. That this danger has been avoided is to credit of the group in charge of the meetings.

It isn't difficult to imagine the absurdities which could have been put forth to stop our thinking about the problem of collectivization of industries on an international scale on any other than one level. An economist alone could say: the maldistribution of technological skills and potential outlets for them has resulted in the situation which cartels are aiming to cure. Their method is objectionable to anyone wanting economic democracy, therefore cartels must be stopped. A lawyer could plea for good laws which would make it possible to prosecute the offending corporations who are unfairly competing with smaller groups. Combining the bad features of the advertisements and learned articles in the current periodicals one would think that the growth of cartels is due to the swinging of the pendulum of history from nationalism to internationalism, that we are becoming international minded with the aid of those wonderful maps published in *Time*, *Life*, and *Fortune*, because after all the isolationists in this country never realized that you could fly over the North Pole to Yakutsk like Wendell Willkie.

But the discussions we've heard this year have been sane and the speakers didn't ride every Gallup poll, and Pegler column to Utopia as did some radio discussions.

Mr. Barr continued in this spirit last week making no bones about the fact that he's made the point many times before about federation, but it applies to cartels and deserves to be heard again.

Short of federation of the nations of

the world there is no solution to the problem of the cartels taking over the governments of the world, unless it be Hitler's plan of conquering the world and enforcing peace by machine guns. When institutions cease to meet the needs of the people who brought them into being, new institutions which serve the needs are made. To allow cartels to fall into power because of our inaction is as bad as allowing Hitler to conquer. Cartels are organizations linking together a large community of humans that are not governed by their political governments. The system of national sovereignty, a farce to many small states, is largely irrelevant to the economic problems of our times, as was Feudalism to the needs of its age when trade developed because of the opening of the Mediterranean to the Christian world.

Town Meeting

Thinly disguised as a town meeting two dozen Annapolitans walked up the steps of McDowell to room 24 Tuesday night, sat down like the seniors, and expressed much confusion. Not a seminal book of our civilization but taxes and inflation was the topic with Randolph Evernghim Paul, general counsel to the Treasury Department, as speaker.

Breaking many tender hearts by stating that the "pay as you go" tax plan is very unimportant to the problem of preventing inflation, Mr. Paul outlined the difficulties of absorbing the excess purchasing power made available by increased civilian income and decreased civilian supplies. In 1944 one hundred billion dollars will be spent for military goods by the government; about thirty-five billions will be collected by taxes, the rest by borrowing in the form of War Bonds and other government securities, all of which increase the national debt. England and Canada pay fifty-seven per cent of their current expenditures from taxation, much more than our thirty-four per cent. We are leaving the debt to be paid later.

The amount of money left in circulation which is not being saved or taxed and is left to buy goods that ex-

ceeds the supply of good available for civilians, is terrifying according to Mr. Paul. Forty-five billions must be absorbed by additional taxes and saved to prevent inflation in 1943. A potential pressure of forty-five billion dollars hangs over our system of price ceilings and can easily make the black market a reality.

In this context the Ruml plan or any other pay as go scheme is relatively insignificant as it will only increase tax collections two billion at the maximum. "I approve of simplifying the tax collection and putting it on a current basis, but months have been wasted by discussing how we will collect taxes instead of from whom." Collecting taxes at the source by wage deductions is effective and reduces purchasing power. Used badly, however, it is a potential danger to our political system. What must be decided is where can the money be collected: from what income groups can we collect an increased tax load.

The incomes of over five thousand a year and under are not a threat to inflation, but for morale purposes adjustments should be made to reduce disparity is his personal opinion.

What kind of taxes do we want? Sales, increased income rates, spendings or compulsory savings? The Treasury is opposed to a sales tax because it is regressive: takes greater percentage of poorer man's income than richer. Paul has long advocated a tax on spending which would not have the objectionable features of being regressive or too complicated. At the end of the year the amount of money on hand and capital expenditures would be computed, after making an allowance of about one thousand dollars for necessary expenses, that total would be subtracted from the amount of income received in the year and the difference, the amount of money spent for non-necessities, taxed. Of course this would reduce the national standard of living, but in war time that is necessary for income groups above the subsistence level.

A rarely understood objection to the Ruml plan—Beardsley Ruml of St. John's board of visitors and governors and Macys—was explained by Mr.

Paul. The point was that it would create a redistribution of our wealth from the lower income groups to the higher by cancelling taxes on incomes that can not bear an increase in tax rate while the lower groups would be required to pay more taxes. When the Dean, Amherst, '16, doubted that anyone would save any money by the cancelling of past taxes to go on a current basis, Mr. Paul, Amherst, '11, thought the Dean had "poor conceptualisms." Mr. Alexander Meiklejohn, Amherst President from 1912 to '24, was present but didn't comment.

Mr. Paul appeared to enjoy the quizzing by small town financiers, even when they disagreed before they knew of what they dissented.

Spring Show

Artists in the college community will exhibit at the spring show opening this Saturday in the Junior Common Room. At 4:00 guests of the sponsors will see for the first time pastels, gouaches, mobiles and collages by St. Johnnies who have forsaken liberal arts for fine. After that the exhibition will be thrown open to the public for two weeks, when anyone can come to buy or gander.

Arts

Whether or no the story can be told now doesn't matter. R. K. O. is telling it anyway. It is the story of Amelia Earheart Putnam, with Rosalind Russell as a reasonably accurate facsimile. Fred MacMurray is the navigator, and Herbert Marshall (that old dog) an airplane designer. Love and Japanese bases get all mixed up, and Miss Russell sails into the sunset. It is called *Flight for Freedom*.

At long last *The Human Comedy* is here to bring additional spring into our already over-crowded lives. We leave Mr. Saroyan's latest in love with everybody, especially the beautiful people with the light coming out of them. (You know who we mean?) Mickey Rooney is one of these. Mr. Saroyan would have us believe. We would like to see *him* blacked-out. This picture is full of what those who should know better call "moments." Also Frank Morgan.

We thought it would never happen, but at last Frankenstein meets the Wolf-Man (in the picture of the same name). Things, we guarantee, happen. This is sensational.

Calendar

St. John's College

Fri., May 7 — Sat., May 15, 1938

Friday, May 7:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
7:00-7:45 P. M.
7:00-8:00 P. M.
8:00 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Chorus Rehearsal
Bible Class
Formal Lecture — *On Truth* — Leonard Eslick

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall
McDowell 21
Great Hall

Saturday, May 8:

8:30 A. M.
9:30 A. M.-12:00 M.
4:00 P. M.
8:30 P. M.-1:00 A. M.

Chapel Service
Athletics
Formal Opening of Art Show—by invitation
Movie—*The Cat and the Canary*—and informal dance
Recorded Concert

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Junior Commons
Iglehart Hall
Humphreys Hall

3:00-5:00 P. M.

Sunday, May 9:

8:00 P. M.

Revolution: War and Peace. Series II, No. 11

Woodward Hall

Monday, May 10:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
7:00-7:45 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Chorus Rehearsal

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall

Tuesday, May 11:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
5:00-6:00 P. M.
7:00-8:00 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Recorded Music
Bible Class

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall
McDowell 21

Wednesday, May 12:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
7:30 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Cotillion Board Meeting

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Paca Social Room

Thursday, May 13:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
7:30 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
College Meeting

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Great Hall

Friday, May 14:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
7:00-7:45 P. M.
7:00-8:00 P. M.
8:00 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Chorus Rehearsal
Bible Class
Formal Lecture—*Palestrina's Missa Brevis* St. John's College Community Chorus

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall
McDowell 21
Great Hall

Saturday, May 15:

8:30 A. M.
9:30 A. M.-12:00 M.
10:30 A. M.

Chapel Service
Athletics
Faculty Meeting

Great Hall
Gymnasium
McDowell 24