

Bennington College  
November 17, 1942

A meeting of the College Council was held in the North Dining Room on Tuesday, November 17, at 1:00 p.m. The following members were present: Eleanor Metcalf, Chairman, Mr. Brockway, Geraldine Babcock, Jeanne Gaudy, Mrs. Garrett, Miss Grimwood, Marjorie Handwerk, Miss Peplau, Edith Stevens, Joan Lewisohn (taking Phyllis Preston's place as student representative from the General Meetings Committee).

#### Japanese Student

Eleanor Metcalf read a letter from the Japanese American Student Relocation Council. They wished to know whether or not Bennington College is willing to take a girl of Japanese ancestry, who is an American citizen, as a student.

Eleanor said that the Foreign Student Fund would take care of part of the tuition, and the College would supply the rest. The Relocation Council would pay the board.

The main question was, would the other students feel antagonistic toward the student, or would they accept her? The Council felt that most of the College would accept her, although a few might be antagonistic. Mr. Brockway reminded the Council that the girl would be living among them, but the Council felt that the majority of the College would accept her without hesitation.

The question was raised as to whether a student could be found who would be able to study under the Bennington curriculum, but the Council said that decision would be up to Mr. Jones and Mrs. Garrett.

#### Community Meetings

Two Community Meetings have been planned, one to be held on November 23rd, before the Thanksgiving vacation, and the second to be held on December 14th.

The agenda for the first meeting is 1) Constitutional revisions and 2) Clarification of the policy on pets.

The agenda for the second Community Meeting is not completely planned as yet, but as there seems to be a vague feeling of unrest due to the war among the under classmen, Mr. Jones plans to lead the part of this meeting devoted to the importance of education in wartime, quoting extensively from Raymond Gramm Swing's broadcast upon this subject. The second part of the agenda will be a discussion of the Bennington Farm Project, and the labor situation.

#### Winter Period

Some of the Council felt that the Winter Period should be discussed in the first Community Meeting, but the majority thought it would be too great a load on the agenda. Mr. Brockway proposed a plan whereby faculty representing a certain field of interest would meet in one room at a certain time, and students who were interested could go to them and talk about possibilities for Winter Period. The Educational Policies Committees will continue to work on this idea.

It was also suggested that Mr. Jones might be able to help students plan Winter Period work.

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### Pet Policy

The minutes of the extra meeting of the College Council held on November 9th were read by Eleanor Letcalf.

Plans for the Community Meeting were discussed. Mr. Brockway thought that the history of the policy on pets should be reviewed in the discussion. The College had a hard and fast rule, after the experiences of the second year, that no pets, owned by students, were to be allowed on campus. Last year the question was reopened because of a few students who disregarded the existing law. Now it has become such an issue that it must be brought up again and settled in a final manner.

The Council felt that a mechanism should be set up which would take care of the regulations regarding pets in the eventuality that the College votes for pets on campus. Roughly, the center of control would be the House Council. All applications to have pets would be taken to this body, which in turn would ask that the students in the house into which the pet would be introduced, vote for or against. The vote would then come back to the House Council and the application would be granted or refused, according to the vote in the student house. In case a pet misbehaved, the House Council would have the power to eject it. A petition to have the pet removed would be presented to the House Council from the house into which the pet had been introduced; a vote would then be taken in the student house concerned, and the House Council would act on the decision of this vote. This mechanism would have to be perfected, but it was made as a possible suggestion.

The majority of the College Council felt that little or no mention should be made of a possible mechanism, or, if any mention was made, the term should be left vague. However, the proposed mechanism would suffice if questions were raised as to what sort of a regulating device had been planned.

The Council also felt that many people would vote for pets on campus if it was known that such a mechanism was being considered.

In the Community Meeting, the Council felt that there should be no actual limit as to the length of time that a person should speak, but it must be short. The vote will be a written one. The College Council will count the ballots.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Sigourney, Secretary  
College Council