

The Bennington Weekly

VOL. 2—NO. 4

Tuesday, October 2, 1951

10 Cents

Student House Discussions Supplement Lectures



Indian Students Visiting the College

These are points of interest brought up in some of the morning discussions held in student houses.

Some of the major points under discussion in Canfield House were concerned with Indian economics:

The discussion turned to the reason for capitalism and Western Civilization's industrial system. It was related back to the Protestant reformation in Europe known as Calvinism. It emphasized the doctrine that people who became prominent and wealthy perform a divine mission and are the agents of God on earth. The development of Capitalism easily devolves from this. India, as yet, does not have this desire to be materially wealthy. All she wants is enough to eat.

Thursday's discussion concerned India's political and foreign relations views. It was shown, by the visiting Indian student, that India wanted help unconditionally. They want aid to be given to the mass of people and not to the government. They feel that we give too much help to the government itself and not enough to the Indian people. China's situation was used as an example. We gave to Chiang Kai Shek, but the Chinese people did not benefit by it. India is afraid we will do the same with her.

In Dewey House such questions were raised as: How can Indian government be considered a democracy when it adheres to such undemocratic institutions as the caste system? Why give India a form of government so contrary to the way of life? Mr. Rosinger, our guest Wednesday morning, explained that Indian democracy is not merely an adaptation of American democracy, but rather it is a form molded to suit the needs, (primarily economic) of the country. On the whole, he seemed quite optimistic as to the successful development of India. He feels certain that she has capable leaders who understand the country's problems and who are strong enough to resist outside interference.

The following morning's meeting was concerned with the cultural condition of India. Mr. Bales began with a description of Indian dance. Mr. Boepple contributed information about Indian music. Further discussion brought

out the point that the arts in India had developed simultaneously. In other words, music, lyrics, and movement cannot be isolated or appreciated as single elements, but must be comprehended as an entity. The example was cited of the drummer in the film on Indian music whose performance illustrated this concept of the unity of audio-visual experience.

Mr. Mesini, an Indian student, told the discussion group at Welling House the points on which he differed from Dr. Brown. One of these differences centered around Dr. Brown's discussion of communalism. Mr. Mesini believes that there was no communal conflict before the British entered India. Whatever conflict did exist was of a political nature. Hindus were killed not because they were Hindus but because they were opposed to the Mongol domination. Mr. Mesini tends to stress economic, rather than religious elements, as a major cause for conflict between the Hindus and the Moslems. There were not enough jobs to go around, especially for the educated groups, and the British followed a policy of exploiting this economic conflict.

The morning discussions in connection with the Indian Conference were conducted at Franklin House by Miss Kola Thairani, who is now a graduate student at Syracuse University.

Miss Thairani discussed the education system in India. Usually the first step is to attend a public school which is comparable to our grade school, matriculate private secondary school which is equivalent to our high school and then to enter the University. Only those who can afford it attend the universities as there are no opportunities to work one's way through school.

According to Miss Thairani, India's first need is for food and second for industry. The nationalization of industry in India is progressing very slowly because of the lack of government funds.

The two big political parties in India are the Socialist and the Congress Parties. The Congress Party is now in power. The Communist Party was functioning until 1948 when it was declared illegal because of its subversive activities. According to

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Mademoiselle Opens Concert

Mademoiselle magazine is now accepting applications from undergraduate women for membership on its 1951-52 College Board.

Those interested in competing must contact Mr. Stanbrough no later than Tuesday, October 2.

Girls who are accepted on the College Board do three assignments during the college year. Assignments give College Board Members a chance to write features about life on their campus; to submit art work, fashion or promotion ideas for possible use in *Mademoiselle*; to develop their critical and creative talents; to discover their own abilities and job interests.

College Board Members who come out among the top twenty on the assignments win a *Mademoiselle* Guest Editorship, will be brought to New York next June to help write, edit and illustrate the August College issue. They will be paid a regular salary for their month's work, plus round-trip transportation to New York City.

October 31 is the deadline for applying for the College Board. The application is a criticism of either *Mademoiselle's* August 1951 College issue (see page 355) or the September issue (see page 111). Successful candidates will be notified of acceptance on the College Board the first week in November; the first College Board assignment will appear in *Mademoiselle's* November issue.

Students Invited To Submit Verse

The National Poetry Association invites Bennington students to submit verse for publication in the annual Anthology of College Poetry. There are no charges or fees for inclusion of verse in the Anthology.

The closing date for submission of manuscripts is November 5. Each effort must be on a separate sheet bearing the author's name, home address and college attended. Manuscripts should be sent to the Association, 3210 Selbey Avenue, Los Angeles 34, California.

Benn. And Williams Have A Party

There will be a Bennington-Williams Open House on Wednesday, October 3, in front of Franklin and Welling Houses between four and six o'clock in the afternoon. Beer and potato chips will be served. Williams men will pay an admission fee of fifty cents.

Rec. Council has scheduled a Square Dance for Friday night, October 5, at the Carriage Barn from nine to twelve o'clock. Admission is twenty-five cents.

The date for Fall Dance Weekend has been set for November 3.

18 Roles Cast For Drama Production

The following people were chosen, it was announced today, to play the roles in the two fall productions of the Drama Department: *Antigone* and *The Intellectual Ladies*.

Cast for Antigone

Chorus.....Babs Pavel
Antigone.....Dorothea Harding
Ismene.....Mary Lynn Hart
Nurse.....Dorothy Miller
Haemon.....Colin Craig

Intellectual Ladies

Armande.....Ceci Crane
Henriette.....Joan Maggin
Philamente.....Mimi Tannenbaum
Belise.....Marilyn Bernstein
Chrysale.....Leonard Lesser
Clitandre.....Norman Leger
Artiste.....Colin Craig (tentative)
Trissotin.....Levitt (tentative)
Martine.....Drew Romano
L'Epine.....Carolyn Lissner
Julien.....Kenee De Voe
Notary.....Renee Marron (tentative)
Vadius.....Morris Oliver

NSA Asks 25 Cent Dues

N.S.A. dues will be collected from October 1 to October 5. Twenty-five cents from each student will cover national and regional fees.

Brown, Mayer And Rosinger Give Informative, Inspiring Lectures On India

The first talk in the Bennington Conference on India, given by Dr. W. Norman Brown, supplied the necessary background, both statistical and otherwise, on India and Pakistan.

Dr. Brown was well qualified to speak on the subject. He was the former chairman of the South Asia Regional Studies program at the University of Pennsylvania, Curator of Indian Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Curator of the Oriental Section at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. He is also the author of numerous books on the subject, including the recently published "India, Pakistan, Ceylon," and has contributed frequently to many learned and popular periodicals. The following is a summary of his speech.

India is surrounded by mountains, desert and an ocean. Because of these geographical factors, it has been cut off from the rest of the world and thus has developed a culture of its own.

The area of India is one million, eighty-one thousand, four hundred and one square miles, or roughly one-half the size of the United States. India proper is about three and one-half times the size of Pakistan, but the population is about three times that of the United States. In fact, India is the second largest nation, population wise in the world.

Due partially to this over-population, the people of India are ill fed, ill housed and ill clothed. Thirty per cent. are continually undernourished. Most individual property holdings are small. There are approximately four to seven acres of land to a family, as compared to thirty-five acres in America. Most of the farmers

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Albert Mayer, an American architect, who has been working under the auspices of the Indian government on rural planning projects, last Wednesday evening, in the second speech of the India Conference, outlined to the Community his impressions of India's situation.

Mr. Mayer, commenting on the tremendous amount of work involved in raising the country's standard of living, said that although there was a long way to go, India was the most promising under-developed country he has worked in, and that a very small amount of American manpower can accomplish extremely rewarding results. He cited the recent relaxation of the caste system, which now allows Indians to enter any occupation they wish, and their willingness to support any idea that promises to improve living conditions, as an example of India's new forward attitude.

Mr. Mayer, himself, set up five projects to increase agricultural production, each project comprising an area of 100 villages. Crop yields in these areas increased approximately twenty per cent., after two years all the devastating cattle epidemics had been completely stopped. He acquainted the peasants with the use of medicine, removed their hostility to government employees and, in conjunction with his effort to make the peasants farm more efficiently and with better results, started educating them with film, holding group meetings which gradually turned into combined social gatherings and classes. The problem, Mr. Mayer stated, was not only to increase food output for three years, but to be sure the peasants, roughly comparable to

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Last Thursday night, Mr. Lawrence Rosinger addressed the concluding speech of the 3-day conference on India. Mr. Rosinger, aside from work in journalism, has written various books on China and India, and is considered an authority concerning the problems of the Indian people.

He believes that India desperately needs peace and that if she gets involved in a world war, no one could predict the outcome. It is not only that India is a complex country, but she is in a period of transition. She has had only four years to adjust herself to the problem raised and accentuated by independence. Independence was a common goal to the Indians, and "it seemed a good thing, in fact, it is good," said Mr. Rosinger. But as all the people agree in the goal of independence they disagree with what to do with it.

To belong to the National Congress Party before independence was obtained, meant that you had an excellent chance of going to prison, and getting into all sorts of difficulties. Therefore, only people willing to make sacrifices belonged to it. As independence approached, the Congress Party became the government party and a good many people joined it. As some of them did not feel it sincerely, a few took it for personal advantage, thus creating some differences among the Congress leaders. The Congress Party promised freedom and economic improvements in one way or another. General satisfactory conditions do not exist in India, due to factors beyond the control of any government, and factors with which any government has to deal: Massacres, riots, and unsound decisions. Therefore there is an atmosphere

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EDITORIAL

Now that the Conference on India is over, it might be well to look back and, in true Bennington tradition, evaluate the experience.

The Conference was rewarding practically any way one looks at it. If one wanted to obtain superficial information on India which would be at least better than knowing nothing about it, it was available. If one wanted to learn how to be of aid to the hungry and conflict-ridden nation, a method of finding out was suggested. If one wanted to gain an understanding of the people of India, hearing the Indian students speak provided the first step in that direction.

The selection of India, however, for the subject of the Conference proved enigmatic to many members of the Community who did not know why India was chosen rather than any of the countless other troubled places in the world. Some were dubious as to how much of real value could be learned from a three-day study of infinitely complex India.

The lack of direction did much to dissipate the interest of some students and faculty whose participation consequently was something short of complete.

Another factor which did not lead to maximum benefit from the Conference was the little time allotted for background reading. It was evident in some of the morning meetings that many people's sole source of information was something like "Passage to India" by E. M. Forster or even "Calcutta", starring Alan Ladd. Said one member of the faculty, "There was no preparation. If a week had been set aside with perhaps two days in which to gather material, this Conference may have been more successful; but it is unfair to assume that we could become more interested in the vastness which makes up India when we have almost no background. My major complaint is the time. There was not enough of it set aside to make a real study of the problem."

Had the Administration publicized their reasons for producing a Conference on India, the benefits they hoped would be derived, through a General Meeting or perhaps through mimeographed sheets, the impression that the Conference sprang out from nowhere might have been avoided. Earlier organization allowing for more thorough preparation on the part of both students and faculty would have made more meaningful the lessons learned from the Conference.

In spite of all this, however, it would seem, from enthusiastic comments and thoughtful discussions heard on campus, that much genuine interest in India was stimulated. This, after all, if it is sustained, validates the Conference.

Stella Spanoudaki Is Foreign Student

This year our foreign student is Stella Spanoudaki of Macedonia, Greece. In 1940, Stella's family had to flee from Macedonia to Athens because of the Bulgarian invasion. In Athens she attended the Arsakion High School for Girls and continued her education studying law for two years at Athens University.

At Bennington she is majoring in sociology. She chose to study in America because she admires

the social work system which she would like to apply to Grecian welfare. Because of the three wars that Greece has been involved in, the country is poor and the people underprivileged. After studying our form of welfare, Stella would like to return to Greece and aid in the rehabilitation program. She hopes to contribute to its emotional as well as physical recovery.

"Little Clay Cart" 10th Century Indian Play Proves Charming

by Suki Rayner

A charming production of three scenes from the 10th Century Hindu play *The Little Clay Cart*, was presented in the theatre at 2:30 Thursday afternoon by the College Drama Department. Though the original intention of the Department was to give a reading of the entire play, it was later felt that it would be more valuable to present only three scenes, these to be costumed, set and directed with an eye towards the period and culture from which it was produced. This, I feel, was a good choice since stylization of any sort is difficult to communicate in a reading, without the benefit of set, costumes and stage blocking.

The play derives the greater part of its charm from an odd mixture of worldliness and naivete which were justifiably emphasized under the direction of Leneord Lesser. Adhering to all six rules of Sanskrit maturity which Mr. Lesser enumerated in his prologue to *The Little Clay Cart*, the play contained a wide range of characters from ex-shampooer to courtesan, all ably played by Norman Leger, Colin Craig, John Holabird, Morris Oliver, Joyce Clark, Barbara Pavell, Carolyn Crane, Carolyn Keese, Mary Lynn Hart, Dorothy Miller, Martha Dow, and Marilyn Bernstein. Mr. Lesser' direction, which in this play could so easily have verged on burlesque, hit just the right note of stylization. It is unfortunate that the pronunciation of names could not have been more precise, and that the gestures were Moslem instead of Hindu. Still, the performance on the whole was commendable, from both the stand-point of entertainment, and from successfully demonstrating an idea of the drama of another culture.

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Faculty Concert Scheduled For Sunday

The Faculty concert next week will be a special one held at 5:30 Sunday afternoon, October 7, instead of at the usual day and time. Thereafter, the concerts will be given on each alternate Thursday evening. The program for Sunday will be the Beethoven Septet, Opus 20, and the Schubert Octet, Opus 166. The concert will be given by Orrea Pernel, George Finckel, Joseph Schaaf and Gunnar Schonbeck of the Bennington College Music Faculty, assisted by guest artists Louise Rood, Viola; Norman Pickering, French Horn; Theodore Schultz, Bassoon; and Sydney Weiss, Double Bass.

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Cowley Discusses "Lost Generation"

The "American Values" series will continue this year, with the topic being "Conflicts of Values in Twentieth Century America". The lectures will be given at intervals of three weeks throughout the College year.

Malcolm Cowley, prominent American author and editor, and at one time a member of the Bennington College faculty, will give the first lecture of the new series on October 11th. His subject will be "The Lost Generation", the generation that came of age in the nineteen twenties, right after World War One, and faced the rapidly changing conditions of that era. It was the Scott Fitzgerald age of prohibition, the breakdown of traditional moral values and codes, and adjustment to the changed political and economical situation throughout the world. Mr. Cowley grew up in that era himself, is an authority on the literature of that period, and wrote vividly of it himself in his book, also entitled "The Lost Generation".

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Mr. Boepple Comments On Indian Music

By Elizabeth Lester

Several recordings of Indian music were presented Wednesday afternoon in the Carriage Barn and commented on by Mr. Boepple in connection with the other events of the Conference on India. Of the selections heard, the vocal recordings were extremely interesting and illustrated clearly the essentially homophonic texture of most Indian music. Mr. Boepple pointed out, however, that this observation does not necessarily discount the possibility of contrapuntal features, because often the vocal line will be accompanied by a kind of rhythmic counterpoint in the percussion instruments. He explained how their whole concept of rhythm is dynamically influenced by dance.

Considering next the Indian scale of twenty-two steps, spaced

slightly further apart than our theoretical quarter-tones, Mr. Boepple pointed out that this would presuppose a very extraordinary technique of singing and acute sense of pitch because of the minute difference in pitch. There is almost no vibrato because a system of individual ornamentation is an integral part of the style of their music. There exists a tradition of perhaps one hundred themes which are embellished by the interpreter according to his taste, the most skilled musician being familiar with nearly all of these basic melodies.

Mr. Boepple concluded by remarking on the immense variety of string and percussive instruments, and made general observations on the tone quality of the winds, which, to the western ear sound much less resonant than our own.

Indian Joke

This is a story about an Indian Emperor who forbade music and art:

One day the Emperor saw a funeral procession passing his place. "Whose funeral is this?" asked the Emperor.

"We are burying music which is dead."

"Bury it deep so it may never rise again," said the Emperor.

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Lowell Institute Establishes FM Station

(Reprinted from the New York Times)

A powerful non-commercial FM radio station featuring "live" programs of Boston Symphony Orchestra concerts and of cultural programs provided by Greater Boston universities and colleges will begin broadcasting here October 6.

Ralph Lowell, trustee of Lowell Institute, announced tonight that the station, WGBH, would present on its initial broadcast the first Saturday evening performance of the Boston Symphony's seventy-first season.

The orchestra is affiliated in the new venture with Lowell Institute and the six Boston Universities and colleges that have been members of the Lowell Institute Cooperative Broadcasting Council since it was organized in 1946 to promote adult education by radio and television in the New England area. The participating schools are Harvard, Boston College, Boston University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University and Tufts College.

Affiliation of the Boston Symphony with the council will make available to New England listeners complete "live" broadcasts of the orchestra's concerts for the first time since 1926.

Station WGBH, with studios in Symphony Hall, will operate at 89.7 megacycles on the FM band on channel 209, with 20,000 watts effective radiated power. The broadcast hours will be from 3 to 10:30 p. m. During the symphony season, broadcasts will start at 2:15 p. m. on Fridays and on Saturday nights will run until the close of the symphony program.

Mr. Lowell said the programs would include "regular courses recorded in the classrooms of colleges and universities; forums on world affairs * * * ; comprehensive interpretation of news and even by faculty specialists; full length dramas; * * * educational programs from other colleges and universities throughout the country; and special features from the British Broadcasting Corporation,

Radio-diffusion Francaise, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and other international broadcasting services."

Parker Wheatley, who has been director of the Lowell Institute Cooperative Broadcasting Council since its organization, will serve as general manager of the station. Mr. Wheatley said that the Boston Symphony programs would not be fed to any FM network reaching the New York area.

Tape recordings will be made of a number of educational programs for broadcast over New York's municipally owned station WNYC.

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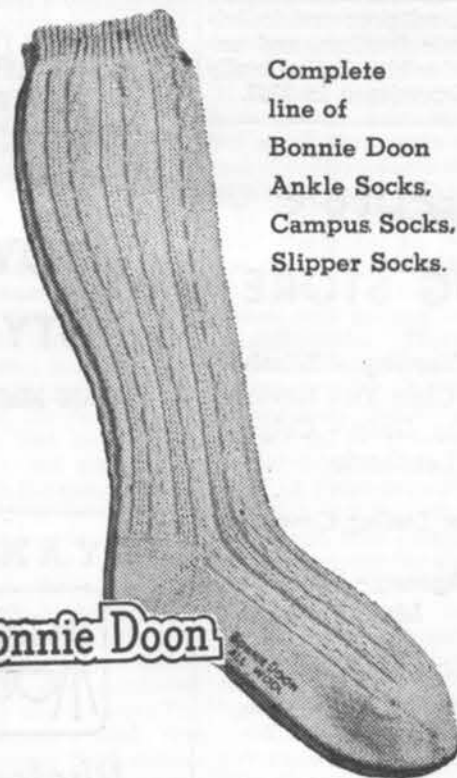
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The First Talk In The Bennington Conference On India

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are in debt. They are, in short, incapable of supplying their own food. It follows that the literacy rate is also low. Only ten to fifteen per cent. of the population is educated.

There are three main cultural groups operating within India today. First, there are the Hindus. Hinduism has existed in India since about twenty-five thousand B. C. It is a way of life more than a religion. The main thesis of Hinduism is non-violence. Another important doctrine, however, is that all men are not created free and equal either spiritually or intellectually. Therefore, the standard of conduct expected from each individual is different. A person born into one caste has certain duties that he is expected to perform, and no others. Hinduism produced its own art form, its own laws, and its own way of thinking.

The second important culture is the Islamic, which has been in existence since one thousand B. C. They believe that "all men are brothers", yet they impose a poll tax on all non-believers. There is a stronger community cohesion in this group, and a greater intertwining of state and religion.

The third, and latest influence is that of the European who came to India concerned with trade rather than conversion. When they interfered, they did it to protect this trade.

The Europeans created much that was worthwhile in India. They brought a certain amount of peace; they created a certain amount of law and order. They also made some improvement in the standard of living, introduced modern western education and taught the English language. However, they did inflict certain injuries. They created the land tenure system which hurt the peasant class. They used her as a source of raw material, which created a rather lop-sided economy. They brought racial prejudice with them.

There are three political forces operating in India at present. First, there is nationalism, which grew out of the clash between the Hindu and the European civilizations. The Moslems were, for the most part, suspicious of nationalism, because in the nineteenth century it took, for the most part, a religious form and was most powerful when lead by religious leaders such as Gandhi. Gandhi and his followers campaigned for political, religious and individual economic freedom, and under his leadership, India finally won its independence in 1947.

The second strong force is Communalism. It is widespread in India today, and might be compared to the situation which would exist if the Negroes, Jews and Californians each organized their own pressure group. It is the loyalty to a group, rather than a state. The Moslems, as the largest minority group, were its strong advocates. They were in favor of it mainly because they resented the loss of power they were suffering as a result of nationalism. This split led to the eventual establishment of a separate Moslem nation, Pakistan. This split nearly caused a civil war, a danger which is not passed even today, as continual bickering goes on between the two nations.

The third important force in India is Modernism, or India and Pakistan versus Europe. India wishes to have a position of importance in the world today. She hopes to achieve this by reconstructing the deficient agricultural, industrial and educational situations.

Certain achievements have already been made. In India, most of the old, individually-ruled Indian states have been incorporated into greater India. India also has set up a secular constitution, which in turn sets up a secular government. The chief accomplishment of Pakistan was the actual setting up of a new nation, in spite of the fact that many important records had been lost. They have even managed to achieve a certain amount of economic stability.

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Mr. Mayer's Lecture

(Continued from Page 1)

U. S. share-croppers, would continue improvements. To do this it was necessary to raise the whole cultural level.

Mr. Mayer stated that the United States' Point Four program hasn't had a chance to do much yet, but that the greatest help that it can do is to improve irrigation. To provide adequately for the population two-thirds of India's arable land should be irrigated, while now less than a fifth of that amount gets enough water. The rest of the land is forced to depend on the highly irregular and inadequate monsoons. At the moment, said Mr. Mayer, Point Four is concentrating on machinery, also a matter of importance, since industry is still in the embryo stage, but not of such pressing importance as to provide enough food for the nation.

Of the internal Communist threat, Mr. Mayer commented that there is no deep basing of it in the people, and that Communists were mostly from the colleges. Since 1947 when India became independent, the Communists have become increasingly unpopular, even in the universities. As long as they only talk about providing food and better working conditions, there won't be much trouble, but, he added, the only way to crush Communism entirely is to show the Indian people by results, that the Indian government and the United States, through Point Four, are really looking out for their welfare.

Student House Discussions

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Miss Thairani, there is no great threat of Communism to India, although conditions exist in which it could conceivably rise. The Socialists are very critical of Nehru's Congress Party, whose foreign policy appears to them to be distinctly pro-American and guided by the Western powers.

In regard to the United States' policy in China, India feels that the United States was wrong not to have recognized the established government whether or not they approved of it. India thinks that the fighting in Korea could have been prevented if the United States had done this. Lately there has been much resentment towards the United States when it did not come immediately to the aid of India in a very serious food crisis. While Congress debated for six months the sending of food to India's starving, India, in desperation, purchased the necessities from Russia and China. Miss Thairani said that it is very hard for the Indian people to forget an incident such as this.

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Mr. Rosinger's Lecture

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of disappointment and disturbance over the present domestic situation.

There was also the formation of another party called the People's Party, which agrees with Nehru's program, itself, but not with the way it is being carried on.

Regardless of the difference of opinion in domestic issues, on foreign policy there is a considerable amount of agreement. The United States has been increasingly critical because of India's international issues and the attitude she has adopted. Mr. Rosinger explained that the Indian position is due primarily to its economic weakness and its need of assistance from the wealthier countries.

For him it is obvious that a country such as India, faced by so many difficulties and not sure of the solution for its problems will not decide her foreign policy in such a way as to involve itself in a war. India is not pro-communistic. The dominant issues are issues of economic improvements and of internal political stability. If other countries want to develop a close relationship with India, the means must be primarily in terms of what will affect her most favorably.

In many respects the people who attended Mr. Rosinger's lecture were somewhat disappointed. They felt that his lecture was quite sketchy and obvious. Instead of his giving a summary of what had already been said, they wanted Mr. Rosinger to explain India's relation with the United States, Russia, and other countries. He did not make any clear categorical statement, and his judgments seemed to be changing from one direction to another, as though there was not enough conviction behind what he was saying.

His topics were primarily based on what had been discussed already; he failed to bring in any new aspect of the Indian situation such as: Japanese Treaty, the wheat which the United States sent, and so forth.

During the discussion period a member of the audience asked the embarrassing question, "On what level do the Indian people place the United States' democracy in comparison to the democracies of other nations?" Mr. Magal, one of the visiting Indian students, answered the question truthfully, considering the advent of a Lincoln, a Jefferson, a Hamilton, by saying that historically speaking the United States' democracy was first on the list. However, as far as today's governments are concerned, Great Britain's democracy rates first place.

Mr. Rosinger's speech ended the conference, by which all the students and visitors had the opportunity to study and discuss the most important political, religious, social, economical problems of India.

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