

Bennington College
November 15, 1940

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, NOVEMBER 12th

The Community Council met in the Committee dining room on Tuesday, November 12th. Present were: Mary Berna, chairman; Florence Booker; Dorothy Coffin; Carol Haines; Joan Hyatt; Ruth McCormick; Lydia Schopperle; Molly Stimson; Nancy Victor; Susan Wlatoh; Jean Davidson; Joan Strong; Mrs. Garrett; Mr. Chapman and Mr. Truman. Charlotte Watson, Sue Hedge and Susan Sigourney came in at 1:30.

Freshman Meetings

The Council was reminded that the last lecture of the series for freshmen will take place this Wednesday night. All freshmen are expected to attend.

War Relief Fund Drive

The Community Chest came in at 1:30 to recommend the canvassing of community sentiment as to the War Relief Fund, and to explain the purpose and method of the Drive which will begin after Thanksgiving. The idea of holding such a drive originated in the Community Chest Committee, consisting of Susan Sigourney, Sue Hedge, Charlotte Watson, Student Treasurer, and Mr. Leigh, ex officio. They felt that there were many people in the community who wanted to contribute to war relief agencies, but found it difficult to select and send contributions to such agencies. The Committee, therefore, is holding this raffle as a facility for those who wish to contribute. Since it is in no way similar to the Community Chest drives, and no specific quota is being set, there is no obligation upon the individual to contribute apart from her own interests.

Mr. Chapman pointed out that the action of the Community Chest Committee in sponsoring such a raffle was inconsistent with its refusal two years ago to raise money for Spanish war relief. He felt that both were partisan activities, yet the Chest had refused to undertake one and was planning to go through with the other. Although the Council recognized this inconsistency, it felt that public opinion in the community justified the projected raffle.

The Chairman then asked the Community Chest whether it wished to obtain the Council's approval of the raffle. But the Committee considered Council approval unnecessary in this case, since a regular college fund drive was not involved. There was general disagreement on this point. Mrs. Garrett mentioned that whether it concerned the college budget or not, such a drive may be handled by any committee as long as it is first passed by the Council. She felt that the Community Chest was no different from any other sub-committee in this respect. Because neither the Council nor the Chest could present definite evidence on this point, it was requested by the Council that the Chest Committee investigate the matter and report back to the Council next week. For the time being, however, in order to facilitate the planning of the raffle, the Council made and passed a motion approving of the raffle.