

THE KEY REPORTER

THE PHI BETA KAPPA NEWS MAGAZINE

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SUMMER · 1945

Faculty to Assist Board of Regents; Texas Chapter Passes Resolution

The faculty of the University of Texas voted March 13 to elect a committee of 12 to assist the Board of Regents in selecting a permanent president.

The faculty, in accepting this invitation of the board, voted 258 to 17 that its acceptance implied "no recession from the principles" which it has upheld since the regents-Rainey controversy began in November.

The organizations investigating the situation had not completed their reports when the REPORTER went to press.

The Alpha of Texas of Φ B K, at a called meeting on February 15, passed the following resolution:

As a result of sharp differences of opinion on fundamental issues of academic procedure and administration among the agencies charged with the conduct of its affairs, the University of Texas is faced with a critical situation which will undoubtedly have a serious effect on its position in the world of learning. Whatever may be our feelings on the dismissal of our president by our governing board — and repeated test votes have left no doubt as to the feelings of the overwhelming majority of our faculty and of our student body — there can be no question of the fact that there is a great deal of unrest, among teachers and students alike, with regard to the present condition and the future outlook of the university. This unrest has been increased by public utterances both by members of our governing board and by high state officials, to the effect that the university would be in no way affected by expressions of censure by national accrediting and standardizing associations.

The United Chapters of Φ B K and its individual affiliates have as their main objective the fostering of respect for and high achievement in those studies commonly assumed to form a liberal education. Such an education can be imparted only by a faculty which is imbued with the ideal of unselfish devotion to the search for truth through scholarship, and which feels that it may pursue this ideal in the spirit of freedom of teaching and research — in a word, of academic freedom. In the light of all this, we, the members of Alpha of Texas, Φ B K, emphatically affirm our conviction of the need for complete intellectual freedom in all the interrelations of the governing board, the administration, the faculty, and the student body, to the end that the highest ideals of liberal scholarship may continue to be fostered at the University of Texas, for the eventual benefit of the citizens of our state and of the country and world of which it is a part.

United Chapters Proposes Veterans' Project; New England District Meets for Discussion

Delegates to a special New England District meeting on April 7 at Harvard University voted unanimously to request of their chapters and associations early attention to the educational problem of returning veterans of outstanding ability.

Of the 25 chapters and associations of the New England District, 18 sent delegates to the meeting. George H. Chase, chairman of the district, and William T. Hastings, secretary, called the meeting to discuss ways in which Φ B K members could be of advisory and informational assistance to veterans from New England colleges.

Hiram Haydn, executive secretary of the United Chapters, who attended the meeting at the request of district officers, spoke. Basing his comments on carefully documented reports from the fighting fronts, he gave emphasis to the lack many veterans feel of a genuinely warm, personal interest in their educational careers. Mr. Haydn stressed the fact that while some colleges were maintaining intimate individual contact with their students in the armed services, this was true of far too few.

Despite the belief expressed by some that there was not much need for special activity by Φ B K, the delegates generally agreed that the problem as a whole, especially in terms of graduates, was still important. They voted unanimously that the chapters and associations in the New England District be requested to consider at the earliest possible date the extent to which and the methods by which they may help to encourage men and women of outstanding ability to continue their education.

It was also suggested that Secretary Hastings communicate with members of the Society in New England colleges which have no chapter of Φ B K, to explain how they could cooperate in the project.



The United Chapters of Φ B K is urgently calling to the attention of its constituents a plan to set up a personal advisory program for veterans. The officers of the Society have found authoritative evidence that many of the ablest undergraduates and recent graduates of American colleges are not planning to return to the advanced study that will fit them for leadership in the professions, arts, and sciences.

Acting under the authorization of the Φ B K Senate, the Executive Committee of the United Chapters has endorsed general plans by which the Society might aid in advising the veteran. The Senate, convinced of the urgency of the problem and of Φ B K's opportunity to help solve it, voted at its October 1944 meeting that the Executive Committee "consider ways in which the United Chapters might be of advisory and informational assistance to returning veterans, especially in terms of liberal arts education. . . ."

The Executive Committee approved the report of Hiram Haydn, executive secretary, at its February 27 meeting. The report was formulated after conference with Col. Francis T. Spaulding, of the Army Education Branch, Army Service Forces, and others.

The report indicates how Φ B K, through its many local units, might render service to both undergraduates and graduates through stressing the importance of personal and sustained correspondence from the colleges to the veterans.

Digested from Mr. Haydn's report, a detailed analysis of the whole problem and of Φ B K's possible relationship to it is presented on page four of THE KEY REPORTER. It is the urgent hope of United Chapters officials that this outline will receive the careful attention of all Φ B K members.

. . . A Whole Generation of Leaders

The learned professions — and most particularly education — are facing the possibility of losing a whole generation of leaders. Not only from the reports of learned societies and educational commissions, but through the testimony of qualified people who are close to the several theaters of war, it is becoming increasingly apparent that many of the ablest men in the armed services do not plan to finish their education and go on into advanced study. The philanthropic foundations and corporations have taken action to meet this crisis, especially in terms of the sciences; colleges and universities are carrying out programs which may be of much assistance. But there remains a great deal to be done: far too many of us are still complacent about the situation.

For example, I have heard perfectly reputable citizens of the academic world — men who have never been guilty of beating students or voting with a minority — say indignantly, “Surely any intelligent person who has had college experience will realize that it is to his advantage to continue his education.”

Doubtless this argument is very rational and cogent to a listener in a study or a laboratory, or even a college cafeteria. I suspect that it loses some of its force in a foxhole or a submarine. Observers who have spent months at the front tell me that men there would either laugh or cry at such an argument. They are too bitterly aware of the lost years and the lost opportunities to entertain long-range moralizing of this sort.

The most able of them are already receiving offers for jobs available immediately after they return. Impatient to take their places in adult peacetime society, they are accepting and even seeking these offers. And no matter what one thinks of their judgment, this tendency predicates a grave danger to the professions — and especially to education, where the defection is particularly drastic. Moreover, it has still greater implications, for it menaces the very foundations of a democratic society — trained, intelligent, and disinterested leadership.

What are we going to do about it? The proposed Phi Beta Kappa program for advisory assistance to veterans is one answer. Honestly and diligently supported, it could become a conclusive answer.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1882-1945

Alumnus Member, Harvard University

Honorary Member, Hobart College

THE KEY REPORTER

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They Say . . .

To the Editor:

The Summer and Autumn 1944 issues of THE KEY REPORTER have recently been forwarded to me.

Here in the front lines, it seems odd that people should be busy with purely intellectual material. That question, “Of What Use Φ Β Κ?” has popped up in my mind many times.

Amidst the roar of artillery and mortar shells, it seems to have no use. For the educated mind is torn between deciding whether all the bloodshed and waste is for good or for naught. Naturally, we realize that there are larger and broader principles at stake. But when one is face to face with death, it's quite another story. For when life is gone, so are all the desires and good intent of that individual. That individual has paid the full price. Perhaps the organization can see that such shedding of blood was not in vain. Maybe in that way it can be of use. Phi Beta Kappa can be more active in creating and developing a broad curriculum for the returning soldier who is going to continue his education. After all, you are well aware of the fact that the viewpoint of the veteran will loom into prominence as time goes by. It will be a key factor in educational circles as well as in the political spheres of life. . . .

In the meantime, we stand here at the “edge of our civilization” facing the enemy. With God's guidance we look forward to breaking their resistance and rendering total victory possible, and then to the trip back home.

HYMAN WING SCHNEIDER, PFC, AUS
SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY

To the Editor:

THE KEY REPORTER's “They Say . . .” column in the Spring 1945 issue includes two attacks on the National Association of Manufacturers which I cannot allow to pass unchallenged.

Constance L. Rosenthal refers to “the reactionary character of the NAM, its efforts to interfere with academic freedom and the pressure it has exerted to suppress factual textbooks. . . .”

The statement that NAM has sought “to interfere with academic freedom” or “to suppress factual textbooks” is utterly false. The fact is that the Association did, in 1940, sponsor an analysis of certain textbooks and the undertaking received the approval of a very distinguished group of educators headed by Dean Francis T. Spaulding of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

NAM never has sought to suppress any textbook. It did and does urge that: “It is appropriate, however, for any citizen to recommend that generally unaccepted political and economic philosophies should be explained rather than advocated; that both the merits and disadvantages of such philosophies should be duly emphasized; that the characteristics of our traditional institutions should receive at least an equal hearing; and that controversial issues should be presented with due regard for the age and intellectual maturity of the student.” (This quotation is from NAM's statement on its textbook-abstracting project.)

Dean Spaulding, in a letter dated January 17, 1941, wrote, in part, as follows: “The Association's thorough-going endorsement of certain educational principles which seem to us of the greatest importance is not merely a matter of encouragement to us as a group, but will, we believe, help to reassure many other persons who have been acutely conscious of the dangers pointed out in our statement. We agree with the Association that if these principles can be safeguarded, the Association's program may be of great constructive value to education in this country.”

The same “They Say . . .” column printed a letter signed by Sophie Posmentier asserting that NAM represents a “fascist” trend in American business and spreads “anti-democratic” propaganda. Those are broad statements and through THE KEY REPORTER, I ask Mrs. Posmentier to produce a scintilla of credible evidence to support them. If fighting, day in and day out, for the preservation of fundamental American institutions and liberties is either “fascistic” or “anti-democratic,” then Mrs. Posmentier's argument is with the founding fathers of this republic — not with the NAM.

HENNING W. PRENTIS, JR.
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE KEY REPORTER welcomes letters from its readers, and will print as many of those received as present paper restrictions permit. It assumes no responsibility for opinions expressed.

Recommended Reading

THE THURBER CARNIVAL. By James Thurber. *New York: Harper. \$2.75.*

Short stories and cartoons.

THE BALLAD AND THE SOURCE. By Rosamond Lehmann. *New York: Reynal and Hitchcock. \$2.75.*

The story of "a charming old witch."

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC. By Ysabel F. Rennie. *New York: Macmillan. \$4.*

Argentina, past and present.

APARTMENT IN ATHENS. By Glenway Wescott. *New York: Harper. \$2.50.*

A Greek family's life under German domination.

REPORT FROM RED CHINA. By Harrison Forman. *New York: Henry Holt. \$3.*

The Chinese Communists' fight against the Japanese.

MANHATTAN FURLOUGH. By Hiram Haydn. *Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50.*

A love story with a war background.

TEACHER IN AMERICA. By Jacques Barzun. *Little, Brown. \$3.*

The basic issues in American education.

BLACK BOY. By Richard Wright. *New York: Harper. \$2.50.*

A Negro's youth in Southern slums.

RUSSIA IS NO RIDDLE. By Edmund Stevens. *New York: Greenberg. \$3.*

A report based on first-hand acquaintance with Russia.

THE BUILDERS OF THE BRIDGE. By David B. Steinman. *New York: Harcourt, Brace. \$3.75.*

The story of the Roeblings, who engineered the Brooklyn bridge.

Exchange Scholarships Proposed

Officers of the Φ B K Association in Southern California have proposed to their group the raising of a permanent fund for two \$500 exchange scholarships.

A symposium was held at the March meeting on "What mutual cultural values may be obtained from the international exchange of university students and professors?"

The association has in the past had an essay contest as its yearly project. In suggesting the exchange scholarships fund, called "a new, more timely, and in some respects more appropriate project," the directors said, "Men of consecrated intelligence, touched with humanity, profound in interracial insights and broad in cultural appreciations, are now at a premium. . . ."

Citing the extent to which the West Coast population will in the future mingle with other peoples of the Pacific, the officers state that "the important thing is to grasp the urgency . . . of this bold venture in the actual furthering of international understanding. . . ."

Group to Publish Peace Book

The Φ B K Association of Greater Boston plans to publish a booklet of around 100 pages on postwar peace problems, soon after the results of the San Francisco conference have been released.

The booklet will set forth the more important phases of establishing world security, says Harris A. Reynolds, president.

The association hopes to encourage readers to put pressure on the Senate when the ratification of a treaty calling for a strong international organization is proposed.

The book will probably cost \$1. Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Reynolds, at 84 State Street, Boston.

History To Appear in Fall

The History of Phi Beta Kappa, by Oscar M. Voorhees, Φ B K historian, will be published in the fall. Crown Publishers, as the Spring KEY REPORTER stated, had previously set April as the distribution date.

Know of an Opening?

Inquiries should be addressed to Member No. —, care of THE KEY REPORTER.

267. (Mr., Wash.) A.B., M.A., Wash. '33. Major: Span.; min.: bus. ad., pol. sci., Fr. Exp.: teach, 3 yrs.; purchasing agent for lg. foundry, 3 yrs.; wholesale hardware, 6 yrs. Wants position as dir. of purchases in industrial field.

417. (Miss, N. Y. C.) A.B. Mt. Holyoke '27; maj.: religion; minor: Eng., French; B.D., Union Theological Sem. '30; Ph.D., Radcliffe '37, philos.; studied in Germany. Exp.: 2 yrs. coll. teach., steno., secy., library, proofread. & edit. Transl. 2 bks. from German, bk. review. Interested in psych. Wants edit., publ., research, prof. in N. Y. C.

449. (Mr., N. Y.) A.B. '34, LL.B. '36, Syracuse; admitted N.Y. Bar, '36. Exp.: 7 yrs. corporate & gen'l practice with lg. law firm; 2 yrs. with mfg. corp., now asst. to v. p. & gen. mgr. Wants position as asst. to an industrial exec. in Cal., Ore., or Wash.

450. (Mr., Wisc.) A.B. magna cum laude, Middlebury '37; maj.: Latin, minors, Greek & Eng. lang.-lit. Grad. Nashotah House, theological sch. of Epis. Ch.; some grad. wk. (Engl. Lit.) Bread Loaf. Exp.: 1 yr. teach. Greek at Nashotah House. Wants teach. boys' boarding sch. or coll., or private tutoring.

451. (Miss, Iowa) A.B. Nebraska '13. Maj.: Lat. & Eng.; minors, French & German. M.A. Columbia '34, Span. Studied Italian at Wash. U., private lessons in Portuguese. 18 yrs. teach. Span. Wants position translating Span. or book reviewing Eng. to do at home.

452. (Miss, N. Y.) A.B., St. Lawrence U. Exp.: 36 yrs. teach. high school Eng. Wants to make, under sponsorship of some newspaper, magazine, foundation, educational assoc. or cultural society, intensive study of the teach. of Eng. in grades 1 to 12 of public schools.

453. (Miss, N. Y. C.) A.B., U. of Minn. '37; Ph.D., Minn. '44; maj.: math.; min.: statistics. Exp.: 3 yrs. instruct. in biostatistics, Columbia U.; part-time statistical consultant, N.Y.C. Health Dept. Wants position as statistician or teach. in med. or pub. health statistics. Midwest or farwest preferred.

454. (Miss, Mass.) A.B. '44. Maj.: geography; min.: Eng. & Span. Exp.: editorial wk. in pub. house. Wants to do geographical research and (or) cartographic wk. in or around N. Y. C.

455. (Miss, N. Y. C.) A.B., Mt. Holyoke '39, honors in zoology; sciences: botany, bacteriology, chemistry, physics, geology; languages: Fr., Ger. Lat., studying Russian. Exp.: 2 yrs. zoology instructor & research asst.; now employed (4 yrs.) NYU as scientific secy.; editing, bibliographic wk., proofreading. Wants position in scientific editorial or research work.

456. (Mr., N. J.) A.B., Columbia '40. Maj.: chemistry. Exp.: organic synthesis of essential oils, pharmaceuticals & hormones. Wants to resume research in organic synthesis, preferably pharmaceuticals. Available for work August 1.

Aldous Huxley	Oscar James Campbell	Irwin Edman
Max Lerner	William Haller	I. L. Kandel
Harlow Shapley	Worth Tuttle Hedden	Sinclair Lewis

All Writing in the Summer Issue of

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The Veteran: ΦBK's Opportunity to Serve Him

The average GI is either bewildered or skeptical about his educational future. Since entering the armed services, he has received more or less standardized informational brochures from educational agencies and institutions, and he has found some of these helpful. But he misses the warm, human support of personal advice, and without it he is apt to pass up the opportunities for advanced study from which he would benefit greatly.

These are facts, learned from the men and women who are fighting this war, learned first hand from the fighting fronts. When they were made available to United Chapters officials, the Society executives saw a unique opportunity for ΦBK to render a valuable service. Disinterested in character and with more than 90,000 members, the Society might see to it that the veterans of superior ability receive this personal attention.

Undoubtedly there are colleges that are keeping in close personal contact with their former students; as far as can be ascertained, these are too few. Nor does the GI Bill of Rights necessarily serve to dissuade potential leaders in scientific, professional, and allied fields from making the decision to go into a job of a non-professional sort, or to take an accelerated brief program to fit them for a specific job in a short time. If the college which has a chapter, the one to which a graduate association is closely allied, the one where a ΦBK member teaches, the one which is close to a graduate member — if that college is already giving personal and sustained advice to their veterans of superior ability, there is of course no need for special ΦBK activity. If it is not, the United Chapters is urgently requesting its constituents to consider the proposed project. The seriousness of the situation to American colleges and universities, and to the future of American leadership cannot be exaggerated.

Below is an outline of the proposed ΦBK veteran's project. It was digested from an analysis made by Hiram Haydn, executive secretary, after conference with army officials and others. The report, made at the instruction of the ΦBK Senate, has been given unanimous approval by the Executive Committee of the United Chapters.

WHAT MIGHT BE DONE

ΦBK might cover the general field by dividing the veterans into two groups: one to include those who had not com-

pleted their undergraduate work, the other to include recent graduates whom their college officials designate as being capable of high-calibered graduate study. Because of the urgency of the problem of leadership, and because of the nature of the Society itself, it is suggested that the emphasis be placed on the veterans of superior capacities.

Undergraduates

ΦBK, acting indirectly, might persuade school authorities to maintain regular personal communications to the undergraduates who showed definite promise in their incompleting work. The first letters might contain:

1. An expression of interest in the student as an individual.
2. An indication of what further work the student will need to do in order to become eligible for a degree.
3. A statement of the arrangements which the college is making for returning veterans and their resumption of studies.
4. A statement of the college's policy toward credit for military training and experience.

Graduates

ΦBK, acting directly, might obtain from school authorities lists of their most promising recent graduates. To those graduates, letters containing the following points might be written by the ΦBK groups and individuals themselves:

1. An explanation of the shortage of highly trained men as a result of the war.
2. Direct suggestions of the type of training appropriate to the particular veterans involved.
3. An offer to help in planning graduate work, including arranging for admission to the school.
4. Suggestions as to how obtaining graduate work could be facilitated by overseas experience — study at a foreign university while the veteran is waiting to come home, special field trips, or independent study connected with specialized fields.

WHO MIGHT DO IT

Participants in the project might be

the entire constituency of the Society — the district organizations, the chapters, the graduate associations, individual members who are connected with non-ΦBK educational institutions, and individual members without educational affiliations who are located near colleges where there are no ΦBK units or ΦBK staff members.

The office of the United Chapters, while it would not dispense information directly to the veterans, hopes to become an overall source of information and assistance to those who undertake the project. It will act as a clearing house for information which small groups and individuals do not have at their disposal. It will be prepared to make inquiries of agencies which may have the special knowledge originally requested by some particular veteran.

HOW IT MIGHT BE DONE

Since the national office has no authority or desire to dictate a policy or a set of activities to any local unit of ΦBK, it is the conviction of United Chapters officials that the impetus for such a project must spring spontaneously from the local units. It is also their conviction that the groups and individuals can be of immense help in suggesting details and angles which have been overlooked.

Regardless of the directions in which various groups may develop the project, there are some basic principles which the United Chapters, Army authorities, and others feel would be helpful:

1. ΦBK should not propagandize the veterans, but render them genuinely disinterested service. ΦBK's concern should be for the educational progress of the veteran, whatever direction and form it may take.
2. The inevitable concern of the veterans for vocational aspects must be kept in mind. If they are to be encouraged to continue a liberal arts course, it will be sensible to remember that such study can be stressed in terms of its excellent pre-professional nature.
3. If ΦBK undertakes the project, no problem of the veteran can be too unimportant to deserve consideration.