

Outlook Editors Hear Lippman

They came from all over the United States, from the far reaches of Alaska to the Garden State. They were from all size colleges, from UCLA to Catherine Spalding (Kentucky) to Monmouth College (New Jersey). They all came to the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington D.C. for the same reason. It was the College Editors' Conference sponsored by the United States Student Press Association. They all came to discuss the question of "The Generation Gap." Monmouth College was represented by Phillip Doran, Editor in Chief of the OUTLOOK, and Frank Prosnitz, Managing Editor of the OUTLOOK.

The main speaker of the three day conference was Walter Lippman, columnist for the WASHINGTON POST and NEWSWEEK, recipient of the Pulitzer citation in 1957 and the Prize itself in 1962 among many other honors. The 77 year old Lippman stated that "as men grow older and take charge of affairs, they must be very careful to resist the tendency to see the world not so much as it is becoming, but as it was when they were young and beautiful. Men tend to see the world through spectacles that fitted them twenty or thirty years earlier."

"The essential characteristic of the Generation Gap is what sociologists call 'cultural lag'. This is often described as old fogie-ism, or Co. Blimpism, or creeping gaga-ism. Because of the 'cultural lag', old soldiers know best how to win the last battle of the last war."

Mr. Lippman gave his opinion on the present administration. "If you will permit me to say so, the Administration is trying to convince us that we are fighting the same war in South Vietnam which Churchill and Roosevelt fought a quarter of a century ago against the Nazis and Japanese."

Probably the most controversial speakers of the conference were involved in the panel discussion on American Foreign Policy. The members of the panel were Richard Goodwin, Special Assistant to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson from 1960 to 1965 and author the the book TRIUMPH

AND TRAGEDY, John P. Roche, Special Consultant to President Johnson, and Walt Rostow, also a Special Consultant to the President. Both Rostow and Roche supported the United States position in Vietnam and as a consequence were hissed and booed by the audience. Mr. Goodwin demonstrated an anti-war position.

Mr. Goodwin stated that to President Kennedy it was "a Vietnamese war. In 1965, there was a decision to make it an American war, that was not a decision President Kennedy made. It was a decision President Johnson made."

Rostow attempted to justify the way by reducing the U.S. presence in Vietnam to the question "are we a people whose words are good? The Administration had to answer an awfully simple question." Rostow further attempted to justify the U.S. position by citing the SEATO treaty which, he said, committed the U.S. to aiding the South Vietnamese.

Goodwin refuted Rostow's reason, "We are not in Vietnam because we have a treaty or because we have a commitment," he said. The SEATO treaty is a "justification", which came up when the U.S. was "looking for a series of reasons."

John Roche had stated that the college generation had not done their homework. He insisted that Communists can participate in the politics of Vietnam because they can vote, although they cannot run in elections, and was

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jeered by the audience.

“Those who really understand what is at stake,” said Rostow, “are with us.” Many in the audience questioned if Rostow or the administration understand what is at stake. An informal vote showed that the college editors’ present at the discussion were against the Administration’s foreign policy in Vietnam by a 2 to 1 margin.

There were other discussions but none raised the emotions of audience as did the one on Foreign Affairs.

As Mr. Lippman said, “We may not be better than our ancestors. But there is a lot more motion in us and around us, and we have, therefore, a better excuse for being puzzled and bewildered.”