**NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICE CREATED**

The conference proceeded to the next stage, with the selection of the new executive committee. The process was marked by intense debate and discussion, with various factions vying for influence and positions of power. The outcome was a compromise that satisfied the majority, although some were left disappointed with the final decisions. The new executive committee was charged with the responsibility of implementing the policies and directives set forth by the conference, and it was expected to play a leading role in shaping the future direction of the organization.

**Controversy**

The main subject of discussion was the proposal to establish a new executive office, primarily due to the high costs associated with the current setup. Many argued that the existing structure was inefficient and needed to be streamlined to save money. However, there was also consensus that the new office should be equipped with the latest technology to support the work of its members.

**Firing**

The meeting also addressed the issue of the recent firing of some long-serving employees. The decision was controversial, with some members expressing concerns about the impact on morale and the financial stability of the organization. There was a call for a more transparent and democratic process in future decision-making.

**Budget**

Another contentious issue was the budget allocation for the upcoming fiscal year. There was a significant disparity of opinion on where funds should be prioritized—program development, outreach, or administrative costs. The final decision was a compromise that aimed to balance these priorities while ensuring the organization's sustainability.

**Elections**

The elections for new board members were held, with a total of 15 candidates vying for six positions. The process was fair and transparent, with each member having the opportunity to vote for their preferred candidates. The results were announced at the end of the meeting, and the new board members were expected to begin their terms immediately.

**Conclusion**

The conference concluded with a sense of accomplishment and optimism, despite the challenges and disagreements that arose during the proceedings. The new executive office and the elections marked significant milestones in the organization's development. The members were encouraged to continue working together towards the common goal of advancing the organization's mission and goals.
A POLICY FOR EDUCATION

WITHIN a few weeks, the new Parliament will meet, and among other revelations, we are to see what a National Government intends to do about education in this country.

It is probably not saying too much to say that the Labour Government in 1935 was the first ever to go into office with an education policy. It was consistent, coherent, based on the best of overseas experience and theory combined with a pretty accurate assessment of N.Z. conditions and society structure. More than that, it was implemented. This was a combination of virtues which made it very hard to criticise in its own ground, very easy to attack from the ESD office efficiency angle.

From those statements of the new Minister's policy which we have seen, it is clear that he is by no means in accord with the past Government's policy. He has fallen out already over old matters with the NZIE, the official teachers' organisation; they have disliked his idea of asking the bank managers and local business men who make up the education boards of the country to comment on technical matters concerning educational aims of this country. It seems likely, too, from statements which have appeared that Mr. Algie is at variance with his own department. He has stated that he dislikes the amount of detailed work he has to do, and has made obstinate criticisms of his department in unusually strong terms for a Minister speaking of his permanent service.

The effect of this policy—if one can grace it with that name—of university education is not yet clear. But it seems pretty certain that, for instance, the quite just and consistent claims for bursaries are likely to be voices crying in a political wilderness. So far as we can see, the new “policy” becomes coherent only if one bases it on the twin premises that education is something like making sausages, the value of which can be measured in terms of expenditure and income, and that education is either (a) an unnecessary luxury for those who can afford it or (b) a bare technical preparation for life for those who can't.

It seems probable that the first proposition will affect us more. Outside the technical side (and even that may be affected by the "luxury" view of education) university education is likely to suffer because the country needs is to be much more concerned with the best system of off course betting than with creating a forcing house for ideas.

Only time will show—we are afraid.

D.G.

1. Letter writers are reminded that no letters will normally be published which exceed 500 words. They will stop at the 24th line, followed by the word "out" in brackets.

2. Copy for any issue closes on the Saturday before its publication.

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VUC AND WFDY—SHOULD WE STAY IN?

In view of another rejection by the Students' Association in General Meeting of a motion aiming at disfranchising the New Zealand Federation of Democratic Youth, we put to you the points of view from the U.S.A.

A.W.C. says "No"

The report of comrade's delegates to the WFDY Congress at Budapest was briefly quoted by Ron Smith and K. J. Holliday and S. T. Scouros, two ex-VUC New Zealanders now studying in Paris. All students were urged to secure a copy and study it at least some of its 60 pages. Only by careful reading can they form a reasoned opinion on continued WFDY membership. It is worthwhile.

This writer is against continuing affiliation with WFDY, but believes that as long as VUC is affiliated, we are obliged to take some interest in it. It follows that these comments are not intended as a personal attack on the delegates, who have no doubt carried out their duties according to their own conscientiously held personal attitudes towards world affairs.

The first point about the report is the quaint phraseology, which probably consists of straightforward quotes or abridgements of WFDY prepared handouts, but throughout a peculiar style is maintained.

Example—

The report of the WFDY President quotes from Truman: "I think the U.S. Government would accord financial aid to those governments which would openly fight against the democracies." A footnote explains that "Truman himself, of course, was not in agreement with this."

It is difficult, however, as the facts have shown, any democratic forces opposing U.S. expansionism, national independence and democratic rights.

Apparently the President of WFDY is unable to quote President Truman directly, but must introduce this peculiar jargon in place of the "Community." One dreadful moment is highlighted on pages 12 and 13 of the report. Here the President of WFDY said: "We should popularise ever more widely the successes without historical precedent which have been obtained by the World Federation of Democratic Youth in the past decades.

The delegates are urged upon this. They thought it "might be open to misinterpretation as a statement which..."

Well, they might think so! They therefore gave a pile of reasons explaining this one away. They manage to turn the statement into "points out the necessity of popularising the achievements of the Soviet youth for the youth of the people's democracies."

Just a "manifestation of hope for youth..."

NOTE: We started with "Soviet Union" and ended with "Soviet youth."

With all the pages of lists of delegates from every imaginable country (each tagged with the support of old friends like the Eureka Youth League in Australia or the Canadian Seamen's Union) there is one omission—you guessed it—Yugoslavia. Remember how she used to supply the wobbly old Hikari with some good old days before Tito split on the boys? Other source state that Yugoslavia was expelled from WFDY, but our delegates just ignore the fact of the youth now going into "inhuman oppressors"—or is Yugoslav just "anti-democratic?"

Diary Notes of WFDY—

April 14—A day of solidarity with youth fighting fascism in Spain.

February 21—A day of solidarity with youth fighting against colonialism.

October 2—International Peace Day.

One of "Our Tasks in the Battle of Peace 1950"—We must learn to develop the rich and often undeveloped talents of our girls, who as the mothers of tomorrow, are national resources of peace.

The report on New Zealand is really good. During the conscription vacances last year ("for imperialist war") "Press and radio close to the peace forces.

These instruments were certainly weighted against, but hardly "closed" to the "peace forces."

"Later this year the student newspaper was temporarily banned in the same college," gives the impression of an anti-tank-style censorship. It overlooks the rather simple point at issue of the newspaper alleged to be offensive to local personalities.

According to Mr. Smith he should know, being an M. Com.: "New Zealand faces in the new future an economic crisis exceeding in intensity the great depression of the early 1930's, which caused great suffering to New Zealand youth."

So hang onto your money, students; with such a prospect it seems a pity to spend any more cash on staying affiliated with WFDY.

Get hold of that report, read it, and think it over before attending the annual general meeting.

A.W.C.

C.V.B. says "Yes"

The cynical and shallow nature of A.W.C.'s attack on WFDY is obvious to anyone who has read our delegates' report or any WFDY document. A.W.C. dislikes WFDY "phrasology." For young Malayans and Indo-Chinese, the words "imperialism" and "democratic forces" have a new precise meaning, much like "capitalist crisis" had for young New Zealanders during the slump and depression during the recent war. The accusation of distorting Truman's "words" is absurdly abstract. "Communism" is used to mean "any demo- cratic forces opposing U.S. expansionism."

We all know that the New Chinese Government is only 1-year communist, and that the American Inquisition has ousted the midwest of the U.S.

You don't have to be a Communist to appreciate the positive challenge to the Soviet Union to capitalism. If we pursue the "triumph" of the classically "bourgeois" youth, have economic independence and social opportunities far exceeding our own; and prefer to follow uncritically the lead of a decentist and nationalistic country, then we are not acting in the traditions of a university.

Despite his scrutiny of WFDY files, A.W.C. is ignorant of the fact that the "People's Youth of Yugoslavia" were expelled from WFDY because their Central Committee and delegates to WFDY Council were proven to be not elected, but appointed by the Yugoslav Government.

A.W.C. states at the young people of the world celebrating the symbolic national day of the first and last country in the world, that of the young people facing the degrading conditions and besmirched of our beautiful country. Remember Roosevelt's words: "The guns are effective only in our hands.

If we are opposed... If our freedom is a threat to your freedom, our freedom is protected.

For the young world, peace does A.W.C. agree with Hitler that "only in continual warfare does mankind progress.

The mothers of tomorrow should be the natural champions of peace, should the fathers of tomorrow be the most restless and anxious men."

I feel sorry for anything sized by A.W.C.

There was nothing in the New Zealand report that was untrue; every significant event and current effecting the youth movements represented was mentioned. A.W.C. recklessly relied reflected in the correctly right treatment of the "Refereen- dums" and the "Soviet" difference.

A.W.C. is frivolous in his treatment of the possibility of an imminent economic debacle. In this facet, it is obviously in our interest to co-operate with the young people of our countries to fight the enforced decline in living standards. WFDY has already given an excellent lead—at worldwide gatherings—on the youth movement organisations reporting on different areas and problems, and in organizing united campaign among the youth of our countries, for better conditions of living and education. We can learn from the problems of the Canadian Student Christian Movement, from the Scots Mining Youth League, from the Viet Nam Democratic Youth League, from the

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Affirmative: Mears, Newsham and Phillips.

Negative: Mears, Foy and Taylor.

In the Gym — This Friday

Medical Students of America and New Zealand. Medical students from the Chert, Sydney, and New Zealand can learn from us. We can learn something about our different point of view, and with a sympathetic knowledge of the natural the tasks others are facing, we can lend our support, and expect the support of others. Through the liaison of the Federation, and through the cooperation of other countries, we can get to know the other young people with whom we are sharing the planet.

So, too, must we co-operate with the youth of other countries—other other countries—to safeguard and strengthen world peace under the United Nations. For without world peace there can be no secure future. Surely there are adequate grounds for supporting WFDY in every way. Victoria has had its share of discrimination, and will do so again. It requires our full support.

(Courtesy of the Student Society)
THE LYSENKO CONTROVERSY

Many students have heard of Lysenko and the controversy in the science of genetics but few of them are aware of the scientific facts and theories behind Lysenko's claims. The reason for this is that the controversy on Lysenko's thesis has been mentioned in connection with political propaganda. The following account may therefore be of interest to the serious student who wishes for a greater insight into the problem but lacks the literature.

Trofin Danovich Lysenko was born in 1898 of peasant parents. The extent of his training is not mentioned in any of the articles I have discovered but most state that he is a plant physiologist by training although Eric Ashby (Scientist in Russia: Penguin) says he was trained as a plant breeder. I have found no mention of any academic qualifications such as are required for a scientific person but, considering his position today, it would be very unlikely that he did not hold some form of degree.

Lysenko attributes the phenomenon of heredity to the metabolic processes of plants or animals, that is, all organisms assume their particular characteristics as a direct reaction to the nourishment they absorb and, since the food supply, particularly in the case of plants, is intimately associated with the general environment, the heredity of any particular organism must be affected by environment.

Lysenko therefore claims that if a plant or animal is removed to a new place with a different environment from which it came, the metabolism of that organism will be affected and succeeding generations will inherit those changes made within the parent plant. This then is what is meant by the term "inheritance of acquired characteristics."

But no theory can be acceptable unless some form of proof is offered. Lysenko cites his work from his own work, that of I.V. Mitchenor and others to substantiate his theory. Mr. Danovich Lysenko claims to have proved his theory as a result of vegetative hybridisation, i.e., the grafting of a branch of one individual on to another. The former, the grafted branch is known as the scion while the host plant is known as the stock. All nutrients in the form of water and inorganic salts which the scion requires for its existence must be absorbed from the sap stream of the stock, which consequently involves a microscopic transfer of nutritive materials from the stock to the scion. From what we have found on any ofactic qualifications such as are required for the scientific person but, considering his position today, it would be very unlikely that he did not hold some form of degree.

VUC Socialist Club

"ACADEMIC FREEDOM"
A panel of staff members including Messrs. Bertram and Braybrooke.
Wednesday, June 21, 8 p.m.
The Upper Gym.

Reward
The person who so kindly handed a lost purse into the College office at the end of last term will find a reward waiting for them at the Exco, room, thanks.

YER PAYS YER MONEY AND...

LAST week two of Salient's reporters wrote a very brave article on the state of affairs in the Cafeteria. Since then two letters have appeared in Salient Room couched in much the same terms; in case all four people are wrong we asked several other people what they thought about the food and drink while they were actually consuming it. First of all we interviewed the manageress. Perhaps her remarks will point the reason for the other comments printed below.

Manageress: "We have to keep within a limited amount of money. This applies to Exco, that we can pay nothing for food and staff wages. All my staff work very hard, but the conditions are terrible. We have too few utenials, and those we have have broken; the enamel has been broken off, or else they are leaking. If the police are water, we can't give it to them but we can't always use them for very small orders, and like this, I could do better. By the way, I arrive at 7 a.m. and leave at 7.30."

"Member of the Exco, I think that the place is a write-off... with the lady's accomodation."

Fourth-year Arts: "The food is unsatisfactory in quality; you can get a meal down town for 2/6, I only have my time to go down-town."

Part-time Student: "If I had time in the evening between lectures I'd go down-town. As it is I put up with it."

Fourth year English: "I like the company, but I don't like the food."

Graduate: "I bring my own food now."

Ex-A.U.C. "It compares very poorly, particularly in the selection and cooking food. There was never a choice of food at 6 p.m. Also, the staff sell cigarettes in the Caf. at A.U.C."

Training College: "They're OK, but I think that they won't get an increase in prices."

Third year Arts: "I eat here once a week and find it makes a change. Fair fare."

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ART CHRISTCHURCH in the second year of their course, seven VUC students, along with students from the other three colleges, the T.C.A. and Lincoln, convened in conference to study the Christian message. This subject was approached from a wide variety of college situations.

Our unit was in our belief in Christ and our faith in and study of the Bible. What we became aware of, more deeply than ever, was our own inadequacy for the Christian work that lies ahead of us for us to do in the University.

E. CHAPMAN,

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