

THE FORENSIC

OF PI KAPPA DELTA

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NO. 1

Elsewhere in this issue of THE FORENSIC you will read about Oklahoma A & M, our host for the 1951 National Convention and Tournament. You will be inspired by the long tradition of debate and oratory, by the loyalty to Pi Kappa Delta, by the multi-million dollar building program, by the vastness and luxury of the buildings and the campus, and by the foresight and planning which have made this location available.

Oklahoma in the spring with its earthy freshness in the air; Oklahoma with its strong handshake and friendly smile; Oklahoma, with the romance of a love story and the gaiety of a musical comedy; Oklahoma with the frontier vigor still in its speech and frontier freedom still in its swagger - can any of us fail to plan now to attend what promises to be our greatest convention?

NO! PLAN NOW!

32523

From The Secretary's Desk

The annual financial report is printed in this issue of the FORENSIC and includes receipts for membership and charter fees, keys and certificates. Since we order many keys for alumni and credit these orders to the chapter accounts the report as published may not be the same as chapter records would show.

We are also printing the prices of keys and jewels in the next FORENSIC. Had the Korean crisis not developed the federal tax undoubtedly would have been reduced to ten percent but that possibility is now remote. Remember to add the cost of jewels other than pearls and amethysts to the basic key price of \$4.25 for the large (fob) size, \$3.50 for the small (lavalier) size and \$3.00 for the miniature. Figure a tax charge of 22% on all items except the handling charge. Keys will normally be delivered in about four weeks but it will take longer than that in the spring of the year. Order keys now and have them to wear at the convention in Stillwater.

The National Council met in Greeley August 24-26. It drew up many of the details of the convention and tournament arrangements and these will be sent to the chapters by mail or published in the January FORENSIC.

The Province of the Pacific at its meeting last spring voted to ask the Council to approve the division of that province into two groups. The great distance from Seattle to Tempe, Arizona prohibits real province unity and after considerable discussion the Council re-created the Province of the Northwest, to include chapters in Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho. The California and Arizona chapters will form the Province of the Pacific.

After two years of initiating more than a thousand members each year the chapters in 1949-1950 inducted only 853 or about 250 fewer than in previous years. 146 of the 178 active chapters or 82% initiated members. Bradley, Baylor, and Hope had the largest classes of initiates during the year.

Latest membership: 25038 — Vivian Morgan, East Central State, Ada, Oklahoma

Latest key: 15567 — Roger D. Mitchell, Jr., Eureka

The President's Page

Last year the PRESIDENT'S PAGE carried some indefiniteness about the place and time of the national convention for 1951. However, that question has been settled by the authorities at A. & M. College, Stillwater, Oklahoma, the Province of the Lower Mississippi, and your national council. The time is March 25-29 inclusive. Registration will take place on Sunday, the 25th and there is to be a program Sunday night. However, the real business of the meeting will start early Monday morning. Many letters and much discussion in the FORENSIC will be coming your way over the next few months.

Your national council held a meeting with secretary-treasurer S. R. Toussaint in Greeley, Colorado the last of August at which time and place some specific plans were made. The various committees were appointed and a tentative program was worked out. It will be necessary to correspond with Harry Anderson and others at Stillwater before a definite statement can be made as to specific details of the program.

Not all committee members who were appointed have made confirmation of this appointment but the majority of them have. It is very gratifying to work with the members of a fraternity who demonstrate their willingness to cooperate.

By this time you have received the statement of both the debate question and the discussion topic. Other information will be sent from time to time. Your attention should be called specifically to the fact that the convention this year is a bit earlier than usual. It will be necessary for each chapter to make a special effort to get things in readiness for the convention earlier. In the past it has been possible for you to have a FORENSIC explaining details and also time to evaluate these details before a specific answer was necessary. This will be true now but not as much time for evaluating will be possible. In no case should this seem to justify a delay in taking care of the necessary working of either the council or your own local situation. Simply be alert to the situation and let's make this convention one of the definite high lights of this troubled world.

The 1950 National Questions Committee

GLENN R. CAPP, Baylor University

The results of the vote on the National Discussion and Debate Topics for 1950-51 are listed below. The basis for the vote was four points for each first place, three for second, two for third, and one for fourth; thus the first listed topics in each list were chosen for the 1950-51 forensic season.

DEBATE

Topic

Vote

First

Resolved, That the non-communist nations should form a new international organization 856

Second

Resolved, That President Truman's point four program should be adopted 669

Third

Resolved, That the Federal Government should discontinue the policy of deficit financing 663

Fourth

Resolved, That the Federal Government should adopt the essential principles of the Brannan Plan 648

DISCUSSION

First

What should be the responsibility of the Federal Government for the welfare of its people? 887

Second

What should be our policy toward subversive activities in the United States? 756

Third

What should be the foreign policy of the United States concerning communism? 643

Fourth

How can mankind obtain the potential benefits of atomic energy? 554

The revised plan of procedure for the committee on intercollegiate debate and discussion went into effect with the present committee. The principal changes from the former procedures follow:

- (1) The committee is now composed of one member from each of the four cooperating forensic societies — Tau Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Rho, Phi Rho Pi, and Pi Kappa Delta — and one member appointed by the president of the Speech Association of America.
- (2) The committee members meet during the months of May or June to decide on topics and phrase the questions for discussion and propositions for debate. Formerly this work was done through correspondence.
- (3) Chapters of the forensic organizations and unaffiliated schools now vote on fully stated propositions for debate and questions for discussion rather than broad topics.

In brief, the following procedures apply:

- (1) All suggestions for topics must be submitted to committee members by May first.
- (2) The committee meets to decide

Concerning That Negative Burden of Proof*

MALCOLM SILLARS, Iowa State College, Ames

Last December at the Speech Association of America Convention, I listened with interest as Professor James N. Holm raised the question of whether the negative has a burden of proof. After hearing Mr. Holm I was very interested in his paper in the summer issue of *SPEECH ACTIVITIES*. For years now we have simplified our job of coaching by telling students that the affirmative has the burden of proof and the negative has the job of refutation. This has led affirmative teams to ignore the possibility of forcing a real negative burden.

In my own high school and intercollegiate debating, it always bothered me that a debate could be lost to a negative which took no definite stand. Every debater at sometime in his life has met a negative team which stood for a while in one place and then, when things got hot, moved on to cooler surroundings. We have always had rulings on shifting ground and new arguments in the rebuttal, but the affirmative seems to get most of the penalty for the violation of these rules. This is caused in part by the fact that the affirmative is nailed down to a burden of proof while the negative has no real limitations.

To take Mr. Holm's method of analysis, let us first look at the four classical positions which the negative can take. These positions are pure refutation, defense of the status quo, simple and easy modification of the status quo, and counter plan.

1. Pure refutation — Mr. Holm points out, "...yet we cannot entirely put aside this negative stand since it must be admitted in fairness that if the negative can prevent the affirmative from establishing a case in favor of a policy we have gained

something: we know what NOT to do, even if we do not know what TO DO. Straight refutation is still a legitimate stand even though abused and not too socially useful."

In all cases I think it is right to assume intelligent opposition. In this case it also seems logical that the intelligent affirmative can easily point out the weaknesses in this—the affirmative is proposing a change; the negative objects to the change; the negative shows weaknesses in the affirmative plan. Under the idea of straight refutation this would give the victory to the negative. But is this necessarily true? The negative is debating in a vacuum, the affirmative is not. If the plan of the affirmative is not put into effect the results will be the situation as it now exists, i. e. status quo. In this case the affirmative need only point out that the negative is actually defending the status quo. The affirmative can then base its case on a comparison of its plan with the status quo. The negative may use pure refutation on the question of need, that is, objecting to the affirmative contention that there is a need. Here again the negative accepts the burden of showing that due cause does not exist and that, therefore, the status quo is satisfactory. As in all debates, only that which goes across the rostrum is the deciding factor and the affirmative is obliged to bring these facts to the attention of the audience. Nevertheless, the burden is there and clearly on the negative as well as the affirmative. The present high school question is not whether the Welfare State has weaknesses, but will the country be better off with or without it?

2. Defense of the Status Quo—

Here the negative has and has always had a burden of proof. As was pointed out in the previous section, the negative must show that the status quo is better than the affirmative stand, be it because of finances, ease of operation, possible evils of the affirmative, and so on.

3. Slight and easy Modification of the Status Quo—This phase of negative attack can be cleared up by studying the question of principles vs. specific procedures. Because of the limitations of the time, the affirmative cannot be expected to show every procedure that might be used in putting the plan into effect. We all know of the negative team which demands to know how taxation will be allotted, exactly how it will be administered, who will be eligible and so forth. Closely allied to this is the negative which puts up a series of possible changes in the status quo which are not as severe as the affirmative plan. The negative would say, "if we repeal the veto power and give the United Nations a police force, we could preserve the peace without so drastic a plan as World Federal Government." In this case the negative does not want to accept a counter plan and yet wants the affirmative to refute the possibilities. Obviously the affirmative cannot be expected to cover all of this, so they have been given the duty of defending the principle of operation.

This question of principles makes serious inroads into the slight and easy modification of the status quo argument of the negative. If the modification comes within the basic principles of the status quo it still is a defense of the status quo. If however, it is quite improbable that the change will come about without additional action, the negative is proposing a counter plan. In a debate on outlawing the Communist Party, the negative might point out that Senator Mundt's bill for the registration of the communists would solve the problem. This bill, is not a part of the status quo. However, increase in intelligent operation of the present

machinery is not a change from the status quo because here the blame is laid with the men who operate the system and presumably the same men will operate the affirmative's plan. In any case, the negative is accepting the burden of proof.

4. Counter plan—The counter plan of course is a legitimate acceptance of a burden of proof. But many coaches shy away from it because with a counter plan the negative must "accept a burden of proof." It is easy to see that with intelligent opposition, every negative has a burden of proof no matter what stand they take. Taking this into account, it becomes increasingly clear that the counter plan need no longer be the black sheep in the negative family. It is true that there has been considerable misuse of the counter plan and Mr. Holm points out some shocking examples. This, I think, has been caused by the fact that the counter plan has been sort of a ringer that we throw in in a desperation gamble when we expect defeat on all other grounds. Counter plans have been something bizarre to catch the affirmative off guard. This is not necessary. When the negative can not, in their own minds, justify the burden of the status quo, they should look for a more logical and morally correct answer to the question of the day.

The counter plan gives the negative a chance to choose the ground on which the major clash may fall. This has always been reserved to the affirmative, but if the negative must accept a burden, it is only right that they take every opportunity to choose the clash of the debate.

Since intelligent opposition can point out the fallacy of pure refutation and compare the affirmative change with the status quo or counter plan, a bit of revelation is in order.

When the question arises, "Does the negative have a burden of proof?" the answer is, You bet the negative has a burden of proof.

Oklahoma A. & M. Host To 1951 Convention

Oklahoma A. & M. College—host campus to the 1951 Pi Kappa Delta national convention—was 14 years old when debaters at Ottawa university founded the fraternity. And the A. & M. campus has grown by leaps and bounds, as has Pi Kappa Delta, since that day.

The 1,000 expected visitors to the Aggie campus who attend the Pi Kappa Delta national convention next spring, will find Aggie land a scene of tremendous activity as portions of the \$17 millions building program still are in process.

The A. & M. campus has a value in excess of \$40 millions. The old campus is now almost completely surrounded by massive structures of Modified Georgian architecture among which are some of the largest residence units in the southwest. These, and the new Student Union Building, will serve as the hub of visitors' interest since the residence halls will be utilized for housing and the Student Union will be the mecca of all debaters and speakers for those in-between sessions.

Pioneers who came to open Oklahoma territory and who stayed to see Oklahoma achieve statehood, were eager to enjoy some of the finer things of life when Oklahoma A. & M. College was established in 1891 in what was then Stillwater, Oklahoma Territory. Eight years later the forerunner of all debate and speech clubs at A. & M.—the Omega Literary society—was organized.

Campus debaters and speech students today are proud of the heri-



Dr. Henry G. Bennett, the dean of America's land-grant colleges in terms of years served as president, is president of Oklahoma A. & M. College. Dr. Bennett is vitally interested in every phase of campus activity and is particularly happy that the national convention of Pi Kappa Delta is being held on the A. & M. campus next spring.

tage that organization left on the Aggie campus. They point out that it was the first Greek-letter organization on the campus, and they are just as proud that some of the best speakers in the southwest participated in debate and speech activities while students at Oklahoma A. & M. College.

In 1906, the Philomathæan Literary society, second of the campus debate and speaking organizations, made its appearance on the Oklahoma A. & M. College campus. And then in 1916 a chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, forensic fraternity, was organized at A. & M.

Speech, drama, and debate have always been popular extra-curricula activities at Oklahoma A. & M. College. In the 1915 Redskin, the student annual at A. & M., the year in

oratory and debate was summarized in this fashion:

From the men who presented themselves at the first try-out, eight were chosen, four of whom were selected at a second try-out to compose the tri-state teams. Questions debated included this—Resolved: That the Panama Canal Tolls Should Be the Same for the Merchant Vessels of all Nations. Since the negative lost at all three places debated during the year, it was felt that the question was somewhat unbalanced.

In 1916 the debate question at A. & M. turned to one of military preparedness with the question, Resolved: That all Able-Bodied Men in the United States Should Be Required To Perform one Year of Continuous Military Service before Attaining the Age of 25 Years.

Teams which were met that year included the Colorado A. & M. college and the University of Kansas debaters. Oklahoma A. & M. won the affirmative side against Colorado and the negative side against the University of Kansas.

These are some of the highlights of early-day speech participation on a campus where graduates once were required to give a senior oration as a part of commencement week. In the early days, the senior who gave the best such speech was rewarded with a medal. These medals have since been returned to the college and now hang in a place of honor just inside the library entrance. They signify, above all else, that speaking and debating have been dear to the hearts of Aggies for more than 50 years.

Whitehurst hall, the administration building at Oklahoma A. & M. College, houses the president's offices, the dean of agriculture, the business offices, and classrooms and laboratories. Some of the Pi Kappa Delta sessions may be held in this building.



Professor Harry H. Anderson of the A. & M. speech department discusses plans for the forthcoming national Pi Kappa Delta convention at Oklahoma A. & M. with local chapter president, Miss Marilyn Short.



But more about Oklahoma A. & M. College. From its one main building and a scant handful of students, the college has grown to a campus of 120 acres (with thousands of adjoining acres for agricultural uses) and more than 60 major buildings. Today's A. & M. serves 12,000 students during the regular terms and more than 5,000 during the annual summer sessions.

Besides its well-equipped laboratories, its spacious class rooms, and its rapidly growing building and teaching program, the campus is the hub of Oklahoma in-so-far as service programs are concerned. Here are located the main offices of the far-reaching Oklahoma Extension service, center of county agriculture and home demonstration work. Also on the campus are such departments and divisions as vocational agriculture, hub of the nationally-known Oklahoma FFA activities, and of the Agricultural and Engineering Experiment stations.

A comparatively recent addition is the now well-established Research

foundation, an agency to help in all lines of work but primarily those outside the Agricultural and Engineering phases. This organization fits into the gap between these agencies. Another service unit at A. & M. is the Oklahoma Power and Propulsion laboratory, home of the transplanted German (Nazi) diesel research laboratory which was sought by more than 100 colleges and universities in America. It was awarded to Oklahoma A. & M. College after careful evaluation of the research facilities available on the campus.

The college currently is divided into eight major divisions including the following instructional units: Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Commerce, Education, Home Economics, Oklahoma Institute of Technology (Engineering), Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate school.

Degrees offered at Oklahoma A. & M. College begin with the bachelors, move through the master's fields, and culminate for the most scholarly with the doctor of education and doctor of philosophy. Also,



This is a part of the women's residence hall units at Oklahoma A. & M. College as they appear from the main entrance of the Student union building. In the foreground are a part of the formal gardens on the campus.

Here is an airview of Cordell hall, men's residence hall at Oklahoma A. & M., with Lewis Field stadium and Gallagher Fieldhouse in the background.

