

Student Summer

STUDENTS' CONGRESS, CURIOUS COVE, 1961

"Congress offers one of the finest opportunities that students have of living in an atmosphere of high intellectual ferment where good talk, discussion, and the search for truth are continued in a relaxed atmosphere of friendship," said Sir George Currie, Vice Chancellor of the University of New Zealand, and veteran of many past Congresses, in his opening address to Congress 1961.

The programme offers wide recreational opportunities as well as discussion on all manner of subjects, he continued, and he assured new members that they were in for an intellectual treat as well as for a holiday.

His words were certainly born out as far as Congress 1961 was concerned.

About one hundred and twenty students and staff members turned up at Curious Cove. Aucklanders were in the majority, with over thirty-five representatives, but there was a reasonably balanced attendance from all the universities.

Speakers covered a wide range of topics—from the mythology of the ancient Greeks, to trade unions and present day economic problems. And students partied, water skied, sunbathed, went for a launch trip, held a poetry reading, a panel discussion, and a mid-

night barbecue, as well as many other activities.

Congress 1961 was especially

notable for controller Cecilia Frost's smooth organisation, and for the length and vigor of the discussions—trade unionist Toby Hill was answering questions four hours after the end of his talk.

Summaries of Congress talks are given inside.

THE NINTH ISC

A Report from NZUSA Delegate Peter Menzies

At the end of August, 1960, delegations from 73 national unions assembled in the mountain village of Klosters, Switzerland, for the Ninth International Student Conference (ISC). The conference meets every 18 months to organise international student events, and give support to students fighting suppressive regimes and organise financial assistance, where possible, for needy students.

At the 9th ISC, international study projects, seminars, and regional events were initiated. A student delegation is to travel

through East Asia to encourage the formation of national unions, and student co-operation. Similar delegations will visit Africa, and India, Pakistan and Nepal. Seminars are to be held in Europe, Africa, Asia, Caribbean, and South America, to discuss student welfare, student press, regional events, illiteracy, and political suppression. In the coming year scholarships will be offered to Algerian students, and homes are to be built for them. Poverty stricken students in Hong Kong will be given support, and an International Exchange Fund has been established to provide scholarships and facilitate student travel. A team of five students has been elected and ordered to investigate and report on the suppression of student liberty in eleven countries.

At this conference more than ever before matters of a political nature were discussed and became the focal point. Previous ISC's have limited discussion to matters concerning "students as such" which ruled out discussion of purely political matters. But at this ISC it was agreed to discuss all problems concerned with the maintenance of student rights and the struggle for freedom and peace. Thus on many problems there were often disputes of passionate eloquence on one side and discernable impatience on the other.

It is to be hoped that in allowing the introduction of such controversial matters the ISC is not carrying the seeds of its own destruction.

Congressites relaxing at Ship Cove.



A COLONIAL PROBLEM FOR N.Z.

Finding that the most northern part of New Zealand is over 2,200 miles from Auckland came as a surprise to most of Congress. "It is not generally realised," said Mr Alpers in opening his address, "that the Cook Islands are an integral part of our country." Despite this fact, they have no representation in Parliament, and have their own taxes, customs duties, and many of their own laws.

Little note was taken in New Zealand of the problems confronting the islands up until the "Belshaw-Stace report" in 1955, but people were now coming to realise that New Zealand has a serious, though small, colonial problem on her hands. The New

Zealand Government subsidises the islands' economy to the extent of over £28 per head each year, and it seems that they may be incapable of economic independence. Mr Alpers stressed the need for good administrators in the islands, and appealed to University

A significant part in all Congresses is taken by the forum, in which debates on all manner of subjects may be heard. International affairs, student life, Congress arrangements, New Zealand politics, and other subjects were heard at the 1961 forum, which received a national press coverage, giving wide publicity to some controversial topics.

CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS

That this meeting shall disband as the official forum of the 1961 NZUSA Congress and re-establish itself as an autonomous meeting of students and staff members of N.Z. Universities at a residential camp at Curious Cove and that this meeting shall have the power to issue such statements and take such action as it shall deem fit.

That the Press Officer be requested to publish the full texts of all remits passed by this forum in the forthcoming NZUSA supplement.—Carried unanimously.

That Congress Olympics be totally abolished.

That the right to sub-edit reports of talks given at Congress be restricted to the speakers only. The senior Press Officer shall be responsible for handing the report to a newspaper.

That this Congress opposes the teaching of religion in State schools.

That the Government abolish the bonded postprimary teacher's studentship and implement the suggested bursary programme as outlined in the Parry Report.

That we denounce the negative attitude of the Government towards the implementation of improvements in student bursaries.

That this meeting expresses resolute opposition to the National Government's pre-election promise that the Police Offence Amendment Act 1960, be repealed, and the provisions of the 1951 amendment being restored in full.

That this Congress request the Government to extend the practice of the Colombo Plan to include a scheme whereby young people of all walks of life would be able to make a worthwhile contribution to the welfare of both South East Asia and, directly, to the welfare of their own country.

Young people freshly out of their studentships, apprenticeship or other periods of training would be enlisted on a voluntary basis for work in South East Asia for a period of, say, one year.

To qualify for this work which, it is believed, would be keenly sought after, the individual would first be requested to complete a shorter period of, say, six months, during which he would be occupied in essential community service in New Zealand. The scheme would be financed as it grew, from progressive reductions in the defence spending; the trainee could receive remuneration equal to that of a private in the army.

Such trainees would, it is believed, return to New Zealand better qualified to help their own country, better informed as citizens of a democracy and having made a worthwhile contribution to the betterment of international relations and the world in general.

(Continued on page five)

students to take some heed of the jobs that need to be filled there. Medical and agricultural advisory positions, for instance are filled not by New Zealanders (who are unwilling to go there) but by Englishmen or foreigners.

He sketched in some of the history of the islands, to show some of the factors leading to their present position. The islands fall into two distinct groups; the infertile atolls of the north, and the volcanic islands of the south. Missionary activity began in 1821 with the arrival of John Williams of the London Missionary Society. The advent of whalers, slavers, diseases, and alcohol, with the assistance of a disastrous hurricane, drastically reduced the population. Missionary rule was also inadequate to control the outsiders, so in 1888 a British Protectorate was proclaimed. The drastically reduced population gave an unrealistic impression of great prosperity, and in 1900 so impressed Seddon that he successfully intrigued for annexation of the islands by New Zealand, expecting them to serve as a fruit garden for New Zealanders. But rapidly increasing populations and other causes eventually reduced the surplus crops available for export.

In 1911, we were paying the islands an annual subsidy of about £1 a head, and in 1930 30/- a head. Of this 12/9 was spent on education (i.e., one quarter of the amount spent on New Zealanders) and 7/9 on health, which was half of the New Zealand figure. This was at a time when there was a much greater need for these services than existed in New Zealand. During the depression these subsidies were actually reduced, but meanwhile leprosy, TB, and other diseases got out of hand on many of the islands, and good government was destroyed. The coming of the Labour government in 1935 led to improvements, subsidies were doubled, and the administration helped with the export of fruit.

In 1946 we gave the islands a Legislative Council with a European majority, and advisory powers only, and in 1958 an act was passed establishing a Legislative Assembly with a Maori majority, with powers affecting all revenue earned in the territory.

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£500,000 annually. The position is the direct opposite of exploitation, but in some ways just as deleterious to the people's welfare. The islands are so small, so scattered, so varied, that administrative and transportation costs are out of all proportion to the population. We have no training scheme for administrators—our men are inadequately prepared. The islanders, sensing their lack of "mana," call them "small people."

"The basis of our administrative attitude to these people has been wrong," said Mr Alpers. "It can be summed up in a favourable joke of present-day administrators: First you tell 'em how to do it, then you show 'em how to do it—then you do it yourself." Compare this with what Williams had to say before getting his new converts to build a 150 by 60 foot church, and a 50-by-18 foot ocean-going ship: "You will find them capable of anything that you can teach them," he told a fellow-missionary.

This fault is shown up in the first instance in our having, until very recently, made no attempt to teach the islanders anything about local government or administration. The near-monopoly of one company which trades in the islands leaves islanders over-dependent on the movements of the company's one small ship. Time and again in the outer islands, produce may be left rotting on the shore for lack of transport—the ship hasn't arrived, or is fully loaded. Transport fees are exorbitant—"There is an urgent need for the Government to provide for one or more inter-island trading vessels, and to encourage and accelerate the formation of co-operatives," continued Mr Alpers.

There are many good points to our administration, he said. Most certainly we mean well. New Zealanders' ignorance of the problem that exists may be a cause of the apathy when it comes to applying for positions in the islands. Mr Alpers felt that the Government should admit that help is needed, and seek people willing to serve in a missionary spirit. The problems are increasing—the population will double in the next 25 years, the local food supplies are already exceeded. Above all culture and care of the islands' coconut trees is in a shocking state.

Concentration and relaxation—a Congress audience.



CAN WE MAINTAIN OUR LIVING STANDARDS IN NEW ZEALAND?

This talk created great public interest. Professor Holmes's mention of the desirability of a longer parliamentary term of government provoked commendatory editorials in many newspapers, and the Prime Minister (Mr Holyoake) was moved to comment on it.

Opening his address, Professor Holmes, Professor of economics, and Dean of the faculty of commerce at Victoria University, explained that as economists have not been very successful in predicting the future, he would confine himself to explaining the factors which affect our standard of living, and how they apply to us in New Zealand.

He defined "standard of living" as the volume of material goods and services available to purchasers—the variety of goods purchased was not his concern. This standard was basically dependant on three factors: What we produce per head of our population; our volume of imports as compared to that of exports; and our borrowing overseas and the amount we draw on our reserves.

If we are to achieve growth, said Professor Holmes, we must place an emphasis on the development of our overseas trade.

We can no longer rely on the U.K. to take all our exports as before. We need new markets, and must be prepared to alter our products to suit them, and accept the possibility of having to bear initially low prices as a cost of development.

If investments in our industries are not high enough, Professor Holmes continued, we must be prepared to borrow overseas. It is

high time, he said, that we got rid of our pathological suspiciousness of international financial institutions. New Zealand should play her proper part in the work of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Protection of local industries by itself provides no guarantee whatsoever that New Zealand's economy will become less vulnerable. The protection of inefficiency should be avoided, and internal barriers to trade should be reduced as much as possible.

If we are to have sound, balanced growth, we must have governments who will make policies which may prove unpopular until their results can be felt. During 1961, said Professor Holmes, before anyone could confidently predict the result of the next general election, the government should make the decision to hold a referendum on the question of extending the parliamentary term of government to four or five years.

This would be an aid to the adoption of economic policies appropriate for New Zealand in her continued dependance on prices overseas for her primary products. It might help curb the bad effects on the country's economy of the domestic spending sprees which tend to occur in election years.

DELEGATES ATTEND A CULTURAL EVENING
(N.Z.er Brian Shaw in left foreground)



SEMINAR IN SAIGON

"If you were suddenly told that you must leave your country, today, in half an hour's time, forever—what would you take with you?—another scarf? an extra pullover? No. In the moment of climax, you reach for what the heart remembers."

The speaker was Mr Alec Dickson, secretary of the Royal Commonwealth Society: the place was the Dien Hong conference Hall, Saigon, Viet Nam: the event, a Seminar on "The Role of Youth Organisations in National Reconstruction," organised by WAY, the World Assembly of Youth, and attended by representatives of 29 nations. The date was January 17, 1961.

Mr Dickson was one of a number of distinguished speakers who addressed participants during the ten day seminar on a variety of contemporary problems in Asia.

During the cruel events of the Hungarian revolution in 1956, hundreds of students in Western Europe had discovered, after hitherto rather privileged and sheltered lives, that they were needed; that they had something to give; and in those hours, they became men. These students had had an opportunity to assist the Hungarian refugees and to give them acceptance—into their friendships, into their homes, into their lives.

But, said Mr Dickson, while it is true that young people approaching manhood wish to feel of service, opportunities for service are not to be found only in dramatic situations: and each of us should look for situations where the contribution of young people is of more value precisely because

it is by young people.

The problems of youth in the West today are largely concomitants of the establishment of the Welfare State: youth organisations are no longer revolutionary—they are respectable, they are "established": and when boredom reigns, violence is never far distant. In the modern forms of juvenile delinquency, for example, we can see that an important characteristic is not the acquisition of the prey, but the excitement of the hunt. But should we not be glad of this capacity in young people to revolt? We should be quick to detect these qualities of revolt, and to canalize them.

Youth in the East have, as their first task, to re-establish that *elan* which disappeared with the achievement of independence: new and urgent thought is required so that youth can be of service to the community. In Asia, there is a manifest contrast between what the youth of China are doing, and what those in the other, free, countries, are not doing. Creative imagination is required on the part of youth leaders to see opportunities for service where at present can be seen only boredom—and nothing.

For two weeks, seminar delegates (together with the writer, who attended as an observer from

Written by New Zealand
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New Zealand) lived and talked together in the beautiful, avened city of Saigon, a few kilometres from the twin-city of Cholon. We were, each of us, overwhelmed by the truly remarkable hospitality and friendliness of our Vietnamese hosts. We rested one weekend at the cool mountain resort of Dalat. We also sampled, at performances arranged for us, the Vietnamese cultural renaissance: and it was impossible not to experience, once again, something of that profound agony which marks the validity of all art. And at all hours we continued to debate the details of what could be done by youth organisations in Asia.

And what must be done. At the end, we returned to our own countries: and as I flew across the mighty life-giving Mekong flowing down from the border of Laos, across the virgin forest of Cambodia, over the magnificence of Angkor Wat, on over the flat eastern portions of Thailand, over the slime-covered Kongs of Bangkok, I remembered. I remembered that, thirty kilometres from Saigon, the Viet Cong guerillas were active day and night in the battle for the minds of the peasants. I remembered that true loyalty is based on conviction, but that in the absence of any seen basis for conviction, it was possible to mound in harshness and terror another, more ignoble loyalty based on fear: that the night raids, kangaroo courts and "exemplary" executions at night by the Viet Cong in Vietnam were only a small part of the picture on that great continent.

"What must be done?"

"We must jump from a pre-capitalist to a post-communist economy within one generation."

"I have dedicated my life to my country. I am prepared to die tomorrow to preserve our freedom."

And I remembered more simply the brief account which I heard in halting English from a mother of my own age, a refugee who had escaped from Hanoi in North Vietnam three months earlier. Her husband and child had been killed in the flight. One would be very insensitive not to be moved by the story, similar to countless others, but each unique in its restatement of man's unconquerable spirit, of the jealousy with which freedom is husbanded by those who have found it—in however imperfect form—when previously they had had none.

THE NATURE OF FREEDOM

Professor K. J. Scott, Professor of Political Science at Victoria University, gave the final address to Congress with a memorable lecture entitled "The Nature of Freedom." Freedom, as opposed to a system of tyranny, is a fairly modern ideal—for example, in medieval times, the ideal was a system of law, as opposed to a state of anarchy.

Freedom of action results, said Professor Scott, when a person wants to do a thing, has the skill to do it, and is allowed to do it. One of the first points he raised is that a decrease in unfreedom does not constitute an increase in freedom—an ascetic, removing his desires, is not increasing his freedom.

He compared the 18th century view that man's freedom could be increased by a decrease in social restrictions, with the 19th century opinion that freedom would be increased by increasing man's power over nature, and said that these views were supplementary.

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There is no desire on the part of the workers for sacrifice and suffering to improve their living standards, said Mr Hill. They would much rather settle their disputes by conciliation and maintain happy industrial relations. However in many parts of the world, such as the southern parts of the USA, the struggle for the workers' rights is still going on, and martyrdom is by no means finished yet.

Mr Hill gave his full support for voluntary unionism. "Compulsory

membership of any organisation is prohibited by the Charter of the United Nations," he said. It must be remembered also that the right to picket, strike, boycott, and give support—both financial and moral—to unions on strike is guaranteed in the charter.

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"The Government brought down regulations taking away our democratic rights. The charter was forgotten and the union's funds were frozen. We were also denied the right to state our case to the public over the radio or in the newspapers.

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THE DEATH OF CLIO

Professor Keith Sinclair, associate professor of History at the University of Auckland, and author of the Pelican History of New Zealand, presented Congress with his views on the deficiencies and problems besetting Clio, the Muse of History.

Despite these problems, said Professor Sinclair, history is a popular study and was once, at least, the principal humanity.

History was above all subjective — the historian, paradoxically, was a product of his material, which was in turn coloured by his attitudes. Each historian had his own personal bias; for example Namier explained history in terms of economic or class interest.

According to Collingwood, causation was only in the sense of motivation. In short, an historical statement was based on documents and not on a law or laws. Because this documentation was not complete itself, and because of bias, a subjective attitude, and chance in the process of selecting from billions of facts, history turns out to be a far from scientific study, and often a crude one, in its explanation of man. Partly for reasons such as these,

history text books often contained nothing but patriotic half-truths.

This introduces another idea—the uses to which history may be put. Professor Sinclair stated that history was “still locked in the box of nationalism,” and that there was no international community of historians. It has been employed by many “isms” for many purposes. The situation, implied the speaker, was bleak.

Finally, Professor Sinclair

showed that other and newer disciplines were taking over the job of history in their various ways. Such subjects as economics, psychology, sociology and demography were explaining man in more scientific ways than history ever could. Even the novelist was providing the spectacle and entertainment of history. Perhaps, said Professor Sinclair, the historian was, then, a novelist *manque*.

MR TOBY HILL—(continued)

my own union, the waterside workers, at Lyttelton. Two inspectors were sent to restrain me on that occasion. The other meeting was one of the seamen's union at which Mr F. P. Walsh presided.

“It was no wonder that Mr Holland won the snap election in 1951. If I could impose the censorship that he did during the dispute I could win any campaign.

“If we are to have voluntary unionism, which I agree with, we must have all our democratic rights held sacrosanct by authority,” he concluded.

PROFESSOR SCOTT—(contd.)

freedom unless you can afford to feed them.” “People will always get their own way, but it is quicker in a democracy.”

There are no general rules about freedom, continued Professor Scott. One must consider individual cases—lawful arrest as compared with kidnapping, criticism as compared with slander.

He finished his address with some comments on subliminal advertising, discussing conditioning in terms of freedom. Conditioning affects our desires. Freedom is freedom from constraint, he defined. Control, in many forms, does not impair freedom—consider the case of offering someone an inducement to perform some act. Conditioning is one of these forms, and therefore does not impair freedom. “We must not confuse the philosophical issue of determinism and free will with the social problem of constraint,” he concluded.

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