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Report of the Evaluations Committee of the Third National Student Congress . . .

The Evaluations Committee of the Third National Student Congress of Delta Sigma Rho was assigned two jobs: (1) "to evaluate the procedure, work, and effectiveness of the Congress, and to make recommendations for the improvement of future Congresses to the Faculty Committee on Arrangements; and (2) "to conduct an attitude analysis of the delegates." Before presenting our evaluation of the work and effectiveness of the Congress, the Committee would like to report on the attitude analysis taken at the Chicago meeting.

I. Attitude Analysis: Questionnaires were handed out both before and after the Congress asking questions about the two topics for discussion. Four statements were presented about "Labor," and five about "Health." The delegates were asked to check the statement that most nearly represented their attitudes on the question. The same statements were used in the later poll, at the conclusion of the Congress. The Labor statements were:

- (1) Labor should be given additional power by legislation
- (2) Labor laws should remain substantially as they are at present
- (3) Labor should be curbed
- (4)(for any specific, individual opinion).

The Health Statements were:

- (1) The present medical system is generally satisfactory
- (2) The present medical system should enlarge its group practice and group insurance plans
- (3) The present medical system should receive substantial Federal Aid
- (4) The present medical system should be replaced by a system under Federal Control
- (5)(For any specific, individual opinion).

Results: An examination of the sixty-three valid, matched (both a before and after questionnaire returned) questionnaires, shows little change in opinion. Thirteen of the sixty-three people polled showed a change of opinion on the Labor question; while thirty-four showed a change of opinion on Health. The change on the Labor question was slightly in the direction of stronger curbs on labor, but chiefly in the direction of offering more specific, personal proposals than the ones listed on the poll, (that is, more people filled in the blank of No. 4 after the discussion, than before). In the Health section, the shift was in the direction of Federal Control of Medicine, with, again, a large number of people filling in the blank space with specific pro-

posals not covered by the four statements presented.

The committee recognizes that this poll is far from being an accurate, scientific public opinion poll, but the results obtained lead to the conclusion that the Congress produced more specific thinking on the subjects discussed, rather than a general feeling on some previously thought out, broad statement of belief.

II. Evaluation of Procedure, Work, and Effectiveness of the Congress: Members of the committee observed closely all phases of the activity of the Congress. On the basis of their observations, the members of the Evaluations Committee make the following recommendations:

(1) The mechanics of voting should be made very clear. There was, apparently, some confusion about voting by school or by delegate, about the right to change one's vote before the results of voting are announced, etc.

(2) The role of the Independents in the Congress should be studied. It was felt by some of the committee that the Independents were not as active in the Congress—chiefly because they did not caucus—as were the party members.

(3) The Steering Committee should be made a permanent part of the machinery of the Congress. Its value was clearly demonstrated at the sessions of this Congress.

(4) Name badges should be provided for all delegates, and, if possible, a complete roster of attending members be made available early in the Congress.

(5) If fewer than five delegates have pre-registered as candidates for office in a party caucus, then nominations should be allowed from the floor, but, in that case, there should be no more than five candidates for any one office. In some instances, there were only one or two delegates who had submitted their names in advance for nomination to some office. It was felt by the committee that the present rule (not allowing any nominations from the floor) was a little too strict in this respect.

(6) The committee discussed the advisability of holding elections the first night of the Congress. This, of course, would necessitate beginning the Congress earlier in the day. Opinion in the committee was fairly evenly divided between retaining the present schedule or beginning the Congress earlier and having the election in the first General Assembly on the first night of the Congress. The committee felt this matter should be studied by the next Faculty Committee on Rules.

(7) The committee recommends that each chapter of Delta Sigma Rho should

compile some advisory material on the workings of the Congress for the next set of delegates who will attend the 1949 Congress.

(8) The committee discussed the advisability of using only one question instead of two. Opinion again was divided. This matter, also, should be studied by the next Faculty Committee on Rules.

(9) After carefully watching the workings of the Third National Delta Sigma Rho Student Congress, this committee is firmly convinced that the Congress is a very worthwhile forensic experience; that the value to the student both in speaking, association with other students, and increase of knowledge on important current topics is great; and that the Congress definitely should be retained as the principal feature of the Biennial meet-

ing of Delta Sigma Rho. In general the committee wants to go on record as strongly approving the Congress idea and the implementation of it as demonstrated in the Third National Delta Sigma Rho Student Congress.

Respectfully submitted:

Student Members:

Virginia Davis, University of Illinois
Oliver Neibel, University of Arizona
Carol Schermerhan, Wayne University
H. C. Webb, University of Minnesota

Faculty Members:

Warren Guthrie, Western Reserve University
Brooks Quimby, Bates College
Edd Miller, The University of Texas
(Chairman)

Dean William R. Davis, 1877-1947

Dean William Rees Davis, dean of the Division of Letters and Arts in Whitman College and for many years sponsor of the Whitman chapter of Delta Sigma Rho, died on March 13, 1947.

A graduate of Ripon College in 1901 and the recipient of the M. A. degree from Harvard University in 1910, Prof. Davis was a member of the Whitman faculty for 35 years. He was particularly interested in the fields of English and speech, being a great admirer of, and an authority on, Shakespeare and also actively sponsoring speech activities at Whitman. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Delta Sigma Rho, and of Phi Delta Theta, social fraternity. In addition, he be-

longed to the Modern Language Association, the American Association of University Professors, and the National Council of Teachers of English; and he was the founder of the Inland Empire Chapter of Teachers of English.

President W. S. Anderson of Whitman College paid tribute to Dean Davis as follows: "Countless students of several generations at Whitman will be saddened by the news that the College has lost one of its great teachers and a faithful servant. Prof. Davis' very life was woven into the fabric of Whitman College and into the lives of its graduates. In a large sense, he can be counted as one of the founders of Whitman."

Professor V. A. Ketcham, 1884-1947

Victor Alvin Ketcham, professor of Speech at the Ohio State University for thirty-four years, died on July 20, after a two and a half-year illness. He was 63 years old. Professor Ketcham was born in Corning, Ohio. He attended the Ohio University prior to entering the Ohio State University, where he received his A.B. degree in 1907. He went on to receive his LL.B. degree at the Ohio State University Law School in 1910.

Early in his career Professor Ketcham turned from the practice of law to the teaching of Speech. He taught at the University of Maine from 1910 to 1912, and at the University of Illinois from 1912 to 1913, before becoming associated with the Ohio State University as a staff member in 1913. Professor Ketcham served for three decades as director of Public Speaking and Debate courses and activities at Ohio State. In 1936, he was made Chairman of the newly created Department of Speech. His own indefatigable labor in bringing the new department into being was recognized by his associates.

In the late 29's and early 30's Professor Ketcham spent much of his time giving lectures to classes of the personnel heads of several large corporations, including RCA and General Electric. In this work he was highly successful. Among the works of Professor Ketcham were, ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE, and MAKE A GOOD SPEECH. The latter is now in mimeograph form and will soon be published. His lecture, "The Seven Doors to the Mind," has been printed in several text books on public speaking as illustrative of the imaginative elements in Speech.

Professor Ketcham was a member of the American Association of University Professors, the Speech Association of America, the Ohio Society of New York, Delta Sigma Rho, the Lions Club at New Lexington, Ohio, and the Faculty Club.

Funeral services were held in Columbus, July 23, and burial was in New Lexington. Members of the Speech Staff at Ohio State University served as pallbearers.