



SIDELINES

By LEROY BECKMAN

THE FEDERAL Government is completing plans to return the air mail to the private aviation corporations at the earliest possible moment. Coincident with the bids to be received is the requirement that reorganization of the administrative staffs of the companies be effected, so that all possibilities of fraud be consequently minimized. Of course there is no doubt but what the "reorganization" stands as a mere technicality—probably not to be observed.

HURRIEDNESS on the part of the government in this question is occasioned by ghosts. The ghosts in twelve dead army pilots. The souls of these twelve men along with the accusations of the public have labeled the government and the post-office department, in particular, as murderers. They must wash their hands of it all. President Roosevelt, being sensitive politically, is taking steps to retrieve a political blunder.

BEFORE the incident passes into history, it is well to note the fact that the previous air-mail contracts were made in fraud and collusion. That was the report made by the Senate investigation committee, hence a fact—if we are to accept that report as truthful. The law calls for competitive bidding in the releasing of air-mail contracts, and this was not done. Instead, a group of representatives of certain favored companies met in Washington and distributed out among themselves the air-mail business of the United States.

THE SENATE committee also made known the fact that these aviation companies felt it necessary to be represented in Washington by individuals to whom they paid large fees—individuals whose sole apparent qualification was the fact that they were politically connected. And then, these same companies strived to persuade the country that they had not had their day in court, whereas, for nearly a year the air companies have every opportunity to make a full presentation of their case to the Senate committee. The value of an air-mail contract was shown when D. M. Shaffer, chairman of a large aviation corporation, appeared as witness before the committee. Mr. Shaffer said that the mail contract meant nothing to his company: "We would have been better off if we had not got it, because we have lost money on it since we have had it. . . . I would say we have lost a million dollars." But, when asked by the committee if they "wanted to surrender it," the witness hastened to say, "No, sir; we didn't want to surrender it." No, they didn't want to surrender a loss.

INTERVENTION on the part of the government has meant little. It uncovered fallacies and introduced new ones. It has given the air-transport companies time to put on a false face and start all over. The government must change its tactics with regards to relationship with private enterprises. The contracts should be renewed, and administrative policies

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Phi Lambda Upsilon Initiates Two Men

Phi Lambda Upsilon, the honorary chemical fraternity at Armour Institute of Technology, formally initiated Jack Weiland and Elmer Renstrom, two juniors in the department of chemical engineering last Thursday evening, April 12, in the Phi Kappa Sigma house.

The ceremony was attended by all the active members of the fraternity, several alumni members, and those members who are doing graduate work at the Institute for their Masters Degree. Several members on the faculty were present to witness the ceremony also. With the conclusion of the formalities all members sought enjoyment, with most of them found in playing bridge.



SLAMMING OUT THE INITIAL HOME RUN of the season, Tad Omiecinski, Techawk veteran first sacker, scored the first of the series of runs which gave Armour a victory over the Maroons.

Sales Engineers Being Demanded

Upturn in Business Is Shown By Placement Office

The greatest personnel demand in the engineering fields today is for the type of man who may best be described as a "sales engineer." This, at any rate, is indicated by requests coming currently to the Armour Institute placement office, where increased activity continues to reflect the general improvement of business.

Sales Engineers Needed
"A number of employers seeking young engineering graduates," said Howard K. Laniger, placement officer, "have asked recently for men who can combine drafting, designing, production, or laboratory work with sales. This has been true not only of small organizations, when it is natural to expect that an employee should be engaged in more than one function, but also by several of the large companies."

It is not easy, Mr. Laniger pointed out, to find the right men for such positions. Those whose experience is limited to "inside" work, are inclined to regard themselves as lacking in sales ability, and to steer clear of jobs with sales requirements. In several specific cases, however, this difficulty has proved to be imagined rather than real, and engineers who have been reluctant to take such jobs are finding themselves capable and enthusiastic salesmen.

Unfilled Requests Reported
For the first time since the placement office was opened more than a year ago, there have been several requests for men which could not be filled during the last month. Mr. Laniger feels very strongly that it is better to recommend no one for a job than to send a man who "might do," or who "almost" meets the requirements of training and experience specified by the employer. Most employers prefer to interview several candidates for a position and then confer with the placement office before making a final selection.

Few New Jobs at Fair
Undergraduates seeking summer employment who do not have connections with family, friends or previous employers, according to Mr. Laniger, may expect a tough time. The World's Fair has announced its intention of hiring this year's staff from those who were on the pay roll last year, and since this year's pay roll is to be considerably smaller, there are likely to be few new jobs at the Fair. A list of concessionaires and exhibitors is soon to be released, however, and it may be possible for students to find summer jobs with these people.

Doctor H. M. Raymond Pays Visit to School

Last week, President Emeritus Howard M. Raymond paid a visit to his old friends at the Institute. While he was here, he expressed his satisfaction at the high standard of work maintained by Armour students. The former president said that he was very glad to be back with his old associates and friends with whom he had spent nearly forty years.

Men Appointed to Sell Play Tickets

With the performance of "The Romanians," coming in the near future, to be exact May 11, tickets to the production of the Armour Players have been placed on sale.

In the freshman and sophomore classes, all of which take English courses, a representative in each class has been appointed to contact every member of that class with the express purpose of selling tickets. In the upper classes, it is expected that a representative of each department will be appointed to see the members of his department.

Although tickets have been on sale only a short while, the early sales have been surprisingly good, and if they keep up, it may be necessary to run the play a second time to take care of all who wish to see the performance.

General admission will be twenty-five cents with two hundred seats on the main floor at thirty-five cents.

Honor "A" Plans to Use Public Award System

At a meeting of Honor "A" last Wednesday, the members spent most of the time in discussing plans for the future. A consensus of opinion of the members showed that it is their desire to give the awards of Honor "A" to those selected, at a joint meeting of the school. In the near future new faculty advisors will be also selected for this organization.

The discussions proved to be rather involved, so it was decided to hold another meeting tomorrow at 10:30. It will probably meet, as it did last week, in the Tau Beta Pi rooms.

Ideal Engineer to Exist Someday; But What Day Is Another Story

By Prof. C. F. Gebhardt

Lo, the poor engineer! Yesterday acclaimed as the most important factor in national prosperity—today condemned as the principal cause of the depression! Yesterday his professional qualifications were all that could be asked for—today they are wholly deficient! What ails the engineer—the intertwined uncertainty and complexity of our present social, political and economic life which has worked havoc with all classes, business, professional and labor—the tremendous social and economic upheaval which is without precedent—the attempts on the part of politically actuated congressmen and cloistered bureaucrats to solve problems and administer affairs by fiat laws of economics and of human relations? No—the troubles within the engineer himself—that is, if we believe the statements in the daily and technical press, if we listen to the theories of the "New Deal" educators, if we advocate the curricula proposed by some of our engineering schools. According to these sources the successful engineer

1. "Must be refined and cultured."

2. "Must have a charming personality and be a good mixer."

3. "Must be able to make intelligent judgments upon the economic

4. "Must be able to lead and person management and be able to cover all aspects of handling labor."

5. "He must be interested in public works programs proposed by any unit of government in which he has a vote, and he should contribute his technical knowledge for the benefit of his lay neighbors to enable them more intelligently to pass on bond issues and appropriation measures involving sound engineering and business judgment as a fundamental."

6. "He should be able to use the English language clearly, concisely, logically and forcefully."

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Honorary Dance Plans Completed

The Castilian Room of the Hotel Shoreland, located at 55th street and the lake, and Saturday, April 21, are the new place and date of the annual interhonorary fraternity dance, which was formerly to have been held on April 20 at the Allerton Hotel. Members of all the honorary fraternities, which include scholastic, athletic, literary, and musical, will dance to the music of Morty Brodine and his orchestra. All professors and their wives are invited, along with President and Mrs. Hotchkiss and Professors Ensz, Heald, and Hendricks who are guests of honor. Novel dance programs are to be one of the features of this dance.

A.S.M.E. to Show Pictures Friday

The Armour branch of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will be hosts at a meeting next Friday, April 20, in the assembly hall at 10:30 a. m. Three talking picture films will be presented by the Champion Spark Plug Company. An invitation to all students to attend this meeting is extended by the A. S. M. E.

Mr. McNamara from the Midwest branch of the Champion Spark Plug Company will give a talk during the meeting and will discuss all the questions raised.

"Under-Fire," the title of the first film will show the complete cycle in the manufacture of spark plugs. The mining of the material and the different operations it is subjected to will be shown and will bring out the importance of chemistry in this industry.

Race Films to Be Shown

Animated motion pictures of auto ignition systems will comprise the material in the second film and will be presented in a manner so that it will be easily understood by everyone.

As a matter of entertainment, the third film will deal with the history of all important racing events in recent years. All forms of racing which make use of the gas engines such as the airplane, motorcycle, and automobile will be shown. The importance of the spark plug in these races will be exemplified.

Joseph O'Hara, senior M. E. will be Armour's official representative at the convention of the A. S. M. E. (Continued on page 4)

TECH NINE TO OPEN LEAGUE SEASON WITH ELMHURST HERE FRIDAY; PLAY PURPLE TODAY

New Material Strengthens Hopes for High League Standing; Broke Even in League Games Last Year

LAUCHISKIS, BARTUSEK, HAYES LOOK GOOD

Armour Students Show Superiority

Grades in Physics Exam Are Higher Than Average

Students of physics at Armour averaged from 20 to 52 per cent higher than those of other colleges in a nationwide physics examination conducted during the past year and covering the sections on mechanics and heat. This was revealed by a study of the preliminary report published by the Cooperative Test Service, and the committee on tests of the American Association of Physics Teachers, the authors of the examination.

8000 Students Take Test
Approximately 8000 students from 180 schools, consisting of 14 state universities, 20 other universities, 9 technical institutions, and various colleges, took the mechanics test with an average score of 18.9. Armour's score for 182 men, 22.7, was 20 per cent higher. The 2390 students of engineering who took the test averaged 19.5, with Armour 14 per cent better than this.

Still greater was the difference in the heat examination. The average score was 11, on the basis of 169 schools and 7440 students. Armour's score, 16.7, was 52% higher. The engineering students taking the test numbered 2039 and had an average score of 11.7, with Armour 43% higher.

The above grades are not on a percentage basis, but are calculated from the difference between the number right and a constant times the number wrong.

Engineering Students Highest

An interesting comparison is afforded by the averages of students with various professional goals in mind. The students of architecture came out the lowest in the heat examination with a score of 9.1, while the students of ministry excelled them by only 0.1 of a point. The former, however, did better in the mechanics test, where the scores of the students of engineering, law, teaching, medicine, business, architecture, ministry, and agriculture declined in that order. Another comparison can be made with the various classes in all the schools, in which the sophomores topped the best with an 18.9 average score, and the seniors were at the bottom with 16.6.

Seven Men Pledged By Sphinx Fraternity

Pledging ceremonies of Sphinx were held last Tuesday evening at the Theta Xi fraternity house. The men who went through the formal ceremonies of the honorary literary society were W. B. Ahern, R. D. Armsbury, L. J. Beckman, S. Bernstein, E. H. Doane, E. N. Searl, and G. W. Wheaton. The evening's entertainment was supplied by the candidates and refreshments followed in timely sequence; but it seemed that the active members were bored by the type of amusement put on and in the progress of the entertainment they stole away and nibbled up most of the refreshments leaving the odds and ends to the pledges who went home hungry and deprived of the nourishing edibles.

The chief purpose of Sphinx is to honor the senior and junior students who hold a prominent position on the staff of any recognized publications, who have performed highly meritorious service, and who have shown distinguished ability.

Next Friday Elmhurst plays the Tech nine in the first game of the league season at Armour. However, of primary importance is the task of handling the Purple squad from Evanston in the second of the two game series. The first game, played yesterday, was not run off in time to come to press but there is need for a creditable showing after the losses handed Tech last year by Northwestern. The game this afternoon promises to be an interesting contest with an improved Armour team.

Hopes for a successful league season seem brighter than usual, and a victory over Elmhurst will strengthen them. Last year Armour won four and lost four to place third in the league composed of North Central, Elmhurst, Wheaton, Lake Forest, and Armour.

New Material Strengthens Team
This season with most of the men returning from last year's squad and several promising new men, namely Lauchiskis, Bartusek, and Hayes, the team seems to be in good shape. Al Lauchiskis is the promising third baseman drafted from the basketball court to fill the vacancy left by Steve Lillis when he declared himself an outfielder. So far Al is quite a hitter and hits can always be used. Bartusek is the new catcher and looks as if he is capable of holding a regular place on the team. Then there is Hayes who pitched against Chicago Normal and made a creditable showing.

Play North Central

The players returning from last year's team along with the new material will give Tech as good a chance as they can to win the championship as they have had in the last few years. North Central is the team that blasts the Armour hopes repeatedly and already the North Central obstacle is something of interest and speculation.

A.I.Ch.E. Members to Hear Lathrop

Dr. Elbert E. Lathrop, consulting engineer and former director of the Jackson Laboratories of the DuPont Co., will address the members of the Armour branch of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers on Friday, April 27. His talk will be on the subject, "The Semi-plant in Chemical Process Development." He was obtained as speaker through the efforts of Arthur Highman.

Last Friday the members of A. I. Ch. E. were addressed by Mr. Mark Kleberg. The latter took the place of Mr. Modakowski, who was unable to attend. Mr. Kleberg showed his audience two motion pictures, the first concerning the rise of the gas industry from the time of the first knowledge of the combustible properties of coal gas, and the second showing the methods of manufacturing coal and carburetted water gas.

Professor Is Injured in Fall to Pavement

Professor Walter J. Bentley of the chemical engineering department is recuperating from an operation performed last Friday on his knee cap which was fractured when he slipped and fell on the street. At present he is at the John B. Murphy hospital, where he may receive visitors. During his absence, which will probably be for about a month, Professor Bentley's classes will be conducted by fellow members of his department.