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Lilienthal and the AEC

The controversy over the confirmation of David E. Lilienthal as chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission caught the attention of the nation in the past several weeks as it grew from a routine hearing to a bipartisan upheaval.

We all have our own opinions as to the qualifications of Lilienthal, generally depending upon what newspapers and magazines we read. Most of us know that in 1934 Lilienthal was appointed to a directorship of the Tennessee Valley Authority by Roosevelt and was closely associated with this great engineering and economic achievement until this year when President Truman nominated him for chairmanship of the AEC.

When the Senate Atomic Committee began hearings, Lilienthal appeared to be in for a quick, decisive confirmation for one of the nation's most important jobs. There was no apparent reason why his confirmation to the chairmanship would not run as smoothly as back in 1945, when the Senate demonstrated its approval of Lilienthal by unanimously confirming him for another term as head of the TVA.

That was before the aged senator from Tennessee, Kenneth McKellar, took charge and violated all principles of logical thought processes when he began drawing vivid conclusions from extremely unsound factual basis. McKellar, with his ridiculous accusations, led the parade of opposition that was soon to form.

Personal prejudice was strongly in evidence. Since Lilienthal's parents were born in Europe, McKellar suggested that only second generation Americans should be eligible for a position on AEC. Senator Bridges cited Lilienthal's work in the TVA as, "a social experiment, which is a wide departure from the American system of private ownership of property." This "social experiment" carried electric power to about 700,000 people, lowered the rates to about 20 percent below the national average, and at the same time transformed an eroded valley into a fertile land.

Rising above these arguments several things become very apparent: We cannot allow party preference and personal prejudice to interfere with the welfare of the people. We dare not let petty politics obscure the issues at hand. To some of us the qualifications of Lilienthal may be a matter for legitimate conjecture, but let us not be deflected into the well-worn paths of those who are guided only by their selfish desires, hatreds, and concern over the ancestry of others.

Objectivity in politics as well as in science should be the goal of every free thinking individual in America.

A Longer Pole Will Do It... Unk.

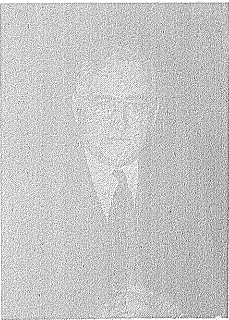


Faculty Facts...

Dr. L. R. Ford, Chairman of the Department of Mathematics
Dr. Lester R. Ford, chairman of the department of mathematics at IIT, is president of the Mathematical Association of America and vice-president of the American Mathematical Society. These groups represent the two leading organizations in this field in the U.S. and Canada.

Most students know Dr. Ford by his soft-spoken, unassuming manner, and his persistence in "sticking to the subject" in the classroom; however, he is recognized by his colleagues as an outstanding leader in the field of mathematics.

Dr. Ford received his AB and AM in mathematics from the University of Missouri and then attended Harvard where he was awarded the

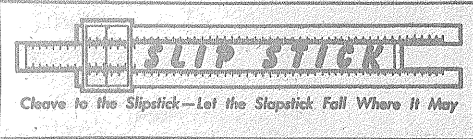


Sheldon traveling fellowship at the University of Paris and the College de France in 1914. Due to the imminence of a German attack on Paris he joined the faculty of the University of Edinburgh as a lecturer. Dr. Ford thus became the first American to hold such a post in a Scottish university.

The following year he returned to Paris to continue his studies and then at the end of 1916 he found himself back at the University of Edinburgh. After receiving his PhD from Harvard in 1917, Dr. Ford accepted a position as an instructor there. But the war intervened and he left to enter the army where he soon became officer in charge of mathematics at Camp Zachary Taylor. Upon his release from the service he returned to Harvard to teach mathematics and life insurance until 1920 when he joined the faculty of Rice Institute. Here he stayed until 1937 when he came to IIT to become professor and chairman of the department of mathematics.

Dr. Ford, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, author of scores of mathematical research papers, has made his life work a study of the theory of functions. His two most widely known works are: "Automorphic Functions," which is a book on the theory of functions of complex variables, and "Differential Equations," a widely used text book. Among his other interests outside of mathematics are bridge and chess. He was once president of the Harvard chess club competing against such strong opponents as Yale and MIT.

Dr. Ford is a firm believer in "taking a vacation and making use of it." Hardly missing a summer the Ford family has vacationed at every scenic spot from coast to coast. This summer they plan to visit the high mountains above Salt Lake City.



"Damn," said the ram, as he hurtled over the cliff, "I didn't see that U-turn."

—JIT—

He answered all her silly questions, but he had grown tired and for the past half hour he had been trying to get some sleep.

Wife: "George, dear, is everything shut up for the night?"

Hubby (yawning): "Everything else, dear."

—JIT—

A dean of women of a large co-educational college recently began an announcement to the student body in this manner: "The president of the college and I have decided to stop necking on the campus."

E.E.: "I hit a telephone pole last night."

E.E.: "It's a wonder it didn't break your neck."

E.E.: "Well, it wasn't broken, but it was sadly interrupted."

—JIT—

Irving Berlin takes a worthless piece of paper and writes a song hit. He sells the copy for \$50,000. That's Genius.

John D. Rockefeller can sign his name to a piece of worthless paper and make it worth half a million. That's Capital.

A man can buy \$5 worth of steel and make \$1000 worth of watch springs out of it. That's Skill.

A cop can take a worthless piece of paper and write your number on

(See SLIPSTICK on Page 3)



Here it is, children. Pure unadulterated dirt about the classical conduct of some of our budding engineers that has reached the ears of the Digger. If any of the readers fall into possession of facts suitable for this column, which the Digger might have missed, write them up and deposit the articles in the Tech News box (first entrance, Chapin Hall.)

Being the jealous type, young John "Unofficial Air Raid Warden" Scherba was snooping around his neighborhood at night when he "chanced" to look into a parked car. John then ran home and called the police to report promiscuous behavior in the car and so saved his block from corruption.

Shirley Schultz, still in her first year, has already gained a reputation for being an encyclopedia of jokes that even Slipstick cannot print. Among the hushed whispers came the statistics from a lad that sat in class next to Shirley. During the semester the unidentified person would scratch a mark in the chair whenever she told a joke. Before finals rolled around there were 23 scratches. Censorship prevents the Digger from printing a sample.

When Perry Black took some clothes to a Chinese laundry, he didn't mind too much when the two attendants added up the bill in Chinese and came out with an exorbitant price, and went into another conference to decide when the laundry would be ready. But when he came back and his blue shirts were half toasted on one side only, that was the end. To make matters much worse, when Perry complained, he barely escaped with his life.

Hurry, hurry, this is the chance of a lifetime to betray your buddies by exposing their escapades. Remember the steamshovel bucket in Chapin Hall and don't forget names, they're important.

THE ENTHALPHY DROP

Fraternities and Sororities

PHI KAPPA SIGMA

The event of the month for Phi Kappa Sigma has been the initiation of twelve men. At the ceremony in the Morrison Hotel last Sunday, Roland Roberts, Homer Deakman, Robert O'Keefe, Robert Gyllensvan, John Carberry, Morris Carlson, James Eadie, Robert Parsons, William Barrows, Emil Bandovich, Ralph Gordon, and Earl Kracht became active members of the fraternity. Two new men pledged last week were Sam Lucia and Dick Brown.

Last Saturday night, Bob Mielke managed one of the biggest party hits of the house. A gay nineties motif, a barbershop quartet, a melodrama and the distribution of Chesterfield cigarettes to members and their guests were the highlights of the evening's entertainment for over twenty-five couples.

DELTA LAMBDA XI

Delta Lambda XI has become active again this semester after being inactive since 1942. The fraternity's inactivity was due largely to the absence of the members who had left for the service.

Officers elected for this year are: Grand Master, Richard Walters; and Henry Barts, scribe and burster.

TRIANGLE

A gathering of all Triangle activities, pledges, and their women for some "March Merriment" will be held on Saturday, March 8. The informal affair will begin at 8:30 p.m. at the house.

On Sunday, Feb. 23, nine men were initiated into the Armour chapter. The new activities are: Robert Amstutz, Don Craycraft, L. E. Dale, Leonard Dehn, Ken Koch, Ken Newburger, Eugene Resabek, Wybie van der Meer, and James Voss. The initiation banquet was highlighted by an address by Stanley Cutler, one (See FRATERNITIES & SORORITIES, p. 3)