PRACTICAL WORK, FILING PERIOD

PROPOSE CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

By Ted M. Hofmann

Hofmann, from Evanston, Illinois, is a junior in Cornell Branch and Secretary of TA.

With two constitutional amendments concerning membership to be considered at Convention, the Association appears to have reached a year of decision on membership selection criteria. These two amendments, if passed, would reduce or eliminate both the much-discussed work requirement and the formal application filing period.

As a part of the serious consideration now being given to these amendments, it may be helpful at this time to review carefully the constitutional provisions relating to the election of members.

A comprehensive historical review is easily possible through examination of the following extract from the “Cumulative Constitution” that I have been compiling over the past two years at the suggestion of Paul Szasz. This device makes it possible to ascertain what amendments have been made, and when they were adopted; in particular, one can read the Constitution as it stood in any given year since the original text was drafted in 1911.

Thus in historical perspective the membership criteria section looks as follows:

Article III. Membership.

Sec. 1. To be eligible to membership in the Association, the candidate shall have had his application on file (at least) for one year prior to the consideration thereof (by the Association) in annual Convention, OR FROM THE DATE OF FINAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE LAST PRECEDING CONVENTION, WHICHEVER PERIOD IS THE SHORTER; he shall be pursuing a course of study and purpose to continue as a student to the satisfaction of the Association; shall have (supported himself by) work satisfactory to the Association for a period of at least OR PERIODS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY one year; (shall have read during the year following his application, one or more works selected by him from a list furnished by the Association; shall have passed an examination prescribed by the Association on the general principles of democracy and on the Constitution and polity of the United States; shall have written and submitted an essay on (The General Principles) SOME ASPECT OF DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNMENT, (and) shall have written and submitted (a thesis) on the purpose and plan of the Association, particularly as set forth in this Constitution, stating therein his reasons for wishing to become a member; AND SHALL HAVE COMPLIED WITH SUCH FURTHER REQUIREMENTS AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED IN THE BY-LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Despite its initially forbidding appearance, this format is not particularly difficult to read. The notation may be summarized as follows:

1. The 1911 text is in regular upper and lower case type.
2. All deletions up to now are enclosed in parentheses.
3. All additions up to now are in upper case type.
4. Therefore, the present text is all words not enclosed in parentheses.
5. The year of amendment is indicated by the superscript figure following the change.

This scheme is fairly straightforward, except where amended portions were later further amended.

(I would appreciate any suggestions for a simpler notation scheme for the “Cumulative Constitution.” If this extract seems of use and not unduly complex, Convention might wish to have the complete “Cumulative Constitution” and the accompanying “Cumulative By-Laws” duplicated, so that all who are interested may obtain a copy.)

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* Recommended by 1930 Jud. Comm.
** 1930 Jud. Comm. recommended dropping this section without additional new requirement.
*** 1938 Convention resolved to instruct the Permanent Judiciary Committee to submit an appropriate amendment to the Constitution to the 1939 Convention, eliminating the essay on Democracy as a requirement for applicants for membership in Telluride Association.” No such amendment was offered in 1939.
**** 1930 Jud. Comm. recommended in addition: “The Association may, in its discretion, require that the candidate, to be eligible to membership, shall have written and submitted an essay upon a subject of interest to the candidate.”
The atmosphere has been encouraging, and everyone put forth a great deal of effort trying to make the year a success. The always existing problem of time organization threw up its usual obstacles of frustration, confusion, despair, and anger; but these were taken care of and there was time for activity as well as a full schedule of academics and ranch work. All in all, considerable improvement was made in nearly all phases of the Deep Springs program.

An undertaking of major importance was orientation of the group with the ideals and traditions of Mr. Nunn. This was especially important, because a majority of the students were first year men. A general desire to uphold these traditions was evident, as the student body worked diligently to maintain them.

A great deal of emphasis was placed on the committee program and some very worthwhile projects were carried out. Some excellent movies were shown, a few parties were given and some long-playing records were added to the already fabulous record collection. A new record changer was also acquired, and this new addition became a great attraction for members of the student body.

During early April, the student body left Deep Springs for eleven days on the California coast. San Francisco proved to be one of the highlights of the trip. Recent visitors to Deep Springs included Dr. Bruce Johnston and Dr. Holbrook Working of Stanford University. Both of these men are actively engaged in the field of Economics, and the feature of their stay was a lecture on "Current Farm Surplus in the United States" by Dr. Johnston.

Plans are now being made for the coming academic year. Several applications have been received for next year's entering class with some very promising prospects. The enrollment is expected to be between sixteen or eighteen students, which will increase the size of the student body to nearly the desired amount. It is hoped that the success of this year will carry over to next year with even better results and greater benefits.

CORNELL BRANCH NOTES

By DAVID A. HODGES

A second-year electrical engineering student from Bronxville, N. Y., Dave Hodges is an alumnus of TASP.

The spring term has passed quickly at Cornell Branch, with an intense but varied schedule of activities.

The Branch has been host to a number of guests. Baker Lecturer Saul Winstein from the University of California has resided with us for most of the term, and novelist James T. Farrell and composer Aaron Copland visited briefly. Professor and Mrs. W. K. C. Guthrie were our guests for a fortnight. Dr. Guthrie, Master of Downing College, Cambridge, delivered the Messenger Lectures on early Greek thought.

The Cornell Branch Consultation Committee, appointed by last Convention, visited the Branch for three days recently for general discussion. The Branch appreciated this opportunity to see its problems and activities from a new perspective, by discussing them with Don Irwin, Erik Pell and Jack Sheinkman.

Members returning to Ithaca for Convention this June will find a considerable quantity of new furniture gracing the first floor. Through the efforts of Bob Gatje for the Renovation Committee, a number of modern chairs, sofas, tables, and even wastebaskets have been purchased to replace some of the more decrepit monstrosities. The effect is very pleasing.

Living in the Branch this year has been easy. There has been a relative absence of conflicts between individuals, perhaps partly because of the pacific personalities of most Branchmen. A more important factor has been an unwillingness of Branchmen to go below the surface on discussion or consideration of issues at hand. There has been a definite lack of interest in Branch activities, resulting in poor attendance at Public Speaking, receptions, and parties. Lack of interest among Branchmen has crippled the Faculty Sunday guest program and campus recruitment. This year as in the past it has been impossible to raise widespread enthusiasm in the House over any program. Individuals tend to go their own way, devoting their efforts to Branch activities only when they feel like it.

One cause of difficulties may well have been the lack of continuity in the Branch. Seniors seem to grow tired and withdraw somewhat after three or four years in the Branch, so the burden falls, this year to the large groups of juniors, many of whom were new to the Branch. The character of the Branch has changed considerably from last year. Customs of last year's Branch, good and bad, have been discarded in favor of new customs, good and bad, almost as though we were starting from scratch.
COMMITTEES ANNOUNCE SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS

Eighteen outstanding high school juniors will attend the 1957 Summer Program at Deep Springs, Calif. They are:

David Odell Beim, 4634 Edgebrook Pl., Minneapolis
Michael David Blechman, 50 W. 70 St., New York
Richard Charles Brandt, 521 Elm St., Swarthmore, Pa.
Cyrus Duncan Cantrell III, 228 S. Geneva St., Ithaca
Douglas Daetz, 470 Myrtle St., Redwood City, Calif.
Barry Dennis Goss, 1001 Noyes Dr., Silver Springs, Md.
Henry Philip Gottfried, 1409 Metropolitan Ave., New York
Gary Allen Lorden, 625 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles
John Marten Ludden, 730 E. Carlisle, Milwaukee
Burton Alan Melnick, 24 Codman St., Dorchester, Mass.
Robert Peter Mogielnicki, Avon Old Farms, Avon, Conn.
Mark Ellsworth Mostoller, 26 Banbury Lane, Ben Avon Heights, Pittsburgh
Kenneth Lloyd Pursley, Sandpoint, Idaho
Robert Abernathy Smith, 16641 Oleander Ave., Los Gatos, Calif.
Rodney Paul Stiefbold, Hobson Rd., Naperville, Ill.
William Lester Whitson, 6541 Gundy Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Steven David Siener, 11311 Canton Dr., Studio City, Calif.

Area committees brought forward a large number of recommended candidates and made outright selections of ten of these young men. These committees are to be commended for their excellent work.

Director Charles Brickley and faculty member John Mellor are now engaged in planning the academic activities around the 1957 theme, “The Impact of Prosperity and Depression on American Democracy.” Arrangements are almost completed for hiring the third faculty member, a young professor of political science. John McCarter, a participant in the 1955 TASP and now a student at Princeton, will serve as counselor and administrative assistant for the Program.

Numerous alumni and friends of Deep Springs and Telluride Association have expressed an interest in observing the program. Guest accommodations at Deep Springs are limited, and guest lecturers will be scheduled to occupy the available space at certain times during the period July 1 to August 17 in which the program will be operating. Although visitors can contribute substantially to the educational program, it is important not to have so many at one time that they will overwhelm the planned educational activities.

Therefore, parents of the participants and alumni and friends of the Nunn institutions are requested not to visit the program without advance notice. Letters of inquiry should be addressed to Director Brickley (address until June 25, The Putney School, Elm Lea Farm, Putney, Vt.), who is responsible for administering the program.

LETTER TO EDITOR

BY PAUL C. SZASZ

Paul Szasz, a Custodian of TA, is currently clerking for Chief Justice Tuttle of the Fifth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals, Atlanta, Georgia. His article is a comment on President Claudy's article outlining problems facing Convention.

The March NL carried a letter from President Claudy concerning the 1957 Convention. He pointed out that the structural changes introduced last year primarily because of the decreased attendance would be continued and probably extended by scheduling at least part of the budget debate for the beginning of the session in order to make the consideration of program alternatives more realistic.

The creation of the position of Budget Officer by the last Convention makes such an innovation practical and almost automatic. Because he is directed by resolution to submit one or more proposed, balanced budgets to the Convention at its commencement, a debate on this report, followed by a referral to the Finance Committee for modification in accordance with the expressed desires of the membership, will enable the Convention to face and recognize the financial realities from the start. Irrevocable action would still be delayed until the final report of the Finance Committee is submitted, by which time the non-financial aspects of the alternative programs will also have been explored.

Although I agree that these changes in the hallowed but by now somewhat timeworn procedures of Convention are highly desirable, I think that this Convention should attempt at least a temporary departure from the “compartmentalized consideration” or review—the essentially microscopic analysis of the Association’s functioning during the last past and the immediately following year. It is high time that Convention as a whole,

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CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

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any “weaker” amendment; that is, it could reduce the requirement to, say, six months, instead of striking it entirely.

The second membership amendment coming before Convention this June was initiated by the members resident at Cornell Branch in consultation with the Chancellor. It reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Article III, Section 1, of the Constitution of Telluride Association be amended by striking the words “shall have had his application on file for one year prior to the consideration thereof in annual Convention, or from the date of final adjournment of the last preceding Convention, whichever period is the shorter; he.”

The immediate provocation for proposing the amendment at this time is that two otherwise qualified candidates will not have satisfied the one-year filing requirement by this June. These men, both juniors at Cornell Branch, were granted preferment for the first time last June, but were not requested to fill out formal membership application blanks until the Branch convened in the fall.

These men are not the first whose candidacy will be delayed a year because of the formal filing requirement. This difficulty arises because a man applying for an Association scholarship for the first time often is not requested to fill out a membership blank until Convention actually has granted him preferment. It is, in fact, neither practical nor desirable to request membership applications from all of our many preferment candidates.

As a result, if a first-year candidate’s preferment is granted and he is not attending Convention, he probably will not be able to satisfy the application filing requirement in time to apply for membership at the next Convention. The only chance he has is for the Secretary to contact him at once, requesting him to reply by telegram before the end of Convention, indicating his intention to apply for membership. This uncertain and complicated procedure failed last year, as it has failed several times before.

These practical considerations, however, were not all that the members resident at Cornell Branch considered in deciding to propose the above amendment. Also examined were the apparent historical reasons for the one-year filing requirement:

1. The requirement gave the Association a mechanical application procedure consistent with its requirements of one year of self-support and of a list of books to be read in the one year following application (see “Cumulative Constitution”).

2. The requirement puts the Association on notice that here is a man who will be applying for membership, and hence one with whom Association members should get acquainted and whose performance is to be watched closely during the year.

As may be seen from the “Cumulative Constitution,” this requirement has been amended once before on practical grounds to make the period of filing not longer than between Conventions.

Now clearly Reason 1 above has no particular efficacy today; however, Reason 2 appears to remain a valid argument for keeping an application filing requirement in some form. Under our amendment procedure, any “weaker” amendment than the one published may be passed by Convention. It is believed by several members in Ithaca that such an amendment—reducing the filing period to, say, six months—would both eliminate practical difficulties and retain the advantages of Reason 2.

As an alternative “weaker” amendment, it might be desirable to have a six-month filing requirement for all candidates resident at Cornell Branch or Deep Springs in the year preceding their application to Convention, and a one-year requirement for all others.

PERSONALS

Edmund L. Zalinski recently assumed a new post as executive vice president and a director of Life Insurance Company of North America, Philadelphia. He will be chief executive officer of this recently-incorporated affiliate of Insurance Company of North America.

In November Donald Baker returned to his practice with the Chicago law firm of Baker, McKenzie and Hightower, after nine months in Caracas, Venezuela, with one of his firm’s correspondent attorneys, Ramon Diaz & Asociados.

Fred H. Bullen, long-time labor-management arbitrator and umpire, has for the past four years been studying law and attending night school at New York University, in addition to his work as industrial relations consultant with the New York law firm of Kay, Sholer, Fierman & Hayes. He plans to take the bar examinations in early July.

Careerman Harvey Wellman of the Dept. of State was promoted to Class 2 in February. Since June, 1956, Wellman has been assigned as Special Assistant to the Ambassador (Paris) for the Mutual Defense Assistance Program.

Robert Simpson continues his work as assistant counsel with the Southern Calif. Edison Co. in Los Angeles. He is this year president of the Calif. Junior Bar Assn. He has just finished a term as National Committeeman for the Calif. Young Republicans.

Herbert Bud Young died in Salt Lake City on April 8 after a long illness. Young was a veteran of 46 years in the power industry, and station superintendent of the Oneida Plant of the Utah Power and Light Co. at the time of his death. He began work with the old Telluride Power Co. in 1911 as an operator at Olmsted. He is survived by his widow and by one son.
Two lectures, entitled "The Role of Britain in the World Today" were followed on a third evening by a panel discussion in which Butler was joined by three Cornell professors: Mr. Einaudi of the government department (moderator), Mr. Fox of the history department, and Mr. Kahn of the economics department.

Mr. Butler is a well-known political commentator in England, having written three books on British politics and being often associated with the BBC. His additional qualification for the job of interpreting Britain to an American audience was that he has made six trips to the United States in the past ten years, and has lived about three of those years in this country.

Mr. Butler's thesis was one of robust optimism about the future of Britain. His first lecture, "The Social Revolution," surveyed Britain's domestic situation. Although noting a relative deterioration in his country's position as a world power and in its economic condition with respect to the balance of trade, inflation, and taxation, he vigorously rejected the pessimistic assessment of the future of his country which is usually drawn from these considerations.

In the second lecture, "The International Revolution," Mr. Butler reiterated his optimism in terms of Britain's role in world affairs. Although admitting that his country is now a second-rate rather than a first-rate power, he argued that it still is (A) the most important nation of Western Europe, (B) the foremost nation in world trade and international finance, (C) the hub of the Commonwealth, and (D) the most important ally of the United States.

The lecturer admitted that a body of recent facts and figures indicated that the significance of Britain in each of these respects was declining; but he argued that such facts were often over-emphasized in the American press, and that even when all illusion was dispelled there was substantial significance remaining. He concluded that "our role in world affairs is, and will continue to be, one for which we need never apologize."

In his lectures Mr. Butler gave a survey of the factors involved in British affairs, and did not either set up nor discuss the sort of problems about which TA hopes to stimulate discussion. Little that he presented, apart from his optimism, was new to a person who follows the news.

It was therefore to be hoped that some such discussion would come out at the panel discussion, and the Association must be grateful to the panel, and to Mr. Einaudi in particular, for pressing Mr. Butler closely on a number of points.

It was encouraging to note that there were large numbers of undergraduates at all three sessions of the Lectureship. This is in sharp contrast to most University Lectures, and indicates a measure of success for this year's program. At the same time we must clearly recognize that the success of this Lectureship was severely qualified, according to our own standards.

It is the stated purpose of the Lectureship to promote discussion of those problems upon whose successful resolution the progress of democracy depends, and this year's Lectures, however useful for international understanding or however polished as political oratory, completely failed to meet this specification. For this shortcoming, the Lectureship Committee is not to blame; there is nothing in Butler's record to indicate that he would be so prosaic.

But some thought should be given at Convention to devices within the power of the Cornell Branch which would tend to rouse such discussion even on a series of Lectures like Butler's. There might, for example, be a student panel, the participants being chosen on the basis of a 500-word comment on some aspect of the announced topic; or the Sun might be used to better advantage to bring the problem before people's minds.

Some thought along these lines will be needed to prevent the Telluride Lectures from degenerating into another routine campus event, with no unique educational value. As they stand at present the Lectures would seem to be a budget item of doubtful return.

DEAR EDITOR . . .

The Editor acknowledges with an embarrassed blush this angry reaction to an erroneous birth announcement printed in the March NL.

Dear Editor:

A. Fall 1956 is only seven-and-one-half months (at most) from the time my mommy and daddy were married.

B. My name isn't Kathy.

C. I (nor anything like me) do not exist, am not on the way and am not even expected.

D. The facts: Sarah Myrick and Joel Cogen were married April 29, 1956, in Atlanta, Georgia. Joel is now in his first year at Yale Law School.

Love and kisses,

Kathy Cogen.
FORD FOUNDATION

A committee of the Fund for the Advancement of Education recently held a three-day conference at Telluride House, at the invitation of E. M. Johnson, who was one of the participants.

This Fund was established some years ago by the Ford Foundation for the purpose of providing large grants of money in the field of education. One of the major problems facing the Fund at this time is that of finding ideas good enough to back.

The Fund maintains a staff of full-time Consultants to evaluate short and long term needs of American education, and to consider alternative policies which the Fund might adopt to help meet these needs. These Consultants presumably advise the Board of the Fund (which makes all decisions on grants) in general rather than specific terms.

One of these Consultants, Burton F. Fowler, suggested and planned the series of meetings at Telluride House April 25-27. Personnel of the group included two other Consultants of the Fund, together with a selection from a larger group of educators who met in New York in November. The problem for discussion arose from a dissatisfaction with the ineffectiveness of conventional college education in developing the non-intellectual aspects of students.

There is some feeling on the part of these educators that the influx of additional students at college in the next five or six years may open the door to new ideas in education. There will certainly not be enough qualified university personnel to carry on college teaching as it is being done today. One way of making the professor go around further would be to create an environment in which the students would have more of the responsibility for their own education in their own hands.

It was in this connection that the group wanted to hear about the Nunn enterprises. On Friday evening, Johnny opened the meeting with a few brief historical remarks, Ted Hofmann spoke about the operations of Telluride Association and Cornell Branch, Newt Garver gave a picture of Deep Springs (based largely on his stay there, 1945-47), and Jim Wepsic described the Summer Program. In many ways our educational philosophy is the sort that the Fund is looking for, and the members of the Conference were impressed with the enthusiasm and unanimity with which the success of these programs was reported.

They nevertheless remained non-committal as regards the different specific aspects of the Telluride program. That college students should be given an increasing amount of responsibility as a part of their education was generally agreed; that all of our programs succeed in doing so seemed more doubtful.

There was also some misgiving voiced about TA's hyperselectivity: after all, the bulk of students are "C" students, and if the Telluride idea works only for the "A" students, then it will not be of much use in the coming educational crisis. These queries might well be kept in mind during the consideration of purpose and plan to which Paul Szasz is urging us. —J. N. Garver

JOHNNY BACK AT WORK

We are pleased to report that Chancellor Johnson is now back in the Office on a full-time basis, after a period of recuperating from the coronary thrombosis he suffered on January 10.

The Chancellor's Office is again running in an organized fashion, after several months of being conducted jointly by a committee of members and by Johnson at home. Johnson returned to the Office on a half-time basis on May 1, and assumed full-time duties later in the month.

Johnson has participated in a Fund for the Advancement of Education meeting and in the Public Speaking Banquet, and will be ready to tackle Convention at full stride.

A new secretary in the Office seems to be of considerable help to him.