

Western Penna. SNPJ E. S. Federation Items

Universal, Pa.—Library is more than just a place where the next Annual Federation Conference is being held on Jan. 19. It occupies a position of historical importance in the life of the Federation. It was there that almost exactly four years ago the Federation was in the process of being formed. Delegates from most of the lodges which now constitute the Federation were present. The business on hand was mainly (1) approval of constitution and (2) election of permanent officers.

With the precociousness of immature minds the Universal delegation went there with the preconceived notion of "wiping out radicalism." In the most approved Hearstian style all "subversive propaganda" was to be eliminated from the proposed Federation. The "Socialist indoctrination" which seemed so apparent in the Prosveta would have no place here. Needless to say—all persons instrumental in the propagation of such activity would be rendered impotent. Such was the feeling!

It was quite apparent that delegates from most of the other lodges felt that way also. When the question of "Workers' Culture" arose as part of the Federation's aim, the dissidents had that stricken from the proposed Constitution without much trouble. Having felt that taste of success it was without much difficulty that an adjournment for recess was made just prior to the election of officers. "Lining-up" were arranged and "the best Republican and Democrat maneuvers were copied." The net result was that the then temporary officers: John Kutch, Pres.; Mark Podboy, Secretary; and Frank Bait, Treasurer; (all "radicals"—or so it was feared) were relieved of their offices. "Safe and sane" persons were elected in their places in the persons of Frank Kress, Louis Kosela, "Strings" Strimlan—oh yes—your scribe and others to the other offices. The day was saved and the Western Penna membership was freed of the menace of "Socialist indoctrination."

P. S.—The same sort of indoctrination manifested in the refusal of a drink of water by a man dying of thirst.

But the comedy was not complete. Several members (including your scribe) were elected to attend as delegates the meeting of the Westmoreland Federation which was also then in the making. That meeting was to be held the following Sunday at Herminie.

The intent implied by the Federation, and openly expressed by the delegates among themselves, was similar to that already accomplished in the West Penna Federation. Such things as Workers' Culture, etc., were to be taboo. Fraternality was to be the mainstay of the Federation existence!

Strangely enough the Westmoreland people were disinclined to look with favor upon the benevolence of our Messianic mission. They were able to get along quite well without our counsel, thank you! Bro. Anton Zornik administered a mild verbal spanking to the accompaniment of some SNPJ Workers' Education, and the delegation left Herminie with a little less buoyancy than with which it had arrived.

P. S.—Use the above information for what it is worth.

Through the phantasmagoria (it's a two-bit word, but it fits best. Look it up.—Right?) of literary contribution coming from all directions—lefts, rights, tops and bottoms—it is

Jolly Juniors

Sygan, Pa.—The Jolly Juniors' general meeting was well attended. The following officers have been elected for 1936: Pres., George Usnick; V. Pres., Stella DeBono; Rec. Sec'y., Lawrence Kaucic; Sergeant-at-Arms, Jack Ramous; Auditors: Ann Pletersek, chairlady; Christina Kvartich, Rose Lesjak. Soccer committee: George Usnick, John Barufoldi and Art Dermott.

Our soccer team boys are in the semi-final of West Penn Junior cup competition and in the second round of the National Amateur Cup. They have won six games in "B" division of Panhandle league.

The Jolly Juniors are holding their annual Mid-Winter dance on Saturday, Jan. 25, 1936, featuring Moonlight Serenades (a new and coming up local orchestra). There will be a \$2 cash door prize awarded.

On behalf of the Jolly Juniors the season's greeting to all.

Tommy Gantner, Lodge 669.

most refreshing to observe the sanity expressed in recent official articles. It is especially true that the back seat-driving indulged in by the membership in late months is not very sportsmanlike. Side-line coaching and Monday-morning quarterbacking may be all right as matters of reflection, but to carry that to the point of public reproach is not justified. In view of the Society's past achievements it cannot truthfully be assumed that the members of the various boards are "old fogies" and that their "fossilized ideas" are obstacles in the way of this Society's progress.

Henry Previc's article was also good. Joy's was educational.

Max Kumer, Lodge 715.

WESTERN PENNA. E. S. FEDERATION ITEMS

Ambridge, Pa.—The Annual Conference of the E. S. Federation lodges will be held on Jan. 19, 1936. It will convene at the Library (Pa.) Slovene Home at 2 p. m.

The yearly meeting will be longer than the average. Election and installation of officers for 1936 will take place. Reports from officers, committee members and delegates will be included.

Each associate lodge should be represented by three delegates. Such delegates should be prepared to submit their local lodge's report and participate in the discussions that will take place. Due preparation on the part of delegates and officers will do much to speed the time of the session.

The reports of the officers will be somewhat general. Federation committee members will report details of the last Slovene Federation conference and results of the Jan. 1 affair. Lodge delegates will report instructions of their locals.

Unfinished business of the October conference included: Action on the Workers' Rights Amendments; Educational committee's report on summer school; Action on a Slovene or SNPJ Day at Idora Park next summer. The matter of purchasing books on the subject of parliamentary procedure may again be brought up.

New items that will arise include: The outlining of a program socially and athletically for 1936; The subject of sponsoring a huge SNPJ affair next September (over Labor day), as was originated by the Cleveland Federation in 1935.

It is generally recognized that a federation of lodges is an asset to an organization. Such a federation can be as effective an agent for the good of the organization as its activity and interest show. The Western Penna. E. S. Federation, I believe, has been an asset to the SNPJ.

In 1936 it can become even greater in good work for the Society. But results, good results, demand work. That work must be supplied by the initiative of the associate lodges. Through their representatives at conferences the lodges should speak and act. The officers can only assist to coordinate the expressed wishes for actions that originate in locals.

It is not difficult to elect officials. And, as so often happens, a lodge finds it easy to "sit back" and let the "official family paddle the canoe" for the year. Such a lax attitude is not in keeping with the SNPJ's background. Its democratic basis calls for initiative by the local lodge. As it bestows democratic privileges, so it asks for democratic assistance.

Then again, each conference can be the more interesting. The expectancy of hearing new businesses brought to the session awakens response. With response, the sharing of mutual problems within our field becomes a factor to stimulate and improve our work. Lodges should try to plan activities for Federation discussion at their own meetings.

The field wherein lodges could find material for discussion is unlimited. Take the subject of conducting membership drives; of athletics; of benefits in the mortuary, sick and disability departments; of promoting the welfare of the juvenile department; of methods to make social affairs produce greater results; of educational topics; of innumerable others.

There have been instances in the past where all the response from lodge delegates has been a habitual "No report." The present year will be far more successful when reports are the rule, not the exception. Every lodge is invited and privileged to present items for discussion and action. It should gain a popular response. So long, until again...

Louis Kosela, Federation Sec'y.

As We Enter the New Year

By Ivan Molek, Editor

This is written at the close of the season of the age-old well-wishes, greetings, gifts, songs, sentimentalities, and fables for small and big children. It's all habit, an old habit. It's all made for our entertainment, and primarily for business. All this is ended with New Year when we once more discard the old calendar and put a new one upon the wall.

Men say that "time flies." The opposite is true. Reality knows no such thing as time. Men fly from the cradle to the grave; our lives are in a constant feverish rush. To mark the flight through life, ages and history mankind invented the time measure called day, week, month, and year. This man-made measure invented some six thousand years ago, and often corrected has become an iron-bound habit which, of course, is necessary to mankind. But we must know it's all habit, and it's nothing sentimental or holy about it—unless we make it so.

Everything is the result of habit, of growth, of evolution. Even our world was never made or created. It grew out of small particles of matter, and mankind has grown with it. With men have grown their consciousness, habits, modes of belief and doctrines of right and wrong, cultures, laws, economic and social system, knowledge, and all the remaining paraphernalia we call civilization.

As most of you read these lines, the New Year, 1936, is with us already. We have started another milestone of time.

What does this mean? Does it make any difference in your everyday life? Do you see or feel any change? Not at all. Old or new year, yesterday or today, the same old life goes on—and with it go the same old hopes and dreams, ambitions and lethargy, gaiety and suffering, struggles and inertia.

The "new milestone of time" exists only in imagination. Sentimentality can stretch this imagination without limits, yet not one iota of reality will be changed—unless we want the change, and unless we know how to get it.

Our SNPJ has also grown out of small particles. These particles were an idea conceived in the minds of a handful of Slovene workers, immigrants, generally considered—nobody. But these Slovene immigrants in this country persistently held to the idea that before man can be free, his thoughts must be free. You can't be a free human being with a servile, gullible mind!

Upon this idea, Free Thought, our Society was built. By this Free Thought is meant that we, as a Society, recognize no authority in matters of religion. Moreover, we held that no such matters are above criticism whenever sincere criticism is due.

The beginning of this Society was marked by a fierce struggle with enslaved Old Thought, but the Society carried on. It progressed year by year; it grew constantly, and soon added to its cornerstone of Free Thought a new principle, that of Social Justice.

For the SNPJ every New Year meant some mark of progress, some achievement, a new step ahead. The great depression came and with it a new struggle, yet through all these years of depression we carry on. The Society's old torch is still burning in the onward march.

When we talk about our Society we have in mind all the active members of the SNPJ. All progress of the Society is due to these members, and their determination to progress. Ours is a collective progress, and no individual can claim more credit for it than any other.

As we enter the New Year we are habitually looking for a mark of new progress of our collectivity that is the SNPJ. But, as in the past, our progress comes only if we will it and work for it. So our determination, as in the past, should be to work harder and harder for our Society.

What about the old habit of wishing you the "happy New Year"? Would that make you happy? It is preposterous! We would be hypocrites to wish you something that we cannot give you. Happiness, or satisfaction, comes only with hard work and progress.

But there's something we can give you. Therefore we wish you—enlightenment, a spark of a new idea for the improvement of our conditions of life. When all of you get that, you will be much happier, and more satisfied.

So here goes: An enlightened, progressive New Year to everyone!

Pennsy News

Strabane, Pa.—B-r-r-r, we are still trying to thaw ourselves out after attending the Pennsy Pioneers' Xmas Dance. With King Winter arriving almost simultaneously with the start of the dance, it was indeed a very great pleasure for the Pioneers to see the large crowd that turned out for the dance. With the thermometer hovering around the zero mark, a blustering wind blowing, and the late arrival of the orchestra, it certainly would have lowered anyone's spirits, but the large crowd that danced polkas and sang, certainly enjoyed themselves. With the arrival of Johnny Lann and his orchestra a little later, the upstairs hall was soon crowded to capacity. In the lower hall another fine crowd continued to dance to the music of John Bole and his accordion music.

In attendance at the dance were many members of the local Senior lodge, Jolly Juniors, Excelsiors, Cavaliers, Colonials, J. Z. Jr., Imperial, Pauline and Mary Spik and friends of the Cleveland Commodores, K. J. Boosters, S.S.P.Z. Challengers and many others whom we cannot recall at this time. The Pioneers wish to thank all of you who certainly made this dance a great success, both socially and financially.

Installation of officers, plans for the coming year, and other topics will be discussed at the Pioneers' meeting, Sunday, January 5, at two o'clock. Don't forget, members, attend your meetings.

The Barroom Barons.

Silver Stars No. 729

Imperial, Pa.—The Lucky Stars are planning another dance on June 25. We have obtained one of the best orchestra in Western Pennsylvania. So be sure and be there.

It's been a long, long time since any of the Revellers, Musketeers and Pioneers have been at any of the Lucky Stars affairs. So come on gang, and surprise them by coming to Imperial on Jan. 25.

Ever since the E. S. conference, a lot of you delegates and members have been blowing off a lot of steam. I just want to remind Bro. Frank Barbic and his friends that think the same as he does, that Bro. Joseph

Becek did not try to convert Socialist atheism into Catholicism as he has stated in his article. I was the delegate that injected "politics" into the proceeding. And I also said something about religion but what's the use of saying anymore about this. I only wish that we had more time at the conference. Who cares about those dates that Bro. Barbic had in 1905. Personally I think he is just trying to brag about it.

Leopold Zupancic, Lodge 716.

Friendly City News

Johnstown, Pa.—A surprising crowd gathered for the yearly meeting of December 12, and our new officers were elected. Those elected were Anthony Jacoby, Pres.; William Butera, Vice Pres.; Beenie Jacoby, Sec'y.; Vida Zabrick, Treas.; and Elsie Culkar, Rec. Sec'y. We would like to have this attendance every month. Don't forget that our regular meetings will be held as usual every second Thursday of the month at the Conemaugh hall at 7:30 o'clock sharp. The lodge also requests the promptness of monthly dues, and if it so happens that you cannot attend this particular meeting see to it that your dues are sent in plenty of time. Each lodge Sec'y makes it her business to be there to pay your dues. I feel sure that with cooperation of each member along with the good intentions we have we can sure put FRIENDLY CITY on the map where it belongs.

Friendly City is also in the market for new members, which, of course, will make our organization grow gradually. I understand that there were two young men from Central City trying to locate Friendly City officers in Conemaugh, in order to become two Friendly City members. We appreciate the fact that these two men chose Friendly City as their goal and you can feel assured that we can show you real F. C. spirit.

We again wish to extend our invitations to the surrounding lodges inviting you to our dance to be held Jan. 11 at the Bon Air hall. Our attendance at our last dance reported of having an enjoyable evening and have been looking forward to this occasion for quite some time.

By the way, have you gotten your chances on Friendly City's turkey? Tickets are being sold by Friendly City members only and will be drawn

FLASHES

Chicago.—January 1, 1936, finds the Chicago Pioneers with the highest number of active members in both adult and juvenile departments—on record. Our financial position is also strong. We face 1936 with assurances that we can make it the best and most profitable year of our existence. We face it with optimism, with a happy, joyous feeling that we shall attain new heights for the honor of the Pioneers. Together, we begin marking off the milestones of another happy and worthy decade. The command is given: Forward, march!

Those who will lead the Pioneers in 1936 are: Oscar Godina, pres.; John Rak, vice pres.; Donald J. Lotrich, sec'y.; H. Louise Karun, rec. sec'y.; Frank Groser, treas.; Lukas Groser Jr., sergeant; Jack Groser, Joseph Turpin and Ernestine Jugg, auditors. With one exception this is the entire old staff. We are pledged to a definite goal, to cooperation among ourselves and with others.

Seven new members were initiated at our December meeting and two others were examined but couldn't appear. Mary Rahne was received by transfer. Though the meeting night fell on an exceedingly cold night a goodly number of loyal Pioneers came to hear reports and select the officers for the new year. A net gain of 40 members was recorded in 1935. Four major social functions netted us nearly \$1,200.00. Four social events are being carded for 1936. They are: A Valentine Dance, Sat., Feb. 15 (benefit of athletic fund); Moonlight Picnic Saturday, June 13; Annual Prize and Juvenile Picnic, July 26 at Stetinar's Red Gate Grove, and an annual dance in the fall. A report on the ESL conference was received and a committee selected to draft a resolution on it.

Then, again, the Federation's Annual Xmas Party for Juveniles on

Sun., Dec. 22, was a complete success. The attendance was fine, the program exceedingly good and the atmosphere jovial. Once again, six of Chicago's SNPJ lodges participated in the Xmas program and it was plainly evident what the united efforts can promote. Future joint promotions promise great successes for the SNPJ lodges in Chicago as fully 5 lodges have been annexed to the Federation during November and December. The Federation now numbers 9 lodges.

Seven more new members were examined by Dr. John J. Zaveritnik at the Juvenile Xmas Party, Dec. 22. This annual event is getting to be the most promising "member getting" event on our calendar. Last year we picked up 14. With better and bigger affairs we can make them so inspiring to draw many new prospects to us. Our Society, thereby, derives benefit from all such ventures, as our foremost thought is to serve our people and our Society. It is in order to officially thank Mary Jugg and Dorothy Sodnik, the Red Falcons and all others who participated in the program.

Believe it or not, "The Pioneer," our 10th anniversary publication, has been placed on the list of reference books at the Lawndale (Toman) Branch of the Chicago Public Library. By request of the librarian. The Pioneers have played a very prominent part in the Lawndale-Crawford community, so it is no more than right to have our ten year record repose in the local public library. Since the last report Joseph Krsitan, Frances Stark, Anna Misko and Angela Dudas have taken additional copies while Ernestine Jugg sold ten and Helen Arko three at the Xmas party.

Our Unemployed Club will meet Thursday, Jan. 2, at the SNPJ hall and start the new year schedule. Donald J. Lotrich, Lodge 559.

The Comrade Column

Cleveland, O.—Resolution No. 1: Be it resolved unanimously, that this new year, we, the membership, shall give our wholehearted support and cooperation to our newly appointed officers.

Resolution No. 2: Be it also resolved that we, the newly appointed officers, hereby pledge ourselves to do our utmost in the interest of our lodge Comrades.

Elections are over! John Vehar has stepped into the shoes of Martin Antonic, who officiated capably and well as president this past year. John Vehar, though new in the office of president, is eager and willing, and with the consistent cooperation of our brothers and sisters will fulfill his duties well. Pauline Spik will continue as vice president. Mary Krizmanic has relieved Otto Tekautz, of his weighty burden of being secretary. Otto warns—it means a lot of good hard work, but Mary is undaunted. And we know she will do right by us. John Alich will continue to serve as treasurer; and A. J. Kushland has retained his job of recording secretary. On the auditing committee are brothers Filofit, Truden and Tekautz. Rudy Lisch and Louis Jartz will represent Comrades at the Cleveland SNPJ meetings; and Louis Jartz will act as delegate to the Slovene National Home stockholders' meeting.

Comrades' 10th Year Anniversary Celebration

Resolution No. 3: We pledge ourselves to leave no stones unturned in making a success of Comrades' 10th year anniversary celebration.

Comrades largest ESL (locally) in the SNPJ, is climaxing its 10 years of activity with a grand and colossal celebration for its 10th year anniversary.

A social, preceded by a supper for all incoming guests, will be held Saturday night, April 17. The afternoon of the following day will bring us the result of Comrades' cooperative efforts. A resplendent banquet will follow the program, after which

at our dance on Jan. 11. Those of you taking chances and feel it is impossible to be at the dance have an equal chance of winning as the person or persons being there.

Now don't forget the monthly meeting Jan. 9, and I'll see you all at the dance. I am, your new secretary, Beenie (Hombach) Jacoby.

there will be dancing to the music of a very popular orchestra.

We are gutting our hearts into this affair—and it's going to be grand doing. More will be said concerning the affair in the near future.

Before closing this subject may we add—that lodge talent will be called upon—it shall be drained to the very dregs. Everyone should stand ready to do something, however little or much you may think it is. In fact, our talented members should volunteer their various abilities, be they ever so humble. Please inform John Alich, chairman of the program committee, of the same immediately. Remember, we have become rather lax—sad, but true—get into this thing—give it your very utmost. Remember, this is your lodge; make it a lodge you can be proud of.

A Trip to the West Side

'Twas a cold, cold night in December (December 20, to be exact)—when two carloads of Comrades wrapped themselves snugly in their robe of fraternal spirit, braved frigid sleeting blasts and started out for the New Era reorganization social. We, Pauline and Mary Spik, Mildred Tomic, Pauline Gasser, Pauline Felz, Agnes Ofak, Frank Elersich, Frank Kerzinski, Betty Bogatay and Louis Jartz, arrived safely, our fraternal spirits slightly frozen, which however thawed out quickly in the warm congenial atmosphere.

The New Era began anew with a will, as you'll admit when we say they initiated seven new members, at the meeting preceding the reorganization social. We unite unanimously in wishing them success in their second attempt. Also, we are only too willing to give them all the assistance in our power.

It is fitting to add here that Comrades had the largest representation there. We feel that the time was well spent, and that our fingers and toes well frost nipped for a good cause.

Lodge Comrades, No. 566, Betty Bogatay, Louis Jartz. (Continued next Wed.)

CONDOLENCE

Milwaukee, Wis.—The Badgers extend their sincere sympathies to the husband and family of Sis. Mary Perne Terskan who passed away December 18. Lodge 584.

Pioneer News

Chicago.—With an exceedingly large attendance, the last Pioneers' meeting of the year came to a close Friday, December 20. After the regular business and routine, election of officers took place. For the first time in a long while the Pioneers did not have entertainment after the meeting. There was not so much hurrying and scurrying through the meeting. Perhaps it would be a good New Year's suggestion to leave out entertainment every other meeting and devote more time and concentration to our meetings and learn more about what is going on within the lodge.

The lodge officers for the ensuing year, with one or two exceptions, shall remain the same as in 1935, which proves that we have a good and capable leadership who merits recognition.

One thing we have noticed and particularly at yearly meetings is, when our president makes selections for tellers, etc. He always appoints fellows. Why not girls also?

The annual Christmas program and party given for the children by the Chicago District Federation on December 22 was a pleasing and successful spectacle. This was "Children's Day" in Chicago and they certainly enjoyed themselves, and why shouldn't they with all the beautiful gifts which they received, and then the party afterwards. There certainly was an endless string of children coming on stage for their beautiful gifts which Santa was distributing. Due recognition should be given to the committee in charge of buying gifts for using such good ingenuity in selection of the presents.

This year there was a greater number of lodges who participated in the venture than ever before. Next year there will be more yet. In closing we might say that the Christmas program was one of the leading social events of the year.

Wishing everyone a healthy, prosperous and happy New Year, we are, Jack and Jill.

L-I-N-K-S

By Ann & Ann

Springfield, Ill.—The December meeting of Lodge 567 was carried through in good form. Officers for the coming year will be: Pres., Frank Zebert; Vice Pres., Rudy Kerar; Sec'y., Ann C. Banich; Treas., Frank Volk; Rec. Sec'y., Mary Lazar; Sergeant-at-Arms, Frank Collins; Auditing Committee: Frank Banich, John Furlan and Ann Patia. We extend our best wishes to the new officers for a successful year.

All the kiddies were well pleased with the gifts they received from Santa Claus at the Links' Xmas party, and the adults also reported a good time.

Admission tickets and ticket books for our 10th Anniversary Celebration will be distributed this week. The dance will be held at Redmen's hall with Chas. Rodgers' orchestra furnishing the music. We are making a special plea to all members to get behind this affair and do their part to make it a success.

A special meeting of the committee for the Tenth Anniversary Celebration will be held Friday, Jan. 3, at 7:30 p. m., at the home of the Baniches. It is very important that all members of this committee be present.

Buckeyes' Bits

By Stephanie and Mary

Barberton, O.—Season's greetings to all! With this article we are introducing ourselves as the new reporters for "Buckeye Bits" for 1936 and hope we will be able to carry on the work as well as our predecessors, "Oh."

Friends and members, have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? It wouldn't be a bad idea if many of our members made one good resolution which is, "I resolve to attend every Buckeye meeting this year." We in turn have made one to try and do a good job of carrying on where "Oh" left off.

All you members have a wonderful opportunity to start fulfilling the first resolution by attending the first meeting of the New Year Friday evening, January 3, 1936. A number of important matters regarding our 8th anniversary dance to be held February 8, are to be discussed. So hurry, are to be discussed. So come with any suggestions you may have.

We'll be seeing you all at the meeting Friday evening at 7:30.

Proceedings of First E. S. L. Conference

Held at the SNPJ Auditorium November 2nd, 1935

(Continued)

A great number of our members find that later on in life they may mate with someone of a different nationality. The questions then arise as to whether or not the one who is not a member will join or if the one who at present is a member will remain. These two are questions which often cause much anxiety until a definite answer is received, and then cause much discouragement in the lodge if the answer is given in the negative. It should be our duty to take precautions so that we may avoid many negative answers. This must be done by means of proper publicity. Our local functions play a very important part in this subject which means that our activities must be concentrated in such a way that regardless of nationality, our organization will appeal to all. Much benefit can be derived by the local branches using the practice of publicizing the activities of our organization in their local papers and in that way place the SNPJ on a more friendly basis with those outside of our range.

The application of publicity has its universal uses. Each respective organ or body of any sort must treat it according to its potential sources. There is one fundamental that stands unchanged by any condition and that is the oral form of publicizing which later should be composed into fitted literature where it can further its ideas and advantages, which in turn will cause another oral reverberation, thereby minimizing any possibility of misunderstanding.

Publicity is often used in a well-meaning manner, which at the same time may be offensive to the lodge if improperly applied. Such questions arising in the lodges must be treated according to their natural conditions. Let us take for a small example a new lodge that is being organized. It is natural that the little bit of publicity is spread through personal contact but in order to reach its full benefit it is necessary and above all must be done through the official organ. This does not only further the needs, but it enlightens those who have already been aware of the fact that is published. After such a step is taken and the lodge is in existence, we may wonder what form of additional advertising must be used. The matter then lies in the hands of the members for it is then that real action must take place either through social or other public functions. The motive is an important cog in the SNPJ. Should dissonance exist in the branch, great care and effort must be used in treating such a condition. The publicity committee must thoroughly understand the cause before an attempt is made to publicize such matters with the intention of curing them. The safest method and the most practical is to avoid such controversies entirely and iron them out locally which usually brings the best results. Many of our local lodges have dramatic, vocal, and sport clubs. Additional prestige can be obtained by such clubs in cooperation with other groups, in this way showing the action and strength of our organization by bringing about a better and more interesting field to work in.

The progress of our organization can no longer be of any sound value through moral reliance upon its members. Competitive conditions today contain much ballyhoo but the results which are obtained by our competitors are apparently rather harmful to the SNPJ. Our lodge is daily becoming a larger institution encountering many new problems which must be solved accordingly. Publicity has received very little careful study. Today this no longer must be tolerated. Action must be taken in reorganizing our force of publicizing the SNPJ in a more tactful manner. Publicity supervising committees should be established in various districts. Some districts where federations exist, the publicity supervision could be done through their medium. The duty of the supervising committee would be to cooperate with the lodges in their jurisdiction by giving advice and enlightenment on the various problems which some of the local branches may encounter. Such a committee would be very inexpensive for much of the work would be carried out by communications. In connection with the supervising committee the organization should add a publicity committee to the list of standing committees in each branch. The duties of such a committee would be to publish timely articles whenever material for this work is available. Such a committee would always be duty-bound to concentrate on the ways and means of further advertising the organization by submitting various ideas in order to remove some of the burdening obstacles that may otherwise be overlooked.

Many of the lodges have already put into practice the use of such a standing publicity committee with very good results. This committee was supervised by a chairman who notified the members of the committee at a scheduled time that it was necessary for him or her to enter an article in the Prosveta. The chairman assists his committee by giving them bits of information on which to write.

Many members find it difficult to obtain news for their articles. News can be obtained at meetings, both lodge and committee meetings; at social functions; by reading news from other lodges and commenting on it; by attending other lodge meetings in the vicinity; by visiting with members; by being congenial to all. If a member is ill, a line or two of condolence should be entered in the article. If the lodge is holding a celebration, a complete review of such an event should be made, stating the time, place, and a complete report of everything that is being planned in connection with the affair.

By following this outline under the supervision of a publicity chairman with a little effort to make it as interesting as possible, the articles submitted will be a success. In order to make the articles interesting, they should be submitted regularly.

The work of the publicity committee could be made very interesting if the SNPJ would sponsor a contest which would involve both the publicity committee and the lodge in general. The duration of this contest would be for the period of 1 year.

In this contest, the lodge in general would be judged according to the number of social functions the lodge gives during this time, the benefits it obtains from these affairs, and the amount of increased enthusiasm and interest shown by the members.

The publicity committee would be judged according to the proficiency shown in the items which it submits to the Prosveta, the sequence of the thoughts in the article, and the suggestions which it submits to the lodge to aid in the success of the affair.

The objects of this contest has a two-fold purpose. It is self-evident that each lodge and each publicity committee would try to do its best to make a success of the part it is playing in the contest. Naturally, the lodge would put every effort into the affair and it would make certain that the publicity committee would give it proper attention. The publicity committee would in turn impress upon

the members of the lodge the necessity of turning over to it all interesting information available.

The lodges of the English speaking unit would be divided into 2 classes and 2 groups for the contest.

Class A would be for large cities.

Group 1 in this class would be for lodges whose membership ranges from 100 and upward.

Group 2 in this class would be for lodges whose membership ranges up to 100.

Class B would be for smaller communities.

Group 1 in this class would be for lodges whose membership ranges from 75 and upward.

Group 2 in this class would be for lodges whose membership ranges up to 75.

At the end of 1 year, the lodge and publicity committee which did the best work would receive an award. The procurement and distribution of the awards for this contest is to be left open for discussion by the delegates at this assembly and may be referred to the Supreme administrative board.

The organization must exercise its fraternal educational efforts in a new angle which means the arousing of interest in the members in whom laxity prevails. A good form of publicity for educational purposes is the outlining of facts in exceptional, interesting and valuable cases where benefits have accrued to members of the organization, or where-in holders of policies in other types of organizations have failed to realize on their contract. It is true that our English pages contain much of such education but not many of our members thoroughly read our weekly issue. Such members know nothing of our organization and they have nothing in the way of fraternal education to propagate to their friends our SNPJ. If the organization published such items in a bulletin form (folders), it would bring about better personal contact for fraternal education. These bulletins would be sent to the local secretaries who would then distribute them to the individual members—not at the meetings, but through the mail.

Literature which is distributed at the meeting or which has the appearance of being an advertisement, is either immediately destroyed, consciously or unconsciously, or is allowed to lie around and is eventually discarded without being looked at.

If a small blank space were allotted on the front of this bulletin, the secretary would then address it personally to the member, in this way making it seem more as personal mail and not as advertising.

May it also be added that such an issue could be sent to friends of members where they may receive fraternal enlightenment and in this way it will give us an opportunity to not only receive additional publicity, but better knowledge will be given in bringing out the better values of fraternalism rather than allowing our future to be taken away from us by profit taking insurance corporations.

In conclusion, this guiding point is added for the benefit of those publicity committees now in existence and for those which may be formed in the future: Publicity of your work may help others in their problems.

JOHN SPILLER.

Brother John Aynik moved that the submitted report be accepted; seconded by Brother Frank Progar. The paper was approved as read.

Topics 9, being the last to be presented during the morning session and dwelling on the problem of "Federations—should they have more authority," was read by Brother Frank Kress of Lodge 665, Pittsburgh, Pa.

FEDERATIONS—SHOULD THEY HAVE MORE AUTHORITY

My Fellow Members:

The title of my treatise invites an inquiry as to whether the members of the SNPJ through powers of the Convention shall grant Federations more authority. Some members may say that no such dire contingency has arisen; there has never been a time since the organization of our Society when thoughtful members should give, and indeed are giving greater attention to this question, and their interest is due to an acute and justified anxiety as to the future of our Society.

Therefore I submit for consideration that now, when so many young members of good education and real ability are out of employment, is the time for the Society to empower the Federations with such authority that will be of benefit to the members and their Society. Certainly the preliminary steps are obvious and crying out for further development.

The first of these steps is that primarily, the value of Federations existing in their respective localities should be recognized: 2.—The Supreme board, under its present athletic arrangements, should work in close cooperation in the distribution of sports' funds with all existing Federations; 3.—A closer relationship than heretofore should exist between the Federations and the Supreme board. From time to time the Supreme board should correspond with the Federations to familiarize them with steps that can be taken to the greatest benefit for the Society; 4.—Prior to each SNPJ convention, the Federations shall be permitted to submit recommendations in the change or addition of SNPJ by-laws to the convention by-laws committee. These recommendations can be forwarded to the Supreme secretary, and by him transmitted to the proper committees. Likewise, other items for the convention can be submitted. Such recommendations to receive consideration; 5.—The Society shall approve and draw rules whereby each Federation shall elect an Adjustment and an Organizing board. Such a board can adjust minor difficulties in their respective localities; they shall make attempts to awaken interest within the lodges that are inactive and not growing; they shall serve as an organizing group for the formation of new lodges. The board shall be under the supervision of the Federation conference. The Supreme board shall, from time to time, direct any necessary action within the authority of such a board.

Finally, the Society with its sincere wholehearted support, and with the cooperation of the Federation should revive that disappearing spirit of true fraternalism. One of the most regrettable signs of the times is the rapidly disappearing spirit of fraternalism, which was at one time the very life and backbone of all fraternal organizations. We recall vividly, and no doubt the majority of our members will also remember, when membership in a fraternal society was not only desired, but eagerly sought and highly appreciated. We recall when men were very proud of their membership in this or that society, and they made it a point never to miss a meeting, and many regretted the fact that this meeting came but once a month. It was a most enjoyable time for all. They could meet their friends and fellow members, discuss the welfare of the organization, this or that problem, and would vie with one another to help further the cause of their Society.

Not content with attending the regular meetings

of their lodges or society, the membership would keep the interest for their particular organization alive at all times. They would make it a point of honor to visit the sick or incapacitated brothers; to help the needy and those in distress, and their hearts would go out in sympathy to those upon whom the hand of sorrow rested. Yes, we recall when members, who were about to enter upon a financial venture, would lay their problems before their fellow members for their advice and opinion, and, needless to say, such advice was at all times cheerfully given.

But why, may we ask, is it so different today? Why do we no longer observe that smile of fraternal greetings on the faces of our fellow members? Why is it so difficult to induce members to take an active part in the affairs of their societies, or even attend a meeting?

These are only a few of the questions which we have asked time and time again, and for which we are unable to receive a satisfactory explanation. Men who stand high in fraternal leadership, and who have given this matter serious thought, sadly shake their heads and attribute it to a change of the times, while others again claim that it is a change of human nature. We refuse to believe that it is human nature which brought about this condition, as we are of the opinion that this never changes. Ideas, desires and modes of living may change, but human nature—never. We believe that the spirit of charity and brotherly love, which we believe is a close analysis of fraternalism, still slumbers deep in the heart of every individual, and is only hidden under a thin veneer of indifference brought about by that thought of commercialism which has invaded fraternal organizations, and also to some extent by the modern idea of amusement and recreation. We no longer find pleasure in the midst of our brother members, but have become somewhat egoistic in our mode of seeking companionship and social entertainment. Can this old spirit be brought back, one may ask? We believe it can. If the average member would only stop long enough to realize that life, after all, is only of short duration, and that, after all the struggles and racing for this world's honors and pleasures, we finally come to the conclusion that it is not the above alone which give us the most distinction and recognition, but the deeds which we have done for our fellow men. And if on the eve of our life, we can look back and record some of the good things which we have done in the fraternal family of our organization, we can rest assured that the very thought will make us happy, and be a reward for what little sacrifices we made for the good of our organization and our fellow men.

In the year of 1937, the SNPJ will meet in convention with the responsibility of determining its policies. It will be the most vital convention since its organization. That convention should comprise the best of delegates. Theirs is the duty to enunciate great principles. They should be inspired to determine a program of policies to solve great issues. Minor issues, petty opposition, sectional interest, group ideas, and every shred of personal ambition must be dumped, that this great responsibility, this great spiritual purpose may be accomplished. None of these things must count in the fate of the Society. Upon the wisdom and courage of these delegates will depend the future of the SNPJ.

FRANK J. KRESS.

On motion made by Brother Theodore Laurie and seconded by Brother Thomas Ganter, Bro. Kress' report was accepted and ordered filed. This also concludes the morning session at 12 a. m.

ALICE ARTACH, Recording Secretary.

At noon, the Chicago Federation of SNPJ lodges prepared and served luncheon in the lower SNPJ hall to the delegates and guests.

Promptly at 1 p. m. the delegates together with members of the Administrative committee and visitors congregated in front of the SNPJ Auditorium where group pictures were taken of the entire assemblage; simultaneously, moving pictures were taken also, to be used by the SNPJ for agitational purposes.

The afternoon session was called to order at 1:20 p. m. by 1st vice-chairman Bro. John Lokar.

Brother Oscar B. Godina, Lodge 559, Chicago, Ill., who was assigned to prepare a paper on Topic 10, "The economic problems—how they affect the administration and activities of our organization," presented a thorough and comprehensive report on this vital topic which at the same time was the last of the ten treatise on the conference agenda:

Brothers and Sisters:—It is with great joy and enthusiasm that I stand today before you to read my paper which is truly an academic one and on a subject which, deep in my heart, I am very fond of.

The Supreme administrative committee has won my deepest affection when it presented me with this interesting subject and for this I wish to thank them.

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS—HOW THEY AFFECT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ACTIVITIES OF OUR ORGANIZATION

The economic question is a very important one for our Society, for it concerns its very life. Thirty years ago when the SNPJ was founded, its income was small, and it follows that its disbursement was small too. Since the membership was small no need was felt for a budget. Today it is different, it cannot function without a budget, for it would not take long before we would have a serious condition on our hands. The budget is a necessity to guide the organization. In making up our budget we have to decide what should be our income; then what should be our disbursement so that we will not fall into a deficit or below our margin of sound solvency, thus bringing on the *accursed special assessment*. A sound financial condition is the main foundation to all of our activities, and without this our functions would be impossible. Any business must be based on a sound financial condition; and if this is secured, then progress for our organization is assured.

A point to be well carried in mind is that the SNPJ is a co-operative society, that is, each and every member is a shareholder of equal standing. The shareholders, if I may use that term for the moment, get representation by electing delegates to a convention. They decide how the organization shall be operated, what is to be secured, and what the dues or monthly assessments shall be for the different classes of insurance desired. Now these different classes are in the death benefit \$2,000, \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$250; in the sick benefit \$50, \$1.00, \$2.00, etc., and for death benefit only. To this, members must pay a certain amount per month for the disability and commissary funds, also for the upkeep of the Society, which is called the managing fund. This is all that a member has to comply with, financially. Added to this of course are the rules which govern our Society. The state laws compel the SNPJ to have the scale of payment or dues high enough so that its obligations can always be met promptly. This determined sum is figured so that when placed for investment at four per

cent, the principal at a determined period will be sufficient to meet our obligations. This interest rate is chosen because it is considered the highest safe rate for this purpose. Thus the greatest sum of money that can be obtained safely for our shareholders is chosen to meet the payments of accident, sick or death benefits, and other liabilities that may be incurred.

The construction of our Society, as you know, consists of lodges scattered all over the United States and Canada, which elect delegates, who in turn at a convention or by a referendum, too, elect democratically, certain outstanding members for the Supreme board, who, in other words, constitute the Board of Directors. They operate the Society from the convention to the next convention. The Supreme board is divided into necessary committees, as the managing, finance, judicial and supervising. All these committees conduct themselves according to the instructions given at the convention, in the by-laws, and referendum of the Society. They meet twice yearly at the headquarters to make necessary decisions for the benefit of the organization.

The paramount point of interest at these meetings is the question of finance. If we glance back into the history of the Society, we shall find different types of bonds that were purchased. Some of course were good and some were bad. The general economic condition of the country has also something to do with this. When prosperity was at its height the industrial bonds seemed to be the best because they appeared safe and were steadily paying large returns. They were always purchased, for no one thought that they would ever fail. And too, since the market was good for everything, naturally, caution was not exercised. In times like that, higher interest bearing bonds were looked for with the hope of getting greater returns. For the feeling was, "Look, business is booming." When the depression came, the bonds began to fall rapidly in market value; and the principal and interest was not paid. Great care was exerted to purchase what seemed to be the safest, almost without thought, for interest.

The thing we strive for is not to lose what we have. We are all human, and "to err is human." Financial wizards have failed, who were far more intelligent in their field of finance than our people because of their extensive study and life work. They made mistakes, and so, it is to be expected that we made them too.

At the beginning the S. N. P. J. was purchasing: (1) State, (2) County, (3) City bonds; then they left this field for: (4) Industrial, (5) Real Estate, and (6) Utilities; still later we went into (7) Mortgages of our own members' homes, and (8) the Slovene Community National Homes.

Now, at the present time, the Supreme board is buying mostly United States bonds. The first class bonds discussed above, were bringing the medium rate of interest or about a little over four per cent, and that is what the state authorities allowed. The second class of bonds discussed was bringing about six per cent. And the United States bonds today are bringing an average of two and one-half per cent. In order to keep our solvency, great care must of course be exercised in the investment of our funds. But as careful as we may be the financial condition of the nation refuses us the security that we desire. Experienced fraternal insurance actuaries prescribe our rates. They determine them on this basis: (1) life expectancy of sixty-five years; (2) age of entry; (3) fluctuation of members who drop the organization after they have been paying for a certain period of time; (4) amount of surplus we have. These compiled together, make up our organization's solvency.

At this time great and weighty discussions are held as to what type of bonds should be purchased, and criticism becomes the order of the day, which is very unfortunate. It is hard to decide what to purchase because of the predicament the nation is in at the present time, and the goal has been set at four per cent. The safest bonds of the day do not bear the desired amount, and the second class must bear investigation with fear of a mistake and possible loss. Now, any kind of an investment is good so long as the interest and principal are paid.

Bonds are secured in several ways. For instance, the U. S. bonds which are the safest, are so because the entire wealth of the nation is back of them; corporations back their wealth, and a private home owner uses his home. Now we see why U. S. bonds are the most secure, therefore the demand is the greatest for them and consequently, they have the least interest. But as I stated before that the financial system employed by our organization depends on four per cent interest plus our regular assessment; we see that if we would invest all of our surplus funds in the U. S. bonds, we would fall below in our solvency. This would mean that we must raise our rates of monthly assessments or have special assessments every so often, and this of course, would be absolutely necessary in order to keep our organization in its sound financial condition. There is only one course left, and that is to purchase federal, state, county and municipal bonds which are backed by taxes.

The experience at the SNPJ shows us that had we held to our conservative financial attitude purchasing only federal, state, county and municipal bonds, our solvency would be between 110 to 115 per cent. We could even forget one or two assessments per member. Now today, if these bonds do not bring enough, we would raise a few per cents per member, and drop our interest rate from four to three per cent.

Up to this point I have discussed with you, investments, executive activity, legislation, obligation of members to the SNPJ, etc. Now, I would like to go to that phase dealing with the Society's obligations to our members.

Care should be employed in what we say to our members so that we do not promise to pay more than it is possible and reasonable, for the amount that each member is really entitled to. These figures are based of a member on \$1000 insurance for death, disability and \$1.00 a day sick benefit. Joining at the age of 20 in class "B" and remaining a member until the age of 70, he would pay in assessment into the \$1,000 mortality fund—\$660.00, the disability—\$108.00, entitled to \$600.00, and the sick benefit \$420.00 entitled to \$1210.00 (after 30 years). If we take into consideration the life expectancy of our members as our statistics show, which is below the age of 50, then one could imagine what they pay!

Members should be given to comprehend that they cannot receive more than they are entitled to. Furthermore, the duties of the Supreme board are to arrange a yearly budget as prescribed by the convention. The money to be used from the managing fund should depend on the amount of money to be received from the membership. There are other minor things which pertain to spending different funds of different classes of necessities as may arise from time to time, such as legal expenses, conventions, etc. If all these are taken care of properly, there is no doubt as to the security and growth of the Society. The system that I recommend must be practised in order that our organization may survive. If my report is accepted and

practically executed, then the recommendations of the other nine reporters could easily be carried out. This E. S. conference, congregated here today through the courtesy of the Supreme board, will go on record in history as a great success for the SNPJ because it has carried out this idea.

Our founders were hard working men who had learned the lesson that life is not an easy task but is a hard struggle. Therefore, they gave it this spirit besides fraternalism. It was their sincerest desire to have our organization composed of an economical and social foundation of themselves. Later on when they founded the paper, "The Herald", it was given these same ideals for its editorial policy. This was the only logical thing they could do. They founded the paper because they realized they needed another weapon to organize the others who did not recognize what they did. They comprehended the fact that we must be unified in our demands, have solidarity in our ideals, and ultimate emancipation.

In a nutshell, what is the Economical Question? It is a perpetual fight for economical power. He who owns capital owns the power of the nation. The strength of capital is wrong because it is in the hands of a minority. Our founders felt the majority should have it, and the only way they could, was to have capital democratized. It is our solemn duty to go out to teach and preach sound and financial standing, and practise it. If we watch our solvency, the future of the SNPJ is secure.

OSCAR B. GODINA.

Brother Victor Jakovac moved that the paper presented by Brother Oscar Godina be accepted as read. The motion, seconded by Brother Martin Umana, was unanimously carried and the paper ordered filed.

This concluded the final report on the conference agenda in the series of ten topics assigned to eight delegates and two members at large selected by the Administrative committee. As no discussion was had during or at the conclusion of each submitted topic, being so decided at the beginning of the conference, the delegation was now ready to discuss each paper separately in order as presented. Since this conference was only consultative and academic in nature, having no legislative authority, the discussions that ensued were limited to recommendations and suggestions to be submitted for further consideration to the Supreme board at its annual session.

At this point, Brother Frank Kress, second vice-chairman, took over the chairmanship and announced that the rest of the conference period will be devoted to discussions of the different topics. Brother Lokar was of the opinion that some topics did not have to be discussed if no questions were asked. Bro. Frank Truden, of Lodge 566, suggested that no discussion be had on Topic 3, "History and Principles of SNPJ."

Brother Lokar moved that Topic 1, "General review of the work for the past ten years," be passed up. The motion was seconded by Brother Herman Preseren and was carried.

Before proceeding with Topic 2, Brother Vider, Supreme secretary, explained the recommendation advanced in Brother Lotrich's report relative to the organizing of summer schools, stating that money is the principal object which must be taken into consideration when we discuss the proposition of a summer school as recommended in the first report. How will such a project be financed? If we contemplate any such undertakings, it would require additional funds because with the present assessments that go into the general fund, it is totally impossible to go into this field to any large extent as the by-laws provide only thirteen cents for such expenditures as salaries, regular business, etc. He pointed out the fact that since the Society started loaning money to its members on real estate, it incurred an obligation it never had before. Due to several foreclosures on homes, the Society is left in possession of several properties which require repairs and taxes besides insurance and other sundries. And the brunt of these expenses is being covered from the general fund. The Society has at present several securities in default for which, from time to time, lawyers and advisers must be employed, to whom in many instances payment must be advanced before they impart any information. However, if the majority of the members are willing to undertake such a venture and finance the project of such an institution, Bro. Vider is willing to cooperate and contribute his share towards this enterprise. The history of the SNPJ up to the present time has shown splendid results and accomplishments, thus proving that we have been following the right course. The present social and economic system, based on private profit, will sooner or later collapse and something better must take its place.

Brother Ludwig Vogrich, Lodge 573, suggested that the money for the maintenance of schools could be drawn from the 2- and 3-dollar sick benefit classes.

Brother John Spiller, Lodge 659, does not believe that the insurance department will permit to draw money for the proposed project from the sick benefit fund. Since finance is the greatest obstacle, the organization should work out a plan whereby such or similar plan could be carried out and the object in view achieved. What we need in the form of education, said Bro. Spiller, is a good training course for officers—form the instructions and ideas into a regular study book. When new officers are elected, they should study this book as a text and learn the facts therein. Such an education would be valuable from the standpoint of any lodge officer who had the experience of guiding his or her lodge and executing its decisions.

Brother Truden is of the opinion that the problem of schools should be placed in the hands of the district federations. Each federation, through the help of the affiliated lodges, should sponsor these schools which shall be maintained by each lodge itself. Thus the burden of financing this project would not be placed upon the organization but directly upon the lodges themselves, and each lodge could train and educate one or two of its members for this purpose.

Brother Beck, Lodge 699, desires further explanation of this subject, about the proposal of summer schools.

Brother Culkar, Lodge 648, doubts whether any decision can be reached at this conference in regard to schools.

Sister Marion Konchan, Lodge 742, explains that this suggestion concerning summer schools was advanced in her report, and the conference can either approve or reject the proposal.

Brother Godina, Lodge 559, thinks that the school proposal is a good one; it is a good idea in that it would teach the secretaries how to conduct their work. Classes could be held in the morning and the afternoon period could be devoted to recreation, something on the order of the country club plan. He is not in favor of lodges bearing the expense of the schools, because the small lodges could not afford to send any members to attend classes.

(To be concluded next week)