

NAS - RUTGERS LANGUAGE AND ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR HUNGARIAN SCHOLARS

First Week - January 20-26, 1957

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DAILY RECORD

Sunday, Jan. 20 - P.M. Entire group at Chaplain's home for singing, games, refreshment, and symphony on the hi-fi.

Monday, Jan. 21 - 9:30 to noon. English instruction begun, with Dr. Seymour Resnick in charge.

Afternoon. Preparation of tapes by Dr. Resnick for use by group or individuals, whenever wanted.

7:30 P.M. Lecture: "Introduction to American Architecture" by Prof. Helmut von Erffa, Art Dept., Rutgers.

Tuesday, 22nd - 9:30 to noon. English instruction

2:00. Trip to New York, arranged by Col. Dunn. Men received new suits, women and children some clothes; supper, and show at Radio City.

Wednesday, 23rd - 9:30 to noon. Division into two groups for language instruction. Dr. Gerald Bertin in charge of "advanced group."

7:30 P.M. Group work with tape recorders.

Thursday, 24th - 9:30 to noon. English classes as on Wednesday.

7:30 P.M. Lecture: "Introduction to American Music, Pt. I, (folk music and modern composers)" by Prof. Howard McKinney, Music Dept. Rutgers.

Friday, 25th - 9:30 to noon. English classes

Afternoon. Preparation of additional tapes.

7:30 P.M. Lecture: "American Music, Pt. II (Jazz) by Prof. Joseph Slater, English Dept., Rutgers

Saturday, 26th - 9:00 A.M. Dr. Edward Teller met with group in Dormitory lobby. Question period followed brief talk.

1:00 P.M. By bus to Princeton. Met by Prof. Wigner, who showed the group through the Physics building. Prof. and Mrs. Olgyay (Architecture) and Prof. Pacsu (Chemistry). Partial tour of campus.

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#### THE WEEK IN REVIEW

#### Sunday night.

Informality was the keynote at the Sunday evening gathering in our home. Lacking enough chairs for all, many sat on the floor. I did not know whether they were far enough away from the tension of the past to want to sing, but in short order they were enthusiastically learning - and singing - "Clementine" and "Old MacDonald", aided (?) by an accordion which I can use for only the simplest of tunes. The group thoroughly enjoyed the singing, and asked for more next week. Games - in English, Hungarian, and wordless - followed in the recreation room downstairs. After coffee and doughnuts the group settled down eagerly, and enjoyed as eagerly, a Haydn Symphony. We intend to make this kind of evening a "regular" for Sunday nights.

#### Language instruction.

The English instruction began in earnest on Monday morning under the direction of Dr. Seymour Resnick of the Romance Languages Dept., Rutgers. He was joined on Wednesday by Dr. Gerald Bertin, of the same dept. Both have had previous experience in the teaching of English to foreign-born. Mimeographed lists of words and phrases provided the initial home work. Tapes were prepared for group work, and brief individual conversations

were recorded. These tapes were in frequent use throughout the week during the afternoon and evening hours. By the end of the week, the text, "Let's Learn English", was distributed and the work outlined for the "beginners" and "advanced" groups (relative terms, at best!)

There can be no doubt that this group is eager to learn, and will respond to the full schedule planned for the week beginning Jan. 28, when a third instructor will be available. The fact that they are not required to speak English constantly will undoubtedly make for somewhat slower language progress than if they were living with American families, but the advantages of having the entire group under one roof are tremendous, and after three or four weeks we shall probably be able to designate periods of time during the day when nothing but English is to be spoken.

#### Evening lectures.

The three lectures during the week were of the type which could be aurally and visually illustrated. Prof. von Erffa seemed to be somewhat distracted by the translation process and was not at his best. Professors McKinney and Slater were thoroughly at home with the group, and they were correspondingly more responsive. Dr. McKinney made frequent reference to Hungarian composers whose influence is noticeable in American music (e.g. Liszt in MacDowell). His explanation, prior to playing it, of Aaron Copland's "A Lincoln Portrait" elicited the comment that it sounded as if it were going to be another "Stalin Cantata." After it was played there was unanimous agreement that the two could not possibly be compared, the Stalin number being sheer propaganda, the Copland substantial music. During the course of the explanation, reference was made to the Gettysburg Address. No one in the group had ever heard of it! Dr. Slater's survey of the development of American jazz was informative and well presented - a good sequel to Dr. McKinney's talk of the previous evening.

### Special events.

The Tuesday trip into New York, arranged by Col. Dunn, was one which was prompted by the best of motives, but which I believe should not be repeated (nor would the time schedule allow for a repetition). The men got suits - but tailoring is now required to fix cuffs, etc. The women did not have time to choose wisely, and most of them were unable to use up the credit they had been allotted at Gimbel's. Their spirits were good, however, on their late return to the dorm, and a "fashion show" was held on the spot.

Saturday brought the group into contact with several noted scientists: Drs. Teller, Wigner and Paczu.

In his informal talk with the group, Dr. Teller briefly described the unusual opportunities for scientists in America, and indicated some of the difficulties which everyone has to face who comes to a new country. He stressed the point that it would be advisable for the new arrivals not to settle down in an Hungarian colony, but to try to establish the closest possible connections with American life and American people, whom he described as having unusual sympathy toward the Hungarian refugees.

In the question period, he answered a number of queries on the educational system in America (at the university level), and paid special attention to the importance of MIT and CIT. The group showed a vivid interest in the question of atomic research, and in connection with this subject there arose the problem of the likelihood of atomic war. Dr. Teller explained that there is no evidence that in such a war casualties would be much greater than they have been in past wars. He also emphasized the fact that the USA would do everything in its power to avoid World War III.

During the whole session there was good audience participation and reaction. Dr. Teller's friendly way of speaking, and vital personality, created a fine atmosphere.

Health, meals, morale, etc.

A good many of the group have had mild intestinal upsets during the week, whether from New York food or New Brunswick is hard to say. Dr. Fodor, a member of the group, was asked to keep tabs on those indisposed and to let me know if any needed referral to the Infirmary. The upsets seem to have been both temporary and mild.

Each person is given three meal ticket books per week - each containing \$5.50 worth of coupons, good only at the University Commons. The arrangement seems to be working satisfactorily.

Dr. Stephen Temessy is proving to be of great help as assistant, interpreter, translator, and analyst and reporter of group feelings. He lives in the dormitory and is on call at all times, except for Saturdays and Sundays when he is due to have some free time. Even then he is available for special service as required - and it has been required on the weekends to date.

I have asked for the selection of a committee of three members of the group with whom I can consult on problems affecting the welfare of the project, and the progress of the course.

The clothing situation presents some problems since some of the group were outfitted better than others at Kilmer before coming over, and many received wrong sizes. Efforts are being made to see that each one is provided with the basic necessities, and to guard against "stock-piling."

During the week both student and faculty-wives groups were approached for services to be rendered during the weeks following.

The group numbered 31 at the beginning and 37 at the end of the week.

B. S. Abernethy  
Director