

NAS-RUTGERS LANGUAGE AND ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR HUNGARIAN SCHOLARS

Third Week, February 3 - 9, 1957.

DAILY RECORD

Sunday, February 3 - P.M. Open house at the Chaplain's home.
Special guests: Dr. and Mrs. Rudolf Kirk,
Dr. Ferencz, Mrs. Ingles, Miss Lang.
Singing, games, Hungarian records brought
by Dr. Ferencz.

Monday, February 4 - 9 to 12 and 2 to 4 - Language classes

Tuesday, " 5 - 9 to 12 and 2 to 4 - English classes
7:30 p.m. "Customs and Manners in America"-
Lecture in Hungarian by Dr. Ferencz.

Wednesday, " 6 - 9 to 12 and 2 to 4 - Language study
4:30 - Brief dental examination for all.

Thursday, " 7 - 9 to 12 and 2 to 4 - Language study

Friday, " 8 - 9 to 12 and 2 to 4 - Language study
2:30 - Ladies of the group invited to a
musical at Douglass College, sponsored by
the Women's League of Rutgers.
7:30 - "The National Academy of Sciences-
What it is and does" - Lecture in English
by Dr. Atwood.

Saturday, " 9 - Nothing scheduled, morning or afternoon.
8:30 - Basketball game in gym (optional)

The Third Week in Review

English Instruction

The main business of this program is language instruction. By the third week the group was realizing that progress would be slow and sometimes painful, but that it could be steady. The daily class and study schedule had become routine, and for the most part was being adhered to conscientiously. The only exception was in the 9 to 10 hour in the morning, calling for work with the tape recorder. There was growing evidence that, for some of the group, this period was erroneously being considered as optional. Steps have now been taken to make it clear that this hour is as important as any other, and to see to it that the recorders and tapes are at the right places at the right time and in possession of the right people.

During the week we had a visit from two professors from the University of Toronto who have been given responsibility for setting up a similar program there. Since one of their problems has been to convince the appropriate authorities as well as some of the prospective participants that real progress in English can be made in a relatively short time, they requested permission to record a conversation with any one of our group who had had no English prior to coming to this country. From one of our beginning sections I chose Mr. Hegedus who had had one week of self-study at Kilmer before joining the Rutgers program. He had had therefore, only a little over three weeks' acquaintance with the language. The recorded interview was a remarkable demonstration of what can be done, and I think may be considered a tribute both to the quality of the instruction being given here and to Mr. Hegedus's native intelligence. His comprehension of the questions asked him

was excellent, and his replies showed an ability to use words which he had just recently picked up. The interview took on some of the aspects of a grilling - so eager were the Canadian visitors to test him - but he survived it in good spirit, and the interviewers left with what they felt would be exceedingly valuable material for the furtherance of their own project. They were obviously impressed with the set-up here, and with the methods being employed by Dr. Resnick and his colleagues.

The third week saw expanding American student participation in the program. The Interfraternity Council had agreed to recommend to the fraternities that a given house should be responsible for furnishing five men from 3 to 4 each afternoon for a week. Delta Upsilon took over for the week here reported, and it was satisfying to note that as the week progressed more men showed up for the conversation groups, and that three of the Hungarian scientists were invited to dinner at the DU house. The number of Douglass girls reporting for duty at 3 also increased, but this presented no problem. On the contrary, the more American students the better - it simply means that the conversation groups are smaller and more numerous, giving more opportunity for language practice.

I meet with the English instructors for lunch twice a week for purposes of keeping our methods and plans under constant review, and am in daily touch with Dr. Resnick. The written work which he shows me from time to time shows gratifying progress.

Mention should be made here of the service rendered during the week by Mrs. M. Stephen James who presided at the supervised study period from 11 to 12 each morning, and who enjoyed the

association so much that she is eager to have her turn come 'round again.

Evening Programs

The fact that Academy staff was used for the two evening meetings scheduled during the week was due to Dr. Atwood's offer to relieve me of the responsibility for arranging speakers for the week in question. Happily, Dr. Ferencz was available for the presentation of American customs and manners - as seen through the eyes of one born in Hungary but now thoroughly Americanized. Her presentation, I feel, was much more effective than if it had required translation. Dr. Atwood's explanation of the nature and function of the National Academy of Sciences was given in English, without translation. An experiment of this kind is worth making occasionally, although I have the feeling that the group was unable to follow the talk all the way through - not because the vocabulary was difficult but because it is still a great effort for most of the group to concentrate on a continuous presentation in English.

General Welfare

The general welfare of the youngest members of the group - as well as that of their parents - was given a boost when Gyorgyi Gal (11) and Charles Wastl (12) entered the 7th grade class at Rutgers Elementary School. Through the courtesy of Mr. David Heinlein, Principal, the children will be permitted to attend the class, as auditors, for as long as they are here. It would not be

surprising if they are speaking better than their parents at the end of the course.

Having had many inquiries about dental treatment, I consulted Col. Dunn and the Red Cross to see if any dental clinics might be able to provide necessary services. No such clinic exists in this vicinity and the only thing was to make use of local dentists. Dr. Chester Peterson agreed to make a survey of the needs and spent Wednesday afternoon with us. On the basis of a rapid and admittedly superficial examination, he divided the group into those urgently needing attention, those who have long range but not immediate needs, and those requiring no work at all. Within a short time, Dr. Peterson had begun work on the first group, and will see to it that all urgent cases are attended to.

Dr. Peterson's arrival at the living quarters in Dorm. #3 coincided with a delicate problem in human relations which was adroitly handled by my assistant, Stephen Temessy. The ladies of the group had been assembled to meet representatives of the Women's League who were going to take them to town for new shoes - offers having been made by several local shoe stores. In dressing up for the shopping trip the ladies had put on their best shoes (meaning, in some instances, the better of two second hand pairs). The Rutgers faculty wife who was to lead the expedition told me she would be embarrassed to take them to get new shoes since she had told the stores that the ladies shoe situation was nothing short of deplorable. Since what they were wearing was far from deplorable the trip was called off except for a few who had special reasons for needing special kinds of shoes. Even the disappointed ones took the rather ticklish situation in stride, and there were no hard feelings.

Additional clothes for the ladies of the group were brought in, and the distribution seemed to add to the feminine general welfare. The Singer Sewing Machine Company provided an electric machine on a loan basis, and an ironing board and iron were sent over from the Home Economics Department at Douglass.

As the acquaintance of members of our group with local residents grows, opportunities to visit in homes increases. There is every evidence that such visits are mutually enjoyed.