

NEWS NOTES: CLASSROOM AND CAMPUS

KENNEDY PLAN—

President-elect John F. Kennedy's campaign proposal for a youth "Peace Corps" to provide technical assistance to underdeveloped nations is receiving strong support from American colleges. Much of the initial enthusiasm was generated last October at the University of Michigan when students responded to Senator Kennedy's challenge to their responsibility for world peace. They organized a group called "Americans Committed to World Responsibility" which has been active in arousing support on other campuses. Similar groups have now been formed at Princeton, Trinity and Amherst, among others.

Among the important contributions to the formulation of the peace corps proposal was a memorandum submitted to Senator Kennedy last month by two University of Michigan professors. It states the objectives of an International Youth Service as strengthening the staffs of organizations working on development in Asia, Africa and Latin America, providing an opportunity for young people to serve as Government aides abroad rather than in the armed forces, and building international understanding through personal contacts.

Colorado State University announced last week that its Research Foundation has received a grant from the International Cooperation Administration to study the "advisability and practicability" of establishing a Point Four Youth Corps, as the President-elect suggested. Whether such service would substitute for military service is called "a wide-open question" which will be deferred until formal investigations are complete.

Robert R. Bowie, director of the Center for International Affairs at Harvard, made a similar proposal last month before the Senate Subcommittee on National Policy Machinery. He said the expectation was that "a thousand or more seniors coming out of college could be recruited every year."

EAST-WEST COLLEGE—

The nation's first international college, which was created only last spring with a \$10,000,000 grant from Congress, is already in operation at the University of Hawaii in

Kennedy's 'Peace Corps' Program Wins Support From the Nation's Colleges

Honolulu. It has announced the availability of twenty-five scholarships to Americans for the spring semester.

The university's East-West Center was established as a place for cultural and technical interchange in a country which is located between the eastern and western worlds, and combines their two cultures within it. The center includes both an International College and an International Training Agency. Undergraduates, graduate students and technical trainees may enroll in Asian and Pacific language and area studies or training in overseas operations.

One-fifth of the scholarships offered to students of exceptional promise are reserved for Americans, the balance for Asians. About 125 scholarships, covering two years of study at \$3,710 to \$4,310 per year, are available for 1960-61; another 250 for 1961-62. Scholarships will increase in number each successive year and total 1,000 by 1965. Grants to Americans include a study tour in Asia.

An East-West Center team has been touring Asia for over a month, to inform students of the program. The team reported that in Taipei alone 417 scholarship applications were received two days after the announcement was made. Scholars and leaders from Asia are also being offered grants to participate in research at the Center. These grants will increase each year, reaching 200 a year by 1966.

SILVER LINING—

A small college in Ohio is making a valiant effort to turn a tragedy into a positive force for the future. In mid-November a fire completely destroyed the main classroom building of Defiance College, which is directed by the Congregational Christian Churches.

The loss included seven classrooms, the college auditorium, a completely equipped audio-visual center, the arena theatre, college radio station, faculty offices and studios. Rather than crying for help to replace the building and capitalizing on the catastrophe to loosen purse

strings, the trustees took the fire as a challenge to plan on a large scale for increased enrollment.

A \$3,000,000 expansion program will start immediately with new men's and women's dormitories which will increase the college's enrollment from its present 725 to 950. Construction will begin in March. At the same time a new classroom building to house the major academic departments, lecture halls, audio-visual center and a larger number of faculty offices will go up. The cost of these buildings will be over \$1,000,000, with the dormitories financed by a Federal loan.

Although immediate plans envision an enrollment increase of about 200, Kevin McCann, the college's president, has recommended that possible expansion to more than 2,000 by 1980 be kept in mind.

STUDENT LOANS—

More than \$9,500,000 in loans guaranteed by the Higher Education Assistance Corporation has been made available to New York State college students since the program started in 1958. Commercial banks have extended these loans since the beginning. Over \$770,000 has been loaned by savings banks since they were authorized last April to participate.

Massachusetts pioneered in student assistance with its Higher Education Loan Plan (HELP) founded in 1957. HELP has guaranteed over \$4,000,000 in loans from 130 Massachusetts banks since then. Because of the corporation's guarantee to the banks of 80 per cent of the principal of each loan, favorable interest rates are possible.

The results of these programs have encouraged the foundation of similar ones in Maine, Rhode Island, Indiana and Delaware.

VOLUNTEERS—

A volunteer program to make productive workers out of boys and girls who drop out of school has won wide support in the West Indies from the Gov-

ernment, trade unions, business men's associations and civic groups. The vocational training project was started in Trinidad nine years ago with classes meeting in the instructors' homes and workshops. The school has since moved into a building contributed by the Government and now has 573 pupils between the ages of 15 and 20 enrolled in its broad range of free courses.

The plan originated with D. C. Egerton Horton, now a deputy headmaster of a school for emotionally disturbed children. It took form as St. George's School. Mr. Horton explained in a recent interview that he felt that many of the problems caused by teenagers "knocking around street corners" could be prevented by such a program.

The forty-five instructors who contribute their services include school teachers, artisans, business men, parents and United States Navy personnel stationed in Trinidad. The program includes vocational testing and placement on completion of training.

Books, machinery, tools and other equipment have been donated. But such supplies have been insufficient to meet the demand from the ten islands of the new federation, Mr. Horton said. He added that Alcoa Steamship Company, 17 Battery Place, New York, has offered to ship without charge any equipment donated for use in the vocational program.

BOOKSHELF—

Reading Methods and Games for Teaching the Retarded Child. Helene L. Hunter. 64 pp. New York: Know Publications. \$2.95. Guidance and work materials for parents and teachers.