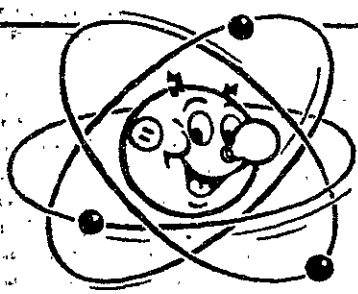


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INTERVIEWER: Robert O. Bigelow

DATE: Wednesday, February 14

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BOSTON, MASS.

Advocate Turn Toward Peace

Peace Walkers Offer Berlin Solution

(Continued from Page 8)

bonds; repeal of Connally Amendment, which allows the United States to determine whether international disputes in which it is involved fall under the jurisdiction of the World Court; encouragement of informal conferences of Soviet and American citizens, like recent Pugwash and Stowe conferences; opening of U. S. media of communication to spokesmen of foreign countries, especially the USSR, with the explicit request that the Soviets allow us to be heard more widely in their press, radio and TV.

Some Serious Weaknesses

As mentioned at the outset, the Walk in Washington policy paper is a sweeping and forceful statement but does have serious shortcomings. These assets and liabilities were discussed by the author with Ken Porter of Harvard, a leading member of the Boston Coordinating Committee which had the major responsibility in drafting the statement.

Porter commented significantly during our conversation, "It's much easier for many different

people to agree in opposing than in proposing." This inevitable fact of politics shines clearly through the Walk's policy, which was produced from the varying views of many national and local groups who originally agreed only on generalities. The negative aspects of the paper—its censure of the arms race and rejection of civil defense and atmospheric testing—are far stronger and better supported than the positive aspects and concrete proposals. The deep and careful analysis given to the arms race and to civil defense is strangely lacking, for example, from the proposals concerning withdrawal of vulnerable U. S. missile bases and the Berlin problem, both of which are vague and unsubstantiated. This weakness results not from a lack of understanding or research into the problems, but probably from a lack of full agreement on the specifics; unfortunately, the impression conveyed to an objective reader is the former rather than the latter.

Documentation Lacking

A second and more serious

shortcoming is the total absence of documentation in the form of references, statistics, authoritative quotes, and the like. At one point, "studies of major disasters" are mentioned, but one wonders which studies are meant and what they specifically showed. In much the same way, there is a lack of specific examples used to prove the points that are brought up. Especially in the arguments which indict the arms race as a gross failure, examples would provide immeasurable strength in convincing the skeptical reader.

Generalities Avoided

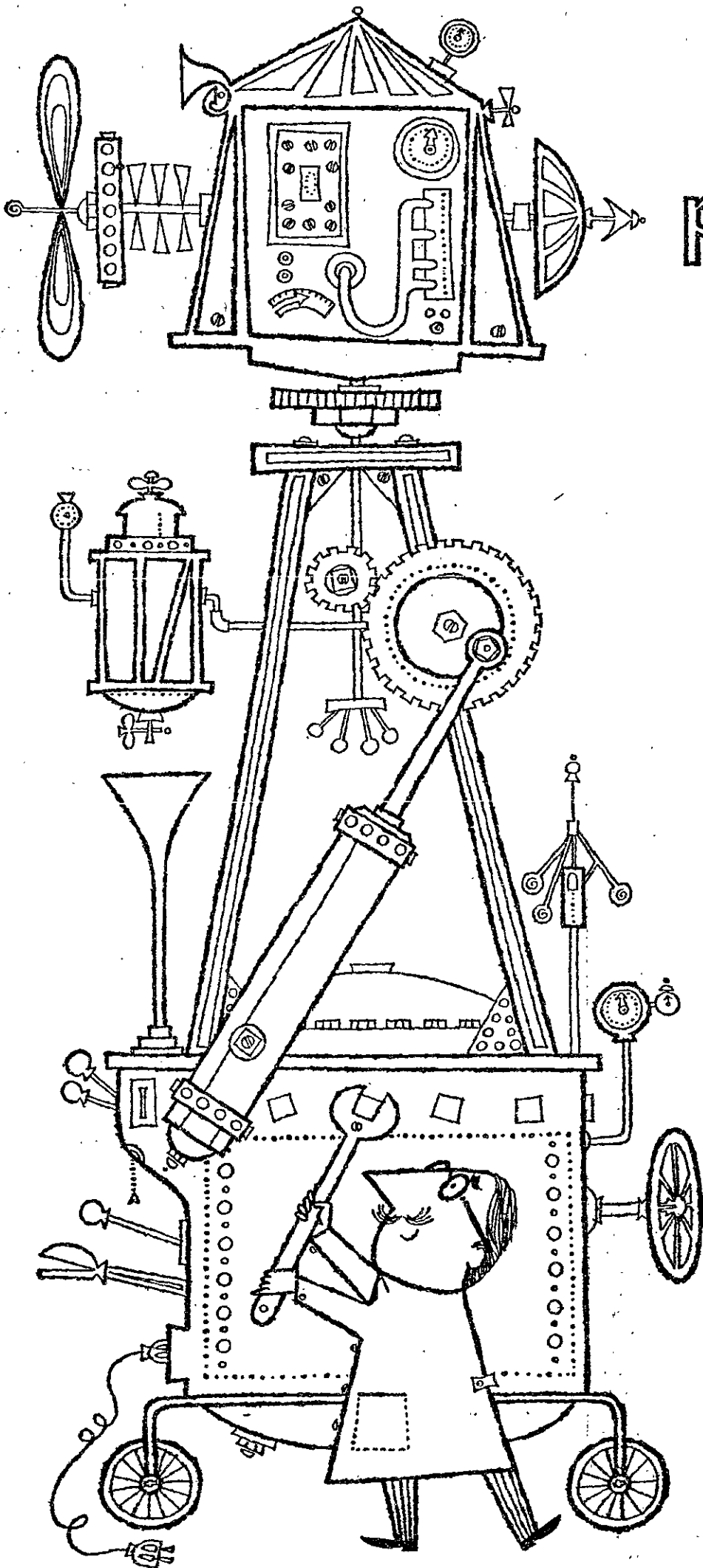
Balanced against these criticisms is a very important asset: the paper is generally effective and specific without being long and technical to the point of boring or confusing the reader. Its points are easy to understand while, at the same time, the reasoning is mature and sophisticated.

Another big asset is that the positive proposals, though not as detailed as might be desired, are still concrete, meaningful and realistic. The avoidance of gross generalities like "we want peace and disarmament with inspection" is a sign of considerably more maturity and realism than has characterized many previous student formulations. Finally, the proposals are not based upon an optimistic estimate of Soviet motives, and for this reason represent steps which could gain us much in the form of worldwide prestige and possible Soviet cooperation, but at worst would lose us nothing.

All In All . . .

The policy statement, when viewed as a compromise between divergent views from all over the nation, and as a student "first" in terms of its breadth and depth of analysis, deserves careful study and considerable praise. Hopefully, it will serve as a "jumping off point" for serious discussion and debate of American foreign and defense policies on campuses, on Capitol Hill, and across the nation.

The Walk in Washington must do more than write a policy statement, however, to become a real success. The problems of money raising, transportation, appointments with government leaders, obtaining the endorsement of distinguished Americans and, above all, encouraging students to actively participate in the Walk, are considerable and certainly unprecedented on a national scale. They will be considered in next week's issue of *The Tech*.



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