



1959 - Parliament of Youth (HSV7)
(CHS defeated MHS!)

MPs could learn 'some points here'



Minister praises young speakers

MR BLOOMFIELD, Minister for Education, talking to Camberwell High School and Brighton Grammar students at HSV7 studios after they had taken part in "Parliament of Youth."

Parliament had something to learn from the television program "Parliament of Youth," the Minister for Education, Mr Bloomfield, said yesterday.

"I was impressed by packed benches of eager and attentive listeners," he said.

"And by the courteous nature of the interjections which were confined to 'well put' for approval and 'Oh!' for dissent."

Mr Bloomfield said this when he appeared on the 25th session of The Herald's "Parliament of Youth" on HSV7.

It was the last program in the present series because school examinations begin soon.

"Grand job"

Mr Bloomfield also said: "I have had 'riding' instructions not to say anything in favor of The Herald, but I cannot help saying that I think The Herald has done a grand job in instituting the series."

Not only were young people encouraged to think, feel and express themselves — of the greatest value in the complicated times they would have to face — but the attention of the grown-up world was directed towards important and thought-provoking topics.

"I have not a television set myself and this is the first of these sessions I have seen," he said.

"I thought the whole affair most interesting and valuable and would like to thank everyone concerned in organising it."

In the debate, Camberwell High School and Brighton Grammar School argued the question: "Has science done more harm or benefit to mankind?"

the Government (or affirmative) — members said:

Gwendolyn Murray. — "Scientific achievements have given man a sense of power which could become dangerous."

"Darwin's theory of evolution has made the scientific and religious views of the world apparently inconsistent."

"Even though many people have been able to reconcile these views many others have felt they had to make a choice and more often they have chosen science and rejected religion."

"Communism is an example of man's attempt to replace God as the all-powerful."

Michael Stevenson. — "Science has increased the tempo of life. Man's inventive genius gave us the Industrial Revolution. Today men are becoming automata, robots."

"Education is geared to the production of future scientists and technicians and the humanities have been sacrificed."

"Big threat"

Graham Morris. — "Science has brought fear into the world. Before the atom bomb there was a physical limit to the number of people who could be killed. The blast at Hiroshima changed this, removed physical limits."

"Now a flick of a switch can annihilate a whole nation."

"The world is surrounded by the benefits of science but is unable to enjoy them because of this terrible threat that hangs by a mere thread over our heads."

Opposition members (Brighton Grammar) said:

Peter McKinnon. — "Science has brought innumerable benefits to man-

kind. It is the non-scientists who have perverted the discoveries of science to bad ends."

"Since science is the search for truth, and truth in itself is good, how can science be bad?"

"Because of the nuclear bomb war has become more remote — the terrible nature of any future war makes war unthinkable."

Wesley Maley. — "Science has conquered many diseases. It has led to improvements in hospital techniques."

CSIRO example

"In Australia we have the CSIRO which is an example of how scientific bodies devote themselves to improvements in agriculture, reclaiming deserts and, in short, makes life fuller and more secure for people who have been up to now under-privileged."

James Pearce, speaking on the effect of science on man's mind. "The superstitions and fears of olden times — witchcraft, blood sports and baiting of mentally ill people for entertainment — were terrible. But even worse, we feel in this enlightened age, was the state of mind of the people who lived in those times."

"True religious faith has nothing to fear from discoveries of science."

Hand-in-hand

"In fact, in our age, religion and science have come nearer to the ideal of working hand in hand, so that they help each other, rather than be antagonistic."

Fifty schools have now taken part in the session.

The Herald has given £25 to each school taking part — a total of £1250 — for school amenities.

1959

