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UNIVERSITY YM(?)A-3

Coed Draws Criticism On Disarmament Views

(Third of a series.)

By JIMMY BANKS

Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN, Texas — Miss Vivien Leigh Franklin, a student leader in the University of Texas YMCA-YWCA, believes American business interests are blocking disarmament for economic reasons.

Such views have made her a target of bitter criticism ever since she returned last summer from a tour of Iron Curtain countries.

The 20-year-old junior from Wimberley discussed those views frankly and candidly as she sat in the living room of a women's rooming house in the controversial Christian Faith and Life Community.

On a wall behind her, a piece of

canvas had been draped over a portrait to cover it up. During the interview, a young man who is also a University student came in and asked why it was covered. He lifted the canvas, revealing a portrait of Jesus.

Miss Franklin, laughing off the incident, called the name of another girl, who, she said, had covered up the portrait because she did not like it.

(A few days after this interview, the religious portrait was removed. In its place there now hangs a still life of a vase of flowers.)

BUT HER MOOD quickly grew serious again as she explained her strong opposition to the House Committee on Un-American Activities, her work for disarmament and integration and her fear of the "threat to our security" posed by ultrarightist groups.

She visited 10 European countries last summer under the auspices of the Brethren Service Commission, then spent a month in Berlin attending the International Student Peace Seminar.

"I found a great deal of resentment toward Americans," she declared. "The comment that struck me most came from a Dutch student who felt that Americans are barbaric, impulsive and immature. A lot of Europeans said that if they gave us three or four hundred years, we might grow up and develop a culture."

One of the main reasons for this feeling, she said, is the rich

American tourist "who tries to buy his way into everything and doesn't try to understand the people."

MISS FRANKLIN is a leader in an integration group known as Students for Direct Action, an officer in the Young Democrats, a member of the Student Peace Union and Austin for Peaceful Alternatives, and chairman of a regional YWCA organization that includes Oklahoma and Arkansas as well as Texas.

She stirred up a lot of controversy last fall with some of the views she expressed in speaking to luncheon clubs concerning her trip to Europe.

"Disarmament is necessary for peace, or for any kind of tension reduction," she declares flatly.

"The arms race is bound so much to our economy that inspection is not a determining factor. You can check the facts on this, but I think we first proposed inspection in about 1948. In 1950 or '52, the Russians said, 'OK, we'll go along with inspection.' Then we backed out.

"**THE REAL** determining factor is how it affects our economy."

"Disarmament would mean cutting back our production of arms, which would mean switching production to other areas, hurting certain businesses," she said. "But I am not willing to grant the point that people are ready to destroy themselves.

2 "If people knew what this arms race is doing to us—spiritually, morally, mentally, even physically—they would be willing to give up some of their material things."

One of the YWCA resolution Miss Franklin wrote calls for abolition of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, declaring it "creates a climate which limits freedom in that its primary activity appears to be concentrated on the exposure of individuals and their ideas and the expression of these ideas as un-American."

3 **SHE FEELS THAT** right-wing extremists pose a greater threat to the United States than do the Communists.

"So far as any actual fear of the Communist party as a threat to our security, I can't see this," she said. "I think it has been grossly exaggerated, particularly as to the number of Communist party members in this country.

"It seems to me that if there is any real threat to our security and subversion of our constitutional rights, they are being threatened by the ultrarightist groups. The general assumption is that it's a laughing matter, that those people are ludicrous. But in Texas and the Deep South, they pose the kind of threat that cannot be laughed off.

"There are certain indications that those people are losing strength in Texas," she added. "And the overwhelming majority of the people remain uninfluenced by their clandestine groups out witch-hunting.

"**THEY WISH** to deny a real intellectual exchange of ideas, which is perhaps the real foundation of a Democratic system,"



—Dallas News Staff Photo.

Miss Vivien Franklin... "The Russians said OK, then we backed out."

she said. "It seems they are taking the negative approach—wishing to deny freedom of speech, freedom of belief, freedom of the press, the right of public education to educate, as evidenced by the textbook investigations.

"The fact that people are concerned is a healthy sign—but they should not deny the right of other people who are concerned to reach conclusions different from theirs. In their desire to preserve the quote democratic way of life unquote, a term they throw around so blatantly, they destroy this very thing."

Miss Franklin's opinions are cited by many as evidence of how the University of Texas YMCA-YWCA has changed from a religious organization into a political one.

WEDNESDAY: "The Y has something for everybody."