Bishop Dibelius Describes Plight Of East Germans

By PATTY BOHN

The following is the text of the remarks given last Friday, November 10, by Otto Dibelius, German Evangelical Bishop of Berlin-Brandenburg, in Hamman Hall as if they were spoken by an East German student.—Ed.

I live in a totalitarian state; I belong to it; I can’t leave. I have to work to advance its communist society.

My university, also belongs to this society; the state determines my course of study; my whole academic life is subject to the cause of that totalitarian machine. That which doesn’t contribute to its advancement isn’t worthy of academic pursuit.

MY STATE IS concerned with technology; it is concerned with the exertion of its power.

My duties to my state are to be militarily trained and doctrinally trained. I have to indoctrinate others; I have to watch my professors’ activities with respect to the Marxist dialectical materialism which we all have to exercise and to promote.

Yet I knew that things were different outside my state. I knew that the dogmatic assertions of my state weren’t infallible. I knew the West was different from that which I was told.

AND THOSE IN Hungary, in Czechoslovakia, in the Balkans, and in Poland knew something about the real situation of the world. We knew because 100,000 people went back and forth between East and West Berlin every day.

On August 13, the Berlin gates were closed.

Let us stand together in informed faith and in certainty that our real faith will overcome this totalitarian philosophy to which we are now completely subordinated.