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WEIMAR JONES.....Editor
BOB S. SLOAN.....Business Manager

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No Compromise

With the smoke from newspaper headlines and political leaders' utterances beginning to fade, the true picture of the situation at West Point is becoming a little clearer. It now appears that there are certain facts arising from this unfortunate incident which should hearten the American public, as well as several which undoubtedly create fear and misgivings in the average mind.

These salient facts stand out:

1. Upon finding that misconduct did exist in violation of the honor code at the military academy, West Point officials were not content to gloss over or dodge the issue. A board of prominent men headed by Judge Learned Hand, distinguished jurist, was called in to investigate the findings of the army officials and to recommend what action be taken. The Academy then accepted the unanimous recommendation of this board. It should be heartening to the public that the heads of an institution which has such an effect upon the character of the leadership of our military forces had the courage to take strong action against conduct which is being passed over by many institutions of higher learning in this country today.

2. There can be little doubt that the collegiate athletic system in vogue in this country today played its part in contributing to the misconduct of the 90 cadets at West Point. Athletics in college today is so close to professional athletics that to call it amateur sport is obliged to create in the minds of those who take part a spirit of cynicism, followed by hypocritical action. West Point officials were wrong as other college and university officials to let themselves be swept with the tide which demands a winning team at any cost. This idea has also penetrated our high schools, as we have seen locally. Athletics should be used to teach physical skills and build better bodies of those who participate. Instead, we use the athletic program to furnish entertainment for the spectators.

3. The cadets who violated the honor code can not be excused. One of the most sickening things in the entire incident is the efforts of some of the guilty ones, as well as their parents and political leaders, who would curry political favor, to justify cheating by saying, "Well, John did it, too." This might be said as a warning to us, however: If these cadets are true products of our society, then the American people and their institutions of church and schools should accept this incident as a grave warning of their failure to do a thorough job of building character.

4. The decision to drop the cadets from the academy should be carried out. To compromise will only weaken the character of both West Point and the guilty cadets.

The Courts, Politics, And Religion

It is common knowledge that the general public is fast losing its respect for the federal judiciary—the district judges on up to the Supreme Court. Americans are losing respect for the federal courts for the very good reason that many federal judges warrant no great respect. And unquestionably the explanation for the large number of small calibre men on federal benches is the way they are selected.

A case in point is the current struggle between President Truman and Democratic Senator Paul H. Douglas over federal judgeships in Illinois. Mr. Douglas' home state.

Senator Douglas recommended men to fill two vacancies. President Truman ignored the recommendations, and nominated two of his own choosing. Senator Douglas retaliated by declaring the Truman nominees "personally obnoxious" to him. Now the decision is up to the senate, which confirms those appointed by the President to federal judgeships.

On the appointment of a third Illinois judge, the President and the Illinois senator are agreed.

Whoever may be at fault in this controversy—and the surface evidence is that the President, at least, is using his appointive power for purely political purposes—it is unfortunate. It is another in a long series of incidents that are destroying the

conception of American courts as tribunals above and beyond politics, and therefore impartial and just.

This and other incidents in the series inevitably raise the question in the public mind: If politics determines who shall serve on a federal bench, then what is there about a federal judge, or his rulings, to warrant respect?

Even more unfortunate, however, than the controversy is the revelation of the one thing upon which the President and the Illinois senator are agreed: That the three vacancies in Illinois must be filled by a Catholic, a Protestant, and a Jew.

Why?

What has a man's religion to do with his knowledge of the law, with his fair-mindedness, or that first essential of a good judge, his character?

Mr. Truman and Mr. Douglas are saying, in effect: We agree that the American people will demand that the three religious groups be represented, without reference to the fitness of the individuals chosen from those groups.

If the President and the senator from Illinois are right in that assumption, then the President and the senator are criminally wasteful in spending billions for national defense. Because if the time has come when most Americans think of themselves as Catholics or Protestants or Jews, first, and Americans afterward, as whites or Negroes, first, and Americans afterward, as capitalists or laborers or farmers, first, and Americans afterward—if that time has come, then any national defense is hopeless. If that time has come, then American character and patriotism and unity—and the American sense of proportion—have so deteriorated that all our billions can create, at most, another Maginot Line.

Has that time come?

If it has, then the people of this country are fools? If it has not, then Mr. Truman and Mr. Douglas have been foolish enough to underrate the American people.

One of those two things obviously is true. Which one?

It would be our guess that the vast majority of good citizens in this country have been libeled by two of their most eminent servants.

Creditable

Franklin and Highlands last week held flower shows that would have done credit to—

We almost said "credit to much larger communities", but what has the size of a community to do with the beauty of its flowers?

The shows, in any event, were highly creditable, in the quality of the flowers, in their profusion and variety, and in the taste and originality marking the entries. Such events may have little effect on growth in either population or wealth, but they definitely effect the quality of a community.

Congratulations are due to the many who contributed—these who entered exhibits, the sponsoring organizations, and of course the hard-working show chairmen in the two towns, Mrs. B. L. McGlamery and Mrs. Byron Simonson.

Deep Subject

Said Franklin people to their officials: "Water're gonna do about it?"

Said the mayor to the aldermen: "Well."

Said the aldermen: "Let us dig".

* * *

And all the while the good pure water of Wayah Creek was running away to the sea.

But how, after we attain our goal of a "position of strength", will we use our military might?

Our American Civilization

Giving everybody—the manufacturer, the laborer, the farmer—a raise. Calling it inflation control.

Working ever harder and harder, to earn more and more money, to spend to cure more and more evils—created by the way we live and work.

Arguing with the farmer's wife, in the morning, about the price of a head of lettuce. Paying eight prices, in the evening, for a meal at a swank restaurant.

America, traditionally the land of religious freedom, permitting its armed forces to deny that freedom to those whose religion condemns any form of war.

Others' Opinions


QUALITY COUNTS

... It is to be hoped most earnestly that the prime consideration in future elections will be the quality of the men who offer themselves as candidates. As we have said so often, only those men to whom we would entrust our own business should be entrusted with public affairs.—Whiteville News Reporter.



OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

WHAT FREEDOM BRINGS

FREEDOM, AS WE HAVE COME TO KNOW IT IN AMERICA, BRINGS INDEPENDENCE OF MIND AND SPIRIT, SECURITY FROM OPPRESSION, THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE WHERE WE CHOOSE AND WORK WHERE WE WILL.



MATERIALLY, FREEDOM BRINGS GREATER REWARDS FOR INDIVIDUAL ENDEAVOR THAN ANY REGIMENTED SYSTEM HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE. THIS MEANS HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS FOR ALL OF US.



AND FREEDOM BRINGS WITH IT THE OBLIGATION TO MAINTAIN OUR DEMOCRACY AS A FORCE FOR SPIRITUAL ACHIEVEMENT AND MATERIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT.

Poetry

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Editor
Weaverville, North Carolina

Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen Women

THE SONG OF THE HILLS

To some the hills are obstacles
For the stout of heart to climb,
To some they are masters' paintings,
To others, works of rhyme.

But it seems I hear them singing
In harmony sublime,
The songs of the hills eternal
Clear as a temple chime.

Each mountain sings its sonnet,
Each crystal stream its rhyme,
Each hill that stands eternal
Sings its song sublime.

Sing on, oh crags and mountains,
Oh, sing your song sublime!
Sing on, oh, streams and valleys,
Sing, till the end of time!

—GILMER A. JONES in Scimitar and Song,
Charleston, S. C., publication.

HERE'S TEXAS

We saw the other day where a Texan who was in a rifle match, unaccountably missed every shot at 100 and 200 yards. He scored bull's eyes, however, with every shot at 500 yards. A bystander asked him how this happened to be the case.

"Well," said the Texan, "back home we never bother to shoot at anything less than 500 yards. We just throw rocks."

—Camden Chronicle.

DARE WE ADMIT A SOLUTION

Reaction of both cadets and outsiders to the expulsion of 90 West Pointers because of violations of the honor system has been more disgusting than the charges.

Cadets, interviewed since the army announced that it will drop 90 students, have expressed gloom over the hopes of the school in intercollegiate football. Congressmen have called for a halt to football and the man on the street "is feeling sorry for the grid hopes of the school on the Hudson."

Not a single statement has been published relative to the moral sin that has been committed by the cadets. That phase of our thinking has apparently become a victim of the same crazy trend toward placing emphasis on "big things" and disregarding the principles upon which "right" is founded.

The real crushing strike created at West Point has been against character, not the football team. The suggestion that parents may seek legal action for their "kicked out" sons, is more evidence that Americans are losing or have lost their sense of values. Where do we want to place our emphasis—on winning football teams or stronger characters?

The decision must come from the parents, not only those with sons expelled from West Point, but from all men and women who have been charged with the responsibility of guiding youngsters into a path that leads to strong adults. We can eliminate football at West Point, but that action will fall far short of building character among the cadets. The parents must first have a strong sense of character responsibility, the instructors must maintain and teach moral codes as the most important, and violators must be given full punishments.

We fear the 90 expelled cadets may yet become greater heroes than those young men who tramp through the rice fields of Korea, defending our right to be free.

The solution lies in building character, not football teams.

—Hertford County Herald.

Business Making News

By BOB SLOAN

Two weeks ago I attended the opening of a new produce market at Dillard, Ga., which was built to handle products from North Georgia and Western North Carolina. I meant to write this article last week but was sick a couple of days and the deadline passed me by. Summer vegetables are delicious, but sometimes disastrous. The opening of the farm market was the occasion of a very informative talk by Paul Dechman, Florida produce grower concerning the possibility of improving our produce market. Mr. Dechman pointed out that he believed that there were many new crops which could be grown in this area with work and study. Among the possible crops Mr. Dechman mentioned were cauliflower, broccoli, and brussel sprouts. He pointed out that our growing season was such that he believed that we could place these crops on the market at a time when other areas were not growing them. This prominent Florida produce specialist stressed the fact that one of the main things a produce grower should do is to grow the vegetables in his fields that the public wants. "If you like some other variety better to eat," he said, "raise it in your garden, but keep it out of your fields, they belong to the public." The Dillard market can mean quite a bit to the farmers of our section. It represents a saving of 200 miles of trucking for the cabbage grower who has been selling on the Atlanta market.

We wonder what effect the town water supply might have on insurance rates if the state insurance commission knew just how much water we have on hand. If a large fire started here, there would have to be some cry other than the old song, "Pour on water, Scotland is burning."

The Powell bill will enable the town of Franklin to spend more than \$9,000 on its streets. There are a good many people here who need to be brought out of the mud and they should be watching with interest to see how this money is used.

For those who are making a sport of keeping tabs on our rapidly changing filling station (Turn to Back Page 1st Section)

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The editor of the Clay County Courier does not want any more apples on subscription. Perhaps Jamaca Ginger would relieve him.

Highlands is merry, and her visitors are from many quarters. The landlords and boarding house keepers wear a smiling face. Our streets are daily promenade by strangers, sprinkled with old and familiar faces.

Rev. E. A. Sample preached an interesting sermon Sunday on the Wayah Bald to a congregation of over 60 persons.

25 YEARS AGO

There is no shortage of water in Franklin. But as a precautionary measure, the washing of the streets will have to be postponed until some arrangement can be made to secure a bigger flow of water from the municipal well on the east side of town.

The good people of Higdonville intend to have a barrel of fun Friday at Higdonville school when Mr. Isaac Keener will be brought to trial on the serious charges of stealing watermelons from Mr. John Cunningham.

The Republican convention of Macon County was held in the court house last Saturday afternoon. State Chairman Brownlow Jackson was present and made a good speech.

10 YEARS AGO

About 50 people attended the Mirror Lake first Annual Horse Show held here on August 6, staged by Dorothy Cable and Lewis Doggett, with six entries. Mrs. George Brantly acted as ringmaster as well as judge.

We wish to extend our thanks to the Franklin ball club for the swell entertainment during the game between prison camp and Franklin last Saturday afternoon. We won after a hard fought game but the score was very close at the end. (Prison News, by Hambones).