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Edmisten: Congress Inept

Rufus Edmisten, Chief administrative assistant to N. C. Senator Sam Ervin, told a St. Andrews audience Tuesday that the Watergate affair was a culmination of a number of trends which have occurred in the last few decades. Edmisten, who has first-hand knowledge of the scandal from his work as deputy counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee, identified the expanding powers of the Presidency, the increasing complacency and ineptitude of Congress, and the growth of a powerful White House Staff responsible only to the President as factors having a major causal effect towards Watergate. He specifically attacked several chief administrative assistants to President Nixon (such as H. R. "Bob" Haldeman), whom he called "ad agency men who are used to selling something at any cost."

Despite his long service with Senator Ervin, Edmisten claimed not to be an apologist for Congress. He reprimanded Congress for its willingness to let Presidents of recent years assume powers which were

not delegated to them by the Constitutional or Statutory means. He gave the example of Presidential impoundment of funds, by which recent Presidents have nullified Congress' power of the purse by preventing allocated funds from reaching their destinations. Because of this, said Edmisten, "a president is able to serve in a lawmaking capacity instead of an executive capacity."

He also cited executive agreements with foreign nations as a weapon of power which the President has taken upon himself. While formal treaties must be Constitutionally ratified by the Senate, an equally binding executive agreement need not. Congress has taken no action to stop this increase in Presidential power. "The Congress has got to achieve an overview role," claimed Edmisten, pointing out that Congress must demand to have the right to confirm or reject more Presidential appointees.

"The Presidency in the last few months has taken quite a nosedive--there's no doubt

about that," Edmisten said, but later added that he didn't think impeachment proceedings would seriously weaken the office, which may not be near its lowest ebb. The attack on a single President should not be equated with an attack on the office of the Presidency. "The trouble in America today is that we've almost equated the word 'impeachment' with a word like 'cancer.'"

Edmisten pointed out that the office has been gaining power in great amounts from F. D. R.'s time to the present. "In recent years we have had almost royalty in the U.S.," he said, pointing out that the President is served by over 60 personal servants and seven Boeing jets. This power extends to "assistant presidents" like Haldeman and John Ehrlichman. "They thought that parts of the Constitution could be suspended. We have a system of government that works very well except when certain parts of that government exceed their powers. The Watergate episode is the



Rufus Edmisten in Senate Caucus Room during Senate Watergate Hearings.

story of insatiable hunger and thirst for power. . . I am speaking as a Democrat, but facts are facts."

Edmisten was the second of two political speakers brought to St. Andrews on grants from the S & H Foundation.

A Hope Of Community

Convocation was a series of contradictions and desperate cries for community in the troubled times we face.

Dr. Samuel D. Proctor, was the speaker and he too pointed out the strange effect the conglomeration of cultures and traditions had on him. Ceremonies do have a function in society but they must be conscious efforts to integrate the community.

Dr. Proctor's address was moving and hopeful. Convinced of the possibility for a genuine community in the United States he set forth the role that education should play in bringing forth the potential within all people. The strength of community rests on a core of shared values to which all members are committed.

Proctor proclaimed the United States as a non-community due to its political and racial polarization and rigid classes. In fine arts, sports and money realms

there is some sense of community but that is superficial, transitory and does not maintain genuine community strength.

The educational process can discover ways to strive for community. Proctor gave three criteria for a teacher; 1) vivaciousness, 2) a sense of appreciation for those who are different, 3) the ability to relate experiences and basic skills to individual students. It is most important that teachers be able to respond to the individual needs of the student even if it is trouble with the verb "to be." He discovered a method of teaching this to a student and the student wanted to know why his regular teacher had not used Proctor's method. Proctor said that the teacher probably did not understand it either and only "quoted the rules expecting the students to guess the password."

It is also crucial in education to relate all subjects

on a broad spectrum and to stop examining one culture as superior and another as bad, etc. His presentation of an American funeral was insightful and humorous. It revealed how we continue old traditions without reviving them, without bringing them into correspondence with the needs and tenor of the present.

So the "Black Baptist from Harlem among Southern Presbyterians having been led in by a bagpiper" addressed himself to the need for a restored community in America and indirectly to the need for renewed traditions and values. The necessity for political and economic change was implicit in his address; as the community he called for it is not possible without radical alterations in those structures.

Wright Resigns

Mrs. Ramonna Wright, Director of the Career Planning and Placement Center of Students Personnel Services has announced her resignation effective at the end of April.

Under her leadership, the Career Planning and Placement Center has expanded its services to include post graduate job placement, summer employment, and part time work during the college year. Mrs. Wright has brought dozens of employment counselors to the campus, representing firms from the entire eastern seaboard.

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PETER BELLAMY

The well-known English Folk Singer, Peter Bellamy, is coming to St. Andrews Wednesday for two performances Thursday and Friday nights. Formerly of the English Folk group, The Young Tradition, Bellamy has branched out to become an accomplished solo performer. Though he usually sings unaccompanied, he occasionally employs the concertina and guitar to back himself up. Bellamy had recently set a number of poems by Kipling to his own music and writes original pieces as well. To quote a com-

mentator at the Norwick Triennial Festival: "He is, with his bizarre clothes and long hair which doth hang like flax upon a distaff, an astonishing sight to behold. But how well he knows and colours his songs, singing them in that strangely antique way which makes them real period pieces. . ." Dr. Joyner of History and Social Sciences fame will begin the programs Thursday and Friday nights, Thursday in the LAA at 8:00 and Friday in the Cafeteria at 8:00.

Island Easter Sunday, April 14, at 6:45 a.m. He recommends bringing something to sit on.

Rev. George Conn will conduct an Easter Sunrise Communion Service on Chapel