

Three P's PERSONAL AND PRIVATE PROBLEMS

This column will attempt to answer personal and private problems of individuals who submit their questions to this column. These inquiries to include family and social problems and will cover questions that come up in a living oneself to society; economic conditions to include adjustment to business life and careers. All inquiries appropriate and names will be held in the strictest confidence. All inquiries and questions should be addressed to "Three P's", care of The Chowan Herald, Edenton, N. C.

Dear Three P's:
Just recently I have read numerous articles about cheating on examinations and ghost writers taking examinations and writing theses for degrees. In addition there have been radio broadcasts and TV presentations of the problem. My concern is with my son who is about ready for college. In discussion with him he seems to take a flippant attitude toward the subject and I want to put him on the right path. What do you say?
—Licentia.

Dear Licentia:
In the first place it is necessary for you to develop a proper perspective tinged with a sense of humor. Cheating is not new,

we have had cheating since the beginning of man, in the time of Cheops when property owners established property lines with markers on which were inscribed curses on any one who moved the boundary markers and which threatened to tear the tongue out of anyone found tampering with such boundary lines.

That there is an increase in the number of those found cheating goes without saying. In the first place there has been a great increase in our population; further there has been a tremendous increase in the number of those now attending high schools and colleges, say compared with 1900; so that in the normal course of events there has been an increase in the numbers of those found cheating; whether there is an increase percentagewise is difficult to ascertain. There are new developments, however, peculiar to the times in that there have been substitutes who have taken examinations for students and in addition ghost writers for those taking advanced degrees, the ghost writers developing the research and facts and writing the theses for masters' and doctors' degrees. This seems to be a recent development. Then there has developed a so-called "de-



QUICK AND THE DEAD—Brought to a halt, a peasant funeral procession near Tunja, Colombia, gives way to a group of bicycle racers and their escort trucks.

gree mill" where for an agreed amount of money, you may obtain any degree from a non-existence college. This latter development has the Federal Government concerned for most of the business of these so-called "mill degree non-existence colleges" is with foreigners anxious to obtain college degrees for ulterior purposes.

Inasmuch as present effects are the result of causes rooted in the past, let us examine some of the probable causes of the so-called increase in cheating. During World War I an attempt was made to create moral character by legislation and the Prohibition Amendment was passed. A great many people who never used alcohol in any form resented being told by the government that they could not drink alcoholic beverages and determined to have their drinks regardless of how they were obtained. This led to the making of bathtub gin and other home-made liquors; also rum runners started to smuggle liquor into the country and then developed the gang system from which we still suffer. This, of course, was cheating, but everybody took it as normal. In a sense that was a break down of moral character and respect for the law of the land. Then the Federal income tax has been the cause of a great deal of resentment; what were considered as war taxes are still continued long after the termination of the war. People resent having such a large proportion of their income taken by government and men in all walks of life, in every profession, have been cheating on their taxes for years. To them this is not cheating but an attempt to keep some of their own income and property from the government. This is bound to increase as the number of various taxes are increased and the taxpayer is squeezed more and more by the various types of Federal, State and local governments.

Then in the field of business there has been and always will be some form of cheating. The anti-trust laws are constantly broken. A short time ago three large corporations were competing for a certain contract and used every means above and below board to obtain the contracts, some of the means were reported in a national magazine. Then just recently five large electrical contractors were accused of combining to fix prices. They pleaded no defense, which is tantamount to a plea of guilty.

In a recent survey conducted by a prominent mid-western university, students, without divulging their names, admitted that they cheated and one of the reasons given was that everybody cheated on incomes and other forms of cheating and why shouldn't they cheat to get by if adult people did it and got by with it.

In education it may be a more serious thing inasmuch as a per-

son is getting by with something that weakens his character. After all what does an examination prove in the long run. Either you have or you do not have it and an examination does not always prove that point. Of course, today there is so much pressure put on youngsters to obtain a college education, no matter how, that they are adopting the policy that the end justifies the means. It is becoming a social necessity to go to col-

lege. People are afraid of failure whereas under certain circumstances failure is a great experience in life fortifying you against obstacles in the future. As to your son, I would not be concerned with cheating and examinations as much as I would be concerned with telling him to get all he can from his college experiences, from teachers, from other students and from the college atmosphere and life. In other words let him find the factors that are sound and will develop his character and not the mass production on the education assembly line.

Dear Three P's:
For some time I have been going with a very attractive woman of twenty-five. She is a good dresser, makes up well and has a good figure. However, she has also attracted other men and I cannot find out just where I stand as she will not discuss anything serious such as an engagement. I am at the point where I will have to do something. How should I handle it?
—Enamored.

Dear Enamored:
The female of the human race always like to play the game of being attractive to the male; and a great many women like this game very much without ever intending to be serious. They are like the butterfly that

flits from flower to flower but does not stay long with any one flower. If you are in such a bad way you better nail her down and take your medicine one way or another. If she is more interested in the same than in the essence of living, you had better call it quits or else you may have trouble later on. Regardless, you should let her know that you want an answer one way or the other and then go your way accordingly.

This is the true nature of home—it is the place of peace.
—John Ruskin.

Poverty is an odious blessing.
—Vincent of Beauvais.

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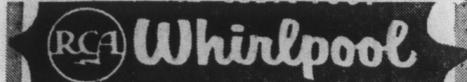
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