

Pupils May Be Legally Required To Salute Flag, Court Declares

Washington. — The Supreme Court ruled yesterday that school children may legally be required to salute the American flag to promote patriotism.

"National unity is the basis of national security," Justice Frankfurter wrote in the 8-1 decision, and "the flag is the symbol of our national unity." Justice Stone dissented.

Specifically, the court upheld the constitutionality of a flag-salute requirement of the Minersville, Pa., school board. It was challenged on behalf of Lillian Gobbitts, 12, and her brother, William, 10, on the ground that it infringed religious freedom.

They had been taught that saluting the flag was "forbidden by command of scripture," Frankfurter said, and were expelled for their refusal.

"Conscientious scruples have not, in the course of the long struggle for religious toleration, relieved the individual from obedience to a general law not aimed at the promotion or restriction of religious beliefs . . ." Frankfurter wrote.

"To stigmatize legislative judgment in providing for this universal gesture of respect for the symbol of our national life in the setting of the common school as a lawless inroad on that freedom of conscience which the Constitution protects, would amount to no less than the pronouncement of pedagogical and psychological dogma in a field where courts possess no marked and certainly no controlling competence."

Frankfurter added that "the preciousness of the family relation, the authority and independence which give dignity to parenthood, indeed the enjoyment of all freedom, presuppose the kind of ordered society which is summarized by our flag."

"A society," he continued,

"which is dedicated to the preservation of these ultimate values of civilization may in self protection utilize the educational process for inculcating those almost unconscious feelings which bind men together in a comprehending loyalty, whatever may be their lesser differences and difficulties."

"That is to say, the process may be utilized so long as men's right to believe as they please, to win others to their way of belief and their right to assemble in their chosen places of worship for the devotional ceremonies of their faith, are all fully respected."

Justice Stone asserted that he was unable to accept "the position that government may, as a supposed educational measure and as a means of disciplining the young, compel public affirmations which violate their religious conscience."

Lays His Success To 17 Children

Brooklyn, Iowa—In spite of wars and depressions, John Kriegel and his wife are successfully rearing one of the largest families in Iowa.

In twenty-four years of married life the couple has had seventeen children, all of whom are living. Youngest is Mary Jane, born in May; Lloyd, twenty-three, is oldest.

Kriegel, now forty-six, and his wife, forty-two, put \$12,000 in an Iowa farm in 1919, but lost it in the land depression in 1922. He says:

"I've never been able to get very far ahead financially since, but I have my family."

Ads. get attention—and results.

New Garand Rifle Tested By Army

Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., June 14. —The Army's newly developed Garand semi-automatic rifle—a streamlined product of 1940 military science—is getting a tryout at this Army post this week, and first reports were favorable.

Some 500 of the new weapons replaced the old standby, the Springfield, in Sixth Cavalry ranks. First practice tests revealed that the new gun, firing automatically a clip of eight rounds of ammunition, was "very effective."

Agreeably Surprised
Soldiers assigned to the tests were agreeably surprised by the absence of "kick" and said the new rifle was much easier to handle.

Commenting on the elimination of "kick" one officer said: "It was difficult for new men to learn how to use the Springfield rifle since it had such a bad kick that it would often bruise the shoulder. The man found that the new rifle is easy to handle and can be taken apart much more quickly for cleaning than the Springfield."

The effective firing range of the new Garand is about the same as the Springfield, although the sights are a little different.

A soldier, prone, can attain accuracy with the Garand firing at a target 600 to 700 yards distant. This is approximately the same firing range as the Springfield.

G. W. Davenport of Altapass in Mitchell county has bought an outstanding Hereford bull and two good heifers, saying he plans to dispose of his grade cows and grow better cattle.

The Empire State building in New York City exerts less pressure per square inch on the ground than a woman's French heel.

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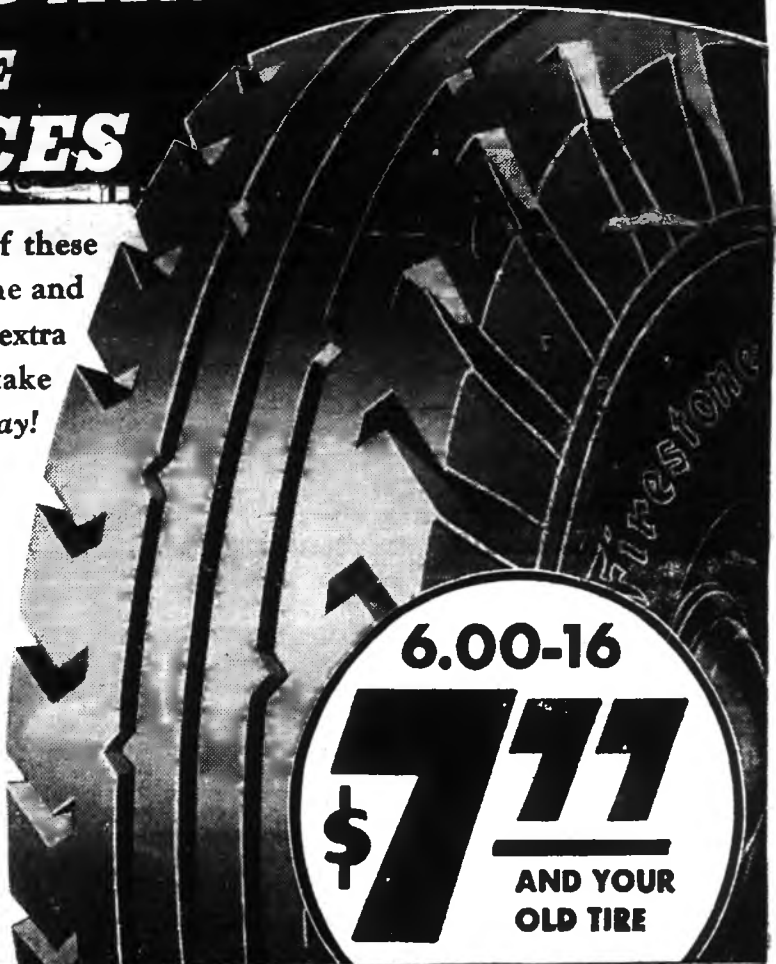
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