

EDITORIALS, FEATURES...

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prices.

The point is that rather than make counter protests or denials the businessmen of Chapel Hill must seriously consider the complaints, try to meet with the aggrieved students, and talk the problems out via personal diplomacy.

The well-known proverb rings true in this case: "Why do you hate so-and-so?" "I hate him because I don't know him. If I knew him I could not hate him."

There is a public relations committee as a standing body in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Merchants Association. It has in previous years done good work in this realm. Its work is once again cut out and waiting.

Federal aid may suit certain local projects

The first formal step toward a public housing program for Chapel Hill may turn out to be a simple petition presented to the Chapel Hill aldermen last week.

It was nothing more than a one sentence request, signed by 27 local citizens, asking the Board to appoint a public housing authority. Such a petition, as it happens, is a legal requirement toward obtaining federal aid for this type of project.

The petition was formally received, and following brief discussion the aldermen agreed to consider further action on receipt of recommendations in this general realm from the Planning Board.

Federal aid is available to localities for general urban renewal and such specific things as downtown area improvement, housing for elderly persons, public housing, and preservation of "open spaces."

It is logical that Chapel Hill give thorough study to all of these possibilities. For all the ignorant hurrah against federal aid to local and state government, nobody has yet shown how ill or how well-fitted the needs of Chapel Hill may be to one or more of these programs.

There just might be some very good possibilities for needed local improvements in them. The current study of these programs is very much in order.

Notepad

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liberal, arose to call the group's attention to Col. Royall's letter to the local newspapers. She said as a climax to her comments that Col. Royall's charges should be labelled as untrue. (Of course what she said was in much plainer English than that. However, in an attempt to tread the line between overly objective reporting and possible libel, some of the color of the occasion shall be left out.)

Answers charges...

As Miss Gilson took her seat. Col. Royall stood up, was recognized and identified himself. He spoke directly to Miss Gilson's charges, declaring that what he had written was authenticated. As he tried to answer her comments he was three times interrupted. The chairman valiantly attempted to keep parliamentary control.

"She has to hide behind the fact that she is a woman and get by with it," said the Colonel. Thereupon a man sitting near Miss Gilson bolted up and in the heat of the occasion called Col. Royall a liar. Col. Royall invited him outside. "Gentlemen," reproved the chairman. "there is no necessity for this kind of exchange if we are here in the interests of preserving freedom..."

The disorder rose higher. Col. Royall and Mr. Lyon turned and walked out.

"Free speech—Ha!" spat Mr. Lyon as he left.

Order was quickly restored. The immediate consensus of the group was that in the interests of the very theme of the conference that Col. Royall should

be given civil liberties of the floor to reply to charges made against him. However, when contacted outside the building the Colonel declared he's said about all he intended to and didn't care to return.

'Killed' the session...

For its earlier intended purposes that just about killed the rest of the afternoon's session. The chair attempted in vain to hew to the topic of the previous forums rather the Col. Royall incident.

Despite insistent and unanimous disagreement with the viewpoint Col. Royall had espoused, the group was of one body in insisting he be called and asked to return and speak for 10 minutes that evening. There was considerable discussion of apologizing formally. As a result the conference chairman called Col. Royall. He reported back that the latter said he had a previous commitment which would prevent his being able to

be present.

To this observer the incident in analysis was a mishap of a few over-zealous persons who spoke out of turn, irritating one with whom they disagreed and causing him to leave. The lapse of courtesy was then acknowledged and an attempt to remedy it was tried. At this point the victim figuratively chose not to accept the olive branch, for to do so would have eliminated his persecution. Leaving things as they stood he held the theoretical advantage for the occasion.

There may be those who charge sensationalism or unnecessary concern with a side issue in the writing of this report. This The Newsman will receive without argument in the spirit of freedom of speech.

But one of the nuggets of last Friday's conference on this topic, to our thinking, lay in this un-scheduled clash—a human drama that under-lined both the difficulty of and thus the greater necessity of undergirding the guarantees of the first amendment.

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