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Scene From Top O' The Hill

By: Jack Kelly

The New Year is upon us. We can drop our old worries and wrap ourselves in the new ones which will surely appear. We can and will resolve many promises with much thought and conversation. Yet, all the time we will wonder what the New Year will bring. Brace yourself because it probably will be a whing-ding. Since the upcoming one is a Presidential year, you can rest assured that the papers, magazines, radios, and T-V stations will pour politics at you until it comes out of your ears. Miami and Chicago with their respective Republican and Democratic Conventions will surf the airwaves with the greatness of their respective Cities.

If a hurricane strikes Miami during the Republican Convention, that Town will be forever through as a Convention City because of the National coverage that particular hurricane would have on the Nationwide T-V tubes. Possibly the delegates could count themselves fortunate if they were blown out of Town before they made a nomination of the "Dark Horse" rumored about Washington to be General Westmoreland. One story has it that there is a book ready for release that will blitz the Delegates into that action. I do not know that such a book will appear. I only heard about it. However, there will be one book come out that I know a little bit about. This book, I assure you, will have lots of big-time politicians hitting the ceiling and screaming. It will break up alliances and form new ones. It will hit the best-seller lists and possibly drive the Viet Nam War off the front pages of mayhap a week. If it isn't cut, it will be a lulu. The public will get an inside view of politics as it is practiced and the view is not pretty. In fact, it is ugly.

Everything that happens this year will affect the political scene. Certain deaths could radically change the picture. Riots in the Cities will be not only news but grist in the political mills. Already new names are being made to call the riots. Incumbants in office prefer such names as disturbances, discord, non-harmonious relations, anything and everything except the definite word: Riot. Naturally, the War and how it is conducted will cause waves in the pond. Keep it going or shut it off. No matter which choice is made, the political pond will be ruffled.

The coming year has to be a great one because, under our system of Government, we vote every fourth year for a National Leader. If the "ins" win, then the "outs" who may have been screaming about things for the past couple of years will have to shut up and make a realignment. Conversely, if the "outs" win, the "ins" have to take it in stride and then for at least

a couple of years, everyone has to work together for the good of the Country. It is a wonderful system.

The coming year will doubtless see the President of the United States be pelted by idiots in mobs as he travels about on the campaign. The Secret Service men will go crazy trying to keep crowds in hand. The Lord alone knows what might happen to the opposition nominee. If LBJ decides to accept the nomination in Chicago and if Mayor Dailey can keep the lunatics in the various crowds from any physical attack upon him, then the Mayor should be given the post to be vacated by Hoover in the FBI. When you consider all of the crazy white people and the crazy colored people who warred in Chicago and its environs not too long ago, Mayor Dailey has what appears to be an impossible task on his hands.

On the peasant side of the picture for the coming year is the fact that adolescents will become adults. People will fall in love. People will marry. Babies will be born. In other words, people younger and less jaded than us will see 1968 as the beginning of a bright new year. They will not view with alarm, as we are prone to do, the tempestuous changes upon which we verge. Instead, they will view with pride the oncoming tidal wave of the future. Each of them will ride it out on his own surf-board, knowing that not all of them will make the trip but that those who do so successfully will emerge into the greatest show this old world has ever produced.

We don't have to wish them a Happy New Year. They know it is out there just for the grabbing. You don't have to feel sorry for them and what they face. They glory in the challenge and feel sorry for us, if they think about us at all. It's all out there in front of them and they race toward it. Caution comes with age, and that is away off in the future to them. Thank God that it is. It would be dreadful if the kids coming along were endowed with the caution of age because if that happened — nothing would happen. Everyone would stop and nothingness would take over. Such was never the intention of the Almighty. That's why kids are brash, and unafraid. They have their mission. They have to keep this old world spinning. They will whirl it until they, like us, in turn get tired. Then they will look with trepidation upon the advent of a New Year, just as we do now.

New Year's Day offers us an alternative to this projected take-over. We can join them. That's an old political axiom. "If you can't whip them — join them." That's what we will have to do. Why not? Who better than our own could we join?

Happy New Year! And I hope your Candidates win.



Our hats are off to you in
'68! May this New Year
ring out with the joy of
health and good fortune
for you and yours.

Editorials Praise Actions Of A.S.U. Students

BOONE — Letters and clipped editorials, still pouring in from throughout the nation, have overwhelmingly praised the calm but stern actions of Appalachian State University students when they out-protested anti-war peaceniks who came to the Boone campus a few weeks ago.

The mild, but most unusual event received nationwide coverage, prompting a barrage of written opinions. With only a couple of exceptions, the comments have been almost unanimous in support of Appalachian's response to the traveling demonstrators.

A few of the comments received are as follows:

THE PALM BEACH (FLA.) TIMES — "From time-to-time, it seems as though the world has gone off its rocker; but just as one is about to concede that mankind is past redemption, we are reminded that the misfits are still a minority, and that sensible people are still in control. . . . Anyone looking for a good solid American university where common sense prevails need look no farther than Appalachian State University in Boone, N. C."

THE WILSON DAILY TIMES . . . "A recent demonstration at Appalachian was so noteworthy it deserved special attention. For it was a demonstration which worked in reverse. Appalachian students had their own ideas when anti-war protesters appeared on campus. They did not need any outside agitators to tell them how they felt about Vietnam . . . or anything else. The demonstrators were invited to leave. They did. Possibly some of them were impressed with the patriotism of the Appalachian students. It was the most effective manner of handling such a situation we have heard of to date. The students themselves took care of the situation; there were no arrests, no disorder. It was all so sensible, and handled so expertly, the same should be tried elsewhere. The students at Appalachian know where they stand; they recognize the rights

involved, and they exercised these rights to prove the point that freedom is a two-way street. Hurrah! for Appalachian State University."

MRS. BETTY CORNEJO, TRACY, CALIFORNIA. . . "I have children of my own, and want them to grow up to be good citizens. I would be very glad if they would choose Appalachian for their further education. The educators at Appalachian are teaching respect of oneself as well as pride of one's country."

THE FOREST CITY COURIER. . . "News releases from hither and yon usually get the File 13 treatment when they have nothing directly to do with this area. But one release from Appalachian State University so warmed our cynical old heart that we must re-print it in its entirety. . . . HOW SWEET IT IS. Kind of reaffirms your faith in today's college students, doesn't it?"

THE NEWTON OBSERVER & NEWS-ENTERPRISE. . . "Foul! Foul! This is an incantation you'll likely soon hear vented by the pacifists, the pinkos, the left wingers, outright commies and other assortments of unshaven oddball groups. They'll yap their unhappiness on the students at Appalachian State University who demonstrated, ridiculed and jeered a group of anti-war weirdos off the campus last Friday.

"You see, the right to demonstrate has been reserved for years by minority groups. It just never occurred to any of these groups that the right to demonstrate is also a right of the majority. The 'peaceniks' were serenaded by the college students. The song? 'God Bless America.'

"You're gonna hear some loud-mouth foulball claim that everybody has a right to be heard. What he won't say is that every student at Appalachian has the right NOT to read a free press, NOT to vote, NOT to go to church, and NOT to listen to some smelly bum sell his I-hate-America propaganda.

"The next time someone tells

you the younger generation is going to rell, remind them of the students at Appalachian State University. Those kids have a message for all of us."

MRS. JUDY PARSONS, of Hickory. . . "We are obligated to stand behind our country. If anyone should protest the war, we, the wives of men in Vietnam, have more than the right. Our husbands have obeyed the decisions of our government and we stand firmly behind them. I would like to commend the student body of Appalachian State University for standing behind our men in Vietnam."

THE DURHAM HERALD. . . "In refusing to listen to a Vietnam war protest group, several hundred Appalachian State University students have given those critical of certain campus attitudes something to cheer about. It shows that students still think for themselves and can become disgusted with outside influences trying to peddle causes foreign to the nations well-being."

CONGRESSMAN BASIL L. WHITNER, speaking on the floor of the U. S. House of Representatives. . . "The actions of the Appalachian State University students were concrete proof that patriotism and loyalty are still in existence in the hearts and minds of college youth. The actions were characteristic of the students and faculty of their great university. No institution of higher learning in our nation has a finer record of stability and patriotism. The nomadic troublemakers were given the firm opposition at Appalachian that all loyal Americans should applaud."

THE NEW BERN SUN-JOURNAL. . . "A group of protestors against the Vietnam war passed out literature and conversation on the campus of Appalachian State University. The ASU students tore up the literature and suggested that the visitors go back where they came from, but fast. This way, visitors are free to come. Hosts are free to urge them to leave. Visitors are free to go. There's freedom for everybody. And not nearly so much commotion as when demonstrators mug for the camera."

CLAUDE D. SMOOT, of West Palm Beach, Fla. . . "My son, now in Vietnam, is looking forward to attending Appalachian when he returns from service. After the recent incident there, I am sure he has made a good choice."

GUY McINTOSH, of Stanley. . . "Anyone is welcome in my house, including salesmen, but when they force their products on me, he is no longer welcome. I applaud the students at Appalachian State."

THE PALM BEACH (FLA.) POST. . . "It's too bad that a recent occurrence in Boone, N. C., couldn't have been given full-scale attention, television cameras and all, that most protest demonstrations receive. What happened was that a group of protestors against the war in Vietnam showed upon the campus of Appalachian State University to design the fact of life. The Appalachian students didn't but it, and surrounded the anti-war group, suggesting that the uninvited visitors get the heck off the campus. There was no violence, no shooting or stabbing or rock throwing. There was just a nice, loud, energetic, clear-cut difference of opinion. This seems so simple and sensible."

THE GREENVILLE (S. C.) PIEDMONT. . . "This demonstration just petered out and went away because it was out-protested and outdemonstrated. This is such a sensible way to handle such situations that you wonder why it doesn't happen more often."