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SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS



Military Justice Reform

WASHINGTON - Military justice, in spite of recent legislation to improve it, is in the midst of the greatest ferment since the end of World War II. The Armeiter and Pueblo affairs, the Presidio incidents in San Francisco, and the recent Green Beret case, whatever the explanations may be, have cast a pall over the quality of justice dispensed by the armed forces.

Part of the problem undoubtedly arises because the military services are undergoing their worst trial of public confidence in generations. Signs of this erosion of confidence are seen in the widespread concern about our war effort in Vietnam, and in the growing rejection of government and authority by our young people. Even so, some of the problem is fueled by scandals which reach to the highest military levels and the unwise actions of the services themselves.

Doubts about military justice come at the very time when the system has been the subject of the most thorough reform in two decades. The 1968 Military Justice Act, which I helped to draft and pilot through the Congress, has now expanded the responsibilities of military counsel in special courts-martial. It has significantly increased the stature and role of the law officer by making him a federal judge. Military courts have now been improved by transforming the old Boards of Review which reviewed trial judgments into full-fledged appellate courts. In addition, the 1968 Act gives the military defendant and his counsel significant new protections.

These reforms, which went into effect in late summer, demonstrate a national concern for the serviceman's right to receive a fair trial under a first-class system of justice.

It should be recognized that the quality of any system of justice is largely dependent upon the individuals who administer it. As long as individuals make judgments there will be the risk of errors. To minimize this, however, we should constantly strive to incorporate the safeguards of "due process" of law in our procedures.

In reviewing the Military Justice Act of 1968, it should be pointed out that one area of reform was neglected last year. This relates to administrative separations which involve non-honorable discharges. The importance of this matter is that any service discharge of a degree less than honorable carries with it a social stigma in the public mind. For this reason, I have been much concerned about the leeway which military authorities have in granting administrative discharges which do not involve a courts-martial. I believe that we ought to enact a code of procedure which insures that any serviceman being considered for a non-honorable discharge should have the basic protection of "due process" of law.

On March 4th, I introduced S. 1266, to establish such a code. Basically, it would require 3-member administrative discharge boards to conduct fair and impartial hearings on the alleged grounds for such a discharge, that they make findings based upon the evidence, and that they specify the reasons for their recommendations as to whether the defendant should be discharged or retained in the armed forces.

I believe my bill would fill a gap which now exists in the basic safeguards accorded servicemen, and I am hopeful that the studies which may begin on this measure soon will result in favorable Congressional Action on it.

straight talk

By Tom Anderson

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES—PART I



Know your enemy! If you are a Christian-American, freedom-loving patriot, one of your most dangerous enemies is the National Council of Churches.

The following objectives of the National Council of Churches also happen to be objectives of the American Communist party: (1) Peaceful coexistence, (2) Disarmament, (3) Kill the proposed ABM system, (4) Ban nuclear testing, (5) Abolish loyalty-security laws and loyalty oaths, (6) Abolish all investigating committees on Communism, (7) Force racial integration, (8) Change the social order, using violence if necessary, (9) More foreign aid to Communist countries, (10) Recognition of Red China, Cuba and East Germany, (11) Advance Marxist and one-world propaganda efforts through the church, (12) Recruit for one-world socialist conspiracy in political and labor movements, (13) End capital punishment, (14) Discredit J. Edgar Hoover and the F.B.I., (15) Kill immigration and passport laws, (16) Clemency for convicted spies, (17) Reconstruct religion on the basis of scientific materialism, (18) Remove restrictions on imports from Communist countries and on cultural exchanges between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, (19) Promote sex education in churches, synagogues and schools, press and networks.

(20) Adopt the "open society sociologically" (world socialism) and the "open society

ideologically" (end all supernatural religion, especially Christianity), (21) Enforce "open-housing" and the "closed shop" (compulsory labor union membership), (22) Oppose and discriminate against "super-patriots," "radical rightists" and anti-Communists, (23) "New internationalism" to replace national sovereignty, (24) Take from the "haves" and give to the "have-nots." (Land reform, guaranteed annual income, etc.) (25) Put political and economic pressure on South Africa and Rhodesia, (26) Surrender American sovereignty to the Communist-dominated World Court, (27) Greatly strengthen the power of the United Nations, (28) Vastly increase the foreign aid program with no thought of whether any aid is to the best interest of the U. S. A., (29) Liberalize "welfare laws," (30) Firearms control, (31) Promote intermarriage of blacks and whites, (32) Remove all prayer and Bible reading from the public schools, (33) Advocate "situation ethics" and free love, (34) Sponsor and train agitators for the invasion of some of our southern states, (35) Censorship of radio and TV with respect to "conservative" broadcasters like Carl McIntyre, Dean Manion, "Lifeline," Tom Anderson, Dan Smoot, Dr. Billy James Hargis.

(More of the startling and sordid truth about the National Council of Churches in this space next week).—American Way Features

Letters To The Editor

Commendation

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on the fine lead article on "non-competitive" banking in Burnsville in the Yancey Record. It is truly tragic that this one institution has failed to demonstrate by example any interest in progressivism in Yancey County. Even more laughable is the lack of effort of the bank to keep up in its own field; witness any day the hand sorting of checks in this modern age of electronics and computers. Will a new bank building mean a new style of banking in Burnsville?

In conclusion, although I cannot agree with your editorials as presented on pages 2 and 3 in your weekly publications, please do keep up the good work of noting successes and pointing to areas of needed improvement in the community. You are providing a real service.

Very sincerely,
Mrs. Donald R. Elly

Total Recall

To the Editor,

I realize that it is impossible to regulate the seemingly idiotic weekend parade of cars incessantly playing follow the leader up and down Main St., all the while belching their noxious fumes into the air. But I feel certain that some effort could, and should, be made to remove from the street all of the un-muffled and cut-out equipped cars participating in this lunacy.

Noise is a pollutant as insidious and deadly as carbon monoxide and in this case unnecessary. I have travelled all over this country and lived in many areas but am at a loss

to recall staying in any community where so few people had the capacity to create so much din.

When I am far away, musing about your beautiful mountains, and tempted to return, I will recall the screeching tires, unmuffled engines roar, and yes, the be-fouled air - and will look elsewhere.

T. J. Kenny
A Visitor

Other Side

Dear Mr. Editor,

For years we have been reading our county's newspaper. Years ago when it was known as The Burnsville Eagle. We sure enjoyed it until now. You want to know why we do not like it now?

Well, that Tom Anderson is a buzzard. Filling his belly with food, his poison pen writes about the misfortunes of others.

Anderson said he did not know Miss Kopechene, Kennedy, nor had he ever been on the Island where the accident happened. Yet, he told every thing about it. So if he was not present at the scene of the accident, then he must have lied.....

In closing I wish to say you can publish my letter or put it in the trash can. But I bet you will agree that anyone who flips a two-headed coin is a cheat. All honest coins have two different sides.

It's your paper. We would keep the old Eagle flying and not let the buzzards take over.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Charles Fox

Don't Like It

Dear Mr. Yuziuk:

Mr. Yuziuk, in my opinion Carolyn Yuziuk is to be commended for her rather exhaus-

tive article on the Banking situation in Yancey County.

However, it seems to me that there are several other areas in which her "principles of competition for progress" might apply. The grocery retail business, e.g. is a strong one in point. We pay 5, 10, or 20¢, maybe more, on the \$1.00 than one pays in Marion or Asheville for general run of groceries.

A big firm needs to come in and establish business. Too many very small grocerymen have to charge too much to exist. We run a small business, but do not charge high prices to stay in business.

Your campaign to reach the trash dumpsters and litter bugs does not reach the correct people, apparently. A "No Dumping" sign was put up on Hwy. 80 (where your paper previously took and published a photo) yet dumping continued in this spot right on State Hwy. 80.. Where is the State Highway Commissioner?

Yours sincerely,
V. D. Stenzel

Point Of No Return

When Suzie - an ostrich in the Detroit Zoo - passed away the other day, an autopsy disclosed that she had expired from swallowing the pennies, dimes and quarters tossed to her by admirers.

There may be no moral in that for ostriches, but it could indicate the point at which inflationary trends become fatal. In Suzie's case it was \$3.85. Nashville Banner