

PERSONAL

PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

Recently it seems that Kinston and Lenoir County have had much more than their fair share of trouble with Marines. People are beginning to grumble on street corners, police are concerned and to a degree I am too. But just as in most other situations there is two side to this one.

There is no point in recounting even a partial list of the recent serious crimes committed, or allegedly committed in this area by Marines. If one keeps up with local news he is already aware of this part of the picture.

Marine authorities with whom I have talked are just as unhappy, if not more so about this situation than local officials. They point to their part of the problem and insist that it is not all their fault, and here is at least one side of their argument.

The uncertain draft board status of teenagers forces a great many boys in these troublesome years to get into mischief. They find it difficult to get a job with employers remembering that said teenager may be tapped on the shoulder any day by the draft board. They develop a don't-give-a-damn attitude, which often finds them in trouble with the law.

Here is where the Marine Corps and other branches of the armed forces enter an objection. They say that these teenagers who get into trouble are all too frequently permitted to "join up" and clear themselves of the minor trouble they are in with the old home town police.

In many metropolitan areas this practice is the rule if the teenager can meet the physical requirements for service duty. These boys are already a disciplinary problem, the Marine officials point out. They come into the armed forces with a chip on their shoulder. Of course, disciplining them while they are on the military reservation is a problem, but it is a minor problem to curbing their rebellious attitude when they are off the base. The strict imposition of military authority upon a youth who has never known any kind of discipline before is in itself a severe test to any young man's character, even if his pre-service record is as white as the driven snow.

Marine officials point to the obviousness of the fact that they cannot restrict the entire Corps for the wrongs of a tiny fraction of their number. To do this would create a general rebellion, and to restrict just those boys who might be expected to cause trouble outside would be compounding the social fracture which has already made these boys potential law breakers.

As an ex-service man who understands something of the pressures and lack of pressures which generate a large part of civilian troubles with the men in service, I tender one or two respectful suggestions:

No. 1, Overnight passes ought to automatically carry a curfew of say midnight, permitting military police and civilian police to revoke the pass of any violators.

No. 2, Passes of short duration to any town except the home town of the individual ought to include as one requisite the wearing of the full uniform. This has many points to recommend it:

Permitting easier identification, creating pride of the uniform and the service and not the least it would lessen the risk that civilians might be inclined to take.

This would be a protection for the service man equal to the protection it would give civilians. Around the perimeter of every military reservation there is always a rabble of prostitutes, gamblers, bootleggers, narcotic runners and every day grafters who make a shady and sometimes fat profit off the teenaged kids who "know all the answers". This class of people works more easily upon the teenager in sloppy dress and slovenly appearance than upon the neat.

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'Stick Around... We May Need You Yet!'



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EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinion Of One Man, And He May Be Wrong.

Farm Program Changes

During the holiday period when farming operations in most Eastern Carolina areas are at a standstill serious study should be made by each farmer of the changes now made in the federal farm program.

Of particular interest to the small farmer is the fact that there is no limit on the amount of acres he can put in the soil bank of any of the allotted crops. There is a maximum, however, that any one farm can receive. That is \$3,000.

If a farmer has, for example, eight acres of tobacco, five acres of cotton and 20 acres of corn allotted to his farm and his soil bank payment rates were about the average for Jones County his soil bank check would be approximately \$2,978 if he were to put the whole shooting match in the soil bank.

This will be a mighty attractive proposition to many small farmers, in spite of the fact that outside employment is scarce and the present chances of off-the-farm employment are the worst in 20 years.

The obvious intent of this program is to take entire farms out of production of these supported crops which are in surplus supply at present.

There are many other aspects of this changed program which the individual farmer ought to apply to his own situation intelligently so that he may make the best possible decision for his own best interest.

Those better class small farms, of which Jones County has a large and growing number have a number of opportunities presented with this "total soil bank idea".

Putting all of these allotted crop acres in the soil bank, and retiring them from any kind of commercial production will generally leave considerable additional acreage that can still be used commercially but not, of course, in the specified crops.

The farm with an established pasture program may accelerate its meat or milk production. The farm without the pasture program may turn to a combination of small grain and poultry production, remembering, we trust to put the grain before the poultry. Going into any phase of meat production—beef, pork or poultry—is foolish to a bankrupting degree if one enters it with any notion of making money with boughten feed.

The biggest single advantage that this changed program affords the small farmer is that it is an opportunity to experiment without jeopardizing completely the cash income of the farm.

These are just a few thoughts from a desk farmer on the kind of thinking that farmers—small farmers in particular, of the kind Jones County has a large percentage, ought to be doing in this lull before the farming season goes into high gear.

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin

Some more religious than us may feel it a trifle wrong to use Biblical quotations in connection with such wordy things as the current farming outlook for Eastern Carolina. Let us hasten to explain that our use of the handwriting on the wall is more to catch the reader's eye than from any real or imagined connection between the Kingdom of Belshazzar and tobacco.

However, for those who can read and interpret the handwriting is surely on the wall insofar as tobacco is concerned, and although we do not suggest for one minute that our interpretation is the correct

one, we do feel it to be based in some logic. Using Lenoir County as an example, absorb the following hard facts:

In 1951 tobacco income hit the all-time high for Lenoir County farmers with \$17,904,040 income from that source. Last year the figure sagged with a great drop in price to \$17,569,947, in spite of a big increase in pounds sold.

This year the drop is more pronounced in spite of an increase in price. Both pounds and dollars dropped and dollar-wise the final picture is \$13,333,266.52, well over a four-million dollar drop in the tobacco in-

Ike's Second Invasion

President Eisenhower's second invasion of Europe is far different from that of June 6, 1944 when he was General Eisenhower. Then the situation was military, today it is political and although we hope him the very best luck there cannot be denied the vast gulf between what is practical and possible in one situation as compared with the other.

As General Eisenhower, Ike was Supreme Allied Commander. His wish could not be contradicted by anyone of the millions of men of lesser rank beneath him.

As President Eisenhower, Ike is still supreme commander in one military sense, but today military forces are an implied rather than an actual ingredient in considerations of policy.

In 1944 Europe was prostrate from five years of the most terrible war so far recorded. The tramp of German boots had been heard from the gates of Moscow to the chalk cliffs of Dover. European politicians knew only one word: Help!

Today some of those same helpless European politicians are asking much more than "Help". They still want help, but on their terms. Backed by recent Soviet scientific successes and their natural wily disposition these Western European politicians are seeking, and succeeding in playing the naivety of the United States against the bluntness of Russian plans.

We bet "Ike" would like to be back in uniform and giving orders again.

The Babcock Plan

The current effort to take the highways of North Carolina out of "politics" has succeeded in one sense, in that it has taken the highway building program out of Eastern North Carolina.

Present plans call for the state spending practically all of its highway funds to match federal funds for these huge, expensive military roads that are eating up land, money and patience with alarming rapidity.

Highway Boss Bill Babcock recently told a Charlotte gathering that the commission was "broke" and would have no money for secondary road work, and today any road not on this monstrous super-highway program is a secondary road.

These highways in addition to being unimaginably expensive to build may very well cost the state millions of dollars of business each year from now on. A narrow state such as North Carolina, across which millions of tourists travel every year will inevitably lose money when these limited access monsters permit tourists to dash suddenly across the state.

Tourist accommodations are one of North Carolina's biggest businesses, and they will, and already have lost millions of dollars of revenue because of this mania that has bankrupted the highway commission and thrown our overall state highway network in the ash can.

People had better become alarmed and insist on putting some politics back in the highway commission.

Fire is an extraordinary hazard in the Christmas Season. Make sure that your Christmas is not ruined or your life destroyed from carelessness with fire.

Over the holiday season, and at every other time of the year please apply one logic to driving: If you must drink, don't drive; and if you must drive don't drink!

come of the farmers of Lenoir County alone.

This same story is true all over Tobacco-land, U. S. A. This drop in the face of increased tobacco consumption cannot mean anything good for the tobacco farmer. Plans had better be made by the tobacco farmer if he wishes to remain a farmer.

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