

Other Editors

WRAL Viewpoint

Good Night, Dr. Knight, Good Riddance

The word has been in circulation for days now — and by some of the more prominent and knowledgeable friends and supporters of Duke University, at that — that Duke President Douglas Knight probably will not return, for long if at all, to his duties as head of that institution. True or not, the speculation about Dr. Knight's departure has had nothing to do with his health. It was, rather, a measurement of the disappointment he has created in failing to maintain order at the university.

But it must be said that Dr. Knight is typical of his time in having believed — whether he still does or not — that students ought to be granted practically every frivolous "freedom" they may choose to demand in their moments of emotional juvenility. Such an academic attitude is not only injurious to the dignity and the purpose of educational institutions themselves — it produces the greatest of injustices for the vast majority of young people who do not agree with, and who do not participate in, the silly and destructive student demonstrations that have begun to infect the campus life at practically all colleges and universities.

So there is a paradox in it all. The tail is being allowed to wag the dog, not only at Duke but at countless other colleges and universities. And instead of imposing needed disciplines, too many college administrators are yielding to the demands and threats of a minority of the members of their student bodies. In the instance of Dr. Knight, he was

hospitalized after a mob of some 250 boorish, arrogant students forced their way into his home and spent a weekend voicing their demands and making nuisances of themselves. The public finds it difficult to understand why police were not called to drive the students out, followed by a mass expulsion of the mob from the university.

But the greatest injustice, as we say, was done to the majority of students who had nothing to do with any of the demonstrations on the Duke campus these past several days. They went on to their classes; some of them volunteered to work without pay in the university dining hall, which was victimized by a strike provoked by the minority of student agitators. Sadly, it was not the orderly, responsible students, nor their maturity and dignity, that got the publicity. It was the frivolous juvenile delinquents, who lay on the lawns day and night, who got their pictures taken by newspapers and television. And the greatest absurdity of all when the chairman of Duke's board of trustees locked arms with the student riff-raff and joined them in singing, "We Shall Overcome!"

Some years ago, a national news magazine published a lengthy tribute to Duke University at the time Hollis Edens was president of the institution. Those were the days when campus discipline was a recognized responsibility at Duke, when it was assumed that young people went to college to get an education, when it was accepted practice to dismiss students who

felt no obligation to observe and obey the rules. The last sentence of the tribute was a source of pride to Duke alumni everywhere. It read: "Duke University has already grown great, now it needs only to grow old."

Duke University has grown older in the intervening years. And it has grown larger in terms of brick and mortar, and in terms of enrollment. But not many of Duke's most faithful alumni and friends are convinced that it has grown greater since Douglas Knight arrived to occupy the president's office.

So if reports are accurate that Dr. Knight is on his way out, there will be little sorrow attached to this departure. His tenure at the university has too often been marked with compromises in matters crying out for authority and discipline, with espousals that did little to build the dignity of the institution, and with positions that too often were burdensome to, and destructive of, the kind of enthusiastic support which any institution must have in order to grow in influence and prestige.

All will regret Dr. Knight's illness, and wish him a speedy recovery. And whether he stays at Duke, or confirms the reports that he will leave, it must be said that the manner in which he has thus far presided over his important office ought to be instructive to other college and university officials. If others can learn by Dr. Knight's mistakes, then much good can emerge. It will require only a renewal of the determination to grow older and greater simultaneously and to know the stuff that greatness is made of.

OTHER EDITORS

From Human Events

Bobby's Publicity Army

A veritable army — 2,000 strong — has invaded Indiana to capture that state's presidential delegates for Bobby Kennedy. Commanded by 50 highly paid campaign specialists, the RFK troops have fanned out across the state to accomplish their mission — victory in the May 7 primary.

Logistics of the campaign were disclosed last week by the Chicago Tribune. Investigation by Tribune reporters revealed that Kennedy aides have installed more than 1,200 phones for their campaign. By comparison, Sen. Eugene McCarthy has installed only seven and favorite-son Gov. Roger Branigin 200.

Kennedy aides have taken over three floors in Indianapolis' Indiana Theater Building, an entire floor in the Sheraton Lincoln Hotel, and 63 rooms in the Marrott Hotel. The two hotels are considered Indianapolis' finest.

Observers at Gary and Indianapolis airports report that the Kennedy forces use at least three privately chartered airplanes and more when necessary. As many as 10 advance men precede the candidate into town, arranging for "spontaneous" crowds.

Kennedy has been concentrating his appearances in the more populous areas of northern and western Indiana. At the same time, his forces have blanketed the state with radio and TV broadcasts, billboards and direct-mail advertising. Celebrities — ranging from singer Bobby Darin to astronaut wife Rene Carpenter — represent Bobby when he cannot be present.

"We're up against a juggernaut," complained Democratic State Chairman Gordon St. Angelo, who is backing Gov. Branigin's favorite-son candidacy.

To Tech School



Airman Linister Bryant Jr., son of Mrs. Mary A. Bryant of Pollocksville, has completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex. He has been assigned to the Air Force Technical Training Center at Lowry AFB, Colo., for specialized schooling as a supply specialist. Airman Bryant, a 1965 graduate of Jones High School, has studied at North Carolina College.

JOINS ANGUS ASSOCIATION!

James M. Parrott III, of Kinston, has been elected to membership in the American Angus Association at St. Joseph, Missouri; there were 593 memberships issued to breeders of registered Aberdeen-Angus in the United States during the past month.

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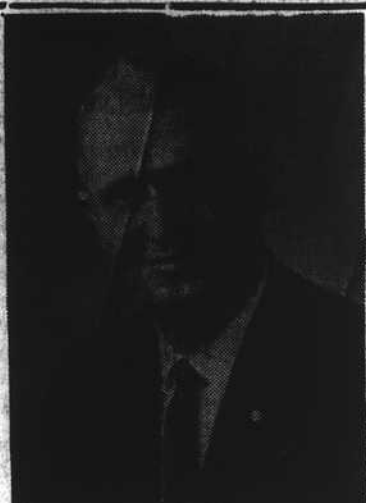
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