

+ EMERALD EDITORIALS +

Encouraging Figures

Some important changes in military draft policies have been made recently which, it seems, have received little publicity. They are bound to be of interest to all college men, at least those who haven't already fulfilled their military obligation.

An article in the Jan. 6 issue of US News and World Report is the best we have seen to date giving the strict lowdown on the situation.

Entitled "Young Men Can Relax Again," the article points out that "draft calls now pose less of a threat to youths' plans and careers than at any time since 1948."

It goes on to say that, barring unforeseen developments, officials expect the draft to hit only about 100,000 young men each year from now on. For those who are unable to interpret this number in light of its true significance, this means that only one out of 15 eligible for the draft will be called annually.

These figures cannot help but encourage those who want to make specific plans for their future after graduation from college. The fact is that those college men who see fit to "take their chances" with the draft and don't enlist in the advanced reserve officers training course now have an exceedingly good chance of avoiding military service.

Those who do enroll in the ROTC course are also finding their outlook different than in years past. Army seniors at Oregon this year have been given a choice in their applications of a six-month or a two-year tour of duty. There is no guarantee that they will get the length of tour which they apply for but at this time the chances look pretty good.

For the older students, those still eligible for the draft's beckoning call but past their early 20s, a new policy is even more important. A change in draft rules being pushed by Selective Service headquarters at present calls for all fathers and older men to be pushed to the tail end of draft lists. With one in 15 being taken now, this makes the likelihood of them getting a call only remote.

And just what is causing this big change in draft policy when the administration continually emphasizes the importance of national preparedness?

The article has an answer for this ques-

tion, too. It is a combination of a decline in draft calls and an increase in voluntary enlistments. The latter has probably had the most influence although both have been important in bringing about the change.

The increase in enlistments has been brought about by two factors. In the first place there are more youths reaching the age of 18 each year than has been true in the past seven years. The children born in the era of the low birth rate during the "Great Depression" years are all past 20 and the wave of youths now reaching 18 are the "New Deal" babies. The second factor is a 10 per cent raise which was put into effect for the armed services recently.

We fear that we are making this sound much too encouraging for those who wish to avoid military service. In order to dispel some of the illusion we might add that a decrease in enlistments or a decision by Congress to increase the draft would immediately change the whole picture.

This leaves a couple of pretty big "ifs" but still it appears that, at least for the next few years, draft calls will definitely be much lower than they have been.—(B.R.)

Who's Crazy Now?

The Civil Aeronautics administration came out with an interesting release the other day. It will be especially eye-catching to those students who attended the recent showing of "The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell" at a local theater.

According to the announcement nearly 42 million passengers flew on scheduled domestic and international airlines during 1955. This is an increase of 19.1 per cent over 1954.

We looked at these figures and couldn't help but wonder what the pessimists who thought Billy Mitchell was crazy in the 1920's think of air travel today.—(B.R.)

Footnotes

A word of advice from a frustrated driver trying to avoid getting wet: if you live within two miles of the campus, walk to class. You'll get there faster, have no trouble finding a parking space, won't have to walk as far, and you'll be in a nice-rosy mood for your 8 o'clock.

Taffy Pull

by Fudge



"Yer out of the game; that's your fifth person."

THE LOOKING GLASS

Swashbucklers Buckle Instead of Swashing

By Bob Davis
Emerald Columnist

It is the recent Hollywood trend to test the virility of a male star by setting him up as the principle defender of justice in a middle-ages horse opera. In "The Warriors," Errol Flynn is given his chance to show what he can do with armor, sword, and the lady in distress.

Sadly, the years have had their mellowing influence on actor Flynn. He has put on some unknighthly weight and can capture his old agility only through some good camera work. He now looks like Robert Taylor's double.

"The Warriors" uses the basic formula of most of the Hollywood history spectacles. Flynn is the English Prince of Wales who is left to reign over the French Aquitaines after their defeat by the British in the One Hundred Years War. The French noblemen give him all sorts of trouble and finally take an English woman hostage which neatly provides the lady in distress ingredient

and the inevitable love angle. Joanne Dru dutifully provides the pretty scenery and the chance for Errol to prove that he can still cope with a castle full of villains and still not appear too ruffled. Naturally a cast of thousands — well hundreds anyway, add to the pageantry and there are some nice shots of the English countryside. "The Warriors" is no worse and little better than preceding Cinemascope adventures into the days when chivalry was in flower.

One big disappointment in the film was the defense of the castle scene which is the high point of this type of picture. The attack lasted only a few minutes and there was complete absence of any molten lead or flaming oil that traditionally flows so abundantly over the extras' heads.

Perhaps a Burt Lancaster could have injected some life into the Prince's part for it was quite clear that "The Warriors" and Errol Flynn, both billed as swashbucklers, too often buckled when they should have swashed.

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Democrats Face Big Problem In Persuading Voters This Year

By James Marlow
Of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Adlai Stevenson himself, without saying so, put his finger on the No. 1 problem facing the Democrats in trying to persuade the voters to throw the Republicans out in 1956.

"America," he said in a speech recently, "is well and strong above all nations in all times. We are the luckiest people in the world and we know it."

If that's the case, the voters might ask, why should they take a chance on changing administrations in next November's election? Stevenson's reasons seemed to add up to this: "We can do everything better."

He was very vague on how. That can't be held against him at this time. It was just a general outline of what he'll say later.

It was also pretty much the outline of what the Democratic party will be saying. There were no surprises. It was pretty

much along the lines on which the Democrats already have indicated they will attack the Republicans.

It was just enough of an outline to show there are no fundamental differences between the two parties and that the differences which do exist are matters of degree more than of kind.

Stevenson attacked the Eisenhower administration's farm program. On this subject he seems unusually hazy and, if he has a solution, he has kept it to himself.

He was critical of the administration's foreign policy but did not indicate specifically what was wrong with it except to complain there was too much talk and backing away from it.

And — there was no surprise about this—he accused the Republicans of being the party of "special interest," meaning it was too cozy toward big business. This has been a steady complaint of the Democrats for generations.

Stevenson complained — or seemed to be complaining — that this country was not giving enough foreign aid to nations outside the Communist bloc.

If he pursues this line he may suffer some embarrassment in 1956 because it is almost certain his own Democrats will try to ram through a tax cut in the election year.

Cutting taxes means cutting revenue. It is hard to see how the Democrats could logically call for a boost in foreign aid if the government has less tax money to spend on it.

Stevenson took pains to describe his views as "moderate," although anyone who listened to him in the 1952 campaign must already have reached that conclusion about him anyway.

Since President Eisenhower is considered a moderate, and is popular in that role, Stevenson could hardly make himself unpopular following the same line, which also happens to be his natural one anyway.



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