

Military Code Requires Sturdy Beliefs

THE military code proclaimed by the President constitutes a fine set of ideals for American fighting men.

Its demand for iron determination to resist the enemy in every way possible is the least that can be asked. Its only retreat from the old dictum that a prisoner tell his captors nothing more than name, rank and the serial number is merely an admission of the fact that the most loyal and honorable men may weaken if caught in the tortuous vise of Communist brainwashers.

A set of rules, however, is not enough equipment for Americans who face the insidious seduction of Communist captors, and the code will be of little use if treated as nothing more than a catechism to be drummed into the heads of every draftee or enlistee. We hope a Washington dispatch was incorrect in saying servicemen will be indoctrinated with the code. Education, not indoctrination, is the fibre of convictions strong enough to withstand the brainwashers.

The steel in a belief comes from understanding of what it implies and a voluntary decision to accept it.

If there is anything more shocking than an American's willful desertion or aid to an enemy nation, it is the gross ignorance and stupidity laid bare by the defector.

Not mentally competent servicemen acquainted with the basic facts of the American and Communist systems of government could choose communism

with justice to either his conscience, common sense or even self-interest.

Twenty American prisoners of war did choose communism after the Korean hostilities. Three have returned to this country, knowing they face punishment. The Chinese have hinted the other 17 are now unhappy in the promised land.

There is a ring of truth on the explanation of one of the three turncoats who have returned to this country as to why he chose China. He said:

I went through this course during basic training in service about communism. But the point was, it didn't cover anything. You don't know what to expect. You expect to be tortured and killed. But when you go across the first thing they do, they run up to you and shake your hand and say 'welcome on board.'

Whether or not that explains what made this man a sucker, it is true that the Communists are adept in verbal as well as physical persuasion, and it follows that Americans must be equipped with something more than physical strength and indoctrination if they are to live up to the President's code.

That something must be a thoroughgoing education of American government and its constitutional principles, and the same explanation of Communist procedures. It is no secret that many Americans are ignorant of the principles of democracy, and it cannot be assumed they will willingly give their lives, as the code asks, for something they do not understand.

Support Program Deliberately Misused

LIKE hungry mosquitoes, congressional investigators swooped down this summer and stung the Eisenhower administration on one of its most sensitive political spots: The farm price support program. A House subcommittee led by North Carolina's Rep. L. H. Fountain found the Agriculture Department's handling of matters involving 90 million pounds of cheese and about 2 million dollars of the taxpayers' money strange indeed.

Mr. Fountain was far too polite to accuse administration farm officials of any intentional wrongdoing but he did ask a ruling by Comptroller General Joseph Campbell.

The ruling was handed down this week. Mr. Campbell said flatly that the cheese transaction was "unauthorized and improper."

It was all that and more. U. S. taxpayers have been taken for a handsome sum and some private businessmen have received an undeserved windfall. Furthermore, the whole unhappy business illustrates some basic weaknesses in a system which permits all kinds of economic manipulating from Washington's walnut cubicles.

About 100 distributors were involved in transactions taking place in March and April of last year. The situations

arose when Secretary of Agriculture Benson decided to lower the government's price support for cheese from 90 to 75 per cent of parity on April 1, 1954. Disturbances immediately moved to unload all the cheese they could on the government before the support level fell, and the Agriculture Department said. In order to keep cheese in channels where it would be readily available to consumers, the department added, it arranged something called "purchase-resale transactions" under which it paid distributors for the cheese at the old support level of 90 per cent of parity and sold it right back to them at the new 75 per cent rate in a series of lump sums.

One big cheese company alone made about \$700,000 on the deal. It amounted to an outright gift from Uncle Sam. Mr. Campbell's ruling held that the price of dairy products may be supported only by means of purchases or loans. He noted that the government had committed itself to resell the cheese to the original owners without ever holding a real property interest in it.

It was a deliberate misuse of a program designed to benefit the farmer and the nation's overall economy.

The taxpayers' money lost in the transaction should, by all means, be recovered if it is still legally possible.

Preparing For Old Stepmother Nature

WEATHER-WEARY Tar Heels, still reeling from their second 1955 hurricane cannot avoid one rather grim conclusion today. Whatever the reasons, the Carolina coast has become a favored punching bag for those big tropical storms that used to buffet Florida. The time has come to discuss plans for long-range hurricane protection.

This is essentially what Gov. Hodges had in mind yesterday after receiving official reports on damage caused by Hurricane Diane. "We've got to be thinking of something more permanent than temporary repairs following a storm's damage," he said.

Unfortunately, Carolinians are in about the same position residents of southern Florida found themselves in years ago after a series of disastrous blows. They met the situation with some wise, practical measures—such as the protection of a seaside area that suffered erosion when

ever a storm hit and the erection of residences and other buildings to hurricane-proof specifications.

It may be just a freak of nature but hurricanes seem to be coming northward with disturbing frequency. Last year three major hurricanes struck portions of the upper eastern seaboard—taking 274 lives and causing more than a billion dollars worth of damage in all. So far this year, the Carolinas have taken the brunt of two tropical storms and some experts point out ominously that the most dangerous portion of the hurricane season is yet to come.

Since it is impossible to move the target, all North Carolinians can do now is batten down the hatches and hope the weather watchers are wrong. But before another season rolls around, the state should have plans underway to make coastal areas more secure in the face of Old Stepmother Nature.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

THE LONG BALL ISN'T EVERYTHING

THE latest unfolding intelligence from the Burning Tee golf club in Washington has it that Mr. Eisenhower's tee shots are improving, evidently as a result of greater opportunities for practice now that Congress has quit.

Information gathered from caddies and proud golfers, companions of the President has been consistently making his drives a good 200 yards or better. This squares with reports from Gettysburg, which is getting to be the Middle Atlantic White House. The Chief Executive has been working on his drives with the club professional for some time. The other day he hit five, one of which he sent screaming some 230 yards straight down the middle.

Mr. Eisenhower's improved tee shots will be good news to anyone who has ever tried his hand at the game. The feel of a well-hit ball is a universal and happy stimulant. It is what sends many a divot-digger back to the course for another try after a miserable afternoon. Even the most rabid political partisan would not want such a thrill withheld from the man whose official burdens are so great.

Unfortunately, however, the long ball is not everything. It does not go hand in glove with the low score, so to speak. Most of the time it is a long way from tee to green, and the drive is only the beginning. The pitch and the putt also are important, and here the President is described as somewhat "erratic."

Too bad, Woodrow Wilson also had some of the same difficulties with his short game. And once, so the story goes, he took 28 strokes on a par 3-hole while caddies and companions, including Mrs. Wilson, looked on in shocked silence. Maybe Mr. Eisenhower has chuckled over the story. Maybe, too, he had that in the back of his mind when he had the White House lawn re-installed on the pitch-and-putt green installed on the White House lawn.

Business was off. The boss called in all the salesmen and announced a sales contest, which he would supervise personally. "What does the winner get?" asked an eager beaver. Said the boss: "He gets to keep his job." —CARLSBAD CURRENT ANGUS.

People's Platform

Charlotte

Editors, The News: I HAVE just concluded reading the editorial, "Scarceer in Iptown," Charlotte, concerning the decadent condition of the Southern Railway passenger depot.

To me the decaying condition of the depot is only indicative of the dwindling railroad passenger service in and out of Charlotte. The Southern's lackadaisical attitude towards the rail passenger, however, intentional or not, is very discouraging to the average person. It's often enough to drive him to take his chances if he can get on the highways.

The truth is the railroad would close the passenger depot as well as shut the passenger business if they could. Before beating the drums for an elaborate castle to tempt the visitors, better check and see just how many people actually go through now and would the castle be an empty barn 10 or 15 years from now.

—EARL C. WHITE

Shallotte Stories Should Be Corrected

Editors, The News: Shallotte

July 28, 1955. I ESTATE when a reputable, influential, statewide newspaper carried such a story as dominated page 8-A of The Charlotte News, August 12. The News owes an apology to the people of Shallotte and a hearty apology to Scheer's trashy, inept, inaccurate, untrue story from Shallotte. It owes all the readers a detailed correction of the story from Wilmington by this same Julian Scheer.

The two stories could be dismissed as Scheer claptrap and Scheer nonsense were not the wide circulation and profound influence of The Charlotte News behind them. Unanswered and uncorrected, they will irreparably injure a community and a people deserving better from an outstanding newspaper. It is putting it mildly to brand them as glaring breaches of reportorial integrity, newspaper ethics, truth and good sense.

A MOMENT. Scheer could hardly have spent more than a moment, if that, in the Red Cross disaster shelter set up last week in the Shallotte School. Certainly, he could not have been in Shallotte at the time of the wind rippling.

No reporter could have seen what Scheer described. Scheer indulged in a flight of imaginative "fanciful" writing. His nostrils were offended by farmers and fishermen. Maybe Scheer would offend by means of purchases or loans. He noted that the government had committed itself to resell the cheese to the original owners without ever holding a real property interest in it.

It was a deliberate misuse of a program designed to benefit the farmer and the nation's overall economy. The taxpayers' money lost in the transaction should, by all means, be recovered if it is still legally possible.

Mr. Campbell's ruling held that the price of dairy products may be supported only by means of purchases or loans. He noted that the government had committed itself to resell the cheese to the original owners without ever holding a real property interest in it.

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Railroad Traffic Won't Support New Terminal

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"We cut out the comic books, which you suggested might be a cause of delinquency, and gave him poetry to read. Now he wants to be a poet. . . . isn't that a form of delinquency on the adult level. . . ."

Negro Must Develop Own Racial Culture

Charlotte

Editors, The News: IF a white woman may have as much space as you gave a letter appearing in Saturday's News, I should like to reply. The first paragraph of the letter consists mainly of one long sentence centering on the phrase "white-ridden society."

Now, if the Negro society is a hard-earned, racially speaking, it is the Negro society. I have never known a white person who hated the Negro as an individual or as a race. All the Negroes I have ever known or heard of have been mixed in every way with the whites. Where do you think the money for your beautiful schools comes from? Who do you think pays the excellent salaries your Negro teachers receive? You surely must know that taxes paid by Negroes in North Carolina are negligible compared to the sum it takes to educate your children. The hard-working, tax-paying white man pays for all these things your race enjoys.

FOUGHT FOR RACE. But my grandfathers did not fight to free your race from slavery. They lived in Kentucky, that "dark and bloody ground." Both of them were sons of slaveholders, but these young men did not believe in slavery. One of my grandfathers carried a rifle for 40 years as a result of fighting for your freedom, and he suffered intense pain from it all his life. So, I can say there has never been any racial hatred in my family.

But, my grandfathers did not fight to free the Negroes because they thought the Negro's culture was equal to the white culture and both were to be commingled. Not at all. They simply believed that the Negro was a human being with a divine soul and he should be given the opportunity to develop his civilization in freedom.

Let me slip a few paragraphs in the letter and consider the sentence used relative to Negro slavery. "They are the only people who have lost their freedom by coming," you say.

BE REALISTIC. Now, let's be realistic about this. Is the writer sorry her ancestors were brought out of the African jungle into the cultural surroundings of the old South? The race of mankind has found the beginnings of civilization easy and in my opinion, her race got its cultural start more painlessly and more quickly than any other race ever did.

Regardless of what emotional poems may conjure up in their own minds, slaves in the South were, on the whole, treated kindly.

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Something's 'Fishy' About Casper Case

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Editors, The News: BEING a newcomer to Charlotte naturally, I am interested in editorially, "People's Platform" and all local news.

There is something "fishy" about the Casper case. I sure look bad to a stranger. Mr. Casper certainly deserves a better break. Perhaps enough letters of this kind could help him.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

IT was exactly four years ago this week that a little group of Americans headed for the caravan that crept through the German countryside to the edge of the Czechoslovak border to launch a unique experiment in sending messages by balloon over the Iron Curtain.

In the party were Gov. Harold Stassen, C. D. Jackson, later received his war-fare adviser to the White House, Abbott Washburn—now doing an A-1 job as the U. S. Information Council's Agency—and this correspondent. We parked in a wheat field just under the edge of the hills that border Czechoslovakia and began stuffing lead-in balloons, filling the balloons with gas and letting them float up until the prevailing winds caught them and carried them at a rate of 30 miles an hour into Czechoslovakia.

Steady Drizzle

It was about one a.m. and drizzling when we launched the first balloon. It drizzled most of the night—a rain that penetrated everything, soaked to the skin. However, the operation continued, dawn came. Some 2,000 balloons carrying an average of 600 letters each were on their way to Czechoslovakia.

Then we drove back to Munich and waited—waited for the reaction of the Communist government in Prague. Five days passed, nothing happened. We sent more balloons, still nothing happened. Finally an explosion of protest and indignation began to boil out of Czechoslovakia.

Howls Of Anguish

If the Communists had been smarter they would have kept quiet, made us

think the balloons never arrived. Instead they howled. A cartoon appeared on page one of the leading Communist paper, Tevra, showing Harry Truman sending balloons into Czechoslovakia.

Premier Zaptokoff delivered a speech in the Czech parliament, blasting the American embassy that the balloon leaflets had been tucked up on telephone poles, fastened on bulletin boards, put in baggage racks of trains, even mimographed, distributed wherever anti-Communist know they would be seen.

Later, official protests came from the Czechoslovak government to the U. S. government, demanding that the balloon barrage be stopped. But the Czech government replied this was a private matter over which it had no control.

Let Us Talk

This was all too true. For the balloon barrage had been proposed by me in a newspaper column, July 21, 1948, and it took three years of talking, arguing, planning, before we could even get permission to go to the German Czech border.

But here is the payoff. As of this week the fourth anniversary of the balloon barrage to the Iron Curtain. The material has now been dropped on Czechoslovakia and Hungary by balloon. This is a total of 100,000 letters, carried by private enterprise, with the Crusade for Freedom and the Committee for Free Europe despatching the credit.

It shows what people can do when they really work at penetrating the Iron Curtain.