

Mailbox

To the Editor,
(Attn: Royce Brier)

I have never heard of you so therefore, know not your qualifications to write the attached article from the 7 July 1965 issue. You have never heard of me, for that matter, so I would like to explain my background for enlightening you on the many inaccuracies in this article.

I graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1950 and have been in Korea (1952), flown around the world in MATS for four years, and since getting a graduate engineering degree at Michigan in 1957, been in the missile and space business. In addition, I completed the Air Force Squadron Officers Course in 1953 and our Command and Staff College (by correspondence) in 1963.

Now, as far back as 1949, while at West Point, we studied the situation in southeast Asia from a political and economic viewpoint but not a military one. Our background in international relations and the use of the military as an instrument of National Power in war AND PEACE was heavily emphasized (for an engineering school). Subsequent schooling has taken this same tack.

My point is that military people, professional soldiers if you will, are trained for many purposes and we have ample proof of their success (Gen. Clay in Berlin after the war, Gen. Cabel in the CIA arguing against the Bay of Pigs fiasco, Gen. MacArthur rebuilding Japan and General Taylor in Viet Nam). I must admit that not all professional soldiers use what they know and I am not particularly proud of the two generals that did occupy the White House (as Presidents, that is).

I do not argue that the Commander-in-Chief should be a military man—he definitely should be a civilian or at least an elected official. I do state that your article is an unwarranted insult. If you would get your nose out of history books and acquaint yourself with the modern officer, you would find quite a few surprises.

Francis E. Thompson
22122 Nicolle Ave.

We complain today that youth does not respect authority. Let me tell you how they can lose it.

Last Friday evening our seventeen year old son asked permission to use the car to go to a movie. It was readily given as he has proven himself worthy, and dependable in every way.

Our phone rang about 11:45. It was the Redondo Police telling us our son had been picked up for curfew violation and there was beer in the car. Our respect for authority led me, much to my subsequent chagrin with myself, to automatically accept the implied charges and believe the worst although, thank goodness, nothing was said to my son until we could find out what had happened.

What had really happened was that when my son came out of the show, the car parked next to him would not start because of a dead battery and he offered to let them charge their battery off ours to get it started. Within five minutes a policeman came up, asked for identification, searched the other car and found beer. He then ran them in. My son politely tried to explain what he was doing there and the policeman told him to be quiet. Told that the parents would have to come to release them, my son explained he had our only car. The policeman told him that was good as his parents would be real mad by the time they got there! They took information from my son, even including his place of birth, to put in the files although he was completely dismissed.

Anyone attending a movie in the past few years knows you can not possibly get out by 10 p.m. especially when it starts at 7:26 as it did that night. We have always encouraged our children to help those in need and we hope our son continues to do so. However, a policeman could have destroyed this trait and extinguished all respect for authority by giving him no respect in return. To earn respect it must be given. If we had not withheld our final judgment until the full story was known, this damage could have been compounded.

We hope this is an isolated incident and have tried to convey this to our son. I hope we succeed and he gets over the feeling he now has that, regardless of circumstances, in police eyes he is guilty until proven innocent.

A Concerned Parent

SPECIAL DIETS

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