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UA37/44 Diary to Kelly

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April 23, 1969

Some days ago the A. G. R. boys told me that an inspector of their fraternity would soon be here and they wanted me to meet him. Yesterday he was here, and I had a good long talk with him. He is a teacher in South Georgia State College; I believe that is its specific name, a college away down near Waycross. I was very much impressed with his good common sense and his understanding of the rural backgrounds of a large percentage of the A. G. R. boys. He asked me many questions about the local fraternity as I saw it, about the individual boys, about the way people in the city are reacting to fraternities, and similar things. I told him what I have told you many times, how the bigness of the school and the youth of the boys warrant a change in policy, a policy that our former student body, because of maturity, rarely needed. He saw perfectly what I meant, for he, too, seems to have come up the hard way and is sympathetic toward the boy who wants an education and is willing to work for it.

And here is a good place to say that I welcome Leonard Brown and Millard Gipson as co-sponsors of the group. Billy Adams told me months ago that he was so involved in his farming operations that he could not give the fraternity as much attention as it ~~des~~erved and needed; he had, he said, not been over to see the boys as often as he came in the first two years. Gipson and Brown have earnestly sought my opinions about the group, and I have been exceedingly frank. In the main they ^(the boys) are much above average, and Dr. Hunter Hancock, of Murray State University, told me that, in his experience, A. G. R. is the best fraternity in scholastic achievement in all places where he has worked. The boys have almost adopted Mom and me; there is rarely a day when we do not speak to one or more; and lots of days we chat with many boys. And the boys are eager to work to make money for the fraternity and are available labor, with some of them with

considerable skill. I do not know what I could have done just after the hailstorm without having several of them ready to mount the ladders and see about my roof and to patch very obvious holes to prevent further flooding of our house. I do not know whether they found all the leaks, for it has not rained much since then; but they are standing by, to do what I want done until regular roofers can inspect and take over, provided roofing material is available soon. And these same boys have started painting my house, stopped several times by rain; I have the paint and the brushes ready for a suitable time and hope they will get all the house white again.

In reading about the upheavals of so many of the colleges, even the big-names, I have been disgusted to find that the trouble-makers nearly always have some faculty helpers or abettors. Some boards of education or trustees or regents or whatever the local names may be need some paddles and some steel-pointed boots. I think a good expulsion or two in most colleges might cure a lot of evils. The virus, whether locally inspired or paid for by outside disruptive forces, seems to be spreading; I may be a coward, but I am glad that our own school year is so near its end. And I am glad, too, that the candidates are speaking out about the taxpayer and his money. Some of this is to get votes and may not result in any permanent good; but it will not hurt Kentucky or any other state to question the spending of money to build buildings to be occupied by rebellious students, white or black.