

Troy Gazette-Register Editor's diary Comments
Regarding Wilkes College February 10, 1965

WILKES COLLEGE
WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA 18703

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Send to
Wall St
Journal*

MEMORANDUM

To: The Board of Trustees
From: Gene Farley
Date: March 10, 1966

Attached you will find a copy of an Editor's
Diary which appeared in the February 10 issue of the
Troy Gazette-Register.

Because it deals with Wilkes College I thought
you would be interested in the comments that they have
made regarding us.

ESF:hm
Enclosure

TROY GAZETTE-REGISTER

103rd year—No. 22 THURSDAY, FEB. 10, 1966

The Editor's Diary

I like the phrase that Wilkes College of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, uses in its bulletin: "Before you can make men doctors and lawyers, you must first make them men."

John Stuart Mill of several generations back in American history is attributed as the author of the phrase that 19-year-old college likes to observe. The college was first started as a junior college of Bucknell as a result of the request of the residents of Wilkes-Barre wanting an institution of higher learning within its confines. That branch of Bucknell was started in 1933. And that was during the Great Depression of the United States. Where there is a will, there is a way!

No matter whether the educational program aims for professional status, or merely general knowledge, the thought persists: "first make them men." The knowledge that is gained, then, is put to good use — for the individual, as well as for his fellow men.

Sound moral fiber must be nurtured and matured and sharpened. What follows in the way of specialized knowledge then makes for good citizenship, and a fuller life.

If more stress was employed on this "first making them men," then there would be less "Bobby Bakers", "Hitlers", "Mussolinis", gangsters, law-breakers. I did not say that these "characters" would be eliminated entirely from our society. I do say that their numbers would be lesser, and the entire moral tone and fiber of the community, the nation, would be wonderfully improved.

Wilkes College, it seems to me, is one of the few colleges, or higher institutions of learning, that is worthy and important in moulding our nation. It is one college that I would highly recommend as an educational institution to which both men and women should attend

Wilkes College is a private institution. There are many in the United States. But, there are many thousands of public schools — primary, secondary and higher educational institutions. These public schools can, and have, obtained financial aid from the federal government. The private schools do not, generally.

Usually, the one who pays the bills is the one who calls the turns — do it this way, or else you get no money, baldly put. In the case of federal financial aid, that puts government into the educational field, first administratively, then, eventually, as sure as you read this now, in the curricula field.

Rep. Edith Green of Oregon recently issued a "stop, look, and listen" warning to all who are involved in education, particularly, the guardians of unhampered educational activities that are constitutional.

She points out that Congress has passed massive chunks of legislation within the past year, "that is bound to send a tremor through the whole school system, from kindergarten to college."

She says that federal aid has skyrocketed more than 7,000 percent since the end of World War II.

Recently, the United States commissioner of education has been given authority to bypass state boards of education in certain programs. There is also real political influence being employed by federal officials upon local school systems. What else does one expect when money talks so eloquently?

The federal education bill for elementary and secondary

schools has bypassed the state authorities in setting up supplementary educational centers.

Another congressional law, the economic opportunity act, bypasses the state departments of education in administering education as a key to the anti-poverty program.

Another bill, the head start program, should have been made a part of the existing educational systems of the states, Mrs. Green asserts, as it would strengthen the local school systems.

The school authorities, up and down the line, from state capitol to district school boards, including administrators of state and local school systems, may relish, by and large, the availability of this federal money. But, they are overlooking, blindly, if not purposefully, the impact and the import of this federal aid.

"But, you are denying us the money from Washington for use for our children," cry short-sighted parents. "If we do not use it, others will use it. Use it; it's there and ready to be used," they shout.

Of course, we should educate our children in the best possible manner available, striving to increase their knowledge, pursuing avenues that will enable to give them a better education. Federal funds, if needed, and available, should be channeled in such manner as to prevent any federal intervention in the local school system — administratively and curricula-wise.

Forget not that legislators enact laws that are not-always wise, employing politics, as well as "pork-barreling" for specific gain. Sometimes, a law is enacted that is unconstitutional, needing a test case to permit the U.S. Supreme Court to reaffirm our inherent rights as affirmed by the Fathers of our Country.

The wise citizen will refrain from accepting, wholeheartedly, federal financial aid to our school system, fully realizing that if we are not careful, we will "have to pay the Piper."

WILKES COLLEGE
WILKES-BARRE
PENNSYLVANIA 18703

MEMORANDUM

To: The Board of Trustees
The Faculty
The Alumni Council

From: Gene Farley

Date: January 24, 1967

Sometimes we receive a boost from unexpected sources. Such was the case when the editor of the Troy paper wrote the attached editorial.

The Beacon — *Gene*

ESF:hm
Enclosure

(The following is an editorial comment by C. Dixxon Avery, editor of the Gazette-Register, Troy, Pennsylvania. We have reproduced the editorial feeling you would be interested in its content.)

TROY GAZETTE-REGISTER

103rd year-

Troy, Pennsylvania 15
Thursday, Feb. 10, 1966

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