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Liberalizing Our Courts

BY KAY BURTON, '36as.

MANUFACTURERS, shop keepers, industrialists and the middle class entrepreneurs are not the only persons feeling the liberalizing effects of the NRA and CWA. Even the greatest of judiciary bodies—the supreme court of the United States—is experiencing, in a different and milder fashion, a slight diversion of policy.

The many changing aspects of social attitudes, to some degree, is being mirrored in decisions of the courts. This is the belief of Earl Welch, '11ex, justice of the supreme court in Oklahoma.

The operation of the NRA and CWA, the results obtained and the purpose of these unusual measures tends to crystallize thought along new lines in America, Judge Welch believes.

Harkins Writes of Belgium

THE funeral ceremonies of King Albert of Belgium were described as "the biggest thing here since the World war" by Raymond Harkin, '31law, who is attending the University of Louvain, in a letter to his sister, Mary Harkin, '32as, and his parents, of Pawhuska.

Harkin, who was manager of the Boomer band on the campus, and a lawyer for a time in Pawhuska, went to the American college in the University of Louvain at Louvain, Belgium, last fall to study for the priesthood.

Classes were dismissed the day of the funeral of "Albert le Roi," he wrote. His description of the event follows:

Went to Brussels yesterday (February 22) with four others for the funeral. W. van Carsse who was to lead us, being a native and knowing the ropes, got away, somehow, in the crowd—so the other two boys and I had to take care of ourselves. And from all reports did the best job of all the lads of seeing the cortege.

After abandoning one crowd because it was milling a little too much to be funny, we made a wide detour and muscled up at another place. I got behind a cop who was pushing through, and the other two followed in the wake. We got to the wire and there was still a bank about six deep out in the street behind a cordon of soldiers lined in single file the length of the Boulevard.

"And in view of recent decisions of the supreme court, I think its members are keeping fully abreast with this thought development," he says.

It would be inexact to say that any decision of that court is reached as a result of mass thought, he contends, but doubtless this liberal thought, these conditions and developments may be said to be reflected by the decisions of the court.

"Desires of the contestants, themselves, can not change the law and of course the rights of the contestants must be protected and laws must be enforced in times of stress as they are in better times, but conditions justify the enforcement of some rights that are not necessarily enforced or relied upon in other times," says Judge Welch.

Where the CWA and NRA placed immediate, visible effect on business enterprises, the results shown through the supreme court have been less marked and have merely followed the trend of the times. The supreme court, says Judge Welch, although it interprets the law, always has followed the trend of the times in keeping its decisions in step with social advancement.

Then a lighted gas lamp post went over and the crowd, thinking it would blow up or something (or, as crowds go, not thinking at all), almost started a riot. We clung to said wire lustily until a cop on a horse and three other moustacheu gendarmes finally convinced them they were better off to stand still—and by that time, though still close to it, we were on the opposite side of the wire.

After getting put back properly by a muscular gendarme, we gave him the slip and started working on the last obstacle to full view. Unfortunately (for her) some nice lady couldn't stand the pressure and decided to faint, so when they carried her out we occupied the spaces left in the march and so got a ringside seat right behind the guards and saw the whole performance.

They rolled by for a good hour and everybody was represented with the possible exception of Germany. When the Brussels and Pan-American legions went along that American flag looked plenty good. However, we saved our "whoops" because just before them the French army marched by and some stew who let out a "Viva la France" was properly muffled. By the way, some of the natives near us thought it quite marvelous and very considerate to get a herd of American soldiers for the parade over here so quickly from the States.