

Josh Lee Speaks

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MR. LEE of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike out the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment which is offered by the gentleman from New York for the purpose of prohibiting compulsory military training in our colleges and universities.

Surely if our Government gives free education to the young men of this country, it is not unreasonable for that Government to ask of those same young men enough of their time to learn the fundamentals of military science. Our Government gives more and asks less than any government on the face of the earth, and surely while this Government is giving free education, it is not asking too much to require the young men to take military training in order that they might better serve that Government in case of a national crisis.

I believe that the training received in the R.O.T.C. units in the colleges and universities of this country is in reality in the interest of peace. I have been teaching at the University of Oklahoma ever since I got out of the Army. I have had a good opportunity to observe the work of the R.O.T.C. unit there. The Government has sent to that university, as officers and military instructors, some of the best and highest type men it has ever been my pleasure to meet.

I have seen boys come there and take military training, the result of which was training in character, training in discipline, training in manliness, training in physical hygiene, and these same young men go out of the university proud of their record in the R.O.T.C. and with the consciousness that they are better prepared for the life of a citizen and, if necessary, that of a soldier.

The compulsory military training at the University of Oklahoma has been successful. It has been a splendid thing and has worked no injustice whatever on any student.

Many students, after having taken the course, have expressed the opinion that they are glad that it was compulsory, otherwise they might have missed that fine training.

I believe that every citizen of the United States owes it to his Government to be prepared in times of national emergency to give the best he has in defense of his

country. That is only a part of our obligation as citizens of our Government.

Mr. MARCANTONIO. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEE of Oklahoma. Certainly.

Mr. MARCANTONIO. Does the gentleman believe in universal compulsory military training in the United States?

Mr. LEE of Oklahoma. That is beside the question, sir.

Mr. MARCANTONIO. Does the gentleman believe that compulsory military training should be applied to all students and young men who seek a higher education?

Mr. LEE of Oklahoma. That is not the subject before us. I am speaking on the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. MARCANTONIO. On that very point, I wish the gentleman would answer the question.

Mr. LEE of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, I am not in favor of abolishing these R.O.T.C. units, because I am familiar with the splendid results they are achieving. As a matter of fact, it gives the United States the greatest possible military preparation with the least possible military display. In reality it is a peace measure. The young men who come out of our colleges naturally become the leaders in this country. They are men with university and college training. They are absorbed back into civilian life; they wear civilian clothes, but underneath the civilian clothes there is trained leadership that would form the nucleus around which our Government could quickly build an army. The Officers Reserve Corps gives the greatest military preparation at the lowest possible cost. Trained leadership is undoubtedly the most important part of preparation. These men do not wear uniforms after they finish their college years, but they are trained, nevertheless, and would become the officers in case of a national crisis.

I have seen, and others who have been to France have seen, the results of the lack of preparation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to no person in my zeal for peace. I hate war with every atom and fiber of my being, but the day has not arrived when the world has come

to the philosophy of peace on earth for the sake of brotherly love.

Weakness invites attack. When the Boston police struck, were the thugs of that city so honorable that they refused to plunder, simply because the people were unprotected? No; they pillaged all the more. Weakness invites attack. To make our Nation helpless is not the road to world peace, but rather to war.

Mr. Chairman, our World War program called for 25,000 American-made planes, 20,000 to be on the front by January, 1918. General Pershing attested the record that not one American-made plane ever reached the front during the war. The result was that our flyers had to fly planes that we could beg, borrow, or buy from the Allies. Naturally, the Allies used their more efficient planes for their own men, and we got the more out-of-date and less efficient ones. The result was that the casualties among the American flyers were three times greater than among the Allies, not because our boys were not good pilots but because every time they took off in one of those "flaming coffins," as Colonel Mitchell called them, death rode in the cockpit with them.

Mr. Chairman, the lack of preparation is murder. I oppose this amendment because it would destroy one of the best and most unmilitary forms of preparation, that of giving the fundamentals of military science to the college men of America. (Applause.)

(Here the gavel fell.)



Women's Honor Class Selected

Eighteen junior women have been selected by members of Mortar Board for membership in an honor class that will meet each Sunday afternoon during the second semester.

Dean Edna McDaniel, Catherine Holman and Dora McFarland assisted members of Mortar Board in selecting the membership of the group that will hear Mrs. J. B. Ferguson, Watonga pioneer woman and mother of Walter Ferguson, '06ex, Tulsa, speak and will visit the art studio of Nan Sheets in Oklahoma City during the semester.

The eighteen outstanding women students selected include:

Maxine Appleman, Bessie Kniseley and Katherine Rader, all of Norman; Sara Freeman, Virginia Heninger, Helen Matthews, Frances Myers and Margaret Rhoades, all of Oklahoma City; Suzanne Arnote, Antlers; Ellen Fullenweider, Muskogee; Lucy Jane Garce, Noble; Evelyn Gray, Ponca City; Rosemary Hudson, Tuttle; Betty Hume, Anadarko; Margaret Hurst, Frederick; Margery Meacham, Clinton; Virginia Parris, Tulsa; and Martha Zak, Lawton.