

## ATHLETICS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

Professor Owens, Mr. McMillin, Members of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the American Football Coaches Association: I am very happy to be here this morning to take some slight part in this discussion of *Intercollegiate Athletics in Relation to National Defense*.

As Professor Owens has indicated, I approach this subject from two standpoints: first, from the standpoint of the college president; and, then, from the standpoint of a Director of Selective Service, being that in the state of Pennsylvania.

I might say that this dual capacity is a little confusing to me at the present time. It is three days at the college and three days at Harrisburg, and I take the seventh day off to try to adjust myself to which position I am holding at that particular moment. I find that it is a little more difficult for me than for some of my friends to live a double life, although I think that sometimes we think our friends are living a double life when they are not doing so at all. I heard the other day of a man who met a friend on the street one afternoon and asked, "Who was that dame that I saw with you at the sidewalk café last night?" and his friend said, "That wasn't a dame; that was my wife. That wasn't a sidewalk café; that was my furniture!" And so there are times when we are misunderstood. But I do find it rather difficult to make this double approach.

When I was appointed Director of Selective Service in Pennsylvania, one of the Philadelphia papers said sympathetically that I was taking up the most thankless job in the state. But they didn't realize that that had been my profession for many years—after all, a college president is trained to take a thankless job as part of life.

I think there is a certain chain of hotels in which they say that the guest is always right; and, on the other hand, in the academic field, it is a matter of tradition that the college president is always wrong. The college president is the one person among all the groups that make up a college or university that hasn't this very delightful but somewhat