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BUSINESS AND  
ADVERTISING MANAGER

# The ROTARIAN

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

TELEPHONE  
STATE 4016  
35 EAST WACKER DRIVE  
CHICAGO, ILL.  
U.S.A.

September Tenth  
1 9 3 8

Dear Dr. Allen:

While you have checked the manuscript on your half of the Athletics debate, we thought you might like to see our presentation of it, and accordingly we are enclosing a set of page proofs. We would appreciate your double-check on the story. If you spot anything that seems to need correction, will you please wire us collect as early as possible on Monday (September 12). We are scheduled to close the October issue that night.

You will note that the correction you suggested concerning mention of the Big Six Conference has been made. The fact is, we had made the identical deletion the day before we received your note on it.

For the bouquet, many thanks--but I hastened to distribute it among my office colleagues, for the brief processing your article required was a co-operative proposition.

Please wire us either your okeh or corrections, and we'll be very much obliged to you.

Very cordially yours,

*Paul Teetor*

Paul Teetor

Dr. Forrest Allen  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

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September 10, 1938.

Mr. Paul Teetor,  
The Rotarian,  
35 E. Wacker Drive,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Teetor:

I wonder if you could send me a copy of the article on subsidizing athletes as it now is. I will consider it entirely confidential and show it to no one, but I would like to study it again for weaknesses. I realize that it is too late for any changes at this time, but I want to present sound arguments and to eliminate flaws.

When the magazine is published I would like to have several copies of The Rotarian which I might have here to send out to some of my friends, like Brutus Hamilton, of the University of California, and other men in similar positions.

Thanking you, and with best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

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September Twelfth  
1 9 3 8

Dear Dr. Allen:

We have your wire indicating that the proofs of your article on subsidizing athletes have your approval, and we appreciate very much your promptness in advising us.

The October issue will be off the press in about ten days, and we shall indeed be glad to supply you with extra copies. I shall have six sent to you, and if you can use more, just say the word.

Very cordially yours,

*Paul Teetor*

Paul Teetor  
"

Dr. Forrest C. Allen  
Department of Physical Education  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

September 13, 1938.

Mr. Paul Teetor,  
The Rotarian,  
35 E. Wacker Drive,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Teetor:

This will confirm my wire to you on September 11th, stating that the copy you sent me is very satisfactory. I am highly pleased with the way it reads.

I wish particularly to congratulate you on choosing the illustrations that you have used with this article. It seems to me you have used a high degree of intelligence in showing the boys in actual combat in a football game, and then, on the other hand, showing them doing honest labor.

Thank you very much for sending me this last set of page proofs. As I wrote you on September 10 I shall be very happy to have some additional copies of the magazine so that I may send marked copies to some of my friends.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,  
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

REVISE No. 1

Handwritten signature or initials in the top right corner.

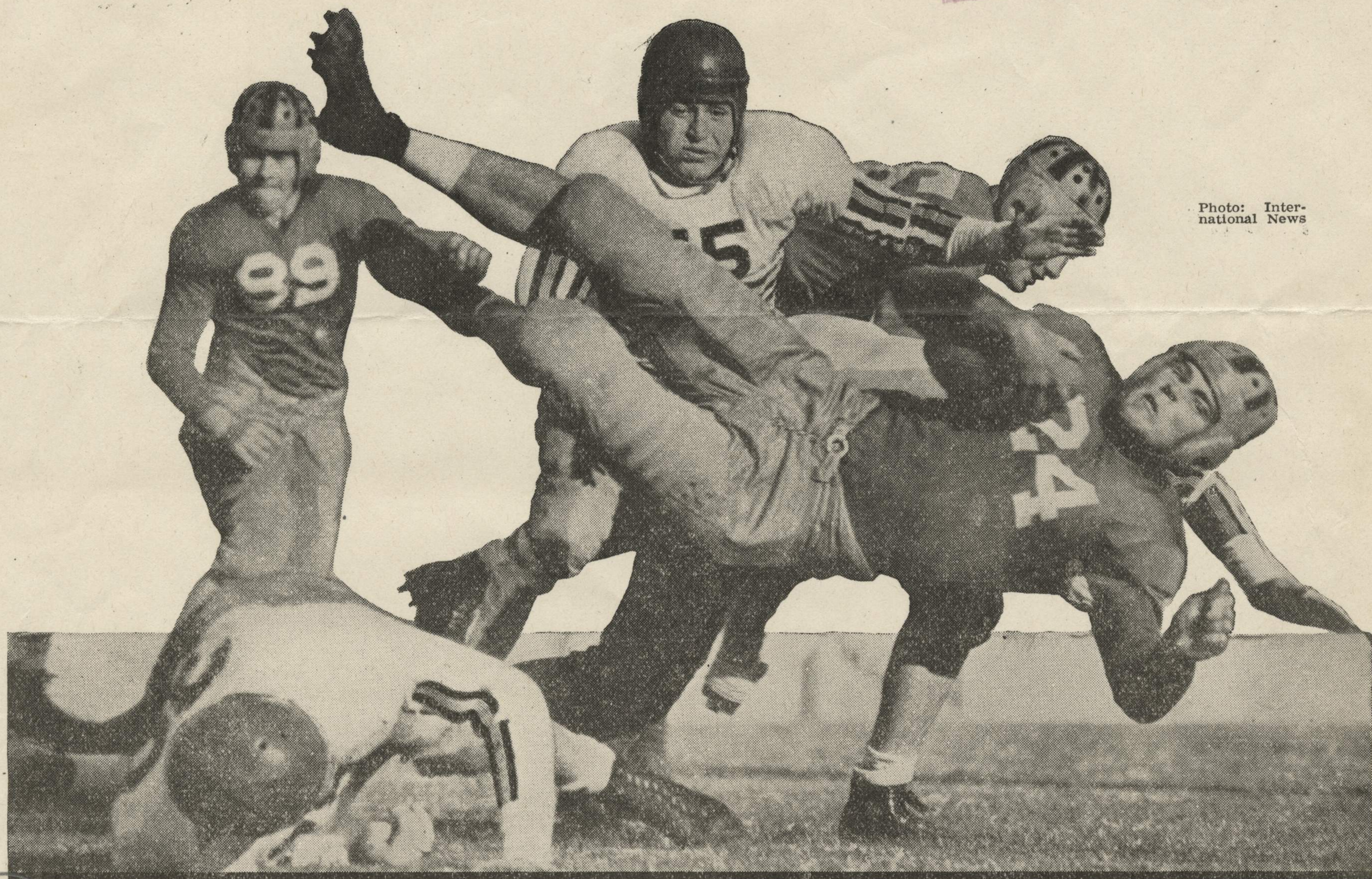


Photo: International News

## Should College Athletes Be Paid?

# Yes!

**Says Forrest C. Allen**

*Director of Physical Education, Basketball Coach, University of Kansas*

**S**UBSIDIZE college athletes? That's what we're doing now—furtively. There is not a college in the United States, excepting Johns Hopkins University and one or two others, that does not subsidize athletes.

Take the university with the 40 thoughtful alumni, for a sample. Every year each of these "well-heeled" gentlemen endows four scholarships each of which pays \$125 monthly. This has a way of bringing 160 hand-picked athletes to the campus every Fall. But the scholarships aren't exactly gifts. The boys have to earn them—by visiting their mothers at Christmas and Easter, absolutely! Beyond that there are no strings.

Or turn to that State university which a year or two ago diverted \$10,000 from its athletic association for advertising. The sum bought football and basketball players . . . at \$90 a month.

The same salary scale holds in a certain other school, but there the selection of the athletes who shall benefit is a matter of pure science—of trial and error. Each

August the football department holds a training camp where the varsity men start conditioning themselves for the Fall schedule. To the camp come also the freshmen prospects whom the athletic director and his aides have corralled during the Summer. Double workouts are held daily, and the new lads who survive the grind are selected to attend the institution—at \$90 a month, plus board, room, tuition, and all theater and baseball tickets. Freshmen who make poor showings in the gridiron drills are released—just as are the hopeless rookies in the Spring training camps of baseball's major leagues. Which is all very convenient. The coach knows what he's to work with *before* the boys matriculate—not *after*.

*Football is no longer a sport! It's a business!* A surreptitious business, a clandestine business—but a business nevertheless! I could offer further proof. I could cite as an added instance the school whose assistant athletic director is a sort of glorified paymaster. He handles all the monetary arrangements for the school's athletes whether they live on or off the campus. He "cracks down" on them if they violate training rules or let their scholastic averages slip. The football coach and the athletic director, of course, know nothing about it—but you and I both know that they know.

Someone has said that our American life divides itself into three epochs: the passing of the Indian, the passing of the buffalo, and the "passing of the buck." We are still in the last epoch—in the administration of college athletics. Everyone with

● **Continuing the Debate-of-the-Month Series**

at least one eye half open admits that there is *some* proselytizing in the present picture—but no one does anything about it, anything helpful. But something needs doing because this malignant lesion, this hypocritical parcelling out of sinecure jobs, is devitalizing many of our best athletes. Surreptitiously pay a boy more to play football in college than he can earn on the outside in honest employment and you leave a scar on him which he'll carry far beyond the campus halls. Having grown used to the feel of this so-called "easy money" during his days of eligibility, he often turns to professional football when his college days are over. You have, in fact, only to study the roster of the professional football leagues of the United States and note the players' college affiliations to learn where proselytizing is dominant.

Now you can't get rid of this great straight-faced subterfuge by talking about it. That has been tried. I doubt if you can get rid of it at all. But you can dignify it—by recognition. You can bring it out into the fresh air of public intelligence, agree on principles, establish a few simple, businesslike procedures—and so achieve scrupulous honesty in the athletic department of an institution dedicated to honest thinking, the college.

Talking, I have just said, has been tried. Three years ago the Committee on Student Group Life drew up some *Standards of Athletic Eligibility*. The National Association of State Universities endorsed them. Article III of these *Standards* provides that:

The faculty committee on eligibility shall, in advance of competition, require of each candidate for competition in any sport a detailed statement in writing of the amounts and sources of his financial earnings and income received, or to be received during the college year and the previous Summer, from others than those upon whom he is naturally dependent for support. In case any question arises with regard to the implication of this statement, the matter shall be referred to the executive committee of the conference for decision.

If the above unfair discriminatory regulation does not produce mass perjury, then pass judgment upon the following edict from the same *Standards of Athletic Eligibility*:

Every candidate for an athletic team must, after a careful explanation of all the eligibility regulations and their implications of honor, by the faculty committee on athletics, declare orally to the committee and in writing upon his honor his eligibility or ineligibility under each separate regulation. Each member of the athletic staff, physical-education department, athletic council, and faculty committee on athletics shall upon his honor in writing certify his own adherence to all the athletic regulations and to the best of his knowledge

the eligibility or ineligibility of every member of the team that represents the institution.

There is no admission or confession here stated that the majority of athletes are receiving secret subsidies, but the very tone of this act immediately gives it the spirit of the inquisition, and then the crime results in getting caught. This scheme above mentioned was in operation a decade ago concerning Summer baseball for collegians, and it failed dismally. It is working no better today.

Open, honest subsidy is the only answer. But by subsidizing I do not mean the hiring of athletes merely for playing ability, at a salary based on skill. We have that sort of thing now in the tramp athlete, the youth who seeks to barter his physical prowess *not* in exchange for an earnestly desired education, but only for an attractive monetary consideration. I am vehemently opposed to him and his kind, as I am certain most college coaches are. I am irrevocably against professionalism of ~~any~~ *any* sort or any other in college athletics!

But if subsidizing means "to furnish aid with a subsidy," or to give the athlete an even break with other students, then my answer is *Yes! And why not?*

Today is the age of subsidizing. James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard, stated recently that Harvard would subsidize the best young brains of the United States at his institution. Students preparing for law, medicine, engineering, the ministry, and all the professions have been and are subsidized through scholarships and fellowships. Why exclude physical education and athletics? "Without discrimination for or against the athlete" has long been the slogan of the present purity collegiate eligibility rules committee. There has been much talk but little action to shift that principle into gear. Byron ("Whizzer") White, superb football player from Colorado, is to be subsidized in England with a Rhodes Scholarship. Yet if the English practice of subsidizing Rhodes Scholars were applied to our American college athletes, all would be declared ineligible by our own eligibility committees.

One of the requirements of the Rhodes Scholarship is, in fact, that the applicant be outstanding in at least one sport. English education, in other words, encourages physical skill, while American education looks upon that kind of skill with suspicion.

The athlete, I repeat, is already and many times discriminated against. Just why should the finger of suspicion be pointed at a healthy, husky American boy because he wants to play a game in which he excels? Why should he be hailed into an academic court, lectured to, and caused to sign papers and also to declare orally that he is without stain of professional guilt any more than the rotund and dappered campus luminary with a Carusoan voice, who sells his talent *by* [Continued on page 59]



Photo: International News

FIRST PROOF

BZ

N.B. do do the classical or the chemical students value theirs —

# Should College Athletes Be Paid?

Yes!—Says Forrest C. Allen

[Continued from page 22]

singing at funerals and collects a tidy sum for singing in a church choir, and in addition gets credit toward graduation for his singing in that choir?

No credit is given the athlete for participating in daily two-hour practice drills on the football field, or for playing in a regularly scheduled contest. But if he should go down town and play in any competitive game with an outside team, even without remuneration, he would automatically become ineligible. If the athlete should referee an intramural game of any kind for the same amount of money that the singer receives for his hour's work, the athlete immediately becomes a professional and is ineligible to play. When playing for his school in an intercollegiate contest, he receives no academic credit, but credit toward graduation is given members of the band who play between halves at the same game.

If you want to teach history or chemistry, you can carry the minimum load the school requires and take as long as you desire to complete the course. But if you want to coach athletics and seek to earn a varsity letter as a recommendation, you must possess 28 hours of academic credit the two preceding semesters.

It is just as logical to think that we should have physical-education scholarships as well as any other special scholarships which are offered by alumni and

other beneficiaries. Coaching and physical education are professions, and the sooner we have a newer and a better understanding of these moot points, the better off all of us will be. Who can say that from a great army of aspiring youth, tingling with the love of contests and conquests, it is not possible to discover another young Naismith, a Stagg, a Gulick, or a MacKenzie? These men were all poor boys. They struggled for their education and they competed in athletics when their parents frowned upon the profession they were to take up. Since those days, physical education has been dignified and edified, until now we have giants of intellect as well as physique in the field of physical education.

Again, is it not possible for the fine young athlete to use his skills just as does the student of art or music? It has been said that the rhythm and the poise and the timing of a superb athlete are *art and poetry in action*.

But life is full of paradoxes. With one hand we give money to aid the physically crippled, and with the other we give boodle money to cripple mentally the physically strong. It is easy to collect \$1,000 for a "slush fund" for certain *sub-rosa* purposes, but impossible to collect \$100 for some legitimate activity.

No doubt you read some months ago about the investigation the Pacific Coast

Conference had instituted. It had hired a former "G-man" to assist in a survey of financial support for athletes playing in the conference. If a G-man should investigate any other honorable, long-established conference on obeying the present rules of the conference as they are now printed, his findings would cause much panic. The athletic situation is a mess. Conferences are printing one rule, but actually obeying another. This is comparable to the present international situation, when the world powers say we must be prepared, we must protect ourselves against the outlaws.

Colleges should take a page from the State of New York in its educational policy regarding high schools. All activities of the high schools, including all forms of competitive athletics, are under the direct control of the high-school administration. There is no such thing as an athletic association. If colleges would abolish their athletic associations, with their alumni and student boards, and if the universities would handle athletic funds the same as all other State-appropriated funds, then such bugbears as high-priced coaches' salaries and bits of skulduggery such as diverting \$10,000 or more from advertising channels into a "slush fund"—then much of the grief of our present athletic catastrophe would be done away with.

James Rowland Angell, when president of Yale University, once made the case for competitive sport groups when he said:

We must believe in all sincerity, as I am sure many of us do not, that physical education, including competitive sports, is an essential part of the obligation of the college and in no sense a mere excrescence to be confided to the casual outsider or to the transient apprentice. We must recognize that it stands in the closest possible relation to moral education, which we often pronounce as one of the prime duties of the college, if not, indeed, the very first. We must believe unreservedly in sports for the whole college community, and competitive group sports as far as possible. If, then, physical education in the largest sense is an intrinsic part of the work of the college, why should there longer be hesitation in recognizing that fact, and accepting the full responsibilities which go with it?

Why should there be, indeed? The core of the whole question is, what is better for youth? To answer, we must make a choice. Shall we continue a system that puts a premium on hypocrisy and dishonesty, that encourages selfishness and parasitism, that warps youth's view of life far out of line with the actual? Or shall we teach our young men to be realistic, to value their potential contributions as highly as the classics or chemistry student values his—and therefore to expect and get equal recognition? The choice, to me, seems obvious.

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