

GALLEY

That statement your Acting President made about the drink has just been brought to my attention by one of my subordinates, and I thought that even not being a member of what you kids call The College Community it might still be all right for me to put in my two cents' worth of contribution to all that free discussion you have going on up there on the Hill.

I've always been a great believer in free discussion just so long as it doesn't lead to action. It's actions make all the trouble for us enforcement folk. And that's why I approve so strongly of all the free discussion you can't get, because it works like a what you might call "surrogate" for doing anything about it. Why, you might even say about this case we've got right here, that as long as the girls have got words coming out of their mouths there's no room for the booze to go into their mouths, right?

Of course the law is the law, you all know that. You all know it, but it's so important I'll say it again, the law is the law. You all know that. And the law was mostly made by wise people, wiser than you and me, very long ago. And once a law is made, why, you naturally have lawbreakers, and so you have to have law enforcers. In this way, many new jobs are created. You take the law of Moses, for example, in the Bible, and the law of Jesus, in the Bible. Those laws don't altogether quite square with one another right down the line, but that doesn't matter, we Peace Officers know from the moment we put on the uniform that we've got to enforce them both -- whatever they say!

Now I want to show you girls one or two elementary things about how Law works. Oh, I know you're clever and educated, but there's no substitute for experience. Let's look together at one of the laws we had once, the one called Prohibition. That Law said, to put it simply and in nontechnical terms, Stop Drinking. Well, did people stop drinking? No, they did not. Of course the vast majority of law-abiding Americans did, but there were a few intellectuals and pinkos, even back then, who would go to any lengths to show how individual they were. And do you know what happened to them? I'll tell you what happened to them. They let the Syndicate in, that's what happened to them. And they not only got poison booze, they got beaten up -- terrorized -- murdered -- sometimes even put in jail. That's what happens when people refuse to obey the law. Of course, in that case, when the vast majority of Americans saw what was happening to those poor fellow-travelers, they just up and changed the Law so that it wasn't a Law anymore, and didn't have to be enforced by persons like yours truly. Which was some relief, believe you me. Because I don't really see -- to come back to your Acting President's fine statement -- how me and my department could really see to it that you didn't take a drink now and then up there on that Hill of yours, which is private property and as such protected against search without a warrant. My own notion how you might do it, is you pass the troopers on the local beat five bucks around Christmas, I don't see how they're going to bother you much or why they'd want to.

That's why I wanted so much to approve your Community's fine voluntary cooperation with the enforcement agencies. It makes our job that much easier, and frees some of my hard-working staff for an investigation into illicit sexual activities.

Thanks, girls,
Normal Monad, (Capt.)
Vermont Vice & Arson Squad