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Mr. Jones:

The decisions reached at the meeting held to discuss the problem of delinquent farmers I don't think really solved the matter. The farm program was not instigated as a part of the college curriculum thirteen years ago; it was started as a war emergency measure. When emergencies arise and immediate <sup>action</sup> must be taken it is inevitable that there have to be rules in order to enforce the measure. The farm program is the one tangible contribution that we, as college students, can make toward the war effort. In trying to incorporate farming into the curriculum, which is based on progressive educational policies, aren't we attempting a misfit? By the standards of the college the student pursues her main line of interest with help from her counselor. Generally speaking, our academic schedule is a question of individual wishes and talents. But the farm program is not a matter of personal interests; it is a matter of community cooperation with the nation as a whole in time of war. Factory workers are not asked whether or not the hours are convenient for them. They are told when they have to be at work, and if they are not there the money is docked off their weekly pay-checks.

I submit myself as a prime example of a delinquent who would have done well to be told by specific law what was expected of her and what, in the event of disobedience, the consequences would be. The argument that the student body would

rebel at such forceful measures I think is invalid. There is a fairly large group that agrees with me on this score. In the first place, for those who have faithfully done the required work a set of rules would mean no change and, secondly, those of us who have not fulfilled our time on the farm certainly are in no position to oppose rules made necessary due to our laziness. The work must be done, we must do it, and I feel very strongly that to make laws concerning absentee-ism is vitally important. It would not be a contradiction of the standards of Bennington, it would simply be an admission of the urgency of the work at hand which has nothing to do with the progressive standards of the college.

Do you think that there is any chance of having definite and authoritative rules set up for everyone to obey or else accept the consequences?

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Sherwood