

PLAIN TALK *by Jerome Joachim*

When a young man leaves his home and enters the armed forces of his country he has a variety of sensations including many which he might not want everyone to know about. If he is a normal young man, he has some fears about his future. While life is important to him, his greatest fear is not death but the manner in which he might deport himself in the face of possible death. He wants to live but even more important is his desire to live in a manner which will win for him the approbation of his buddies and his friends. The mental anguish of these thoughts often exceeds the pain and discomfort which his new form of life holds for him.

But despite all the sacrifices which young men of our time are being asked to make, the majority of them no doubt feel that all they are doing will be worth while provided the folks back home will do their part.

While it is impossible to assure these boys that everyone is doing everything he can to make life in these United States better for future generations we can assure them that thousands of people are more conscious of the social problems of our day than were the people of previous generations. Everywhere people are studying and learning the basic and fundamental principles which must be followed if men are to live together successfully.

If the average boy could put into words what he feels when he endures the many hardships of army life he would probably write a letter



to the people he knows and say something like this:

"I've had it pretty tough here but I don't mind as long as I can hope that something worthwhile is being accomplished. If I can help to destroy the attitude which men have that they have a right to enjoy the good things of life at the expense of other human beings. If what I am doing will teach people that man can only prosper by working with other men, not against them, then I will be happy.

"Today I am fighting an enemy who is convinced that man should be ruled by force. This enemy believes that leadership imposed on people by those who are in power is man's salvation while mankind somehow knows that the only leadership which can possibly develop people is that which grows within the individual and is imposed upon that individual by a greater knowledge of what is really in his own self interest.

"All I ask is that you people do not take my sacrifices for granted and assume that I alone can do the job. All I can do is to give you the opportunity to learn these basic principles while you are still free. Nothing could be more discouraging to me than to feel that what I am doing is to give you folks an opportunity you will never use."

[Copies of this editorial, written by the editor of *The Berwyn Beacon*, were sent to hundreds of service men to assure them that people "back home" do realize their responsibility and are trying to do something about it.]