

Jack Anderson Speaks of Presidential Election

Jack Anderson, a nationally syndicated columnist who is well known for his participation in Senator Eagleton's withdrawal from the national presidential Democratic ticket, spoke September 26 in a Community Relations' lecture here.

Mr. Anderson spoke first about the two major presidential candidates. He described Senator George McGovern as a "warm, compassionate, decent man" with a "feeling for people" when McGovern is acting as a person and not as a politician. However, when acting the part of the latter, the Senator's "heart is in the right place" but he "can stretch the truth". His solutions are "illusive" and not always "practical", Anderson said.

Of President Nixon, Anderson explained that he was a "decent, warm, honorable man" as a person. The political Mr. Nixon "slashes, slices, and slams" at people as he has had done to himself," said Anderson. The columnist continued by saying that the President has the "best practical solutions but does not understand people." Nixon, said Anderson, is running a "roc-'em soc-'em campaign."

When asked who he would vote for, Anderson explained that although he will vote for McGovern, he would not

endorse him. His negative treatment of the Republican party is due to the fact that President Nixon entered the presidency advocating law and order but while in office Nixon fought the Justice Department on many accounts—for example, the attempt to stop presses during the Pentagon-Paper incident, and the treatment of John Mitchell.

Anderson then explained that this nation needs someone who can inspire America. "We need a leader who can touch the hearts of men." Neither Nixon nor McGovern can do this, the columnist said. Anderson was of the opinion that Lyndon Johnson could not inspire either, but John Kennedy could.

In criticizing the role of the president, he said that "we elect a president to be our servant;" however, after his treatment in the White House, he starts feeling like our master; we then become the servants.

According to the famed journalist, "the government by its very nature tends to oppress. It needs a watchdog." The press is that watchdog, he went on. As Thomas Jefferson said, newspapers without government is better than government without newspapers.

It is necessary, Anderson

declared, that the people know what is happening. "The most important function in a democracy is the citizen...the citizen's need to know is more important than the President's need to know." The columnist continued, the vast Washington bureaucracy is depriving the citizen of his knowledge. When the Presidency speaks of national security, what is meant actually is political security, the journalist stated.

If what we know today from the Pentagon Papers was unveiled or known during Johnson's administration, perhaps Americans would have saved 50,000 American lives and 120 billion dollars, Anderson declared. These lives and this money was "wasted because we were not told the truth, not given the facts. Johnson could have been stopped—he was susceptible to public opinion," Andersn declared.

In an answer to a question concerning the intensity of the Viet Nam War, he stated that "the ground war is largely over but the total war has increased. More bombs are being dropped now than under Lyndon Johnson." Both the bombings and minings have failed, he said.

Denise Adams