

MAY 17 1968

## editor's Thinking out loud . . .

Members of the 29th Infantry Brigade left Monday for active duty in the U.S. Army. They will intensify their training at Schofield Barracks and become an integral part of this nation's defenses. Their absence from the community will be missed, not only by their families and friends, but by their employers and fellow workers. However, before these island men marched off for camp and possibly for war, they left us a marching song ending with a "little food for thought."

This marching song of E Troop could be heard about every hour on the radio. In all probability it will become commonplace among Hawaii's favorite songs.

The "little food for thought" is what caught our attention. It was a one-paragraph speech by a member of E Troop. In the first place he assured the listeners that the 29th would bring honor to Hawaii and that the members of the brigade would conduct themselves in such a manner as to make all Hawaii proud of them in uniform. Knowing the caliber of some of the men, and we are sure it holds true for all the men, there is no doubt in our minds about these men of the 29th. Any State and any community can be justly proud of these men in uniform. We are proud of them because they represent the

manhood of a great nation to which we all owe our high standard of living and our general well being.

We are proud for another reason. When the call-up came, these men immediately began to put into order their civilian lives and to prepare for their military duty. They did not as a group begin massed demonstrations and protests against the government that was asking them to serve now actively. True, they were bound by military oath to serve, but in this day and age such responsibility means little to a segment of America's young men. The latter group has been attempting to stop troop trains entering camps on the West Coast, has been holding sit-ins at draft board office, has threatened recruiting officers on campuses, and has ridiculed those young men willing to serve their country in an honorable manner. The members of the 29th did not protest, they accepted their responsibility of citizenship and answered willingly the nation's call-up to service.

The speaker at the end of the song also criticized the draft-card burning by many of our young men. Such draft-card burning is alleged to have taken place on the University of Hawaii campus just recently. The speaker called these young men "immature." He said a

mouth-full. They are immature. They are selfish. They want all the benefits of citizenship in this nation without the obligation to serve this nation, to defend it. They want their cake and eat it at the same time. It cannot be done. A disturbing thought expressed by the speaker was this: It is too late for these immature youths. We would like to believe that maturity could replace the present immaturity of the protestors and demonstrators. Perhaps the first step would be for the adults who lead and advise these youths of today to become mature and responsible.

The question that crossed our mind when we listened to this marching song of the 29th was what would happen if these same citizen-soldiers would be called upon to protect university buildings and to restore order when the "immature young men on campus" decide to take over the Manoa campus. How much restraint would an officer impose upon his troops in restoring order? It would be a real test of patience on the part of troops to avoid knocking heads together in a convincing manner.

Everyone speaks of the future with idyllic dreams. It must be remembered that there will be no future if our cherished institutions of today are not defended by men of the caliber of those

## They Marched Away

up the men of the 29th this past week. We want to reassure these men that we back them and above all that we will pray for their safe return, pray for each and everyone of them. Judas was disloyal to Christ and betrayed him. The Church as such will not betray the men of the 29th, even though a Judas might appear within the ranks of Church membership on an occasion. We hope that there is no Judas.

It is our hope that the tour of duty for the 29th will be as pleasant as possible under the circumstances and that an early peace settlement in Vietnam will release them earlier than expected so that they can resume their daily lives with their families and friends.

It will be men of the 29th whom history will thank for protecting us and for permitting us to perfect those institutions which are not yet perfect. The immature youths of today will hold no honored place in our minds or in our hearts and history will certainly condemn them for their stupidity and immaturity.

The Church supports all legitimate and duly constituted governments, no matter what form such governments might take. The Church as a whole supports the democratic institutions in this country, which were chosen by the electorate of citizens. Until the voting public through its voice of the ballot changes its minds, we will support the administration which called