

THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT ** 58-59:

AN ANALYSIS

By Joe Andrade

PREFACE

The purpose of this paper is to provide you, the Student Body President of the future, with a rough idea of the type of job you have been elected to and to tell you the duties, responsibilities, and objectives of that job. Its purpose is also to enable you to profit by the mistakes of those who preceded you.

This paper is an analysis of my term of office. It tells what I felt I was supposed to do, what I did, what I didn't do, and what I shouldn't have done.

The limitations of the paper are many. First, I want to apologize for the time I took to prepare it. It was strictly a week-end affair. When there's only 24 hours in a day, one cannot do all he wants to — no matter how great his desire. Second, no books were consulted and, as a result, there is no bibliography.

I certainly enjoyed writing this paper for, in analyzing my failures and accomplishments, I profited by my own mistakes.

Mike Overacker, Steve Gossard, and all future Student Body Presidents who read this: Congratulations, good luck, and I hope the words that follow will be of help to you.

May 16, 1959

Joe Andrade

I.

THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE

"...who has left the world better than he found it." This is part of a definition of success I once heard in a speech. To leave the world better than you find it — this should be your primary goal and objective as Student Body President and it should be the goal and objective of all the members of your Council as well.

Your primary duty, Mr. President, is the conduction of the meetings of your Student Council. That was one of the primary reasons you were elected — to preside. It then, of course, follows that you must have a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure. If you do not already have this knowledge, it can be obtained by a few minutes of study in any library. Your emotions must not ~~enter~~ affect your presiding of the meeting and you should not opine on the subject under discussion. You should have an agenda for most of your meetings. It can usually be worked out by you and your secretary, as she can tell from her minutes what business is uncompleted, what committees are in operation, etc. Above all, if your meeting begins to lag, you must "pick it up". When a topic of business comes up and you find that no one has any opinions you should break the silence and get some of the members to start talking. If you have an interested and able council (as I was fortunate in having), your meetings will probably never lag.

You are a representative of your school and should represent it authoritatively and accurately. Your school is a member (or it was) of District Seven, California Association of Student Councils. You are expected to represent Washington at the cabinet meetings of ~~the~~ District Seven or find someone to be there in your place. You will be notified as to the meeting places and dates. If you're a boy you'll probably be chosen as Washington's representative to the Centerville Lions Club. The Lions Club representative for the previous year will let you know. Your job is to tell what Washington has done, is doing, and will do at each meeting of the club. This is a job you will probably find very enjoyable. Attending the meetings of the Lions Club was the one job resulting from my office that I enjoyed most.

At times you will be asked to give speeches to various organizations about Washington. Various events in the school at times will be "M.C'd" by you, e.g., awards dinners, Student Council installation, assemblies, and others.

Occasionally you will find yourself writing letters and making phone calls, for your job necessitates communicating with other schools and other student leaders. You will be given the opportunity to attend various leadership conferences -- you should attend, both to further your own knowledge and to communicate.

Student Government Days are becoming a common thing. When the students take over Washington, you will find that you are "Pop" -- the district superintendent -- for the day. The cities of Fremont and Newark are allowing student leaders to take over

the cities' government for a day this year and chances are that this will become an annual event. Usually the Student Body President is the mayor or, in some cases, the city-manager.

This year the president had to write a student government news column for The Hatchet. If this is continued in the future, you have more work to squeeze into your already crowded schedule, Mr. President.

As we have mentioned indirectly, you should be an example to your fellow students. This means regular attendance at football and basketball games and other athletic events (whatever you do, don't miss the annual Washington-Logan football game --that's a must!); you should be a member of one or more clubs and should be frequently seen at dances and other social events; and you should probably have one major activity in addition to student government, e.g., athletics, agriculture, science, dramatics, music, etc.

That about covers your duties. If you're reading this in 1965 or 1970, chances are you've probably got a h of a lot of other duties added to your list. You better get the fence painted, the gardening caught up, and some studying done during the summer -- you won't have much time for them during school.

You may be one of the busiest bees on the campus and at times you may come to school with circles under your eyes, but you can bet your bottom dollar that it's worth it. The coming year and your job as president will both be enjoyed.

Congratulations -- and good luck!

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II.

AN ANALYSIS OF MY TERM OF OFFICE.

My job was made much easier by a group of swell kids -- the Student Council. Nearly all of them actively participated in most of the meetings. Intelligent and efficient Miss Nancy Morris was an indispensable member of the Council -- she was Chief Justice -- and a person I deeply respect and admire. With kids like this -- how could I go wrong?

Parliamentary procedure is a nice thing but I don't like to use it to any great extent. We used just enough of Mr. Roberts's Rules to keep our meeting running smoothly. Our meetings were usually very informal. If a person wanted the floor, he of course obtained permission from the chair, but when a debate between two or three individuals arose, we usually let them talk back and forth, providing its worthwhile, without the chair's recognition. Occasionally, however, they had to be called out-of-order. I sincerely believe that one of the reasons we accomplished so much was because of the informality of our meetings.

Agendas were made out for most meetings. Towards the end of the year when everything was happening, agendas many times were not prepared. If you, Mr. future President, have the same problem of lack of time, perhaps you can appoint someone to make out the agendas and then all you'd have to do is approve them.

The one duty in regards to meetings that I failed in was not letting my emotions enter into my decisions and the presiding

of the meetings. Also, my opinions were always given.

In March of 1959 an outstanding member of the junior class, Rich Seoane, died as a result of an auto accident. I knew him quite well and wanted to "pus " through certain items in Student Council in regards to his death. I realize now I let my emotions run away with me and had it not been for my wise Council, I might of had my way. One good thing that resulted was the formation of a school policy in regards to the death of students: that a card and flowers be sent from the Associated Students to the family of any student in regular session at W.U.H.S. who passes away.

I gave so many opinions during my term of office that they can't be counted. Everyone has their ideas and I had mine -- so I expressed them. I don't think this is to bad unless one goes overboard -- perhaps I did.

In representing Washington, I think I was successful. I attended/^{as}many of the CASC District Seven board meetings as I could and represented WUHS to the best of my ability.

You do something better when you enjoy it -- and I really enjoyed Lions Club. It was actually fun to attend their meetings, eat those juicy steaks, listen to their wild stories (you can really pick up some good jokes at those meetings), and enjoy their various programs. Giving the school report was a dreaded task for the first few meetings, but from then on it was easy going. They're a sweet bunch of fellows and I know you'll have a lot of fun in representing Washington there.

As far as communicating with other student leaders and their schools, I kept in touch by phone with several of the District Seven schools in regards to board meetings (by the way, you will find a district constitution and a constitution of the state organization in the back of this paper. Perhaps they've changed by the time you read this paper) and attended all of the leadership conferences the district held.

My biggest failure was in Student Government Day. Instead of following "Pop" around and doing what he did, all I did was sit in his office all day and do little or nothing. I had a fever and didn't feel too good, but I still should have performed my job. In regards to the city Student Government Days, I can't write an analysis for they haven't come up yet.

"Student Council Quotes" wasn't always in before the deadline but it was always written and made its way into The Hatchet.

I was an example to my fellow students in some ways and was not an example in others. As far as "litter-bugging (that's one of my pet peeves), good grooming, etc., I think I was a fair example. But in attendance of school events, well that's a different story. I attended about two-thirds of the football games, one basketball game, no track or wrestling meets, no tennis meets, no baseball games, and one swimming contest. I attended about half of the dances, but didn't go to the Junior Prom. And I didn't attend very many of the other social events, etc., here at Washington. Right about now, Mr. President of the future, you're probably thinking; "Why that character back there in '59 must've been one H___ of a president!" But let me explain

a little. As I mentioned before, a president doesn't have much time anyway. But when you have two or three part time jobs, you don't even have time to polish your shoes or wash your car, hence I couldn't attend all of the athletic and social events -- I'm a crummy dancer anyway. As far as the major activity bit and clubs, I fulfilled that responsibility. Junior Statesmen had the bad luck of having me as a member and I participated in the Science Fair and other scientific activities.

That about covers my analysis (if I go on, then you'll really think I'm lousy). In summary, I believe I fulfilled most of my duties and obligations. I think I've learned how to harness my emotions when in a position of responsibility. I've made a lot of mistakes but I've profited by them and I hope you will to.

Our student government, on the whole, this year was quite successful. This is due, as I said, to the caliber of people I had to help me. They were all tops. It is also due to an ~~administ~~ administration that is very leniant and helpful and an adviser that is swell (the poor guy -- almost every time he'd suggest something, somebody what get up and tell why they didn't like it). He is really great and I admire him in many ways -- especially for the patience he had with us.

Again, I hope the paper's been helpful and I hope you have a Council as swell as mine was. You have the talents to fulfill your responsibilities, or you woudn't have been elected.

Congratulations, Mr. future President!

(Please don't think I can't spell; I'm just a lousy typist).