

A Golfer's Greatest Responsibility

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We hear much about training caddies, and little about training golfers. It would be well if golfers developed a greater consciousness of a responsibility that is more important than their scores, bigger than the game itself—that is, a responsibility to help their caddies in character growth.

The Western Golf Association is doing a creditable job through its Evans Scholars' Foundation, which merits every golfer's support, but their noble work and similar projects on the part of other golf associations only scratch the surface.

The fact that two million golfers come into frequent contact with one million caddies, mostly young boys, for long and repeated intervals produces an opportunity. This contact can be used to help mold character. It could be the means of creating a balance of power to control the destiny of our country.

My attendance at the last Ryder Cup Match in England and my trips to Ireland and France gave me an opportunity to talk with persons from various countries of Europe and to sense the damage done by neglecting proper guidance of young minds.

The effect of anti-God, lust for power, distrust and hatred is still a problem among boys who were subjected to these sinister influences.

Now the Soviet Union, China and many other countries—a high percentage of all the peoples of the world—are dominated by hostile ideologies. They seem determined to destroy our free way of life. We have great cause for concern.

The average caddie respects and admires his employer. At least, he should be given every reason to do so.

No one need preach to his caddie. But a golfer is in a position to set a good example, a fair one. He can help in a small way to keep our heritage of freedom alive. He can teach respect for duly constituted authority.



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No man, no group of men has the right to take the law into their own hands. Mob rule is the first step toward loss of freedom. The sanctity of the ballot box must be preserved.

I am sorry if this does not sound too golffy. But every day we read of people being persecuted for liberties and rights that are ours by birth, that our forefathers fought and died for.

Should we fall asleep and lose them or ask our caddies to help us preserve them for themselves and their children as well as ours?

We can see widespread infiltration by propaganda to promote philosophies of hate between our country and others, between employers and labor. If we can read, we should know what is going on.

Every golfer should spread the gospel. This is not intended to be spectacular. Rather, it is a warning against the sort of disinterest or smug complacency that permitted a mentally unbalanced paperhanger almost to destroy the world.