

National Scout Commissioner, the Chief Scout Executive, and even the President of the United States have proudly worn the Arrow. Yes, they have even been photographed in the regalia.

But more than this, in terms of service rendered, there has been a proud record. What impetus to the camping program! What rising to meet emergency calls! What acts of human sympathy, as for instance, the translation of our *Handbook* into the Braille system so that blind Scouts might read it, have happened during these twenty-five years.

Above all, the spirit of Scouting, the spirit of cheerful service, at work in the lives of all of us and reflected in the lives of those with whom we come in contact in our troops and Local Councils, is the thing that has counted.

For all of this achievement of a quarter of a century, I take little or no personal credit. It has been the spirit of cheerful service under the banner of Scouting that has prevailed, and that, thanks to the leadership which has been ours, particularly from young men of good will, has caused all of this to happen.

III. A Few Injunctions as We Face The Next Twenty-five Years.

From my highly exalted position as "patriarch," there are a few injunctions that I would like to pass on to you as we face the next twenty-five years.

1. Keep our program *Boy centered* and *Youth centered*.

Boys and young men grow up so rapidly that before we know it they are men,

full grown. We must adhere to our tradition, however, that the leadership of our Lodges should be found in the ranks of our youth. This has been our tradition. We must keep it so.

In this connection, it is highly important that the democratic processes of selection of members be adhered to. There should be no such thing as "black balling," as a Lodge veto vote. The ordeal is the only process of elimination. Close adherence to this principle of democratic selection is highly essential as we go forward.

2. Keep our program *Troop centered*.

I have been highly gratified at the evidence that our program and methods have kept pace with the emphasis on Troop camping. It was in such an emphasis that the Order was born, for Treasure Island in 1915 was a camp for Troops, each Troop coming to camp with their Scoutmaster or other Troop leader.

There must be no competition between the program of the Order and the Troop program, between the organization of the Order and Troop organization. The Troop is the thing. Therefore, I delight in the development of the Troop chapter idea and all the emphasis now being given toward using the Order as a means of strengthening and supporting the Troop.

3. Keep our program *Camp centered*.

The Order was born in camp. There it has its roots. It was to keep the spirit of Scout idealism alive and vivid in the Scout camp that the first Lodge came into being.

There is so much for us to do in this field that it is a vast mistake to wander into