

The Family Heritage Series

A weekly discussion of Americanist truths and traditions for those "heirs of all the ages" who will have to preserve that most important inheritance of all — freedom.
Produced by the Movement To Restore Decency.



Volume II

Lesson Eighty-Two

Competition

LESSON IDEA

To show that competition is an essential ingredient in the free enterprise system. It works automatically to see that we get better goods at lower prices, and to reward those who have earned it.

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IN THE COUNTRY of Utopia, the leading university in the capital city of Daydream once had a very fine baseball team. At the start of the season, no one really thought the team would do very well. It did not have any outstanding players on it, the coach was new to the job, and last season the team had not even broken .500.

But this year was different. The team, which was called the Hopefuls, won its first game in the eleventh inning by a score of 3 to 2. The players won their second game by 5 to 1, leading all the way. During their next three games, their opponents never scored a run. The sixth game went into extra innings, but again the Hopefuls won it. With two out in the bottom of the thirteenth inning, the pitcher hit a bloop single into right field, scoring a man from third.

On and on the season went. When it was over, the Hopefuls had won the city championship with an undefeated record. Then, they took the regional championship. And finally, in a game that lasted twenty-three innings, they won the national championship by a score of 9 to 8.

The entire country exploded with excitement.

The underdog team from the nation's capital had had a perfect season! Thousands of excited fans lined the streets of Daydream to cheer the players. The mayor gave them the key to the city. Politicians stood in line, to have their photographs taken with the team.

One legislator, who represented the district where the team's best hitter lived, even proposed that the Congress of Utopia pass a bill, proclaiming the team the best that ever played baseball. In fact, he suggested the team was so good that it should never have to play another game. "After all," he said, "haven't these boys already proven they are the best? Why should they have to prove it again and again?"

To the surprise of everyone except those who know how politicians sometimes vote, the Congress did approve the bill. By law, it proclaimed that the Hopefuls would never have to play another game to prove they were the best; they were declared champions by an act of Congress.

THE TEAM WENT on a tour of the nation, meeting fans, speaking in schools, riding in parades, opening fairs, and visiting hospitals. Everywhere they went, the champions were welcomed and cheered and invited to huge banquets. In fact, for eighteen months they did almost everything but practice or play baseball.

Then one day, during a visit way out in the country, the Hopefuls were invited to play a

