Lafayette Club Banquet

Members of the Lafayette club held their annual observance of Lafayette day last night at the club quarters. Five men appeared with a capacity audience. Associate Justice Edward J. Lampron of the New Hampshire supreme court, was principal speaker. The head table group included, seated from left, Atty. Gerald H. Bouvier, Judge Lampron, President Rudolph Ouellale, Monsignor Alfred R. Julien, pastor of St. Louis de France church, and City Councillor Raymond J. Lord; standing, from left, Paul Descheneaux, Maurice Chataisneauve, Andre Bertrand, Paul Normandin, Omer Descheneaux and Ronald Picard.

American Youth Should Emulate
Lafayette Says N. H. Judge

LOWELL—Our youth of today, said Judge Lampron, who addressed the Lafayette Club at their annual banquet marking the anniversary of the death of Gen. Lafayette, "must emulate the example of 18-year-old Marquis de Lafayette instead of spending its time tearing up draft cards, causing riots at beaches, challenging the nation's president, and the activities in Viet Nam and Santo Domingo." Thus spoke Judge Edward J. Lampron of the New Hampshire supreme court addressing a capacity audience of members of the Lafayette club at their annual banquet marking the anniversary of the death of Gen. Lafayette.

"Lafayette" continued Judge Lampron, "was not a colonist in America." He was a 19-year-old nobleman with a pregnant wife and one child in France. He owned considerable property, led a life of leisure in the French court, and had no reason for leaving it all to come to America to join Washington and his men in their fight against British domination, a fight which meant privations, suffering from cold, lack of food etc.

"But, Lafayette was an idealist. He felt that the colonists' cause was a just one and he left everything he loved and cherished, purchased a ship "La Victoire" at his own expense and came to America to offer his services. As is usually the case, the Continental Congress was suspicious. It wanted to know 'Why?' It couldn't understand such a sacrifice but it didn't take long for our leaders to recognize the contributions this young man was making to the cause.

"You men of the Lafayette club should remember that family influence has a lot to do with the activities of our young men. If they see their elders ignore laws by ducking jury duty before the courts, they are apt to go along with these boys who come from families like ours, will act accordingly."

"These boys rioting at Hampton beach threw broken bottles, rocks and other articles, at the state troopers and caused thousands of dollars in damages and injured many troopers. Yet, they later heard their attendants charge 'Police Brutality' because state troopers and police tried to defend themselves against the mob.

"Last week, the University of New Hampshire students, instead of inviting true Americans as speakers, tried to get some of the most aroused Communists, to appear on their forums."

SPEAKING of President De Gaulle of France, Judge Lampron was critical of those who fail to understand that this man, who led the French when other leaders had given up, who recognized the French government and is trying to bring his nation back as a world leader, is, first of all, a patriot interested in his country. Too many of us, said the speaker, are apt to criticize leaders of nations in Europe and Africa and elsewhere, who won't take dictation from the United States. While the American government may be right in some instances, it can't be right all the time and understanding the problems of these nations would do more for world peace than constant criticism by some newspaper columnists who seem to control American opinion. Judge Lampron said "Let's think for ourselves, for a change."

Judge Lampron suggested that organizations in this country should do well to invite speakers from France and Canada, for example, to explain their side.

Monsignor Alfred R. Julien, pastor of St. Louis de France parish, who had given the opening invocation after being presented by President Rudolph Ouellale, spoke along the same lines and read Lafayette's message to the Continental Congress when he was told of honours being conferred on him for his services. The message said: "The moment I heard of America, I loved her; the moment I knew she was fighting for freedom, I burned with a desire of bleeding for her; and the moment I shall be able to see her at any time, or in any part of the world, will be the happiest of my life."

CITY COUNCILLOR Raymond J. Lord, a member of the club, read, as he has for many years, the governor's proclamation on Lafayette Day.

Judge Lampron was presented by Atty. Gerald H. Bouvier, past president, who is associated with the judge in the Astoria Canada-American Banquet. A telegram was read from Gov. John A. Volpe, expressing his wish for a successful observance. President Ouellale introduced the following past presidents: Paul Chevalier, seated at head table as their representative; George Normandin, Dr. Joseph F. Montminy, Gerald H. Bouvier, Andre Bertrand, Holman Perron, Omer Descheneaux, Victor Tremblay, Andre Bouvier and Louis Landry.