

On Monday afternoon, Colonel John C. Nickerson, Jr. was officially served with charges and specifications preferred against him with Colonel Antulio Segarra, Inspector General, Headquarters Third U. S. Army, Fort McPherson, Georgia, signing the charges as the accuser. He is charged with violating Article of War 92 under which charge they have alleged fifteen specifications or specific violations. He is also charged with violation of Article 134 with three specifications under this latter Article.

We feel the charges and specifications as drawn tend to greatly enlarge on any activities or indiscretions that the Colonel might possibly have committed in his enthusiastic desire to serve his branch of service and the specific assignment that he has given so much of his time and talents to in recent months. We further feel that when the facts--meaning all of the facts involved--become known, Colonel Nickerson will appear in an entirely different light, not only to his military superiors but to the public in general, from the position that he has been so unfortunately placed by the preferring of these charges and the numerous specifications as set forth.

Any statement as to the nature of the course to be pursued in Colonel Nickerson's defense would be premature at this time. Colonel Charles Zimmer, the Post Judge Advocate at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and 1st Lt. Lewis Cole, his assistant, have been assigned as Colonel Nickerson's military defense counsel; and it is, therefore, imperative

in Colonel Nickerson's interests that his military counsel and civilian counsel confer at length before making any statements as to the nature of his defense.

We would like to make this statement, and make it in clear, uncertain phraseology, that to prefer charges is one thing and to prove those charges is another. The Army has chosen its course of action and the burden of proof definitely rests on the Army.

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