

President's Message



FLORIDA GREEN:

Much has been said about the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association Code of Ethics item 9 and the violation of this code. It states, "*Abstain from the debasement of, or encroachment upon, the professional reputation, practice or employment of another superintendent.*" May we have your comments on this?

TOM BURROWS:

Many persons claim negligence to the interpretation of this code. Let's look at the three major points; debasement, encroachment upon, and professional reputation.

debasement — implies generally a lowering of quality, value, dignity, degeneration of morals *

encroachment upon — to seize upon, take, to trespass or intrude upon the rights of another *

professional reputation — estimation in which a person is commonly held, character in view of public, good repute, good name, a good reputation *

* *Webster's dictionary.*

To me, these three items are very clear. They are extremely valuable guidelines to follow in potential employment situations. If a superintendent wishes to uphold professional and moral values in the view of other professionals and peers, he will not intrude upon or discuss employment for another superintendent's position until that superintendent is aware that his current position is open. ■