

"Don't Worry---They've Got Their Heads Together"



EDITORIAL PAGE

LA GRANDE OBSERVER

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"Without or with friend or foe, we print your daily world as it goes"—Byron.

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Adm. Rickover Views Education

Vice Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, writing in last week's issue of the Saturday Evening Post, thrusts himself into the current debate over education with a strong indictment of the American school system.

Briefly, he takes the position that today's educators have abandoned the nation's traditional concept of education in favor of a fuzzy "progressive" view which neglects fundamentals and shifts emphasis on mechanical skills.

The charges which Adm. Rickover brings against the schools are not new. There have been a number of books and countless articles written on the same theme. However, none of the other critics have had the advantage of such a glamorous title as "father of nuclear propulsion," coupled with such a wide audience as afforded by the Post.

Many thoughtful readers of the article will find much with which they can agree in Adm. Rickover's arguments in favor of fundamentals of education.

However, there are several basic flaws in his position which deserve exposition. By dividing the issue into two rival camps, the "progressives" and the "traditionalists," he makes the mistake of oversimplification. In so doing he is literally declaring a war in which there only can be victory for one side and defeat for the other.

The true path to better education, we're sure, is really somewhere between these two extremes.

What seems most needed are men of good will who can recognize the good and the bad in both traditional and progressive concepts and fuse a system better able to meet a future which certainly will confront the nation with some of its most crucial challenges.

Adm. Rickover's position gets him in trouble in his very first paragraph:

"With increasing determination, one side ("progressives") defends a status quo in which it has a vested interest; the other ("traditionalists") urges vainly that the rights of America's children and the survival of the nation in freedom and prosperity must be placed above this narrow self-interest."

The implication is clear. Either you agree with Adm. Rickover and his traditionalists or you are, at best, a fool, and

more probably un-American.

We're sure that anyone with even a casual interest in education will recognize the absurdity of such a position. It serves no good purpose to condemn those engaged in shaping the nation's school programs with such a sweeping generality. Impugning a man's views as motivated only by self-interest is dealing in the very kind of anti-intellectualism which Adm. Rickover indicates he deprecates.

We must, also, take issue with his assumption that there is a "status quo" in education.

In truth, there are many indications that the pendulum is swinging back from the extremes of the pragmatists to a more balanced approach to education.

Here in Oregon, for instance, a study has just been completed in Portland which may have far-reaching effects on both high school and college education.

Adm. Rickover fails even to mention in his article the studies which Dr. Conant is making and which many educators feel will result among other things in needed changes in favor of bright students.

He mentions the fact that the teaching of Greek is no longer in favor but fails to note that Latin, another favorite of the fundamentalists, has recently made a come-back and is now the second most popular language studied by American schoolchildren.

There is another aspect of this educational "war" theory which should be examined. In taking an all-or-nothing approach, the traditionalists have fashioned a powerful weapon which too often is being turned against the schools by persons who give lip service to education but in truth are more concerned with school costs.

Adm. Rickover asserts in his article that he is concerned with getting at the "real issue" in American education. We believe that instead he has created a false issue and in so doing has glossed over the real truth, which we see to be made up of many issues and points of view.

He calls many of our schools "glittering" workshops. It seems to us that many of his remarks represent "glittering" generalities.

Perhaps We're Just Suspicious, But . . .

A news story the other day told of the installation of a new gambling game (new to the U.S., that is) in a Las Vegas hotel and casino.

During the first 24 hours of baccarat, the story reported, the hotel lost more than \$200,000 to gamblers.

Well, perhaps we're just suspicious, but . . .

What would be a better way of insuring a full supply of suckers than to put out a story that the players made off with nearly a quarter of a million dollars at a game?

DREW PEARSON SAYS:

Ike Will Not Loosen Purse Strings On Space Program

(Editor's Note—Drew Pearson has left for Europe and Asia to interview the leaders of the 11 countries Eisenhower will visit and report on what they will talk to Ike about. Until he begins these interviews his column is being written by Jack Anderson.)

WASHINGTON — Despite the failure of another moon rocket, President Eisenhower has refused to loosen the purse strings that have been strangling our space program. This is the reason the National Aeronautics and Space Administration so far hasn't scheduled another moon shot all next year.

The President clearly intends to keep the national debt from hitting the moon even if it means holding down our rockets too. The National Security Council has estimated it will cost \$1,500,000,000 a year to keep up with Russia in the space race. This would be the bill for the civilian space program alone, not counting military missiles and satellites.

But Ike has ruled that the most he can allow NASA next year is \$750,000,000—only half of what is needed. This means the United States, already an estimated five years behind the Russians in space research, will drop even farther behind.

Instead of shooting rockets at the moon, NASA will concentrate on launching a man into space next year. The first man should be able to crawl into a rocket for a quick trip into space by early fall. NASA even has high hopes of spinning him into orbit around the earth by Christmas, 1960.

Yet reports from Russia indicate the Soviets will pull these stunts, too, ahead of the United States.

Note—even if the last moon rocket had reached its goal, it was not equipped to duplicate the Soviet feat of photographing the moon's backside. The best equipment the United States could install was an infrared device which would have traced a dim outline of the moon's unseen side. Another space shot is scheduled later this month, but won't be aimed at any specific celestial target.

Subsidizing Cancer?

If many people heed the Public Health Service's warning to stop smoking for fear of lung cancer, the Agricultural Department will be stuck with a lot of Ripe Virginia leaf on its hands. For one branch of government is underwriting the nation's tobacco crop at the same time another branch is warning against its use.

REMEMBER WHEN

. . . 25 years ago, final plans were mapped for the official visit here by the national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, James Van Zandt, the local VFW post was acting as host and announced that a banquet in honor of the commander would be held at the Sacajawea, with a ball to follow in Zuber Hall.

On the sports scene, nationally, Navy beat Army, 3-0, on a field goal before 80,000 fans in the traditional big football game. It was the first win by the Middies over Army since 1921.

Picked on an All-Opponents football team was La Grande High School star quarterback Reynolds, Snowy Gustafson, coach of MacHi, did the picking. Waldren received honorable mention for the Tigers on the mythical eleven.

. . . 15 years ago, the Eagles Lodge voted to purchase \$2,500 worth of war bonds during the county-wide drive in progress here. The Eagles also, at their meeting, inducted three new members. They were Orville Pellett, S. A. Ott and Leighton Johnson.

The new La Grande Donut Hut officially opened under auspices of the Salvation Army. Capt. Ruth Groseback, head of the SA here, announced that men and women in uniform would be served free at the Hut. Tribute was paid to 1st Sgt. John Snodgrass, 1705 Second St. He was stationed in the Pacific with the U. S. Marines. His wife, Urdean Breeding Snodgrass and two children, resided here.

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left a sour taste behind.

President Eisenhower is peeved at him for running out and leaving a new man to fight off the attacks of a hostile Congress. The only person Ike could find with the experience to step into McElroy's shoes was Deputy Secretary Tom Gates, a Philadelphia banker, who came to the Pentagon in 1953 as undersecretary of the Navy.

The joint Chiefs of Staff are also annoyed with McElroy for ducking decisions. Almost every policy question they forwarded to him had been brushed aside.

Among the questions that had been waiting on his desk for weeks: (1) Whether to consolidate all strategic weapons under one command; (2) how to merge the rival defense systems of the Army and Air Force; (3) whether to mount Polaris missiles on surface ships; (4) whether to send Bomarc anti-aircraft missiles to Europe.

The latest matter which the joint chiefs sent to McElroy to decide was the basic war plan which will determine each service's requirements. Conflicting views have been summed up in a paper, called "Joint Strategic Objectives," which had been lying on McElroy's desk for two weeks. Apparently he was leaving these problems and a bottle of aspirin for his successor.

Headlines and Footnotes

Plump, pleasant Anne Wheaton, who is supposed to be second in command of the White House press section, is fuming over the way she has been shunted aside. While press chief Jim Hagerty was scouting Ike's overseas route, Col. Wayne Hawks, chief of White House records, was brought in as acting press secretary. . . Vice President Nixon has urged the President to take Fred Morrow, a Negro assistant, along on his forthcoming trip. Nixon suggested Morrow's presence would impress Asia's non-whites.

TO VISIT INDIA

NEW DELHI (UPI) — Kliment Y. Voroshilov, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R., will visit India in January.

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OBITS

United Press International

NEW YORK (UPI)—Mrs. Clara S. Ling, 65, an educator and wife of a former Chinese Nationalist minister plenipotentiary in Cuba, died Tuesday.

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (UPI)—Ernest F. Dell, 78, an expert on rare books who served for more than 40 years with the famed Brentano's book sellers, died Tuesday.

FORT WORTH, Tex. (UPI)—T. Orchard Lisle, 73, an internationally known journalist in the petroleum and marine industry, died Tuesday after a three-year battle with cancer.

Flynn Had Nude Statue Of Girl

MIAMI (UPI) — The late Errol Flynn commissioned a gold-plated nude statue of his 17-year-old protegee, Beverly Aadland, to put on the mantle at his Jamaica estate, a sculptor said today.

Sepi Dubroyni said Flynn commissioned him to sculpt the reclining figure shortly before the actor died last month of a heart attack.

Dubroyni, who has done Ava Gardner, Jayne Mansfield and Linda Christian in brass, said he wants \$5,000 from Flynn's estate for the Aadland in gold and will sue for payment.

FLY ASHES HOME

NEW YORK (UPI)—The ashes of Povel Bang-Jensen, the former Danish United Nations political officer who committed suicide last week, were flown to Denmark Tuesday for burial. Bang-Jensen's widow and five children had flown to Copenhagen the day before.

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