

Education Group Debunks Method Of Teaching in Flesch's Book

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Washington — The National Education Association has set out to debunk the book, "Why Johnny Can't Read," the controversial attack on some teaching methods which has stirred up arguments over the issue in many American communities.

In its monthly magazine, NEA Journal, the association of teachers strikes back at the book's author, Rudolf Flesch, with an analysis of his contentions called "Why Can't Rudy Read?" Flesch contended in his book that Johnny can't read because teachers today don't use phonics, a system of sounding out the letters in each word which Flesch thinks is superior. Students today look at words and phrases, which is called the word method or the look-and-say technique of learning to read.

Different Methods Specified
Modern educators, according to NEA, specify that different methods should be used with different children in order to get best results "and phonics continues to be a part of the educational arsenal."

"Most of (Flesch's) book is simply personal opinion (unsupported by any objective evidence), quotations out of context, accounts of Flesch's limited personal observations, and some amusing (though occasionally vicious) rhetoric," said NEA.

The authors of the NEA rebuttal went back and reviewed the evidence on which Flesch based his findings in favor of phonics. Here is what they found:

1. Flesch reported that a New Hampshire teacher wrote a paper in 1916 called "Phonics or No Phonics?" in which she found the "the non-phonics children read with more expression and interest, but the phonic children were more careful and more accurate in reading the words on the page."

NEA dug up the same report and found it reported: "The phonic classes so concentrated upon letter sounds that the attention was diverted from the sense of the paragraph to word pronunciation. This brought about lack of interest and fatigue and destroyed the pleasure which the story should yield. The reading was generally less smooth, slower and the idea confused."

Phonics Group Scores Higher
2. Flesch said in his book that two scholars in "An Experimental Study of the Value of Phonics" reported that they experimented with 100 pupils in the first and second grades, giving 50 phonics and the other 50 none. He claimed the result was that the phonics group scored three points higher than the non-phonics.

NEA found that the same report drew this conclusion: "Children with no phonetic training make smoother and better oral readers in the lower grades." It added that "much of the phonetic training now given

should be deferred till the second and third grades. It appears that work in meaningful exercises which are planned to increase comprehension and to teach discrimination of words is more important than phonics."

3. Flesch reported that "The Newark Phonics Experiment" of

As We Live

By ELIZABETH HURLOCK, PH.D.

Personality Patterns Are Not To Be Outgrown
People do not "outgrow" personality traits.

(Q) "I have been going steady with Joe for nearly a year. He is a fine young man, serious, dependable and devoted to me. He will certainly be a good provider, but there is one thing about him that disturbs me. He is always fussing about little things. He makes such an issue of them that he gets both of us upset. For example, if the curtains in the living room of my parents' home are not just so, he will work on them until they are to his liking, even if it makes us late for a movie. Or if he thinks something costs too much he will insist upon going from one store to another, pricing the same articles to see if he can get a bargain."

"I tell him little things like this are not worth all the time, effort and thought he puts into them. But he can't see it my way and the more I talk, the more set he is in this pettiness of his. Will he get over it, if I marry him, or will he get worse?"

M.L.T.
(A) The fact that Joe can't or won't see things your way now would certainly suggest he has no desire to try to overcome his pettiness, even when he knows it annoys and upsets you. That is part of his personality pattern and he certainly will not outgrow it even after marriage.

It is obvious you and Joe differ about what is important and worthwhile. This is just beginning to show now as your courtship progresses. You can be sure there would be more and more pettiness for you to cope with after marrying him.

No one is perfect. You must weigh the good against the bad and see which come out on top. If you think you can overlook his faults then you could safely consider marrying him.

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Adequate ventilators placed in bins of ear corn help dry high-moisture corn and prevent spoilage.

1928 which tested 1,000 school children "concluded that the results favored instruction in phonics."

Of Value Later
NEA said this is the actual conclusion of that test by its authors: "The results clearly indicate the teaching of phonics functions very little or not at all with beginners in reading during the first five months. It begins to be of some value during the second five months, but is of greater value in the second grade."

Citing other instances in his book, "Why Johnny Can't Read," NEA matched them with similar refutations and pointed out that Flesch concluded his arguments by writing "After all this, you possibly expect me now to recite the evidence in favor of the word method. But, as I said at the beginning of this chapter, there is none."

"Certainly," concluded NEA, "there is nothing to suggest that Flesch is intellectually dishonest; nothing to suggest he wants to misinform and confuse. It must be that he truly can't read."

State Employees Pick New Directors

Pendleton — (U.P.) — Oregon State Employees association ended its three-day meeting here Saturday with the election and installation of a new board of directors.

The final session also adopted a budget of \$64,860 based on a membership increase of 3900 during the next year. An additional \$5000 was voted for a revolving fund to back a new auto insurance program OSEA approved Friday.

Elected president was Eugene Schmidt of Portland. Other officers were Mark Sayre, Monmouth, vice-president, and Gertrude Chamberlin, secretary-treasurer.

Board members are Edwin A. Bamfield, Salem; Cal Hobson, Salem; Dr. Lloyd LeMaster, Corvallis; William G. Hughes, Salem; Don E. Barnick, Portland, and Ross Newcomb, Corvallis.

New York — (U.P.) — Robert E. Sherwood, 59-year-old playwright and biographer, was in "fair" condition today, a hospital spokesman said. Sherwood, former speech writer for the late President Roosevelt, suffered a moderate coronary thrombosis Friday.

Father of S-D Day Thinks Campaign Will Cut Traffic Mishaps

Sacramento, Calif. — (U.P.) — The man who first thought of having a nationwide "Safe Driving Day" believes motorists will score at least a 25 per cent reduction in traffic accidents when they concentrate on safe driving for the second time this Dec. 1.

On Dec. 15 last year, the first Safe-Driving day, there were 18 per cent fewer accidents involving personal injury or death than there were on the same day the previous year.

A. J. Veglia, of Sacramento, father of "S-D Day," believes American motorists will do better this year because the many organizations plugging the program have had more time for preparations.

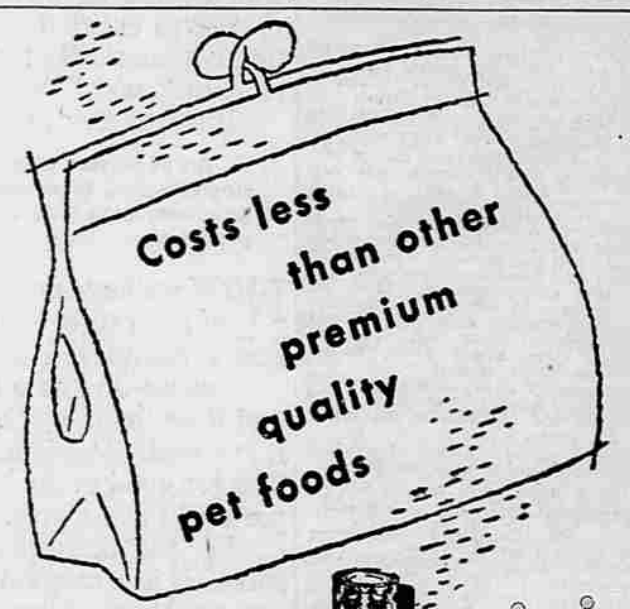
Billboards Going Up
Thousands of billboards advertising the safety campaign are being erected. Television stars have promised to remind viewers of the special day.

Monday, November 14, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

As the supervisor of registration of California's 6,500,000 motor vehicles, Veglia believes the answer to cutting the highway death toll lies in the three big Es of highway safety—engineering, education and enforcement.

FAST RELIEF for Headache
St. Joseph ASPIRIN
A PAINFUL PRODUCT
12 TABLETS 10¢



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Our Meats Are Selected, Inspected, and Guaranteed To Give Satisfaction!

BACON ENDS AND PIECES 1 Lb. 19¢ PKG.

SHORT RIBS 2 Lbs. 29¢ For

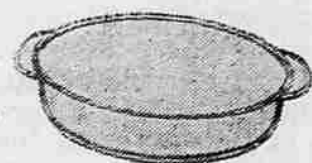
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| Pumpkin | Libby's Gustard | 2 No. 2 1/2 Cans | 33¢ |
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