

# Human Life, Immortality, Peace, Pondered By Norman Cousins for Teachers' Meeting

By OLIVE STARCHER  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer  
Washington, D.C., June 25 —  
"How much importance do we attach to human life?"

Asking this question, Norman Cousins, editor of the Saturday Review, declared tonight in the keynote address of the opening general session of the National Commission on Teacher Education and Professional Standards, that the human race is in danger of "devolution" — of regression to lower forms of life. The distinguished humanitarian and editor said that because mankind has unleashed through the hydrogen and atom bombs a force which he may not be able to control, and whose effects on the human germ plasma is yet unknown, the "very nature of human life is being threatened."

**Dialogue Used**  
Abandoning the usual keynote address, Cousins' views were expressed by way of a "Socratic dialogue" with Miss Martha Shull, Portland, president of National Education association, serving as the questioner. More than a thousand teachers, educators and visitors heard the dia-

logue and responded at the close with prolonged applause. The two opened the dialogue by listing some of the major problems facing the world today, and then Cousins declared that all there are dwarfed by the real problem — "What about human beings themselves?"

Cousins, who had himself prepared both the question and answer manuscripts which enunciated his ideas, said, "The one thing that appalls me is that almost no one seems to have time to think these days. We in America have everything we need, except the most important thing of all — time to think and the habit of thought. We lack time for the one indispensable for safety of an individual or a nation. Thought is the basic energy in human history. Civilization is put together not by machines, but by thought."

**Busy Doing Nothing**  
"The paradox, of course, is that we are busy doing nothing. Never before has so much leisure time been available to so many, but we have a genius for cluttering. We have somehow managed to persuade ourselves that we are too busy to think, too

busy to read, too busy to look back, too busy to look ahead, too busy to understand that all our wealth and all our power are not enough to safeguard our future unless there is also a real understanding of the danger that threatens us and how to meet it."

"We are so busy entertaining ourselves and increasing the size and ornamentations of our personal kingdoms that we have hardly considered that no age in history has had as many loose props under it as our own."

The dialogue then branched into the idea that very few in the world today have an conception of the magnitude of the destructive force inherent in the atomic and hydrogen bombs, or that the testing may be releasing into the air materials which may be capable of "debasement, crippling or destroying life itself."

**Immortality**  
There was a discussion of the meaning of immortality, and the statement that "the pathway to a realizable immortality is the idea of a true brotherhood of man. The fact of human brotherhood exists. It is merely the general recognition of such a brotherhood that does not exist."

The moral man was defined as "one who regards the total well-being of the world, or the lack of such well-being, as flowing out of his own integrity and conscience, or the lack of it. He finds the world in his mirror."

Deciding that man has a responsibility to "the age yet to be born" the dialogue continued into the idea that "the crisis of our time is a crisis in awareness and knowledge" and the question of what role the teacher and education in general must play. Outlining his ideas in this field Cousins said "the most important thing a school can do today — whether secondary school or college or professional school — is to convince its students of its own limitations. The main task of the school is to make its students aware that they will have to be on their own so far as the most essential part of their education is concerned. The contours of knowledge, both general and professional, are changing so fast in our time that a school can consider itself successful in direct proportion to its ability to prepare its students for gaining the larger part of their education on their own, and for keeping their intellectual inventory current."

"Basically, however, the biggest job of education is to prepare the individual to anticipate the problems of later generations."

Cousins closed by saying "You

are a single cell in a body of two billion cells; the body is mankind. You glory in the individuality of self, but your individuality does not separate you from your universal self—the oneness of man.

**God and Man**  
"The expansion of knowledge makes for an expansion of faith, and the widening of the horizons of mind for a widening of belief. Your reason nourishes your faith, and your faith your reason. You are not diminished by the growth of knowledge, but by the denial of it. You cannot affirm God if you fail to affirm man, you deny the oneness of God. Therefore affirm both. Without a belief in human unity you are hungry and incomplete. You can believe in personal responsibility. When you enter your home you enter with the awareness that your roof can be only half built for half your brothers on this earth are homeless. And your table can be only half set, for half the men on this earth know the emptiness of want."

"When you think of peace you can know no peace until the peace is real."

Increased Postal Fees Scheduled to Take Effect July 1

New fees for special services which call for increases in most categories go into effect July 1 at the Medford post office, according to Postmaster Moore Hamilton.

Changes include fees for registered mail, insured mail, certified mail, money orders, return receipts, restricted delivery, special delivery, special handling, business reply mail and notices to senders.

For registered mail, old fees were 30 cents on a declared value of nothing, 40 cents on a \$5 value, and 55 cents on a \$25 value. New fees are 50 cents on a declared value from nothing to \$10, 75 cents on a value from \$10 to \$100. Comparable changes will be made in rates for higher values.

For insured mail, old fees were five cents for coverage from one cent to \$5, 10 cents for coverage to \$10; 15 cents for coverage to \$25; 20 cents for coverage to \$50, 30 cents for coverage to \$100, and 35 cents for coverage to \$200. New fees charge 10 cents for coverage up to \$10, 20 cents up to \$50, 30 cents for up to \$100, and 40 cents for up to \$200.

Money order fees used to be listed as one fee for both domestic and international service. Under the new fee schedule they are divided.

Old fees were 10 cents for up to \$5, 15 cents for up to \$10, 25 cents for up to \$50, and 35 cents for up to \$100. New fees are 15 cents domestic and 30 cents international for one cent to \$5 orders, 20 cents domestic and 40 cents international for up to \$10, and 30 cents domestic and 60 cents international for up to \$100.

Special delivery fees for first class and air mail, including air parcel post, increase from 20 to 30 cents for not more than two pounds, from 35 to 45 cents for up to 10 pounds, and from 50 to 60 cents for 10 pounds or more.

Special delivery rates for all other classes of mail increase from 35 cents to 45 cents for under two pounds; from 45 to 55 cents for under 10 pounds, and from 60 to 70 cents for 10 pounds or more.

Copies of the new fee schedule are available at the post office.

**YMCA Day Camp Ends On Butte Creek**

Campfire ceremonies and an overnight campout Wednesday night culminated two weeks of YMCA day camping for more than 80 boys on Butte creek in the Camp White area.

Parents and friends of the day campers watched the boys receive headbands and initiation into the day camp Indian tribe. The campfire program, presented by Dean Crumley, assistant camp director, also included songs, skits and a story. As a part of the ceremony, the campers reviewed the week's activities for their parents.

Following the campfire, the boys retreated to their camp sites to sleep. Several of the fathers joined the boys in their overnight campout. At 5:30 a.m. Thursday, the boys got up and prepared an "early-bird" breakfast for their fathers, allowing the dads plenty of time to get to work.

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