

Strengthening of American Education Across Board in Proposals by NEA

Editor's note: Is the administration's program of federal aid to education adequate to meet what President Eisenhower calls "our most critical national problem?"

By DR. WILLIAM G. CARR
Executive Secretary, National Education Association
Written for United Press

Washington—The proposals of the administration and of the National Education Association for school legislation in the 1958 Congress have both close similarities and sharp differences.

The important points of agreement are:

That better education is necessary for the security and well-being of the American people; that school improvement requires prompt financial support by the United States government; that a substantial number of federal fellowships and scholarships should be provided without completely prescribing the fields of study eligible for such funds; that federal funds should be expanded for testing and counseling services; that state direction of education should be preserved.

The major difference between the two proposals may be stated thus:

The administration proposes very small expenditures to a few selected areas of education. The NEA calls for strengthening American education right across the board. The absence from the administration program of any

funds for school construction is a sharp reversal of previous policy. All through 1956 and most of 1957, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Folsom and Commissioner of Education Derthick stressed the national classroom shortage. President Eisenhower called for school construction funds in three special messages to Congress in 1955, 1956, and 1957, as well as in his speech for the NEA centennial on April 4,

1957. On July 26, 1957, the President said he would ask for another school construction bill in the next (now current) session of Congress.

The severe classroom shortage continues. The department of statistics will show a very slight increase in the number of classrooms built.

With an administration and Congress under the control of different political parties, the NEA has been willing to work for compromise measures

which, although not adequate, would still be of some assistance. Now, confronted by new and dramatic evidence of need, the NEA proposes a program which represents more nearly what should now be done as a minimum. The NEA can no longer agree that small sums, short-range programs and services in all areas, including science and mathematics, will do the job.

In our judgment, a federal decision to support any particular area of instruction carries with it some danger of federal direction of state education policy. On the other hand, general federal support leaves the states free to decide how

much stress to place on mathematics, or on science, or on other areas of instruction.

The NEA therefore urges substantial federal undergirding of the financial structure of public education. The present base, limited largely to revenue from local property taxes or from state taxes cannot fairly and efficiently reach the wealth and income of the entire nation.

The NEA believes state education agencies should be allowed to allocate federal funds between construction and teachers salaries. Both need help, but there are districts where one need outweighs the other.

The NEA's proposal is a federal payment to the states of \$25 per child rising to \$100 per child within five years. This is still only a small square of the total cost of education, so the states and localities must also continue to exert their own best efforts.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Jackson, Miss.—Gov. J. P. Coleman of Mississippi, on the protests about the portrait of a reconstruction governor of the state, Gen. Adelbert Ames of Maine, in the Hall of Governors:

"It's simply . . . a matter of historical interest. A lot of people would like to see the portraits of former controversial senators James K. Vardaman and Theodore G. Bilbo thrown out."

Olongapo, Philippines—Mrs. Billy R. Rooks, wife of the Shreveport, La., Marine corporal sentenced to six months in the brig for marrying her without his commanding officer's consent, on her plan to appeal his conviction to the president of the U.S. and the Philippines:

"I love him. I am certain we will get justice."

Athens, Greece—A3c Marion Musilli of Benwood, W. Va., on being freed after an Athens court sentenced him to 10 months for the traffic death of a Greek war hero, then deducted eight months because he had been under detention for that period and allowed him to pay a \$50 fine in lieu of the remaining two months:

"I am very pleased everything is over, I hope to return to West Virginia soon."

New York—Rear Adm. Lewis L. Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy commission, on the U.S.-Soviet science race: "We are far ahead of the Soviets in nearly all scientific and technical quarters."



ANTI-PRESLEY DISC JOCKEY—Because Elvis Presley records give him a "slow burn," Great Scott, a Nashville, Tenn., disc jockey retaliates by burning approximately 600 rock-'n-roll records in front of Parthenon. He was subsequently arrested for disorderly and offensive conduct.

'Bridge of San Luis Rey' Disappointing To Critic

By WILLIAM EWALD

United Press Correspondent

New York—What to say about the CBS-TV production of "The Bridge of San Luis Rey" Tuesday night?

It was certainly a drama more finely directed, produced and to a certain extent, acted than the average TV offering. But it was disappointing, too.

Thornton Wilder's "Bridge of San Luis Rey" contains a strong narrative. It is a novel whose concern is love, the love of mother for daughter, of brother for brother, of man for woman. It is a novel about the need for love.

"If we are able to love," says one character sensitively played by Eva La Gallienne, "then we have not failed."

Failed to Explore

This, of course, is the crux of the matter. But I am afraid this is an area the CBS-TV play never really succeeded in exploring. Instead, the viewer was faced with a telescoping of a series of lives that touched, crossed, intertwined. It was a drama that skimmed over the surface of life, never digging deeply enough to give the drama depth or meaning.

Most of the principal players—Miss La Gallienne, Theodore Bikel, Kurt Kasznar—gave performances that illuminated their thin roles. Vivien Lindfors started in an almost hysterically high key, but leveled off midway and went on to turn out a portrait on the credit side.

However, Judith Anderson, who had a center role, was unsatisfactory, playing her part in a manner that seemed neither deeply felt nor deeply understood. She succeeded only in conveying the fatuity of her character, never the character's capacity for love, a love thwarted and untapped.

Some key scenes never caught fire.

A scene in which Miss Lindfors comes to humble herself in a mocking way before Miss Anderson, but instead is confronted with a breakdown by Miss Anderson in which Miss Anderson humbles herself. It should have shot sparks, but merely thumped.

A scene in which a brother dies which should have leaned heavily upon words and visual images, but instead was smothered in a heavy overlay of music, a music which did not reinforce the scene, but steam-rolled it.

The climactic scene in which the bridge breaks, hurling five people to death. The scene had no real feeling of terror, no feeling of yawning space. It was quite obviously just a studio bridge and it was impossible to feel any involvement in the make-believe catastrophe.

In spite of all this, I would

Meeting Slated to Organize 4-H Clubs

Gold Hill—Women in the Gold Hill area who are interested in becoming leaders for 4-H serving have been invited to a meeting in the cafeteria at Hanby school Thursday, Jan. 23, at 2 p.m., according to Mrs. Ferd Jones.

She said sewing clubs will be organized at that time. Youngsters interested in 4-H sewing projects, also have been invited to attend.

GUIDES AVAILABLE

Portland—Ralph C. Granquist, district director of the Internal Revenue service, Portland, has reminded area residents that there is a 35-cent charge for the service's 1958 edition of Your Federal Income Tax. The guide is available from the district office at 827 NE Oregon st., Portland.

'Ingredients' of Science Talent Show Themselves In Youth, Teacher Says

By DOC QUIGG

United Press Correspondent

New York—With so much concern being shown currently about a sense of urgency in developing scientists, let's examine what it takes in the way of raw material from our stockpile of youth.

Just what is science talent? How can you tell if a kid may have it?

The answer was sought from Dr. Zachariah Subarsky, who has taught science since 1929, mostly to students aged 14-15. At present he heads an annex of the Bronx High School of Science. Some "ingredients" of science talent, he says, shows themselves this way:

Persistent Curiosity

—An innate and persistent curiosity. What makes Sammy keep tinkering with electric currents? What drives Alice to the marshes to col-

lect specimens? In some, this drive soon fades; in others it ripens and persists.

—Ability to spot an incongruity or inconsistency. "Why is this window coated with frost, and the other one not?"

—Once having spotted the incongruity, the ability to consider explanations for it that can be tested.

—The tendency to think in quantitative terms. "For instance, in describing a mixing operation, one youngster may tell you merely, 'I use more of this than I do of this.' Another will give you the exact number of drops he uses."

Mechanical Ability Valuable

—A high degree of mechanical-mindedness; manual dexterity, manipulative ability. The mechanical devices and gadgets of scientists, including such ancient ones as the telescope and the thermometer, have been invaluable.

The Bronx High School of Science has about 2,500 students. They must take an entrance examination stressing arithmetic ability, reading comprehension, and interest in science.

A fundamental American problem now, he said, is to establish the idea of seeking an understanding of nature for its own sake—"this goes under the fancy name of basic research."

Eight Photographs Donated to Library

A series of eight framed, enlarged photographs of northwestern scenes has been donated to the Gold Hill library by artist-photographer Bob Routh.

Three of the scenes are photographs of Lithia park in Ashland. One was taken in Rogue River gorge, and two are marine subjects photographed at Crescent City, Calif. Two winter scenes will be added in the near future, according to Mrs. Jewel Routh, Gold Hill librarian.

Visitors to the Gold Hill library have commented on the beauty of composition and the fineness of the photographer's work in enlarging the photographs as well as upon loveliness of the scenes represented. Their presence adds another touch to the renovation and redecoration of the library, a project of the Gold Hill city council and interested residents.

ERRED

Southport, England—Ada Fisher, told by doctors when she was 16 that she had little time to live, celebrated her 101st birthday yesterday.

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