

# Great American Education Need Told By Expert if America to Keep Lead

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 (Written for United Press International)

New York—UPI—What are the most urgent needs today of the public schools in America? I believe thoughtful students of education would include most, if not all, of the following in their response to this query:

**1. Better qualified teachers.** Public school teachers are vastly better prepared today than a quarter of a century ago, but socio-economic conditions and resulting manpower shortages have combined to slow up the improvement in the quality of our staff personnel.

Teachers, whose wisdom and skill condition the ultimate efficiency of the members of all professions and occupations, have been and are being recruited too often from the middle or lower-middle groups in scholastic attainment, personality and intelligence.

A larger proportion of gifted high school and college students must be guided into teaching if high quality instruction is to be assured.

**2. The standard of living of teachers needs to be elevated substantially.**

This need is obviously closely related to the need just discussed. Whereas teachers must be dedicated persons and possess more than an average amount of the missionary spirit, they cannot meet their responsibilities and render their best service on current salaries.

To measure up to the requirements of the office, teachers must be generously paid. To pay a salary of \$4,

500, the typical annual sum now awarded to public school teachers in America, is a penny wise and pound foolish policy.

**3. The current tax base needs to be revised and a larger share of the cost of education borne by the State and Federal Governments.**

With income taxes limited primarily to the State and Federal Governments, the tax returns from real estate have been almost the sole reliance of local districts in financing schools in most parts of the country. The State is gradually entering the picture and lifting some of the burden from the backs of the poorer districts, but the situation is still serious and quality education is being provided in a relatively small number of school systems.

**4. Teacher preparatory institutions must be greatly improved.**

The public school teaching profession is in a state of transition and, unlike medicine and law, it has—because of its numbers and its relative youth as a profession—been slower to emerge as one of the truly learned professions.

One can scarcely classify teachers with less than college preparation, and we have a significant number who fall in this category, as professional. Not only are we in need of increasing the amount of preparation of teachers, but we must also improve the quality of the instruction provided in our teacher preparatory institutions.

**5. Certification arrangements need to be overhauled.** Education being a State function and not a Federal one, it is understandable that a variety of requirements would emerge over the years as the number of teaching positions increased, a supply and demand relationship shifted, and as standards were elevated to meet the demands of the changing social scene.

Regional efforts have resulted in compacts and agreements between states which have eliminated much of the localism which characterized early practices and policies. But there is still need for greater flexibility and for a broadening of the requirements so as to admit to teaching those whose qualifications are clearly superior.

**6. The public image of the American public school teacher must be radically changed.**

Teachers as a group have not enjoyed the prestige accorded members of other professions. The public image of a school teacher, as reflected in the movies and television programs, is wholly distorted. While one can cite numerous exceptions, teachers are viewed as somewhat strange, less human, and to some degree as socially inferior.

The psychological reasons for this are probably somewhat complex. But so long as this image exists, able, enthusiastic, dynamic young men and women will hesitate to

Editor's note: If the United States is to meet the challenge presented by Soviet Russia's tremendous concentration on improving its school system, says U. S. Commissioner of Education Dr. Lawrence G. Derthick, "we cannot afford to tolerate a single weakness in our educational system."

Yet most American experts point to one great weakness in that system—a shortage of teachers both in numbers and proper qualifications.

In the following dispatches, Dr. Derthick sounds the warning to American education, and one of the nation's foremost authorities on the problems of teachers tells what he feels must be done to make American teaching

home economics, automobile driving, vocational training and other "practical" studies of the type long found in U. S. high schools.

**Trying New System**  
 This fall, some Russian schools are trying out a new system under which students from the 9th grade up will attend classes only three days a week. The other three days they spend at work on farms or in factories.

Premier Nikita Khrushchev, who decreed a new system, told Soviet educators they must stop giving children a purely academic course which is "divorced from life," and concentrate on preparing them to perform a "productive role" as Soviet workers.

On the face of it, this sounds as though Russia were going whole-hog for the "life adjustment education" philosophy which has been accused of wrecking the academic standards of American high schools.

Derthick warned against making too much of this apparent trend, at least for the present. Russian students are still getting massive doses of math, science and languages—far more than the average American student.

Has "Full Pipeline"  
 The most likely explanation of Khrushchev's sudden interest in vocational education is that Russia has a "full pipeline" of future scientists and engineers—all that its colleges can handle in the next few years. So the Kremlin has ordered the school system to shift into production of farm and factory hands for a while.

This is a good illustration of why Derthick considers it virtually impossible to make

When Russia beat America into space last October, U. S. high schools came under nationwide pressure to eliminate some of the "frill courses" from their own curriculums, and to put more emphasis on math and science, "like they are doing in Russia."

In light of this recent history, the visiting American educators were intrigued to discover that Russian schools are now adding courses in

chose teaching as a career. The problem cannot easily be resolved. The agencies which have a great influence in molding public opinion, such as the movies, TV and the radio, could, if persuaded, change the public image to one that held appeal for virile young men and women.

**7. Teachers should be granted freedom to teach and encouraged to be creative.** Historically, public school teachers have been subjected to close supervision and have had little freedom with respect to what and how they taught. Supervisors and principals have devoted much of their time in the past to training teachers to teach and with justification, since the latter were poorly educated. The training job was only partially completed in normal schools and colleges.

But it is impossible to develop a great profession of teachers (or for that matter any other profession) without freeing the members to make decisions and allowing them to experiment. There will be mistakes and failures if freedom is granted, but the loss sustained will be minor in comparison with the gains realized.

Washington—Harold Stassen, who led an unsuccessful "dump Nixon" drive in 1956, on why he failed to include Vice President Richard Nixon in a list of GOP presidential contenders:

"My views on that are well known and I believe the results of the recent elections proved me right."

Atlanta—Rep. Brooks Hays (D-Ark.), a moderate recently defeated by a segregationist candidate, on the South's racial problems:

"I believe that this problem that has grown into severe racial tensions will be finally solved largely by extra-government efforts outside of government, Congress or the courts."

Tacoma, Wash.—U. S. District Judge George H. Boldt, trying former teamster President Dave Beck on income tax evasion charges, on a defense attorney's objections to newspaper coverage:

"Let's not try this case in the newspapers. The gentlemen of the press must do their job just as you must do yours and I must do mine."

Yosemite National Park, Calif.—Wayne Merry, one of three men who climbed the sheer granite face of a cliff called El Capitan, on why he did it:

"Some people play golf, some bridge, some tidlywinks. I climb rocks."

## Smorgasbord Is Planned at Big Y

The Southern Oregon Salesman's club is sponsoring a smorgasbord on the porch of the Big Y, just north of Medford, Friday starting at 11 a.m.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Medford High school band fund to help pay expenses for the band to attend the annual East-West Shrine football game in San Francisco in late December. This is the eighth consecutive year the Medford band has been invited.

A similar smorgasbord to the one which is planned here was held in Grants Pass recently to help finance the trip for the Grants Pass High school band.

Booths will be set up on the porch of the Big Y, and persons will be charged 25 cents for all they can eat.

Tickets are available at the Big Y, the Elks club in Medford, and Crater Department store in Central Point. Prizes will be given away at drawings every 15 minutes.

## Three Plead Guilty In District Court

Los Angeles—UPI—Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, author of the best-selling book "The Power of Positive Thinking," advised the county board of supervisors Wednesday that positive thinking is just what they need in dealing with the smog problem. "You must believe you can eradicate smog," he said, "if you think you'll never get rid of it, you never will."

**NO LONGER RECEIVING**  
 Los Angeles—UPI—Fred L. Edwards, 32, caught looting a Beverly Hills dress shop, told police "I needed \$350 for a court appearance on a charge of receiving stolen goods."

Johnson Creed Sells, Eugene, John Arnold Simmons and Richard Earl Smith, both of Medford, all waived the privilege of having an attorney. Their cases were continued for sentencing on Nov. 17.

The three men are charged with taking cash from Charles Milton Turner.

Charles Vernon Burgess, Klamath River, Calif., pleaded guilty in district court Monday, to furnishing liquor to minors. Judge James Main ordered him released to California authorities to be tried there on felony charges. Burgess signed a waiver, he said.

He was charged with giving beer to two minors Nov. 7.

## A. C. Smith Named Director of Congress

A. C. Smith of Medford Corporation has been elected to a one-year term as a director of the Pacific Logging Congress, which met recently in Portland.

Directors were elected from 11 states and two Canadian provinces to the board of the logging organization, which is celebrating its 49th year.

**S.R.O.**  
 Toms River, N.J.—UPI—There were 72 prisoners in Ocean county jail, which has a legal capacity of 28, so Sheriff Harry Roe boarded out the overflow in the prisons of five other counties.

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**Quotes From the News**

By United Press International

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