

# Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

## THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

The report of the President's Science Advisory Committee, of which Dr. Killian was the chairman, was published about ten days ago. It had a general blessing from the President who said that he hoped it would be widely read and that it would stimulate a wider understanding of the importance of excellence in our educational system.

Among the crucial ideas that need a wider understanding is the conclusion of the report that "doubling our current annual investment in education is probably a minimal rather than an extravagant goal." This does not mean, of course, that if we spent twice as much on our schools, they could automatically become twice as good. The sponsors of the report are among the most distinguished men in American science, and they make it clear that to improve American education very important reforms are needed in the recruiting of teachers and in the curricula which they teach.

What they do say is that these reforms will have to be paid for and they imply that no one is really serious about the improvement of education who does not want to think about raising more money.

THE best discussion of the problem of money and education is to be found in the Rockefeller Brothers Report under the title of "The Pursuit of Excellence." To see the problem clearly, says the report, we must realize that since 1870 "we have heaped upon our educators one of the most heroic assignments a society could have invented." The assignment has been to educate the whole mass of the American people. Between 1870 and 1955 our population has been multiplied by four. But the number of students in our public high

schools has multiplied approximately 80 times. In a period of three-quarters of a century "we have taken into the school system a greater proportion of our youngsters and we have kept more of them in the system longer than any other nation." Sheer size and mass are not the only, but surely they are the main reasons, why our educational system is so far short of being excellent.

EDUCATION on such a scale, if it is to be good for the great mass and excellent for the very gifted few, is bound to be expensive. As of 1955, the most recent year for which figures are available, the total spent in this country on education was \$14 billion a year. This breaks down into \$9.4 billion for public elementary and secondary schools, \$1.2 billion for private elementary and secondary schools, \$1.5 billion for public higher education, and \$1.9 billion for private higher education.

The President's Science Advisory Committee and the Rockefeller Brothers Report agree that the total of \$14 billion will have to be doubled if education is to be good enough for the times we live in. As the two groups which concur in this conclusion are composed of eminent, very highly qualified, and widely experienced men, we may assume that they know what they are talking about. Indeed, so far as I know, no one has seriously disputed their conclusion.

THE real question is how to raise the money. Here we may begin by insisting that this country can undoubtedly afford to raise the money. From 1930 to 1957 the expenditure on education was more or less stationary at about 3.5 per cent of the Gross National Product. It has now risen to about 4 per cent. As the Gross National Product has risen since 1930, the amount spent on education has risen too. But it has not risen fast enough to keep pace with the rise in enrollments. Thus, in fact, less money is available for each pupil.

There is more money. But the school population is much bigger. There is, therefore, a growing shortage in our educational facilities, in classrooms, and in teachers and the like, to deal with our expanding population.

If we adopt the conclusion of the President's Committee, we should be prepared to spend, by say 1967, something like \$30 billion. It is generally estimated that by 1967 the Gross National Product will be around \$600 billion. Thus, the expenditure for education would rise from about 4 per cent, as at present, to about 5 per cent of the Gross National Product.

THIS percentage looks small, but the real figures are big, and the most difficult question arises as to how these extra \$15 billion a year are to be raised. Most of us would prefer to have them raised locally. But we cannot be dogmatic and absolute about this preference.

In the past 25 years there has been a drastic shift in the burden of school support from the local governments to the state governments. Whereas in 1930 the state governments carried only 17 per cent of the load, by 1954 they were carrying 37 per cent. There is no use expecting or hoping that the whole new burden of costs can be borne by the states. For, as the Rockefeller Report says, "state and local tax systems are in some respects archaic," chiefly because of their dependence upon the real property tax.

There is no escape from the conclusion that if the new and necessary costs are to be met, if they are not to be ignored and neglected, we shall have to raise some considerable part of them out of Federal taxes. This is bound to happen, and the sooner we face up to the necessity, the more likely are we to be prepared to act with deliberation and with awareness of the hazards, and with wisdom.

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The labor department of Canada reports that most immigrants of recent years are settling in industrialized areas rather than on farms.

More than two million tons of air freight and cargo are flown in the United States every 24 hours.



**VISIT FROM TAIWAN**—Two Nationalist Chinese, Charles T. C. Yin (above, center) and Henry Y. N. Wu (right) are spending three weeks here touring installations of the California Oregon Power company. They are officials of the Taiwan Power company. Henry Fisher, chief electrical engineer for the company (left) and other Copco officials have been their hosts on the tour. Yin is chief of the electrical engineering division in the Kaohsiung district office and Wu is chief of the distribution department in the Taipei district office.

## Officials of Taiwan Power Company Are Visiting in Area

Two officials of the Taiwan Power company, Charles T. C. Yin and Henry Y. N. Wu, are spending three weeks in Medford studying operations of the California Oregon Power company.

Yin is chief of the electrical engineering division of the Kaohsiung district office, and Wu is chief of the distribution department, Taipei district office.

The two have been accompanied by Henry Fisher, chief electrical engineer, and other Copco personnel on their visits to the power company's installations. They are on a six-month tour of similar companies in the United States under sponsorship of the International Cooperation Administration as part of its Technical Cooperation project.

D. Kirkland West, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, who was a former missionary in China. They expressed their enjoyment of the conversation in Chinese with Dr. West and described his use of the Chinese language as "perfect Mandarin."

They also said they were grateful to the American people and the United States government for making their trip possible. Following their Medford visit, the men will continue to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Albuquerque, New York and Washington, D.C. Copco officials said they will be hosts next week to an Iranian who is visiting the United States under the sponsorship of Morrison-Knudsen Construction company. Kentucky was formed into a colony of Virginia in 1776 and was admitted to the Union as a state in 1792.

## Sen. Morse Gets Award for Service

Washington—Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.) last week was honored with an award "For Distinguished Service to the Welfare of Senior Citizens," by the Retired members of the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union, District 65.

The award was presented to Morse in New York City by the Union's Retirement Director, Jack Ossosky.

In his presentation speech, Ossosky mentioned Morse's authorship of the new railroad retirement bill recently signed into law by the President, raising retirement benefits for railroad employees by 10 per cent. He declared that Morse was also being honored for his sponsorship in the Senate of legislation to add health insurance to the retirement benefits of social security.

**Timber Products Man To Attend Program**  
Donald C. Jackson, assistant general manager of Timber Products company, Medford, has enrolled for the second term in the University of Colorado executive development program June 28-July 11, the university has announced.

Sponsored by the school of business, the two-year program is designed to encourage individual development in creative thinking and in meeting new and changing conditions. It started last year to assist promising young executives and the firms for which they work.

MENTAL CHECK ORDERED  
New Orleans—(UPI)—An 11-year-old boy has been ordered committed for an additional 30-day period of psychiatric observation in the slaying of a young girl. Juvenile Judge John J. Wingrave committed Edwin Herty Thursday to the East Louisiana Hospital at Mandeville for observation.

## Committee Favors Neuberger's Bill

Washington—(UPI)—The Senate Interior committee Friday reported out favorably Sen. Richard L. Neuberger's bill to exempt from state and federal taxes money paid to Indians for loss of fishing rights at Celilo Falls on the Columbia river.

About one-third of the automobiles in use in the United States are estimated to be 10 years old and some are much older than that.

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