

Problems of Higher Education

Editor's Note: The steady rise in college enrollment is pointing up some of the vexing problems faced by educators - problems that threaten America's whole system of higher education at a time when this nation has a critical need for more and better trained graduates. In the accompanying two reports written for United Press International, two distinguished deans at Yale University analyze the problems and offer some answers to them.

More Thinking Than Only 20 Per Cent of Money Necessary in Colleges Adequately Education Problems Preparing Students

(Dean William C. DeVane of Yale college has held his present post since 1938 and is recognized as one of the nation's leading educators. He was educated at Yale and headed the English department at Cornell before becoming dean at Yale. His plans for reorganization of Yale undergraduate study have served as a model for other colleges.)

By WILLIAM C. DEVANE
Dean of Yale College
(Written for UPI)

Although more money for higher education is urgently needed, it will take even more thinking than money to solve this country's educational problems in our colleges and universities.

I would put faculty needs at the top of any list of problems. There is no substitute for a first-rate faculty and many of our colleges must learn this fact. It is much easier to get money for bricks and mortar than it is to get money for a top-notch faculty. But bricks and mortar are not education.

We have one of the greatest faculties in the world at Yale and these professors are faced with a great responsibility. Because of the new position of this country in the world and the complexity of a modern industrial democracy, we need desperately the basic research which the universities can best provide, but we need just as urgently a faculty devoted to teaching, both on the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Some Lose Balance
Some universities have lost their balance in their headlong devotion to research alone, and some collegiate institutions have had to lower their sights in respect to their faculties because of financial problems and pressures of growing enrollment. Congress and Washington have hardly begun to look into these problems as it is much easier to see the problem as a tangible one of bricks and mortar.

The educational institutions would do well to help themselves, and live less in the hope of government subsidies. In this they can do much, and the first thing to do is a profound thinking through of their problems.

Unless the colleges improve their own purposes and procedures, many weaker institutions are going to go down the drain. This doesn't mean that they will cease to exist, because colleges don't seem to know how to die, they just get worse.

What about the next 50 to 75 years?
We're going to see a great number of good private colleges spring up in the next few decades - colleges like Amherst and Wesleyan in the East, Carleton and Lawrence in the Midwest, and Reed and Pomona in the Far West. I hope the South, also, will develop others of the quality of Washington and Lee, Agnes Scott, and Davidson.

And there's going to be an enormous increase in the number of community and junior colleges, although at present the directions they are going to take are obscure. Many of them will be technical and final, many of them will be

"feeder" institutions. As a matter of fact, the development of these "feeder" colleges may bring about an even more startling change. A number of our great universities, like Columbia, Chicago, and the University of California at Berkeley, may drop their first two undergraduate years (freshman and sophomore), relying on the "feeder" colleges to prepare students to enter junior-year level.

When this happens, these great universities will assume more and more a graduate cast. Eventually, several large state universities in areas where the feeder-college system develops strongly may shift over to this status.

However, this won't happen at places like Yale and Harvard where the undergraduate college structure has been so strong for so many generations.

Clearheaded Appraisal
And finally the problem of curriculum needs a clearheaded, intelligent appraisal. The liberal arts are the core of higher education. Any attempt to insert frivolous and transient courses is a compromise with quality.

It's discouraging to know that many of our colleges and universities have succumbed to a large degree to the vocational demands, and have in effect lowered their educational sights. There are many institutions offering for credit such frivolous courses as "country dancing," "salesmanship," "advanced swimming" and others with fancier names.

In the transient category, I would group the entire physical education course structure for credit at colleges as shortsighted, except in those institutions established primarily for physical education training.

Among the 16 to 20 courses a college student takes in his four years, I would insist on courses in English, mathematics, history, science, foreign language and social sciences. A course in English should be required for all, a course developing competence in expression and not merely the typical "freshman composition course" as prevalent in many colleges.

ARMS PLAN OFFERED
United Nations, N.Y. - UPI - Canada has formally presented a proposal for creation of a separate watchdog committee of smaller, non-nuclear powers to help break the East-West arms deadlock.

Klamath Falls - UPI - The Western States Standardization and Quarantine conference here Nov. 16-17 will attract delegates from Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Washington, California and Canada.

(Dean Hartley Simpson of the Yale Graduate School, a historian by training, has devoted most of his professional career to graduate school education. A graduate of Bowdoin college, he taught at Cornell and the University of Pittsburgh before joining the Yale faculty in 1929. He was named to his present post in 1953.)

By HARTLEY SIMPSON
Dean, Graduate School,
Yale University
(Written for UPI)

Only about 20 per cent of the 1,800 colleges and universities in this country adequately prepare students to go without readjustment into major graduate schools.

This weakness in our educational system is acute because it exists at a time when the scholar - the disciplined holder of a doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) degree - is more and more sought after by government, business, industry, and has become more and more a key person in the nation's future.

This estimate of 20 per cent is generous on my part. Some of my fellow deans in other major graduate schools make harsher estimates ranging as low as 10 per cent.

With the great surge in college enrollment in the past few years, the demand for top scholars who have earned Ph.D. degrees has also increased sharply because these are the men who are the backbone of any good college faculty. Serious weaknesses in the training of graduate students means poorer college faculties in the future, thus weakening the whole fabric of higher education in this country.

New Veterans' Loans
Salem - UPI - The State Veterans' Affairs department said Thursday that because the veterans loan measure passed in Tuesday's election, first of the new home and farm loans will be available some time in February.

Another \$135 million in bonds is available. H. C. Saalfeld, director, said first priority will go to those who have \$15 million in applications already on file.

Also extended is the closing date for veterans to be eligible. Before it was those serving from Dec. 2, 1945 but now it has been moved forward to those serving from Dec. 31, 1946.

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of higher education in this country.

Despite the surge of epithets directed at "eggheads" in the last decade - such jibes are nothing new - they go back through the ages - there are many signs that the national climate for scholars is improving rapidly.

Business is becoming more and more interested in the scholarly mind. So is big industry and government, so there is a definite place, an outlet, for the Ph.D. holder. The philosopher can be found in the market place and the scholar of literature in government service.

Government agencies in Washington are eager to hire young men who have good graduate degrees. These agencies don't even insist on a scholar's field of study. They want the product of the intensive discipline of a great graduate school, they want the young scholars with good minds and a broad liberal education.

In business, a banker recently was hunting for Ph.D.'s trained in the liberal arts, and certain corporations have considered plans for sending their promising young men back to graduate school, perhaps even to remain for the Ph.D.

What about the future? Despite gloomy predictions, the potential of the nation's graduate schools is greater than has been estimated. By distributing the load among all graduate schools, the production of Ph.D.'s can be increased substantially.

The problem for the developing graduate schools will be to maintain standards, and the problem for colleges recruiting teachers will be competition from government and business for able Ph.D.'s.

Good Facilities Needed
The main hope of American higher education lies in finding good facilities, and the main hope of finding such facilities is centered in the major established graduate schools and the developing graduate schools.

Teachers colleges have not shown up to this time that they can train faculty for liberal arts colleges. College presidents like to indulge in criticism of graduate schools, but they will not seek for faculty in the liberal arts and sciences anywhere else if they can help it.

Just 100 years ago Yale University granted the first Ph.D. degree in the United States and other major universities followed within a few years. Up to that time the outstanding American scholars all went to Europe for advanced study, but within the past century the trend has gradually shifted until now scholars in great numbers from all parts of the world come to this country for their advanced education.

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How Oregon Voted On Major Races At Polls Tuesday

Portland UPI - Here is how Oregon voted on major races in Tuesday election, based on complete, unofficial returns from the state's 2,896 precincts.

President
Nixon (R) 400,277.
Kennedy (D) 361,423.

Senate
(Six-year term):
Smith (R) 336,336.
Neuberger (D) 405,088.
(Short term):
Smith (R) 345,043.
Neuberger (D) 414,847.

Congress
First District, 748 of 748 precincts:
Norblad (R) 139,156.
Owens (D) 76,354.
Second District, 445 or 445 precincts:
Phair (R) 42,320.
Ullman (D) 62,069.
Third District, 1003 of 1003 precincts:
Lee (R) 89,105.
Green (D) 155,521.
Fourth District, 700 of 700 precincts:
Durno (R) 91,501.
Porter (D) 87,873.

Secretary of State
Applying (R) 405,886.
Sweetland (D) 337,991.

State Treasurer
Belton (R) 383,282.
Cook (D) 348,795.

Attorney General
Francis (R) 352,229.
Thornton (D) 380,385.

REVIEW TARGETS

Washington - UPI - Defense Secretary Thomas S. Gates Jr. has summoned U.S. worldwide military commanders to a review of their targets for retaliatory action in the event of an attack on this country. Gates said Thursday the meeting at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Neb., Dec. 12 would be "another in a continuing series" between the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the secretaries of the military departments and top military commanders.

'Twas a Great Day for the Irish When Kennedy Was Elected President

New Ross, Ireland - UPI - It was a great day for John Fitzgerald Kennedy in the United States and the Irish in this seacoast town of County Wexford.

For this is the town from which the American president-elect's great grandfather left for the United States as a penniless emigrant during the potato famine of the 1840's.

Kennedy's victory in the U.S. presidential race was the biggest thing to happen to New Ross since the British repulsed an attack by rebellious Irishmen in 1798.

And townspeople made the most of it. Victory bunting decorated homes and buildings. The United States flag flew over the town's royal hotel. Pubs did a roaring business.

More than 15,000 visitors, here for a glowing contest, joined the town's 5,000 inhabitants in celebrating the historic electoral victory by a

Police Officer Sees Man in Bank In Early Morning

A Medford police officer did a double-take at 2 a.m. yesterday when he glanced in the window of the First National bank and saw a man sleeping on a bale of hay.

The officer looked again, and sure enough, there was someone lying on a bale of hay.

He called the bank management and informed them of the situation, but they did not seem at all concerned.

No wonder, the man turned out to be a dummy of a cowboy that the bank has on display this week for the Oregon Cattlemen's association convention here.

sat in the kitchen of his cousin's house would someday occupy the White House in Washington.

The cousin, Jim Kennedy, 64, said he and his family took a "quiet interest" in the presidential elections.

"It is a great thing," he said, "for a man whose great grandfather came out of an Irish cottage to be elected president of the United States."

Chairman Andrew Minihan of the local council cabled official greetings to Kennedy.

"The people of New Ross Ireland overjoyed at your election," the message read. "Congratulations and best wishes."

Many here recalled the day 10 years ago when a tall, thin stranger came on a nostalgic pilgrimage to the nearby hamlet of Dungantown to trace his Irish ancestors.

But nobody then could foresee that the quiet man who

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