

# Reading Poorly Taught in Many Schools, Harvard Group Declares

By LOUIS CASSELS  
UPI Correspondent

Reading is being taught poorly in many American schools. But the problem can't be solved by a return to the phonetic method of instruction.

That is the conclusion of a Harvard University study group which has just completed a year-long investigation of the nation's number one educational dilemma.

The Harvard group was headed by Dr. Mary C. Austin, president of the International Reading Association, and its study was financed by a Carnegie Corp. grant. The findings and recommendations were published this week in a paperback volume entitled "The Torch Lighters" (available at \$1 per copy from Harvard University Press, Cambridge 38, Mass.).

Unlike some professional educators, who have tried to pooh-pooh the reading crisis in U.S. schools, Dr. Austin and her colleagues readily acknowledge that millions of children are not learning to read.

Education notes in a foreword to the report, this is hardly a "dramatic" prescription. "But," Dr. Keppel adds "it has the great advantage of being sensible."

In recent years, many critics of U.S. education have argued that reading problems would disappear quickly if schools would abandon "modern" teaching methods and go back to the time-honored phonetic

approach, based on the sounds of the letters of the alphabet.

**Argument Rejected**

The Harvard group rejects this argument. It is convinced that reading is best taught by modern methods, which rely primarily on visual clues to word recognition, with some supplementary use of phonetic analysis.

The real trouble, according to the study group, is that too many teachers don't know how to use the modern methods—or any other methods—of teaching reading.

On the basis of interviews with faculties at 74 teacher training institutions in all parts of the country, and questionnaires completed by 371 other colleges and universities, the study group reached these major conclusions:

1. There is great need for better screening procedures to insure that college students who sign up for majors in elementary education really have a "marked potential for teaching." At present, only one-fourth of the nation's colleges make any effort to size up the capability of students who embark on preparation for teaching careers. Forty per cent of the faculty members interviewed said that the caliber of students preparing

to teach in elementary schools is lower than that of students in other academic fields.

2. All students preparing for elementary teaching should be required to take at least one full semester course in reading instruction. Only half of the colleges now require this. The other half include reading instruction in an overall course on the language arts, and the actual classroom time devoted to reading is frequently less than five hours.

**Neglected Fields**

3. Teacher training courses should put much more emphasis (at present, they put very little or none) on helping the future teacher learn how to diagnose and overcome the various disabilities which may keep a child from learning to read. Another neglected field, which should be stressed, is how to teach reading in the intermediate grades—above the third grade level.

4. When a student teacher is sent out to get actual practice in a classroom, she should work under the supervision of a professional teacher who really knows how to teach, and is capable of evaluating and correcting her performance. At present, few colleges make any effort to screen, train or compensate adequately the "cooperating teachers" under whom student teachers get their practice. Also, the practice teaching experience is usually scheduled during the final semester of a student's senior year, when there is no opportunity for further training to correct the deficiencies which may be revealed.

## Appling Says Bill To Save \$100,000

Salem — (UPI) — Gov. Mark Hatfield Tuesday signed a bill that Secretary of State Howell Appling Jr. says will save the state about \$100,000 over a two-year period.

HB1288 transfers the machine accounting function of the state finance department to the secretary of state, who also does machine accounting. The merger will give the secretary the largest electronic data processing center in Oregon state government.

Appling said the move will eliminate some positions resulting in a saving of \$65,000 in wages. It will also eliminate duplication of certain equipment.

The new operation allows the switch to higher speed and higher capacity equipment, Appling said, and also permits purchase of equipment over a three-year period for the same cost as rental.

Appling has asked the legislature for the purchase authority, involving about \$200,000.

### FAVORS THE HOUSE

Las Vegas, Nev. — (UPI) — In this gambling resort motorists can now gamble for free gasoline. Service station owner John Karas will fill your tank free if the price for filling it—numerically as \$3.33—corresponds numerically to a figure posted each day.



**ENGAGEMENT TOLD**—Millionaire builder Hal B. Hayes, frequent escort of some of the world's most glamorous women, has announced his engagement to Rail I. Hanninen, a 26-year-old former United Nations guide from Finland. They are shown at a hotel in Washington where Miss Hanninen told UPI they would be married during a round-the-world trip they plan to take after Hayes finishes testifying in a Senate investigation on construction of houses he was building for armed services personnel near military bases. (UPI Telephoto)

## The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors. (Copyright 1961—General Features Corp.)

Carl P.—It's none of their business where I go and when I'll be back.

Mrs. E. P.—His father and I can't relax until we know where our children are.

Carl P.—I'm over 21 and, although I'm still living at home with my parents, I'd like to have some of the privacy, respect and independence I'd have if I were living alone. But if my parents continue insisting that I "report to headquarters" at every move, I'll have to leave.

What makes it hard for me is my sister's easy compliance with their requests to know all, see all. But she's 21 and a girl and maybe she likes being babied.

To me, my parents' cross-examinations are annoying and humiliating. I'd like to remain under their roof for a few years yet, not only to help out financially, but also because I'm genuinely fond of them. But they must stop treating me like a little boy.

If I were in the Army, or on a trip, they wouldn't worry about what time I get to bed each night, would they?

Mrs. E. P.—All we ask Carl is where he's going, or where he can be reached if we need him. We tell him the same, whenever we leave the house, it seems the natural thing to do. But now when I ask, "How long will you be?" he flares up at me and answers, "Until I get back."

It's not that I'm snooping or prying. It's just that while we're all under the same roof, we can't help counting noses and keeping track of who's in, who's out, and who's where. We hear a key in the door at two or three o'clock in the morning, we like to make sure it's Elinor or Carl and not a "third-story man."

Suppose I really needed Carl for an emergency? I'd like some idea of how to reach him. He's mistaken about the Army. I wouldn't worry about his whereabouts at all because I could always ask his sergeant!

The Council — Writhing under the "ties that bind," Carl is confusing affectionate interest with parental prying. For an opposite viewpoint, he might canvass the park benches, depot waiting rooms and furnished flats. Here he'd find the lonely and the lost who'd give a year of their life

### Curb on Welfare Move Gets Approval

Salem — (UPI) — The House Health and Welfare committee Monday voted out "do pass" a bill seeking to prevent Gov. Mark Hatfield from moving the State Welfare commission from Portland to Salem.

The vote was 8-2 with Reps. Winton Hunt (R-Woodburn) and Fritz Chumard (R-Portland) opposed.

Voting to keep the commission in Portland were Reps. Grace Peck (D-Portland), Gust Anderson (D-Portland), William Gallagher (R-Portland), Nancy Kirkpatrick (D-Lebanon), Ed Benedict (D-Portland) and Juanita Orr (D-Lake Grove). Rep. Emil Stunz (D-Nyssa) was absent.

## Lenten Message

By THE REV. ANDREW M. WEYERMANN  
Our Savior Lutheran Church,  
Raleigh, N. C.  
(Written for UPI)

There is so much tragedy in life. The newspaper screams the bitter headline, "Six-Year-Old Boy Killed By Drunken Driver." The father grieves in his soul, "My son, my son." He hopes to hear an answering voice, but there is only the stillness of the night. Perhaps God is hiding. Perhaps He is dead. Perhaps He never really existed except in our fantasy.

There is no simple elegant answer for stillborn children, the rape of the innocent, and the failure of those who have truly tried. This is the way our world has been since the day man thought he could be like God. It is God alone who holds all the answers within Himself.

**Reason To Hope**

There is a sign that will enable us to face the horrors of our life and still have reason to hope. It is the sign of the cross. The terrible death of the Son of God was possible only because men crucify love, justice and good by their self-interest. The cross reminds us of how cruel we human beings are to each other. Innocence is betrayed, youth is killed and God seems to be a million miles away.

Yet God is present in the hour of darkness. The same cross is the sign of God's unfathomable love for us. The curses of the murdering mob are answered by the Son of God's pleas, "Father, forgive them." The innocent suffers and dies unjustly, but not meaninglessly. He fulfills God's higher purpose of man's redemption. The Prince of Life dies, but the dead are raised in the instant of His death. Once the signal of rejection, the cross is the sign of reconciliation with God.

The answer to human suffering is not altogether clear. Looking at the cross one is reminded of his need for forgiveness and the fact that God's love in Christ conquers the evil that seeks to destroy us.

### Bills Approved By Legislature

Salem — (UPI) — Measures approved Tuesday:

By the Senate

SB34—Public employees retirement

SB230—Allows Dammasch hospital to accept patients from Clackamas and Yamhill counties.

SB327—Local budgets.

SB338—Commercial fisheries.

By the House

HB2068, 2069, 2073, 2077, 2079, 2083—Budgets for national guard, state police, department of justice, civil service commission, Oregon state library, state game commission.

HM2104, 2105—Budgets for deaf and blind schools.

HB1007—Property tax deferrals on homes of the elderly.

ENVOY RESIGNS POST

Johannesburg, South Africa — (UPI) — U.S. Ambassador Philip K. Crowe has resigned his post here, the embassy announced Tuesday. The announcement said President Kennedy has accepted the resignation.

ADOPTS 5-DAY WEEK

Pierre S.D. — (UPI) — South Dakota became the last state in the Union to authorize a five-day work week for state employees. The action, taken Tuesday by the state Board of Finance, goes into effect April 1.

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