

Progressive Education's Bad Name Blamed On 'Lunatic Fringe'

By PATRICIA McCORMACK
NEW YORK—(UPI) — It's the "lunatic fringe" in education that has given progressive education a bad name with some Americans, in the opinion of youthful Prof. Lawrence A. Cremin of Columbia University.

Cremin, head of the department of social and philosophical foundations at Columbia Teachers College, has spent the past year studying the history of the progressive movement in education.

He expressed his views at a meeting of the Associated Public School Systems, a national organization representing about 2,500 public schools in 40 states.

Whether parents know it or not, he said, the best of progressive education has been incorporated into the mainstream of modern education in this country.

It was the "lunatic fringe" that Cremin blamed for the finger-painting, sand-pile studies and other assorted trade-marks of progressive education.

When such diversions become more important than the three R's

progressive education is off the track, according to Cremin.

He said progressive education, as such, really began back in the 1870's as a reform movement and at a time when there was a real need to upset the notion that school children are just so many waste-baskets into which teachers toss scraps of information.

To counter this, the progressive education movement pushed the idea of educating the whole child, helping his personality to develop at its own level. And in some quarters, this led to sand-pile study as a graded subject on the report card.

Extremists, according to Cremin, have given pundits plenty of ammunition and this, he said, is probably why the term "progressive education" has a bad connotation in many persons' minds.

A cartoonist recently pictured progressive education by showing a little girl, very dismayed, asking her teacher:

"Miss Jones, do we have to do what we want to do today?"

This, said Cremin, is the wrong

way to picture progressive education, which most of the time is quite sound. He said the incorporation of industrial arts into school programs probably is the best example of the "good" part of progressive education.

He noted that during his study

of the progressive movement he had occasion to attend meetings of the Madison, Wisconsin, school board. At one meeting, he said, parents warned the school board that they didn't want any part of progressive education in their schools.

Five minutes later, he said, the same parents were presenting arguments in support of a driver's education program in their schools. Professor Cremin said "they didn't realize that driver education is a part of progressive education."

Nuclear Age Shakes Swiss Faith In Nation's Neutrality

ZURICH, Switzerland (UPI)—A generation or two ago, most Swiss lived with a feeling of security born out of their faith in the inviolability of their country's neutrality.

They were also convinced that Switzerland's armed forces, equipped with the best weapons money could buy—Swiss neutrality is traditionally an armed neutrality—were capable of repelling any attackers.

The Swiss army, citizens' militia comprising every able-bodied man in the country, was among the world's best. Every man kept his ammunition, rifle and uniform at home. Few others nations, if any, could call as many well-trained and well-equipped men to arms

within short notice.

To this feeling of security came the knowledge that none of the powers surrounding the small Alpine democracy would allow another neighboring nation to invade Switzerland.

But, now, even heavy spending on conventional equipment for the Swiss army—42 per cent of the 1957 federal budget of 2,238 million francs (\$22.8 million dollars) and 35.1 per cent of the budget on the average over the past 10 years—has failed to restore this feeling of security of a generation or two ago.

As long as wars were fought with conventional weapons alone, Switzerland had nothing to fear. But some countries have started re-conventional weapons with the arms of the nuclear age.

To the Swiss, this means that the potential threat to their security, formerly restricted to their country's neighbors, has been extended to include countries hundreds of miles away.

As if to remind them of this threat, the government reported more than 20 violations of Swiss air space in 1957.

Reluctantly, the Swiss have started using mock atom bombs in their military maneuvers. Civil defense units have had their share of "be prepared exercises" when "unidentified attackers" dropped "nuclear bombs" on Switzerland's major cities in mock air-raids.

Recently, the Swiss government announced that it had decided in principle to equip the country's armed forces with nuclear weapons.

It said it had instructed the military to "study further the questions pertaining to the introduction of atomic arms in our army."

It maintained it was "in accordance with our centuries-old tradition of defense" to give the Swiss army "the most effective weapons including atomic weapons to maintain our independence and to protect our neutrality."

Swiss Foreign Minister Dr. Max Petitpierre made it even clearer in a speech a few days later when he said:

"We hope for an agreement among the great powers to eliminate the risk of an atom war. . . . But as long as this aim is not achieved we must be prepared for the possibility that the use of tactical nuclear arms becomes general and that one day such weapons could be employed against us."

THE ARMY WAY

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (UPI)—The Army custom is to welcome an officer's bride to a post by riding the happy couple around the installation in a vehicle from the bridegroom's branch of service. Therefore, when the former Elizabeth Danish Jabas arrived at the Ordnance Guided Missile School here, she and her husband, Lt. Col. William B. Harding Jr., made the traditional trip in a guided missile mobile launcher.

Add Safety To Kitchen

NEW YORK (UPI) — If accidents happen in your kitchen, you may want to heed these tips on kitchen safety suggested by Employees Mutual Accident prevention specialists.

Keep handles of pots and pans turned away from the edge of the range and out of reach of children. Use flat-bottomed utensils that do not tip easily.

Control the temperature of hot fat. Put out a grease fire by covering pan or sprinkling it with baking soda or salt.

Study directions for using steam equipment such as pressure cookers before trying them. Keep openings clean in pressure release valves. Follow usage instructions exactly.

Protect fingers when using slicers, choppers, grinders. Never force food down a grinder.

If candles are used on the table, light them just before the meal is ready and put them out right after. Don't use candles near curtains.

Space Saving Furniture Shown

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—"Space-saving" multi-purpose furniture is being displayed widely at the new 12-story Los Angeles Furniture Mart.

The Brown-Saltman Company of California, which helped introduce the new furnishings, said the pieces are planned to provide maximum utility within minimum space requirements.

Among the furnishings are: —A "dininggame" table, so-called because it can be used as a permanent game table or serve eight persons at meal times.

—Folding snack tables, which can be incorporated into an end table.

—Individual small tables which can be put together to form one long cocktail table.



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