

Speigner Cites 'Great Challenge' In ATA History

It is with profound pleasure that I welcome each member of the American Teachers Association to the fifty-fourth annual convention which convenes at North Carolina College at Durham July 28-30. ATA faces its greatest challenge in the history of the organization. Its professional responsibilities to teachers on all academic levels are most pronounced in this era of transition and uncertainty. Our Association has the manpower and resources to meet the issues of this period if we have the will and determination to move out in deeper water in order to expand the services of the Association.

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This is the most challenging period in American Education. Indeed, we are facing changes in our cultural, educational, economical, political and social patterns not only in the South, but throughout the nation and world. Each professional organization must face new and demanding issues which have been neither tested nor tried. For we are facing a new era in education in this country.

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The achievements of this nation in the field of public education have been miraculous, and such hard won gains should not be destroyed because of the problems of desegregation. In a spirit of good-will, faith in the true principles of Democracy, and mutual trust and cooperation by all citizens, every community in the United States can solve this seemingly difficult problem of desegregation within the framework of the Supreme Court's decisions of May 17, 1954. That is, if we have faith and courage to face the issues squarely without prodding ourselves in a direction to circumvent the decision of the highest tribunal of the land.

The American Teachers Association is dedicated to the task of implementing and achieving in full the American ideal of educational opportunity of every American child, regardless of race, caste, or creed. To this end the American Teachers Association has again and again reaffirmed its faith in the democratic process and has urged all citizens to support these lofty ideals.

ATA is a channel through which we can achieve certain specialized interests for the benefit and welfare of persons engaged in the teaching of children of minority groups. Yet, we are an inclusive professional organization.

The American Teachers Association is vitally concerned with two major approaches to the difficult problems of educa-

tion today. (1) Teacher welfare and security, and (2) and Techniques for the improvement of instruction. Two excellent pieces of projective work have been initiated by ATA. (1) An Evaluative Study of the Encyclopedias of America to see instances where the contributions of the Negro have been omitted and to remind publishers of the significant contributions which the American Negro has made to the culture of this nation. (2) Publications and demonstrations as to some of the important techniques which might be used to "Improve Human Relations" during this crisis.

In this perplexing period in which we are living, we must not give up those fundamental tenets which will make it possible for us to anchor safely. We will need the ATA as long as we shall need the Virginia Teachers' Association, The Alabama State Teachers' Association, the North Carolina Teachers' Association and the Palmetto Educational Association; for the American Teachers' Association has a specific function to perform along with all other professional organizations.

The NEA-ATA Joint Committee serves as a clearance house between the American Teachers Association and the National Educational Association. Through this channel common educational problems may be dissolved. These two great educational organizations are better able to champion the cause of educational equality for all Americans than either alone.

In this present crisis all teachers should be willing to assume their professional obligations and responsibilities by affiliating with local teachers association, district teachers association, state teachers association, national teachers associations, and world-wide teachers organizations. Through these professional organizations the grievances of teachers may be heard; through them equality of educational opportunity for our children may be achieved. It is not healthy for any teacher to ignore professional organizations today. Teachers' organizations are communication media.

Professional competencies are often achieved through profes-

sional organizations. Teachers cannot dodge some responsibility for remolding and reshaping community ideas and ideals. This expression has come down to us in recent months; "I AM PROUD TO BE A TEACHER." I ask the question, for what reason? Is it because you are able to get a check every twenty days? Or is it because you feel and know that in the teaching profession you will be molding the lives of men and women who will guide better or worse the political, social, educational, and economic destinies of this nation for centuries to come.

Our responsibilities are to prepare our youths for a new era in human relations. They must be encouraged to become active participating members in an integrating society. But more important in this transition period in education is the teacher. She must become fully integrated in her thinking, action, and personality, before she will be able to translate a new philosophy of life to her pupils. Today the use of the text book alone is inadequate to prepare the student for the application of knowledge to every day working experiences. Our pupils must be exposed to a larger environment than the four-walls of the classroom and the two backs of the textbook.

Democracy must develop within every teacher such a desire for excellence that she will work at the highest level of her capacity at all times. This type of teacher will teach as the Master-Teacher taught. Furthermore, Democracy must develop respect for every person who works at his highest level with the desire to achieve excellence. A competent teacher recognizes the dignity and worth of each pupil in her class. She tries through her resourcefulness to develop his mind and talents to their fullest capacity. She takes the child where she finds him and makes the most of the resources at her disposal.

We belong to a great profession. We have a great heritage. This heritage came to us without cost and without price. But it places upon us an obligation. An obligation that we shall make excellence our goal in the teaching profession; in order

that the rich heritage of the past may be made richer for our children in the future. The American Teachers Association justifies itself in that it creates a medium through which we can qualify and participate in policy-making bodies of leading professional organizations of the country.

The American Teachers Association is a watch-dog for our cherished hopes and ideals in an integrating society. The American Teachers Association is an educational resource for many teachers who have not as yet achieved complete equalization of this nation's resources and rights. ATA needs your support, and you need ATA's resources and influence in these days of crisis.

The unselfish builders of ATA have thrown us a torch. It is incumbent upon us during this fifty-fourth annual convention to hold it high so that those who are to follow may be heirs of a brighter future because of the positive decisions which we make here. We must rededicate our energies and resources for the improvement of the status of teachers and pupils in the American public schools. This is the least that ATA can do as a professional organization during its fifty-fourth annual convention. It is up to ATA membership to make this convention a historic one. May the delegates and members of ATA leave North Carolina College campus inspired, enthused, refreshed, stimulated, and motivated to the extent that the quality of learning and living will be enriched throughout this nation.

—THEODORE R. SPEIGNER

AV Center Gets Argus Cameras

The North Carolina College Audio-Visual Center has recently received a gift of an Argus Camera Kit. This kit contains two Argus C-3 35 mm cameras (List \$69.50) and one Argus Super 75 (List \$32.75). All three cameras have carrying cases and flash units.

This gift is a part of an experimental program which is being initiated by the Educational Services Division of Argus Cameras, Inc., a division of Sylvania Electric Products, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan. These kits have been available to high schools with twenty-five or more students in a photography club or class, and which have been in progress for two years.

The present experiment is with college Audio-Visual Centers. Mr. Robert R. Wilson, Director, Educational Services of Argus Cameras, Inc., wrote Mr. James E. Parker, Director of the NCC A-V Center as follows: "We are planning an experimental program with a few selected Audio-Visual centers where the scope and direction of the program seems to be well planned and supervised. We would like very much to place one of the kits in your Center."

The cameras were given on a permanent basis without any obligations whatsoever. The Company is interested in wide use of the cameras by students and faculty, and they will be interested, from time to time, in knowing just how they fit into the program.

The cameras will be available for loan on a check-out basis. Tentatively, the loan period will be for forty-eight hours. A permanent arrangement will be made when experience dictates a more suitable arrangement. The cameras are adequately identified by local methods and also by a permanent label by the Argus Company. This Company label reads: "Donated for School Use by Argus Cameras, Inc."



Mr. Artus Satterfield, sophomore from Oxford, N. C., is shown contemplating the cameras. In commenting about photography and the new cameras Mr. Satterfield said, "I like photography because it gives me an opportunity to produce something that I can say is mine. These cameras sort of solve my present photographic problem — access to a good camera. I haven't been able to really see what I could do because I haven't been able to buy a good camera. Now I can check out one of these and use it. This will give me a chance to see what I can do. I like these C-3's, and I believe I'll get one just as soon as I get enough money."

WELCOME A. T. A.

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