

# Washington Digest

## Sounder Education Needed To Maintain Free World

Economics and Geography Among Studies Required to Ground Students in the Problems at Home and Abroad.

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(This is the first of two articles on the subject of the "new reconversion.")

In the last two months the public has learned a lot about the importance of industrial reconversion. For many more months, business men, with the help of the best technical advice they could obtain, have been preparing to shift from wartime to peacetime production. Government has shared the knowledge of its experts and proffered its co-operation. Labor has contributed its suggestions. All three know what they want. Together they hope to obtain a successful synthesis.

But what many people do not realize is that the nation, the whole world, for that matter, is facing another reconversion problem, equally as difficult to solve, equally as important to achieve. It is the reconversion of our whole educational system, and upon its success depends the political future of democracy and its economic future as well, as embodied in the theory and outworking of free enterprise.

It is no exaggeration to say that our current educational system, which along with our wartime industrial system made Allied victory possible, is no more adapted to meet the new and startling problems of the postwar world than the Japanese defense could meet the atomic bomb.

Enlightened educators everywhere realize this. In a short time experts will meet in London to work out a program outlined in San Francisco by the men and women who planned the educational and cultural council of the United Nations. Here at home and in other democratic countries, domestic educational policies are being reshaped to meet the new conditions.

Education for world freedom is an important objective; education for freedom in the land of the free is equally important, for it is the foundation stone of world democracy. We have the task of reconverting our own antiquated machinery so that it will be geared to produce and maintain freedom. The United Nations' task is to build new machinery which will evolve a product which must displace the Nazi-Fascist teachings which still have their hold on a large segment of the population. Our own product must be both a weapon of offense and of defense.

We have a powerful example in the need for this in the demonstrated strength of the Nazi ideology and the weakness of what we have so far produced to combat it.

### Nazi Propaganda Remains Strong

A report made public only a week or two ago reveals how "Nazism at its blackest," as the report describes it, is being kept alive in a series of "resistance clubs" in Germany scattered from the North sea to the Bavarian mountains. Allied investigators have pieced together an appalling picture of a widespread activity based upon race hatred, and other Nazi principles with which the German youth has been so thoroughly indoctrinated in a manner pointed out in these columns some time ago and which I then said must be dealt with eventually.

The offense is powerful, and the weakness of our defense is illustrated in recent dispatches telling us how Nazi propaganda is affecting the viewpoint of the American army of occupation. A major is reported as doubting the truth of the atrocity stories in the concentration camp of Dachau located only a few miles from where he was stationed. American soldiers are heard parroting the familiar Goebbels' fabrication that Germany was forced into the war; that Hitler had his faults but was really great in many respects, or if Hitler's glory is found to be too strong a goat he is used as a scapegoat to excuse German war guilt.

I have just come from a long talk with one of America's great educators, John Studebaker, United States Commissioner of Education. It was he who introduced me to the phrase, "the new reconversion."

"Our democratic system is threatened from within and without," he said to me earnestly. "The Amer-

ican school gave our polyglot nation the solidarity to carry on the war successfully. But," he added, "we have severe tests ahead. We must educate for freedom, and educate for existence in a newly integrated world of which we are an integral part. We must understand our own problem and the problems of others."

I couldn't help applying this theory to the stories from Germany. A thorough understanding of democracy is proof against Nazi propaganda. An understanding of other peoples and events beyond our borders which affect us—as the rise of Hitler and Mussolini affected us—would make us deaf to German prevarications and excuses.

In order to meet the threats against democracy from within and from without, Mr. Studebaker believes, with most of his colleagues, that our present educational system will have to be thoroughly renovated. "Both the plant and the product must be remodeled," he says.

He chose two subjects—geography and economics—as examples of how the product must be altered.

### Knowledge of Conditions Vital

Geography is important because it is a study of the world in which we live. It is a study of the peoples who live in the world—of our very near, thanks to jet propulsion and atomic energy, if not always very dear neighbors. Geography is also the study of the pursuits, the industries of the people of the world. Its grasp is essential if we are to bring intelligent thought to judgment of events and the conditions at home and abroad and their effect upon each other and upon us.

"And yet, geography was never taught to our people," Mr. Studebaker says. "We stop teaching it at the eighth grade. The younger children, from three to eight, are taught by teachers who themselves never had more than eighth grade instruction in the subject."

And his second example of one of our educational products which must be strengthened, economics, "belongs still less to the people."

Only 5 per cent of the high school pupils ever studied economics, he informed me, and only 5 per cent of these ever learned anything about international trade.

"How can we possibly meet the problems arising now if we do not understand this subject? How can we possibly maintain free enterprise if we cannot pass a considered judgment on the questions that the papers are full of every day? How can a person say whether a wage increase is fair if he has never studied the simplest theories of supply and demand, or the more complicated relations of wages, costs, profits?"

And in the international field, he continued, how could a person who had never learned the fundamentals of international trade know whether a tariff was justified, whether a cartel was dangerous, whether certain foreign business activities benefited the people as a whole, whether free competition or government subsidy was a better policy? How could they advise their congressman to vote on the Bretton Woods agreement, or the policy of foreign loans?

Just as geography suffers because its teaching ends before maturity is reached (maturity in this sense is the 15-16 year group, roughly high school age), economics is begun too late. It is offered as a one-year, high school course and boiled down into such a concentrated potion that not only are vital elements omitted (such as international trade) but it becomes a dry and highly abstruse subject. Furthermore, since it is often an elective (a subject I'll touch on in a later article), it may be omitted entirely because it is "hard."

These two subjects are only two examples of those which should, in Mr. Studebaker's opinion, make up a solid "core" of education available to all.

"This core," he says, "is essential if we are to build solidarity in a democratic society. A certain group of vital, basic subjects which will help us understand the problems that threaten democracy, the down-to-earth facts necessary to give us the basis for a sound faith in our way of life."

## Hollywood Adds 'Atomic' Touch to Nation's Strikes



As all productions from Hollywood must no longer be considered colossal but "atomic," the strikers at the motion picture plants have led the way in proving to the world that they can put on an "atomic" strike. Shown above were sit-down strikers who blocked the main entrance to Warner Bros., Burbank, during the height of their strike. Deputy sheriffs who did not approve of the blockade are shown removing some of the strikers from the entrance.

## Honolulu Now Has Largest Airport in the World



One of the first photos of the John Rodgers airport in Honolulu to be released since before the war. The largest in the world, the airport is truly the crossroads of the Pacific, and it is here that Hawaiians will greet many of the delegates to the United Nations organization if their proposal to the Preparations committee, meeting in London, to make Hawaii permanent UNO headquarters is accepted.

## They're Here Today... Gone Tomorrow



If you are mentally agile, perhaps you can keep up with the Argentine situation. Here is Vice Adm. Hector Mermengo Lima, who became minister of the navy in the coup which ousted Vlee Pres. Juan Peron for a short time. When Peron returned to office the admiral was arrested.

## Women's U. S. Softball Champions



The Jax maids of New Orleans, who drove to the U. S. softball championship to make it the third year in the last four that they have won. They won in 1942 and 1943. The bevy of beauties hammered out a win over the Toronto club, also winning the title of world's champions. Nine Korgan of the Jax allowed but two hits by the Toronto lassies.

## Led Kachin Rangers



Capt. Charles Coussoule, who was a leader of the famed Kachin Rangers who snaked through swampy Burma jungles to beat the Japs at their own game. He has returned to his home at Indiana, Pa.

## From Beat to Opera



Ian Cosman, Manhattan patrolman, who made his operatic debut as Turiddu in "Cavalleria Rusticana," with the New York City Opera company. He has been on the force seven years.

## NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

WASHINGTON. — People do not seem to understand the meaning of "inflation," which is being raised as a spectre behind the daily news of strikes, wage debates and government economic planning.

No one in this country has seen an inflation walking, or I should say, running. Adults with memories may recall it as something which happened in Germany after the last war, when a bushel basket of money was necessary to buy a meal. But in general the news debate treats it as an infinite kind of prospect without dimensions, a sort of economic hell they know can happen, yet they cannot picture it.

The kind of inflation talked about now, should be easy to understand thoroughly. We have gone far enough toward it to make the landmarks visible. It is unlike any which has gone before in history, because primarily it is a price inflation.

In Germany, the wreckage of the money system and the bankruptcy of the country, brought the condition in which a glass of beer cost 100 marks or so. In other countries, such as China, a depleted treasury already has brought comparative inflation.

We are not bankrupt and our treasury took in 45 billion dollars last year. Ours is an inflation of prices directly. We have a shortage of goods, all goods, due to war wastes, increased consumption and free distribution of our supplies around the world. The cost of many things already has doubled since before the war.

### WILL REFUSE TO BUY

Now the unions want a 30 per cent wage increase in this time of a goods shortage. However much they get of their demand, prices will be increased at least that much and probably more. My experience as a consumer in this brave new economic world has convinced me that all that is needed to increase prices is an excuse.

If a man can sell his goods for an ever increasing price, he will do it. If he controls a seller's market such as we have now where people pay anything asked, he would be superhuman if he did not resist both the loose government regulations and conscience, if any.

But the course of upward wage jumps and upward price jumps will run, as soon as the shortage of goods is over, into buyer resentment. The wage-price inflationary spiral inevitably must encounter the day when people will not buy.

Indeed there necessarily must be a day when they cannot pay the price if they would, because the wages of no other class have increased as have the wages of union labor. We are getting to the point where we can see the people will close their pocket-books and strike or will have to strike in the economic sense, purchasing only that which is necessary.

Then the house will fall down. The spiral will collapse with a thud. Declining demand will cause declining production unemployment — depression.

From then on the depression can go many ways. The government cannot collect even 35 billion dollars or a fraction of it from a country in the throes of depression. Declining business brings declining tax receipts. The government can hardly borrow on top of a 300 billion dollar war debt for deficit financing to promote another gigantic spending program to save the situation.

It would probably start the printing presses and bring to its final logical conclusion the bankruptcy of the nation, because this is the only thing it could do.

In this process everyone who has anything of value from a bank account to a bond would lose it or suffer a terrible depreciation of anything he was able to hold through the crisis. But those who have nothing of value would suffer more severely, for it is reasonable to expect the starvation here that every other nation in similar circumstances has encountered.

Then would come dictatorial socialism. It would have to be a dictatorship because the world knows no other way to handle people who will not behave of their own accord. It would have to be socialism because this is the common political method today of handling nations in bankruptcy.

The Truman administration has been working behind its doors the last week trying to get a wage policy upon which to base solutions, but has found it hard to do. Labor Secretary Schwelienbach thought we had one in the oil settlement, but after the bricks started falling upon his head for that one, he crawled out of the pile with an aching head, aware, he had made a mistake.

After all, if you give the men a 15 per cent increase and then grant them the right to negotiate or arbitrate for another 15 per cent, you have not solved much.

Airplanes Over Counter  
One of Chicago's largest department stores has agreed to open an "airplane department" and will offer a popular, two-place model for sale from a conventional display room.

## Acid Indigestion

Relieved in 5 minutes or double money back. When excess stomach acid causes indigestion, suffering from gas, sour stomach and heartburn, doctors usually prescribe the fastest-acting medicine known for symptomatic relief—medicines like those in **666** Tablets. No irritative. Each one brings comfort for fifty or double your money back on return of bottle to us. Get it at all drug stores.

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Homelike Atmosphere  
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MUSIC—DANCING  
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## USE 666 COLD PREPARATIONS

LIQUID, TABLETS, SALVE, NOSE DROPS  
USE ONLY AS DIRECTED

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## When Your "Innards" are Crying the Blues

WHEN CONSTIPATION makes you feel punk as the dickens, brings on stomach upset, sour taste, gassy discomfort, take Dr. Caldwell's famous medicine to quickly pull the trigger on lax "innards", and help you feel bright and chipper again.  
DR. CALDWELL'S is the wonderful senna laxative contained in good old Syrup Pepsin to make it so easy to take.  
MANY DOCTORS use senna preparations in prescriptions to make the medicine more palatable and agreeable to take. So be sure your laxative is contained in Syrup Pepsin.  
INSIST ON DR. CALDWELL'S—the favorite of millions for 50 years, and feel that wholesome relief from constipation. Even finicky children love it.  
CAUTION: Use only as directed.

## DR. CALDWELL'S SENNA LAXATIVE

CONTAINED IN SYRUP PEPSIN

## SNAPPY FACTS about RUBBER

Over 300 patents dealing with rubber chemistry are among the 45,000 United States patents seized from aliens and nationals of occupied countries which are now available for licensing to American citizens.  
Even at peak production rates, it may take eight years for manufacturers to meet the demand for new automobiles.  
In five years the number of synthetic rubber passenger-car tires in this country has risen from a few thousand tires to about 35,000,000.  
To combat the shock from contact with icy waters, B. F. Goodrich has produced a new synthetic rubber anti-exposure salt for tires.



## BARBS... by Baukhage

They've just made a film about teachers—for the children's sake let's hope they don't get a film about pupils. It might result in more spankings than a bad report card.  
A new process of canning in aluminum for highly sensitive machines and parts-saves warehousing—and we hope it will make more new jobs than will be lost by displaced warehousemen.

There won't be enough oysters this year to supply the demand. Probably the war took too many shells.  
An eye-bank is being established, the purpose of which is to make available healthy corneal tissue to restore sight to those who are blind through an affliction of the cornea. The system is similar to the blood-banks and no less valuable. I wish they would establish a hair-bank.