

Washington Digest

Fundamentals Needed In Postwar Education

Courses Must Be Centered Around Core of Subjects Stressing Human Relations; Physical Build-up Also Important.

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

(This is the second of two articles on the "new reconversion," this one in education.)

In a previous column I laid before you the vital need of reconverting our educational system if America is going to meet the challenge of other ideologies to the faith in our democratic institutions. I pointed out how poorly many of our occupation forces are testifying to their democratic convictions in the face of the geniality of our former enemies.

I took you into the office of Commissioner of Education John Studebaker who pointed out to me how reconverting educationally is as important as reconverting industrially if we are going to meet the problems of the day. Dr. Studebaker said that this could be achieved by making a solid core of education available to all. Such a core would be composed of certain basic studies which educators believe are essential to a solidarity of democratic thought. The commissioner of education sees this core as a reinforcement of mental iron in the moral structure of the nation.

When you talk about making this core available to all, that is not the complete picture. Men like Doctor Studebaker would have this group of basic studies required of all student, not just made available to them. And thereby, say the traditionalists, hangs a threat to the elective system under which many institutions of learning have been comfortably educating students. Under the system of free choice, College Joe and College Jane could pick the courses their hearts desired. If their hearts desired a little extra sleep in the morning, they could pick classes that would not require early rising. If extra-curricular activities were particularly heavy one semester, they did not have to take economics which was hard when Turkish architecture was a snap.

Too many students have been coming out of our institutions of learning without a basic concept of what our democracy is all about, say the educators who are crying for reconversion. If they don't select the courses that will give them that concept, they must be required to take them, these same men say—the future of our way of life is at stake.

Education Vital Force in State

It is a well-known fact that before the Nazis ever dreamed of world conquest they first restrained by force, those who were too old or too wise to accept Nazi indoctrination. The more malleable minds of the young were filled with the false doctrines of subordination to the state, race hatred and exaltation of might. Their other anti-democratic and anti-Christian principles were poured into the youth until there was produced a state in which the controlling element of the population was fanatically loyal to Nazism.

Democracy and Christian principles once instilled can produce just as strong a loyalty, just as enduring a faith, but there is a minimum of instruction in their true meaning that must be made available to everyone—more than that, that should be required study of everyone who would be a good citizen. This is the first way in which the destructive forces which are working against democracy can be arrested.

And so Doctor Studebaker presents the idea of a "core" around which can be built an understanding of the whole democratic system; how its parts can be fitted into one another and into a world which must either be closely integrated or explosively antagonistic.

There is not space here to consider the details of the composition of this core. Two examples of the type of studies which Doctor Studebaker feels are essential, and which must be taught much more comprehensively and for a longer period than they are now, was given in the first article. They are economics and geography. There must be basic understandings and skills in the field of language. By that the commissioner means the channels by which we communicate and are communicated with—reading, writ-

ing, listening, speaking. Since radio broadcasts are heard daily by multiplied millions, critical listening should be a vital part of the basic educational program.

Since freedom of expression is an essential attribute of a democracy, citizens need to develop critical thinking in order to evaluate the powerful influence of communication and propaganda constantly brought to bear on them.

War Exposes Academic Weaknesses

During the war, certain major weaknesses in our educational system were bluntly exposed. Total rejections in the war for physical, psychiatric and educational reasons have been almost as numerous as the number of men who served in the army overseas. We may or may not need our young men to fight another war, but regardless of this, we need to improve school programs of health and physical education, including the early discovery of remediable defects to be corrected by family physicians and public health agencies. A nation that would be strong, must be strong physically.

Military authorities have also found a major weakness in the work of the schools in the failure to require older students to carry mathematics to the point of practical mastery.

The natural sciences gained a larger place in the field of education during the war, and they should continue to do so, according to Commissioner Studebaker. No adequate understanding of our civilization is possible without considerable knowledge of them. Moreover, many careers in trade, technical, professional and scientific pursuits, whether of industry, business or agriculture, are handicapped without a thorough scientific groundwork, laid in the elementary and secondary schools and for many, continued in the colleges and universities.

But one of the most basic segments of the core, in the opinion of Dr. Studebaker, should be made up of the social studies. It is upon this group that we have leaned most heavily in training for responsible citizenship—and this must continue. History and the other social studies are essential to the grounding of our citizens in the American tradition of political liberty, a knowledge of the structure of our republican form of government, and a firm attachment to the democratic faith, Doctor Studebaker says.

I said that it is the belief of important educators that a core of this type must become a "must" in the curricula of the nation, thereby casting overboard the traditional elective system whereby a student is given pretty much free choice in what he will study. This new approach is emphasized in one of the most widely quoted documents of recent publication, the Harvard study entitled, "General Education in a Free Society." This work has startled a number of people coming as it does from the institution that saw the elective system reach its most extreme form, for it recommends the abandonment of that system. In this document, the chief priest of the elective system points out the weaknesses of that long-cherished method.

Of course, it is one thing to set up curricula that will insure the fact that those attending school will get the basic studies. It is another to see that these required subjects are made available to all. Is it possible to produce and democratically distribute this basic core to all Americans?

Not yet. That is another must in the new reconversion. The expenditures now made on this priceless commodity are inadequate. But I am not dealing here with the finances of education. That is a subject in itself. Suffice it to say that even with greater funds this product, as blue-printed by the experts, cannot be produced in the existing plants any more than the peacetime models and types of industrial commodities can be produced by machines equipped for war production. Nor is the personnel and the training of that personnel adequate.

Far Eastern Commission Await Arrival of Russians



Members of the Far Eastern commission hold open meeting at state department and are addressed by Secretary of State Byrnes. Most of the work at hand was delayed awaiting arrival of the Russian members. Shown left to right: T. A. Stone, Canada; C. A. Berendsen, New Zealand; P. E. Naggair, France; Ambassador Wei Tao-Wing, China; Lord Halifax, Great Britain, and Secretary of State Byrnes. The problem: control of Japan will be the concern of the commission.

Big Chinese Welcome for American Leathernecks



The usually phlegmatic Chinese let themselves go with wild enthusiasm to welcome the first contingent of U. S. marines that arrived in Tientsin, China, during the occupation of North China. The cheering crowd stood like this from dawn until the leathernecks arrived late at night. The leathernecks are well known by the Chinese, for during peacetime some U. S. marines were always on duty in that country.

President Approves New Banner



President Truman has accepted the new presidential flag, which had been designed by orders of President Roosevelt. The eagle is looking toward the olive branch of peace clutched in its right talon, instead of toward its left talon holding arrows symbolic of war, as was the case in the former presidential flag. Star in each corner has also been omitted. The change of omitting the four stars was made when five-star generals were authorized.

Leaders of Revolutionary Junta



Members of the revolutionary Junta, which disposed Venezuelan President Medina and his government, are pictured in the Mira Flores palace after they had taken over control of the government. Left to right: Romulo Betancourt, Raul Leon, Dr. Edmundo Fernandez and Capt. Mario Vargas. The new government is reported functioning.

Marks Leyte Landing



Monument erected on the "Red" beach near Tacloban, Leyte, P. I., marks the spot where General MacArthur stepped ashore to lead the fight which resulted in the successful liberation of the Philippines.

A-La-Kangaroo Pack



Mrs. Joseph Longbreak, one of 40 New Zealand war brides to arrive recently at Los Angeles, is demonstrating her A-La-Kangaroo carrier for six-month-old baby Wayne.



DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

WASHINGTON. — This columnist recently proposed that we begin thinking a little more about the Sermon on the Mount in our international relations, and among other things establish a Department of Peace.

It was suggested that along with the Department of War and the navy department, we set up as our first line of defense a Department of Peace to promote the idea that the only alternative to the atom bomb is to teach the world and ourselves that we must get along with each other.

One aftermath of this idea is significant. It occurred in the appropriations committee of the house of representatives the other day when its members voted appropriations for the state department.

It happens that the nearest thing we have to a Department of Peace is the Department of State. That organization is by no means perfect, and might not be ideal to operate a Department of Peace. But its new chief, Jimmy Byrnes, has some good ideas and is working hard to establish new bureaus for spreading goodwill and helping peace.

He is trying to carry on the ideas of the office of war information which furnished propaganda to newspapers, aimed toward a better understanding of the USA. Byrnes is also trying to raise salaries. For years state department officials have struggled along on starvation wages. This is partly the fault of the wealthy career clique which wanted to keep wages low and thus operate a closed shop for themselves. So Secretary of State Byrnes is trying to raise diplomatic wages as the first step toward having alert diplomats guard the peace front.

However, when Byrnes' appropriation bill got up before his old friends in congress the other day, the house appropriations committee slashed it to ribbons. They particularly cut the new agencies patterned on the general idea of a Department of Peace.

MRS. ROOSEVELT'S TRAVELS

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt will soon be off on another globe-girdling tour designed to help international relations. This time Mrs. Roosevelt plans to visit Russia as well as other war-ravaged nations in Europe.

In recent weeks, she has been taking a more vocal, outspoken position on public issues. Although she denied having blasted Secretary of State Byrnes publicly for his handling of the foreign minister conference, Mrs. Roosevelt has been very sharp in private conversations about the way Truman and Byrnes have been rocking the ship of state, especially when it comes to foreign affairs.

Mrs. Roosevelt claims age is creeping up on her, but to an outside observer she gives no evidence of slowing down. She is now almost as active as she was before her husband's death — certainly still the most forthright lady ever to live in the White House.

WHY MEN LEAVE NAVY

Worried about the failure of men and officers to remain in the navy, Secretary of the Navy Forrestal recently put out an order to naval separation centers to interview the next 100 reserve officers who came up for discharge. The result showed bitter resentment on the part of reserve officers against the Annapolis clique. Here are some typical interviews quoted verbatim:

"The only reason I would join the navy again would be if I were starving."

"It's mighty late for the navy to try to sell itself to reservists."

"I think the officers of the regular navy are grasping, pushing and self-centered."

"The attitude of the majority of Annapolis officers to reservists is that they are to be endured only for the time being."

"The Annapolis grads should cast aside their childish attitude."

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Judge Samuel Rosenman, one of Franklin Roosevelt's closest friends, has become a staunch defender of Mississippi's George Allen, who holds a similar position with Harry Truman. To his skeptical New Deal friends, Judge Rosenman protests, "But George is a liberal." Allen, a protégé of the late Senator Pat Harrison and an insurance executive, spends part of every morning with Truman going over his problems.

The White House is quietly passing the word around to newsmen not to pack their bags. There will be no more presidential junkets for quite a while. Truman got enough kidding about his journey to the Missouri county fair to last him a long time.

OPA estimates that 700,000 veterans and their families have no place to live. Their wives and children have been living "doubled up" while the G.I.s were out fighting. Now the veterans want a home of their own and can't find it. Reports coming to me say that homeless veterans will stage a demonstration in New York City.

The house committee on un-American activities has investigated ex-Sen. Robert Reynolds' Nationalist party. But, according to Investigator George McDavitt, it found nothing wrong with this group.

Pineapple Doily Easy For You to Crochet



THREE balls of cotton are all you need to crochet this easy-to-make "pineapple" design. It measures 16 inches across and is a charming combination of pineapple motifs, palm leaves grouped around a center diamond design.

To obtain complete crocheting instructions for the Pineapple Doily (Pattern No. 5186) send 16 cents in coin, your name, address and the pattern number.

SEWING CIRCLE-NEEDLEWORK 1150 Sixth Ave. New York, N. Y. Enclose 16 cents for Pattern. Name: Address:

Try Making Cough Syrup at Home. Quick Relief

Saves Big Dollars. No Cooking.

No matter what you usually use for coughs due to colds, you'll be more than surprised when you make up this simple home mixture and give it a trial. You'll wonder why you never used it before. It certainly does the work in a hurry.

Make a syrup by stirring 2 cups of granulated sugar and one cup of water a few moments, until dissolved. No cooking is needed—it's no trouble at all. Or you can use corn syrup or liquid honey, if desired.

Get from your druggist 2 1/2 ounces of Pinex. Pour this into a pint bottle and fill up with your syrup. This makes a full pint—a family supply—and gives you about four times as much for your money. It tastes fine, and never spoils. Children love it.

And for quick action, you've never seen its superior. It loosens the phlegm, soothes the irritated membranes, eases the soreness, makes breathing easier, and lets you sleep. Pinex is a special compound of proven ingredients, in concentrated form, a famous reliable soothing agent for throat and bronchial irritations. Money refunded if it doesn't please you in every way.—Adv.

NR TO-NIGHT TOMORROW ALRIGHT ALL-VEGETABLE LAXATIVE. GET A 25¢ BOX. Natural Remedies.

ELEANOR STEBER Soprano REGINALD STEWART Guest Conductor The Ford Sunday Evening Hour. 8 to 9 P.M. Stations: WJZ, WJWL, WJVM, WJWS, WJWB, and other A.B.C. stations.

PAZO for PILES Relieves pain and soreness. Pazo in Tubes! Millions of people suffering from simple Piles, have found prompt relief with PAZO ointment. Here's why: First, PAZO ointment soothes inflamed areas—relieves pain and itching. Second, PAZO ointment lubricates hardened, dried parts—helps prevent cracking and soreness. Third, PAZO ointment tends to reduce swelling and check minor bleeding. Fourth, it's easy to use. PAZO ointment's perforated Pile Pipe makes application simple, thorough. Your doctor can tell you about PAZO ointment. SUPPOSITORIES TOO! Some persons, and many doctors, prefer to use suppositories, so PAZO comes in handy suppository form. The same soothing relief that PAZO ointment gives.

BARBS... by Baukhage

Half the communities in the United States are not reached by a railway, says the automobile manufacturing association. They have to roll on rubber instead of rails.

Last year more people were killed by accidents in the rural areas than in the cities. There were more automobile collisions in the rural and small-town areas. Why?

The highest suicide rate among women is found in Japan and German countries. Maybe their own wives didn't like 'em any better than the Allies did.

At the army air forces center in Orlando, Fla., they are perfecting motor vehicles which will operate over the snow. Query: where do they get the snow in Florida?