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A SCHOOL PROBLEM

IN ALBERT LINDY'S "Quackery in the Public Schools" (condensed elsewhere on this page) a genuine problem is raised—but not resolved. After reading Lindy's attack on the "superpedagogues" and their "obsession" over the nation's public school teachers, you find yourself complacent of the muddled situation but puzzled over what to do about it.

In the first place, it is unlikely that the private citizen could exert sufficient influence as a member of a school board to break the power of the educators of educators. And if he—and others like him—could "change things"—how would he change them?

A group of laymen loose in this educational china shop would probably destroy the good in teacher training along with the bad.

If there is to be a successful revolt against such silliness as "clothing 223" and against the more serious dangers of the "train for advancement" program, it will require more than a school board. The layman has outstanding educators of the liberal arts colleges and universities will be needed to swing educational emphasis back to general preparation rather than pseudo-specialization. Robert Hutchins of the University of Chicago should lead the fight.

More important to most of us than the

teacher-training problem is the recent mania among educators for teaching "socially useful" skills in the lower grades at the expense of the three R's.

Many of them excuse their preoccupation with woodworking and sewing and the like with the declamatory "Well, so many children are leaving high schools before they graduate, that we must prepare them for immediate employment."

It is true that there are many youngsters who will stumble through a couple of years of high school and, for one reason or another, drop out to go to work. But what of the others—those students who intend to continue their education, perhaps go on to college? These students receive inadequate preparation for college because there are others who do not have those goals.

Educators have, perhaps in desperation, lowered the standard of schooling to meet the needs of those less interested in education rather than maintaining a high level and attempting to lift the less interested.

There is a need for good technical training for a certain group of students—those who are not mentally equipped to profit from traditional education. However, there should be some separate arrangement made for them. The more able students should not be held back.

TAXES AND MEDICAL COSTS

ALONG about this time of March, a great incongruity of the individual income tax law forcibly impresses itself upon us. In case, we have forgotten about it, the provisions which allow deductions for medical expenses to such amounts as exceed five per cent of the taxpayer's earnings.

You use that familiar form 1040. You have to add up your wages, salaries, bonuses, commissions, as well as your dividends and interest earned, and any other income from any other source. When you get that total, you figure what five per cent of it comes to. If your medical expenses exceed that figure, you can deduct the excess.

FIREARMS AND CHILDREN

THE NEWS ITEM under the Reidsville dateline told the tragic story.

There were three small boys—five years old, three years old, eighteen months old. They found a pistol in a suitcase and went upstairs to play cowboy.

The parents, talking to a neighbor downstairs, heard a shot and rushed upstairs. The eighteen-month-old child had a hole through his forehead. He died shortly thereafter. The three-year-old's forehead was grazed by the same bullet, but he was not seriously injured.

MANIA FOR MAKE-UP

THERE'S a little story in a Sunday supplement magazine that says a young Hollywood starlet made cinematic big time by keeping soap and water off her face and a comb out of her hair.

This cannot be recommended for good little girls who should remember that cleanliness is not only the key to success in Hollywood's assembly-line, but also glamorized young women it might not be a bad suggestion.

Seems this starlet went to Hollywood and got a job. Then before the director could even shoot "let 'em" she had been subjected to the make-up factory. Came out looking like about 90 per cent of the other girls of the silver screen.

Her name? Geraldine Brooks—a name you probably haven't heard. But

Present System Attacked

AMERICA'S public schools are in the hands of teachers who have forgotten the value of the traditional "three R's" and who are relying instead on a "social usefulness" in teaching their students. They will put more emphasis on mechanical drawing, for instance, than on the study of classic literature.

That is the judgment of a former history teacher at Stanford and Harvard whose attack on public school instruction in this month's "Atlantic Monthly" was ruffled the fur on many a teacher and raised an important question in more than one mind.

Newspapers and magazines all over the nation have commented on Albert Lindy's "Quackery in the Public Schools."

Angry, Lindy calls for the citizen who pays for the school system to see that his money is spent in his liking. He declares that a clique of "superpedagogues"—teachers who teach teachers—have set up a dictatorship over the nation's public school teachers.

This school principal, Lindy declares, once was "next in line" to the minister. . . the most learned fellow in town. Today you may find your local high school in charge of a risk-kwango "progressive" training has been free of the elements of traditional education.

This educator, Lindy states, "may not be able to read a single word in any foreign language, living or dead, or even write a decently turned paragraph in English, but he can lead an enthralling class discussion in A Democratic Solution of Our Traffic Problem."

Such men, Lindy believes, are the product of "un-professionalism" . . . the professors of education in the larger universities and teachers' colleges. They determine the kind of education that your child must submit and for which you must pay taxes.

These professors have substituted the traditional educational system of giving Junior all the objective information he's capable of taking for a system devoted to the provision of "skills" and "socially useful" results. They also determine what skills are socially useful.

THEY have been able to do this, Lindy observes, because the public holds educators—who doctors-in-law; the public is afraid to contradict them. Thus school board superintendents of schools can ignore the school board which hires him and, according to Lindy, he serves as "front man for some professional ideology of curriculum, discipline, and teacher status." He supports the system under which teacher must submit through an ever-increasing mass of "courses" and "summer-sessions" to advance here.

These "very courses" and "summer-sessions," Lindy believes, are responsible for the "social usefulness" less-than in current day education.

These training courses in "teaching theory," Lindy says, are the only way to get a job in your school. A 30-day course offered at Bridgewater State



Quackery In The Schools

Teacher College which purports to deal with a consideration of the outstanding writings of the world from ancient times to the beginning of the twentieth century, as well as sketches of the lives and times of the writers. . .

Another 30-day course in which is made a detailed study of what has been happening in the field of government in this country during the last fifteen or twenty years.

It is obvious that these courses can treat their subjects but superficially, that the educators are more concerned with the techniques of teaching than with providing sound advanced training in specific fields.

The teachers returned to their students with a knowledge of "administering" schools and the public's efforts to run schools. They are not all the better for it.

Says Lindy: "The most depressing aspect of this adulated pap is that for purposes of pay and promotion it is equated with the genuine intellectual efforts of superior teachers who take respectable courses for real self-improvement. For there are of course outstanding teachers in the public schools who are more concerned with their own professional development than with shoddy tokens of 'professional advancement.'"

"Yet," he continues, "you must provide your teachers with long paid vacations for studying" this stuff, and you must raise their pay for doing so.

If you want to register your protest against this domination of public school teachers and the public by educators of educators, you can "dedicate yourself to the study of the history of education. . . getting elected to your local school board." This will probably fail to accomplish anything, Lindy feels, although you may feel better about getting it off your chest.

The ultimate answer, the writer concludes, is to send your child to a private school. Of course, you must support two school systems, but you are guaranteed of knowing that your child is avoiding the "social usefulness" process that makes modern American education ineffectual.

Quote, Unquote

Went in Christmas's white and asked for a nickel's worth of sardines. She said, 'All right, but I've got you to go.' This country is going to the dogs, because the only way to get a nickel's worth of sardines anymore.—DeKalb (Miss) Kemper Courier Messenger.

To add to the troubles of the Government now laid down with a surplus of 10,000,000 bushels of potatoes, some one has invented a synthetic potato chip made of rice. Next thing will be to offer subsidies to rice growers, so they will also produce a surplus.—Oklahoma City Daily Oklahoman.

Dallas police chasing one burglar ran into another by accident. Burglar traffic control is what this town needs now.—Dallas (Tex.) Morning News.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON THE Air Force is now designing a supersonic B-36 that will take it to the moon. . . . The Air Force will now be able to make hit-and-run attacks against Russia. . . . For example, a squadron of supersonic B-36's, based in Malak, could fly in any amount of time, rain or snow, to Moscow and get back home in less than two hours.

Supersonic Bomber Planned For U. S.

ator who consistently attacked Communism would have a great appeal for the voters.

It was the first place, McCarthy's which limit for Communists inside the State Dept. has disrupted our entire foreign service at a time when our foreign relations are more delicately balanced than ever.

Finally some of the Republican Senators who really know the gentleman from Wisconsin and the situation in his state are afraid the Democrats will raise the cry of: 'Look who's talking!'

Tax Troubles HIS tax troubles occurred in 1948, when the State of Wisconsin claimed he failed to disclose an income of \$42,000.

The also managed to compromise his tax troubles with the Federal Government.

In Russian Zone, '1984' Prices Come Far Ahead Of Schedule

By JOSEPH ALSKO ARE kept in good working condition but below the standard of rebuilding the average worker receives the equivalent, in real money, of 100 rubles. . . .

As for good shoes and decent clothing, they are scarce. Warmth at home and pleasure abroad, these luxuries are not for slaves. The workers' pleasure consists in an occasional glass of peurovodka and potatoes and cabbage. This he can work.

The petty functionaries and officials of the outer party are rather cheaply bought. Their price is a few extra marks a month to spend on the drabry deleicesness and shabby clothes that are sold by the Handels organization. This is the government monopoly black market.

Finally, the members of the inner party, the industrial managers, the managers of the State apparatus, the called Aktivists, may enjoy the luxury of a better standard of life. You see them proudly enjoying their splendid position in the city. . . .

One wonders, at first, why the Soviets have chosen to reduce this standard of living to such a fearful condition. But the answer to this puzzle is only too obvious. Let us suppose that the State apparatus has chosen to reduce this standard of living to such a fearful condition. . . .

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Many Factors Determine Good 'Risk' For College Courses

By HENRY C. McFADYEN ALBERT LINDY tries to send his "Quackery in the Schools" to the public. . . . The answer to this puzzle is only too obvious. Let us suppose that the State apparatus has chosen to reduce this standard of living to such a fearful condition. . . .

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THEY have been able to do this, Lindy observes, because the public holds educators—who doctors-in-law; the public is afraid to contradict them. Thus school board superintendents of schools can ignore the school board which hires him and, according to Lindy, he serves as "front man for some professional ideology of curriculum, discipline, and teacher status."

Such men, Lindy believes, are the product of "un-professionalism" . . . the professors of education in the larger universities and teachers' colleges. They determine the kind of education that your child must submit and for which you must pay taxes.

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