

Educator Gives Opinions on Education in Year 2000

Events of the year 2000 A.D. are being molded in classrooms of today, Dr. Irving Melbo, educator, told Torrance teachers as he offered them a peek at some future problems of education.

Dean of the USC School of Education and research director for Torrance schools, Dr. Melbo addressed a teachers' meeting on "Education in the Year 2000."

Today's kindergartners will be 46 in the year 2000, while high school seniors will be 58. Since this is the age group of many national and world leaders, what these youngsters learn today will shape tomorrow's world, he said.

"The shadow of the future is already discernible—only the details are obscured. The future will not be like the present of this we may be sure.

Trends which affect and will affect education, Dr. Melbo said,

1. Growth of knowledge — "something which we have never seen before in this world. There is infinitely more to learn, more to know and more to understand, more from which to select in all areas."

2. Growth of science and technology which, since the industrial revolution, has reshaped nations of the western world and Russia. China is advancing, but the non-white part of the world generally is now in the "have not" category.

"These nations may move from 'have nots' to the 'have' category and the critical question for us is, 'By whose kindly and understanding help and assistance?'"

3. Growth of science, which also has helped remove peasantry from agriculture, slavery from industry, and drudgery

from the home. Many more new scientific developments are ahead — perhaps such things as the conquest of space, more automation, longer lifespans, and perhaps even synthetic life. How are these things to be controlled?"

Three problems have been created by this scientific revolution, Dr. Melbo declared:

(1) The threat of H-bomb war, (2) overpopulation, and (3) an increasing difference between rich and poor nations.

"Our destruction may come out of our obsession with science if we aren't careful—out of chemistry without conscience, physics without philosophy, math without morality, or education without ethics," he declared.

He quoted Dr. Edward Teller, famous physicist, who suggested study be given to setting up courses not necessarily to train

scientists, but to train people who are affected by science and must deal with it. The course would give people an understanding of science and what it is trying to do.

In social studies, educators must study to determine which languages are to be the important one for life in 2000 A.D., he said. What type of social concepts and understandings, ethics, and philosophy will be needed to live in 40 years? he asked. Careful study should be given to these questions in setting up school curricula.

"When history is written from a world basis and the American civilization is analyzed, it will say that, unique among its accomplishments and achievements, the greatest of its contributions to the entire world is its system

of free public education," Melbo declared.

CARE Aids Korea Typhoon Victims

An appeal for the typhoon victims in Korea where thousands have been left homeless and destitute was voiced today by Edward J. Flynn, western director of CARE.

The agency is distributing 15,000 pairs of shoes and 3600 suits of underwear as an initial step following destruction in the wake of Typhoon Sarah.

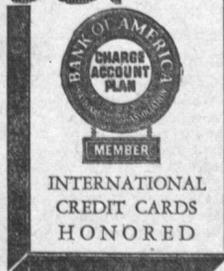
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