

FROM THOSE WHO KNOW

(Being summaries from the last educational conference of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities.)

CURRICULUM NEEDS

DR. CECILIO PUTONG

Asst. Director of Education

1. That our schools continue to stress the development of sane nationalism but at the same time should include provision for an appreciation of the fine qualities of other peoples and their contributions to world progress and civilization.

2. That our children be given some familiarity with the customs and traditions of other peoples through a series of supplementary readers and through books for general reading.

3. That a book or pamphlet on the United Nations, the UNESCO, and other world organizations be placed in the schools for general reading of the students and that efforts be made through our delegates to succeeding UNESCO conferences to have this publication used in schools of other countries of the world.

4. That steps be taken to prepare an international anthem which would serve to unite the peoples of the world in a common feeling of brotherhood.

5. That in future revisions of textbooks and supplementary materials all statements or portions which may be considered inimical to the cause of in-

ternational friendship and goodwill be deleted and that the point of view be changed, whenever necessary, to conform to the principles enunciated in the preamble of the UNESCO constitution.

6. That the parents, through the parent-teacher associations, be asked to cooperate in the promotion of international friendship and goodwill. To this end, a list of vital topics for discussion should be prepared and sent to different parent-teacher associations for discussion during their regular meetings.

7. That since the general adoption of the ways of democracy by the peoples of the world would be the strongest guarantee for a lasting world peace and international amity, steps be taken to put democracy into action in our schools by providing our children and youth from the first grade to the university with opportunities for its practice in school, at home, and in the community. Needless to say, the principles of democracy must be infused into our school system, including its administration and supervision, classroom management, and procedures.

TEACHER EDUCATION

VENANCIO TRINIDAD

Superintendent of City Schools, Manila

The rapid expansion of our school system and the radical changes in the social, political, and economic scene, necessitate a revision of our program of teacher education and an increase of facilities for the preparation of teachers.

In the preparation of teacher-education curriculum, due cognizance must

be taken of the educational provisions in the Constitution of the Philippines and of the statement of purpose of the UNESCO to the end that a happy balance between internationalism and nationalism may be insured.

The curriculum should likewise provide a closer integration of professional

and cultural courses and should minimize the tendency toward specialization. Integration and correlation are especially needed in the courses in education as well as in the prescription of major and minor subjects.

In addition to broad general education, the curriculum should provide ample opportunities for an informal study and discussion of special problems and for investigations of community agencies and conditions outside the schools as well as for actual participations in a variety of socio-economic activities. The purpose is to develop a teacher who is competent both as a teacher and as an effective member of the community.

In line with the democratic theory of education, prospective teachers should be given opportunities for active participation in such activities as planning and evaluating the details of instruction, making adaptations and modifications in

the courses of study, faculty meetings, etc.

For the purpose of insuring for the teaching service the availability of the most promising young men and women, extreme care should be exercised in the selection of students for admission to our teacher-training institutions.

To cope with the needs arising from the rapid expansion of the school system, the plan of the Bureau of Education for the establishment of ten regional normal schools should be carried out without delay. The facilities for teacher education in private institutions of learning should likewise be increased.

With an overwhelming majority of teachers now in the service unprofessionally trained and in realization of the fact that teacher education is a continuous process, a vigorous program of in-service education of teachers should be launched.

ADULT EDUCATION

SEGUNDO INFANTADO

Director, Office of Adult Education

During this period of nation building for the Republic of the Philippines, adult education is of paramount importance, for in a democratic mass society only the diversity and intelligence of free individuals will make representative government work. Self-government demands maturity of mind and heart which rarely grows up but in the long cultivation of the individual for tolerance and freedom, Liberty and progress are fragile and have to be carefully cultivated. They are the product of continuous educational growth.

It is surprising that the Government in its efforts to restore peace and order has forgotten past experiences about

the effects of making martyrs of small groups which are assumed to be disaffected. Nor has the lesson been learned that a better method of counteracting bad ideas is to emphasize good ideas as emphatically and as vigorously as possible.

"You can not make men sober by law, neither you can make men loyal by law or by police methods," are statements which would have been well to remember by those who are now engaged in suppressing the disaffected elements. Suppression creates martyrs, and martyrs may win sympathy in the most unexpected quarters. A great statesman