



"Of Greater Moment. . ."

*Courtesy of Santa Monica Public Schools,
Santa Monica, Calif.*

Of Greater Moment than Guns _____

HAROLD BENJAMIN

IN A WORLD ringed about with blazing guns, it is hard to believe that there are matters of greater moment than service of the guns. It is true that those who would be today's pioneers of tomorrow's civilization must listen to those guns. The strong and the brave among the peoples of the earth must hear and understand, they must decide and act, they must respond to the call of the guns with all the intelligence and strength they can muster. But they must do more than merely hear and answer guns, or at the last they will be beaten by more than guns.

It is the weak and the timid who feel that they may have enough strength and daring for the guns but have no reserves of power and courage to deal with the matters of great moment which lie beyond and above the guns. It is precisely this feeling that makes them weak and timid. From them who think they have only gun strength and daring shall be taken away even that which they have.

... What kind of men and women does a good society for our time need? How can the pictures of such men and women be drawn for all the behavior-changing agencies of the society? How can education produce such men and women? What activities and what procedures will perform these tasks? These are problems of the grand human strategy. Beside them the problems of the greatest of modern wars sink to the level of minor tactical exercises.

Both the great strategy of education and the little tactics of war will be solved by strong and daring people. When at last the blazing guns are silenced such people will not sit and stare vacantly at their empty hands. They will know full well what to do then because they will have dealt with matters of great moment now.

The above statement was written by Harold Benjamin as the Editor's Introduction to THE CURRICULUM OF DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION by Charles C. Peters, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1943. It is reprinted here by permission of the publishers and Mrs. Harold Benjamin. Mr. Benjamin is now serving with the Eleventh Air Force overseas. He has heard the guns and joined "today's pioneers for tomorrow's civilization." The statement on this page was written on the eve of his departure from the University of Maryland to join the armed forces. The circumstances under which he wrote these words give depth of meaning to the message he sends to the strong and daring people who must deal with matters of greater moment than guns.

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