This Time We Must Not Fail

THIS TIME we will make a just and lasting peace. We are determined. But it will not happen of itself. The peace must be of us, for us, by us—all of us. It must spring from the actions and hearts of the world’s millions, building and believing together. Presidents and salesgirls, statesmen and plumbers, and the children of our nations—we must each and all do our part. But doing our part requires of us that we know how to live and work together.

The beginning of a new year, a war year of determination and hope, is a fitting time for us to re-examine our ways of working. We know that an important part of setting up a peace which will endure is planting in the minds and hearts of children a firm belief in cooperative effort. The authors of this issue of Educational Leadership direct our thinking to the basic principles of group action—principles which must underlie our actions whether we deal in matters of international collaboration or teacher-student planning. These writers bring us clear evidence that the democratic way has possibilities far beyond those usually realized. They point to the need for an understanding of the structure and dynamics of group processes and cite examples of how such processes may operate. From the youngest among us to those who fight in battle or on the home front, we can make democracy work if we will.

The arrangements of peace and justice do not stand of themselves. Nor do they grow from the might of nations in arms. They are of the understanding of millions—people who are little of themselves but mighty in their group will. As educators we have a duty to all people and to nations, that we may learn to work together. This time we must not fail. How grave is our responsibility.