THE LISTENING POST

Legislation for the "Democratomic" Age

The Legislative Committee of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, NEA, recommends to the membership the following statement as a stand on current legislation to be taken by educators.

1946 is a year when America's school people might well study the meaning of two great historical events—the invention and first use of the atomic bomb in 1945 and the worldwide economic depression of 1932. Also it is a year when they might well read or re-read two great books—Wendell Willkie's One World and Henry Wallace's Sixty Million Jobs. For these events and books will help us extend our sights beyond school walls to a new world in the making.

Now that a decisive military victory over all three Fascist enemies is ours, we can turn our major attention to the equally hard job of winning the peace. This requires thinking and working together toward the all-important objective of building a better nation and a better world for all the common people.

What is ahead will depend in no small part upon the actions of our own United States Government. And these actions in turn will depend upon what we the voters and constituents want them to be.

On the international front we want the Administration and the Congress to do all within their power to see that the United Nations Organization moves forward along the lines laid down in its San Francisco Charter, toward world peace, understanding, and prosperity.1 We want our government to promote a United Nations set-up which guarantees that atomic research and energy are used for human welfare, not for war. We want our government to supply enough relief, credit, and other assistance to aid the liberated nations in war-devastated areas to rehabilitate their peoples, lands, and cities.

Already, thanks to the President and the Congress, we have made great strides in this crucial area of international relations.

On the domestic front, we educators and other citizens want our federal government to pass legislation which will help make the postwar years even better for all our people than even the best years before. Toward this goal there are a number of federal bills now before the Congress. These include: the full employment bill (Senate Resolution 380 and House Resolution 2202) which provides for government responsibility to aid in maintaining full employment; the unemployment compensation bill (S. 1724 and H.R. 3891) which supplements the benefits now provided by the states and which extends relief to displaced war workers, federal employees, and maritime workers; the amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act (S. 1349 and H.R. 3914) which raises the minimum wage for workers in interstate trade and industry from 40 cents to 65 cents an hour for a 40-hour week; the housing bill (S. 1592) which provides more federal assistance in building low-cost housing and in financing private construction; the health insurance bill (S. 1666 and H.R. 4730) which provides compulsory prepaid health insurance for all with yearly incomes up to $3,600, broadens grants-in-aid to states for construction of hospitals and clinics, and expands public health, maternity, and child health services; the permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission bill (S. 181 and H.R. 2232) and the anti-poll tax bill; and the bills required to maintain stable prices and rents, to regulate prices on homes, and to control the distribution of scarce essential materials—until production is sufficient to make it safe (non-inflationary) to remove controls.

In addition, there is the federal-aid-to-education bill (S. 181 and H.R. 1296). Under this bill, the government would provide $300,000,000 a year (equal to what it spent in about a day and a half for war in 1944-45) to assist the states in financing public schools.

1It is our hope that the United Nations Organization will work toward some kind of One World.
It is not enough that we passively approve legislation. We must back up our convictions with action as the President suggested in his recent address to the nation.

All such international and domestic measures as the foregoing have important implications for the future of education and the general welfare. If teachers and other citizens work for their enactment, they will help our nation to extend democracy, prosperity, employment, health care, housing, and good schooling to all regions of our country and to all sections of our population. They also will help bring peace, jobs, democratic self-government, and the other good things of life which peoples of all nations in this One World of ours need and want so desperately in this critical age.

It will be sad indeed if educators in this democratomic age, in their zeal for scientific progress throughout today's world, neglect to give more than equal emphasis to the development of democratic human relations. Only as people learn how to live together will we truly see the great potentialities of the age in which we live come into their own. And it is to the degree that we work to make science and democracy serve the general good of peoples everywhere that education will be a moving force in building One World where all children are free.—ASCD Legislative Committee.

Building America Asks Your Help

ALL MEMBERS of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development have recently been asked to help in selecting topics for units of Building America for the coming school year.

Letters from the Executive Secretary went to members in late January. Included was a list of the eighty-nine units already published or planned through the current year. Members may wish to review this list before making suggestions for new titles. The Building America Editorial Board has asked that suggestions be returned as soon as possible to Building America, 2 West Forty-Fifth Street, Room 1700, New York 19, N. Y.

Building America, sponsored by ASCD, supplies factual, illustrated studies of modern problems and is designed for use in schools, colleges, youth organizations, and by the general public. Frances M. Foster is editor and Paul R. Hanna is chairman of the Editorial Board. Eight study units are published between October and May. Revisions are made from time to time to keep the units up to date. The eight issues for 1945-46 are:

- China
- Oil
- Public Opinion
- Our Land Resources
- Machinery for Foreign Relations
- Public Health
- Cooperatives
- America and the Dance

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