

The Changing World

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ATOMIC ENERGY MUST WORK FOR HUMANITY

THE SUDDEN MASTERY of atomic energy in wartime has brought the present imbalance in human progress into sharp focus. In a humane cooperative world such a scientific development would be hailed as a great victory and the first step towards the millennium. For could we but employ atomic energy for human welfare no flight of the imagination could envision our rate of progress. As it is, the release of atomic power has filled the world with fear and suspicion. This is so because progress in human relations lags so far behind our developments in science. Unless this lag in human relations can be overcome, the outlook for humanity is dark indeed. If the imbalance in progress is to be overcome, education must attack vigorously on the human relations front. All of our people, young and old, must be equipped to live in *one world*. Education must teach us how to live as responsible human beings who order the world on the basis of the principle of human brotherhood. Education must do these things rapidly and it must do them effectively. Accordingly we must have both a long-time and a short-time program.

The short-time program must be designed to give us as many years of peace as we need to permit the long-time program to work. Our short-time program must bring the urgency of the situation to every American adult. The American adult must realize that our way of life must be made to work or we shall lose it. He must be made to see that there can be no freedom or justice in the international scene unless there is freedom and justice at home. The power of the United States must be on the side of freedom and justice the world over.

The long-time program must be soundly based on our scientific knowledge and our values. We must study and apply what we

know about human growth and development. We must have a clear idea of the kind of society we wish to produce and the quality of living we wish to provide for those in it. We need to study the social, economic, and political aspects of human relations and we must have a plan of action with the resources to carry it out. Millions of man-hours and two billions of dollars were spent to give man the means of self-destruction. We dare not spend less to make man safe from self-destruction.

The educational attack on the problem of human relations must be thorough and effective. The principle of human brotherhood applies in the home, in community, in the relations between employer and employee, in the relations between races and peoples. Our basic assumption is that each human being has worth and dignity and has uniqueness and creative power. But it is only through a cooperative society that we can really have one world. Education must therefore seek a world of human cooperation rather than a world of conflict and endless intrigue.

All our education agencies must be effectively marshaled for this short-term program. We have very little time in which to do it. A few years at the most. We literally need every hour. We cannot afford to be defeatists. A great nation and a great work can only be built on a great faith accompanied by vigorous action. While we carry out the short-term program we must plan and get under way with the long-term undertaking. This long-term program must equip children and young people to live in the atomic age. Success in both the long-time and short-time program can yet turn the release of atomic energy into a boon for mankind instead of having it remain a Damoclean sword over the human spirit.

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