

# From *the* Editor

**Communication.** A primary objective of our editorial staff and the Publications Committee this year is to increase communication. Through the journal pages, authors and contributors speak to readers. But this does not complete the act of communication. There must be response from readers to make this act complete. Only then can we judge the effect of the ideas printed in these pages.

How can readers make this act of communication complete? One way is through writing timely, thought-provoking letters to the editor. This November issue carries a brief contribution to the "Letters to the Editor" column. Its significance for readers lies in a thoughtful distinction the writer makes between the function of material appearing in a "column" of the journal and of material in a regular article.

Another means readers can use to complete the act of communication is to serve as a continuing "evaluation committee." Does the content of the October issue—or of the November issue—live up to your expectations? Does it serve in some sense to meet your actual needs? Reactions of this nature will be most helpful to the staff and the Publications Committee in looking to the future and planning for "other issues, other publications."

**October meeting.** On October 12-14, in Washington, D. C., our Association held a fall meeting of selected committee and commission chairmen, members of the Executive Committee, and the Washington staff. Consideration was given to ASCD activities, such as pub-

lications, conferences, institutes, and other projects. Suggestions of this group will facilitate the work of ASCD committees and commissions.

**Edpress meetings.** Each month the staff of *Educational Leadership* attends a luncheon meeting of the Washington Edpress Association. Several benefits come to staff members through attendance at these meetings. Chief among these are the personal contacts with the working editorial staffs of the sixty-some education publications which are represented at this meeting.

Speakers at the first meeting for the current year were: MILDRED S. FENNER, editor, *NEA Journal*; and G. KERRY SMITH, executive secretary, Association for Higher Education, NEA. They gave a joint report on their recent experiences as delegates to the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession, in Manila, Republic of the Philippines, and as American advisors to the International Workshop on Education held by Edpress during the Manila conference. Their inspiring account of meetings with education editors from other nations gave all of us renewed pride in our opportunity and responsibility in working with educational publications.

**Visitors.** ROBERT S. FLEMING, professor of education, New York University, and chairman, ASCD Research Commission, stopped in the ASCD headquarters office on his way to the Greenville County schools in South Carolina where he participated in a pre-school conference. . . . We also enjoyed a brief visit with GERALD WENDT who is to deliver the address

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at the opening general session of ASCD's 1957 Conference in St. Louis in March. . . . ELIZABETH E. THOMPSON, consultant, Public Schools, Great Neck, New York, who is currently on leave from her school position, stopped in to see us just before departing on an extended trip abroad where she will make recordings of children's songs and games. She hopes to use these recordings in schools in this country to further international understanding. . . . GRACE SCOTT, professor of education, West Virginia University, Morgantown, also stopped in on her way overseas. She will be in Iran for two years as administrative adviser in teacher education.

**Choice reading:** Feature story in *Time*, September 24, 1956 (p. 16-20) is "The Good Man," an informative and

inspiring account of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s life of dedicated, public-spirited service.

"Further Fables for Our Time," by James Thurber, in *The New Yorker*, September 22, 1956. Sensitive and delightful are the fables of "The Tigress and Her Mate," "The Magpie's Treasure," and "The Cricket and the Wren."

"Who Killed Federal Aid?" by Bess Furman in *The Saturday Review* of September 8, 1956 is an enlightening article on the factors leading to the defeat of the 1956 school construction bill.

**You were represented:** by ANNA MARIE CONNOLLY of the headquarters staff, and ARTHUR W. FOSHAY of the Executive Committee, at the annual fall conference of the West Virginia ASCD, in Ripley. Theme of this meeting was, "Understanding Children: A Challenge to the Selection of Resources and to Providing Learning Opportunities."

**Editorial report.** Major effort of the editorial staff at present is directed toward final editing and production of ASCD's 1957 Yearbook treating research in curriculum improvement. This manuscript is in excellent condition, due to the skill, insight and tireless efforts of the committee, the contributors, the chairman (ARTHUR W. FOSHAY) and co-chairman (JAMES A. HALL).

Manuscripts of two future booklets are now in stages of final preparation: "Action Research as a Method of Curriculum Improvement," by HILDA TABA and ELIZABETH NOEL; and "Research, Theory, and Practice in Elementary School Science Teaching," by MAXINE DUNFEE and JULIAN GREENLEE.

—ROBERT R. LEEPER, *editor*, Educational Leadership.

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