Planning. Just when are plans developed for future issues of the journal and other ASCD publications? In a very real sense this planning is a continuous process of exploration and experimentation. Each year, however, such planning is put into tentative form during January and February, preceding the March meeting of the Association.

In these pre-Conference months, the editorial office seeks advice as to the concerns, interests and needs that are timely, urgent and significant to members of the Association. Hundreds of letter have been addressed to ASCD members and others, asking for responses that will be used in projecting plans for ASCD publications.

Whether or not you have received one of these letters, we want very much to have your ideas and suggestions included in these plans. In your thinking, what are two or three basic issues or problems which should be treated in ASCD’s publications—whether in Educational Leadership, a yearbook or a booklet? Will you send me immediately your response to this question? Perhaps you will answer as an individual; or, even better, you may raise this question as a topic for discussion in a class or in a group of your colleagues, so that we may have the benefit of a group’s thinking and discussion. Please be extremely selective in your response—indicating only a few of the most urgent issues.

Through such suggestions as yours regarding the most pressing issues and problems before us in American education, the ASCD Publications Committee will have a better opportunity to determine gaps and needs in our publications program.

We need your help and look forward to hearing from you.

Centennial Year. Significant for all school people is the planned observance of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Education Association of the United States. The year-long celebration will begin January 1, 1957.

On August 26, 1857, in the city of Philadelphia, 43 educators from a dozen states and the District of Columbia met to form the first national organization of teachers in the United States—the National Teachers Association—the forerunner of the National Education Association. Thus was created an opportunity for school people to associate themselves together voluntarily in a national organization “... to promote the educational welfare of our country ...” and “... to advance the dignity, respectability, and usefulness of their calling.”

Prominent Americans from all walks of life will join the members of the National Education Association in celebrating the Centennial anniversary of the NEA, when the nation’s teachers will appraise “a century of progress in education.” The nationwide Centennial Birthday Party is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, April 4, 1957.

New Appointment. We welcome Lawrence G. Derthick who has been named U. S. Commissioner of Education. Dr. Derthick comes to this position after serving, since 1942, as superintendent of schools at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Visitors. Recent visitors to the ASCD headquarters office are these:


January 1957
Now—a classroom train strong enough to ride!

Mor-Pla Blok-Train

Safe and sturdy enough for the roly-polyiest youngster in the room! New 4-car Mor-Pla Blok-Train for hauling, riding, sharing. Built for rugged use. 3/4-inch birch plywood with heavy hardwood axles that will not break. Basic train, with 4 flat-car platforms, $18.50. Shown below with Mor-Pla Blox that lock on.

And when you need Hollow Blocks you'll want the famous Mor-Pla Jumbo-Blox that interlock—will not slide apart. Children can build hundreds of things (without teacher help) with the basic #4 unit at $30.

Prices are f.o.b. Birmingham, Michigan

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~ William B. Evans, supervisor of elementary education, Public Schools, Montgomery County, Maryland.
~ John A. Dotson, dean, University of Georgia, Athens.
~ Marian Young, professor of education, with a group of her students from Goucher College, Towson, Maryland.
~ C. Glen Hass, associate superintendent in charge of instruction, Public Schools, Arlington County, Virginia, and the following members of the supervisory staff of the Arlington County Schools: Florence Booker, Katherine Conafay, Kathryn Cook, Edwina Deans, Elizabeth Donahue, Helen K. Finlay, Levin Hanigan, Grace Hildebrand, Johnny Johnson, Genevieve Nygard, Claudia Pitts, Evelyn Thornton, and William Young.

Choice and current.

Educational Television for Your Community is a timely brochure. It will help interested persons become better informed about educational television, its initial and operating costs, and its tremendous potential that is as yet only dimly discerned. Copies of the booklet can be obtained by writing to the Educational Television and Radio Center, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The Intellectual Revolution, an address by Harold C. Urey on the occasion of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Louise C. Buhl Hall of Science, Chatham College, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, opens doors to the evaluations of science and other human aspirations.

Always fascinating and comprehensive in its world view and interpretation is UNESCO Features: A Weekly Bulletin for Press and Radio. This feature service is made available to editors by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 19 Avenue Kléber, Paris, France.

—Robert R. Lepier, editor, Educational Leadership.