

● From the Executive Secretary

THE EXPLOSION OF MEANS*

IT IS a commentary on our time that direction is clearer in regard to organizational and technological changes than in the substantive areas of curriculum. A new environment is in process of being created; the extent of the environmental control requires that media and technology be considered as more than "audiovisuals," or as piecemeal supplements. Our past experience, our history, must not restrict either our imagination or our concern. Any place can be every place; we can assault or extend any sense, or a combination of senses with a simultaneous confrontation. Our curriculum planning must involve more persons, more alternative resources and experiences, and more complex evaluation procedures.

Media and technology now represent a significant intervention between the learner and his experiencing, and most certainly between the teacher and the learner. This intervention can be affirmative or negative, personalizing or dehumanizing. Also, the world outside the classroom can be more relevant and more intellectually qualitative if the classroom procedures fail to keep pace with the non-school developments and learning possibilities. The present imbalance is the product of undigested media developments and inadequate resources available to the schools.

Major adjustments will be required. For example, new personnel will be required to engineer and operate equipment, professional and supporting persons reoriented, new arrangements made regarding expenditures and capital outlay, buildings modernized, learning spaces and organizational plans made more flexible, patterns changed for system-wide and classroom decision making. The single textbook will have less primacy, the instructional resource facility must become more central in operation and more available to the teacher and the learner. School and education can be made more synonymous by incorporating the community and its resources more effectively.

Value questions and objectives must be dealt with while the alternatives and possibilities remain fluid. Systems concepts, computers, effectiveness-cost procedures and societal imperatives will not wait. If technology and media are indeed extensions of man, it is the function of leadership both to participate in and to monitor the movement.

—LESLEE J. BISHOP, *Executive Secretary, ASCD.*

* From "Implications for Supervisors in Non-print Media Developments," Supervisors and Curriculum Directors, Jackson Lake, Georgia, December 6, 1966.

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