

● From the Executive Secretary

THE LONG HAUL¹

WE have been dominated in our political and social life by short-range goals and achievements—those possible within the political terms of an office holder, or those that can be held in memory by the electorate. Recent events have projected us onto the stage of long-range problems and resolutions: the elimination of poverty, the realignment of thinking and acting in regard to race, the squaring of values with new and changing evidence, the development of an American school system in which each child has an equal opportunity to learn, to succeed and to become.

It is easier to see, to debate, to decide upon, a bridge, a dam, a highway. Even laws that regulate our gold and our commerce—these one can see, hold and judge. More difficult are long-range concerns and decisions.

Education that is a process, curriculum that must be lived, and institutions that must be opened—these have less obvious check points; these require more patience, more perspective and more time.

We need a moon shot in education with suborbital then orbital flights that represent progress—a man on the moon and each child in a learning environment. We need simulators and learning centers with the best brains at work seeking to explore the reaches of the mind as well as the cosmos.

Long-term values and achievements need to be framed in shorter-term achievements; successive stages wherein reform and revolution give educational, not just technological or military, fall-out. A dramatic goal, fashioned in terms of stages of development, supported by national leadership and the best our country can afford; not the most parsimonious, or the leftovers and rejects from other programs.

We must seek out and support those who have the insight and the courage to project the vision and the plans. Institutional change and long-range educational progress require sophistication and understanding. Can we expect someone else to provide the instruction? Who is it that has miles to go and promises to keep? Who will sustain the vision?

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

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