

DON'T THINK--LISTEN

At a recent conference, Dr. Calvin W. Taylor, professor of psychology at the University of Utah, told of a teacher who spotted a pupil in a posture resembling Rodin's "The Thinker." The teacher asked: "Just what are you doing?" "I'm thinking," replied the youngster. "Well, stop it and listen to me," admonished the teacher.

Dr. Taylor related the story in connection with his contention that many teachers offer little incentive for creativity and independent thinking. He said that pupils were not given enough opportunity to develop individually. While the youngsters may have high IQs, he said, they may be merely "walking libraries." He urged that there be better identification of the thinker, as opposed to the learner, and said that there should be more opportunity for the thinker to develop his ideas.

The conference, sponsored by the National Education Association and the Magazine Publishers Association, brought out that there was a need for modern teachers to keep pace with today's highly imaginative and creative youngsters. Some schools, it was noted, are attempting to educate pupils with teachers who received their training twenty or more years ago and who have made little effort to cope with the growing intelligence and inquisitiveness of the modern child.

EDUCATION NEWS BRIEFS

The American Institute of Public Opinion (the Gallup Poll) reports a sharp swing in public sentiment in favor of Federal aid to private schools. As of now, 49 per cent of the people think that Federal aid should go to help private as well as public schools; 44 per cent favor limiting aid to public schools; and 7 per cent have no opinion. Two years ago, 57 per cent favored aid only for public schools vs. 36 per cent for aid to public and private.

...Voter resistance to public school bond issues continues to stiffen. The Investment Bankers Association of America notes that, of the \$1,100,000,000 in school bonds submitted to voters last year, \$746,000,000, or 65 per cent, was approved. This compares with 68 per cent approval in 1961 and 82 per cent in 1960.

...Dr. Frank Bowles has resumed his duties as president of the College Entrance Examination Board, following completion of the two-year International Study of University Admissions, which he directed for UNESCO.

..."Education U.S.A." reported recently that a test case is shaping up in California on whether travel expenses incurred by a teacher during a sabbatical are deductible for income tax purposes. The Internal Revenue Service held in this instance that it was not a necessary and ordinary business expense. A Los Angeles teacher is suing for a \$538 refund on 1958 income taxes on the ground that the \$2,783 he spent in going to Europe was to improve his professional skills.

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BEHIND EDUCATION'S IMAGE

Many Americans have an unflattering and stereotyped image of teachers and a narrow view of schools. One reason may be the picture of teachers and schools frequently presented by the nation's mass media. Addressing a conference of school administrators at the University of Illinois, Prof. George Gerbner of the university's Institute of Communications Research, cited two case studies of factors affecting the teachers' image.

One study was of eighty-one American motion pictures produced since 1950 that portrayed teachers in leading or supporting roles. Although the love angle was paramount in these pictures, the teachers portrayed had no better than a 50-50 chance of achieving success in love. Teachers did better if they picked a partner without a college education or if they left the teaching profession.

The other study was of fifty-six stories in the "Saturday Evening Post" that dealt with teachers or schools. Observed Professor Gerbner: "The general character profile of teachers turned out to be very different from the profile of other characters. Most teachers were represented as coming from the outside, aliens to their community, often in conflict with the community... They were out of tune, not only with most community activities, but also with the goals and aspirations of most other characters.

In none of these stories did any teacher get a salary raise. No student got a public scholarship. No community took the initiative to build or improve schools. There was no normal way in which the financial difficulties of teachers, students and schools could be resolved. If any solutions were given, these were likely to be fantasy solutions, such as hitting the jackpot, finding a rich donor, or holding a fantastically successful sports event.

"Well, maybe all this is changing," the Illinois educator commented. "There are certainly encouraging signs in a great deal of serious and responsible news coverage and publicity given to problems of schools and education. Yet I cannot help but wonder whether the cultural attitudes reflected through the selection of fiction and drama are not more deep-seated exactly because they are less conscious than the official thinking reflected through overly informational materials."

Professor Gerbner recommended that schools work to improve relations with mass media and to improve quality of educational reporting. However, he said, "other bridges must be built, other channels must also be found, to achieve a realistic public understanding of the needs and problems of modern education."

RHODES RECORD

Director David Merrall and Headmaster Robert Lowrance attended the 15th annual meeting of the Board of Education Curriculum Bureau (May

1). On the program were the new Superintendent of Schools, Calvin E. Gross, and members of the Board of Education Jacob H. Shack, Joseph O. Loretan, Clarence Senior, and William H. Bristow.

... We have just received the first issue of the "Horace Mann Reporter", a new monthly bulletin similar in format to our "Faculty Bulletin". Congratulations to editor Clyde S. King and his staff, and all good wishes for the success of a fine publication.

... The Rhodes Senior Prom will be held Friday (May 10) on the Starlight Roof of the Waldorf-Astoria. The Senior Class hopes that all faculty members and their husbands and wives will be there.

... A number of Rhodes faculty members will be the guests of Mr. Merrall at the Bronx Community College First Annual Charter Day Luncheon honoring Dr. Morris Meister, President of the College and consultant to the Science and Mathematics Departments at Rhodes. The luncheon will take place Saturday (May 11) in the Persian Room of the Plaza Hotel.

WANTED: MORE DA VINCIS

We need "a generation of Leonardo da Vincis" instead of narrow specialists, an engineering

professor told the recent annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Prof. Saul Gorn of the University of Pennsylvania declared that more people must become "creative and executive thinkers, with a broad knowledge of the basic principles of all the sciences." Education must make men able to decide what machines can and cannot do, he said, noting that there are existing machines that equal 5,000 clerks without judgment.