

Report on measures for the improvement of education .

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While planning methods for combating Anti-Semitism we have to distinguish between immediate measures and long term measures which, though working more slowly may be more efficient attacking the problem at its very roots. To these latter measures belongs the necessary reform of education. Anti-Semitism is not an isolated phenomenon, it is rather a special and very dangerous form of nationalistic fanaticism culminating ultimately in the Hitler fascism. One of the most urgent tasks of our time is that of radically ~~xxx~~ rooting out the fascist ideology. What has been done in this direction is by no means sufficient. Certainly orders have been given to eliminate all Nazi books from the libraries and schools. But by merely destroying printed paper you cannot remove the deep rooted Nazi ideas from the brains of the people. Hence in addition to the ~~engative~~ measures of eliminating Nazi literature we have to take efficient positive steps furnishing new ideas and a new ideology.

When I was recalled, therefore, to my academic chair after a seven years ban I stressed the necessity of starting a world wide campaign for a thoroughly new education in a real democratic and neither nationalistic nor militaristic spirit. I approached the Austrian Government with my proposals, and as a matter of fact preparatory steps have been taken by our Ministry for Education.

Knowing however that all official business is ~~xxx~~ working extremely slowly I published last year a concrete proposal for starting the reform of education within a reasonable time. My idea is that as many as possible of the existing great organisations that are concerned with the problems of liberty, democracy and of international reconciliation, such as for instance the Trade Unions, the Leagues of the United Nations, the leagues of Human Rights, the Peace Societies, the Society of Friends, the PEN Clubs, the Scouts etc. should join in forming a working committee for planning as well as supervising School teaching, ~~and~~ public education and enlightenment by public lectures, ~~by~~ press and radio. I have further put down a certain well defined programme containing the principles along which this new education ought to go. A few reprints of this programme are still available and I am quite willing to distribute them among those who are interested in the matter. Besides I am quite ready, of course, to give a more full report to the special committee concerned with questions of education. I may mention here only that the sense of my doings may be expressed best by a sentence which F.D. Roosevelt wrote on the day before his death and which runs as follows:

"We are faced by the remarkable fact the in order to ~~save~~ our civilisation we have to cultivate the science of the human relations, the art how the nations and races can cooperate in peace and friendship!"

That science of the human relation must be based, of course, on a fundamental knowledge in the field of psychology, a knowledge that has to be taught in a way which can be understood by the man on the street. The main points of my educational programme are, therefore:

1. A clear fundamental psychological knowledge.
2. A radical reform of our teaching history.