The Open School Door

A Series of Articles on Clinton County Schools and Their Problems

By JAMES EGAN, Principal

DeWitt High School

What seems to be the latest trends in education? What seems to be the large task ahead for the schools of tomorrow? What seems to be the public demand or what is expected of educators in future years?

These vital questions along with others were discussed at the 47th convention of the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals in Grand Rapids last week.

The general theme of the meetings seem to be focused on the belief that the citizens of today are not completely satisfied with things as they have been and are nowadays in our social and economic lives. It was pointed out that the election may have pointed up this general feeling of not moving ahead swiftly enough.

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IT WAS discussed and generally agreed that school administration in general should assume its responsibility to help improve the solving of local community problems.

There was another interesting thought presented which involved community responsibility for the local schools rather than relying upon state and federal aid to gain what is needed for modern educational systems. There was a general feeling that local citizens should work together with educators in presenting the proper curriculum and facilities for students so that they are better able to cope with today's problem.

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ALSO, there appears to be a greater amount of expense involved in the more agencies or bureaus that money have to pass through before the schools get the use out of the dollars. Aid just seems now to be one more expensive way of gaining needed money for the educational system of America.

A trend of late days that many seemed to feel at the convention is long overdue for consideration, is that only the top 15 per cent or the superior students are given all the special school attention.

The feeling expressed seemed to be that we have for too long overlooked a real comprehensive program for the majority of our student citizens which includes the middle abilities groupings.

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ANOTHER idea along this line was the feeling that the bottom 15 per cent on the ability ladder have also been overlooked and perhaps have been dropping out of school psychologically two to three years before physically dropping out. The question then crops up: What are we going to do in many of our communities about these overlooked future citizens?

Of course, most people seem to adjust but there are far too many that do not. That is a big problem that must be dealt with in the near future. If the schools are to provide social and economic mobility they must be equipped properly to do the job.

These are just a few of the convention's impressions. We will finish up on the comments next week.

One last item was the interesting challenge that was bestowed upon me of being appointed chairman of the conference door arrangements of the Hospitality Committee for our National Convention of Secondary Principals which meets in Detroit soon.