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^{ONE}
Freedom To Think.

by Ray Harris

EDUCATION HOLDS A STRONG PLACE IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF OUR PEOPLE. WE HAVE AN ABIDING FAITH IN THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MIND CAN GUIDE US TOWARD THE GOOD LIFE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MIND HAS PERCEIVED OUR NEEDS AND SATISFIED OUR WANTS WITH FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION. ~~WE~~ KNOW THAT THE MIND IS GRADUALLY OVERCOMING MAN'S LIMITATIONS IN TIME AND SPACE-----STRETCHING OUR TIME ON THIS EARTH WITH VAST EXPERIENCE PACKED TIGHTER AND TIGHTER IN EXHILIRATING DAYS, SHRINKING THE DISTANCES BETWEEN CONTINENTS AND SEAS. WE KNOW THAT THE MIND HAS BROUGHT US WHATEVER EVER WE HAVE, MADE US WHATEVER WE ARE, IN TRIBUTE TO THE MIND WE HAVE BUILT MAGNIFICENT TEMPLES OF LEARNING. WE INDOCTRINATE OUR CHILDREN WITH THE CULT OF EDUCATION AS SOON AS THEIR ^{Young} MINDS CAN RETAIN THE SIMPLEST SYMBOLS OF KNOWLEDGE.

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OUR LAWS ~~FORCE~~ THE HOME, THE COMMUNITY, THE ~~STATE~~ ^T STATE TO SUPPORT EDUCATION IN EVERY WAY. THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION STANDS SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH THE RIGHT TO WORSHIP GOD.

AND NOW WE COME TO A STRANGE FALTERING INCONSISTENCY IN OUR SUPPORT OF EDUCATION.

OH YES! WE BELIEVE IN EDUCATION! BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN EDUCATORS! WHAT A ~~WRONG~~ ^{IRON} IRONY.

WE PAY HOMAGE TO EDUCATION WITH BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT; MAGNIFICENT, VAST, UNSTINTING. BUT WE ARE ^{sting} NIGGARDLY IN OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUPPORT OF THOSE MEN AND WOMEN, THOSE EDUCATORS WHO ARE THE MIND AND THE SPIRIT OF OUR TEMPLES OF LEARNING. WE DO NOT HESITATE TO PUT THE YOUTH OF OUR LAND, DURING THE MOST PRECIOUS IMPRESSIONABLE

YEARS OF THEIR LIFE UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF EDUCATORS, BUT NEGATE THAT ACT OF FAITH IN EDUCATION BY WITHOLDING THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF SOCIETY FOR EDUCATORS.

OUR EDUCATORS AS A PROFESSIONAL BODY OF ABOVE-AVERAGE CITIZENS ARE SHAMEFULLY UNDERPAID. FOR THE FAR REACHING RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THEY ARE EXPECTED TO MEET AND UPHOLD THEY ARE PAID LESS--FAR LESS THAN THE AVERAGE PURVEYOR OF PERISHABLES, GOODS, REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE AND ~~PAPER~~-PROFIT BONDS.

BUT THIS ECONOMICE NIGGARDLINESS, SHABBY AS IT IS, COULD NEVER BE AS VICIOUS OR AS DANGEROUS AS THE CURTAILMENT OF FREEDOM, WHICH THREATENS EDUCATION TO-DAY.

WE HAVE JUST PASSED THROUGH FOUR ANXIOUS, DARK, SAD, SAVAGE YEARS OF STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM. WE SOLEMNLY PARTOOK OF THE BLOOD RITUAL OF WAR FOR FREEDOM.

SHOULD WE HAVE FREEDOM OF INDUSTRY, FREEDOM OF COMMERCE, FREEDOM OF TRAVEL, FREEDOM OF SPEECH?-----BUT DENY EDUCATION FREEDOM TO THINK?. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT WE BELIEVE IMPLICITLY ~~IN~~ IN THE MIND TO FEED, CLOTHE AND HOUSE OUR BODIES--HEAL OUR AILMENTS-- BUT ARE AFRAID TO LET THE MIND PERCEIVE AND CORRECT THE FAULTS IN OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS?

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT WE WILL GIVE OUR MINDS THE FREEDOM TO INVENT A FABULOUS WORLD IN WHICH TO LIVE AND THEN DENY OUR MINDS THE RIGHT TO ADJUST OUR HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN ~~THE~~ *this* SPLENDID SHELL WE HAVE DEVISED FOR OURSELVES? I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT MANKIND CAN BE SO PENNY-WISE AND POUND FOOLISH. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT WE WILL WIN EACH BATTLE FOR COMFORT AND LOSE THE WAR FOR HUMANITY ITSELF.

WE MUST LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR THE FEAR OF FREEDOM —
 — TO-THINK. WE MUST LOOK NOT ONLY TO ~~the~~ FEARS WHICH SURROUND
 US TODAY-- BUT WE MUST LOOK BACK IN WONDERMENT TO THE FEARS OF
 YESTERDAY.

WE MUST LOOK BACK TO THE WITCH-BURNINGS WHICH OUR FORE —
 FATHERS INDULGED IN ----- WHENEVER ANY THINKER DARED ADVOCATE
 ONE JOT OF PROGRESS IN SCIENTIFIC---ARTISTIC---ETHICAL---
 ECONOMIC^{or}---POLITICAL THOUGHT.

WE MUST HAVE THE COURAGE AND HONESTY TO ACCEPT THE
 FACT THAT YOU AND I, AND EVERYBODY ELSE INHERITED THIS FRANTIC
 FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN WHICH HAS DOGGED MAN FROM THE DARK WINTER
 CAVES OF HIS BEGINNING.

DO YOU THINK FOR ONE MOMENT THAT ^{if} OUR CAPTAINS OF
 INDUSTRY WERE COMPLETELY CONVINCED THAT REAL DEMOCRACY WOULD
 ASSURE THEM PEACE OF MIND AND A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING IN
 an ~~an~~ EXPANDING CONSUMER-PUBLIC OF FRIENDLY, HAPPY HUMAN BEINGS---
 THEY WOULD HOLD OUT FOR FASCIST PRACTICES? DO YOU THINK
 THAT THEY WOULD NOT GLADLY GIVE UP ALL THE ANXIETIES AND BITTER
 HATREDS WHICH HANG OVER ~~THE~~ DAYS AND NIGHTS OF THEIR LIVES —
 IF THEY COULD BE CONVINCED THAT THERE IS PLENTY FOR ALL? THEY LIVE
 IN FEAR AND ACT FEARFULLY
 [BECAUSE THEY FEAR THE UNKNOWN AND CLING
 TO THE KNOWN, UNHAPPY AS IT IS.] AND SO IT IS WITH ALL OF US.
 WE ARE ALL SADLY DISAPPOINTED AND UNEASY ABOUT THE PEACE. WE ARE
 ALL WORRIED ABOUT THE UNKNOWN TOMORROW.

IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WE ARE ALL
 SUFFERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF FEAR:--FEAR OF FREEDOM,
 ESPECIALLY FEAR OF THE FREEDOM OF EVERYBODY TO THINK.

AND THIS PARALYZING FEAR OF THE
 FREEDOM TO THINK IS BEGINNING TO FOCUS ITS FRANTIC,

UNCONTROLLABLE IMPULSE OF DESTRUCTION ON EDUCATORS, WHO ARE THE SOURCE OF FREE AND UNFEARFUL THINKING.

THE THINKERS---THE SCIENTISTS---THE POETS, NOVELISTS, PLAYWRIGHTS, PAINTERS, ACTORS, HISTORIANS, COMPOSERS, STATISTICIANS POLITICAL ECONOMISTS---" BRAIN TRUSTERS" THEY ARE CALLED---THEY ARE THE ONES WHO ARE PERCEIVING AND PREDICTING CATASTROPHE AND TRYING TO AVERT IT BEFORE IT OVERTAKES US.

THE THINKERS OF THE PAST WERE NOT FEARFUL--- ~~THE~~ NEWTON, EUCLID, PLATO, SHAKESPEARE, VOLTAIRE, GOETHE, BEETHOVEN, MARX, LINCOLN, PASTEUR, WHITMAN, LENIN-----THEY HAD THE TALENTS TO PERCEIVE MORE AND UNDERSTAND MORE THAN THEIR CONTEMPORARIES-- AND THE CHARACTER TO PUBLICLY DECLARE THAT WHICH THEY SO CLEARLY PERCEIVED.

THESE THINKERS- THESE MEN WHO PERCEIVED THE INEVITABLE NATURE OF NATURAL PHENOMENA AND THE NATURAL INEVITABLE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS---WERE EDUCATORS. THEY TAUGHT HUMANITY ABOUT THIS PLANET AND THE REACTION OF OUR BODIES AND MINDS AND SPIRITS ON THIS PLANET. THEY DID THIS BECAUSE THEIR VERY EXISTENCE AS THINKERS DEMANDED THE FREEDOM TO THINK, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE OSTRACIZED BY A FEAR-RIDDEN SOCIETY FOR DARING TO THINK.

THESE THINKERS, THESE EDUCATORS, ~~THESE~~ HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE SPEARHEAD OF PROGRESS.

IF ANYONE HERE DOUBTS THAT THESE THINKERS, THESE EDUCATORS ARE THE SPEAR HEAD OF PROGRESS--LET US REMEMBER THAT OUR THINKERS DEVELOPED THE ATOMIC BOMB, WHICH IN ONE DEVASTATING EXPLOSION HAS ALSO EXPLODED A WHOLE BATCH OF NEARSIGHTED, SELFISH IDEAS FOREVER----- ISOLA TIONISM--^{Exclusive} NATIONALISM--SUBJUGATION OF RACES---EXPLOITATION OF OUR FELLOW MEN-- ~~AND PLACED THEM IN A~~ NEW SET OF MUSTS.

*and in their place
and imposed a new set of Musts*

WE MUST RESPECT ONE ANOTHER---WE MUST LEARN TO CO-OPERATE WITH OUR FELLOW MEN TOWARDS THE MAKING A WORLD OF HUMAN FELLOWSHIP FIT TO LIVE IN AND WORTHY OF OUR BEST SELVES.

IN ONE DEVASTATING EXPLOSION OUR THINKERS HAVE TAUGHT US THE BASIC PRINCIPALS OF HUMAN PROGRESS AND IMPOSED THEIR ACCEPTANCE UPON US!

OUR THINKERS, OUR EDUCATORS ARE THE SPEARHEAD OF PROGRESS. THEY ARE JUST LIKE ALL THE REST OF US---ONLY MORE SO! THEY ARE FASTER AND SURER AND MORE TENACIOUS IN THEIR THINKING.

WE KNOW THAT ABOUT OUR THINKERS OF THE PAST. BUT WE ARE ALWAYS ONE LAP BEHIND THEM--AND WE FEAR THEM BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT THE UNPROVEN ROADS TO THE UNKNOWN FUTURE.

BUT MUST WE ALWAYS NECESSARILY CONTINUE TO BE THIS STUPID? CAN WE NOT SHAKE OFF THE HANGOVER FROM THE CAVE DAYS OF OUR DUMB, UNCOUTH ANCESTORS? CAN WE NOT HAVE THE FAITH IN HUMANITY TO GIVE OUR THINKER THE ASYLUM OF EDUCATION TO WHICH WE GIVE SUCH LIP SERVICE? CANNOT THE VAULTED HALLS OF EDUCATION SERVE TO GUARANTEE THE FREEDOM-TO-THINK?

WITHOUT FREEDOM TO THINK OF COURSE WE CAN HAVE NO EDUCATORS.

WE CANNOT HAVE	MEDICINE	WITHOUT	DOCTORS
	BUILDING	" "	ARCHITECTS
	AEROPLANES	" "	ENGINEERS
	FOOD	" "	FARMERS
	INDUSTRY	" "	LABOR AND MANAGEMENT

NOR CAN WE HAVE THINKERS WITHOUT FREEDOM TO THINK.

WITHOUT FREEDOM TO THINK, EDUCATION BECOMES MERELY AN ORGANIZED INDOCTRINATION OF HUMANITIES YESTERDAYS!