

COLLEGE COMMUNICATIONS

March 11, 1938

MID-SEMESTERS AGAIN

Mid-semester grades are due in the office on Tuesday, March 22. Please plan your work and examinations to enable you to make these reports promptly. Your help in making full reports will also be greatly appreciated, as the reasons given for the poor grades are very helpful to us in talking with students and their parents.

MARCH FACULTY MEETING

The next meeting of the College Faculty will be held at 4:30, March 15, in the Frank Strong auditorium. Important matters are to be considered.

NEW COURSES AND CHANGES IN COURSES

According to a recent University Senate regulation, no new courses may be offered next fall which are not approved by the Faculty by the April meeting. We are, therefore, asking that all requests for new courses and also for course changes be presented now. This will allow us to present the necessary requests at the March faculty meeting and the Administrative Committee could then present its recommendations for action at the April meeting.

May we ask all staff members to examine critically the catalog descriptions of their courses and suggest desirable changes. Prerequisites should be carefully studied and requests for changes made where necessary, so that catalog statements can be regularly followed. It is hoped that all changes may receive Faculty or Administrative Committee approval this spring instead of being left for the fall when we are always hurried to get the copy to the printer.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

We are finding some cases of neglect in the reporting of excessive absences. All instructors of College students are expected to check class attendance regularly and to report on the deficiency cards any student who, aside from reasons of known illness, has one more absence from class than the number of hours of credit given in the course. Prompt reports prevent some student failures and enable us to give the parents the information they expect of us in this matter.

PRESIDENT HUTCHINS SAYS:

"Education is serious business for serious people. It involves hard work, and hard work is sometimes disagreeable. But there is no short cut to intelligence. The Board of Education of the city of Chicago is at present engaged in trying to determine what a general education is. Its intention is laudable. But when we learn that it plans to make mathematics an elective because it is 'too hard' for most high-school students, we realize that the Chicago Board of Education has confused education with recreation. It is following the dubious precept of a group of Progressive Educators who believe that the task of the teacher is to discover what the student likes to learn and to encourage him to learn it."

"The question will be asked: 'What about those who can't learn?' I suspect that the number of children who are actually ineducable is far smaller than we have supposed. We may be guilty of accusing children of intellectual deficiency as an excuse for our failure to educate them properly. It is easier for a teacher to say of a boy, 'He's no good,' than to say of himself, 'I don't know how to teach.'"

"The charge that the teachers corrupt the youth of a country is not a new one. The battle for academic freedom in the teaching of the natural sciences and religion was won less than a century ago. Most of us remember when evolution and the historical interpretation of the New Testament were condemned as 'atheism.' Today the battleground is the social sciences. 'Radicalism' has taken the place of 'atheism.'"

"If education is to educate, it must shift its emphasis from the popular to the important. Life is not a party, even if spasms of material prosperity anesthetize us temporarily. Our problems are serious. Our people must think, and think for themselves, or they will find someone they don't like doing their thinking for them. Letting George do our thinking for us is more prevalent in America than some of us realize. When a proposal is advanced these days, we hear everyone ask, 'Who's for it?' or 'Who's against it?' Few people ask, 'What does it mean?'"