

the proper course to follow. These activities center around the Schwert Bill (H.R. 1074), the Committee Report on the Contribution of College Health and Physical Education to National Preparedness, the Committee Report of the National Americanism Commission of the American Legion, the activities of the American Social Hygiene Association, and the National Defense Commission of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. The government, also, has been active in similar matters. Mr. Paul V. McNutt has been appointed National Coordinator of Health and Welfare by President Roosevelt. As a part of the project of the National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel, registration of the recreational leaders of the country is now in progress. Doubtless other organizations, and numerous institutions and persons have initiated projects intended to aid the government in its efforts to place the country on a sound military footing.

From the standpoint of education probably the most important projects now under way are the Schwert Bill, the College Physical Education Association program, the American Legion program, and the activities of the American Social Hygiene Association. The various projects sponsored by the government probably have not gained enough impetus to make themselves felt on any national scale, although some 50 regional directors of recreation are now actually at work in the field.

It would be a matter of repetition to outline in detail the provisions of the programs of the four organizations mentioned above since they have already been well publicized. The Schwert bill provides for a federal appropriation of funds for school health, physical education and recreation, and for school camps under the control and operation of state and local school officials. The bill was opposed by many on the grounds that it gave an opportunity for federal control of at least one phase of education. Objections were also raised by camping and public recreation groups for obvious reasons. Many people believed that the amount of money to be appropriated was too large. There were objections, also, to the manner in which the funds were to be allotted to the various states. Limiting aid in teacher education work to state supported institutions brought forth objections. Medical people claimed that the bill fostered the federal subsidization of medicine. Last December changes were made in the original bill which satisfied most of the legitimate objections to it and it was reintroduced in Congress on January 3, 1941. Just what progress it is making is uncertain at this time. The recent and unfortunate death of Mr. Schwert has left the bill without a sponsor. Certainly it will find difficult going, not alone for this reason, nor because it lacks desirability, but because it is likely to be crowded off the calendar by other pressing defense measures. The Committee of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation is continuing to bend every effort to effect the passage of the measure.

The Report of the Committee on the Contribution of College Health and Physical Education to National Preparedness is a document which confirms and re-endorses the already existing programs in our colleges and universities. Since colleges enroll young men of military age, it seems that this particular level of education can make a greater immediate contribution to national preparedness than the secondary school. This report recommends in essence that we simply redouble our efforts to teach a varied program of health, physical education and recreation, and to make more efficient our health examination, and follow-up procedures. For those students who are soon to enter the service it is suggested that a more formalized program, on an elective basis, might well be offered which will provide opportunities for the student to learn the rudiments of marching, hiking, conditioning, military hygiene, first aid, and other things of immediate military value. This course, however, should be the responsibility of the Reserve Officer Training Corps if there is such a unit on the campus. In this case the department of physical education should cooperate with it in every possible manner. The point is also emphasized that the college department should provide opportunities for young