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3 Lakeview Terrace,
Ottawa 1, Ontario.
April 6, 1954.

The Editor,
The Citizen,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

Sir:

I'm sorry I've missed the first six articles in the series on the public schools. The seventh is very interesting, not least because of the curious English in which some of it is written. The most notable example is "variance in their reading abilities". According to the dictionary, "variance" means "disagreement, difference of opinion, dispute, lack of harmony". Then there is "the task at hand", for "the task in hand", "by the same principle" for "on the same principle", "read on a higher plane" (which suggests a nobler moral content) for "read better", "read far below the level of" for "read worse". These last, of course, like "reading goals" and "learning goals", are just fussifications. What a mercy it would be if people could be persuaded to drop "level", "goals" and "skills"! Like "reaction", "area", "techniques", "insights", "in terms of" and "community", the poor things have been trampled to death.

I should be really grateful if some expert would explain to me what "word attack skills" means. I suppose there is an English translation, but I can't imagine what it is.

Yours truly,

Eugene Forsey.

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