



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Education, Foreign Policy, and the Hydrogen Bomb

Address by the Honourable L.B. Pearson,
Secretary of State for External Affairs, at
the Ontario opening of Canadian Education
Week, Ottawa Technical School, Sunday,
March 6, 1955

To be asked to speak to an audience of teachers and others specially concerned with education, and to help initiate such a significant event as Education Week is a great privilege.

These days we talk a great deal of education. We are also prone to "weeks". Indeed, we now have such things foisted on us as "Eat More Prunes Week", "Be Kind to Mother-in-law Week", or even "Bow Tie Week"!

Education Week, however is something else, because if there was ever a time when it was wise to direct attention to the importance of education in our society, it is now; the kind of education that may start at kindergarten but goes on through life; that begins with the three R's, but includes the responsibilities of citizenship, and the pursuit of the good life.

Education, it has been said, is the "creation of finer human hungers".

If this is true, and I think it is as good a definition as any, then there is a lot of what is called "education" which has nothing to do with such creation. Indeed, there are in higher institutions of learning on this continent courses of study which have as little to do with education - or at least the right kind of education - as the World Hockey Championships, which were happily concluded in Germany this afternoon, have to do with the easing of international tensions.

Only yesterday I read in a newspaper - appropriately enough on the sporting page - that a university in the United States had added to its curriculum a course in "fresh and salt water fishing", and there are hundreds of similar examples of such lowering of the standards of education under the pressure of mass appeal or mass laziness or mass indulgence.