An analysis of factors contributing to socio-civic deterioration suggests a framework for emphasis in social studies instruction that teachers may use to take a positive step toward the improvement and maintenance of civilized society. These factors include social rigidity rather than change; overreach and overexpansion leading to exhaustion of people and resources; national security as an excuse for self-interest and greed; personal alienation and loss of common loyalties; and erosion of moral values. A liberating education addressing these factors and centering in social studies, but characterizing an entire school, should include: (1) training in learning how to learn; (2) content devoted to human and self-understanding; (3) involvement of students in cultural and social goals; (4) population education; (5) environmental education; (6) peace education; (7) familiarity and involvement in political and social action; (8) an interdisciplinary approach; (9) future studies; and (10) a global orientation. Effecting such a curriculum requires that teachers replace old frameworks and rely on a constructive approach. (JH)
S七EVEN YEARS AGO WALTER LIPPMANN, COMMENTING ON THE AMERICAN PROMISE, WROTE THAT THIS "PROMISE" (THE BEST EXAMPLE OF HOW HUMANS CAN LIVE IN FREEDOM) HAD IN THE MINDS OF MANY CITIZENS BEEN BETRAYED AND WAS ACTUALLY BEING ABANDONED. HE SAW US IN THE WORST QUAGMIRE IN WHICH THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER FLOUNDERED AND CLAIMED THAT THE SMASHING OF WESTERN IDEALS AND POWER MARKED "THE HISTORIC FACT THAT WE ARE LIVING THROUGH THE CLOSING CHAPTERS OF THE ESTABLISHED AND TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE."

WE HAVE BEEN FURTHER CHECKED AND STUNNED IN THE ENSUING YEARS. I NEED NOT RECITE THE LITANY OF DISASTERS FROM THE NEAR LOSS OF OUR SOULS AS WE LOST OUR FIRST WAR IN HISTORY TO ALMOST LOSING OUR CONSCIENCE SYMBOLIZED BY THE LOSS OF FAITH, PRIDE, AND BELIEF IN OUR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP BECAUSE OF VENIALITY IN THE HIGHEST OFFICES, OR THE ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH VENIALITY BY OTHER CITIZENS WHO VIEW SUCH ACTS AS BEING NORMAL! NOW, ON TOP OF THESE SICKENING DEVELOPMENTS, THE NATION'S WHEELS WERE NEARLY PARALYZED WHEN THE TAKEN-FOR-GRANTED INTERLOCKED WORLD OF INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, AND GOVERNMENT WAS DRAWN TO A NEAR HALT BY THE SHORTAGE OF A SINGLE, ESSENTIAL PRODUCT; AT THE SAME TIME, ALL OF US, AND ESPECIALLY THE SENIOR CITIZENS, FACE A FUNDAMENTAL AND UNRESOLVED THREAT OF BEING LITERALLY ROBBED BY A RUNAWAY INFLATION, WHICH PROBABLY CAN ONLY INCREASE, FED BY MOUNTING SCARCITIES.

AFTER OVER TWO CENTURIES OF UNCHECKED "GO!" "MORE!" AND "PUSH ON!" WE ARE FACE TO FACE WITH THE POSSIBLE FACT THAT WE HAVE REACHED AND PASSED OUR APEX

* DRAWN ON A SPEECH GIVEN TO THE MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, APRIL 27, 1974.

as a nation. Suddenly new watchwords call "stop," "cut back," and "no growth."

How much of the current miasma and future reductions and limitations can we live with, let alone overcome; while we attempt to maintain the standards and practices that have marked our lives? There are good bases for real doubt; but no matter what is possible, we have already been so struck psychologically that the national bicentennial commemoration of 1976 looms as a hollow exercise. Can the spirit of '76 be rekindled?

Fellow teachers, I have often thought what a sad role it must be to be a history mentor in Spain or in Greece or for that matter throughout much of the world. But, today, what of our own story? We are led to seriously consider Socrates' conclusion that a democracy cannot become large, rich, and powerful and remain a democracy. And now even survival is being questioned. Hesitancy stalks the land. Increasingly, people and agencies seem fearful to act; consider what has happened to the vigor and drive of many of our youth in merely five years. Is what we have known as the American Way tied inexorably to abundance, never-ending expansion, and exploitation — to practices now absolutely on the way out and soon no longer possible? Indeed, for example, how long should we allow our plastic curse to engrave? When will we become incensed over the towering residue of individually packaged remains at our hamburger stands or at the increasingly wasteful packaging of separate meals for our pampered pets?

The State of Oregon has led the way with a law forbidding one-way beverage containers; but this merely reflects rational decisions made previously in a number of other countries, including Germany, that they couldn't afford the convenience of no-deposit bottles, recognizing that they would surely suffocate in their own garbage. Such hard choices must now be made over and over again in our own country as we develop necessary new life styles.
The present watershed era has been a long while in coming; but once
enmeshed in it, there are grave temptations to cluster on in usual ways which
may prove far more dangerous than to retreat or find surcease in nostalgia.
At the turn of the century, Henry Adams, a brilliant social analyst, looked
about and saw our devotion to machines as an impending disaster. This tendency
dramatized by unchecked technology was already undercutting humane values.
Engines, instead of serving, would likely destroy us, and he uttered the pro-
phetic words—"After us the deluge."

In Germany a few years later an erudite schoolmaster came to the conclusion
that unfortunately at the moment intelligence could reach a triumph in western
civilization, all would be inevitably lost to mankind's base instincts — our
Twentieth Century being that of der Untergang des Abendlandes. Then, in the
autumn of our collective existence, Oswald Spengler saw wintertime just ahead
in the certain decline of the West.

Later, Arnold Toynbee brought his immense erudition to examine conditions
characterizing the march of mankind, brilliantly tracing the rise and fall of
a score of civilizations. Toynbee was not the fatalist as are so many other
prophets of doom. Toynbee concluded that in spite of man's bleak record, he
didn't see collapse as inevitable if a people respond with mind and heart.
They may overcome the challenges of their era; they may persevere.

Now if we teachers were not optimists by nature and trade, we wouldn't
be in the business of trying to help shape the next generation. But increas-
ingly we have doubts about our efficacy. And, for that matter, if our efforts
are incongruent with life around us, if other important forces in education

2. See, for example, Paul R. Ehrlich THE POPULATION REVOLUTION, BALLNTINE BOOKS,
1967, or more recently Robert L. Heilbroner AN INQUIRY INTO THE HUMAN
PROSPECT, NORTON, 1974.
SUCH AS THE FAMILY, MASS MEDIA, AND THE REALM OF BUSINESS SO OFTEN SEEM TO.
COUNTER OUR AIDS AND WORKS, CAN WE DO MUCH TO HELP SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE?
REALISTICALLY, CAN WE DO MORE THAN PREPARE YOUTH FOR ADJUSTMENT TO A COG-IN-THE-WHEEL EXISTENCE? SHOULD WE BE PEDDLING SURVIVAL KITS OF DRUGS, Nihilism, ESCAPE CIRCUSES, AND THE SECURITY OF BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATION? ARE WE INDEED THE HOLLOW MEN WE'VE BEEN DAWNINGLY DESIGNATED IN SONG AND POEM? WAS T. S. ELIOT RIGHT AS HE FORECAST OUR EVENTUAL WASTELAND?

IN THE LAND OF LOBELIAS AND TENNIS FLANNELS
THE RABBIT SHALL BURROW AND THE THORN REVISIT;
THE NETTLE SHALL FLOURISH ON THE GRAVEL COURT
AND THE WIND SHALL SAY: "HERE WERE DECENT GODLESS PEOPLE;
THEIR ONLY MONUMENT THE ASPHALT ROAD
AND A THOUSAND LOST SELF BALLS."

--- THE ROCK, HARCOURT, BRACE, 1934, P. 30.

TOYNBEE SEES THE VALUE OF THE STUDY OF HISTORY AS PARAMOUNT IN AN ERA
AS OURS. HISTORY DOES REVEAL THAT AND HOW PEOPLE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY RESPONDED
TO DREAD CONDITIONS; IT DOES REFLECT THE IMPORT OF FAITH AND SHOWS THAT MORAL
ORDER UNDERGOES REGENERATION AS WELL AS DECAY; IT FURTHER REVEALS THE FOLLY
OF UNINFORMED ACTION OR, WORSE YET, OF THE LACK OF POSITIVE, RESPONSIBLE ACTION
-- ALL FACTORS WHICH HAVE BROUGHT NATIONS TO THEIR KNEES. HISTORY ALSO BRINGS
PERSPECTIVE AND INSIGHT TO WEIGH AGAINST THE ENORMITY OF CONTEMPORARY DISASTERS.

JOHN GARDNER CITES THESE MELANCHOLY LINES:

TO WHOM CAN I SPEAK TODAY?
The gentle man has perished
The violent man has access to everybody.

TO WHOM CAN I SPEAK TODAY?
The iniquity that smites the land
It has no end.

TO WHOM CAN I SPEAK TODAY?
There are no righteous men
The earth is surrendered to criminals. 3

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3. FROM CHAPTER 2 "MORAL DECAY AND REFORMATION" IN JOHN II. GARDNER SELF-RENEWAL:
Timely? It was written by an Egyptian contemplating suicide during the period of the Middle Kingdom, some four thousand years ago!

We have survived centuries of chicanery, violence, enslavement, and murder. We have not lived up to our dreams. Too frequently infidelity has been the password. Fellow teachers and optimists, what can we do today to make our optimism a reality tomorrow? What shall we select from the long sweep of the past as well as of the present to serve our vital purposes? I have combed not only pessimistic theorists but also poets and popular pundits in an attempt to isolate and clarify major factors in the slippage of civilizations. It is my proposition that these forces should provide a framework in these times for our social studies units, topics, and lessons.

Note, I am not identifying a definite scope and sequence; but, rather, conditions whose sub-elements and indicated learning experiences will be developed by curriculum planners and teachers in terms of locale, their pupils, current conditions, and opportune needs. I will treat five underlying themes which I forward for your consideration as a warp and woof of the social studies. These should be reflected and evidenced in the offerings and courses detailed subsequently. Unheeded, they will permit the future to emerge more harmful, hideous, and hopeless. Therefore, we should consider these five as a set of guidelines toward a new general or liberal education that is now so badly needed. I feel very strongly that not just America but the world is in dire need of a core of mutual understandings, common competencies, and humane insights. Later I will designate the particular emphases of such a liberating education which should be centered in the social studies but must characterize the entire school.
PRIME ELEMENTS IN THE MAINTENANCE OF SOCIETY

I. AS SOCIETIES AGE, THEY BECOME RIGID, INFLEXIBLE, AND LOSE THEIR EXPANSIVE VIGOR. AMERICANS STILL LOOK UPON THE UNITED STATES AS A YOUNG COUNTRY AND, WHILE COMPARED TO MANY OTHER PEOPLES, WE ARE UNHAPPILY, IT SEEMS, IN PROLONGED ADOLESCENCE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS ONE OF THE OLDEST EXISTING IN THE WORLD. UNFORTUNATELY WE TEND TO HAVE FORGOTTEN OUR REVOLUTIONARY BEGINNINGS AND, AS WEALTH AND POWER GREW, CONSERVATISM HAS SET UPON THE LAND. ANY STUDY OF REVOLTS REVEALS THAT ELITE RELUCTANCE TO CHANGE, CONSERVATIVES BORDERING ON REACTION, AND THE FAILURE TO MAINTAIN AND EXTEND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MASS BETTERMENT ARE THE GREATEST WAY TO GUARANTEE ULTIMATE REVOLUTION. LOOK ABOUT YOURSELF IN THE STREETS AT WHAT YOU DEPLORE AND THEN REMEMBER THAT WHAT YOU FEAR AND DISLIKE IS PRIMARILY THE RESULT OF THE FAILURE TO KEEP OUR DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT AND IDEALS IN THE FOREFRONT OF OUR LIVES. THE PRINCIPLE OF THE CONTINUING AMERICAN REVOLUTION IS SOUND AND ESSENTIAL. I ONLY HOPE WE RECAPTURE SOME OF THIS IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR OUR BICENTENNIAL. SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS MAY LOOK UPON THIS AS OUR BICENTENNIAL CHALLENGE. IF OUR PEOPLE LOSE NERVE AND SPIRIT IN THE YEARS RIGHT AHEAD, WE WILL DEVELOP FURTHER NATIONAL ARTERIAL SCLEROSIS, MOVE TOWARD THE CONCEPT OF SECURITY ABOVE ALL IN A GARRISON STATE AND DIE A DEATH OF RIGIDITY AS HAVE SPARTA AND OTHER HIGHLY DOCTRINAIRE SOCIETIES.

II. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOCIETIES DIE FROM OVEREXTENSION AND OVERREACH. IN RECENT TIMES GERMANY HAS TWICE BEEN ALMOST MORTALLY INJURED BECAUSE OF OVERGRAND DESIGNS; JAPAN TOO. ROME IS A MOST CITED EXAMPLE OF THIS FATALITY WHICH RUNS THROUGHOUT HUMAN AFFAIRS, ALWAYS BRINGING EVENTUAL RETRIBUTION. ON A MUCH MORE LIMITED SCALE, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDER THE MISTAKES OF CENTRALIZED AND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLING. EXTREME UNIFICATION HAS BACKFIRED BECAUSE SCHOOL
AUTHORITIES OVERREACHED, PLACING CHILDREN ON BUSES FOR WASTED HOURS EACH DAY, CUTTING THE SCHOOL FROM ITS COMMUNITY BASE, AND IN NORTHERN CLIMES WE HAVE IN RETROSPECT BECOME VERY "SNOWWISE" ON THIS ERROR. THE AERO-SPACE INDUSTRY PROVIDES ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF OVERREACH. EVER LARGER PLANES HAVE BEEN BUILT IN EXPECTATION OF CONTINUALLY MOUNTING TRAFFIC; THE PLANNERS FORGOT, HOWEVER, THAT A TIME WOULD BE REACHED WHEN NO MORE PASSENGERS COULD BE GAINED FROM TRAINS AND BUSES. SUCH A PERIOD IS UPON US AND THE BAD RESULT HAS BEEN ECONOMIC DEPRESSION IN THE INDUSTRY AND MOTHBALL FLEETS OF THE NEW SKY MONSTERS IN OUR SOUTHWESTERN DESERTS.

But I refer to even more significant overextension and related resource exhaustion. It is hard to believe that the dry and barren Middle East was once a lush and wooded gardenland. Man's thoughtless destruction of nature's resources has gone on everywhere. Even clear warnings such as the impending death of Lake Erie have been brushed aside; too late then we find ourselves enmeshed in a complex and painful problem such as the recent Silver Bay, Minnesota incident. And I do not have to leave home to provide examples; in California, my own Santa Clara Valley, one of the richest agricultural centers in the world, is being rapidly retired from production and cemented up with sprawling urban developments.

Our own overreach is matched by endless others. The international decline of fish and fisheries borders on a global disaster. I have found the Rhine, the Neckar, and the Danube anything but blue and unbelievably polluted. Around the world the furnaces belch palls of smog, and even beautiful cities such as Rio de Janeiro and Lisbon are frequently lost in such haze.

The United States, of course, provides the prime example of industrial overreach. To maintain our present five to six per cent annual growth factor will mean that by 1980 we will need almost one-half of the total energy available in the world! (And remember, all of the "have-nots" and developing nations
Rushing after us to jump ahead on the deathly bandwagon of uncontrolled growth.

International overreach may well soon evolve into a vicious series of struggles. Meanwhile, we are being warned that unbridled energy use is heating the atmosphere so rapidly that the earth may become uninhabitable in less than 250 more years — the ultimate overreach.

Traditionally nations and societies have also frequently fallen to conquest, to attacks from without. Such options remain a threat throughout the world and, while we are mercifully spared the imminent fear of nuclear annihilation because of detente, we live on the razor's edge in an atomic standoff.

More dangerous times may lie just ahead as middle-range nations develop atomic power and weapons. There will be temptation in the growing global competition for resources and products to threaten and to bluff, and the result can be an atomic holocaust. National security remains important and needs provisioning; but we must resist the arms race of constantly expanding military budgets that now draining off so many of our resources and reserves that could be put to socially significant use. Just think of what could be done educationally with some twenty million dollars now expended on a single bomber or submarine.

Economic conquest may be more prevalent in the modern world and also can be fatal. We are certain to meet increasing competition for dwindling world resources in the years ahead; such struggles may well also lead to desperate military action. Many products that we have taken for granted must be conserved from now on. Paper shortages promise to be with us for the foreseeable future; wood is in short supply and so too numerous key chemicals. We are all familiar with what copper and silver shortages have done to our coinage and these are just two of the numerous metals crucial in the industrial world that are in short supply. Major deposits of cobalt, lead, and tin are in underdeveloped countries. What will happen when manufacturing nations feel they...
Absolutely must have increased supplies? We have just suffered the immediate results of but an eight per cent cut in the amount of crude oil available to this nation. There is every evidence that this and similar shortages will continue to occur, and it is a question as to how much of these various countries will accept gracefully. Our resource base is rapidly being exhausted as the world has used more resources in the past quarter century than were used in the entire previous history of mankind. Coupled with the continued growth of population in much of the world and the resulting demands, we face the continued upsurge of nationalism. There can be no respite from the results of the mounting use of non-renewable materials and shortages of vital goods may well bring a rash of wars of survival.

IV. Another element of civil collapse is the increase of internal alienation and the concurrent loss of common loyalties. Characterized by a growing unwillingness to participate civilly or, on the other hand, by anti-establishment action, such attitudes are engendered by debilitating factors as a long and unpopular war or the desperation of ghetto existence. The end result is mounting deviation of all sorts dramatized by cold murder in the streets or political assassinations.

Such are the tragic reactions to the enlarged gape between people and the deterioration of a central motif for the culture. Fewer and fewer individuals live in terms of expected norms and long-time differences between professed and real values are accentuated. The "have-nots," the young, the "outs," the disappointed, and the increasing number of confused individuals, highly discontented with their lot and the social hypocrisy about them, move from cynicism to outright radicalism.

In our times we've seen at least five directions of such separation and individuals sequestration: some withdraw or attempt to escape -- hippies, drug users, communists,
AND EMIGRES; OTHERS REACT ANTSOCIALLY IN A MORAL SELF-INDULGENCE — SWINGING
SEXISTS, SKULL AND CROSSBONE MOTORCYCLE GANGS, AND WANTON ZEBRA KILLERS;
ANOTHER GROUP BECOME ACTIVE AND ILLEGAL REVOLUTIONISTS — AN ULTIMATE EXAMPLE
BEING THE BIZARRE AND FRUSTRATED SYMBIONESE LIBERATION ARMY WHO WERE DEDICATED
TO "DESTROY THE CAPITALISTIC STATE AND ALL OF ITS VALUES;" STILL OTHERS RETREAT
TO ISOLATED SELF-PRESERVATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY — FROM IRONS AND BARS ON
URBAN APARTMENT DOORS AND WINDOWS TO SUBURBAN COMPOUNDS FOR THE AFFLUENT, WHERE
WE RESIDE BEHIND GATES, WALLS, AND MOATS IN OUR MAYOR HOUSE CASTLES IN FEAR OF
THE NEW DARK AGE; ANOTHER GROUP ANXIOUS TO PRESERVE ELEMENTS OF PAST AND PRESENT
BECOME THE VIGILANTE PROTECTORS — DESPERATE, THEY MAY TURN ON THE SYSTEM IN THE

WHAT A SET OF UNHAPPY CHOICES! FREEDOM BECOMES LICENSE; POSITIVE AUTHORITY
ERODES; LAW IS TRAMPLED UPON AND JUSTICE IS REALLY BLINDFOLDED — NO SOCIETY CAN
ENDURE UNDER THESE EXTREMES.

V. THE LAST FACTOR PARALLELS THE FOURTH; IT INVOLVES THE EROSION AND COLLAPSE OF CRUCIAL INSTITUTIONS. IF DIVERGENT VALUES BECOME PREDOMINANT, IF THERE
IS LESS AND LESS WE CAN BE CERTAIN OF, IF ALMOST ANY BEHAVIOR IS ACCEPTABLE, IF
ANYTHING GOES AS EACH DOES HIS OWN THING, THE TIES THAT BIND SLIP AND THE AGENCIES
OF SOCIAL CONTROL BECOME INOPERABLE IN A SEA OF MORAL RELATIVITY.

I DO NOT HAVE TO CITE EXAMPLES OF THIS BLIGHT; WE ARE ALL DIMINISHED. IT IS
EVIDENCED BY THE INCREASING AND OPEN INFIDELITY TO TRADITIONAL VALUES AMONG THE
YOUTH IN OUR CLASSROOMS; WE FIND IT IN OUR VERY OWN HOMES. WHILE GOVERNMENTAL
INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR AGENCIES NOW PROVIDE OVERLY RICH EXAMPLES HERE, LET US
LOOK BRIEFLY AT THE FAMILY. IT IS OUR PRIME INSTITUTION OF SOCIALIZATION AND
WHAT DOES AND DOES NOT HAPPEN THERE CANNOT BE BALANCED BY PROGRAMS OF ANY NAME
OR LEVEL FROM HEADSTART TO OPERATION GOLDEN YEARS. AGAIN, IT IS NOT NECESSARY
TO RELATE THE TOO FAMILIAR STATISTICS ON DIVORCE, PROMISCUITY, RISING V.D. RATES, AND THE LIKE FOR WHICH WE REGULARLY BLAME POOR DR. SPOCK -- OUR NATIONAL SCAPEGOAT IN THIS AREA. BUT SUCH SOCIAL PERMISSIVENESS AND FAMILY DETERIORATION ARE A TRUE PLAGUE. I AGREE WITH BRONFENBENNER: THE FAMILY IS THE MOST EFFICIENT AND HUMANE AS WELL AS ECONOMICAL MEANS OF PRODUCING HEALTHY AND EFFECTIVE HUMAN BEINGS. BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE WE NEED TO REINFORCE CONDITIONS WHICH PROMOTE WELL-FUNCTIONING FAMILIES. (INDICATED ARE THE RESTORATION OF SUPPORTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD SETTINGS, INCREASED RESOURCES -- LARGELY ECONOMIC -- FOR THE SHEER HOLDING OF FAMILIES TOGETHER, AS WELL AS PROMOTING THE FAMILY'S IMPORTANT TEACHING FUNCTION.)

IN HIS RECENT AUTOBIOGRAPHY, JUSTICE WILLIAM DOUGLAS CITES THE STRIKING DINNER TABLE DISCUSSIONS HE OBSERVED AT THE JOSEPH KENNEDY FAMILY MEALS WHERE EACH EVENING THE CHILDREN WERE ASSIGNED A TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION. WHAT A FAR CRY FROM THE DISRUPTION OF SO MANY CURRENT FAMILIES WHERE THE HOME HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS SIMILAR TO A GAS STATION WITH FAMILY MEMBERS ROLLING IN, BLowing THEIR HORNS, FILLING UP, AND ROLLING OUT AGAIN! EVEN TV, AS EDUCATIVE AS IT CAN BE, IS A DIVISIVE INSTRUMENT IN MANY FAMILIES AS EACH OF US IN SEMI-ISOLATION FOLLOW OUR OWN INTERESTS. I AM ATTEMPTING TO ILLUSTRATE THE DANGER OF SEGREGATION WITHIN FAMILIES. IT MAY BE OUR MOST DAMAGING SEGREGATION. CERTAINLY SEGREGATION BY AGE LEVELS IS A THREATENING FORCE IN THE NEED TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN THE RE-SHAPING AND REVITALIZATION OF SOCIETY, LET ALONE THE FAMILY ITSELF. WHAT A TRAGEDY, IF INDEED AS MARGARET MEAD CLAIMS, CHILDREN AND YOUTH ARE THE TRUE NATIVES AND WE ELDERS THE IMMIGRANTS IN THE AGE WE HAVE ENTERED. CAN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS IMPLIES IN THE WAY OF A SERIOUS GENERATION GAP? OF COURSE, WE MUST LISTEN TO THE CRIES OF OUR DISCONTENT AND THE PLEADINGS OF THE YOUNG; BUT IN HOME AND SCHOOL WE CANNOT ABANDON OUR ROLES AS MODELS AND TUTORS. BUT, IS IT ALREADY TOO LATE AND, IF NOT, ARE WE UP TO WHAT IS DEMANDED?
THE IMPERXATIVE SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM

IF THE FOREGOING ANALYSIS OF FACTORS IN SOCIO-CIVIC DETERIORATION AND COLLAPSE IS EVEN HALF-CORRECT, THERE ARE IMMEDIATE DEMANDS FOR EDUCATION. TO GIVE OURSELVES AS WELL AS OUR FUTURE, I AM AFRAID I MUST COUNSEL WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A HEADACHE CURRICULUM. AT THIS POINT I WILL ONLY SKETCH OUT FUNDAMENTAL AREAS OF EMPHASIS; THE PLOTTING OF EXACT MEANS AND SPECIFIC LEARNINGS IS THE CHALLENGE BEFORE ALL OF US FROM THIS DAY ON. WE HAVE LITTLE TIME AND YOU MUST FIND ADEQUATE AND IMPORTANT PLACES FOR THE FOLLOWING ESSENTIALS:

(1) A SKILLS ORIENTATION AND SKILLS TRAINING WITH PROCESS BEING CONTENT, AS WELL AS A PRIME MEANS OF APPROACHING CONTENT, IS A PRELIMINARY AND CONTINUING ESSENCE. LEARNING HOW TO LEARN IS BOTH THE BEST AND THE SAFEST WAY TO EDUCATE FOR THE UNKNOWN. IT IS ALSO AT THE CORE OF THE BELIEF THAT REASON AND INTELLECT ARE IMPORTANT, FOR THESE SKILLS ARE BASIC TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RATIONALITY. REGULAR ATTENTION TO LEARNING COMPETENCIES, THEN, PROVIDES THE FUNDAMENTAL MEANS OF COMPREHENDING AND WORKING IN OUR MAGNIFICENT UNIVERSE -- ONE THAT IS NOT CHAOTIC, NOT CAPRICIOUS, BUT TO WHOSE GRAND DESIGN WE ARE STILL NOT ATTUNED. HOW MUCH TIME ARE YOU GIVING TO SUCH DIRECT SKILL TRAINING?

(2) PRIME CONTENT SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO HUMAN AND SELF-UNDERSTANDING, ESPECIALLY TO HELPING EACH OF US SEE OURSELVES AS A NEIGHBOR OR COMPANION IN RELATION TO OTHERS. WHY AM I THE WAY I AM? HOW SHOULD I CONDUCT MYSELF? WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF MY ACTIONS? WHAT DO I OWE TO WHOM? TO WHAT SHOULD I BE TRUE? NO SINGLE COURSE CAN TREAT SUCH QUESTIONS AND A NEW BLEND OF PHILOSOPHY, SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, RELIGION, AND HUMAN RELATIONS EDUCATION IS NECESSARY. THE PREMISE IS THAT ETHICAL DECISIONS BASED

Upon a moral vision are to be cherished. Remember Mr. Chips? After thirty years of teaching, he was brought to finally question the value of most that he and his colleagues had imparted. He concluded, however, rightly, that character education should be the teacher's major contribution — "We also taught the boys how to behave and what is more important than to be brave, strong, and true?" How much thought and time in your social studies do you give to building such insights and qualities?

(3) We need to also strive toward the maintenance and fulfillment of worthy cultural goals. These are best caught in actual face-to-face experiences, confrontations, and joint efforts in school and community. In addition to providing community-centered learnings, schools themselves must be no halfway houses to citizenship. They should be exemplars of what they profess.

Teachers and classrooms as models of democratic behavior are one guarantee of adequate socialization and civic involvement. Here, in joint experiences with different people of divergent opinion, youngsters will participate in the necessary and personal rediscovery of the meaning and demands of qualities such as liberty and justice. Then, there is some hope that they will live true to such fundamental ideals, now of particular import in relationships with minorities.

Toynbee saw the great curse of mankind to be that of self-centeredness. It would be ironic if freedom, democracy's keystone, should prove democracy's albatross. Thoughtless, unrestrained, individual choices and actions have to be countered and moderated by social responsibility; but I trust we can avoid what I call "the Chinese choice." This is not a choice but largely a dictate. It is the result of accruing conditions which leave few options and call for an automatic response for Chairman Mao, my state, and my fellows. The Chinese choice may bring obedience without understanding, care without compassion, and existence without living.5 Some, however, as B. F. Skinner, now see such

5. See my previous remarks on this prime dilemma in the N. So. S. S. Presidential Address "This I Have Learned," Social Education, March, 1963, pp. 223-229.
BEHAVIOR CONTROL AS OUR ONLY HOPE IN THE RACE AGAINST CATASTROPHE. WHAT OF YOURSELF? HOW ARE YOU APPROACHING THESE PRIME CHALLENGES IN YOUR SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM?

(4) POPULATION IS LEVELLING OFF IN SOME DEVELOPED NATIONS BUT INTERNATIONALLY THE POPULATION BOMB STILL TICKS OMINOUSLY. A NUMBER OF NATIONS ON THE THRESHOLD OF INDUSTRIALIZATION FACE AN IMMENSE EXPLOSION IN NUMBERS. INDIA, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN PROMOTING POPULATION CONTROL FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS AND, WHILE RATES OF INCREASE HAVE DECLINED IN SEVERAL REGIONS WHERE PROGRAMS FEATURING VASECTOMY AND INTRAUTERINE DEVICES HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZED, TOTAL NUMBERS OF PEOPLE HAVE STILL INCREASED DRAMATICALLY. AT PRESENT RATES OF GROWTH, IN ABOUT THIRTY YEARS INDIA WOULD NEED ONE-HALF OF THE TOTAL AVAILABLE WORLD'S FERTILIZER TO KEEP HER PEOPLE FROM STARVING. A CLEARLY IMPOSSIBLE 1000 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE WORLD'S RESOURCES WILL BE NEEDED BY 2000 A.D. TO MEET INTERNATIONAL POPULATION GROWTH.

POPULATION PATTERNS, CONCENTRATIONS, AND BALANCES ALSO DEMAND ATTENTION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN LONGEVITY AND THE RESULTANT CONCENTRATION OF OLDESTERS IN OUR NATION PRESENTS A NUMBER OF DILEMMAS. MORE IMMEDIATE AND THREATENING ARE THE IMBALANCES IN THE CHANGING RURAL-URBAN STRUCTURE OF THE NATION AND THE VAST CONCENTRATION OF SERIOUS CONDITIONS IN OUR CITIES. IT SEEMS QUITE EVIDENT THAT WE CANNOT OR WILL NOT HANDLE ADEQUATELY THE FESTERING SORES IN OUR GHETTOS AS MIGRATIONS CONTINUE INTO OUR MEGALOPOLISES. IN THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS, THREE-QUARTERS OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION WILL BE URBAN. HERE, INCREASINGLY, ALIENATED AND SCHIZOPHRENIC INDIVIDUALS, UNABLE TO ADJUST, CONTRIBUTE TO THE TERROR OF THE CITIES. THESE UNROOTED AND LOST PEOPLE ARE REALLY NOT A PART OF OUR SOCIETY. WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH POPULATION STATISTICS AND RELATED PROBLEMS SUCH AS THOSE OF URBAN EXISTENCE IN YOUR SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSES?

(5) Environmental protection and improvement in the quality of life, as indicated above, should be another of our central concerns. We now seem to gradually understand the finite ends of everything. There is a dawning of consciousness finally as to the import of equitable distribution and of the necessity of sharing. A willingness to postpone gratification and even to sacrifice is becoming apparent. In America a serious example relates to the automobile complex. California is one of our leaders in moving us towards the "concrete culture." In my state we have twenty million people and eleven million cars, trucks, and buses! And automobiles are increasing three times faster than people. In the U.S. we are paving over one million acres of land per year and, given the opportunity, the transportation lobbies, highway engineers, and their affiliates will blacktop the nation! At present rates of use and discovery, by 1985 the U.S. will be using half of the oil available to the entire world! Yet, this is a growing, global problem and any minute in the 24 hours of each day an average of two million cars are stopped with their motors idling at a stoplight. If your eyes can take it, you can observe the fumes in most places, and can't you smell that aroma? In any case, what percentage of your social education program is devoted to conservation topics and also reflects the needed marriage between science and the social studies?

(6) Peace education remains another "must" in our efforts. The gigantic military and arms wastage—so frequently masked in the name of peace and security—is another of the long-time failures in mankind's history. Let alone the inexcusable violence and murdering of innocents, the monetary wastage of military preparation and action is a dawning fact, if we will face up to it. When we frankly consider what might have been attained with the resources and funds so squandered, we must be appalled at ourselves. I admire the
Citizens like Juan Diaz and my local bookseller who are brave enough and willing to be involved to the extent of forcing the government to attack that part of their earnings on which they refuse to pay taxes that go for war purposes. Nothing significant will really be accomplished on this front until millions of individuals in similar ways protest this affront against human dignity and terrible wastage of funds. In many cases it is difficult to accurately discover the true percentage of a national budget actually devoted to military costs; but for most countries the imbalance in allocations as against peaceful uses of the people's taxes is very evident. Recently I was appraised of the great progress toward economic betterment being made in a Middle Eastern nation and admittedly there has been economic progress for many of the impoverished; however, when the divisions of the national budget were made apparent, revealing over 75 per cent as military oriented versus about five per cent toward education, any so-called progress was fully diminished in terms of actualities and potentials. The implications for peace education are broad and clear and once more I ask you to consider what you are accomplishing in this area in your social studies efforts.

(7) Instinctively in recent years individuals are asserting, it seems, their disenchantment with the problems of over-centralization, bureaucracy, and lacks of communication in the structure and functioning of our social institutions. Because of over-growth and the accompanying complexity that characterize relationships in many elements of human endeavor, some social critics feel it is too late to do much about restoring/inter-relationships that characterized our past. Nevertheless it seems imperative that when or where possible we should endeavor to help individuals, small groups, and local organizations and agencies make choices and take actions on their own. As stated previously, such decisions have to be tempered by a broad
BUT THE AIM IS TO RESTORE A SENSE OF IMPORT, CONFIDENCE, AND EFFICACY ON THE PART OF INDIVIDUALS AS TO THEIR OWN LIVES AND WORK. THIS DOES NOT MEAN TURNING BACK THE CLOCK OR WIPING OUT NECESSARY METROPOLITAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING AND COOPERATION, IN MANY PLACES JUST NOW EVOLVING. THE CONCERN IS TO BRIDGE THE GROWING GAPS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND PEOPLE AND BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THEIR INSTITUTIONS. DISTANT AND INFLUENTIAL NATIONAL COMBINES AND INTERNATIONAL CARTELS MAKE A JOKE OF REGULATORY LAWS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION; BUT I AM PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT WE START RESOLVING SUCH PROBLEMS IN OUR "FRONT YARDS." INSTITUTING TELEPHONE REFERENDA AND VOTING ON LOCAL ISSUES, APPROPRIATELY INVOLVING ALL ELEMENTS OF A LOCAL POPULATION IN CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE AFFAIRS, AS WELL AS RESTRUCTURING OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIPS ARE SUGGESTED PALLIATIVES. THE LATTER HAS BEEN DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED, FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE VOLVO AUTOMOBILE FACTORY BY REPLACING THE CONVENTIONAL ASSEMBLY LINE WITH TEAMS OF WORKERS PRODUCING THEIR "OWN" CAPS. IN OUR TIMES THE DEPERSONALIZED RELATIONSHIPS AND FEELINGS OF INDIVIDUAL INADEQUACY ARE DIFFICULT TO COUNTER; BUT WE SHOULD STUDY THE CHARGES OF MEN LIKE RALPH NADER AND DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF COMMON CAUSE AND SIMILAR MOVEMENTS. CERTAINLY AFTER THE REVELATIONS OF WATERGATE, CAN ANY SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER HAVE QUALMS OVER ELEMENTS TO BE EMPHASIZED IN THIS AREA?

(6) AS ENCOMPASSING AS IS THE FIELD OF THE SOCIAL STUDIES, IT IS NOT AS RICH OR COMPLETE AS IT NEEDS TO BE IN EXPLAINING THE HUMAN STORY. SOCIAL EDUCATION CAN BE EXTENDED AND VITALIZED BY BEING BROUGHT TO THE FRONTIERS OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE NOT ADEQUATELY EXPLAINED BY OUR TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC CATEGORIES. IN NUMEROUS INSTANCES, POETRY, DRAMA, MUSIC, ART, HOME ECONOMICS, RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS, AND OTHERS MAY INCLUDE ESSENTIAL ASPECTS FOR ATTAINING A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHENOMENA INVOLVED IN A SOCIAL EXPERIENCE. JUST AS THE SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM SHOULD NOT BE PLANNED IN ISOLATION FROM
THE TOTAL SCHOOL PROGRAM, EACH OF US NEEDS TO USE THE INSIGHTS AND AVEUES FROM THESE OTHER DISCIPLINARY AREAS TO MAKE OUR OWN LESSONS TRULY REAL AND AS COMPLETE AS POSSIBLE FOR OUR PUPILS. ARE YOU ACCORDING THESE VEHICLES THEIR APPROPRIATE PLACES IN YOUR SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM?

(9) Clearly, the future has to be an identified order of study. Probably the bulk of our efforts should involve the "what if" look ahead in time. There is no question that predicting and planning ahead becomes more difficult each decade; but this is all the more reason to give attention to the needs involved. Case studies, simulations, computerized games, role-playing, and the development of optional scenarios should be regular experiences in the social studies classroom. Observing different models of some element of the future, sharpening analytical skills, seriously considering the possible results of alternative actions, and reviewing the implications for one's self and various sub-groups in a society should be regular features of future studies. I am not advocating separate courses on futurism but rather suggest that this orientation be a regular feature of learning experiences throughout the curriculum. How much time are you giving to reviewing the ways toward the best possible tomorrow in your social studies?

(10) Finally, our curriculum must become globally oriented. Most of the previous areas of emphasis suggested for the social studies have important international aspects and implications. Now that we have been presented by the astronauts with an actual visual register of Spaceship Earth, it may help many people better grasp the interconnections permeating so many aspects of life throughout the world. Globally-initiated individuals with the insights that come from familiarity with other cultures may finally help make real on a greater scale the age-old concept of human brotherhood and sisterhood. But today there must also be a more mundane recognition of the fact that
THE DESTINIES OF ALL OF US ARE LINKED CRUCIALLY AND THAT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION MAY BE OUR ONLY WAY OF RESOLVING NUMEROUS NATIONAL PROBLEMS. AGAIN, THESE NEEDS WILL NOT BE MET BY A SINGLE WORLD REGIONS COURSE OR BY AN IMPOSSIBLE YEAR'S COURSE IN WORLD HISTORY. ONLY A GLOBAL APPROACH WITH CONTINUING EMPHASIS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS OF THE SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL OFFICE. HERI, TOO, DO YOU HAVE TO RETHINK AND RE-BALANCE YOUR SOCIAL STUDIES OFFERINGS?

I TRUST I HAVE NOT OUTLINED A COMPLETELY OVERWHELMING CHALLENGE; BUT CLEARLY SOMETHING WILL HAVE TO GO AS MOST OF WHAT I HAVE IDENTIFIED AS ESSENTIALS ARE ONLY ELEMENTS ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE PRESENT SOCIAL STUDIES. WE NEED TO GRASP THIS NEW CONTENT AND MOVE IT CENTER-STAGE. BASIC CURRICULUM GUIDES, BASIC TEXTS, BASIC COURSES, AND BASIC TIME MUST BE SO DEVOTED.

A WORD OF CAUTION. THERE IS REAL DANGER IMPLIED IN THE EVOLUTION AND INSTRUCTION OF THE HEADACHE CURRICULUM. THIS IS THE CONTINUAL REINFORCEMENT OF A NEGATIVE AND PESSIMISTIC OUTLOOK. SUCH AN APPROACH TO THE TRAGEDIES OF OUR ERA CAN PERMANENTLY INFECT OUR PUPILS. IT IS SO EASY TO BE MOODY AND DEPARDING. I BELIEVE IT QUITE IMPORTANT THAT WE APPROACH THESE PROBLEM AREAS FROM A POSITION THAT IS POSITIVE; TO AN EXTENT THE OLD IS STILL OPEN, SOME OPTIONS EXIST, AND THE WAYS IN WHICH WE ACT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

WE TEACHERS ALSO NEED TO HAVE SOME OF OUR OPTIMISM RESTORED IN THIS SITUATION AND, IN SPITE OF MUCH THAT HAS BEEN CLAIMED RECENTLY, I THINK WE SHOULD AFFIRM THE BASIC PREMISE OF EDUCATION, THAT SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, NOT AS VENDORS OF PLATITUDES AND THE INCONSEQUENTIAL, BUT AS CATALYSTS AND JOINT-EXPLORERS WHO ENABLE SOCIETY TO BRING UP ITS YOUNG AS FUNCTIONING HUMANS OF EXCELLENCE WHO CAN JOIN HANDS, OVERCOME THE DOUBTS OF OUR ERA, AND SHAPE THEIR OWN DESTINIES, HELPING ASSURE A YOUTHFUL FUTURE.

7. SEE THE PROPOSALS FOR A MODEL CURRICULUM IN THIS AREA OF THE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, THE INSTITUTE, NEW YORK, 1973, 71 PP.