

Indeed, he found Chapter 6, "The Program for Elementary School", the most enlightened in the whole report. By contrast the timid approach of the following chapter, "The Program for Junior High School", depressed him. To his British mind it appeared that the writer of it was afraid lest any intellectual discipline should be imposed on the young at so tender an age. Nor did he share the view expressed more than once in the report that a textbook which is more than five years old is therefore to be condemned. Topicality may easily become a fetish: physics at high school had better, in his view, err in being old-fashioned rather than in being absolutely up-to-the-minute.

Much thought has gone into the writing of this report, and the reading of it should occasion much more. Perhaps it has been rather hastily written. In some places things might well have been put rather differently—or perhaps they might not. It is not entirely clear to a foreigner whether this last quotation represents one of them (p. 139): "The core of this course is of direct value to any learner, regardless of whether he will immediately become an adult in society, or will continue his studies in an institute of higher education." Is it possible that the full impact of the antithesis was intentional? And, if so, is it possible that this goes near to the heart of the matter?

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