

Today the importance of education is greater than at any previous time in history. This mad world of turmoil cannot exist forever. A time must come, and will come, when the war will end, and people will start anew to build an enduring society of neighborly humanity. In order to create such a world we will need men of good will and understanding, experts in politics, economics, sciences and education, cooperating to construct a better world. There also must be intelligent citizens who will understand and heartily support the experts. It is through higher education and continued study that experts and intelligent citizens will be made.

We may normally think of higher education as study in colleges or universities with some preparing for professions such as law and medicine, while others are acquiring general academic training and a cultural background.

On the other hand some of us may enter various types of specialized training schools that will train us in skills such as art, music, commerce or aeronautics. These schools have their advantages for us if we have a definite plan for life. Such institutions enable us to start our training in a vocation immediately, and offer concentrated knowledge in this field of occupation.

However, education does not mean attending an educational institution day after day. Some of us will find that we can attend only part of the time, and perhaps just at night. If we have a real sincere desire to learn we can obtain knowledge by self-education. Perhaps the best example of this is seen in Abraham Lincoln. We all know how great a man he was, and yet most of his education was derived from books through his own study.

Education is not limited to institutions and books. Experiences of all kinds are educations. Some of us will be alert and sensitive enough to learn from the lessons they teach. Even in this place we could gain invaluable knowledge through experiences. These experiences that we have may be contributing factors to our future success or failure.

At the present time, when all activities have been geared to the pace of war, the educational system has also changed. Many educational institutions have military training stations on their campuses to train men for active duty. Most colleges now have an accelerated year-round program which makes it possible for students training for war time services and pre-military education to complete their courses sooner. The acceptance of younger but more matured students allows a boy to acquire more education before entering the services. Because of these military programs at various institutions the educational pursuits of normal and peaceful times have been subordinated, but they will return, for the new society of the post war world will demand more education.

In addition to the experience gained through jobs, vocational training is also being offered through the Adult Educational Program. Just to mention a few, bookkeeping, typing, shorthand, drafting and sewing are some. Persons taking any one of these courses will find that it will be of great value to him, not only now, but also in later life.

In summarizing my speech there is one point, particularly, that I would like to emphasize and that is, take advantage of every opportunity—be it big or small. You and only you will be the one to profit from it the most.

Today we realize that we have been cut away from the main stream of American life but this is only temporary. At one time or another all of us will once more resume our normal way of living on the outside again. Through our preparation here in camp, we can and we will do a great deal toward leading America in its solution to its many social, economic, and racial problems.

— Ellen Hasegawa