

*Papers -
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radio*

DULUTH. . . No type of education is more important for ALL students than the study of economic competence, a University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, professor said at UMD today (Friday.)

Dr. Ray G. Price addressed area business and economics teachers in the opening session of a business education conference on the campus. Sessions continue in Superior today (Saturday) with co-sponsor Wisconsin State College as host.

At present no one in secondary schools seems to feel a deep enough responsibility for raising the level of economics education, Price said.

Our general business courses are often "dumping grounds for the low ability student," treated with vocational rather than practical aims, and offered as electives rather than imperatives, he stated.

"But as we have come from bows and arrows to missiles, we have evolved also from a simple economy to a complex one. Man as consumer, producer and citizen has a corresponding responsibility."

Price believes we may need some event of magnitude to show up the "apalling lack of economic literacy." He mentioned the parallel of and increased Russia's Sputnik science and mathematics education.

The education professor's remedy begins with a program of separate economics courses rather than a smattering of business enveloped in history or social sciences books, backed by specially trained teachers.

He suggested an introductory business course in the ninth and tenth grades followed by practical economic problems in the senior high.

Dr. Richard O. Sielaff, chairman of UMD's social sciences division, welcomed the group of educators. Theme of the conference is "The Future of Business Education in our Schools."

Following discussions and a film, the gathering adjourned for dinner in Kirby Student Center.