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DULUTH--"We will never be defeated as a nation because we have the best educational system in the world," Roscoe Cramer, Kansas City, Missouri educator declared today at UMD.

"We change our educational goals when it is necessary to make our country stronger," Cramer added, "and most nations--- including Russia---cannot switch courses as quickly."

Cramer is teaching first summer session courses at UMD on the junior high school and on elementary school organization and administration. This is his third summer here.

"I believe we are moving from the space age into what I call the education age," Cramer said. He pointed out that more attention is being given these days to teacher scholarships and research grants, to changes needed in course work to fit national requirements and to a better school attitude on the part of the public.

Cramer, who has championed the establishment of junior high schools, said 75 per cent of all children in the 7th, 8th and 9th grades attended junior high schools in the U.S in 1956 and "the figure probably is 85 per cent now."

Cramer said there are some reactionaries who want to go back to the "8-4" or grade school-high school systems.

"They are ignoring the growth and development needs of children when they talk this way," Cramer warned. "They are trying to put the cart back in front of the horse."

Cramer pointed out that 12 to 15 year old children---the late pre-adolescents and early adolescents---are "the most homogenous group of all." The junior high school, he said, fits their physical and mental growth needs, exactly.

"Let's try to understand the nature of the child, Cramer concluded, "then we can plan course work and other activities for him."

Cramer is principal of West Junior High school and of Switzer Elementary school in Kansas City. He currently is writing a book on "Junior High School Education in America" which is scheduled for publication in 1962.