

The "best schools for the whole child that the world has ever known" still fall far short of today's and tomorrow's requirements for an America facing grim challenges on domestic and foreign fronts, a UMD convocation audience was told ~~today~~ today.

Douglas Ward, dean of education, ~~at~~ Miami university, ~~at~~ Oxford, O., in a lecture, "The School Controversy: A Critique on the Critics," asserted:

"It is not enough to say we shall do better than which we are doing well now. We have to examine the whole system of education from kindergarten through college toward making the necessary drastic changes to meet these challenges."

Dean ~~at~~ Ward ~~has~~ declared that the ~~main~~ critics by and ~~large~~ lack the experience to chart the course American education must take but that their logic is "essentially correct."

Among major problems he listed:

1. Contemporary life demands a higher quality of education than is now available in all except richer school systems.
2. America is permanently committed to the philosophy of universal compulsory education, rather than education for the gifted few.
3. The broader aspects of education are being neglected in the increasing demand for supplementary services, such as guidance, mental health, recreation and athletics.

~~M.~~ "No longer is it the original three R's, but all the new R's, ranging from recruiting for the armed forces to collecting old clothes and new dimes for worthy, yes, but time-taking causes," he declared.

As a result of the dispersal of time, effort and energy over many services beside academic learning, it is easy for youth to "fall into a sloth which a free nation can ill afford."

His "hunches" about ~~the situation and the various~~ remedies ~~with certain~~ included:

1. Firming up of ~~our~~ grade policies and other measurements of academic achievement.

2. A close look at "our almost neurotic attachment" to the policy of equality in our school staffing which results in "the same responsibilities and ~~same~~ recompense for the competent and the incompetent, the trained and the untrained."

3. Getting tough about written expression--spelling, grammar, etc., "one of our greatest weaknesses."

4. Putting curbs on "local irresponsibility," which allows some school boards to be ~~starkly~~ slovenly while others are alert to the pressing needs for reform and improvement.

5. "Building our schools and school policy as daringly as we have built other aspects of our national life in the past."

6. Developing new techniques to assure more effective learning.

He suggested, ~~that subliminal learning may be~~ for example, that subliminal learning may hold a key.