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# 'Reading Report Kindles Reform Issue' Conant

"Dr. James Bryant Conant has rekindled public interest in the nation's reading crisis to a flame by the publication of his report, 'Learning to Read,' commented Watson Washburn, President and Co-founder of the Reading Reform Foundation, which was established "to restore the alphabet (phonics) to its proper place as the basis of elementary instruction in English."

"It is gratifying to the Foundation that this Carnegie Foundation-sponsored report highlights the scope and gravity of the acute national reading crisis," Mr. Washburn said, and that it recognizes that "without phonics most children cannot become self-reliant, discriminating, efficient readers"; and further that "reading is our most important educational skill."

"HOWEVER, we take issue with the straddling position the report seems to take in urging that 'a few words' be learned by rote as whole-word pictures at the start of reading instruction.

"Unfortunately, in most of our public schools, the few words to be memorized are in practice nearly a hundred, and this usually requires at least six months of more-than-wasted time, with many children's reading ability permanently impaired.

"Actually, all words can be learned most quickly as logical combinations of letters, and once learned in this meaningful way, they will never be forgotten."

THE REPORT admits that children must ultimately learn to recognize words "instantly as wholes through their unique patterns of letters." Since the alphabet is thus the ultimate goal, Mr. Washburn questioned the wisdom of confusing both teachers and pupils by starting with the memorization of any meaningless shapes.

Mr. Washburn said that there is no single word in the English language of which the shape has the slightest relation to the meaning. "Hence, the attempt to base reading instruction on whole words as mere pictures, as Dr. Conant's report still to some extent recommends, is as unsound in theory as it has proved in practice in the last forty years."

THE READING REFORM Foundation sees no value in trying to merge such incompatible systems as the pictograph and the alphabet. "No one would suggest combining the engineering technique of the Great Pyramid with that of the Empire State Building, or the antiquated earth-centered epicycles of Ptolemy with the cosmography of Newton."

The Foundation's 155-member National Advisory Council includes prominent authorities on phonics and education from most of the States; 78 principals of leading preparatory schools; and authors and civic leaders, individually and as representatives of established groups.

COMMITTEES of the Foundation are already organized in 21 states and the District of Columbia.

## Legal Notices

John E. Maatz, Atty. 727 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit 26

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

In the Matter of the Estate of LOUIS R. HARRINGTON, Deceased.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of HENRIE E. HUBBARD, Deceased.

John E. Maatz having filed a petition praying that an instrument filed in said Court be admitted to probate as the last will and testament of said deceased, and that administration of said estate be granted to the petitioner, the executor named in said will, or to some other person, and for determination of the legal heirs of said deceased.

It is Ordered, that the 25th day of June, A. D. 1962, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, is hereby appointed for hearing and petition in the Probate Office. That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy hereof, once each week, for three consecutive weeks, preceding the day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eclectic a newspaper printed and circulated in said County; and that present copies of this order be served personally or by registered mail, return receipt demanded, to each of the known heirs at law, legatees and devisees at their last known place of address at least ten days prior to said day of hearing.

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

Louis R. Harrington, Attorney, 2301 First National Building, Detroit 26, Michigan

STATE OF MICHIGAN — In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

In the Matter of the Estate of PATRICK SMITH, Deceased.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

Louis R. Harrington, Special Administrator of said estate having filed in said Court his First and Final Account and petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof, allowance of fees, assignment of the residue of said estate and the discharge of said Special Administrator.

It is Ordered, that the 25th day of June, A. D. 1962, at two o'clock in the afternoon, at said Probate Court in the Court House in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as the time and place for hearing said petition.

It is further Ordered that notice be given to all interested parties as shown by the records in this cause by delivering a copy of this order to each of them personally, or by mailing such copy to each of them by registered mail, with return receipt demanded addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this cause.

And it is further Ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks, preceding the said day of hearing in the Birmingham Eclectic, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

Louis R. Harrington, Attorney, 2301 First National Building, Detroit 26, Michigan

STATE OF MICHIGAN — In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

In the Matter of the Estate of LOUIS S. CARNEY, Deceased.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

Edward O. Sharn, Executor of said estate having filed in said Court his First and Final Account and petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof, for the determination of the legal heirs of said estate and for the discharge of said executor.

It is Ordered, that the 25th day of July, A. D. 1962, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Court in the Court House in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as the time and place for hearing said petition.

It is further Ordered that notice be given to all interested parties as shown by the records in this cause by delivering a copy of this order to each of them personally, or by mailing such copy to each of them by registered mail, with return receipt demanded addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this cause.

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ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

Louis S. Carney, Attorney, 2301 First National Building, Detroit 26, Michigan

Thomas C. Kovanagh, Atty. Harlan Bldg., 250 Martin St., Birmingham, Michigan

STATE OF MICHIGAN — In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

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Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

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ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

Louis S. Carney, Attorney, 2301 First National Building, Detroit 26, Michigan

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## Commissioner Edwards Speaks at Country Day

Police Commissioner George C. Edwards addressed the Detroit of Franklin Community Church Country Day School Senior class Diplomas were presented by Mr. E. Alden Shaw, founder and President of the Board of Trustees, and the school June 13. Mr. Edwards' address was "Why Go To College?" Headmaster W. Bodman Stelling Invocation and benediction was Detroit Country Day School held

its first Baccalaureate Service at the school Sunday, June 10th, at 3:30 P.M. Conducting the service was the Reverend James B. Van-Dusen of St. James Church, Birmingham.

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