

CM
EDITOR'S NOTE BRINGS
REPLY FROM LETTER WRITER
To the Editor:

In your "editorial note" (attached to the letter concerning the exchange of chickens for shirts, etc.) you accuse the "teller of the tale" of himself indulging in economic gobbledegook—and also refer to it as an "overworked" fable. Irrespective of whether or not this little allegory (not fable; see Webster's dictionary) is overworked, the fine points within it are still overlooked by a great many superficial thinkers—to wit:

The farmer and the shirt maker are, of course, merely symbolical of specializations of labor—without which, a highly productive economy, based upon the "exchangeability

ty of occupations" could not exist. Exchange is, in itself, a mode of production—the most advanced mode of production thus far developed—that is to say, exchange is the most advanced method ever discovered, by collective society, for the increase of labor values upon which mass production and consumption utterly depend. Therefore, irrespective of the given number of chickens or shirts actually brought into being, only those which are offered and exchanged in the market, can be considered produced—that is, as regards to their economic status.

Whatever an individual produces and consumes himself is not, in economics, or to collective society, wealth. In addition, you again overlooked the fact that money is merely a medium of exchange—it is not wealth, but merely the legal representative of wealth. An exchange is not really complete until the receiver of money passes it in exchange for the tangible result of labor.

Failure to keep the above points in mind, has been responsible for the millions of unsuccessful attempts by so-called professional economists to express, by some equation or other, the relationship existing between the exchangeable value of commodities and money. They remind one of dogs who love to chase their tails. No doubt, dogs will continue to chase their tails, but I doubt if one will ever succeed in catching same. Do you not further see that, under such conditions, the value (purchasing power) of the medium of exchange, or money, has decreased about half?—that is to say, it can command in exchange but one shirt—or one chicken? Right?

NON-PARTISAN AND PATRIOT

H-T BB
6-3-52
Editorial John Dewey

John Dewey had a supreme faith in man's intelligence, and certainly he was a living embodiment of his own beliefs. He was one of the greatest of American philosophers and teachers, with an active career that extended nearly three-quarters of a century and an influence that encircled the earth.

"Faith in intelligence," "learning by doing"—these were two of his most important tenets, summing up the findings of a long lifetime of study, observation and thought. Dr. Dewey was a practicing, not a preaching philosopher; his ideas were explained in dozens of books, but they were also translated into reality in thousands of classrooms. A pragmatist in thought, like his master William James, he knew the satisfaction of testing his beliefs by their practical consequences, and seeing them widely accepted.

This does not mean that there was no controversy over his principles; a man who interested himself in as many causes and movements as Dr. Dewey was bound to stir debate and even opposition. But no one ever questioned his sincerity and authority, and his ideas even influenced those who resisted them. Even though an inevitable reaction set in against his progressive education—perhaps induced by those who carried it to extremes—his reforms left an indelible mark on schooling methods in the United States and far beyond.

Deeply engraved in the core of his being, and underlying his every action and doctrine, was a profound belief in democracy, in the people and their thought. It was a belief that motivated him in philosophy, in education, in politics, that never left him as his life's work came to fruition, that remains as a legacy to be grasped by philosophers, kings and commoners alike. The whole world honored him on his ninetieth birthday; now, two years later, he is dead, his own task achieved and his memory revered by a civilization he adorned so long and so brightly.

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WORLD-TELEGRAM AND SUN, TUESDAY

Dr. John Dewey.

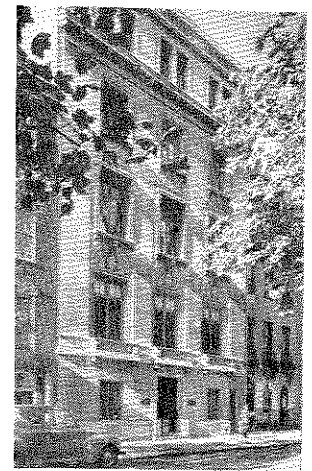
The death of Dr. John Dewey robs the world of one of its great minds. In an age when the tag "liberal" often has been distorted to cover crackpots and wild leftists, he was a leading exponent of true liberalism. He preached the importance of progressive humanitarian thinking.

Sometimes his theories were misapplied by those who professed to be his pupils. Sometimes, too, he rebuked those who distorted them. His chief fault, in the minds of some, was failure to rebuke often enough.

That, however, was in the nature of the man. He preferred to hit with the force of reason rather than apply verbal spankings. And the weight of that reason made a deep and lasting imprint on educational and social thinking.

It was the fortune of our city, our country and of humanity generally, that Dr. Dewey remained vigorous for so many years beyond the normal span. At 92, he still was a force for world betterment. An ardent champion of democracy in the true sense of the word, and thus a stubborn foe of communism, fascism and all totalitarianisms, his death is a universal loss.

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