



Education Is Power

By Thomas E. Wilson,
Ph.D.

Being in a classroom with thirty children can be a frightening experience for a child who has been confined to a limited environment. This may be the first time that the child will have to spend all day with people who he has never seen before. This can be tension provoking to the extent that it may inhibit the learning process. A pre-school, nursery or day-care center experience will broaden the environment of the child whose contact has been limited to a few street blocks, his parents and a few neighbors. He will now have a chance to socialize, to learn how to behave in a larger group, and by this experience, can comfortably adjust to the large group in first grade.

Very often pre-school children are unable to communicate with others in a meaningful way. They may either speak their own dialect, answer in monosyllables, or remain withdrawn. This is the result of a lack of experience with verbal adults. In a pre-school setting the child should learn the words for objects found in most classrooms, some of which they will never have seen before. The child should also learn how to answer questions using sentences instead of nods or grunts. Parents and pre-school teachers should talk directly to the individual child, asking questions, getting answers and regarding with approval any contribution made by the child.

Learning that there are words to express feelings can be a significant step toward communication. Many a frightened child in school, not knowing how to express himself, is unable to disclose that he is feeling ill. He is unable to communicate and fearful that the teacher will not understand.

Learning that all objects have names, that everything has a word for itself can be reinforced during a meal. Eating together can be an experience that will increase language effectiveness. Learning the names of strange foods and tasting them will sharpen his awareness of words and their meanings. Mealtime can be a learning experience in another way. It can acquaint the child with strange foods and ease the anxiety that may arise when the child's lunch tray is filled with unknown at school.

Language development goes hand and hand with reading skills. Children talking together in books will have more meaning only if the child can identify with the characters in the book. This identification can be brought about by conversations with parents, teachers and with other children during story time either at home or in a pre-school-nursery type setting.

Why is language development so important? It is important because our children must not be limited in language if they are to be successful in school. We must strive to make sure that our children are able to compete with their peers in a school setting.

Language involves listening, talking, reading and writing. These are the aspects that are taught in the school situation. Talking and listening should be important aspects in any pre-school program.

Limitations in language ability may be caused by crowded home conditions, fatigue, hunger, lack of materials in the home environment to provide experiences and stimulation for talking, immobility, discrimination and a general unawareness of the importance of talking to the child.

Beginning next week we will begin discussing some ways that the child may be helped at home or in a nursery or in a day-care center to develop his full potential in order that he may experience success in his school career.



Benjamin L. Hooks

FCC
Commissioner

For much of my nearly four-year tenure as a member of the Federal Communications Commission, I have urged the FCC examine the economic impact of its decisions on the average telephone user "before injecting competition into the industry."

Now there is a bill (H.R. 12323 -- "Consumer Communications Reform Act") and some kindred legislation in the hopper on Capitol Hill that hopefully will protect residential and small business users from price increases which would result from recent FCC decisions permitting more competition in the telephone industry.

Recently, I sent a statement to the Honorable Lione Van Deerlin who succeeded the late Congressman Torbet MacDonald as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Communications. Van Deerlin had invited comment on this issue.

This statement outlined succinctly my views on this touchy and potentially explosive issue that would bring to a destructive end telephone service as we have known it by causing the general public to have to pay ruinous costs for the service of the telephone they are now getting at reasonable rates.

Because I do not know what the economic impact on the general public will be, I use the words "could" and "might" in respect to the issue of FCC's permitting more and more competitive firms to enter the historically tightly protected and regulated field of telecommunications.

Nor, in my opinion does the FCC know for certain what that impact will be. Fellow Commissioner James Quello has joined me in dissenting in several of the Commission's de-

isions bearing on this vital question of competition. I have constantly insisted that we on the Commission call on an independent outside

This is a complex issue and I will not burden my readers with weary and involved details. Suffice to say, complications began with the FCC's Carterfone Decision of 1968 (permitting the attachment of a terminal other than those manufactured by Ma Bell); the Specialized Common Carrier and MCI decisions (which further opened up the regulated monopoly phone systems to competitors who swore they were offering new and "novel" service to the public. Much of what they have offered thus far has been neither new nor novel, but that is another story.)

AT&T has continually argued that if the FCC permits competition to enter the unified network system which Bell devised and operates with the aid of 1,600 small independent telephone companies and skim off the cream of services (giving special lower rates for services and equipment to business and corporate users, etc.) then Bell will simply have to raise rates to general phone users.

Its system of cross-subsidization rates - a system of evening out rates nationwide by charging business concerns more in order to charge the general public less - has enabled Bell to bring what most people call "the best phone service in the world" to the most people at reasonable rates.

I am not opposed to competition in the marketplace. For the most part competition brings on reasonable prices and better service. It may be that this will happen in the telephone industry.

But we don't know that. And we ought to employ outside studies to make this determination. That is why I welcome Congress' entry and said in my statement to Van Deerlin, "It is clear that the Commission needs guidance in this area because, from the outset, its policies on competition have been contradictory, disjointed and - in many instance - counter-productive."

To Be Equal

by VERNON E. JORDAN, JR., Executive
Director National Urban League

Blacks And The Bicentennial

OMAHA — July 4th finally came - the culmination of the months old Bicentennial build-up largely devoid of content.

It's too bad, because flag-waving isn't enough, rampant commercialism that wraps products in red, white and blue, isn't enough, and pious declarations of a mythical past just aren't enough.

A proper Bicentennial observance would have re-examined the ideals that led to the founding of this nation and the gap between those ideas and the reality of today.

Very little of this kind of national self-examination took place. The old myths have been reinforced and the hypocrisy that was so blatant in our past and is so strong today was largely gone unchallenged.

It is almost forgotten that the Founding Fathers included a disproportionate number of slaveholders, including Jefferson, the man who wrote the immortal words of the Declaration of Independence: "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Small wonder then, that an Englishman of the period complained "How is it we hear the loudest yelps for liberty from the drivers of Negroes?"

The hypocrisy Samuel Johnson castigated continued as Blacks were enslaved for almost the first hundred years of the nation's history and kept in peonage and second-class citizenship since then. Even the previous right to vote was denied Blacks in the South until

passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

But this does not dim the truth of the words enshrined in the Declaration, it only testifies to the immoralities of the men who shaped our constantly changing society. And it should not blind us to the tremendous impact the American Revolution has had on the world.

The Revolution fought for ideas of equality and for government based on the consent of the governed inspired the world-wide movement toward greater freedom and justice and today is an inspiration even to those revolutionaries in the colonial countries whom our government has opposed.

But here at home it seems as if Blacks have few allies in trying to make the Bicentennial relevant to our country's future. Black citizens have tried these past months to call America's attention to the part Blacks have played in building our nation.

The first revolutionary to fall before British bullets was a Black man, Crispus Attucks, ironically, a runaway slave. Over 5,000 Blacks fought in the Revolution and others voted with their feet to escape slavery.

Throughout our history the legitimate ideological descendants of the revolutionaries have been Black people whose constant agitation for freedom, for liberty and for justice have too often fallen on deaf ears.

To the degree America has fulfilled its promises of freedom and equality it has been because of the struggle of black people to make the country live up to those ideals.

Today, it is Black people who have largely opted out of the non-sensical empty celebrations of the Bicentennial and instead have directed America's attention to its unfinished business, of constructing a third century of national life built on the noble promises of 1776.

The way to celebrate the Bicentennial is with full employment, not firecrackers, with racial equality, not patriotic songs, and with social justice, not Fourth of July marches.