

## Food for Thought on America's Public Education

With the *full cooperation* of the South Holland Public Library (IL), I was able to research/study the history of our public education tracing it all the way back to the first education edict of **1647** issued by John Winthrop's court (Massachusetts Bay Colony). While the following summary statements might anger *some* readers, they can be substantiated with historical records.

1. America's Public School has been:

- *the lucrative market for textbook publishers;*
- *the Sphere for playing politics;*
- *the laboratory for education theorists;*
- *the playground for educationist;*
- *the battleground between the conservative & progressive or liberal*
- *an employment agency for people who need a job, and, **children are "guinea pigs."***

2. Some of "**Educational Myths**" American leaders believe in:

- *Raise budget, raise test scores.*
- *Learning should be fun and effortless -- gain without pain.*
- *Treat the symptoms, the cause is not important -- easy way out.*
- *The school alone can educate the whole child -- school and home are on opposite camps.*
- *The bottom 20% are on the same academic plane with the tops 20% -- one size fits all.*

3. The **recurring themes** in educational discussions from Colonial Days and down thru the centuries could be put *succinctly* as follow:

*Teachers incompetent; Parents indifferent; and Students could careless!*

4. American public education has gone through waves of reform, four in a century. The fact is:

*With competent teachers, No reform is needed; Without it, No reform will succeed!*

5. **A solution** to our **age-old** education problem,

*lies with the "ordinary house" **not** the "White House"; with **the parents, not** the President!*

6. For most part of the 20th century, our educational leaders **did not seem to know what they were doing** or **where they were going** and **they ended up going in a circle**, while other countries progress along a straight line.

7. There are two education models: "**Top-shape**" and "**Pyramid-shape.**" America's belongs to the former and European's and Asian's belong to the latter.

8. **ALL things being equal**, the Asian workers **could easily beat** their American counterparts **because** the Asian education has helped the child develop a "**sense of responsibility,**" "**self-discipline,**" "**concentration,**" and learn "**hard work**" which are missing in the American education.