Federal involvement in education may cause standardization

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FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION MAY CAUSE STANDARDIZATION

MISSOULA--

Excessive involvement of the federal government in American higher education may lead to standardization and a reduction in educational quality in this country, according to a University of California faculty member.

Dr. Lee McLean, coordinator of special projects on the Berkeley campus, told 20 UM Foundation trustees attending the group's recent winter meeting on the Missoula campus that "the future of public education revolves about our ability to attract private money" as well as federal money for our public colleges and universities.

Dr. McLean said that what makes America unique in higher education is the high percentage of U.S. youngsters who go on to college.

"In England," Dr. McLean emphasized, "5 per cent of the youngsters attend college, in Germany 10 per cent attend and in France 16 per cent attend college. But in America 43 per cent of our youths attend college and more than half of the U.S. college and university students today are sons and daughters of men and women who didn't go to college."

"But," Dr. McLean cautioned, "the strain of U.S. college students on our educational institutions goes beyond numbers. There are dangers in standardization of American higher education today because federal funds are tied to certain formulas and our colleges and universities must follow these formulas in order to qualify for federal money."

Dr. McLean said the real danger in this educational standardization is that "every student learns what every other student learns."
He said the difference between "a good university and a great university" may lie in a school's ability to attract private funds. Dr. McLean said a large percentage of the buildings on the Berkeley campus are the result of private donations, both from companies and individuals.

Dr. McLean said that more money is spent each year on colored television sets in this country than is spent on higher education, with the result that "there isn't enough money" to support our colleges and universities.

Dr. McLean commended the faculty member of today because of the "enormous responsibility" he has in educating the college student.

And he also commended the college students for being "solid, substantial and very concerned" young men and women.

"Today's student," Dr. McLean emphasized, "cares about what's happening in Vietnam and throughout the world."

He said all universities are faced with what he termed "a financial squeeze" and must rely too much on federal money to meet expenses. "The future of public education revolves about our ability to attract private money," Dr. McLean concluded.

The UM Foundation trustees also heard Dr. James D. Moore discuss the Deer Lodge Research Unit of the Foundation.

Dr. Moore, who is director of the Deer Lodge facility, said studies at the research unit will concern clinical experimental studies. He said actual work will begin sometime in March. Between 18-20 personnel will eventually be employed at the facility which is scheduled to open in late February. A staff of seven will report for work within the next two weeks.

"The Deer Lodge project," Dr. Moore said, "represents the marriage of private funds" with funds from the University.

Hoffmann-LaRoche Inc., the world's largest pharmaceutical firm, has made a large contribution to the project in Deer Lodge. Construction of the facility will total $155,000.

A number of prisoners at the State Prison at Deer Lodge are expected to volunteer for one or more of the studies to be conducted at the Deer Lodge unit. Dr. Moore said between 250-300 men may be involved in the studies.

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