8-6-1959

Arthur Bestor and Ernest O. Melby to speak at Montana State University Educational Problems Conference

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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Two educators of national reputation will address the Montana State University Educational Problems Conference, slated for Friday, which will focus this year on teacher education, Dean Linus J. Carleton of the MSU School of Education announced.

The conference, aimed at generating light rather than heat on the controversial subject, will open with registration at 9 a.m. Friday in the lobby of the Cascade Room of the Lodge, the dean said.

Dr. Arthur Bestor, widely read critic of some aspects of education, will speak on "Issues in Public School Education" at 9:30 a.m. A discussion period will follow the talk by Dr. Bestor, professor of history at the University of Illinois and author of "Educational Wastelands."

Dr. Ernest O. Melby, Distinguished Professor of Education at Michigan State University, will address the conference at 2 p.m. on the same topic. Dr. Melby was chancellor of the University of Montana in 1943-44 and president of Montana State University from 1941-43 and 1944-45.

Some divergence of viewpoints expressed by the speakers is expected, Dean Carleton said, as Dr. Melby has been a leading spokesman for educational objectives associated with the contemporary public school while Dr. Bestor has been critical of some of these objectives.

The dean noted that Bestor's magazine articles on education have been read by millions of Americans. He said that Bestor has also received recognition in his own field of history, having won the John Addison Porter Prize in 1938 and the Albert J. Beveridge Memorial Award in 1946. In 1956-57, he was Harold Vyoyan Harmsworth professor of American history at Oxford University.
After receiving his doctorate at Yale, Bestor taught successively at Yale, Columbia Teachers College, Stanford, and the University of Wisconsin. Since 1947 he has been at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Melby resigned as president of MSU in 1945 to become dean of the School of Education of New York University. Upon his retirement from this position in 1956, Michigan State University invited him to take the chair of Distinguished Professor of Education.

Before accepting the presidency of MSU in 1941, Dr. Melby was dean of the School of Education at Northwestern University. He received his doctorate at the University of Minnesota and taught there before going to Northwestern.

The conference banquet, honoring Dr. Melby and Dr. Bestor, is scheduled for Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the Territorial Rooms of the Lodge, Dean Carleton said.

Dr. Melby's Montana friends will also have a chance to visit with him and Mrs. Melby at an informal reception Thursday from 8-10 p.m. in the College Inn of the Lodge, he added.

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