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The Cover

John Knight, 1941 graduate in architectural engineering, now assistant architect in the Bureau of Yards and Docks of the Navy Department at Washington, D.C., is creator of the poster from which the cover design of this magazine was adapted. The poster won first place in a contest among architects of the bureau, and has been widely distributed among defense industries to emphasize the importance of speed in production.

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On the Spot

"Higher education," says George F. Heighway, of Indiana University, president of the American Alumni Council, "is on the spot!"

"This is no sage observation on my part," he adds. "I have heard it repeated in the last two weeks by high government officials, top ranking military officers, influential businessmen, and —yes—even by college and university presidents and administrators!"

Mr. Heighway's observations on this situation and what ought to be done about it are worth the thoughtful consideration of all college alumni.

"To get off the spot, higher education is going to have to do some fast, but sound, thinking and acting," Mr. Heighway says. "To their credit, many colleges are already effecting emergency programs. Some have not yet emerged from a philosophy of business as usual, which is more than unfortunate. But colleges must go beyond 'emergency programs,' which are considered merely as something temporary, to be abandoned for a 'return to normal' at the conclusion of the emergency. There is never going to be a return to normal as we knew it. Certainly, for example, there will never be a return to the isolationism of the 1920's and 1930's, which we once considered normal. Just as Mr. Roosevelt's New Deal changed much of what we previously thought was normal American domestic policy, so indeed will an international New Deal, led by the democratic nations at war's end, change the complexion of most of the world's political, economic and social philosophy.

"If college administrators do not abandon their ivory towers and squarely face the realities of tomorrow's new world, they will have evaded their responsibility to a generation of future leaders. Higher education in America must lead—not follow.

"To accomplish this objective, college administrators must utilize every available resource. One of the richest of these resources is the great body of 6,000,000 college-trained men and women—the alumni of America!"

Along with the emergency problems which higher education now faces—such as the depopulation of the student body, the falling off of finances, and the streamlining of instruction—it also faces a greater, more permanent problem.

Time magazine, in the only large statistical study of college alumni on record, remarks "The urgencies of these critical times demand of learning that it also prove itself an instrument of practical democracy, a tangible aid to a higher level of living in which culture may thrive and perpetuate itself out of its own vigor."

"Now is the time," comments Mr. Heighway, "for higher education, the colleges, the universities to re-examine themselves, their philosophy and their program, and to courageously and wisely re-order their houses. To conduct this examination, they must rely on fact, as well as on theory and thought. They must call in the alumni, seek their counsel, request their support. Curiously, they must sell education to their own alumni, and then the alumni must sell it to the American public."

In short, the colleges and their alumni must merge their interests and work together, because there are forces loose in the world which seriously challenge our American system of education.

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