



COLLEGE REPORT

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Increasingly, during recent years, the concept of participation and involvement has grown in our American society. This has not always been the case, however. Until the middle of the 19th Century, participation in such fields as politics and education were almost reserved for the upper classes.

Although a small percentage of the more talented from the lower economic and social brackets succeeded in making educational opportunities for themselves, the vast majority were unable even to secure free elementary education. During all previous centuries these aristocratic arrangements had prevailed, but the maturation of the domestic ideal during the first decades of the 1800s brought the common man into his own both politically and educationally.

The long struggle for political democracy and the suffrage is too well known to be retold here. Suffice it to say that until and during the Federalist period, the "well born" and the "wise, the rich, and the good" controlled the government.

JEFFERSON early in his career had fought against suffrage restrictions. In 1778 he led the victorious fight in the Virginia Legislature for voting privileges for all white male adults.

In time, other states followed. By 1828 enough states had liberalized their suffrage laws to make possible the election of Jackson, a very much more democratic leader than Jefferson, and except for women and Negroes, political democracy became a fact throughout the nation.

Simultaneously with the campaign for suffrage a demand arose for democracy in education. Schools partially supported by taxation had been established in Massachusetts in 1647, but they made very little provision for the children of the growing number of industrial workers. Everywhere — even in Massachusetts — education was considered to be a privilege and not a social necessity.

TO SPREAD educational opportunities to all the people, several groups of individuals began campaigns on different fronts. Each contributed important elements towards success, and by the end of the Civil War in the North and by 1890 in the South democratic education on all levels had been achieved.

Even a hundred years before the American Revolution, the frontier had been a flourishing seed-plot of democracy. By the time of the outbreak of the Revolution here had developed, according to Frederick Jackson Turner, "a distinct belt of democratic territory extending from the back country of New England down through western New York, Pennsylvania, and the South," throughout which the pioneer "held with passionate devotion the idea that he was building under freedom a new society, based on self-government, and for the welfare of the average man."

Turner conceived "the welfare of the average man" to be considerably more than the franchise and economic individualism. "As he dwelt among the stumps of his newly cut clearing, the pioneers had the creative vision of a new order of society. . . . He declared that his children should enter into an heritage of education, comfort, and social welfare, and for this ideal he bore the scars of the wilderness."

The frontiersman sought to satisfy this craving for a better world chiefly through education. The Ordinance of 1787 made provisions for the establishment of schools and colleges, and the new states promptly wrote educational articles into their constitutions.

Ohio first took advantage of the federal land grants of the Ordinance by establishing Ohio University in 1803. Michigan, Indiana, and

Illinois followed, all promoting their basic laws in the cause of education "ascending in regular gradations," to quote the Indiana Constitution of 1816, "from township schools to a State University."

County Road Construction Reaches Record Volume

A record volume in Los Angeles County road construction during 1967-68 was reported today by Supervisor Burton W. Chace, chairman of the County Road Committee. "During fiscal year 1967-68, 175 major highway projects valued at \$28 million were in progress," Chace said. "Contracts totaling \$14.5 million were awarded for 116 new projects, and 144 jobs valued at \$18.6 million were completed. In addition, 68 minor highway construction projects worth \$500,000 were completed. Minor projects are those with contract values of \$10,000 or less. The highway improvements are constructed by private contractors under plans prepared by the County Road Department. Contracts are awarded by the

County Board of Supervisors on the basis of competitive bidding. "This extensive highway construction activity, in addition to providing needed road improvements to keep abreast with the demands of the 4.2 million Los Angeles County motor vehicles, creates a market for millions of dollars worth of materials, labor, and other related services

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