COLLEGE REPORT

By ROBERT M. BERSI

Assistant to the President
California State College, Dominguez Hills

I mentioned in an eariier column the pressure of change upon the learning process. Probably more advances in understanding and improving the processes of education have occured in the past ten yeads than in all history before.

Some of the consequences of this effort are already apparent. For instance, we no longer necessarily assert that each individual has a fixed level of intelligence, that his measured IQ remains constant throughout life, or that little can be done to improve his capacity to learn.

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We once had the idea that no child should read before six. Today, we don't know whether this is true or not. We recognize the difference between children. Historically, we have grossly underestimated the potential ability of human beings to learn and to improve their capacity to learn. It is becoming increasingly clear to all of us that we must provide a more varied instructional diet to develop the full range of human abilities.

Much is being done. There are many examples of progress on all levels of education. Let me cite a few of them:

Carefully planned techniques for teaching children to read as early as two or three years have been developed and tested by psychologists at Yale and Rutgers.

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"NEW TECHNIQUES for teaching mathematics which go far beyond even our ideas of so-called new math are being developed to teach high school calculus in the first and second grades.

Scientists at the University of Illinois have been having extraordinary success for the last five years in teaching basic elementary science programs to quite young children. At Stanford University, Noble prize winner Melvin Shokley is teaching college-level physics to junior high school students.

At the Julliard School of Music, entirely new programs have been developed for the elementary school which concentrate upon music as a performing art. The children not only participate for music appreciation, but actually write music as well.

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OUT OF THE University of California are coming new techniques for teaching university-level English literature in the high school. And at Purdue University techniques for teaching advanced economic concepts to first and second grade students are being developed.

Just such a hasty look at these activities gives us at least an awareness of the great infusion of energy and knowledge which rapid changes in the overall society have influenced education to undertake. But although all levels of education are feeling and responding to the pressures of change in the overall society, those probably feeling it the most are our colleges and universities.

Moreover, it is to these institutions that an even more unique responsibility has been prescribed—that of providing the climate and the resources to insure leadership in the direction of change. One might even ask the question: Should these institutions, by providing leadership, become the chief directors of change in our society? I'll try to develop my next column around this question.

Supervisors Oppose Plan To Limit Property Taxes

By BURTON W. CHASE
County Supervisor

At a time when property tax relief is considered the most pressing problem facing government officials, any plan which claims to offer help is going to receive close study.

Such is the case with Proposition 9, the so-called Watson Initiative, which will be on the Nov. 5 ballot and which professes to offer relief to the property taxpayer.

Los Angeles County Supervisors have voted, 3-2, to oppose the proposition because it does not give the relief it promises for the average taxpayer.

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THE PLAN sounds good. If approved, it would impose a ceiling of 1 per cent of your property's fair market value as your maimum tax limit. It other words, you could not be taxed more than 1 per cent of your property value.

So far, so good. But what proponents of the measure don't tell you is that chances are good your sales tax could go up to 12 per cent over the present 5 per cent. And your state income tax could triple.

That isn't relief for the average taxpayer. It simply means he pays his burdensome taxes in a different way.

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THERE IS NO doubt that meaningful tax relief must come from somewhere, and soon. The State Legislature has imposed too many welfare programs to be financed from property taxes, and they must find a solution.

However, Proposition 9 is not that solution. It promises relief to the small property owner, but it doesn't really give it to him.

That was the reason behind the Board of Supervisors' decision, and I voted against endorsement of the plan.

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THERE ARE MANY facets to the program of the South Coast Botaical Gardens on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

To some, the gardens are a spot of beauty in which they can relax and enjoy nature at its finest. To others the gardens are an outlet for various activities.

A good example of one of the programs featured at the gardens is a Successful Home Gardening adult class which starts Sept. 19 and runs through Jan. 23.

Two identical weekly class sessions—morning and afternoon—will be conducted by Lyndia B. Williams, a noted authority on the subject.

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REGISTRATION is open to the public, but is limited. So if you are interested, write to South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, Inc., 1037 Second Streeet, Hermosa Beach 90254.

TAKE BREAK

Fatigue is a factor in many many traffic accidents, according to the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the National Safety Council. The fatigue-factor studies stress the importance of taking "rest breaks" at least every 200 miles.