

The Pittsburgh Courier  
September 23, 1967

By Benjamin E. Mays

### THEY GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Millions of American youths are now enrolled in schools, many of them for the first time. Recently, I have talked with a few children about going back to school. Some of them are jubilant and glad. There are others who seem to be indifferent or do not care. They are enrolled in school for many reasons. Some are back because they want an education. There are others who are there because their parents sent them. Others are there because their friends are there. Some have high aims and wish to accomplish something worthwhile for themselves and mankind. There are others whose aims are low. Some have exceptional minds, some have average minds, some are below average. A few are geniuses. And yet from kindergaretn or first grade on through college thousands upon thousands of those who are now enrolled will drop out.

Unless the federal government provides training for the dropouts, the number of unemployed people will increase. Without skills, society cannot use you. The unemployed are a source of trouble. Not all who participate in riots are unemployed, but the people who are well employed seldom start riots or participate in them. This is one reason why unemployment and slums must be abolished in this country.

Motivation is always the problem. How can we motivate these youngsters so that they will love to go to school? This is the 64 dollar question; and yet all who teach should strive with all their might to give the young people something to strive for. There is no one way to motivate students. What stimulates one to strive for excellence will not necessarily motivate another. Whatever the source of motivation, the role of the teacher cannot be eliminated. A teacher who knows his subject matter, knows how to impart knowledge, loves his people, possesses

good character, and is dedicated to his job, must be the main source of motivation.

As the millions go back to school, it would be well indeed if they knew that man has three friends: An education, work, and health. The three often go together. Education provides one with skills which one needs in his work. If one is educated and is intelligent as well, the chances are great that he will always have work. One may despise school and hate work, but he is despising and hating his best friends. If you are in doubt about this, sit down and talk to a man who has no education, no job, and who is in poor health. Nothing is so pathetic as a man without a job, who has no training, and who has lost his health. There are all too many of this kind in the world.

If the students now enrolled could keep before them the fact that a good education will guarantee work and that education, wealth and health are our best friends, this alone is enough to motivate and inspire students. We can only hope that the quality and devotion of those who teach will improve with the years.

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They go back to school

by Raymond E. Mays

Millions of American youths are now enrolled in school. Many of them for the first time. Recently, I have talked with a few children about going back to school. Some of them are jubilant + glad. There are others who seem to be indifferent or do not care. They are enrolled in school for many reasons. Some are back because they want an education. There are others who are there because their parents sent them. Others are there because their friends are there. Some have high aims and wish to accomplish something worth while for themselves and mankind. <sup>There are others whose aims are low.</sup> Some ~~are~~ have exceptional minds, some have average minds + some are below average. A few are geniuses. And yet from kindergarten or first grade <sup>on</sup> ~~then~~ <sup>thousands upon thousands of those who are now enrolled will drop out.</sup> Unless the Federal Government ~~just~~ provide training for the dropouts, the number of unemployed people will increase. Without skills society cannot use you. The unemployed are a source of trouble. Not all <sup>who</sup> participate in riots are unemployed but the people who are well employed seldom start riots or participate in them. This is one reason why unemployment + slums must be abolished in this country. ~~The~~ Motivation is always the problem. How can we motivate these youngsters so that they will love to go to school? This is the 64,000 <sup>dollar</sup> question <sup>+ yet</sup> ~~all~~ all who teach should strive with all their might to give the young people something to strive for. There is no one way to motivate students. What stimulates one to strive for excellence will not necessarily motivate another. Whatever the source of motivation, ~~the~~ the teacher cannot ~~be~~ be eliminated. A teacher who knows his subject matter, knows how to impart his knowledge, loves his pupils, possesses good character, is dedicated to his job must be the main source of motivation.

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