

PRESIDENT HEPNER PREDICTS!

ONCE A COLLEGE ALWAYS A COLLEGE!

An uninterrupted program is my prediction for San Diego State College.

What absurd rumors are in the air! Here are some examples: "College education is out for the duration - No more college after this year - The military is going to take over." Most of these imaginative flights develop from specific steps taken to adjust the San Diego State College to war-time conditions.

Since enrollments are decreasing the size of the faculty must necessarily be reduced. As a natural consequence of a smaller student body and a smaller faculty, it follows that the course offerings for any one semester are definitely restricted. But breadth and richness can be kept on an alternating semester or yearly basis.

"The military is going to take over!" Oh, no, not any more than has been the case to date! It is true that the administration is working hard to get a contract with the Army or Navy for the education of from three hundred to a thousand of their personnel. But our college program will continue along with any other program that is introduced. The State College program will not be squeezed out!

The military programs, if any, will, in the main, have their own courses of study. - But they will be under the administration of the college. Instruction will be given by regular faculty members in so far as time schedules permit.

Underlying the contract plan with colleges for educational services for members of the armed forces are two very important ideas. They are: (1) military authorities believe that the colleges with their faculties and facilities can make a most significant contribution to the preparation of personnel for specialized war duties and (2) college education is an essential activity which should be interrupted only in so far as the exigencies of war make specific demands.

College education has mighty contributions to make to a democratic society both in war and in peace. Its purpose is to educate free men - intelligent men, competent men, thinking men, cultured men - men who know and love the ways of democracy and who are ready and able at all times to render their full measure of devotion in every phase of community life - in military uniform or in civilian clothes;

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in the home and local community or in the armed forces; in the civic, political or occupational life of the nation.

The people and the state officials of California recognize the values of our state colleges. Steps are in progress to assure the continuity of their programs. Budgets have been developed. Our State Department of Finance has approved these budgets, and the Governor has recommended their approval to the Legislature, and the Legislature will doubtless provide adequate financial support.

Teacher education is one of the major needs of the American way of life. Teachers must be prepared to man our schools to the end that the children of the nation may be inducted into the ways of democracy both during war and in peace. Since teachers competent to render the type of service required must have broad educational backgrounds, a program of liberal education must be provided. Such being the case, these offerings will be available, just as they have been for many years, to liberal arts students as well as to teachers in training. Thus provisions will be available for the education of all types of students - to each in accordance with his needs and plans.

Changes in courses and curricula will be noted. Special adaptations to war-time need are evident in regular courses as well as in new and special war-time courses. The student is thus enabled to do two important things; namely, (1) plan a program which is designed to help him to make adjustments in the community activities or in the military forces at an early date, and (2) plan a program which now or later will culminate in a college degree which I predict will be a prime necessity in after-the-war days.

Thus the things which are happening in our college today do not indicate the destruction of the college, but rather the recasting of its program to meet the demands resident in both the war-time situation and in the long-range contribution of a college to the urgent needs for intelligence, culture and leadership in America when the war is over.

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President