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Area studies
Notes on a discussion of the future of Area Studies in post-war education.

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The Army's withdrawing approximately 110,000 students from the ASTP courses has left a large number of groups working together on various areas, to be reassimilated into general college curricula. The two questions for immediate discussion were:

- (a) Who were the outstanding men in area course organization?
- (b) What should be done immediately in order to carry over into post-war education work the gains made by these people, and how to effect this?
- (a) It was agreed that it was important to get these men right away from ASTP before they became too widely separated.

The Ethno-Geographic Board, functioning under SS aid, has been making a gradual survey on the work of the area courses and has been issuing periodical reports. This office is being gradually disbanded. It would be able to supply a list of institutions which were doing outstanding work, and the names of the men directing this work.

Mr. Graves has made up a list of those men whom the Army considers to have been particularly helpful. There were 55 ASTP schools, and including Civil Affairs Training Programs there were a total of about 68 different area programs.

The following men were outstanding from reports received by Mr. Graves:

- *W. F. Twaddell - excellent
- * Niehuss - Army likes him very much. He is a lawyer and administrator.
- *W. M. deKiewiet - an historian
- *J. M. Fogg, Jr. - University of Pennsylvania. An administrator. He seems to have grasped the idea as well as anybody (though making an occasional slip). A botanist
- *Robert Redfield - Anthropologist. Dean. University of Chicago
- *John Dodds - seems to be general agreement with him and his work. (West Coast)
- *A. W. Griswold - political scientist. Yale. or
- *W. C. De Vane - Yale
- A. E. R. Boak - has the reputation of having pushed the University of Michigan courses out of the doldrums. Ancient History
- Steifle - University of Minnesota. Army thinks he is a good man.
- Paul Hanna - his contribution is that he has seen more of the area work than anybody else. But does not have much personal interest in it.
- J. J. Geise - University of Pittsburgh. Did not do a very good job. Army felt he was "playing ball".
- Carl Friedrich - Harvard. Army does not feel that Harvard did as good a job as possible in spite of the fact that it was equipped to do a better job than anyone else.

*P. K. Hitti - Princeton. Islamic culture. Cole thinks that his final examination papers looked as though he knew what area studies were about. He has been an area man for the past four or five years, without the label.
E. L. Hettich - New York University. Has had much experience in Western European areas.

* Steever - Mr. Graves does not know him. Mr. Cole is favorably disposed. Lafayette College, under his direction, did the best job of any of the small colleges.

H. W. Stoke - Mr. Graves does not know him. Wisconsin

M. J. Herskovits - Northwestern. On the list of outstanding men.

F. D. Scott - Northwestern. The Provost Marshall's Office thinks he is the bright light of Northwestern. They put him ahead of Posey.

Cole - University of Chicago. Coupled with Redfield in discussion.

Henri Bloch - Provost Marshall's office thinks well of him.

Wilbur White - Western Reserve University. Outstanding.

Vogelin & Briscoe - Briscoe has the edge.

Milenus - in the first rank

also:

Tobson - University of North Carolina

Lauer

Munro

Kende

)all

)secondary

)Men

)

The men whose names are starred would be suggested to contribute constructive ideas to a discussion of the area programs. In addition to the above, the following should come to such a meeting.

*Mr. J. M. Cowan - ACLS

*Mr. Mortimer Graves - ACLS

*Mr. Charles Hyneman - of the Provost Marshall's Office

*Elizabeth Bacon (Mrs. A. E. Hudson) - anthropologist

*Mr. Fenton - anthropologist, PhD.

The latter two have been visiting various area courses and making a survey. They have been warmly received wherever they have gone. Mrs. Bacon is more stable. Mr. Graves tends to doubt Mr. Fenton's judgment.

(b) It is Mr. Graves' opinion that the area study men should be held together as much as possible. This break may be only a recess. The army really needs a lot of the "stuff" the men have worked up on a lot of the areas, because it is otherwise unavailable. This break may be just an opportunity to eliminate much that is unnecessary in the way of personnel, etc. The Army has had to study many areas which it would not need, in order not to be too specific in publicizing its needs. In the meantime the groups in areas covered by the Arabic language, the Turkish language, etc., should not be allowed to disband.

Mr. Graves Program of the ACLS will take care of some of the outstanding language groups for the next three months. Such men as Birge and his staff can be kept at work on badly needed implementation materials. Most of the men who have been working with the language groups have been too busy teaching to work on materials, and they are badly needed in many languages, and those in existence need re-working.

The primary interest the RF would have would be to assist these men in developing a means of carrying over the advantages gained in this war-time teaching into

post-war education. If the ACLS could hold the language men together for a period until the army again needs them, the RF might be able to help (directly or through a continuation of the Ethno-Geographic Board) with the area men, to hold a nucleus of good men.

The work on the Near East and Turkish could not be duplicated elsewhere and it would be very difficult to get such a group together another time, if it were allowed to become separated.

If the top men were continued in the area groups at work on implementation, etc., until needed again by the army, what can be done now to take advantage of what has been learned in the various area courses which might be of value in a regular four-year liberal arts college course?

The area studies include both the humanities and the social sciences, in some phases, and the problem has been to integrate the two into a working whole. The men who have done this are administrators, language men, social scientists, historians, etc. They must all integrate their fields in order to give an "area" course.

If area studies are to be carried over into post-war work, they do not want to turn into another survey course, and suggestions will be needed as to how to avoid this. It was suggested that including knowledge of the language as well as the other aspects of an area would give assurance that the new area course would not turn out to be a survey course under another name.

Would the aim of such an area course be to prepare an undergraduate to enter either the country itself for work, or the field of study of that country; or would it be an end in itself? What is the purpose of an area course?

It was suggested that the material in the above four paragraphs, and other matters, might profitably be discussed by a group of outstanding men in the area programs, as listed earlier, if possible by those whose names are shown with a star. This group might meet March 15.

Each might be able to prepare a 5 - 6 page memorandum before the meeting, which could be distributed and then discussed at the meeting. The memorandum would cover a summary of what has been learned and what could be profitably carried over.

Other items which might be discussed at such a meeting. How an area course could be incorporated into a 4-year curriculum. The possibility of sending a planned questionnaire to all of the area courses, or universities which had area courses.

Such a conference would be for the purpose of learning through the experience of men who have "gone through the mill" and whose opinions can be assumed to be responsible opinions. The conferees should be able to walk out of the conference with a concrete plan, not for applied use now, but for study and change under usual college conditions. Much, too, is to be gained by starting now on preparing materials for college and graduate levels - if discussion proves that these men are as enthusiastic as is reported.