Just as there are public defenders in some communities, so there is need for a public defender of real education among our elementary schools. Sometimes one hears some one talking a healthy rap at the colleges on the grounds that they do not educate. These critics do not go far enough back. All too frequently the failure to lay the educational foundation came in the preparatory school where the student learned how to saw a board but not how to discipline his mind.

Greatest service the public defender of education could do would be to restore the English language to its basis of purity. Somewhere along the line the modern student has failed to learn the most necessary tool of his educational life, knowledge of the alphabet and spelling. I have read papers some professors receive from their students. The spelling, the grammar—the blissful ignorance of the fundamental rules of grammar—reveal all too graphically what has happened to our common schools.

Recently I had occasion to help several young students with their work. They were in the sixth grade. They had never been taught how to form syllables in words, they did not know how to spell, they did not know vowels and consonants—they had no idea of the picture a word should convey. As a result, they detested reading and I do not blame them. After I told them about syllabification, reading went along easier.

Soon, there was actual interest in the reading.

Cruelest feature of the common school today is the very sensible arrangement of students into fast and slow groups. It is fair to the former, dreadfully unjust to the latter. Once a student has been told he is dumb he is likely to assume that effort will have no reward in his case. A better solution, it seems to me, than such grouping is smaller classes with more individual and interested attention on the part of the teachers.

It is foolish to talk of raising standards in American universities as long as the feeders of those universities fail to fulfill their functions. We will continue producing graduates who are trademarked, no matter whether it is Harvard, Kansas or Oklahoma. We will continue producing critics of the educational system—and they are not recent but are as old as higher education itself—and we will never rise above the dilemma until we reform the common schools.

I presume it is this fundamental failure which produces the herd mind among so many of America's presumably intelligent people. We were stampeded into world war, we were stampeded into the Golden Era of Prosperity, we are being stampeded into the wildest fear in the era of revaluations. Our democracy will probably never be more than a mob as long as we fail to produce disciplined minds among our people. And that discipline should begin in the preparatory schools.

Thanks, Mike, for the notice on the baby carriage. Which better baby carriages are built Doc and Bill will sell them and the editor will buy them—if the babies aren't walking by then. I would suggest you sell Secretary Cleckler an alarm clock with that Beauty Rest mattress. Why not an alarm clock with every mattress?

A corporation owned by a Soon-er (H. S. Oderman, '16 arts-sc., of Detroit) is one of the few firms in the state which has not cut its wages nor materially reduced its force. This is the Zero Ice Company of Norman. This is far-sighted policy, far in advance of the average humanitarian outlook of the average corporation. If corporations and states, for that matter, had a social viewpoint, depressions would be exceedingly rare.

Are you keeping a daily contact with your university through radio station WNAD? If you are not, you are missing a rare opportunity. Milton Dieterich's Little Symphony alone is worth tuning in on any night. So popular is this orchestra that WNAD has been asked to permit electric transcription of its programs.

If you long to escape from those rapid fire interjections like "there's not a cough," etc., which mar most radio programs, dial in on the University of the Air, WNAD.

Forty years ago the University of Oklahoma became a reality. Today it is one of America's leading state universities. The record of achievement these forty years represent is wrapped up principally in the three men whose photograph forms the frontpiece of this issue. To them belongs in great measure the value of the college degree you hold.