

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

A recent press release from the U. S. Office of Education pointed out that within three years most of the resources—public and private—devoted to education will be in the field of individualized instruction. Our responsibility and involvement in behavioral instruction put us in the forefront of these developments. It is our duty to translate the mechanics that science and technology produce into humanly valid terms for academicians to be able to absorb.

The dialogues between science and humanities, technology and education or research and teaching must take place if we do not want to fail miserably in our task. NALLD lies between technology and education. Our experience as language laboratory or learning center directors acquaints us as much with the problems of learning as with those of electronics. It is the duty of our Association to help resolve the crucial questions of communication and understanding. The professional who is able to synthesize science and the humanities will be the one best serves the fields of theoretical science, applied technology and education.

Schools cannot exist without students, teachers, administrators or buildings. Education cannot exist without research into learning processes and programs of practical application. Such programs must provide for machinery to teach individuals learning and progressing at their own pace. Education today provides an ever-increasing number of facts, judgments and values not to selected students but to an exploding population of learners.

One of our prime responsibilities is to set guidelines for our profession along which learners, teachers, administrators, manufacturers and publishers will be able to achieve a better understanding of each other's needs and problems. I can assure our members that NALLD by the action of its Executive Board and with the support of its members will endeavor to help its constituents resolve their problems. We will initiate dialogues between classrooms and developers of programs. We will, however, avoid the pitfall of wishful thinking and concentrate on direct action. This dialogue will certainly be lively and interesting, but even more, it will help find answers in the best interests of all those concerned.

One of the growing worries of our profession is to prevent commercialism from taking over professionalism. In order to make our experience available, we will establish national and regional boards of

Presidential Message

language laboratory and learning center consultants. These persons, selected for their competence in the fields of planning, instruction and maintenance, will be able to advise school authorities and administrators, manufacturers, and publishers, educators and teachers, on the creation and utilization of machines and materials within the framework of behavioral technology. Such counsel can only remain non-commercial when sponsored by an association of professionals such as ours.

Establishing the contact between creators and users—advising educational agencies in the broadest sense of the term—will be our goal in the coming years. I am sure it will be a significant contribution to learning and teaching in the next decade of progress.

Louis J. Chatagnier
President