

NINETEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

of the

Department of
Secondary-School Principals

of the

NATIONAL
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The nineteenth annual meeting of the Department of Secondary-School Principals met in Atlantic City, New Jersey on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 26 and 27, 1935.

THE FIRST GENERAL SESSION

The first session of the nineteenth annual meeting of the Department of Secondary-School Principals was called to order by President Charles F. Allen, Supervisor of Secondary Education, Little Rock, Arkansas, at 9:50 A. M. in the Vernon Room, Haddon Hall, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Mr. Allen read the resolution of Harold Ellsworth Warner, Principal of Hine Junior High School, Washington, D. C., which set the work of the Tercentenary Celebration in process. The President then introduced the general chairman of the Tercentenary Celebration, who read his introductory address.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

CALVIN O. DAVIS

Professor of Secondary Education, University of Michigan

and

Chairman of the Tercentenary Planning Committee

Members of the Department of Secondary-School Principals and Friends:

Members of the Department of Secondary-School Principals to express myself in the form of language made memorable by our illustrious Lincoln.

Fifteen score years ago this month our fathers brought forth on this continent America's first secondary school, conceived in religious reverence and dedicated to the proposition that learning is an essential element to the perpetuity of a free democracy.

Now we are engaged in a great educational controversy testing whether that theory, or any similar theory so conceived and so dedicated, can permanently endure. We here to-day are met in a great gathering of the friends and supporters of that theory. We have come together in Atlantic City to initiate an elaborate tercentenary celebration in honor of that first school and of the principles for which it stood. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense we cannot fittingly commemorate the event that has given rise to the occasion. The brave men and women who have labored long and faithfully in our secondary schools throughout the past three hundred years have already consecrated the principal of free public education far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here this week, but it can never forget what the patient teachers and farsighted administrators have done throughout three centuries to make the secondary schools of our nation what they are to-day. It is, therefore, of paramount importance for us of the present generation to be dedicated here to the great unfinished work which they who have gone before have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be dedicated here to the great task remaining before us: that from these honored pioneers we take

increased devotion to that cause for which they gave such a full measure of faith and energy and application; that we here highly resolve that the early educational leaders and their descendants shall not have striven in vain to make a secondary-school education available to every normal boy and girl in the land; that liberal culture for all shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom; and that high schools of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not vanish from this country.

Mr. Davis then introduced Principal Harold Ellsworth Warner of Hine Junior High School of Washington, D. C., who was greeted with applause.

The general chairman then presented Mr. R. M. Robinson, chairman of the Publicity Committee, who came forward and received his plaudits.

Mr. Davis at this juncture presented Joseph L. Powers, Head Master of Boston Public Latin School, Boston, Massachusetts, who read his paper, *The First American Secondary School*.