

RECOMMENDATION No. 3

concerning

ECONOMIES IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

(1934)

The Conference,

Being convinced that it would be dangerous to train up a future generation of citizens inadequately prepared physically, intellectually and morally, and therefore incapable of facing the formidable problems caused by the reorganization of the world,

1) Draws the attention of Governments to the serious consequences which economies in the field of education are likely to have and suggests that attempts should be made to economise in other fields which are not so closely related to material and spiritual progress;

2) Notes with satisfaction that resolutions of this nature have been adopted by the Executive Committee of the International Bureau of Education, by several large international educational associations and conferences, and also by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation and the Assembly of the League of Nations;

3) Noting with regret that certain countries have been compelled, by circumstances due to the economic crisis, to introduce retrenchments often of serious consequence, in the field of education, the Conference draws the attention of Governments to the following considerations:

a) The most dangerous reductions are those made en bloc without regard to the usefulness or efficiency of the institutions affected;

b) It would be wiser to present contemplated restrictions for study to the authorities responsible for public instruction rather than to have them determined by the authorities primarily responsible for the budget;

R 3

c) Reductions in the salaries of the teaching body constitute a serious danger to the recruitment of teachers who ought to be an elite, since to them is entrusted the future of the nation;

d) No reduction should be made which would injure the physical health and the morale of the children—healthy school premises, school canteens, playing fields, holiday camps, the various social agencies, which have given a new orientation to the school of to-day and which are more necessary than ever in a period of depression;

e) Any reduction of school equipment likely to jeopardise the output of education should be avoided;

f) The size of classes should not be increased to the point of impairing the efficiency of instruction, or of compromising the health of the pupils;

g) School inspection, upon which partly depends the competency of the educational system in a given country, should be kept up to a high level of efficiency.