

Posted 18/9/59. Together with Minutes (32) dd. 9/9/59

## POINTS ON CENTRALISATION OF EDUCATION

### POINTS FOR

1. Different text books are used in the different Provinces. This makes it difficult for children moving from schools in one Province to schools in another.
2. Different teaching conditions and sometimes different salary scales lead to some Provinces being better supplied with teachers than others, i.e. the Transvaal policy of centralising children in big schools v. the Cape policy of trying to limit schools to 600 pupils definitely affect teachers when they have a choice between a Cape and a Transvaal post.
3. It is not easy for the less well-off Provinces to compete with the richer Provinces.
4. Lack of co-ordination between the curricula of secondary schools, which are under provincial control, and technical colleges, which are government-controlled. This often leads to waste of time and effort on the part of students who leave school to attend a technical college.
5. Nursery schools, which in most countries to-day are regarded as a necessary and important part of a child's education, are not the responsibility either of the S.A. Government or of the Provinces. They became a feature of the educational system after the Act of Union was drawn up and were therefore not mentioned in the Act or allocated to any authority. The Nursery School Association, a voluntary body of parents and interested citizens who have been working for many years to establish a satisfactory nursery school system in South Africa, have frequently been told by both the Government and the Provincial Councils that nursery schools are not their concern and both the Government and the Provinces have tried at various times to place the responsibility for these schools on the other's shoulders. If education were centralised there could be no further argument as to whose responsibility it was to provide adequate nursery schools.

In some Provinces both the Government and the Provincial authorities are co-operating in the financing of nursery schools run by private enterprise, but this does not alter the fact that neither the Government nor the Provincial authorities have any statutory responsibility for such schools.

### POINTS AGAINST

1. Tendency for education to become too regimented.
2. Lack of attention to the particular needs of particular areas due to the central authority being too far removed from such areas to have an intimate understanding of their problems.  
i.e. The sparsely inhabited areas of the Karroo in the Cape Province;  
The particular problems involved in education for Coloured and Africans (These problems are social as well as educational).
3. The great danger of indoctrination of the point of view of the political party in power. This could easily take place in schools under government control, as the Government would decide on the text books to be used, who should teach and how and what should be taught.

M. C. PETERSEN

September 9, 1959