

come out of Columbia. He works like hell. I have never seen anybody work so hard. He is certainly not going to make Law Review, but I think he can get through Columbia Law School."

And they took him. He was more than 100 points below their minimum on this test.

I am not saying the test was inaccurate. I think the test had him about right. But this kid did get through Columbia Law School. As I say, he had to do it by sweating blood. But he did go through. So, there are exceptions.

Now your other point. I do not know about these lists of 50 high schools, but I would be very suspicious of any of them. I do not know what the basis is upon which you can judge. What you tend to find when people talk about good schools is schools which are uniquely favored by the community environment. The American society is not classless; it is highly class-oriented. We have upper class suburban communities where the upper-class can and does dominate the schools and where they think of a school as a college preparatory institution, and where they are aiming their children for the prestige colleges.

I very much doubt the value to the American culture of the aristocratic tradition in education, which is not only strong but becoming stronger. And it is going to be very difficult to overcome because a college which has prestige attracts the ablest kids. It gets to pick the ablest kids. They then succeed in society, which proves that the college was right; thus it builds its prestige, and so it attracts more of the ablest kids. This thing feeds on itself. I do not know just how to correct it, but I think that there is no evidence that a school, some of the famous ones around here, is really a better school in the sense that it succeeds better with the material that it gets.

There are some ridiculous measures of quality, for example, the number of national merit scholars. As if this were a measure of something. More than anything else, it is a measure of the professional status of the parents who happen to live there. Professional groups are the ones that breed up the major share of these verbal-type kids who score high on that kind of test. But this does not prove the quality of a school.