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is not Christianity that is the opiate of the people, it is the inert state of Christians that furnishes some semblance of truth to this libel. It is fossilized education that is the opiate of the people. It keeps them from getting the truth about the condition that they are in. Says Douglas Gerrold in his "Future of Freedom": "On hearing of the adoption in all civilized countries of compulsory education, the inhabitant of Mars would assume a wide diffusion of culture, the exaction by an educated electorate of new standards of logic from publicists, and of new standards of enlightenment from statesmen.... He would feel assured that means at last exist for bringing home to all classes, by the most direct and effective of methods, the facts of every problem, means for breaking up class or sectional or national prejudice and for combating and conquering ignorance." In every one of these anticipations, the inhabitant of Mars would be wholly wrong. The problems of ignorance, of irreligion, of class prejudice, of national, racial and class hatred which were visible on the surface of things a hundred years ago, have today struck roots so deep and so powerful that they threaten the very foundation of our civilization....

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Meanwhile, envy, born of ignorance and fed by material greed, threatens to destroy society from within. Adult Education for Everyone Adult Education is not for illiterates alone nor is it to pap-feed social climbers with appreciations of Shakespeare and Beethoven. It should be designed for the best brains we have, to wrestle with the worst problems we have--want and frustrated lives literally crushed under a heritage of plenty which these people cannot get their hands on. We believe also in the mute, inglorious Miltons. It is the duty of Adult Education to make the mute vocal. and to make the blind see. But education that is conscious of its mission must be free from the patronizing air, from talking down as from some lofty oracle, from inventing deceptions and sops, handy palliatives and barricades, to fence injustice off from justice. Not only must it be prepared to accept truth where it finds it, it must also be prepared to accept talent where it finds it. Our experience in the Antigonish Movement is that there is more real Adult Education at the pit-heads, down in the mines, out among the fishermen's shacks, along the wharves, and wherever the farmers gather to sit and talk in the evenings, than you can get from one hundred thousand dollars worth of fossilized formal courses. It springs from the hearts and pains of the



people. It is spontaneous--call it the cracker-barrel type, if you will--I vote for the cracker-barrel. The former doesn't fill any empty pantry, it doesn't bring milk and food and health back to babies blighted with malnutrition already in their toddling years. We want ideas with marrow in them. It may be said by oracles of the open school of education--those peddlers of dope and drugs in the realm of ideas--that education, such as I am talking about, smacks of propaganda. Well, what of it? Would you accuse a man, looking for a place to sleep for the night, of propaganda? If so, we are propagandists. If education is not the propaganda of truth, then it is not education. And we might ask ourselves, "What is education anyhow? Is it propaganda a- (28)