



BRIEF NOTES

Herbert Kiesling, who compiled the compensatory education work for the Rand team, was interviewed by the *Washington Post* shortly after the HEW report appeared. While he did not directly assail it, he did leave the impression it was much too optimistic.

Some of the most specific criticism of the HEW report has come from people who have followed the evaluations of California's compensatory education programs. One of them, Henry Levin, of Stanford, has no use for the report, which he considers "an exceedingly poor job from a research point of view" and the product of political expediency. Much of the data was raw and unreliable, said Levin, and the Los Angeles County results were rendered meaningless upon further checks by the county and HEW.

At HEW, P. Michael Timpane, director of education planning in the office of the assistant secretary for planning and evaluation, defended the study as a careful citing of evidence, adding that its authors, particularly Constantine Menges, worked carefully with data evaluators in California and elsewhere.

"We did not try to put out a snow job," he said. "We tried to be quite sober and responsible, and we made clear that we didn't think the evidence either way is totally unequivocal."

Timpane said HEW thought that the issuance of the report "might occasion a responsible debate." That debate, all might agree, has not come about. For one thing, critics of the report have made little or no noise about it in public. According to Levin, this is partly due to the reluctance of some, including school systems and state education departments, "to attack the source of money."

Beyond that, the situation appears to resemble the premise of one of Art Buchwald's humor columns. It concerned the man who put an American flag in front of his house, only to have his motives second-guessed throughout the neighborhood by liberals and conservatives alike. These days, for anyone to clearly take one side or the other on compensatory education is to invite the same reaction.

Jensen on Hirsch on "jensenism"

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The treatment of Jensen and "jensenism" at AERA's 1972 annual convention in Chicago makes quite a story. Since Professor Jerry Hirsch was scheduled for an invited address entitled "Environmentalism: Jensenism: Why Our Gullibility: Quo Vadis?", the Program Committee rather belatedly decided it would be appropriate to give me an opportunity to respond to criticisms. A spot was made available for me to give an invited address, which was announced in the program supplement for the day following Hirsch's address. For this consideration I am grateful. However, as the more than six hundred members who attended the Friday morning session at which I was to have delivered my address well know, I was unable to do so because of a noisy demonstration by some 40 or 50 members of the Students for a Democratic Society and the Progressive Labor Party. Convention officials had been given assurances by the spokesmen for these groups that they would not disrupt my talk

if they were each allowed five minutes on the platform before I was introduced. They were given this time, which they used for name calling, for insisting that I not be permitted to speak, and finally for tearing up the script of my address and hurling it at me—all in clear view of the NBC-TV camera. The very same persons vociferously led the demonstration which made it impossible for the audience to hear my address. I announced I would send a copy of my address, entitled "On jensenism: A reply to critics," to anyone requesting it, and then the meeting ended. Henry Kaiser, who was Chairman, and I were hustled out of the hall and into a freight elevator by a special tactical squad of the Chicago police.

Unfortunately, I therefore did not have the opportunity to respond to the slurs, smears, and innuendos directed at me in Jerry Hirsch's speech and to which I would here like to respond. As a past president of AERA aptly put it, "Hirsch attacked Jensen in name only." There was not one bit of substan-

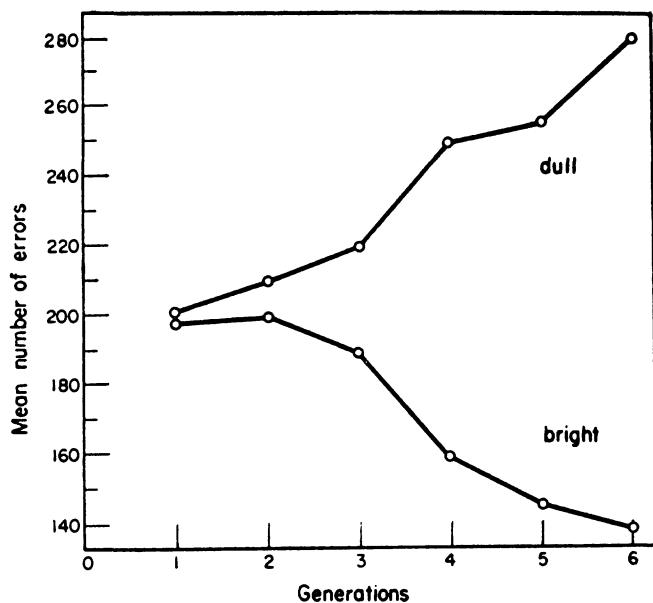
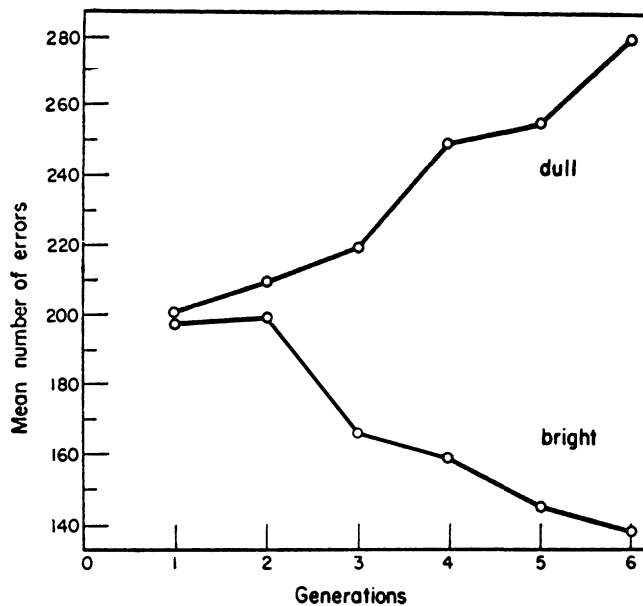


Figure 4 in HER article



Corrected Figure

tive or methodological criticism or contradiction of any of the main points in any of my writings.

Hirsch said "jensenism" means to him "white supremacy." Look up the definition of that term in Webster and see if it fits anything I have written. In fact, it is explicitly contradicted in my writings (e.g., pp. 78-79 in the *Harvard Educational Review*, Winter, 1969). This is sheer name calling on Hirsch's part, an insult I deeply resent.

Secondly, Hirsch noted that I have testified before a Congressional committee (General Subcommittee on Education, House Education and Labor Committee) and that my statement to the Committee was entered into the Congressional Record by a Congressman from Louisiana. Is the intended innuendo that I am a "Southern segregationist"? Anyone who reads my testimony, the contents of which Hirsch never mentioned and which I will gladly send to anyone on request, can see that this innuendo is utterly baseless and is in fact directly contradicted by my testimony (Congressional Record—House, H6319, July 1, 1970).

Thirdly, Hirsch implied that one of the graphs (Figure 4) in my *Harvard Educational Review* article had been altered or faked in some way that would mislead readers in

interpreting the conclusions to be drawn from the graph. I have carefully checked this and here are the facts (which Hirsch could easily have ascertained had he been more interested in facts than in smears). The Figure 4 in my *HER* article is a direct photographic reproduction of the figure in the textbook in

which I found it (Robinson, R. *Genetics of the Norway Rat*. New York: Pergamon, 1965. Page 537). This figure is shown on the left side below. I have checked this figure against the original data points provided by the author of this study (the graph can be found also in Fuller & Thompson's *Behavior Genetics*, page 214). One of the 12 data points was in fact in error in the graph which I had photographically reproduced from Robinson's book. The corrected graph (which will appear in a new edition of my *HER* article) is shown on the right. I'm afraid that only those who heard Hirsch's talk and the defamatory context in which this "distorted graph" was mentioned can fully appreciate the ludicrous discrepancy between the intended smear and the actual facts presented here. Is that the biggest fault that Hirsch can find in my 123-page *HER* article?

Have the attacks on "jensenism" so utterly failed on the appropriate level of legitimate, intellectually honest scientific criticism as to have to sink finally to the level of personal invective, defamatory innuendos, and demonstrations? The SDS types might be taken in by it. But educational researchers, I'm sure, are not impressed by such tactics.

DEADLINE REMINDERS

AERA 1972 Research Training Sessions

Proposal deadline: July 12
See *Call for Proposals*
May ER, P. 19

AERA 1973 Annual Meeting

Proposal deadline: July 15
See *Call for Proposals*
April ER, P. 9

Mini-Courses and Experimental Conversations

at the AERA 1973 Annual Meeting
Statement of interest and nominations due July 15
See *Annual Meeting Notices*
May ER, P. 19