



Dean's Report

George H. Haynes, D.C.
Administrative Dean

Introduction

As Los Angeles College of Chiropractic enters its fifty-seventh year of existence and I begin my fifteenth year at the administrative helm of this institution my mind dwells upon the world of today.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote in *The Future of Man*, "Mankind is divided to its very depths into two irrevocably opposed camps - one looking toward the horizon and proclaiming with all its new-found faith, 'We are moving' and the other, without shifting its position, obstinately maintaining, 'Nothing changes. We are not moving at all.'"

We might substitute Chiropractic profession, Chiropractic education for "mankind" for all are divided into two opposed camps - one saying, "We are moving" the other maintaining stoutly "Nothing changes, nothing should change."

I say to our students and alumni, your heritage is a heritage of change and confusion and challenge. The future belongs to those who can face change and not become paralyzed into inactivity. The future belongs to those who can face confusion and not become irretrievably confused. The future belongs to those who can face challenge and not be overwhelmed by its complexity.

Any illusion you may harbor of a safe, ivory tower existence is that - an illusion, and what I am saying is that no profession, no institution of higher education has the right in 1968 to let you inhabit an ivory tower no matter how beautiful or how temporary it may be. You have inherited a complex world where as individuals you must assume responsibility for your own decisions and the consequences of those decisions.

What does it mean to be a chiropractic intellectual? What does it mean to be a responsible adult in a complex world where neither your college nor your profession nor your country can give you a neat list of do's and don'ts to carry you through?

I contend it means being a thinking, caring, humane person - a responsible, courageous person in the midst of confusion. If radical means one recognizing and accepting differences, one willing to break bread with all, one willing to place the well being of the sick above personal aggrandizement, then I say let's all be radicals.

I have been asked and you have heard the question posed, "Will the LACC remain a Chiropractic College?" If you mean will it be a protective ivory tower for your individual pet X-Y-Z adjustive cure-all technique my answer is, "I hope not." In my twenty years of association with LACC I have

seen the college pressured and badgered to adopt and teach sixteen differently named pet techniques by as many different individuals and groups. It was particularly confusing when three different techniques were being "wished" on the LACC at the same time, each claiming to be the "one and only" cure-all and the vehicle for the salvation of the Doctor of Chiropractic.

If you ask will the LACC profess an openness to scientific inquiry, a willingness to question and examine all chiropractic measures and procedures proposed for the benefit of the sick, I will say, "I hope so."

If you mean - will we continue to traditionalize selfishness by protecting customs of the past simply because they are customs, I will say, "I hope not."

If you mean - will we continue to develop our educational program, to develop thinking doctors of chiropractic and avoid brain-washing education, I will say, "I hope so."

You may be afraid of being radical. I, too, am afraid of being a radical. But if by radical you mean challenging the dogmatism of those who say believe this because I tell you - then I trust you will be a radical. If by radical you mean you will take a thoughtful stand on all important matters, controversial or not, then I trust you will be a radical. If you be so radical as to call yourself ignorant and admit that you have much to learn from every person you meet no matter his social or economic or religious state - then I trust we will be radicals. If being concerned that you make a contribution to the dignity of every person you meet is radical, then let's be radical.

If your experience at LACC does not upset your previous pattern of thinking, if you experience no guilt for your own gripes in a starving world, if you have no qualms about treating persons as objects, if you look at your education as credits and letters after your name, then our existence as chiropractors or not stands in question. **Education that is real should shake you up, give you more questions than answers, disturb you, confuse you, exhaust you.** This is the kind of radical LACC which I trust we will become - a place where we do not have dittoed answers to the ethical and moral problems which you must face. Education, if it is education at all, should convince you how little you know and convince you that to ever dare call yourself educated is a contradiction.

If you want to know how tall the tower is, ask yourself how tall you are.

If you want to know what kind of a future chiropractic and chiropractic education has, ask yourself what kind of a future you have. LACC is as tall and as great as you and you and you.

To borrow in part a now famous phrase, stop asking what LACC will do for you. You are Los Angeles College of Chiropractic. If you want your education to be significant and relevant, assume some responsibility for asking significant and relevant questions. Ask again and search for yourself. If chiropractic would grow taller, it is we who must grow.

If all of us - you and I - care enough to take education and being a doctor of chiropractic seriously, so seriously that we allow each other the right to make mistakes, allow each other the right to disagree, allow each other the right to challenge our pre-conceived and narrow ideas, then we will be on the way.

We have a great challenge. It's a risky, uncomfortable, hard choice to make - to be a truly responsible adult - a true chiropractic intellectual.

Haynes GH. Dean's report. *Chirogram* 1968 (Apr); 34(4): 70-9