Concerning this issue . . .

This issue, and another being planned for October 1969, centers on the theme “Perspectives on Poverty, Race Relations, and Education in Hawaii.” The general intent of a series of twelve to fifteen articles is to contribute directly to the process of forming new configurations of thought and practice in education with regard to poverty and race relations. The intent, too, is to reflect a variety of vantage points and levels of concern within the university and the schools, and in the larger community.

In this issue, Bernard Mehl leads off with the question: “Is There a Culture of Poverty?” Dr. Mehl has spent the 1967-68 academic year in Hawaii as a visiting professor in the Department of Educational Foundations, University of Hawaii. Among his many involvements, his work with the fledgling Hawaii Teacher Corps Program brought him in direct contact with Hawaii’s children of poverty. Dr. Mehl will return to his teaching post at Ohio State University.

Three responses to the question posed by Dr. Mehl then follow. Robert W. Clopton, Senior Professor of Education Emeritus, Friedrich Seifert, Associate Professor of Religion, and Daniel Fullmer, Professor of Educational Psychology, all at the University of Hawaii, give their responses in order.

On the assumption that the world of education cannot be separated from the world of politics, Thomas P. Gill, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawaii, reflects on the question, “Do we have the political will to eliminate the effects of poverty on education?”

William P. McDougall, fifth of our contributors, has been on leave for the 1967-68 academic year from Washington State University. While in Hawaii he served as visiting professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Hawaii. However gentle his manner, Dr. McDougall scores the general educational scene in Hawaii for its rigidity and its fitting of children to archaic school designs like cogs in a badly-worn machine. Dr. McDougall’s concern is for the kind of impoverishment that is as pernicious among the economically “well-off” as among the poor.

Language development for the culturally disadvantaged children has received increasing attention among scholars and teachers. Theo M. Cade, doctoral student in Educational Psychology, and Ian E. Reid, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology, and Mr. Cade’s mentor at the University of Hawaii, report on a program in language development created by two University of Illinois men, Carl Bereiter and Seigfried Engelman. Mr. Cade and Dr. Reid comment on a prototype of the Bereiter program tailored for use in Hawaii.

Our final article for this issue is a speculative piece in which Paul Walsh outlines briefly from John Galbraith’s The New Industrial State, some of the logic and organizational requirements of the industrial “establishment.” Dr. Walsh suggests some dangers in applying these logical and organizational requirements to education. Dr. Walsh is a member of the Department of Educational Foundations, University of Hawaii.

These articles are now being planned for the October 1969 issue:

“Guidance and Counseling Theory: Changes needed if Hawaii’s School Counselors are to Better Serve the Disadvantaged.”

“What Teacher Educators Might Learn from the Peace Corps.”

“Possibilities for Study in the Relationship of Education to Race Relations in Hawaii.”

“Language Learning for the Disadvantaged through Creative Dramatics.”

“A Visual Story of Poverty in Hawaii.”

“Hawaii’s Delinquents: A Failure in Education.”

“Implications of the Hawaii State Master Plan in Vocational Education for the Struggle against Poverty.”

“Race Relations and Education in Hawaii; An Updated View.”

“University Education for the Economically Poor Student.”

“Kamehameha Schools and the Culturally Deprived.”

Ralph Steuber

The editor and staff of Educational Perspectives wish to express their appreciation to the Educational Press Association of America for awards of merit in the categories of Cover Design & Single Theme Issue to be presented at the N.E.A. Convention in Dallas, Texas, July 1, 1968.