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## Change as Challenge

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## *Editorial Comment*

### CHANGE AS CHALLENGE

Change is the reality of today's world, including the world of education. As professional educators, we should welcome change as an exciting part of life. Change can be a stimulus for new perceptions of existing problems, for greater awareness of alternative solutions, and for greater flexibility in our attempts to resolve problems.

All of us are keenly sensitive to the many areas in our schools where changes are suggested: the use of paraprofessionals, the teaching of minority groups, differentiated staffing, widespread use of accountability principles, the open classroom, busing to accomplish integration, new ways of supporting public education. Let us rise to the challenge of change, and let us be aware of alternative solutions to problems. Let us not accept a solution merely because it is new. Americans have an almost uncontrollable impulse to accept anything new—an idea, a gadget, a word, a slogan, even a style of education. We adopt the new because it is new and neglect to consider other choices. Now is the time to control this impulse. Let us be aware of options. Let us be alert, flexible, and critical in meeting the challenge of providing relevant education for all.

We have arrived at a time in the academic world when real choices are going to be made. They can be forced on us or we can direct them. Change can be converted to an advantage when we take charge and act instead of react. Change *can* be beautiful.

Dorothy J. McGinnis  
Editor