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# Pro Rege

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## Our Plan

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# EDITORIAL

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## Our Plan

He was a learned, clear-minded and able man in our Reformed Heritage who spoke of "Our Program." It was a program "Pro Rege"--for the King. A main element in that program was the development of Christian education on the tertiary (college and university) level.

We are not going to speak of our program in the way Kuyper did. Rather, let us present our Plan to you. Our Plan calls for action on our part and on that of the readers. We have great hopes you will take part by reading, thinking, discussing, writing. Our Plan, then, calls for a communal activity. All of us can have and hopefully are to have a part in it.

Our Plan is not to be considered as broad and as inclusive as Kuyper's "Our Program" was. We intend to remain within the specific area of Christian education. Our Plan is for a program which will enhance the cause of Christian education on all levels. This, of course, implies that we intend to deal with a wide range of subjects, as many, in fact, as Christian education includes. You will understand, then, that since the Word of God as well as political science, drama as well as business administration, zoology as well as music, care of our bodies as well as psychology are integral aspects of Christian education, these, and many other areas will provide the materials for discussion.

Please understand this. As was implied before, so let us say it plainly now, our Plan does not include a program for action in various specific areas. Let it be clearly understood, for example, that a discussion of sub-

jects within the area of political science is not intended to be a prelude on our part to initiate or to become actively involved in a specific political party. Our Plan is for a program of discussion of issues. The result of this discussion, we hope and trust will enable men and women, members of the Church and Kingdom of God to see and understand more clearly what their programs of action Pro Rege should be.

### What is our Plan?

We plan to publish Pro Rege. Indeed, we plan to become active in the publishing world, in the world of magazines and journals, of ideas and principles.

The publication of Pro Rege, we should say immediately, will not mean the end of "The Voice", which will continue to be the official publication of the Dordt College Administration, presenting articles and information of interest to students and the general constituency. You will continue to receive it via your local churches or by direct mailing.

Our Plan is to publish Pro Rege quarterly. Our mailing dates are set for Sept. 1, Dec. 1, March 1 and June 1. This issue is late, we know, but we thought it good to introduce our Plan and ourselves to you. You will also, I am sure, be happy to find the first report from Dordt's campus of specific academic events and personal involvements of some faculty members.

Initially, we intend to present to you 10-

20 pages of informative and challenging reading material which we sincerely hope will motivate and inspire you to think, reflect and express yourself. In each issue there is to be an editorial, a few articles (each not more than 3-5 pages) on a variety of topics related to Christian education, a report from the campus and review(s) of noteworthy books (on occasion and if space permits).

The mailing list, initially at least, is to include all ministers of the Christian Reformed, Orthodox Presbyterian, Protestant Reformed churches and of the Reformed Church in U.S. All Christian High School administrators and teachers, and administrators of Christian elementary schools will receive a copy. Faculty members of selected institutions of higher education will be included also. All alumni of Dordt and those who are interested in (request to receive) Pro Rege will be included on the mailing list. Finally, all Dordt students will have copies made available to them. All these, mentioned above, are the ones we invite to join us in carrying out our Plan.

Indeed, we sincerely mean what we say. We want you to join us. This publication is not to be only for the editorial committee, composed of Dr. G. Van Groningen, Dr. A. Menega, Prof. J. Koldenhoven and Dr. S. Van Houte. By turn they will provide an editorial each issue. Faculty members of Dordt will be expressing their views, insights and opinions. Personnel from the administration office on the campus will add to the discussions. Board members are expected to let their voices be heard. But, let me repeat again, emphatically, you who receive, read and reflect are requested to write, to interact with us at Dordt. This, of course, does not mean that we consider ourselves obliged to publish everything that is sent to us. Be assured, however, every contribution which is indeed a contribution to other peoples' learning about and understanding of issues will be seriously considered for publication. What we mean by this, of course, is that we intend to guide the discussions and to give direction to the thinking on the issues before us.

### Why this Plan?

"Surely there are more than enough publications coming from the presses already; need

we be afflicted by one more?" This reaction, even though it may be heard, is not going to thwart our Plan nor dim our enthusiasm. We hope, perhaps boldly, perhaps naively, that if you already have enough reading material to keep you busy, you will nevertheless add Pro Rege to your list of necessary reading, even if it means less time with the newspaper or with . . . .

Why this Plan? Because we are convinced we are called to serve our Savior and King, Jesus Christ who is still The Master Teacher. We are convinced He is calling us also to be His voice. He is calling us to set forth His mind, His will, His purposes, His work as these relate to Christian education. We at Dordt seek to be obedient to the mandate we have, namely, to know, obey and exhibit the Will and Word of our Lord. We are convinced that we are called to encourage, to stimulate as well as to inform you--all readers--regarding our Kingdom task in the sphere of Christian education and related areas. We are convinced it is our duty to discuss and explore matters relevant to, and especially those which constitute Christian education.

It is our conviction that we have this duty laid upon us. The Lord has laid it upon us for our times now. It is a serious time. Consider the evidences of a slackening interest in and support for Christian education in various areas where there once was keen enthusiasm and wide support. Consider also the fact that in many areas Christians who have not been involved in Christian education heretofore, are now beginning to realize the necessity for Christian education and are seeking help, looking for answers to questions, searching for solutions to their many problems.

Consider also the evidences of the confusion which is far too prevalent concerning the basis for, goals of, and methods in Christian education. Consider the variety of opinions concerning the place of and use of the Scriptures in Christian education, concerning the relationship of the Bible to the various natural sciences, concerning the relationship between theology, philosophy and the other sciences.

Consider also the consequences we see again and again of having issues, which were discussed in previous decades, not clearly

formulated, much less resolved. E.g., what is to be understood by the Covenant? Kingdom? Common Grace? Secularity? Antithesis? especially as these apply to Christian education.

Consider, then, the need in the world today for a pointed discussion of issues; of clear statements regarding the truth; and of concrete directives for us in our task of Christian education.

We may sound brazenly bold to say that we at Dordt are prepared to contribute a real part to the task confronting the Christian community in its educational task. However, we do much talking, much discussing on the campus. We study, we write, we express our views. We formulate position papers on important issues. In classrooms we present the Biblical basis, the Kingdom perspectives, the Christian applications to the students. We are prepared to have our voice go beyond the campus. We are prepared to speak up in Christian grade and high school faculty rooms and offices. We are eager to speak to faculty

members of other colleges. We really want to talk to the parents in the homes, the ministers in their studies, the elders in their consistory rooms. All this is so because we are sure we have something to say.

Now, please read the following carefully. We do not say we know all about every issue. We are not so foolish as to consider ourselves the only fountain of truth, the one source of abstract as well as simple wisdom! That is why we have asked you before (above) and repeat it now, to join us. Question us; debate with us; refute us if this is considered necessary. Stimulate us; inspire us--we know we all require that. Add to what we say; help us develop our views; aid us in applying principles; join us in carrying out the practical expression of truth. The best way to sum up this paragraph is to say, "We are just as eager to learn as we are to teach."

Having introduced you to our Plan, I will leave you to reflect on it. And be looking, soon after December 1, 1972, for the first complete issue of Pro Rege.

G.V.G.

## FOR THE RECORD, incidentally...

by Jim Koldenhoven

### Freshman English--Something New--Again

The Freshman English classes at Dordt College have changed shape. The program this year is primarily a program of tutorship, where freshmen meet individually with instructors. What they discuss in these twenty to thirty minute sessions are their writings. Each student enrolled in the course will meet

Miss Carol Addink, Teaching Assistant in English and German, consulting with Juanita Droge, a freshman from Manhattan, Mont.

