

Policy Should Reflect Mature Nation

NATIONS, like people, institutions and businesses, go through periods of youth, middle years, and old age. Some become senile.

Movement from one period to another can result in progress if changing attitudes are forward-looking without abandoning sound principles upon which past successes were built.

A tendency of the young is to advocate or adopt changes with too little regard for proven values. Older people often cling to yesterday's methods, avoiding risks.

Either group may make the mistake of failing to investigate proposed changes before adopting or rejecting them.

Statisticians have figured that adults now amount to 65 percent of the country's population, causing sociologists to become apprehensive that more mature cultural opinions may prevail.

It could be that older citizens who remember when life was less hectic,

less costly, less permissive and less violent may have an opportunity to redeem "The American Way."

Not everybody in any age group has accepted socialistic philosophies as being a fairer, surer route to happiness. But many have been frustrated and disappointed as they have made futile efforts to stem the tide of extremist reforms.

American attitudes have changed drastically since World War II under pressure from so-called liberals to turn toward business without profit, welfare-oriented government, and moral codes based upon material rather than spiritual foundations.

William J. Bennett, executive officer, National Humanities Center in North Carolina, said: "Truth, and the things upon which truth depends, are going out of fashion in many schools around the country."

Without truth, young citizens may lack honesty in dealing with either facts or theories as they face life's problems.

Erosion of traditional standards

of ethics and methods in government and business apparently has been accompanied by declining public confidence in both of those essential institutions.

Voices of those who may be able to perceive threats to our freedom and well-being often are drowned by louder demonstrations and demands coming through the thoughtless and the greedy.

One inference that might be drawn from the larger proportion of "adults" is that the citizenry might exercise more mature judgments in considering what is important in life.

If this "adult power" could be mobilized and utilized to re-establish truth, revive self-reliance, encourage enterprise, and cut down on governmental excesses, it certainly would help.

Much that is new may be good. Discoveries and inventions have enhanced our free way of life. They will continue to do so, if we build our future upon what is best from our past.