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Letter, Dudley Brainard to Mr. Drew Pearson [April 10, 1948]

Dudley Brainard

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STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

April 10, 1948

Mr. Drew Pearson
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pearson:

HOW TO MAKE DEMOCRACY LIVE

This is a complex and ever changing problem to which there can be no simple answer. It must be considered from many angles. Here are some essentials which cannot be overlooked if any measure of success is to be expected.

1. The fundamental principles contained in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States must forever be maintained.

2. Democracy is impossible without an educated citizenship. This nation must plan for nothing less than the equivalent of a high school education for every citizen, and place college education within reach of at least half of our young people.

3. Since ethical and unselfish character is as important as knowledge a democratic society should safeguard the spiritual life of the churches.

4. The people must learn to recognize and follow able statesmen and shun self-seeking and shallow demagogues. This result can best be done by guarding the freedom of the press.

5. Democracy functions best when government is close to the people. Therefore every effort should be made to maintain in full vigor state, county, village, and municipal governments. All tendencies toward too great concentration of authority in the federal government should be checked.

6. In a healthy democracy people should have jobs and homes. To attain this objective should not be too difficult if adequate thought and research is devoted to the problem.

This is an imperfect and complex world. People should not expect the impossible. They must make allowance for the peculiar beliefs and actions of others.

Yours very truly

D. S. Brainard