

DR. STERLING:

Engineer Shortage Critical

By CHARLES ST. PETER
Financial Editor

SANTA BARBARA, June 28.—A noted educator said today that the Nation's critical shortage of engineers must be solved the hard way—with dollars.

Business and industry are besieging the colleges and universities for trained talent, Dr. J. E. Wallace Sterling, president of Stanford University, told California Investment Bankers in convention here.

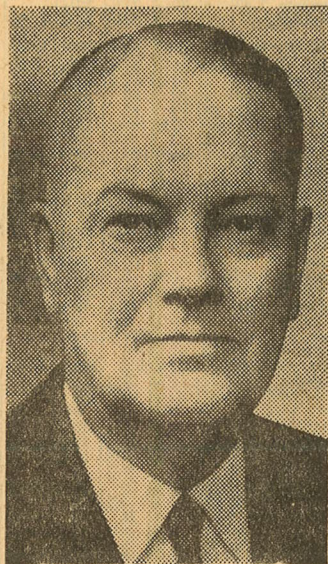
"Last year not a fortnight went by that some corporation executives did not plead with me to train more engineers. But we cannot get the top personnel to train them. Business and industry have not supported the universities with the dollars to train the men they are seeking."

The manpower shortage is one of several problems confronting American education, he told the fourth annual convention of the California group, Investment Bankers Association. He addressed the closing session at the Santa Barbara Biltmore this morning.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

Another problem arises from the national passion for "practical" education. Our reputation is that of a people that can make things. There is a great deal of pressure from society that higher education be practical and utilitarian.

The result is greater emphasis on applied rather than fundamental research. Dr. Sterling recalled that the United States



WALTER A. SCHMIDT
Final Convention Speaker

built the first atom bomb, but only as a result of the fundamental work of two foreign scientists, Bohrs and Fermi.

"The attitude of society at large is to look askance at the so-called intellectual. We are more disposed to applaud the All-American halfback than a budding Einstein."

A third problem that is growing in magnitude is pressure to get the Federal Government into education. This is felt most strongly in the field of medical education, the Stanford president said.

MORE DOCTORS NEEDED.

"The country is crying for more doctors. People all have the vote, and there is mounting pressure for cheaper and

improved medical care. Yet medical education is by all odds the most costly professional education. I know of no institution where the tuition paid by students constitutes more than a fraction of the actual cost."

As a result, there have been repeated proposals in Congress that the Federal Government enter this field. Several bills pend now, including Senator Lister Hill's proposed grant of \$50,000,000 to colleges for plant and facilities devoted to medical research.

The final convention speaker was Walter A. Schmidt of Philadelphia, president of the Investment Bankers Association of America.

He briefed delegates on legislative and administrative developments in Washington that affect investment bankers. The most important is a bill sponsored by Senator Bricker of Ohio. This would permit commercial banks to underwrite the revenue bond issues which they are now permitted to buy.

NO OFFICIAL STAND.

The I.B.A. has taken no official stand on the bill so far. It is unlikely to come up for vote before the second session of the Eighty-fourth Congress convenes in January. By that time, the organization may announce a position. Some dealer members of the I.B.A. favor the measure, and some of its bank members oppose it. Generally, it is supported by banks with sizeable bond departments and opposed by the larger municipal dealers.