

But in the end they learned discipline. Dr. Machen used to feel so badly that he would know fine fellows who would do wonderful work in scholarly study in seminary and then graduate and you'd never hear of them again. They simply -- here's an assignment-- they do it, and do it well. But they never learn to be self starters. I just wish I could have had training like that. My father used to say, Use the pen; there's magic in it, never let it lag behind. I say, That's great. But I never did it.

If he would have said, Why don't you write 3 or ~~4~~ 400 words on such a subject and let me look at it. I'd have been tickled, very pleased. Once I went to him, and said, Let's each of us write a paper. I thought of some simple subject. I wrote and paper and he wrote a paper. It was nice, but he never suggested doing it again and he never did either. I just feel there are a lot of things I could have done, would have done with a little more personal push and determination in planning ahead.

I don't know whether I'm at all like Eisenhower but White tells in his book about Eisenhower. Eisenhower is a great general. He says Eisenhower could follow orders. Give him a task and he would perform it admirably. He said as President when he had a task to do and it was perfectly plain this was to be done he did it admirably. But he didn't plan what the task ought to be that should be done. He held things but did not bring them back at all. Our inflation was going up until Eisenhower held it level. He says during Eisenhower's presidency the Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare was established which became the greatest spendthrift organization in the whole government.

He said, when civil war threatened in Lebanon there was a definite problem. Eisenhower immediately handled it. Sent the American marines in and grabbed the thing right at the start and stopped it. It was another 20 yrs. before another thing came. Which probably would have come then. He mentions one or two other things like that he did admirably. But he was used to following orders. I don't know whether I'm at all like him. I know there are a lot of fine qualities he had that I don't have.

I do feel that through my life I've had a course to teach. I've been asked to speak at certain places. I've been asked to write for this and that. To a very large extent what I've done has been a result of outside forces coming with a task given me. Rather than my planning to do it. I wish there was some way to inculcate in our students to plan themselves, plan what you are going to be 10 years from now, plan how to prepare. I can give other people advice very easily on what they should do.

For instance about the Hebrew and Greek. Spend 5 - 10 min. a day on each language, and never miss it. But people will drop if for a month and then spend 2 days on it and get half the good they would if they would just do a little bit every day. I used to give people talks in the springtime about how they should keep up their languages thru the summer. Unless they are taking a course for which they get credit, most don't. We need that so much.