Art of speaking clearly lost in spray of jargon

Edwin Newman was in town this week plugging his new book. "A Civil Tongue." and while I haven't read the book. I can agree with his philosophy about the list art of speaking simply and thinking clearly. "Taking a cognitive approach in this endeavor, we can visualize the potential future benefits this imague program will incorporate into the already highly rewarding experience we have here it."

the post that sound familiar or did the speaker like you with "cognitive" the gay he lost me? I have the sneaking suspirion that educators trave assumed the lead in confusing the English language. Perhips it all began when prospected reducators started taking psychology classes as un-

dergraduates.
The rush to include psychological jargon into

The rash to include psychological jargon into the American vocabulary is one aspect of the most theorigischemistic kind of teacher talk journalists call "cidicationics".

Administrators, board members and teachers resistently sprinkle their vocabulary with "cognitive, interaction, and interpersonal," words that have little meaning outside a psychological reducationics stopped with some psychological reterrals, we ovid just pass it over the way we suffer through detente." deministrators," and other political in words

BUT IT DOESNT Educationese makes its point with unnecessary inordinately long sentences and such oft-quoted losers as "unique, ben-terial, on-going and progressive". We hear and read "auditory-skills" for hearing "emotional deprivation" for lack of attention, and the kickerhuman developmental skills." As far as I know, you're human if you're a homo-sapiers on this planet, and developing skills to be human occurred into another sentences.

Here's a typical example of a school board memo (Note this is labeled a memo by me a

Oakland U sees need for challenge

need for challenge

Industrius, competitive, highly motivated. You don't often hear words like that any more used to describe students. For the better part of a decade, the mest heavily used words have been radicalized politicated militant. "Challenger ratiotous proficeincy." There's another set of words rarely used these days to describe an acade mic curroulum. !

Where all these good words popped up was not above about the new acidemic horizons program in Oukland University's College of Arts and Sciences. It seems the board has approved a program whereby 20 or 40. highly-motivated, creating and the control of the proposition of th

memorandum by the board; "The Board at its last meeting indicated we could proceed with the This enables us to complete the item prior to waiting until the Christmas holiday break. An additional ... installation charge appears on the attached change order to effect this decision."

Without educationese, this memo could have read "The Board said we could go ahead with the ... at the last meeting so everything could be insisted by Christmas. The evera cost is Besides wasting ink, educators use their special language to talk around a topic they don't particularly want to discuss and often use it inadvertently when they really want the public to know what they're talking about A good example of this is the following educator quotation. "By reviewing all the statistical data available, the committee is establishing a sound foundation upon which to base some decisions on when the appropriate time comes to recommend to the school board what the district should do about decluning enrollment."

about decining enrollment.

DOES THAT SPEAKER think anyone bothers to read all that or understand what he's saying' I gather after some deciphering that a committee is gathering information to make some recommendations on declining enrollment. All those words don't make the job more important. If the practitioners of educationers had to diagram their own sentences, the general public might have a clearer understanding of what's going on in education. To partiplerase one of our more succinct poets. Emily Dickinson, clarity is one word you can tip your hat to



Murder ties the region together

set off by the horrible murder of Shock waves set off by the borrobe murder of Fariminton Hills business executive David Jones are still ratting around the entire metropolitian area nearly two weeks after he was shot in an unlighted parking lot at 00 mpin Stadium in Detroit. A great deal of linger-positing is going on in Detroit which is struggling to make the subtribution on whom the city depends for its economic survival feel it is safe to come downtown. The attendants at the parking lot who evidently would be disciplined, perhaps fired. The Detroit parking lot authority is looking into averall questions of lighting, guarding and safety at lots throughout the city.

lighting, guarding and safety at lots throughout the city. Detroit Mayor Coleman Young and the Common Council contingue to make positive sounding statements about the improvement in safety in the big city, while simultaneously squabbling over procedure and recommendations forthcoming from a business labor articerime task force. Here in the suburbs people hunker down just a lattle more of that's possible, turn on the TV and scan the entertainment pages of their local newspapers to find something to do in the suburbs at might.

MEANWHILE, with continues slowly but with creepy inevitability on the Jeffries Freeway (I-96), which will directly connect the suburbs of



is philip it pourr

western Wayne County with Detroit in the same was that 1.75 links Oakland County compounties with the core city. The Good Lord only knows just when they'll ferally get the big dieth done but it will come some day not too far in the future. And merely the sight of buildovers and earth movers steadily grinding away at the site proves that the core city and the substrbs are necessarily connected in a life and death grip.

Those of us lying in the suburbs, frankly, are pretty worried about going downtown these days. This is nothing new nor will nece work from Detroit officials convince us it's safe to go to a conject or a hockey game in the near future. But as any bocal police officer knows, even if suburbanites are not going to downtown Detroit criminals from the core city are quite capable of using those mice, expensive, efficient freeways to

drive out to the suburbs. The recent shooting spree in the middle of a holdup at Eight Mile and Labser Road offers easy examply of the point;

WHAT OCGIIT to be clear to everybody is that as long as we have expressions and cars and people with criminally aggressive instincts with access to gurs, there will be marders and robbettes and rapes regardless of whether they take place in downtown Drivot or an io-aceful suburb. Crime is our confinion eneaty whether we are city dividing to suburban tes. And the somer we recognize this simple fact the better off we all will be

The divisors between Detroit and the subarbs are harsh and deep almost certainly, they will not be helded casely or queck! But equally certainly, the obvious bridging hisk available to kin the subarbs logether with the core cits is their common abborrence of criminals and fgar of

errine. Some day soon I hope some regional states man is going to propose a grand alliance between the City of Detroit and the suburbs to begin a collective light against crame. And when that bappens it might be come to be known as a monument to the life of a gentle thoughtful suburbanite who è life was smitted out life a few burks in his wallet.

Bureaucracy can bear down

jungle.

There was a great big Congress bear with a great big voice, a middle-sized conservative Court bear with a middle-sized voice, and a wee little administrative bureaucracy bear with a wee little.

force.
One morning the three bears had porridge for breakfast, and one of the bears said. This porridge is too hot to eat now Let us go to the woods for a walk while the porridge cooks. So the three bears went for a walk in the woods.

NOW WHILE THEY were gone, along came a southern gentleman named Goldilocks who never spent much time in this part of the jungle When he saw the little house, he wondered who lived

there.

So he knocked on the door. No one answered, so

so he knocked on the dor-be knocked again Still no one answered, so Gold-focks opened the door and walked in.

There before him in the little room, he saw a jable set for three There was a big bowl of por-ndge, a middle-sized bowl of porridge and a little

nige, a mudie-stred town in long length were bowl of porridge. He tasted the great big bowl of porridge and said. "While this is a little lumpy, it's all right." And so he ate it up. Then he tasted the middle-sized bowl and said. "This is awfully chilly."

Then he tasted the wee little bowl of porridge and almost choked. It was hard and brittle.

Eccentricities



HE THEN WENT into another room, and there he saw three chairs. There was a great big chair, a middle-sized chair and a little wee chair. Goldalocks sat down in the middle-sized chair and said. "This is too hard."
Then he sat down in the great big chair and found it was so big that there was no form or definition to the chair.

Then he sat in the wee little chair and said. "This is just right. I'll change the cushions a little, and it will be perfect. As he sat down in the wee little chair, the bottom fell out, and he fell to the ground, hitting his head on the fireplace.

HE PICKED HIMSELF up just as the three

head on the fireplace.

HE PICKED HIMSELF up just as the three bears were returning to their house. When he saw them, he was very scared lie tried to run, but the big Congress bear stopped him and patted him on the head. The middle-sized conservative Court bear knocked him down. But the wee hittle administrative bureaueracy bear tried to eat him up. Moral. It's not always the big bears that do you.

A major power

Teachers aim to collect

The big city mayors got all the attention with their national meeting and how they expect all kinds of money to flow from the facilities administration after Jan. 20. But there's another group standing in line to collect on the debts they think are owed them, by President-elect Carter and the new Congress. To hear the National Education Association tell it. Teacher Power's won it for the Carter-Mondale teket and a host of congressmen, mostly Democratis.

NEA has as many statistics as the University of

crats
NEA has as many statistics as the University of
Michigan football publicists, and they all show
teachers have made it as a major political power.

teachers have made it as a major political power.

THERE IS NO FALSE modesty in the NEA
"Energy, dedication, money time, creative
minds"—that's the opening line of NEA's postelection handout describing how and why teachers
see feeture.

NEA's political action committee endorsed 319
candidates—231 for the house and 28 for the senate, in addition to the Carter-Mondale ticket. Its
point \$37000, or about \$2.100 per race where it
plunked down money, and claims a record success rate of 84 per cent.

NEA collected all sorts of quotes from candidates about how helpful teachers were Virginia
Democrat Herbert Harris gave them one of the
best. "It struck me so many times during this
campaign that teachers have a natural ability to
mobilize people and a tremendous ability to get
others to work in a campaign."

Indeed, there are so many quotes from successful candidates that it's quite apparent NEA inlends to remind them of all they owe organized
teachers.

Some NEA affiliate unions had negotiated con-

teachers
Some NEA affiliate unions had negotiated con
tracts which allow teachers one day of "rivi
leave" a year. Many teachers took election day.

WHAT PRICE do the teachers intend to extract from Carter and the new Congress? General federal aid to education seems to top priority. The Michigan Democratic Party plat-



Tim Richard

form, written with great teacher input, sets 31 per-cent of local school districts, budgets as the goal for federal and At present, schools around here-are getting around two per-cent of the budgets from the federal government and rarely more than five per-cent, mostly for specialized pro-grams such as remedial reading and vocational pourses.

Himman 33 per cent federal funding and Vocabillation of a lot of viuniny salary increases. While general social problems of the cities such as crime and housing get the most public attention, the Carter administration and Congress will almost certainly be reminded that the Detroit school district, among others, is in extremely ough shape after losing two straight requests for a property tax increase.

a property tax increase.

ALMOST THE OSLY thing that can hurt teachers is that NFA leaders backed the wrong candidate in the primaries.

The teachers found U.S. Rep. Morris Udall (D-Arizona) more to their liking, and Michigan sent a giant wad of teachers to the national convention as Udall delegates. Whether Carter will hold that against them remains to be seen. If Carter can period draft resisters, he can probably forgive the organized teachers for backing Udall in the primaries.

To be sure, not all teachers are militantly politimates.

To be sure, not all teachers are militantly politi-cal and in favor of federal funding of education. But the leadership thinks that way, and the lead-ership calls the shots. And the leadership is after

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