

Lady: So all green and uninformed I just started doing it!  
AAM: Because most of the bureauracys want to get everything under their control.

Lady: I'm sure our experience has been very providential. There is a paper published called Growing without Schools. John Holt. I don't know if you would recognize his His is a rather radical thinker in the field of education, I think.  
He sponsors this newspaper. My first contact with it was very disappointing and I never even got on the mailing list because I thought it was nothing I wished to be associated with. It's thrust is subversive. The state is not going to let you educate your children, so the thing to do is to get around them this way.

This has not been our experience at all. We are considered different and unusual by the schools. But they like us. I send them a ten weeks report. We have the standardized testing at the end of every year, and I have a very good working relationship with out school. That's in two different districts that we've been.

AAM: I see. And you have standardized testing for them.

Lady: Yes, my children take the standardized achievement tests at the end of every year.

AAM: Standardized achievement tests. Then that's not a test made by the local school?

Lady: No, it's a comparative nationwide.

AAM: But the school tells you what areas are to be covered in that years' testing?

Lady: No, it doesn't either. I haven't been able even to get the schools to tell me what they cover every year!

AAM: Yet they passed the test alright?

Lady: Yes, they are very basic. The tests are.

AAM: Oh, they are like simple writing? Simple grammar, etc.?

Lady: There's reading. Reading comprehension. Spelling. It's skills oriented. Not content oriented. Sad to say that's what has happened to education. The Superintendent in our Ithica city schools said to us very plainly that content makes no difference! As long as children learn to learn, it makes no difference at all what they learn!

AAM: But I'm afraid many of them in the public schools don't learn to learn!

Lady: Well, how can you without any content? You do have to learn some kind of content. I was very much impressed to Machen's introduction to What Is Faith? He says that way back in 1923! If he could see then what we're experiencing now very keenly.