predictable evolutionary system changes "system breaks."
Since man finds himself in the evolutionary matrix of social
systems his future will always contain unpredictable and in-
eradicable surprise.

In research and methodological study of alternative futures,
the futurists use many sophisticated modern tools such as com-
puters and simulation games. However, the most important
resource of the futurist continues to be human reasoning power.
"He often seeks to break away from conventional cognitive pro-
cedures and engage in 'lateral reasoning' to probe 'system
breaks' or weigh 'counter-intuitive possibilities.'" 2 The com-
puter is the most important mechanical tool. Delphi methodol-
ogy, simulation models, the scenario, mathematical techniques
of multiple correlation, factor analysis, cross-impact and trend-
impact analysis are all resources for futures research.

If Alvin Toffler is right that "all education springs from im-
ages of the future and all education creates images of the fu-
ture" 3 then the relationship of education and futures studies
will be mutually profitable to both disciplines. Lord Ashby,
former master of Clare College, Cambridge University, has
suggested that in the past the analysis of the future has been
the province of prophets rather than scholars. "Now," he said,
"universities face the question, 'Should prophecy become an
academic discipline?'" 4

Contemporary Education:
A Baseline for Futures Study in Education

Granting that the study of educational futures is necessary,
we still need to establish a base of contemporary educational
trends and innovations from which to project future alterna-
tives. In the past fifteen years the schools have been almost
inundated with efforts of every conceivable kind to inject some
ingredient of change or innovation. Many of these innovations
have been attempts to face current problems and needs. Among
the most pressing issues have been:

A. Controversy over equality of educational opportu-
nity;
B. Clash between cognitive and affective views of edu-
cation;