

Teacher Shortage Calls for Pay Hike Work Load Slash

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent.
WASHINGTON—(NEA) — In addition to national shortages of meat and housing, a national shortage of school teachers and masters has shown up in Washington, and the National Education Association swung into action to see what might be done about it.

From all over the country came bad reports. Two hundred schools to be closed in Maine for lack of teachers. Forty-eight schools consolidated, but still 750 teaching vacancies in Kansas. Twenty-five hundred sub-standard substitutes hired in Virginia. 2,800 in Oregon, 5,000 in Kentucky. Two thousand more teachers needed in Ohio, 5,000 in Texas, 7,000 in Georgia. In Newark, Conn., a teacher strike for more pay.

What has happened is that the number of college and university students has jumped from last year's 1,400,000 to two million, while in primary and secondary schools the number is up from 25 to 28 million. There are only 1,140,000 teachers to train them.

N. E. A. Secretary Dr. Willard E. Givens.
To give all these 30 million students a smattering of book learning, colleges are raiding high schools for teachers, high schools are raiding grammar schools, city schools are raiding country schools, and the rural schools are either hiring poor subs or closing down. Instead of the normal one-in-200 teachers being sub-standard and giving instruction under temporary licenses to teach, the number is now one-in-ten.

War Period Blamed

The whole mess is the result of five years in which the educational machine has gone to pot. Since Pearl Harbor, some 530,000 teachers have quit teaching—an average of nearly 100,000 a year. In most cases they were not replaced. Army and Navy took their share because illiterate men were too dumb to fight. Marriage, retirement for old age and death took their normal quotas of perhaps 25,000 a year, which was an average, pre-war annual turnover in teaching ranks. Normal schools did not turn out replacements for either loss or because of reduced high school and college enrollment.

But by far the greatest casualties in the teaching ranks came for purely economic reasons. Salaries paid teachers weren't high enough to enable them to pay their bills. They quit teaching to take war jobs that paid more money, says Dr. Givens.

Teachers' salaries have increased from the pre-war average of \$1400 to \$2,000 a year today. But that's less than many day laborers are getting now, and even the average government worker gets \$2600. Without casting aspersions on anyone, teachers should know more than either, or at least be paid as much.

Higher Pay Urged

Getting better pay to attract more and better-educated people into the teaching profession is the crux of the whole situation as analyzed by the nine-member commission on teacher education just organized in Washington under the chairmanship of Dr. W. E. Peik, dean of the School of Education, University of Minnesota. Almost the first recommendation that the commission came up with was a proposal that minimum pay for teachers be raised to the equivalent of \$45 a week for all 52 weeks of the year, or about \$2360 annually. It was further recommended that after 10 years, the college-trained teacher should be making \$4,000 a year.

Other recommendations are that the work load be reduced so that no teacher should be responsible for more than 25 or 30 students, in place of today's classes of 40 and 50; that better teacher pension plans be put in force, and that standards be raised for those admitted to teacher-training.

Hammering home to every state and local community the fact that it must be prepared to spend more for education is the assignment to be given branch organizations of the new national commission.

Federal Aid Sought

The need for federal assistance

is also being given a good boost. The American educational bill is now put at two and a half billion dollars a year. But expenditures range from \$35 a year per student in the poorer states to \$169 in the more populous and richer states. To equalize the educational opportunity, federal aid of two billion dollars a year is being advocated, and will probably be proposed in the next Congress.

Today's 30 million students will increase to 34 million in the next few years, according to population studies. The birth rate is up and more youngsters are going to school for longer periods. That will create a demand for 200,000 more teachers. And it takes from three to seven years to train a good teacher.

Younger Drivers Turning in Bad Record at Wheel

Young Oregon drivers are turning in a very bad record at the wheel, it is disclosed by a study just completed by the office of Secretary of State Farrell.

"The seven per cent of the drivers who are 20 years old or less," said Farrell, "are involved in 19 per cent of the auto deaths. This hardly seems to agree with the youngsters' boast that they are the world's best drivers."

Because of the physical advantages of youth, the report points out that boys 20 years old and below should have an unexcelled driving record. But despite their characteristic assuredness, the youngsters for the most part don't have the training or sense of responsibility to match their physical equipment.

In the first eight months of this year minors have been at the wheel in 42 fatal accidents, claiming 56 lives. This is worse than three times as bad as performance as drivers between 30 and 50 years old.

"The hot-rod pilots who say they're doing a better driving job at 60 miles an hour than the average driver does at 20 just don't know what they're talking about," said Farrell. "If you disregard their boasts about what they can do and look at what they have done, you find they aren't even a third as good as the average man at the wheel."

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Salem Fertilizer Proves Lifesaver For Oregon Crops

Close to 10,000 tons of ammonium sulfate fertilizer have been distributed to Oregon purchasers from the government alumina plant at Salem, proving a lifesaver to Oregon agriculture this year, according to reports to a special meeting of interested growers and dealers in Salem recently.

Committees of the Oregon Feed and Seed Dealers Association and the Oregon Seed Growers League reported that this plant was virtually the only source of nitrogen fertilizer for year for cover crops, vegetables and grass seed, where its use is essential. The committees requested the O. S. C. extension service to continue to distribute this fertilizer during the nitrogen emergency.

To satisfy legal requirements the extension service was designated last fall as the prime purchaser with responsibility for sacking the fertilizer and keeping it moving away from the plant.

It is in turn arranged with the Woodburn Feed and Seed Company to carry out the actual mechanics of bagging and distribution.

The Salem plant, operated by the RFC, was given permission to produce its own ammonium sulfate needed in the alumina process and to make excess production available for agricultural use. Support of the Oregon congressional delegation, headed by Senator Guy Cordon, was primarily responsible for the successful arrangement, extension officials say. Several extensions of time have been granted, the latest to December 31. Dealers and extension men say longer operation may be highly desirable.

Of the total produced for agriculture so far, 9700 tons have gone to Oregon points, with about 5000 tons being used this year on a variety of higher priced crops where A. S. King, extension soils specialist, estimates the fertilizer increased returns to farmers by some four million dollars.

Distribution has also been extended to Washington which received 2870 tons, and Idaho where 1900 tons have been shipped.

"Without this fertilizer it would have been impossible for

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many processing plants to handle their normal acreage of many crops," said King. "Experience has shown that unless fertilizer is available in liberal quantities, some crops had better be left unplanted."

City's Drivers Refuse to Pass Tacoma Picket Line

TACOMA, Oct. 9. — Tacoma's strike situation was further complicated today by the refusal of drivers on the Tacoma municipal belt line to go through a picket line posted by the Motor Coach Employees Union in a tieup that has kept 110 buses of the Tacoma Transit Company idle since Oct. 1.

The 16 employees of the city-owned system are members of the

Tacoma Coach Employees Union (AFL) and the buses they drive service the tideflats industrial area. Approximately 2,500 workers will be deprived of transportation along with the 75,000 Tacomaans who use the private system.

Conciliation officials throughout last evening failed to break the deadlock which resulted in the initial strike eight days ago over an alleged breach of contract by the company.

A new electronically heated glass vacuum evaporator evaporates about three quarts of water an hour, and is capable of concentrating enough penicillin in 24 hours to fill 20,000 ampules, each containing 100,000 units of the drug.

The old New England expression "to talk turkey" was coined in New Hampshire in the 1800's, when an Indian and a white man who had been hunting together met to divide the spoils—a crow and a turkey.

In the 50 years before World War II, Australia mined more than \$10,000,000 worth of opals.

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The agricultural conservation program pays a part of farmers' cost of reseeding worn-out land and planting new pastures. Farmers gain from the program as they feed off this land and the government cooperates in saving more of the nation's topsoil. This finally adds up to more and better food and improved health for everybody, the chairman added.

Douglas County farmers can receive help from the program as the government's share in this cooperative conservation of land. In addition, the program includes practices that make more sure the establishment of good pastures, such as use of lime and phosphate.

"Pastures can be given a good start this fall," Chairman Ferguson concluded. "Farmers who have signed up for but have not completed other practices and who want to switch to pasture seeding should get in touch with us in the county ACA office at Roseburg immediately."

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