

Speaks on McCall's plan to close schools

Parnell offers alternatives to closing

By ROSS DANIELS
Of the Emerald

Dale Parnell, state superintendent of public instruction, said Tuesday that he wants time to consult with local school officials before considering Gov. McCall's request that all elementary and secondary schools in Oregon close their doors from Dec. 14 to Jan. 14 to conserve power.

Parnell stated at a press conference held at the Eugene School District Administration Building that he was not definitely opposed to the proposal, McCall's latest attempt to deal with the energy crisis, but added that "there is an alternative to outright school closure." He said a three-day weekend could be put into effect during the coldest weeks of the winter, or school hours could be cut down for four to six weeks.

"Another alternative would be to schedule a three-week Christmas vacation," he said.

To absorb the lost days, Parnell said he would be willing to cut down to a 170-day school year. Most schools are scheduled for 180 classroom days, but this number could be reduced upon special approval. He added that spring vacation days could also be used to fill out the year.

Responding to questions about the general reaction of school officials to the proposal, Parnell said some principals have contacted him and think that if the plan is implemented, it should be done on a priority basis, starting with four-year institutions and community colleges first, high schools second, and grade schools last.

Parnell agreed with McCall that there is an energy crisis in Oregon, but said that the plan

should be carried out "on a regional basis" if it is used, because of the vastly different energy needs across the state. "We are going to do our part, and I've given my word to the governor that we're going to do our part," he said.

Parnell also discussed Oregon's new high school graduation requirements, which call for courses designed to develop competency in areas which every student will encounter in life, not just the college prep student. "Our reference point is the ability to perform real life tasks—reading a newspaper, writing a letter for employment, reading maps and timetables, making change, completing a simple income tax form as examples," Parnell said.

The last change in high school requirements came in 1932, when most schools went on college prep

programs. Parnell said that the schools would "struggle for quality, not quantity. Instead of sitting in a classroom talking about city government, students will be getting out and experiencing it, seeing what glues a city together," he said.

Discussing the possibility of limited enrollment at the University, Parnell said, "I am a natural selection man. I'm opposed to selection processes anywhere. If the student is recommended by the high school faculty, then he should be allowed to go to school wherever he chooses," he said. Parnell also said that achievement test scores and GPA are not good ways to select students for college.

Responding to a question from one reporter about the possibility of running for governor, Parnell said no, that he would like to stay where he is.



Photo by Barry Groce

Black businessman says business careers opening for minorities

Twenty years ago it was almost impossible for a black man with a degree to get a good job with any national company, according to Cornell Kirkland, President of Enterprise Savings and Loan Association.

"Minorities in the Business Community," was the topic of a talk given by Kirkland yesterday in the Dad's Room of the EMU. Kirkland is an Executive-in-Residence being sponsored by the School of Business Administration.

"Now it has all changed," he said.

The Enterprise Savings and Loan Association is one of the few black business organizations of its kind in the country. Based in Compton, Calif., the Association serves the Los Angeles area.

The opportunities now exist for qualified candidates in both government and the private sector says Kirkland. However, he told the small group that it is difficult to convince people that such openings exist after so many years of frustration.

"I think we still suffer from somewhat of a

cultural lag," he commented.

Kirkland noted that administrators at various universities were having difficulty encouraging blacks to enter business.

He believes that universities will have to develop a more personal approach to minority individuals to solve the problem.

Kirkland added that changes brought on by the government and activist groups were "rightful compensation for those who were deprived for too long."

Pointing to the truth in lending law and the new truth in savings law, Kirkland stated that business can no longer operate in a vacuum, but must be responsive to the consumers.

He also feels that black businessmen must join with the black communities for assistance in solving their common problems.

Kirkland also answered questions and offered counselling after he spoke.

State superintendent of public instruction, Dale Parnell, offered some alternatives at a recent press conference, in regard to Gov. McCall's plan to close schools this winter to conserve energy. Parnell stated that he was not definitely opposed to McCall's proposal, but wanted to consult with local school officials before considering it.

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