

# Prophet Says Measure 9 Will Harm School District

by Jerry Garner

Portland Public School Superintendent Matthew Prophet said if Ballot Measure 9 is passed, it would have a devastating impact on the public school district.

Supt. Prophet said passage of Measure 9 would result in the school district losing \$195 million over the next three years. Furthermore, he said in 1987-88 the district would lose its tax base and \$40 million in revenues. Prophet said first-year losses could force the lay-off of at least 417 employees (including 356 teachers) and closure of up to 10 primary, three middle and two high schools.

If the schools are closed, it could increase the average district-wide class size by at least five students and destroy the school system as we now know it. "As the district loses another \$153 million in tax revenues during the next two years, the consequences will be even worse," Prophet said.

Not only will the school district suffer if Ballot Measure 9 is passed, opponents to the Measure said the entire community will feel the negative impact of it.

Stephen Kafoury, Chairman of the Board of Education, said the school district is Portland's fourth largest employer and that much of its \$12.5 million monthly payroll would be lost to the community through passage of Measure 9.

"Since voters approved the school district's new tax base in

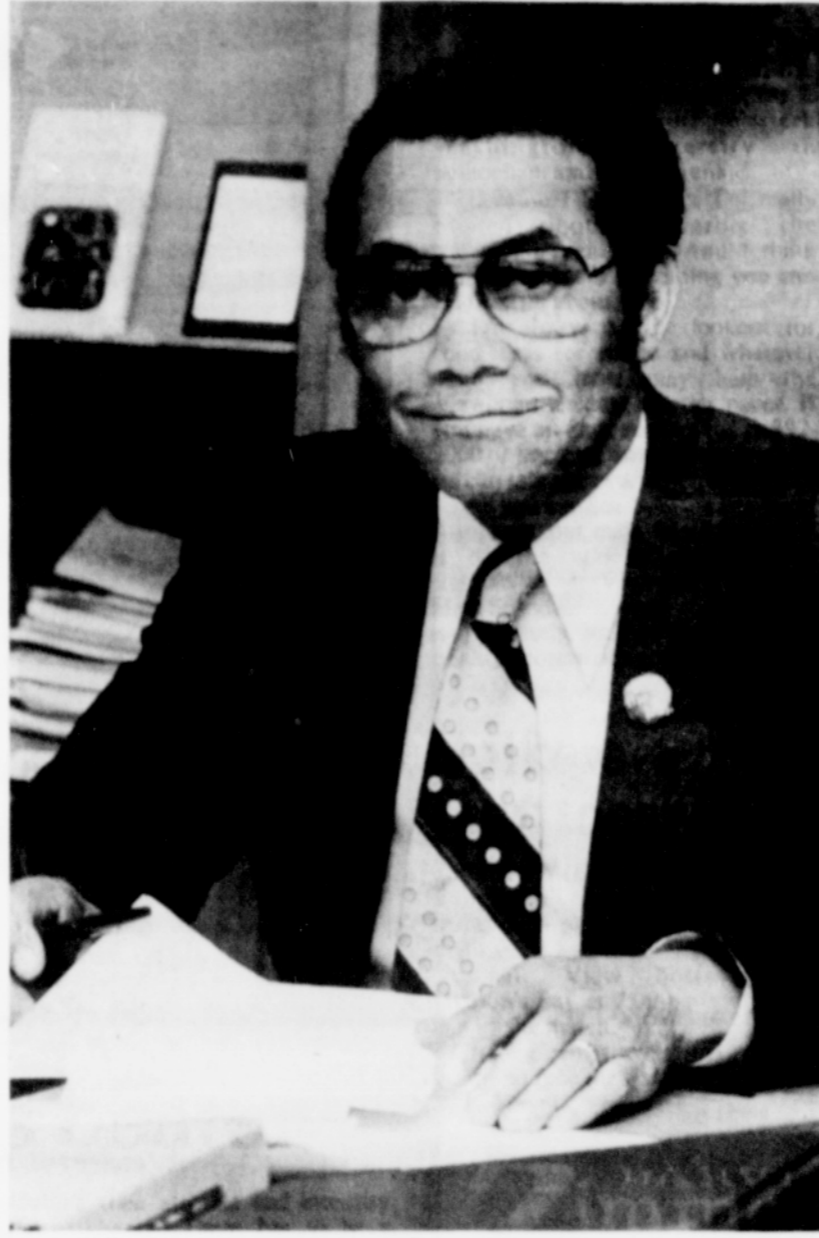
1982," Prophet said, "financial stability has allowed our administration and staff to keep their promises to raise student achievement substantially." He said the huge losses of revenues dictated by Measure 9 would return the school district to pre-1982 decay in achievement, programs and buildings.

Other probable scenarios under a successful Measure 9, according to Prophet, are virtual termination of student bus transportation, shortening of school years and school weeks, termination of kindergarten and pre-school education programs.

He also predicted the freezing of capital construction, minimal refuge and special education programs and the abandoning of planning for the upgrading of vocational education programs.

Ballot Measure 9, if passed by voters in November, will:

- Amend the Constitution,
- Impose a property tax rate limit of 2% in 1987-88,
- Impose a property tax rate of 1.5% in 1988-89 and all succeeding years,
- Exempt from the limit levies to pay bonded indebtedness,
- Impose a 2% limit on growth in assessed values of property, plus the value of new construction,
- Repeal all existing tax bases,
- Allow two elections, May and November, each year to seek an override.



## OBITUARY

EDNA H. BASKETT was born on May 29, 1921 in McComb, Mississippi. Shortly after Edna's first birthday, the family moved to Centralia, Illinois, where she attended Public schools and was a member of Second Baptist Church. Edna earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO. While attending Lincoln, Edna met Emmett "EJ" Baskett whom she married. They moved to Portland in the Mid-fifties and remained together until Mr. Baskett's death in 1972.

While in Portland, Edna received a Masters degree from Portland State University. She was employed by the Portland Public School Systems and held positions of teaching and administration until her retirement in June of 1983. She was a member of The Episcopal Church of St. Philip the Deacon where she was on the vestry of the parish and was Sr. warden, a lay reader and a chalice bearer. She was a member of St. Monica's Guild, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Club Finesse bridge club, and various other civic and social organizations.

Edna Holden Baskett quietly passed on Sat. October 11, 1986 after gallantly enduring a long illness.

She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Mamie C. Holden, sister Dorothy H. Jackson of Brooklyn, N. Y. and several nieces and nephews.

John P. Holland's submarine, said to be the first practical one in marine history, was submerged off Staten Island, New York in 1898, remaining underwater for almost two hours.

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