

Proposed Legislation Topic at Meeting Of School Officials

Proposed legislation as it affects schools of the state was discussion topic Oct. 16 at a meeting of region 13, Oregon School Boards' association, at the Jefferson school in Medford.

Mrs. Stephen Nye, regional chairman, presented brief statements on 18 items. Leonard Mayfield, superintendent of Medford schools, was introduced and spoke on the basic school support law. He said the equalization factor has been steadily decreasing with the result that each year the wealthier districts get a larger amount of the fund and the poorer districts get less.

Describes Formula

He described a new formula for distribution of the basic school fund, which would correct the present inequities and restore equalization. He said it has been developed by a committee of administrators from the "have not" counties because those from the "have" counties are happy with the present situation.

Mayfield pointed out that the majority of legislators are from "have-not" counties, and a majority of Oregon Education association and Parent Teacher association members as well as school board members are also from "have-not" counties. Because of this, he said, it would be possible to gain acceptance of a sound and equitable distribution formula.

Proposals Discussed

Dr. Bill Sampson of Southern Oregon college spoke regarding the two proposals for state aid for capital outlay to distressed districts. He said that such aid could not come from the basic fund unless that fund were greatly expanded. He added that a bonding program by the state to secure funds would delay the building programs too long to be practical.

Dr. Sampson called attention to the proposed change of bonding capacity in a downward revision. He said that it appeared at first glance such revision would further cripple districts

which were hard-pressed for funds with which to build. However, he said, with the lower tax ratios now in effect, real property cannot support the bonding capacities established before the change in ratio.

Rural School Law

Alf Mekvold, county school superintendent, took up the subject of revision of the rural school law. He explained its necessity because of the fact that rural districts are constantly attaining first class status and withdrawing from the county rural district. They are thus making more low-assessed valuation districts dependent on fewer high-assessed valuation districts in the county equalization formula.

Mekvold described the following changes that would be affected by the proposed revision and the steps which led to development of the present proposals:

- (1) Annexation of all districts within a county to the present rural school district.
- (2) Partial equalization on a county-wide basis.
- (3) Election of a seven-man county board and appointment of the county superintendent of schools.

Building Aid Plans

Mekvold also referred to the state building aid proposals. He said it has been recommended that \$4,000,000 for distribution to distressed districts annually. He said a "distressed" district should be one that is bonded to 95 per cent of its capacity (or within \$10,000), has sub-standard buildings, shows a local tax effort greater than 75 per cent of what comparable districts are levying, shows that the need is a continuing one, and proves that consolidation would not relieve the situation.

Mrs. Nye was elected chairman and Carroll W. Smith of Ashland was elected vice president of the association. Both will serve for the coming year. Mrs. Nye urged attendance at

Oregon Historical Society Elevates Member of Board

Portland—(Special)—At the 59th annual meeting last week of the Oregon Historical Society, Leslie Scott, board member since 1913, was raised to emeritus director in company with Robert Sawyer and Omar Spencer.

Dr. Burt Brown Barker, long time board member and officer, was given a letter of citation and a historical society medal for outstanding service to the society and community. The Rev. J. Neilson Barry, who recently gave his collection of historical map delineations, biographies and other scholarly studies, to the society library, was awarded the society medal for scholarship in appreciation of his many published articles and investigations of famous and forgotten events in Pacific Northwest history.

Committee Commended

President Mason commended the work of the finance committee headed by David L. Davies, Portland attorney. Through private subscription this group raised approximately \$100,000 toward the purchase of the new building site in downtown Portland.

The president also commended the work accomplished by the staff members of the society during the last two years of intense public service programming throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The appointment of Kenneth Duckett, the new librarian of the society library, and Dr. Claude Schaeffer as chief museum curator, was reported.

Albany, N.Y., is the nation's farthest island seaport, 150 miles from the ocean on the Hudson river.

The convention to be held in Eugene on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. The meeting Tuesday was attended by members from both Jackson and Josephine counties. Prior to the regional meeting, the Jackson County Rural School Boards association met and re-elected John Niedermeier chairman.

Egyptian, Syrian Leaders in Meeting

Amman, Jordan — (U.P.) — Military leaders of Egypt and Syria flew here today for top-level talks that are expected to bind Jordan closer to the neutral Arab bloc led by Egypt.

Maj. Gen. Habbul Hakim Amer, Egyptian commander-in-chief and Gen. Tewfik Nizam-medin, Syrian commander-in-chief, timed their visit to coincide with the anti-Western victory in election of a new parliament.

The anti-Western group now has a powerful majority in the House against the Anglo-Jordan pact which has long bound the two nations and which provides for British air bases in Jordan.

WHAT! NO RUSTLERS?

Hollywood, Calif. — (U.P.) — Walt Disney says he has succeeded in producing a Western movie without using such characters as sheriffs, rustlers or cavalry. And without calvary, Disney

Inspectors Called In Chwastov Hearing

Washington — (U.P.) — Senate investigators called immigration inspectors to testify today about their futile, last-minute attempt to keep little Tanya Chwastov from being whisked out of the country.

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee said the inspectors Paul Werner and Jacob Singer, unsuccessfully searched for the American-born child aboard the Queen Mary just before the liner sailed from New York on Oct. 3. Tanya later turned up aboard the ship with her Russian refugee father Alexei Chwastov.

Chwastov and his 2½-year-old daughter are now in London awaiting a court hearing on the child's custody. Tanya's mother, Mrs. George Dieczok of Detroit started the action.

said, "there are no reinforcements which arrive in the nick of time and save the settlers."

Tuesday, October 23, 1956

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