

Bond Issue Merits Discussed During PTA Group Meeting

Cave Junction — Elmer Fleming, Josephine county unit school superintendent, discussed comparative merits of two hotly contested school bond issues at a joint meeting of all Illinois Valley Parent Teacher associations here this week.

District 7 (Grants Pass) recently passed a \$540,000 bond issue for a new junior high school to accommodate between 400 and 500 students. The question of whether voters in the county-unit district want a second county high school or to continue the present tuition arrangement with District 7 is expected to be presented soon.

The vote, Fleming said, probably will be in the form of a bond issue for a new county high school. Should it pass, District 7 will drop its negotiations for an additional junior high, because a county high school will attract some 600 students from the city system.

Fleming stated another junior high school in the city would bring only temporary relief to the enrollment problem, since the school is expected to be filled to near capacity in its first year of operation in 1958.

By 1961, he added, the normal rate of population growth for this area should bring enrollment in the two Grants Pass junior high schools to 1,334. The plant now in operation can adequately accommodate no more than 550, leaving 784 students for the proposed school, which would be built for a maximum of 500 youngsters.

The county-unit faces the same problem of growth, Fleming said, but would begin with a larger student capacity.

Answering charges that "small" high schools do not compete in educational or social advantages with larger schools, the superintendent cited as an example the Illinois Valley High School, which has less than 250 pupils and which, he said, "is one of the best schools in the state."

The proposed new county-unit high school, with 700 to 800 students, would not be an exceptionally small school. Over a period of time it could offer as many advantages as the city school, plus the added merits of more personal attention by instructors and more student participation in extra-curricular activities, Fleming noted.

"The tuition arrangement we have had in the past with District 7 has been mutually beneficial," the superintendent said. Present tuition for county students at Grants Pass High School is to \$351.74 per year per pupil. The amount is low because class rooms are crowded, necessitating a lesser number of teachers, Fleming said.

The cost of maintaining a new high school is estimated at more than that because crowded conditions would be eliminated, this also being the case if a new junior high were erected. A county-unit high school would require a bond issue of between \$700,000 and \$800,000.

Fleming pointed out that the plant would belong to the county-unit, which will have full supervision as to control, maintenance, expansion and other problems. He said the Illinois Valley high school, completed in 1948, is now entirely paid for, and the county-unit has no bonded indebtedness. He compared the county-unit's financial standing with that of District 7, now facing a bonded indebtedness of \$1,400,000 if the new junior high school is built.

Refusal of Hotcakes Starts Riot in Jail

San Antonio, Tex. — (UPI) — Eighty prisoners rioted at the Bexar county jail today because they were refused hotcakes for breakfast.

They broke 10 window panes and 25 or 30 light bulbs, but calmed down before the drawn pistol of Sheriff Owen W. Killday and went back to their littered cells.

The prisoners began to throw spoons, food and steel breakfast trays at the breakfast table. They were disgruntled with their breakfast, consisting of cream of wheat, bread toasted on one side and olemargarine and coffee.



BREAKING THE COLOR BARRIER—An attempt was made in Atlanta, Ga. to break through the segregation barrier on city buses when a group of Negro ministers sat in sections reserved for White passengers. The driver refused to proceed until its direction sign was changed to read "Special." Seated at left are Negroes B. Joseph Johnson and W. H. Borders. The two women are unidentified.

Spain Seeking Return of Gold Spirited Away To Russia in 1936

Madrid, Spain — (UPI) — Anti-Communist Spain is reaching out to Russia for a fortune in gold.

The gold was spirited away from Spain to the Soviet union during the Spanish civil war in 1936 under conditions resembling a bank robbery. If all of it were returned, it would net Generalissimo Francisco Franco's regime from \$500 million to \$1 billion.

Possibility Opened On his deathbed, the man who sent the gold out of Spain, Juan Negrin, finance minister in the old Republican government which Franco overthrew, opened up the possibility of its return.

He instructed his son Romulo to give the Franco government the documents proving that the gold had been handed to Russia for safekeeping and not, as Russia claimed, in payment for arms.

It was Sept. 13, 1936. Franco's forces were hammering at the gates of Toledo and threatening Madrid. The Republican government empowered Negrin to take whatever steps he considered necessary to safeguard the gold.

Gold Taken He wasted no time. As Valentin Gonzalez, "El Campesino" (The Peasant) wrote later: "I was given a list of the cases to be collected. All was done in an atmosphere of absolute mystery as if we were handling a robbery."

Troops sealed off the Bank of Spain and the public was fooled

away with signs warning, "Danger-Explosives."

The 510,079,592 grams of gold were packed in sealed cases, loaded on trucks and driven a mile to the railroad station. There, the cargo, believed also to include silver plate and jewelry, went southward over a period of 24 days on seven trains.

The only hitch was an engineer who objected to carrying gold when he had been told it was tools. He was replaced.

In Russia, according to Russian Gen. Krivitsky in his book, "I, Chief of the Secret Service," a platoon of 30 Secret Service men unloaded the gold in Odessa. Troops kept the public away. High government officials helped carry the cases from the ship to the train.

Four Bank of Spain custodians spent six months counting the gold in Russia, were held for another two years and then sent to scattered corners of the globe.

The gold, so far as the Western world knows, has remained in Moscow.

Spanish officials are desperately anxious to get it to inject into their shaky economy. But not at any price.

Spaniards believe Russia might be persuaded to return the gold in exchange for establishment of diplomatic relations with Franco. The Russians are believed anxious to get representation here.

Spain insists that there will be no diplomatic relations, without a Soviet guarantee to stay out of Spanish internal affairs—or without the gold.

New Office Built by Supply Firm in Hills

Hills—A new office building for the Fruit Growers Supply company in Hills was completed recently, according to resident manager M. E. Barron.

The new building houses 11 sound-proof offices as well as a large accounting office, and will enable the company to conduct all of its office business under one roof.

The new frame structure is located west of the railroad tracks in the plant area, apart from the residential part of town.

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