

Many Educational Authorities Beginning To Agree That Homework Is Waste of Time

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press Correspondent
Washington—When junior complaints that homework is a waste of time, he has a good many authorities on his side.



Louis Cassels
and gives him necessary practice in basic skills.

A survey by the National Education Association shows a wide range of professional opinions on the value of homework than

on any other question of school policy.

Some educators favor starting homework at about the fourth grade and stepping up the assignment load each year through high school. Others would abolish homework altogether in favor of supervised study periods at school.

Between are all shades of opinion and practices. Even in the same school system homework policy may vary from token assignments which are more recreational than educational, to heavy doses of outside reading and "research projects" that require several hours an evening for a child to complete.

The NEA survey revealed that homework is a matter of almost universal concern to parents who

have the responsibility for seeing that it gets done (and who are often faced with demands for help which they should not—or cannot give). But parents, like educators, are sharply divided in their attitudes.

The Complaints
Some complain that excessive homework assignments disrupt family activities, create tension in the home, and prevent children from getting the sleep and recreation necessary to health.

Others insist on homework for their children, to keep them in the evenings, or to get an idea of what kind of progress a child is making in school.

While there is apparently no single statement about homework that would command a unanimous vote, NEA researchers found that the preponderance of expert opinion now holds that:

—Conventional homework assignments have "little value" for younger children, and could well be eliminated in the lower elementary and junior high grades. But it should be limited to an hour a day; in senior high school, a maximum of an hour and a half a night is recommended.

—Home assignments should be held to four nights a week, with week ends and one evening in the middle of the week left free for family activities, social life, development of outside interests such as art and music, and other non-school pursuits.

—Homework should never be assigned as punishment for individual or group misbehavior in class.

—Most students will accomplish more in 15 minutes of supervised study at school than in an hour of study at home.

—Too many homework assignments, even in senior high schools, consist of routine of routine drudgery. Long written assignments particularly encourage copying and other forms of cheating. More imagination by teachers in thinking up stimu-

lating assignments, tailored to individual abilities and interests of students, would greatly reduce resistance to homework and lead to greater achievement.

Doubtful Help
—Parents should provide a quiet, well-lighted place for a child to study, and should never interrupt homework with errands. Beyond this, parental "help" with homework is of doubtful educational value unless the parents if qualified to teach a child how to help himself instead of doing his homework for him.

Dr. Fannie R. Shaftel, associate professor of education at Stanford University who visited schools in all parts of the country during the past year, found that "most schools have yet to do a really thoughtful job" with homework. She suggested that "much which goes under the guise of homework" is merely a "holdover from the days when to keep busy was an end in itself."

Parents have observed in recent years a tendency in many schools to "load up" students with more routine homework than ever.

Dr. Ronald P. Daly, supervisor of elementary education in New York State, agreed that this is the trend. He said it is an unfortunate result of school conditions.

"Because of crowded buildings, large classes and overworked teaching staffs, some teachers feel that they cannot adequately cover required subjects in the allotted hours," he said.

Dr. Rodney Tiltman, executive secretary of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, said reliance on "meaningless assignments at home" is the hallmark of an "insecure teacher."

"It gives the teacher a feeling of accomplishment to have students bring in large quantities of written homework to be corrected and graded," he said. "The secure and confident teacher rarely feels the need for a lot of routine homework."

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

San Jose, Calif.—Navy Secretary Thomas S. Gates, in saying U.S. military forces must be able to win any limited war decisively enough to make any aggressor back away from a nuclear war: "... To win decisively in hot but limited war ... to make it unthinkable to any aggressor to resort to thermonuclear war. This we need—no more, no less."

Lawrence, N.Y.—Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) in calling for a cabinet-rank civilian agency to coordinate government scientific and technical research:

"In the long run it may be beneficial to us that the Soviet hurred its satellite into space before we did. Nothing that I know of could have so shaken us out of our doldrums."

Memphis, Tenn.—Mrs. Grace Lorch, the white housewife who protected a Negro girl from white mobs in Little Rock, after being told to get a lawyer and return for Senate Internal Security subcommittee questioning:

"When I get on the witness stand I am not going to recognize the committee as one which has any right to look into any anti-segregation organization in the South."

New York—Assistant District Attorney Alexander Herman, in asking that Anthony Coppola be held as a material witness in the slaying of underworld kingpin Albert Anastasia:

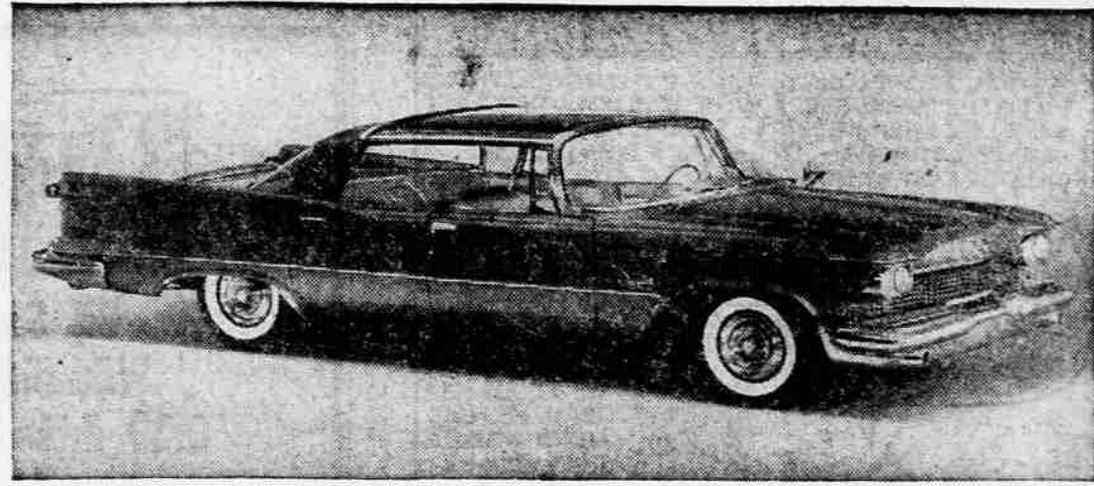
"If this man walks out of the courtroom, it very well may be the beginning of open warfare by the hoodlums in this city."

Honolulu, Wash.—J. A. Greenwalt, the 24-year-old man who apparently crashed his stolen light plane into the ocean after sending this radio message:

"Tell Marilyn I never did love her. I've been depressed and I'm going in the water now."

Washington—State department press officer Lincoln White, in announcing the temporary reassignment of protocol officer Victor Purse, whose wife accepted a \$3,000 auto from King Saud of Saudi Arabia:

"Mr. Purse's transfer from the protocol office was not related directly to the acceptance by his wife of an automobile as a gift. The department feels, however, that his failure to consult and inform his superiors ... regarding the gift was an exercise of bad judgment."



MANY COLORS AVAILABLE — The 1958 Imperial models will feature 20 exterior colors. The new model will be longer than the 1957s. A "landau top roof" section will be featured on the four-door hardtop (pictured

above). The cars also will have the largest and softest tires on any production car, according to the company. The models will go on display locally at Hamlin Motor company, Eighth and Front sts., Nov. 1.

Wednesday Marks Seventh Year of Medford SS Office

Wednesday, Oct. 30 marks the seventh anniversary of the opening of the Medford office of the Social Security administration, according to W. V. Nusbaum, district manager.

The period since the Medford office was opened has seen a number of changes in the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance system, which the Social Security administration administers. On Jan. 1, 1951, self-employed persons were first covered by the program. Others covered for the first time included domestic workers, agricultural workers, employees of some non-profit organizations, and some employees of the federal, state and local

governments.

In 1952 other amendments were passed, including one providing for an increase in the payments and one further increasing the amount of earnings a beneficiary could have and still receive his or her payments, Nusbaum said.

More Persons Covered

Beginning in 1955, an additional 10 million persons were covered by the program. The largest group consisted of self-employed farmers. In addition, members of state and local government retirement systems, under voluntary agreement, ministers and members of religious orders on a voluntary basis, additional farm and domestic workers, and accountants, architects, engineers, and funeral directors were included, and the amount of the payments was again increased.

Further important changes made in 1956 included provisions for payments to disabled persons at age 50, lowering of the retirement age for women to 62, coverage of the armed forces beginning in 1957, and coverage of further professional groups as of Jan. 1, 1956.

As of December 31, 1956, 6,930 persons in Jackson and Josephine counties were receiving \$354,237 in monthly benefits, or an annual total of \$4,250,844. In addition, since Jan.

Man's Error With Car Fatal To Wife

Tacoma, Wash.—A man driving to pick up his wife at a hospital struck and killed her with his car Monday as she walked toward him. Madigan Army hospital spokesman said Harlan J. Stone accidentally stepped on the gas pedal instead of the brakes as Mrs. Stone, 52, moved in front of the auto to enter on the other side. Mrs. Stone, who had accompanied her daughter to the hospital, died shortly afterwards of head injuries.

'Little Fellows' Get Praise, Criticism By Market People

By ELMER C. WALZER
United Press Financial Editor

New York — The little fellows who often make the big stock markets are the pets of the financial district when the market is rising and the butts of criticism when it goes down.

Jacques Coe of the stock exchange firm that bears his name notes there is a big mass of public participation in the market which buys and sells on what it reads in the papers, hears on radio or sees on television.

"Is it any wonder," he asks, "that after one has analyzed the buying and selling of odd lots over a period of years, and especially the short selling of odd lots, one is obliged to reach the inescapable conclusion that the mass mind (when it comes to

stock market technique) is invariably on the wrong side."

Wrong Thing
He adds that when the little fellows wander outside their sphere, "to enter an endeavor where they are out of their element, they are liable to do the wrong thing at the wrong time."

Mitchell of Canada is more critical of the uninformed trader who believes that "when a stock is good it automatically goes up, and when it is bad it goes down just like clockwork."

Mitchell, who writes reams on the stock market in an easy flow of language spiced with tart remarks, holds that the public never "seems to get wise."

"The easy marks," he says, "are the ones who approach the field with a basically wrong attitude."

"Some of them even seem to think that speculative stocks are just like a bank, only better — you just have to sit back and watch your money grow."

"Then when they lose, they panic. Hysteria sets in, and they do the worst possible thing, namely, come right back for more. In trying to recoup their losses they take bigger and bigger risks with larger and larger sums of money when they have no chance to win."

He offers this advice: "The time to buy stocks is not at the peak of the bull market when heavy public participation causes a scarcity of offerings."

"Neither then, is it time to sell when the public is liquidating at the expense of heavy losses. In brief, this market is fast undergoing a change — and is rapidly becoming more of a long term proposition than a short one."

Well there it is — the little fellows helped make the big market of today. Then they took a beating. And now they are being scolded.

One thing seems sure, however. The little fellows still have a lot of money left and they are now busy getting information on new things to buy.

Truman Would Support Symington

Omaha, Neb. — Former President Harry S. Truman, holding that any good Democrat is better than any Republican, said he would support Senator Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), if he runs for president in 1960.

Truman, a guest of the Strategic Air Command, kept to domestic politics Monday and declined to answer questions dealing with foreign policy or Russian claims of superiority.

Truman said he has not yet received word from Democratic National headquarters on whether his campaigning services will be wanted in the 1958 congressional elections, but said he's available.

He foresaw a good year for the Democrats in the 1958 elections and said he did not believe a third party would hurt the Democrats "or hurt anybody."

As for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1960, Truman said he had no "favorite," adding, "of course, I'd have to be for my own senator from Missouri if he is a candidate."

Small Business Fair Indefinitely Postponed

Portland—The small business fair, set Nov. 5 and 6 in Seattle, has been indefinitely postponed, according to Portland branch manager of the Small Business administration, John G. Barnett.

The current economy move of the government coupled with the uncertainty of future procurement activity make the fair not feasible, according to Barnett.

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Portland Gasoline Dealers Quit 'War'

Portland — Gasoline prices went back up here today following an agreement among dealers to end a "gas war" that saw prices of regular gasoline drop to an average of 29.9 cents per gallon.

One dealer said his new price would be 34.4 for regular and 38.4 for premium.

David R. Potter, executive secretary of the Oregon Gasoline Dealers association, said 95 percent of the dealers in the Portland area had signed pledges not to engage in price cutting. Many dealers, he said, had been "driven to the wall" by the price war.

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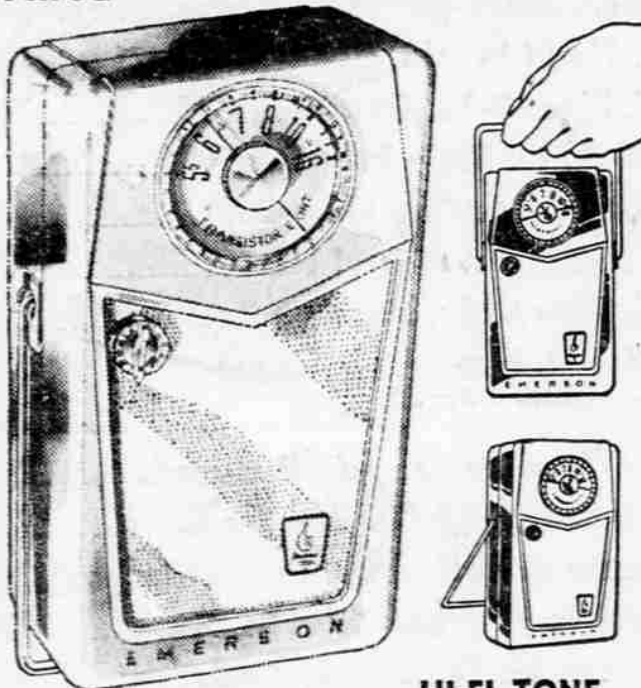
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