

Schools Will Open Doors To Largest Number in History in 1958-59

Shortage Debate In U. S. Education System Renewed

Editor's note: This is the first of three special reports on the problems facing America's schools when they reopen for the fall term.

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Washington —UPI— America's schools and colleges will open their doors next month to nearly 45 million students —the largest number that any nation has ever attempted to educate.

The bells that summon one-quarter of the nation's total population back to school also will assign the renewal of a perennial debate on the shortages and shortcomings in the U. S. education system.

An urgent new note was injected into the debate last year—the "beep-beep" of Russia's Sputnik I. The fear of falling behind Russia in the race for technological supremacy prompted many Americans, including President Eisenhower, to pin an emergency label on the long-recognized need for strengthened schools.

Measure Enacted
Responding belatedly to a special message which the President submitted seven months ago, Congress enacted

a \$887,440,000 measure that has been described as a "federal aid to education" bill.

Actually, it provides federal funds for very limited sectors of education — loans to needy students who want to attend college, matching the grants to states to buy science equipment and improve the teaching of science, languages and counselling services in high school; fellowships for teachers taking postgraduate study to qualify for college faculty jobs.

The most ardent supporters of this bill acknowledge that it will not solve all, or even most of the fundamental problems confronting U. S. schools as they begin their new term.

Here are some facts, figures and conflicting opinions about the fundamental problems and what is being done:

Overcrowding
Lack of space is the most immediate and obvious problem of many school districts. Nationwide, more than 70,000 new classrooms have been built in the past year in an effort to relieve overcrowding. But school enrollment continues to grow at a rate more than twice that of the general population. New schools are opened only to be swamped with new students.

The U. S. Office of Education estimates that the classroom shortage this fall will total 132,800, compared with 142,300 in 1957. Thus parents can look for a slight improvement in the overcrowding which last year had 800,000 students on double-shifts and nearly 7 million in classes of more than 30 pupils each. But no major relief is in sight.

President Eisenhower asked Congress three times — in 1955, 1956 and 1957 — to authorize a multi-billion dollar "emergency" program of federal aid for classroom construction. The proposal got entangled with the school integration issue and no action was taken. The President abandoned it this year.

The outlook for stepped up construction with state and local financing is not bright. Local property taxes, which carry the main burden of the school costs, already have

SLIGHT TECHNICALITY
Van Nuys, Calif.—UPI—Lloyd Talbot and Carmen Myra had Paul E. Wustrack arrested on Monday on their complaint they paid him \$2,300 for the exclusive right to sell beer at Los Angeles Coliseum games in Memorial Coliseum. Wustrack was booked on suspicion of grand theft after they found out later that it is against the law to sell beer in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

reached the level in many school districts at which further increases encounter severe resistance. Voters rejected nearly one-third of the school bond issues submitted for their approval last year.

Teachers
Nearly everyone agrees that there aren't enough good teachers to go around. But the scope and cause of the teacher shortage are matters of sharp dispute.

The National Education Association (NEA) says the public schools will have a deficit of 135,000 "qualified teachers" this fall. It blames the shortage primarily on teaching salaries which now average about \$4,650 nationally, with wide variations among the states.

Critics of the NEA question both the figure and the explanation. They charge that the NEA which has 600,000 teachers as dues-paying members is a "teachers' trade union," and that it has insisted on certification standards which tend to make the teaching profession a "closed shop" for graduates of teachers' colleges.

Each state has its own standards for granting teaching certificates. The extremes vary widely, but the typical requirement is a college degree with a specified number of courses in educational theory and technique. These required courses are usually offered only by teachers' colleges or the education departments of universities.

Two Bad Effects
Critics assert that this system has two bad effects: (1) Teachers spend so much of their college time learning how to teach that they neglect what to teach; and (2) many able people who might be attracted into teaching are ruled unqualified because they merely have a college degree in science, math, English, history, etc.

The NEA replies that some training in teaching methods is urgently needed by anyone who is called on to manage a class of 30 or more children.

In any event, the trend seems to be toward making it easier for liberal arts graduates to get teaching jobs. Virginia drastically reduced its requirements for professional education training this year and New York state cancelled a scheduled increase in its requirements. Many other states have liberalized the rules for granting temporary or provisional teaching licenses to college graduates who lack pedagogical courses.

Next: Frills and "snag courses" in the curriculum.

Personal Income Shows Increase

Personal income in Oregon rose to a record high of \$3,385 million last year, 1 per cent higher than the 1956 total, according to the office of business economics.

The state's personal income increase was substantially below the 5 per cent increase noted for the United States during the same period. Personal income in Washington rose 6 per cent above 1956 levels, and in Idaho, it rose 3 per cent.

Oregon income on a per capita basis averaged \$1,914, 1 per cent below 1956 estimates and 6 per cent below the \$2,027 national average. In Washington, per capita income was 4 per cent above 1956, and 5 per cent above the national average, while in Idaho it was 1 per cent more than 1956, and only 80 per cent of the national average.

Oregon tax collections for fiscal year 1958 totaled \$185 million, a decline of 4.6 per cent from 1957 levels, according to the bureau of census. Tax collections on a per capita basis amounted to \$104.57, compared to \$136.72 in Washington and \$120.23 in California.

Oregon ranked 10th in per capita tax collections in 1958 which compares to a national average of \$87.93.

Grants Pass Team Wins FFA Contest

The Grants Pass chapter of Future Farmers of America took first place in the livestock judging contest at the state fair in Salem Sunday, according to Nat Etzel, chapter advisor of the Eagle Point chapter which also entered the contest.

The Grants Pass team was the first of 54 judging teams and will travel to Kansas City, Mo., to compete in the Kansas City Royal Livestock show in October. This is the same time that the National FFA convention will be held there.

Members of the winning team are Lane Pritchett, John Neely, Truman Elmore, Chapter advisor and vocational agriculture instructor is Ashton Forest.

Eagle Point placed 14th in the contest. Team members are Art Gardner, Bill Hubbard, Steve Carroll. Steve Carroll placed fourth as high individual in sheep judging, Etzel said.

Art Gardner, Eagle Point, placed second in a field of 34 in the arc-welding contest held at the state fair for the first time.

Japanese Warships Sail Into Seattle

Seattle —UPI— Six Japanese warships sailed into Seattle Monday to a welcome of big-gun salutes, speeches and dancing girls.

The ships, part of Japan's new Maritime Self Defense force, were the first Japanese warships to visit here in 22 years.

The visiting ships are the destroyers Harukaze, Ayanami, and Uranami, each 1,700 tons and the 1,450-ton patrol frigates Kiri, Sugi and Kaya.

Two of the ships will go to Vancouver, B.C. Thursday and four will go to Bremerton. They will return here Saturday and leave for San Francisco soon after.

The first commercial oil well was tapped in Romania in 1857.

What Is The Law?

This column is prepared as a public service by the College of Law, Willamette University, Salem, to explain basic legal principles, not to provide legal advice. The reader is cautioned not to apply these cases to his own problems without an attorney's advice, for differing facts may change the outcome.

Offer To Sell Home Refused By Counter Offer

On May 7, Mr. Stub wrote to Mr. Morgan saying, "Dear Mr. Morgan: I offer to sell my home for \$10,000, the down payment to be \$1,000. You will have until June 1 to accept."

Mr. Morgan responded by letter on May 11: "Dear Mr. Stub: I will pay you \$9,000 for your home with \$500 down." Not having heard from Stub, Morgan wrote to him on May 25, stating, "Dear Mr. Stub: I accept your offer of May 7 of \$10,000 for your home and hereby purchase it."

Is this a binding contract? **Rejection Kills Offer**

No. A counter proposition is a rejection and kills the offer. Acceptance, to make a binding contract, must be an

absolute and unqualified acceptance of the offer. Any attempt to modify the terms or conditions is considered a rejection. These modifications might include proposals as to price, payment, time or place of payment or other conditions stated in the offer. Any of these proposed modifications constitute a counter offer.

When a counter proposal or offer is made by Morgan, he then becomes the one who is making the offer and Stub can treat this counter offer as a refusal of his original letter. Stub, of course, is free to accept Morgan's counter offer and sell him the property for \$9,000.

The original offer cannot be accepted after the counter offer is made unless both parties agree to it. Thus, if Stub wishes to treat Morgan's letter of May 25 as an offer and by his words or acts indicates his acceptance, it would be a binding contract.

Would Be Acceptance

For instance had Mr. Stub written to Morgan after receiving the May 25th letter, "I have your letter of May 25th. I consider the sale closed and have instructed my lawyer to prepare all necessary documents for the transfer of my home to you as per your letter of May 25," this would be interpreted as an acceptance of the offer made by Morgan and thereby result in a binding contract.

A counter offer is always a refusal unless the parties have agreed that it is not to be construed as such. A mere

inquiry by Morgan as to terms would not be considered a counter offer.

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Skirt, 8-18,
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