

Career of Teacher Who Conducted Survey Studied

Los Angeles—UPI—The California teaching career of a high school teacher who conducted among his teenage students a "Little Kinsey" sex survey was in the hands of the California board of education today.

Cecil Cook, 38, defended his sex survey as "not harmful" Wednesday at the closing of the six-day hearing before a department of professional and vocational standards hearing officer.

But, he admitted, "I'm not so sure I would again give the questionnaire at all in light of what has happened. I think there were administrative problems I didn't understand."

Cook, charged with unprofessional conduct, said he now realized a teacher's obligation was "not to embroil the community" in the type of furor generated by his sex survey.

Not Damaged
"However, I don't feel the students were damaged—unless they came there already damaged," he said.

Cook denied he had been suspended from his teaching post at Van Nuys High school last February after the uproar resulting from some students' complaints on his sex survey.

"It was upsetting the school, students and teachers alike, and I thought it proper to let things cool off so I took a leave of absence."

Cook said the questionnaire, which contained queries about intimate sex relations, was answered by students anonymously and in writing.

Some students during the hearing testified they were "shocked" by the sex survey and thought it was "worthless." But some teachers, parents and students said they thought the survey was helpful to students and probed an area still obscured by superstitions and old wives' tales.

The education board will receive a report of the hearings and from it make its decision on whether to suspend Cook's teacher's license.

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Preston Sturges Dies at Hospital

New York—UPI—Preston Sturges, 60, play and motion picture writer and director, died early today in the Algonquin hotel here.

Police said Sturges complained of chest pains when he entered the hotel, where he has lived for several months, shortly after midnight. He was helped to his room but died before a physician arrived.

Sturges began his show business career in the late 1920s as a song writer and publisher, became an assistant stage manager for Brock Pemberton and saw his first play, "The Guinea Pig," on Broadway in 1928.

His next was the 1929 hit "Strictly Dishonorable." The same year saw the production of his first motion picture, "The Big Pond," followed, among others, by "The Power and the Glory," 1932; "The Green Hat," 1933; "Diamond Jim," 1936; "Remember the Night," 1939.

He began his directing career in 1940 with "The Great McGinty," for which he received an Academy Award as the writer of the year's best original screen play.

Shriners Meeting In Los Angeles

Los Angeles—UPI—An estimated 50,000 Shriners were here for tonight's opening of the three-day Western Shrine association convention.

Delegates came from 14 temples in eight western states including Honolulu. About 5,000 of the group will parade tonight to the Coliseum where they will see a two-hour international ceremonial marking the official opening of the convention.

New officers will be elected during business sessions Friday.

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