

# Education of Soviet Children Described By Mayfield in Talk for AAUW Branches

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. 11  
Sunday, Dec. 6, 1959

Education of the Soviet child from kindergarten through college was the topic of a talk given Wednesday evening by Dr. Leonard Mayfield, superintendent of Medford schools.

American Association of University Women and their guests at the Red Cross building.

Dr. Mayfield commented that the Russians have said they have no slow learners in school. He said that the majority of the slow learners and abnormal children are discovered by the time they are seven, prior to first grade, where they are pulled for other classes and do not attend the regular schools.

The Medford educator said that the average school in the Soviet is about 1,000 students and has a staff doctor and dentist.

Dr. Mayfield said that the hotels were arranged in such a way that a maid sitting in a lobby on each floor could see who arrived and where they went. The Medford man added that although the Russians were hospitable and friendly it was not their custom to invite people to their rooms or homes. He explained that the Russian people were always eager to speak to them in hotel lobbies and public parks.

He added that the people in the street or stores were always helpful; they not only showed where a requested place was, but would take a visitor there.

The speaker commented that the coldest reception the group received was at the U. S. Embassy where they were unable to arrange for an appointment.

Dr. Mayfield said that the group believed that more exchange between the two countries should take place, not only in the entertainment field but educators, businessmen and professionals. He

what extent is there education and political liberty in the Soviet? published recently in an editorial in Pravda.

## New "Exciting Eyes"



by *Coty*

New, exciting way to enhance the color and brilliance of her eyes. Coty's new...

- ★ Duo-Matic Combination mascara and eye crayon — 12 wonderful shade combination 2.50 plus tax
- ★ Eye Lights Select from 10 shades — iridescent and regular. There's one to suit her. 2.00 plus tax

Delightful Little Gifts...  
SACHET BASKETS **\$1.**  
Filled to the brim with perfumed nuggets covered with bright rayon silk ready to hang in her wardrobe.

See Our Complete Line of Toiletries and Gifts To Please Everyone in the family!

**MEDFORD PHARMACY**  
6th and Central • Phone SP 2-6253  
Open Sundays 10 A.M. to 9:30 P.M.  
Week Days 8:30 A.M. to 10:30 P.M.

## step up your holiday glow...

with *Natural Poise*

Pump to put a charge of excitement to your holiday plans! Then dance you right thru to spring-prom season! Faillie buckle on the dreamiest, gleaming black patent. As seen in Glamour.

**Park Shop** \$14.95

MATCHING HANDBAGS

Charge !!! Or Use Pick's Charge Plan!

dance in iced champagne...

Ninety-nine sparkling color-flavors to choose from... We'll fit the silver-or-gold-threaded laces' grips and heels for you at no extra charge. Rest of the shoe is champagne-sparkly vinyl ice and a moon-jewel buckle to reflect all the elegance of holiday festivities! As seen in Harper's Bazaar.

\$12.95

*Natural Poise*

Shown are just two from our new scintillating collection of Holiday Shoes... make Pick's your headquarters for your Holiday Shoes.

We Give *S.N.* GREEN STAMPS

**Pick's SHOES**

112 East Main Street  
Next Door to Robinson Bros.

At this school, Dr. Mayfield said, the child learns obedience — lots of obedience, and beginning English. The teacher, one for each 40 to 50 pupils, usually has an aide, a practical nurse, to assist her. The Medford superintendent added that there are no janitors in the schools and any clean-up is done by the children and the teachers.

No compulsory military training is evident in the schools, Mayfield said, except for the semi-military uniform and marching by children of all ages.

He added that no pencils were in evidence from the first grade through high school, all lessons being done in pen and ink. Pencils were used, he said, on the college level and above.

The child enters first grade at the age of seven. In most schools, the educator said, there are self-contained rooms through fourth grade taught by the same teacher. As no IQ tests are given in the Soviet, he said, the teacher's opinion of a child carries the most weight. If a student lags, the parents are called to the school and are told that the student must improve. If the child's slowness is believed by the school staff to be due to the parents, the parents' identification card may be taken away. The child could also be expelled.

If a superintendent, teacher and school doctor say that the child should be sent to another school, generally labor classes, they are sent once the parents are notified.

At the end of the child's fifth grade, he is given a battery of tests. Those students found to have no academic ability are sent to labor classes. The decision is with the teacher, superintendent and parent committee advisor. The parent committee advisor is one parent who has been elected by parents of children attending that particular school. Not only does the advisor attend school council sessions but also attends when discipline problems are presented.

At the end of the seventh grade the children are again channeled into higher grades or labor classes. Following the tenth year of study, students who qualify may apply to colleges.

Under the present policy, students who have two years of work experience have preference over those who do not.

The speaker said that the child from an agricultural area would have little chance getting into a professional field unless he showed exceptional ability. This, he added, is true in all areas as the child is encouraged to attend the higher institute which would train him for the work of the community in which he lived.

Although the Soviet has a number of special schools, they do not have a school primarily for the teaching of science.

Dr. Mayfield said that during his visit to the Soviet he attended 40 different classes. During none of these classes did any of the students ever ask a question of the teacher. He commented that one teacher told him that "we are not supposed to smile during class."

The speaker stressed that there are no extracurricular activities in the schools. All activities of this nature come under the Pioneer Palace program (Young Communists).

Dr. Mayfield said the laboratories used in the program were much better equipped than the schools, saying that he believed more was being spent by the government on this volunteer program than in the schools.

He added that about every type of sports, science experiment, and similar work was available during these after school hour programs. He said that the Pioneer program also takes over after the nine month school term with summer camps and collective farms.

As a sidelight the speaker said that the majority of the students with mechanical ability who have, what would be the equivalent of one year technical school, are called engineers in the Soviet Union.

In commenting on the Soviet education program, Dr. Mayfield said that their present program is good. "The more education they receive," he said, "the sooner they will not be happy with censored material and will desire both sides of the question."

During his talk the Medford man commented on things he observed and events attended during the trip. He mentioned the 19 per cent cost for a haircut; lemons, 35 cents each; the spotless, beautiful subway and the five daily meals.

Clothing and food are both expensive, he said, but rent is generally four to five per cent of the breadwinner's salary.

No beef cattle were ob-

## Extension Units Plan Meetings

Two Home extension units have scheduled meetings this week. Members will receive lessons on Christmas decorating ideas. Both meetings are scheduled Tuesday, December 8, at 10:30 a.m.

The Oak Grove unit will meet at the home of Mrs. Robert Hubbard, 3562 Jacksonville highway. Mrs. T. A. Holiday will be co-hostess.

Mrs. Robert Hubbard and Mrs. Roy Elmgren will give the lesson. A gift exchange will be held. Luncheon committee members are Mrs. Paul Larson, Mrs. Gilbert Munden and Mrs. Ralph Wiese.

The Willamette group will meet at the home of Mrs. Robert Billingsley, 2016 Woodlawn drive. The lesson will be presented by Mrs. Robert Vincent.

Members are to take sack lunches.

**PENNEY'S**  
ALWAYS FIRST QUALITY!

# LOAD-UP!

# PRE-HOLIDAY CLEAN-UP

You save MORE when you shop Penney's Big Thrift Store!



**JACKETS! DRIVING COATS! PARKAS!**

**ORLON PILE LINED! QUILTED! OVER 500 GIRLS' AND BOYS' JACKETS GO ON SALE TOMORROW... AT REDUCED PRICES!**

**\$5 - \$8 - \$10**

We bought too many... it's your chance to save dollars... washable orlon pile-lined. Bedford cords, poplins, gabardines—plus washable 100% nylon taffeta quilt-lined jackets—all from our regular selling stock—that were made to sell for much more—junior girls, junior boys, big girls, big boys—sizes to fit them all in the season's most popular selling colors. Don't wait — rush to Penney's tomorrow—lay them away for gifts.

