

# Citizen Awareness of Health Problems Noted in New Report

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles reviewing the recently released report of the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth. The following article, written by Ann Sullivan, is on health.)

By ANN SULLIVAN

Heartening progress in citizen awareness of basic health problems is noted in the newly released report of the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth, but the committee deals several slaps at public apathy in a number of areas.

A top priority is given to the problem of inadequate health service facilities in many counties of Oregon. The committee writes that since 1950, the number of full-time health departments in the state has decreased from 25 to 16.

"This situation," the report laments, "is chargeable largely to public apathy resulting in inadequacy of funds to support full-time health departments. In more sparsely settled areas there has been unwillingness for two or more counties to get together to provide district health service. The 16 health departments serve 19 counties. There are 14 part-time departments, each with a public health nurse, and three counties have no nurse and provide no public health service to the children."

**Adequate Food Supply**  
 Oregon has an adequate food supply, but many Oregon children and youth are inadequately nourished, according to the report. Many adolescents consume inadequate diets, particularly serious for girls, since many of them marry and become mothers while still adolescent. The committee makes several recommendations in the field of tuberculosis prevention and treatment.

The committee reports that food allowances from Oregon's welfare department are inadequate for children, and that this is particularly pronounced in large families because of percentage reduction in money allowed for food in families

major, is a member of the English club, Engineers club and Iota Kappa Pi. He was president of his junior class last year and is treasurer of the senior class.

Walsh also is top scorer in the intramural basketball league, with 50 points in four games. He is a graduate of St. Mary's High school.

of more than four. The matter is mentioned both in the section on health, and in the chapter on child welfare. In the latter it is noted that an elderly couple on old age assistance gets more for food (\$89.50) than does a family of two, an adult and a child, under ADC, where the minimum grant is \$59.50 and the maximum \$75.50, according to the age of the child.

The report notes that Oregon stands favorably in ratio of dentists to population, yet

## Medford Chamber Participating in Travel Promotion

The Medford Chamber of Commerce is participating in a nationwide program of travel promotion which began Feb. 26 in Chicago at the international amphitheater.

Medford's role in the program is made possible through the affiliation of the chamber with the Pacific Northwest Travel association, according to Don McNeil, chamber manager.

The association entered 30-foot colored and illuminated displays of the attractions of this area and the Pacific Northwest in the Chicago show and six other major expositions.

More than 1½ million prospective travelers are expected to view the exhibits at the seven events. Literature concerning Medford will be distributed.

**Other Exhibits**  
 Following the Chicago show are similar exhibits in Cleveland, March 18-22; Los Angeles, March 11-20; Milwaukee, March 19-27; Minneapolis, April 1-10; Los Angeles, March 31-April 10; and Oakland, Calif., April 29-May 8.

Three booths about the Pacific Northwest are maintained by the travel association. Each cost about \$5,000. McNeil said "the great value of the travel industry to any community is becoming increasingly recognized throughout the nation, and it is gratifying to know that the Medford chamber is alert and active in a highly competitive situation."

Later in the year, the association will bring four national travel writers or editors who will spend two weeks becoming familiar with the vacation attractions here, McNeil reported.

dent care for the medically indigent is not generally provided. The committee also notes "much public apathy" toward the acceptance of fluoridation of water, "which has proved safe and effective (in markedly reducing the number of decayed teeth in children)."

The health chapter notes with pleasure that research into causes of cancer, prematurity, congenital anomalies, mental retardation and muscular dystrophy has been greatly accelerated and there is an increasing concern for the prevention of accidents.

**PTA Health Programs**  
 "There has been notable strengthening of Parent-Teacher association health programs," according to the report, which also lauded an increase in health facilities for children through enlarged hos-

pital facilities at Doernbecher, expanded pediatric education at the medical school, completion of the new dental school and the excellent efforts of the crippled children's division.

Other features receiving high praise included safety programs, the poison control registry, state-wide hearing conservation programs and increased facilities for premature infants.

Brief resume of the recommendations the report makes in the health field:

1. It is recommended that every effort be made to reverse the trend of fewer full-time health departments in Oregon.
2. That increased emphasis be placed on periodic examinations of all children.
3. That more funds be made

available for nursing education on both graduate and undergraduate level.

4. That more emphasis be placed on the teaching of nutrition in the high schools.

5. That continuing educational programs concerning fluoridation of water supplies be presented to the public. It is evident that the majority of citizens are not yet ready to accept fluoridation, so the issue must not be forced.

6. That service be provided for the child with severely handicapping orthodontia conditions. The University of Oregon dental school or the crippled children's division should provide these services on a statewide basis.

7. That a state prenatal (around time of birth) death committee be formed to coordinate the activities and reporting of local hospital com-

mittees.

8. That a broadened service for the convalescent patient be provided through extension of visiting nurse, homemaker and foster home services.

9. That a consistent policy in regard to the care of the infant with tuberculosis be adopted by the state tuberculosis hospital and the Doernbecher hospital and that the state TB hospital be remodelled to provide separate facilities for tuberculous children.

schools, and particularly for the high school age child. It is recommended that provisions be made for adequate medical appraisal of all mentally retarded children receiving special education, aid to dependent children or other public services and that programs for the home training of the mentally retarded be developed.

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## Durno Suggests Women's Annex At State Prison

Salem—The Legislative Fiscal Committee didn't warm up very much to the idea of a separate state prison for women Thursday.

Figures supplied by State Finance Director Freeman Holmer indicated that Oregon simply doesn't have enough women inmates to warrant a special prison.

At present only 31 of the penitentiary's total inmate population of more than 1,300 are women. Holmer said this figure is about normal as far as women inmates are concerned.

Holmer said the biggest complaint is the women's rehabilitation program. He said it is not considered satisfactory.

**Durno Suggests Annex**  
 A bill calling for a women's state prison died in the 1959 Legislature.

One member of the committee, State Sen. Edwin Durno (R-Medford), suggested looking into the possibility of a women's annex to the existing prison where an expanded rehabilitation program could be carried out. State Sen. Alfred Corbett (D-Portland), said the situation is one the Board of Control should explore.

Earlier, Holmer said Gov. Mark Hatfield's state government reorganization plans should be ready by September. Holmer said that instead of using a special law passed by last year's Legislature, the governor will introduce the reorganization legislation in the usual manner because there are doubts about the constitutionality of the law.

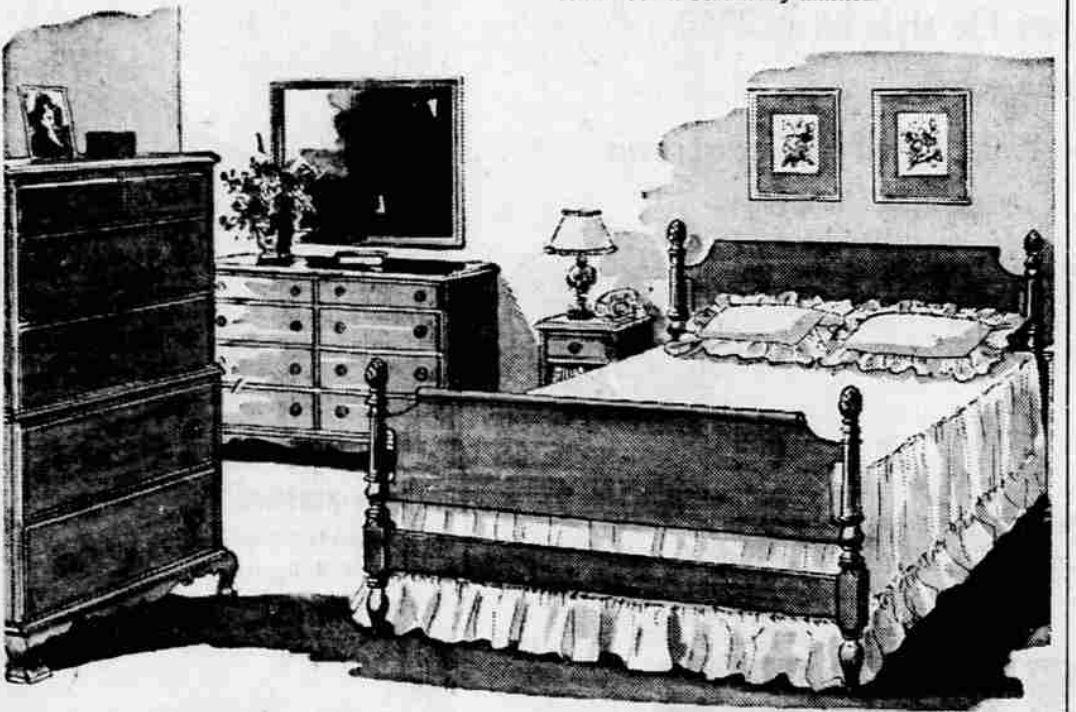
## Local Student Is Named in Edition

John Walsh, a student at the University of Portland, son of Mr. and Mrs. David E. Walsh, 937 Whitman ave., is among 27 top seniors at the university who have been selected for membership in the 1959-60 Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

All were chosen on the basis of scholastic record and contribution to campus activities.

Walsh, an engineering ma-

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