



**TEACHER CHANGES JOBS** — Edward Hough, former Trenton, N.J. school teacher quit his job six years ago, is now a sales representative for a firm making sanitation chemicals. Hough, shown outside his home by his company-paid station wagon, expects to earn \$11,000 this year, twice as much as he could in teaching. —(UPI Telephoto)

## Former Teacher Points to Need For Higher Pay in Profession

Trenton, N.J.—EP — School teachers Walter Almond and Edward Hough quit their jobs six years ago and started running a gas station. They said they couldn't support their families on teachers' pay.

Today, both men are out of the gasoline business.

Almond is teaching again, at Steiner High School in nearby Hamilton Township. He says he went back to education because Steiner gave him a chance to teach subjects he was interested in—auto mechanics and electric shop.

Also, Almond said in an interview, teachers' salaries rose slightly in the five years he was pumping gas and greasing cars. "Salaries are still low, but they're on the right road," Almond said.

**Sales Representative**  
Hough, on the other hand, is a sales representative for a firm making sanitation chemicals. He expects to earn more than \$11,000 this year—twice the salary he could expect in teaching.

Next year, Hough said, he may earn three times what he could make in school. I would never consider going back to teaching," Hough said.

Almond was 28 years old and Hough was 29 when they broke with teaching in 1954. Each held a master's degree. Each was earning \$3,700 per

year, Almond as a junior high instructor in handicrafts and Hough as a fourth and fifth grade teacher. Each was married and the father of three children.

By 1955, each was making \$6,000 a year from the gas station. Both were working five to 14 hours a day.

**Liked Worked with Boys**  
Hough quit the station the next year, when he was offered his present job. Almond stayed another two years, then decided to go back to teaching.

"I always liked working with boys," Almond said.

Almond said his experience at the gas station has proved invaluable in his new teaching post.

"When the boys start asking questions on a particular car—what kind of brakes does it have, can you put multiple carbs on it—I've got the answer right in my head, and don't have to consult a book," Almond said.

Almond conceded that his salary of about \$5,500 a year was not as high as he could wish. "But I have a livable wage," he said.

Hough took a different view. He said teachers' pay

still was "entirely inadequate."

"In our field, men are being hired—without any experience in selling—starting at \$6,000 per year, plus expenses, plus a new car," Hough said. Also, Hough indicated, there was no reason to suppose a salesman in his field was not contributing as much to society as a teacher.

Hough added: "Forty-five hundred to \$5,000 might be an adequate starting salary for a teacher, but it takes a teacher 10 years to get up to the maximum earning level of the

profession. In industry, it's about five years."

Hough and Almond both live in the Levittown, Pa. area. Hough said he was "really hurt" recently to see a teacher working part time at the checkout counter of a local supermarket, stowing food in grocery bags.

"Teachers should not be subject to that sort of thing," Hough said. "You certainly don't see a dentist, or a doctor or a lawyer doing it. Their professions pay adequate salaries."

boots and get after the teacher salary problem," he said.

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