

New Program Would Make Oregon Schools Best in Nation

Instruction for Teacher, Pupil In 10-Year Plan

By DOUGLAS GRIPP
Salem — (AP) — Dr. Leon P. Minear, state superintendent of public instruction, Thursday announced a dynamic new program for improving education in Oregon which he said is intended to make Oregon elementary and secondary schools the best in the nation.

Oregon is now rated third nationally in certain categories. Called the "Oregon Improvement Program for Education," the eight to 10 year plan involves two phases — classroom instruction, and teacher education.

Gov. Mark Hatfield announced strong support and said he is "vitaly interested in its success."

Raise Our Sights
The governor added: "Unless we raise our sights, plan for generations, reduce the trivia" and unimportant details. "We cannot realize the hopes and ambitions that have long characterized the people of Oregon."

Minear unveiled the program Thursday afternoon before the Senate education committee.

He announced appointment of Allen Lee of Salem as administrator of the program. Lee has been an official of agriculture and vocational rehabilitation in the state education department.

Minear said the program will be a cooperative arrangement between the state board of education, public and private colleges in Oregon, and local school districts. Local districts need not participate if they don't want to, he said.

Assert Direction
He emphasized that the state department would assert "direction" for the program — first of its kind in the nation.

Lee said the program is not experimental. It takes "promising innovations" from throughout schools in the nation. The innovations will be chosen jointly by the three levels of education cooperating.

Francis I. Smith of Portland, member of the board, said one national leader in education told him if Oregon follows through, in 15 years the state would be "at least 25 years" ahead of any other state in the nation in education.

Cover State's Share
Minear said he would like to have \$90,000 from the legislature to cover the state's share, adding there is hope of matching money from a private foundation that would make it a \$1 million fund.

Minear said the appropriation, however, is not necessary for Oregon to proceed. This is because the program involves "new and better ways" of using the money education already has.

S. E. Brogotti of Helix, board chairman, said the board has been seriously studying the program since January, 1960.

It has 10 main points. They are:

1. Swing the state department "sharply toward new directions in leadership," emphasizing inspection of schools and compliance checks.

'Help Slay Giants'
2. Have the state department "stick its neck out," moving to "help slay the giants of ignorance, tradition, folklore, prejudice, dogma, and vested interests that persist in blocking educational progress."

3. Promote a massive effort with many local school systems and colleges to study promising innovations in teacher training, methods, staff use and use of electronic machines for instruction.

4. Eventually secure several million dollars in out-of-state funds to supplement the program, from funds and similar sources.

5. Prune the "deadwood" throughout Oregon education so far as standards, procedures and staff use are concerned.

Realistic Salary Scale
6. Bring about a competitive and realistic salary scale for teachers and administrators.

7. Strive for higher quality in education in general and more effective use of tax dollars.

8. Stimulate recruitment of superior people into teaching.

9. Develop a plan of in-service training for administrators, school board members and architects to modernize school buildings and equipment, and bring about their best use.

Release Creative Energy
10. Use the state department in "releasing the release of creative energy and vital action" promoting the

improvement of education in Oregon."

Lee said the fields of classroom instruction and teacher training would have equal emphasis. On the latter, the idea is a shift from professional college training of teachers to more of an "on-the-job" philosophy, yet retaining the higher educational aspects of teacher education.

Seven public colleges, three private, and 26 local school districts have agreed to proceed with the plan.

The public colleges are: University of Oregon, Oregon State college, Eastern Oregon college, Southern Oregon, Oregon College of Education, Portland State, and the general extension division of the state system.

The private colleges are: Reed, Pacific and Linfield. The school districts include: Pendleton, La Grande, Medford, Beaverton, Corvallis, Coos Bay, Oswego, Monmouth-Independence, Dallas, Salem, David Douglas, Portland, Bethel, Eugene, Springfield, Roseburg, Newberg, McMinnville, Hillsboro 3J, Hillsboro No. 7, Gold Beach, Port Orford-Langlois, Brookings-Harbor, Milwaukie Union High, Forest Grove Union High, and Forest Grove Districts No. 1 and 15.

Qualification Test Set For April 27

All college students eligible for selective service are being encouraged to take the selective service college qualification test offered April 27. The tests will be given to students at approximately 500 colleges throughout the nation and scores will help local draft boards in considering deferments for study as students.

Sprague H. Carter, Oregon state selective service director, said the purpose of student deferments is to give promising students an opportunity to continue to prepare themselves for careers in support of the national interest.

Application materials for the test are available at the nearest selective service local board office and applications must be postmarked not later than midnight, April 6. The Medford office is in the Federal building, 33 North Riverside ave.

Bill Boosting Federal Minimum Wage OK'd

Washington — (AP) — The House Education and Labor committee Thursday approved a bill to boost the federal minimum wage from \$1 to \$1.25 an hour in two steps over 28 months.

The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*
Emeritus Consultant in Medicine
Mayo Clinic
Emeritus Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1961)

Fluoridation of City Water

It distresses me to see the people of a city voting on the question of adding a trace of fluorine to their city water. If they all had the needed facts at their disposal, it would not be so bad, but thousands of the people have been filled up with misinformation. Many of the men who supply this misinformation so violently hate most health measures that they cannot think dispassionately about any one of them. As a result, many people have written me angrily to say, "Don't you know fluorides are rat poison? Don't you know that rat poison will kill you?"

Obviously, the people who wrote that were not thinking. One part of any drug—even rat poison—put into one million parts of water cannot possibly do any harm to anyone. Imagine trying to get relief from a headache with one millionth part of a tablet of aspirin! Anyone should be able to see that it could not possibly have the slightest effect.

Some readers may now ask, "But how then can one part in a million do any good?" It does good because for some strange reason, it becomes concentrated in the enamel of children's teeth. It hardens this enamel, and thereby cuts the number of the child's cavities by 60 per cent. This is a fact which no one seems to question.

Would Eventually Poison
But I hear someone saying that if you took the microscopic dose of fluoride every day it would add up in your body until it eventually would poison you. No; tests have shown that most of the fluoride taken by mouth promptly leaves by the kidneys. It does not accumulate except in the enamel of the teeth.

People write me that they have been told by violent zealots that the inhabitants of the cities that have a tiny trace of fluorine in their water are poisoned and die. This is not true. The government authorities have compared the "vital statistics" of cities with and without fluorine in their water and have found no sign of any increased morbidity (tendency to illness) or mortality in the cities which have the greater amounts of the chemical. Incidentally, I wish all those persons who don't want to have fluorine in their water knew that some

1,200 of our cities in America have always had a natural supply of fluorine in their water. No one can vote it out. What to me is very curious is that I have heard people ever having heard remember raising a storm of protest about the addition of chlorine to their city water; and yet, in some places, so much chlorine has to be added every day—to protect us from serious diseases—that the taste of the water is unpleasant. But the last thing I would ever expect of my fellow-human beings—much as I like them—would be constant bickering.

The last time I said in this column that I had read the official reports on fluoridation by several top health committees of the U.S. Government, the American Medical Association, the American Dental Association, The United Nations, and some foreign governments, and had found the experts all saying that they could not see any reason to fear the practice, a lot of people wrote to say that they, too, had looked into the official reports and had accepted them. But still they intended to fight to the death to avoid fluoridation of their city water. Why? Because they felt it was an invasion of their personal rights.

Must Accept Regulations
I wrote back saying, "Why then aren't you demanding that chlorine be left out of your water, and iron and vitamins and other chemicals be left out of your bread? Why do you permit the health authorities to vaccinate you against several diseases when you want to travel to Central Africa or to Central Brazil?"

No; I am as fond of my rights as anyone, but I know that if I am to live in a large city without dying off with smallpox, diphtheria, dysentery, typhoid fever or dozens of other deadly diseases, I must gladly accept the regulations made by a highly efficient health department—a department that will watch over my health and your health every day.

To show how necessary this daily watchfulness is: One day in a small city in my native California the engineer in the plant which regularly pumped water out of the local river and into the city mains, didn't bother to add the usual amount of chlorine. In a matter of days nearly everyone in that city was in bed with dysentery; and, as I remember, over 150 people were down with the often deadly typhoid fever.

Literature Searched
For nine years now I have been searching the enormous literature of several sciences

Planners Set March 23 Meeting

A special meeting has been called by Medford's city planning commission for March 23 to consider two requests which are said to require urgent action.

One of the requests is from the owners of the Alpine Village development who are requesting a change of zone and alley vacation. The other request is from backers of a private tennis club who are seeking a zoning use variance.

The commission at last night's regular meeting called for public hearings for March 23 on both requests. Developers Inc., a Eugene firm, is seeking to change the zone in an area bounded by Jackson st., Bartlett st. and Central ave., from limited commercial to commercial. They are also seeking to have the city vacate Mitchell Way, an alley that runs through the property. The Alpine village will be erected on the site.

Don K. Auxier, in a letter to the commission, said backers of the proposed tennis club desire a use variance for approximately 9½ acres of property at 217 South Modoc ave. Auxier said six tennis courts and a swimming pool will be erected on the site, in addition to several existing structures.

Both Auxier and Wayne Johnson, president of Developers Inc., said they need speedy action on their requests.

and medicine to find items which I think will be interesting to you, my readers, and helpful to you. All I can do now is to say that I have fully investigated this matter of fluoridation and I have found nothing to alarm me. I have even looked through the literature put out by the violent "antis." In their pamphlets I found many mistakes that showed me that these people have been badly misinformed by someone.

Many women worry about the so-called "change of life" period. However, most of their fears are groundless. For reassurance about menopause and information about the hysterectomy operation read the booklet, "Menopause and Hysterectomy" by Dr. Alvarez. It may be obtained by sending 25 cents and a large, stamped, envelope with your request to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, The Register and Tribune Syndicate, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

HATCHES PLOT
Cincinnati, Ohio — (AP) — The usually energetic four-year-old sat quietly in a corner, so the baby sitter who prefers to remain anonymous decided not to press her luck and left him alone. When the boy's mother returned she became suspicious, lifted him up and found two eggs.

"Not time, not time," yelled he rson.

Part of Program To Be Instituted in Medford Next Year

Portions of the "Oregon Improvement Program for Education" will be instituted in the Medford school district

in the 1961-62 school year, according to Board Chairman Edward Branchfield.

Branchfield, speaking for the board, expressed enthusiasm "over the opportunity to be a part of the program to improve the quality of education."

"Although students have rated near the top in achievement tests, we feel this is an opportunity to further improve our program through better selection and balancing of academic and non-academic subject offerings."

One phase of the program will involve prospective teachers from Southern Oregon college, Ashland.

Two Years in Practice
Prospective teachers would spend two years in practice, or cadet teaching. The first year would be similar to the present practice teaching program. During the second year, the prospective teacher would be paid about half salary and would be supervised by a regular teacher in the district and the college.

Another phase would be substituting means of measuring school work other than the "Carnegie Unit" system. The Carnegie unit means attending class for 52 to 60 minutes a day, five days a week for the minimum number of days required by law for one unit of work.

School officials here have felt that two or three periods a week in typing or art and similar subjects might be sufficient, if additional work is assigned to allow the student to do it outside of school. The extra time would then be spent on academic subjects.

Team Teaching
This plan would also include phases of team teaching whereby a master teacher would lecture to three or four classes in the same subject. Students would then meet in small discussion classes the other two or three days a week.

Another phase of the local participation would be a completely revised program for students whose interests and abilities are not in the academic subject fields, but who are interested in area vocational opportunities.

Because class schedules have already been set up for next school year, only a portion of the program will be instituted here next year, Branchfield said. However, the program should be in full swing during the 1962-63 year.

Commission Approves Request Of Austin King

Austin King will have his "truckport."

This was the decision of the Medford city planning commission last night, despite the objections of a number of residents who consider King's trucking business at 1200 Crater Lake ave., to be a nuisance.

King, whose trucking business is a non-conforming use in a residential zone, had requested a zoning variance to erect a covered area behind his main building in order to provide a place for his trucks to be worked on.

A number of residents in the area of King's business had protested that the trucking outfit was a neighborhood nuisance. They expressed fears that the addition of a truckport might mean he would be increasing his operations.

King denied this, however, and pointed out that in the last few years he has actually been cutting down on his operations. He said the truckport would not only provide a place for his trucks to be worked on, but would also take several of the unsightly vehicles away from the front of his property.

Help Clean Up Property
Not all of the persons who spoke on the request at last night's meeting were opposed to the truckport. John Mansfield, 1615 Crater Lake ave., while noting that the trucks are a nuisance, agreed that the new building will help clean up the property.

The Austin King Trucking company, primarily a logging operation, was in its present location prior to the area's annexation to the city. When the area was zoned residential, he was allowed to remain as a non-conforming use.

Commission Chairman Jack Edson pointed out to the residents of the area that the commission has no control over King's operations as such; it can merely restrict structural additions on the property.

King explained that the truckport will be part of a general clean-up program on his property. He said it is possible that he might even move his business entirely within a few years.

The commission approved the request by voice vote. There was some objection.

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