

'Disadvantaged Child' Getting Attention of Leaders in Education

Kennedy Makes Special Provision In Aid Program

BY LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

What do you call a poor kid from a wretched home, who enters school with two strikes against him?

If you're an educator, you call him a "disadvantaged child."

We might as well learn the term now, because we're going to be hearing it often during the next few years. The problems of the disadvantaged child—and the problems he creates for schools—are engaging the attention of many national leaders, including President Kennedy.

Kennedy displayed his concern by making special provision for these children in his program of federal aid grants for public schools. He proposed that 10 per cent of the funds allocated to each state be earmarked "to help meet the unique problems" of schools serving slum neighborhoods and depressed areas.

The Educational Policies Commission, sponsored jointly by the National Education Association and the American Association of School Administrators, also worried about the children who come to school with unwashed ears and no lunch money.

It has launched a special study project to determine how schools can do a better job of helping them to overcome their environmental handicaps.

Dr. James E. Russell, the commission's secretary, estimates that America's urban school systems are now trying to educate about one million children who clearly belong in the "disadvantaged" category. And the proportion of such children in city schools, he adds, "appears to be rising."

Educating these children is a formidable challenge, Dr. Russell notes, because "the stability and well-being needed for effective learning are generally absent" from their lives.

They come from "homes characterized by poverty, meager educational background, lack of privacy, emotional instability, shifting personal relationships, personal conflicts and mobility." "Such homes," he says, "tend to produce children who are indifferent to responsibility and unable to concentrate on learning, who have physical defects, poor health habits, inadequate communication skills, socially unacceptable behavior, limited aspirations and little experience of cultural participation."

To send a disadvantaged child into a typical public school is like transporting him to a foreign country. The values which the teacher is trying to convey, the content of the courses, the very illu-



By
Marguerite W. Wright

A bill has been introduced in the 1961 legislative session to appropriate \$35,000 to get the 1963 session started. That was another of the signs that the hectic 51st assembly is about to wind up and go home after considering a record number of bills.

It missed its goal of a 100-day session, but it seemed certain to quit far short of the longest—128 days in 1957—and of the 115-day session in 1959.

Legislative action has been accelerated in the home-stretch drive which has also brought into play the power of the governor's veto for the first time. His threat of a veto added controversy on top of controversy.

As the end approached, this was the legislative picture on major issues:
Taxation—The bill to remodel Oregon's income tax law on a "net receipts" basis had passed the House, but was precariously resting in the Senate Taxation Committee where it had considerable opposition. The proposal, which Gov. Mark Hatfield first brought to the Legislature in his 1959 message, was expected to stay there through the end of the session.

A compromise timber tax bill, at this writing, is expected to pass the House and go to the Senate, where it will get favorable reception in the Senate Taxation Committee. This bill, sponsored by Rep. W. O. Kelsay (D-Roseburg), was approved by the House Taxation Committee, because "it would bring in a little more money than timber taxes now produce, provide a little relief for the slow cutter (operators who hold their timber until it matures), and add a little to

trations used in the reading and arithmetic books, are completely alien to his way of life. His experience at home and on the streets has not prepared him to fit into an institution which reflects the mores of an advanced industrial culture.

Thus it is hardly surprising, Dr. Russell says, that schools serving underprivileged areas encounter poor classroom response to traditional teaching methods, low achievement, spotty attendance, serious disciplinary problems, and high rates of failure and drop-out.

Must Overcome Hostility
Before a school can educate a disadvantaged child, Dr. Russell says, it must overcome his natural hostility to the school environment, and establish "effective contact" with him.

To do this, "teachers need to be highly skilled and understandings." They need to work with "smaller-than-normal classes" and to have time for a good deal of individual attention to each child. They need the support of a wide variety of special school services in the areas of tutoring, remedial education, home visitation, health and psychology. They must be "ever aware of the circumstances which handicap their pupils" and have enough human warmth and sympathy to avoid being "shocked or repelled" by them.

Dr. Russell warns that the kind of schools needed "will not be cheap." Highly-skilled teachers, small classes and special school services all cost money. But they do not cost as much as society will have to expend on social welfare services, law enforcement, and prisons, if it lets these children grow up without an education, to perpetuate in the despair and delinquency of their own lives the conditions from which they came.

the tax load of the fast (cut out and get out) cutter.

The bill to cut taxes on heavy trucks by \$1 million a year was pulled back off the governor's desk (after it had been passed by both houses) by the Senate as a result of Hatfield's threat to veto the bill. The governor, in a rare ultimatum, gave legislators the choice of referring the bill to the voters or having it vetoed.

The governor said he wouldn't sign a bill to reduce highway revenue when nearly every part of the state wanted highway construction projects in its area. Also he noted that authoritative facts about wear on highways by big trucks would be known after Illinois road tests now being conducted are concluded.

Senators accused Hatfield of "political blackmail," "lack of intestinal fortitude" and so on. Sen. Walter Pearson (D-Portland) noted that he had been nicknamed "Three-Way" Pearson for his support of the "Three-Way" workmen's compensation bill, and that Hatfield ought to be known as "One-Way Hatfield—his way or none."

For all the sound and fury, it looks like the truck-tax bill is a long way off.

The House passed bill to substitute a 2.7 per cent tax on business income to replace the present personal property tax on inventories in a similar position . . . dead, or at least in a deep coma.

So was the bill to defer property taxes on homes of people over 65 years of age. Some of the proposals might be salvaged in the last days, but there was no change in the session-long view that little major tax legislation would come from the 1961 session.

Reapportionment—Two issues were in the bill, one to reapportion the Legislature, as required on the basis of the 1960 census; the other to amend the constitutional basis for the requirement to guarantee more representation for less-populated areas of the state.

On the first problem, it seemed certain that no widespread changes would be forthcoming. Eastern Oregon Democrats and Republicans, both in danger of losing representation if the reapportionment law was strictly complied with, had joined together behind proposals calling for minimal changes.

If they don't come up with a constitutional plan, the reapportionment problem will land in the lap of Secretary of State Howell Appling Jr., and/or, eventually, the State Supreme Court.

Reorganization—Legislative opposition continued to chip away at the governor's plan for establishing a cabinet form of government for Oregon. The proposal for a Natural Resources Department was killed by Senate votes against including Fish and Game commissions. Forestry department, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Department of Agriculture, and the Marine board in the new department.

Some observers declare that as long as the present generation of vested interests remains in control in such areas as fish and game, no effective reorganization is possible. Evidently, changes in administration, with wholesale bloodletting, are prerequisite to any drastic reorganization.

Only one minor change now is assured, but several others of the least-controversial moves may be added before the session concludes. Already signed into law is a bill to abolish the Hydroelectric commission and turn its duties over to the state engineer, who was a member of the commission already.

Establishment of a Department of Commerce, and Department of Revenue, and some changes in the mental health administration could still make the reorganization grade.

Ways and Means—No one is particularly concerned about revenue this session, but the Ways and Means Committee has shown great concern about how to divide it up.

Some of the fiscal experts believe Gov. Hatfield's estimates for income for the general fund in 1961-63 are about \$10 million low. So Ways and Means may recommend appropriation on that level rather than the governor's. At any

rate, it appears the Legislature's final budget will be slightly above the \$358,000,000 figure the governor recommended, though they have found some room for trimming from his budget.

Appropriation for the Boardman project, and addition of some new services in other areas has so far more than counterbalanced the savings they have been able to make.

Education—Showdowns are near on two of the big money items of every session—basic school support and the budget for Oregon's public-supported colleges. In addition, a com-

munity college bill which would cost some \$3 million, is in the legislative mill.

The outcome of votes on several other budgets and money matters will be the determining factor in how much the state's support to public school districts is increased.

The House Education committee gave approval to a \$15 increase to \$120 per child a year. This could be cut back \$5 depending on the availability of funds. The fate of the governor's proposals for some \$5 million in raises for college faculties rests on the same considerations. Otherwise, the

higher education budget probably will go through essentially as recommended by Gov. Hatfield.

Salaries—Also on the shelf while Ways and Means makes final division of the pie is the proposal for a ten per cent increase for state employees. This would cost the general fund some \$9 million in the next two years. Substantial raises for the governor (from \$17,500 to \$20,000 a year) and for the secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction and labor commissioner passed their first tests

in the House without much problem.

Miscellaneous—The track has been cleared of many controversial issues. Apparently dead for this session were bills to curb trading stamps and advertising dentists, provide a Three-Way workmen's compensation law, to keep the governor from moving the State Public Welfare commission from Portland to Salem, and to shorten the Capitol Mall by some three blocks.

The welfare move issue took its death rap from the governor who used his veto power for the first time last week.

He also vetoed a bill which would have prohibited political party conventions from endorsing candidates.

Auto Insurance Trouble?

Uninsured Accident? Violations?
Teen-Age Problems? Confidential Service
EASY LOW RATES

Also
Preferred Rates for Preferred Drivers

Atkin-McCullough Insurance, Inc.
328 So. Central Phone SP 3-7441



**Best Bank for
the Family
"Purchasing Agent"**

In the busy life of the family "home manager" the checkbook has become a very important aid. It keeps her funds safe from loss, and provides a record of every purchase she makes to keep her family happy and comfortable.

There are good reasons why most Oregon homemakers keep their checking accounts at First National Bank of

Oregon. Branch convenience, quick service, and ready acceptability of the familiar pink First National checks are some of them. But even more important is the personal interest that makes this your Family Bank. You'll enjoy meeting

with courteous, friendly neighbors every time you visit your nearby branch of First National Bank of Oregon.



"My Bank" FOR OVER 600,000 OREGON PEOPLE!

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OREGON, PORTLAND • MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Paint With
Treasure Tones
The
Wonderful
Paints...
So Easy
To Use!

S&H GREEN STAMPS, TOO!
**Medford Paint
& Wallpaper Store**
6th & Holly—Across From P.O.
Phone SP 2-9321

We Are Proud . . .

Of our new funeral home. "There is none finer anywhere in Southern Oregon." This comment is not ours. It comes from outsiders who should know. We hear it constantly.

C. M. Litwiler

Mrs. Litwiler

**LITWILLER'S
FUNERAL HOME**

Highway 66 at Normal Ave.
Ashlan — Dial MU 5-4541

Ashland's Leading Funeral Director Since 1935

POISON OAK BOTHER YOU? WORRY NO MORE

Use B & H Poison Oak Lotion. Satisfaction Guaranteed, at your Favorite Drug Store.