

Oregon Backer of Federal Aid To Education Heard in Capitol

By YVONNE FRANKLIN
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Washington Bureau
Washington (Special) — A western supporter of federal aid to education, Mrs. Joy Hill Gubser, assistant superintendent in the Oregon State Department of Education, testified last week with eastern congressmen in a compromise public education bill.

Frelinghuysen questioned whether federal money would be the "incentive" Mrs. Gubser claimed it would be for state and local bodies to increase support for schools. "There is evidence in Oregon to indicate," Mrs. Gubser said, "that there is nothing like a little money from the state level to stimulate local effort in behalf of education," and she maintained that federal funds would do the same. When Frelinghuysen chided that there was the possibility that under the bill Oregon might pay out more in federal taxes than it receives in fed-

eral money for education, Mrs. Gubser said that the answer went back to "one's philosophy of education." **All Profit Indirectly** "My general assumption is that education is good, and that no individual can receive an education and profit from it by himself. Indirectly, we all profit," she said. "Oregon may contribute more to other states because of its position, but it is to the advantage of Oregon that this obtains." Sectional differences appear at all congressional hearings, and easterner Frelinghuysen was moved to state that he wasn't so sure that eastern

taxpayers' money was well spent on western hydro-electric dams, just as he thought Oregonians might quarrel with the idea of supporting schools of poorer states. Mrs. Gubser replied that she thought the expenditures for dams benefited the East as well as the West and, by the same token, that money expended by richer states for education in the poorer states would benefit the nation as a whole. The wartime influx into western states of under-educated southern workers was mentioned by Rep. Julia Butler Hansen (D-Mich.) as good

reason to upgrade education in those states. The bill under consideration, HR 10180, has been put forward by Rep. Cleveland Bailey (D-W.Va.) as a compromise to get around obstacles on which many education bills have foundered in the past. Committee spokesmen claim it has the support of Republicans and Democrats alike. Dr. Arthur Flemming, University of Oregon president, is a member of a Bi-partisan Citizens Committee for Federal Aid for Public Elementary and Secondary Education, which was set up

specifically to push this bill through Congress. **Three-Year Bill** It is a three-year bill. During the first year \$488 million would be distributed. Each state would get at least two per cent of its public school expenditure, and would distribute the money as it sees fit. Oregon's share would be approximately \$3,882,300 the first year. Any state which falls below the national average in per capita personal income would have its basic allotment increased by six times the percentage by which the national average income exceeds its

state average income. For example, a state 20 per cent below the national average income would thus receive the basic two per cent, increased sixfold, or 120 per cent of its basic allotment. Federal funds would account for 4.4 per cent for the year. During the second year of the program the richer states would match dollar for dollar all federal money. States below the national average would match in proportion. These features meet the requirements of those who want the poorer states to have more money to bring their educational standards more in line with the rest of the country. States which do not put forth an effort to improve their

schools are penalized. The bill has a built-in penalty in that the allotment to each state is based upon the total expenditure which each state makes within the state. If states reduce their expenditure, it automatically reduces the federal allocation, the two per cent applying on the smaller amount. There is also a complicated formula called the effort index which is designed to have a percentage reduction of allotment of federal funds if this index falls below a certain level. **Fear Said Eliminated** Mrs. Gubser and committee members maintained that the fear of federal control had been eliminated. Under this bill, they said, federal funds

could be used by the states as they decide what is needed, whereas bills in the past have limited use of funds for special purposes such as school construction or teacher salaries. Mrs. Gubser was introduced to the subcommittee by Rep. Edith Green who used to teach with her in the Salem schools. Mrs. Green then left for her own subcommittee hearing and Mrs. Gubser testified in support of the bill on behalf of Dr. Leon P. Minear, Superintendent of Public Instruction in Oregon. The St. Lawrence river drains an area of about 300,000 square miles, including the Great lakes and southern eastern regions of Canada.

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