

Educators Face Same Problems At All Levels

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(Last in a Series)

Educators dealing with students from the elementary through the college graduate level are facing much the same problems concerning curricula, teachers and facilities.

Arthur S. Flemming, president of the University of Oregon, said "the university will face serious problems of accommodating its curriculum to the complex nature of our society. This will mean not simply continuing review year by year, but the securing of adequately trained staff, the development of new facilities, of new teaching methods and so forth."

James H. Jensen, president of Oregon State University, noted three major problems confronting higher education today. They are:

Mounting Enrollments
1. "Mounting student enrollments make obtaining and holding an adequate faculty an increasing problem. Faculty members inevitably must handle larger numbers of students. At the same time, the demands of a critical age make quality instruction increasingly important."

"This dilemma is being faced, but is not being solved. It can be solved in part by providing more money for more faculty, but the supply of competent scholars will be proportionately less and less as enrollments grow. It is being solved in part by the use of television teaching."

"It may be solved in part by relieving faculty members of clerical and other duties not strictly teaching so that they can teach more students. But these partial measures will not be enough."

"The problem of faculty and teaching in a time of inescapable mass education needs to be better defined and studied."

Unit of Education
2. "The individual student will always be the unit of education. He must be taught, he must learn, or no education is occurring. How can we prevent the individual student from being lost in the mass?"

"The current interest in honors work, independent study, and various kinds of flexibility in curriculum and teaching indicate ways in which this problem is receiving attention."

3. "The demand for faculty has two aspects: the need for more faculty, for more and more undergraduates and the concurrent need for more faculty for the expanding graduate enrollments."

"With the need for more and more specialists, graduate programs must be extended and graduate facilities strengthened and enlarged. Provisions of continuing financial support for graduate work is inescapable. Money will not be the sole solution, but it will be the first step."

Division of Faculty
"The division of faculty responsibility between undergraduate and graduate teaching, the provision of additional and modern equipment for graduate research, and the articulation of graduate, professional and undergraduate education will be continuing problems."

Enough qualified teachers is a problem facing almost all educators, including those of Jackson county. It is a problem on both elementary and secondary levels.

Stanley C. Jobe, superintendent at Ashland, and Ernest B. James, superintendent at Phoenix, both mention the problem of obtaining enough well-qualified instructors to teach in a broadening curricula. Other districts in the county face the same problem.

Making Adjustments
Making adjustments to keep abreast of new innovations is among problems in some districts. Many of these adjustments can not be made without increasing to some extent, budgets, and increasing budgets is a major problem in all school districts.

Jobs noted that another problem is the effect of automation on the "below average" student. "How shall we educate him and for what kind of jobs?" Jobs asked.

James pointed out that one problem is how to maintain the "very important, very basic present subjects, and still find time to teach a foreign language, creative arts and composition" on the elementary

Problems Stand Out
Two problems stand out in secondary education James said. They are, (1) provide a deeper and broader knowledge of technical subjects for those preparing for college, yet maintain a balanced background in liberal arts; and (2) provide a good background for vocational training, as the student whose high school education is terminal can find a skilled job in society.

James said that educators must "determine which of the new methods and new approaches (to teaching) to adopt, and find teachers who can teach these methods."

Elliot Becken, assistant superintendent of Medford public schools, said: "The solution to the problems of education will never be fully resolved until individuals begin to realize that education is as significant as any other aspect of national defense and of space exploration."

Gain Acquiescence
"If we can gain acquiescence on the part of most that education is significantly important in comparison with these other two areas, then we will find the support that is going to be essential. There is no opportunity of retrenching in education. The future calls for an improved program in every respect."

Many of the problems facing educators today may be solved in the near future; but for each one that is solved, another will become obvious. The process of change, research, experimentation, and application in the educational field will never end.

Flemming, who was secretary of health, education and welfare under the Eisenhower administration said: "The years ahead (for education) may be trying ones, but they will also be among the most exciting this nation has ever experienced."

Nebraska registered a turnout of 71.5 per cent of the number of persons of voting age in the 1960 presidential election, compared with the national average of 64.3 per cent.

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