

New York School Challenge of Lifetime, Says Gross

By LAWRENCE R. WERNER
United Press International
Pittsburgh — Dr. Calvin E. Gross, who this week left the superintendency of the Pittsburgh schools to take charge of the vast, troubled New York City school system, sees opportunity in his new job where a lesser man might despair.

Gross acknowledges the nation's largest school system has many and serious ills. As he put it: "Every big city school system has many similar problems, but they all seem to come home to roost in New York."

But with its troubles, the youthful, energetic school administrator sees in the New York system the potential for it to become the "nerve center" for education in America.

"What we do in New York may affect the rest of the country and future generations," said Dr. Gross in a less than modest appraisal of the responsibilities he is shouldering. "I hope New York will become a model for others to follow."

Too Many Critics
Too many critics of the New York schools fail to take into account the tremendous educational and cultural resources at hand available in New York but nowhere else, Gross believes.

"It is the artistic and literary center of the continent," he said in an interview with United Press International.

Dr. Gross, 43, thrives on solving big problems. He comes to New York recommended highly by U. S. Commissioner of Education Francis Keppel, his dean at Harvard.

Gross had only recently signed a new six-year contract in Pittsburgh but the board of education was unwilling to stand in the way of a man who had done so much in such a short time. They bid him farewell reluctantly.

The magnitude of the management job which Gross has undertaken would stagger many a corporation executive.

Huge Budget
New York City's public school budget exceeds \$765 million. The system has 42,000 men and women teaching more than one million students in the city's 800-plus schools.

Gross has some definite ideas about what New York needs.

"One of the pressing problems is getting a bigger supply of good teachers," Gross said. "Along with that, you have financial problems. Teachers salaries should be increased generally and in New York."

To achieve this end, Gross believes he will have to convince the state legislators to allocate more than the anticipated \$1.8 million in additional school aid for New York city in the next fiscal year. The state now provides more than \$271 million a year for the city's schools — 35.4 per cent of their total budget.

Gross has demonstrated ability for impressing lawmakers about school needs.

Raises Salaries
Raising teachers' salaries was one of his first moves when he took over in Pittsburgh in 1958. He also presented the legislature with a master plan which resulted in implementation of a recruitment program and widespread improvements in facilities.

"We are now getting annually better people to choose from than we were two years ago," he said, referring to

Pittsburgh. "Raising salaries has helped attract better teachers."

"Communicating with people is going to be a complicated thing in New York," he continued. "It's important that I have a chance to know what my teachers think and say. It is a problem of an interlocking system of getting things done."

Need Facilities
An innovator who instituted unique programs such as team teaching at Pittsburgh, Dr. Gross also is aware of the crying need for the improvement of facilities in the New York system.

Although he is known as an experimenter, Gross is concerned that all students be afforded a "good fundamental education."

"Reading is number one," he said. "Mathematics is next and is more important than science. Students also need instruction in the arts."

Referring to the current high unemployment rate and a predicted jobless rate of 20 per cent in the 15-25 year age bracket by 1970, Gross said "flexibility of skills is important" for the future of the students.

"You can't teach a man new skills if he doesn't have a good basic education," Gross said.

Dropouts View
Dovetailed with the problem of assuring a basic education, Gross believes, is the startling number of dropouts in the New York City public schools.

"I believe we could eliminate many dropouts by starting in the primary grades and getting the children genuinely interested in their work."

Gross outlined other procedures now in progress which he expects to continue to combat the dropout dilemma. They included:

—Combination work-study programs which enable students to work while attending school.

—Counseling programs, encouraging potential dropouts to remain in school.

—Contacting programs, attempting to persuade those who already have left school to return to their studies.

Team Teaching
Dr. Gross believes that team teaching may help relieve the problem of overlarge classes in New York. Team teaching, a technique gaining popularity among educators, makes teachers more flexible and able to spend more time with both gifted and slow students. It incorporates a variety of the latest available teaching aids.

Other obstacles confronting Gross include ethnic distribution and culturally deprived pupils, outdated of texts before they even get to the schools — and a possible strike by the teachers.

Charles Cogen, head of the United Federation of Teachers, believes \$50 million should be added to the budget for teachers' salaries.

Gross agrees that teachers should get a wage increase but says he has no firm plans on the size of the raise he will propose.

Hill Assists
The contract for the teachers expires June 30. The Teachers Federation staged one-day walkouts the past two years to achieve their goals and Cogen has indicated the group will take similar action again if necessary.

Gross' right hand man on financial affairs will be Dr.

Frederick W. Hill, until recently assistant superintendent of schools in Minneapolis, Minn., who was named deputy superintendent for business in the New York system about the time Gross won his appointment.

Four Aims
Hill, a personable, enthusiastic man who is president-elect of the American Association of School Business Officials in the United States and Canada, visited with Dr. Gross during the UPI interview before leaving for New York. Hill outlined four aims

in distributing the \$700 million plus budget.

—Make the business administration of schools serve the educational personnel. In this area, Dr. Gross agreed with Hill on an item for which the New York system has been roundly criticized — administrative bureaucracy.

—Sheer mechanics of getting enough money to support needed services.

—Getting the board of education's role as an autonomous body implemented in terms of business procedures. (He believes the school

board should have the right to administer the budget to eliminate overlapping duties, another bureaucratic problem.)

—Getting citizen involvement and understanding to provide properly maintained buildings and getting people concerned about the school system.

Impress Public
Dr. Gross also is anxious to impress the public with the importance of basic education for children.

"The public hears about the glaring deficiencies of the

schools," he said. "We want to show them the good side."

Gross added that the process may not be to institute so many new programs in New York, but investigate the pilot programs now being carried out and see that they are administered correctly.

"There are many fine things being done in New York," he said, adding that some aspects of team teaching already have been started in the city school system.

The New York city school board, which scoured the country for its new superin-

tendent, signed Gross to a six-year contract at \$40,000 annually.

The father of three children, Gigi, 9, Garry, 4 and Glenn, 1½, Gross is an accomplished violinist who was director of the Pittsburgh Chamber Music society during his stay in the Steel city.

Army Officer
He received his bachelor's degree in math from the University of California in 1940 and became a graduate assistant in mathematics at Oregon State college.

Gross entered the Army in

1941, served as commanding officer of an anti-aircraft battery, was discharged in 1945 and returned to his native Los Angeles where he married Bernice Hayman.

The University of Southern California gave Gross his master's degree in 1947 and in 1955 he received his doctorate from Harvard, where present educational commissioner Keppel was dean of the graduate school of education.

During his career in education Gross held several administrative positions in Los Angeles schools, was superin-

tendent of schools in Weston, Mass., from 1951 through 1956 and superintendent of the Niskayuna central school district near Schenectady, N. Y., before coming to Pittsburgh.

Gross leaves his Pittsburgh duties with many regrets. "There is enough work to keep me here for a long, long time," he said. "But the situation in New York is urgent, more urgent than when I came to Pittsburgh."

"It's the challenge of a lifetime," said Dr. Gross in what may be a classic understatement.



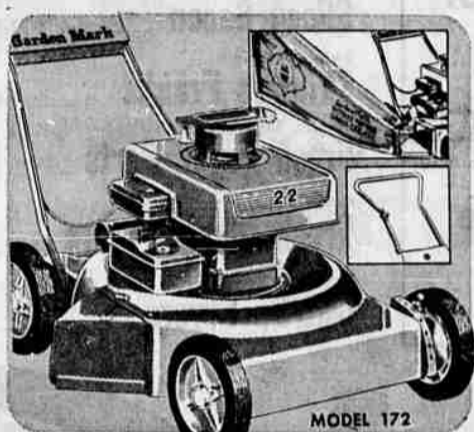
EVERYTHING FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT

1-stop shopping for all home improvement needs.

No money down—with up to seven years to pay.

Free, accurate estimates by Ward home consultants.

Low-cost installation by experienced experts.



BUILT-IN SAFETY MOWER WITH GRASS CATCHER

Big 3-hp, 22" Garden Mark rotary has every margin-of-safety feature imaginable, including a guarded Safety-Chute side discharge. Get 4.95 catcher as a bonus now!

74⁸⁸

reg. 84.90 combination
No Money Down



18-INCH, 2-HP REEL MOWER

84⁸⁸

You just guide it! Recoil starter; Power-Kraft engine; handle-bar controls; 5 austempered steel blades.



SAVE 6.80 A CASE WARDS QUALITY SUPER HOUSE PAINT

Equals or excels house paints selling for much more. In self-cleaning white and fade-resistant colors.

5.89 single gallon 4.69
4-in. bristle brush 2.39

4¹⁹

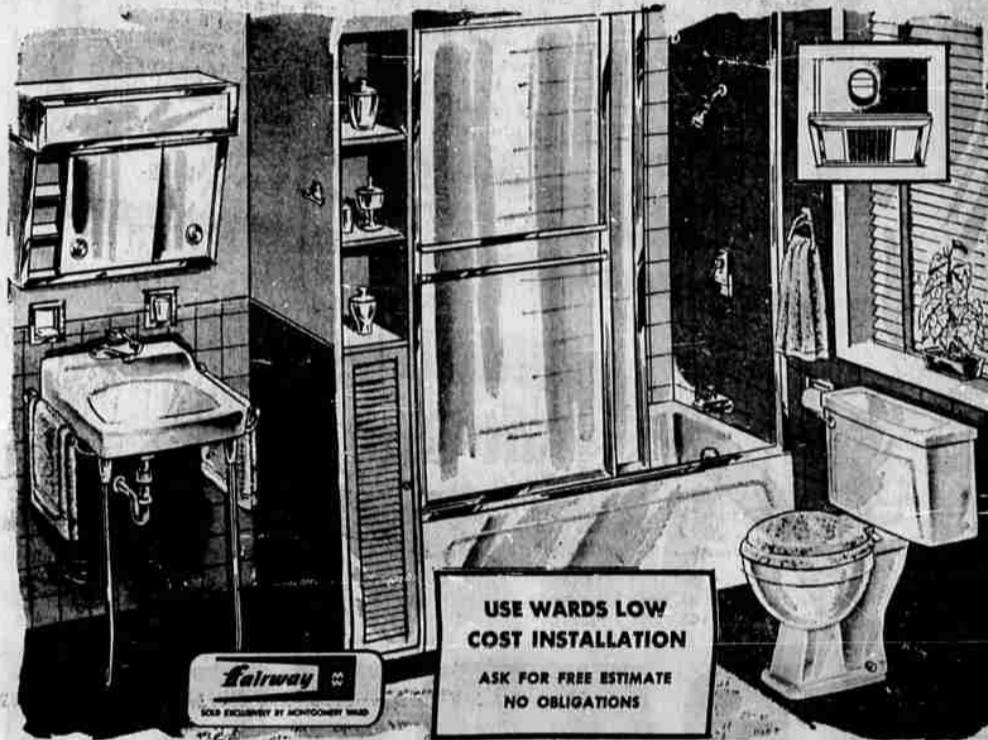
gallon in 4 gal. case
Reg. 5.89 gal.



WARDS OWN 3-HP ROTARY TILLER

124⁸⁸ NO MONEY DOWN

Garden Mark power and versatility—plus power reverse! Unbreakable steel tines, Easy-Spin starter.



\$54 OFF! FAIRWAY 3-pc. pastel bath set

COMPLETE WITH WARDS DELUXE FITTINGS

- Man-sized 5-ft. cast iron tub with porcelain enamel finish
- Handsome 19x17" vitreous china lavatory with legs, bars
- Low silhouette, vitreous china toilet with plastic seat

Fairway—Wards brand—means you get up-to-date styling, quality and low, low priced fittings include faucets, shower-head, tub-shower fitting, and toilet seat. Choice of green, blue or pink pastels. Other accessories shown priced extra.

\$182

REG. 236.65—NO MONEY DOWN

47.50 FAN-LIGHT-HEATER COMBINATION
Recessed in ceiling. Requires 14½-in. opening.....43.88
9.95 SOLID PLASTIC TOILET SEAT
Won't chip, crack, peel. In white or panels8.88

REGULAR 44.95 GLASS BATH INCLOSURE
Not as illustrated. 1 towel bar design.....37.88
REG. 23.95 SLIDING DOOR MEDICINE CABINET
Not as illustrated. 2-way lighting.....21.88



CARRYING CHIHUAHUA—Actress Jayne Mansfield, who divorced her strongman husband, Mickey Hargitay in five minutes at Juarez, Mexico, Tuesday, arrives in Los Angeles the same day, carrying her pet chihuahua, "Galina." Nelson Sardelli, left, a singer-actor of Italian extraction, arrived with her. He told newsmen they loved each other and "hoped to marry." (UPI)



DRY IN JUST 30 MINUTES! LATEX!

2⁵⁰ Gal.

Brush or roll on Wards Coverall Latex—it's odorless, non-flammable. Tools wash in water. White, colors.



4x8' LAUAN PANEL

Beautifully remodel rooms with these handsome Philippine Mahogany panels. 3.44



2.99 WOOD SEAT

Pressure-molded for extra durability! Baked-on enamel finish, won't chip or peel. White, colors. 2.49



EXTENSION SCREENS

12" Reg. 1.0577c
15" Reg. 1.151.04
18" Reg. 1.701.54



LUCITE TOWEL RING

Surface-mount, chromed metal holder with concealed screws (included); clear lucite ring. 2.69



WOOL-BLEND BRAID

COLONIAL CHARM IN THE SALEM SQUARE MANNER

\$59⁹⁵

9x12" Rug

Crowning touch for your Early American decor—charming braided rug in Wards own Salem Square® tradition! 50% wool, 30% rayon, 20% other fibers, blended beautifully to give long life, clear, lasting color.

22x44", 5.95 34x54", 9.95
4x6", 16.95 6x9", 37.95
8x10", 54.95 10x14", 92.95

*All oval rug sizes are approximate.

NO MONEY DOWN ON ANY CREDIT PURCHASE AT MONTGOMERY WARD