

# Dr. Elmo Stevenson Impressed With What He Saw in Egypt

By GEORGE H. BELL  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Ashland—The president of Southern Oregon college has returned to this country visibly impressed with what he saw during a one-month's visit to Egypt.

Dr. Elmo Stevenson was selected by the American Association of Teacher Education as a member of a seven-man team of educators to make the excursion as part of a program sponsored by the U.S. state department in cooperation with the United Arab Republic.

The team, which was composed of three presidents of state colleges and four deans of schools of education at major universities, was assigned the specific task of studying the teacher education program in the north African country.

**On Geographical Basis**  
The team members were selected on a geographical basis, and Dr. Stevenson represented the far west in the group. The seven educators left New York by plane on March 31. They arrived in Egypt on April 2 and spent the remainder of the month observing all aspects of contemporary Egyptian culture.

Dr. Stevenson said his group was conducted on guided tours throughout the country under the auspices of the Egyptian ministries of education and higher education.

Wednesday, relaxed and smiling, the white-haired college president talked with a group of newsmen in his office about his experiences in Egypt and the impressions he had gained as a result of them.

### 'Revolution' Taking Place

He said the most interesting thing to him was the "revolution" that has and is taking place in Egypt, a revolution that Dr. Stevenson described collectively as "Nasserism," in reference to Gamal Abdul Nasser, the president of Egypt.

Nasserism is manifesting itself in at least three major ways, he said, in a movement to unify all the Arab states, in development of a "new kind of socialism the world has never seen before," and in increased freedom and opportunity for the Egyptian people.

Nasser seeks confederation of all Arab states into a non-aligned power bloc favoring neither the East nor the West. Dr. Stevenson said he expects to see this goal accomplished "in a very short time."

### Industry Nationalized

As part of the Socialist movement, the educator said that most of Egypt's industry has been nationalized and that private competitive enterprise is almost non-existent now.

But he added that the results are surprising. He said industrialization is increasing at a rapid rate and that some of the new factories are larger and more modern than any in this country.

Nasser has also instituted a land reform program, he said, that has broken up the old large estates into small tracts averaging five or six acres, which have been turned over to the people to till. He said that 50 per cent of the Egyptian population now lives on these acreages and farms them on a cooperative basis by pooling machinery and agricultural equipment.

### Complexes Developed

He said complexes called "Combination Units" have been developed in 250 villages in Egypt. These units consist of a primary school, a "cluster of commercial projects," and a medical clinic staffed by a doctor and a nurse and about 20 assistants. More of the units are planned, he said.

Dr. Stevenson said building is going on at a rapid rate and that he was particularly impressed with the superior design and high standard construction of an airport and seaport which he visited. He said he regarded the airport and its facilities as better than Portland's airport.

The major area of his interest was developments in Egyptian education, and there too Stevenson said he was impressed by what he saw.

In pre-Nasser days, about 10 per cent of the nation's children were in school, he

said, but now 75 per cent of the youngsters attend school. Plans call for 100 per cent attendance by 1970.

### Schools, Books Are Free

The schools and the books the students use are free. The buildings often are converted from former mansions and estates of the rich. Classes are coeducational.

Primary school lasts for six years. The next educational stage is three years in duration and is designed to prepare the student for the three-year secondary school program. Foreign languages are taught the youngsters, beginning with what would correspond with our seventh grade, and are continued through the next six years. English is the second language taught, and training also is given in French and Russian, he said.

Dr. Stevenson said he found a strong patriotic fervor and dedication to Nasser and his programs among the youngsters. But he added a conscious attempt is made to indoctrinate the students in school.

### Sing National Song

"Each school day is begun with the singing of a national song," he said, "and the recitation of a tribute to their president."

Asked by a newsmen to

comment on any "flaw" or shortcoming he had observed in Nasser Egypt, Dr. Stevenson said he felt the individual was being subordinated perhaps too much to the welfare of the state.

But he said the Egyptian

people didn't seem to mind, nor did it apparently destroy their incentive to produce. Actually, he said it was his observation that the people seemed to be working with a surprising amount of dedication and zeal.

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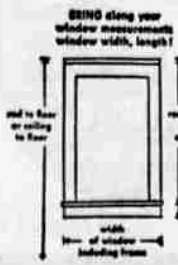
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### Central Point Youth Initiated at OSU

Corvallis - John E. Caster, Central Point, has been initiated into the national agriculture honorary, Alpha Zeta, at Oregon State university.

Twenty-one top students in the school of agriculture were chosen for the honorary this spring. Caster is a junior at OSU this year. His home address is route 1, box 589 B.

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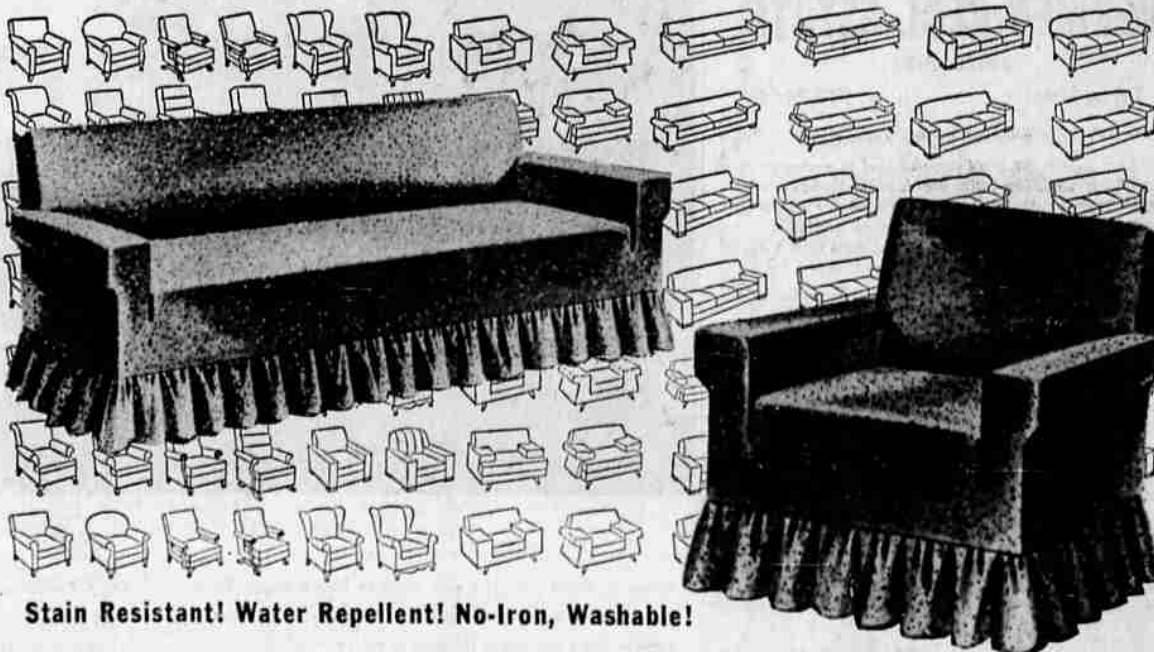
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