Revolutionary New Approach To English Under Discussion

Eugene — A revolutionary new approach to the teaching of English grammar is among the subjects under discussion during the first Oregon Curriculum Study Center Summer Institute at the University of Oregon.

Thirty junior high school teachers from various communities in Oregon make up the Institute, which is the first formal step in Project English, the half-million-dollar project aimed at reassessing and rewriting the curriculum in English language, literature, and written and oral composition for grades 7 through 12.

The national, five-year project is being supported by a grant from the U.S. Office of Education and is headed by Dr. Albert R. Kitzhaber, professor of English. The project was established almost a year ago with the first months devoted to administrative and preparatory work.

At Regular Session

The current Institute is being held during the regular University Summer Session which ends Aug. 9.

In addition to the grammar class, the teachers are attending regular morning lectures on applied criticism and written and oral discourse.

The classes are designed to acquaint teachers, who will be teaching the new curriculum in pilot classes, with the latest information in their field so they can handle the material "with real confidence and competence," according to Dr. Kitzhaber.

The course on grammar is being conducted by Dr. Wayne A. O'Neil, assistant professor of English. It is called "transformational grammar" and is based on the theories of Dr. Noam Chomsky, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who lectured on the Oregon campus last spring.

Combines Aspects

Transformational grammar combines the best aspects of traditional grammar teaching and structural linguistics in an effort to give students deeper insight into the complex way in which their language is put together, according to Dr. O'Neil.

This approach is new, Dr. O'Neil said, and there is only one textbook presently available designed for high school students.

The Institute participants come not only from the Eugene, Springfield, and Bethel school districts, which were originally part of Project English, but from several other districts which have recently agreed to participate.

These are Coos Bay, Beaverton, and Lake Oswego. In addition, some teachers from the Medford public schools are also participating, and the district may eventually become a full partner in the project.

The Seattle public schools have agreed to donate three of their teachers on a half-time basis during the next academic year to help in preparing textbook material, and Helen Olson, language arts supervisor for the Seattle schools, has become a consultant on the project.

The Institute members are devoting two afternoons a week to workshop sessions in which they are analyzing special reports on various aspects of English which have been prepared by university faculty members and others.

From these reports, the teachers will prepare detailed outlines for the writing of textbooks and other curricular material.

The actual writing of this material will be done during the coming academic year by a group of university professors together with a selected group of the Institute participants and other public school teachers, who will be devoting half-time to the project.

In addition to 10 university faculty members, the writing group will consist of the following teachers from the public school systems: June Robb, Nellie Lake, and Shirley Knowlton, Eugene; Grant Mortenson and Margaret Frey, Springfield; Lydia Anderson, Bethel; Eleanor Baker, Coos Bay; Frank Mazzio, Beaverton; Scholastica Murty, Lake Oswego; and Arthur Lorentzen, Ruth Wang, and Hardis Benediktson, Seattle.

Only grades 7 and 8 will come under scrutiny this year, with the next two grades to be studied in next summer's Institute. The new curriculum will be introduced as it is developed during the coming year in pilot classes in the various participating school systems, with a full-scale tryout of the material scheduled for 1964-65.

After testing and revision, the new material will be printed under the auspices of the U.S. Office of Education and made available to any school district in the country which wishes to adopt it.

The Office of Education is now supporting related curricular study projects in nine other universities and public school systems in various parts of the U.S., although the University of Oregon's Project English remains the only such program in the Western states.

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1963

Eugene Attorney To Enter Plea

Portland—(UPI)—Eugene attorney Charles L. O. Edwards has been given until Aug. 2 to prepare motions and enter a plea on charges of holding back money and evading taxes of persons who hired him to prepare their income tax returns.

He was indicted by a federal grand jury here last week.

Edwards appeared in U.S. District Court with his attorney here Wednesday and was released on his own recognizance.

He is charged with holding back more than $10,000 due the government on returns he was hired to file, and with failing to file his own income tax returns from 1959 through 1961.

OFFER RETRACTED

Canningham, England — (UPI) —Last Sunday Anglican Vicar Arthur Moss told his parishioners to go right ahead and interrupt his sermon if they had any objections to make. Responding spiritedly to the invitation, the congregation filled the church with protest. Today, after giving the matter thoughtful consideration, the Rev. Mr. Moss said he would insist on at least seven minutes of uninterrupted sermon next Sunday.

HEAT BEATER—Jeannette Adair has found a way to beat the 100 degree temperatures that have been plaguing San Marcos, Tex., for the past several days. Miss Adair, an underwater performer, packed a picnic basket, then went to the bottom of the Aquarena pool and had her picnic as fish swim by for her entertainment. (UPI)

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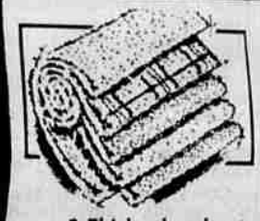

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