

Questions Arise in California Concerning New Teacher Requirements

By ROBERT FAIRBANKS
United Press International

Sacramento, Calif. — (UPI) — The California State Board of Education attracted a fair amount of national publicity last May when it adopted a new set of regulations aimed at enforcing higher academic standards on prospective teachers.

Specifically, the board drew a bead on "education majors," the young men and women who take "how to teach" courses in college rather than majoring in the academic subject they will teach. These students, the board said, were no longer eligible to teach in the nation's largest public school system.

When the regulations become effective next January, the state will grant a teaching credential (license to teach) only to students who have completed a four-year college course crammed with liberal arts training and with a major or minor in an academic subject, such as mathematics, English, Science or History.

Courses Still Required
Education courses are still required, but board members cut their number and con-

fined them to a fifth year of study. Reform-minded citizens hailed the board's action. Board members themselves, under President Thomas Braden, a newspaper publisher, relaxed with the feeling of having completed a job well done. But lately, a slight sense of unease has crept upon several members of the board.

How, they wonder, can they assure themselves that California colleges, which train about two-thirds of the 19,000 new teachers hired annually, will abide by the new regulations?

According to their reasoning, a college with an administration friendly to professors of education could simply renumber education courses under a new heading that would make them appear to be in the realm of "academic" or "liberal arts."

Has Nothing to Fear
A spokesman for the state college system, the largest bloc of colleges in the state, denied that the board had anything to fear. He said that if, for instance, the professors of education attempted to put a "how to teach arithmetic" course under the general heading of "mathematics," the

mathematics professors would rise in arms to prevent it. While the uneasy board members hope that the spokesman is correct, they nevertheless note that professors of education form an important group within the 17-school college system, if only because the schools were founded originally as teacher training institutions. Furthermore, a majority of the 17 state college presidents hold graduate degrees in the field of education and might therefore be sympathetic to it.

But board members base their apprehensions less on present circumstances than on performance in the past. During the three-year battle that preceded adoption of the new regulations, professors of education and professional education groups fought them every inch of the way.

"There is no reason to believe the situation is changing," said one board member. Now, three months after adoption of the new regulations, Prof. James W. Neil, chairman of the education division at Sacramento State

College, called the regulations "a mistake" and said that the schools "will pay for it." Neil declared himself "an educationist and proud of it." He said that he and his fellows believed that the mistake came not with the new liberal arts and academic requirements but with the decrease in professional education requirements.

Neil was most unhappy about the new regulations for elementary teachers, in which the board worked its most radical innovations. Under the old rules, a prospective

elementary teacher needed only a four-year college degree with 24 units of professional education. Under the new system, he or she will need four years filled with liberal arts and academic subjects plus a fifth year with 20 units of professional education.

The cut from 24 to 20 units of professional education may not seem radical, and it is not. However, most of the state colleges were requiring their prospective elementary teachers to take anywhere up to 45 units of professional educa-

tion during their first four years. But now, because of the new requirements, there is no room for this.

Now Have Fifth Year
Thus, the professional educators now have only the fifth year in which to work. And, according to Neil, they do not believe it is enough.

Neil also criticized the board for another provision of the new regulations that bar all but persons who have majored in academic subjects from higher positions in the public school system.

"We want fair employment

and fair housing," he said, "but these new credentials exclude business administration, home economics, physical education, professional education and agriculture."

"This is discriminatory; there is no evidence that persons who major in academic subjects are better educated."

However, the 16-member accreditation committee, composed of representatives from the schools and the State Department of Education, works slowly. At the outset, it will be up to the colleges to oversee themselves.

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PET TALK
By M. I. L.

ANIMAL DOCTORS

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association will meet in Medford next month and will observe the 100th anniversary of their profession. On June 9, 1863, forty veterinary surgeons from seven states met at the Astor House in New York City. From this gathering of pioneers in the advancement of veterinary science was born The American Veterinary Medical Association.

The role of veterinary medicine in the care and protection of domestic animals dates back 4,000 years. Many veterinarians have dedicated their lives to the control of disease and the lessening of suffering in the animal kingdom. There is a close alliance between the veterinary profession and the humane movement, with the opportunity open to veterinarians everywhere to set an example of compassion and kindness.

Perhaps few persons look upon the veterinarian as an educator, but through the years he has been a great influence on the hearts and minds of those with whom he has come in contact. His knowledge of animals, his kindness and consideration of them, and skill in handling even the most difficult have all had an incalculable influence on humanity.

His devotion to a life's work among those unable to speak for themselves has set an example which is a great contribution to humane education.

Voice Your Criticism

We are appealing to all young viewers of television programs to call to their parents' attention any acts of cruelty that they see performed on their favorite television programs. If the program is sponsored by the same company each time it is shown, then it would be also advisable to contact the sponsor and advise him that you are displeased with the content of the shows being viewed.

The American Humane Association, 896 Pennsylvania St., Denver, Colo., asks that they be notified of any act of cruelty, especially willful poisoning of any animal, with information leading to arrest and conviction.

Questionnaires Will Accompany Checks

Portland — Dependent veterans receiving service-connected death compensation payments from the Veterans Administration will receive a special income and assets questionnaire with their monthly checks on or about Aug. 31, according to R. J. Novotny, manager of the Portland VA regional office.

At the same time, veterans who are receiving additional service-connected disability compensation because of a dependent parent or parents will also receive a questionnaire, Novotny said.

At the time parents were placed on the compensation rolls, they were definitely determined to be dependent. The purpose of the questionnaire is to establish the fact that they have continued to be dependent and are still eligible for payment.

Recipients of the questionnaire are expected to return them before Oct. 31. Novotny advises recipients that all questionnaires must be returned by the deadline date.

Since the questionnaire cards will be handled by machinery, recipients are requested not to fold, cut, mutilate or trim them in any way.