

School Reorganization Attempts Racked By Constant Dissension

By DAN WALTERS

Reorganization of Klamath County schools was conceived as a method of streamlining and improving the education of more than 10,000 students.

But in the last several years, since the idea was put forth, there has been almost constant dissension among educators, school trustees and the public. Only rarely has there been agreement, and accord has come only at the price of radical compromise. Often, agreement has been nullified by the sudden changing of minds.

First attempts at reorganization broke down in utter failure. First real steps at reorganization have been taken just this summer—and these steps were painful for all factions for one reason or another.

Even after boundaries for the proposed two new school districts were set by the County Court, the three school boards found themselves in disagreement on the division of school assets. In fact, county and metropolitan school officials have not even been able to talk about division of assets because they cannot agree on terms of school property value.

This disagreement even on terms is typical of the discord that has marked school reorganization efforts here in past years. And there are no marked signs that the situation is changing.

Why this discord exists is a question that has puzzled many observers.

One answer might be a basic distrust between city and county school officials. There have been hints of this distrust on several occasions.

It is indicated that each side believes the other side is out to get something for nothing. Each of the three school boards involved is pledged to protect the interests of its constituents, and this is being done vigorously. But this protection of interests often comes at the price of cooperation.

The idea of school reorganization in the county in recent years was advanced in the late 1950s.

The Legislature in 1957 passed a bill aimed at organizing all territory in the state into districts, each capable of educating students from grade one through high school.

In Klamath County, the situation was exactly as it is today. The county was—and is—organized into three districts, each governed by a separate board of trustees.

School District One educates students in grades 1-8. Its boundaries run roughly the same as the city limits of Klamath Falls.

School District Two operates Klamath Union High School, grades 9-12. This district encompasses the elementary district, but also includes portions of the suburban area not in the elementary district.

The third school district is the County School district, which educates students in grades 1-12 throughout the rest of the county. Some county students attend

county high schools after graduation from county elementary schools and then Klamath Union High.

Although in comparison the Klamath school situation is less complicated than others in the state, it contains the overlapping features which the school reorganization law was designed to eliminate.

The 1957 law required the formation of committees to study reorganization and recommend the best methods of achieving it.

But the Klamath committee, after many months of study, could not reach agreement on a plan and dissolved when the reorganization law expired in 1962.

About this time, Klamath Union High School began experiencing crowding and it was proposed that the high school district take over the responsibility of educating eighth grade students, place them with ninth graders, and build two new junior highs to accommodate them. This would remove ninth graders from the high school building, making more room for 10th, 11th and 12th graders.

Another solution offered was to build another high school.

Both plans were placed on the ballot and rejected by voters in the spring of 1962.

Finally, with both plans rejected, and the situation at the high school growing worse, a 20-member citizens committee was formed, representing every civic organization in the city.

The committee met 13 Thursday nights in a row and emerged with the suggestion that the schools throughout the county be reorganized before another bond issue for new schools be put before the voters.

Meanwhile, the Legislature had passed further reorganization legislation and this appointed the county courts of the various counties as committees to study reorganization.

The Klamath County Court sought the help of the three school boards involved and for 13 more Thursdays in a row, the three boards met together. The boards, however, couldn't come up with a plan acceptable to all.

The boards were stuck on the matter of equalization of tax funds.

Finally, a citizens committee known as Single District Reorganization called for the county to become one big school district, which would eliminate all questions of equalization and division of assets.

Upon receipt of a petition, the suggestion was placed on the June 10, 1963, ballot.

Voters in the city elementary school district were to choose whether they would join the county school district. County voters were asked if they would accept the city elementary district. If both units approved the merger, the Klamath Union High School District would be eliminated and the county would be one big district. But rejection by either unit would doom the plan.

Campaign both for and against

the proposal was heavy, and in the final tally, county voters overwhelmingly rejected the plan, 4,086-547. The plan passed narrowly in the elementary district, 706-618.

The defeat of the plan was hailed as a mandate from the people for another solution to the reorganization problem.

Just four days after the election, the County Court, in its function as a reorganizing committee (boundary board), asked the three school boards to submit a plan for division of the county into two districts.

Again, joint meetings were held in an effort to reach a common solution to the problem. And again there was no agreement among the three bodies.

The elementary school board (District One) was in favor of the so-called "Ward Street plan," and its position was supported by the county board.

This plan called for the formation of one school district along the basic lines of the present elementary district, except it would include the Stewart-Lenox area and the elementary boundaries would be extended east and include all the area north of South Sixth east to Ward Street. All the rest of the area in the county would be included in the second district.

Under the plan, the metropolitan district would use the present Klamath Union High School as its high school facilities. The metropolitan district would be smaller than the present Klamath Union district and thereby allow the use of the high school building for a number of years in the future without construction of new facilities. It would mean, however, the construction of new elementary school facilities to take care of students in the expanded elementary school area.

The "Ward Street plan" was strongly denounced by members of the high school board.

High school board members said the plan would force many of their constituents in the area south of South Sixth Street to be "sold down the river."

They said these people would be forced to pay for the expansion of Henley High School, although they have already paid for Klamath Union High, since they would be eliminated from the metropolitan district.

The Klamath Union board proposed that the metropolitan district be formed along the lines of the Klamath Union District.

Finally, in a surprise move, the County School Board switched from the "Ward Street plan" advanced by the elementary board to the "KU plan."

But this didn't sway the elementary board and the two plans went to the County Court.

The County Court, after studying both plans, adopted the "Ward Street plan" a few months ago.

But the old bugaboo of equalizing tax burdens didn't halt.

The County Court, after adopting the "Ward Street plan," sought the advice of all three dis-

tricts on seven matters pertaining to reorganization.

Most of these were technicalities such as trustee elections and zoning of the two proposed districts, but one of the two points concerned the division of school assets between the two proposed districts.

Although the three boards could reach separate recommendations on other matters, the County Court insisted upon unanimous agreement on the division of assets.

And that's where the situation is hung up today.

There have been several informal meetings of administrators and board members, but the division of assets problem is far from solved.

In fact the three boards can't even agree upon terms to use in their negotiations.

The two city districts have, over the years, maintained a constant appraisal of their properties.

But this has not been done in county schools.

City officials asked that an appraisal be done on county school properties, so discussions can take place in an atmosphere of constant values.

But county officials refused to do this, saying an appraisal would be too expensive. They suggested, instead, that insurance company estimates be used as the basis for discussion.

But city school trustees are not inclined to do this after spending money for a constant appraisal.

But even if the basis for discussion is settled, the three factions appear to be widely separated in their positions on division of assets.

The Klamath Union board is still concerned about its constituents in the suburban area who will be cut out of the metropolitan district by reorganization. It is maintained that these people, who have helped pay for Klamath Union High School, will be forced to float another bond issue for the enlarging of Henley High to take care of the expected increase in students.

On the same token, the county board is concerned about other suburban taxpayers previously in the County School District who will be forced to pay for new elementary schools as they join the metropolitan district in reorganization.

As it now stands, the "Ward Street plan" will mean the city schools gain about 700 elementary students and lose about 600 high school students to the rural district.

Division of assets will require the exchange of money to as nearly as possible make the reorganization equitable financially.

School officials expect that this transfer of students with reorganization will not be a sudden thing, but rather be temporary as new facilities are constructed. For example, under reorganization, some students who belong to Henley might attend Klamath Union High for a time until Henley is

expanded sufficiently. Tuition would be paid to the metropolitan district by the other district until the facilities are ready.

One point that might make the division of assets easier is the rural school law. Under this law, which is now in effect, the budgets of the two school districts would be determined and the levy established. In each of the two districts half of the levy would come from the district itself, while the other half would come from a county-wide levy. This form of equalization was written into the law to allow taxes from timber lands to be used for city schools to a certain extent.

This feature might make the financial transition into two school districts less painful.

If and when the three school boards agree on a plan for division of assets, it and the other data requested will be submitted to the County Court. The court then will draw up the final reorganization plan and a hearing will be called.

After testimony is received in the hearing, the County Court then decides the fate of the plan. If it is approved by the court with any changes arising from the hearing, the plan is sent to the State Board of Education for study. The state board will check the plan for compliance with the law and other factors.

Finally, if the plan is given approval by the state board, it will be voted upon by the people of Klamath County.

And years of discussion, debate and study may come to an end.

New Stars Discovered

SAN FERNANDO, Calif. (UPI)—Discovery of stars too faint to be seen, but detectable by use of an extremely sensitive infrared telescope, was reported Wednesday by International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.'s federal laboratories.

Scientist Freeman Hall said the extremely sensitive temperature-measuring instrument used to detect the newly discovered stars also indicated that some stars already known emit as much as 38 times more infrared radiation than previously estimated.

Noting that the hottest stars emit bright visible light while cooler ones emit heat waves with much fainter visible light, Hall said the heat-measuring telescope used in making the discoveries was so sensitive that measurements sometimes were interrupted by heat from insects as they flew past.

At one point, the work was disturbed when heated air currents rose from a cigarette burning 50 feet away.

The scientist suggested that the discovery may require modification of present theories on the evolution of the stars and the universe.

Governor Won't Make Flat Cut In Services

SALEM (UPI)—Flat, across the board cuts in state services will not result if the tax measure is defeated Oct. 15, Gov. Mark Hatfield said today.

He said if the tax measure is defeated "I would be required by law to cut the budget. But I do not yet know where cuts would be made. This would have to be selective."

He added, "The reports of proposed cuts submitted by various state agencies are for information and guidance only, and do not necessarily mean that those are the cuts that would be ordered."

Applying comments Hatfield's comments were sparked by Secretary of State Howell Appling Jr. at today's Board of Control meeting when he said "if institution superintendents want to put out these ideas that's all right, but I'm not going to mislead the public."

At the meeting, board secretary Nick Peet submitted a list proposing \$7 million in cuts from the \$50 million board of control supervised state institutions.

"If the tax measure is defeated this is not going to be easy, it will result in serious cutbacks," Peet said.

Applying said he would not approve such cutbacks.

"I would want time to make an exhaustive study of every operation before I determined which cuts I would approve," he said.

Applying said "I'm glad to hear the governor clarify his position. Nobody can say at this time what specific items would be eliminated. But that's not the impression being given by some state agencies."

Belton Agrees State Treasurer Howard Belton said "I am glad to hear this clarification. I would hesitate to vote to accept these cuts."

Hatfield said "I can't say now which agencies would be cut, or whether they would be cut 10 per cent or 30 per cent."

He said the decision on whether to call a special session would have to be made, and cuts could depend on what action the legislature might take.

Applying insisted cutbacks would have to be selective, with possibly some services eliminated, and others receiving only minor adjustments.

Copies of the proposed cutbacks were not released to the press.

The Court Records

MUNICIPAL COURT

Oct. 7, 1963

Joseph Effman, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Ernest Ward, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Henry Brunette, drunk, \$50 or 10 or 20 days.

Lawrence Hailer, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Ray Lindermik, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Levin Bradsher, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

John Lazarus, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Harold Smith, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Irwin Weiser Jr., drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Laura Hines, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Kenneth Chestnut, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Lawrence Rowell, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Harold Davis, drunk, \$25 forfeited.

Michael Murphy, drunk, \$25 forfeited.

Albert Campbell, drunk, \$25 forfeited.

Milton Sessler, furnishing liquor to minors, \$25 forfeited.

Gerald Lee, furnishing liquor to minors, \$25 forfeited.

Lois Wilcher, allowing minor to violate curfew, \$25 or five days.

Goldie Sommers, allowing minor to violate curfew, \$25 or five days.

Alvin Akers, two counts drunk, \$50 forfeited.

Larry Blohsky, drunk, \$25 forfeited.

Murray Hester, drunk, \$25 forfeited.

Joseph Wahl, drunk and disorderly conduct, \$100 forfeited.

Larry Hosh, two counts disorderly conduct, \$100 fine.

William Beaudette, drunk, \$25 forfeited.

Larry Davis, drunk, continued.

Kenneth Mills, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Robert Huff, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Francis Kernes, drunk, dismissed.

Oct. 8, 1963

Ones Mason, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Richard Bryant Goodman, violation of hotel ordinance, five days.

Claf Herman Carlson, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Oct. 9, 1963

Jack Backen, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Joseph Harold Cook, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Raymond Edward Plummer, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Regan Raymond Clay, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Waldo Fleetwood, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

James Gordon Schifvick, drunk and disorderly conduct, \$30 fine.

Simon Riddle Jr., drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Rose Riddle Williams, drunk, \$25 or five or 10 days.

Betty Kanno, curfew violation warrant, placed on quiet, hearing Oct. 14.

Ideal Location DOWNTOWN Business or Office Inquire GUN STORE

On The Record

MARRIAGE LICENSES

James Charles McKee, 20, Gresham and Charlotte Meedy, 17, Warm Springs.

Charles Whitfield Phillips, 22, Valley Head, Ala., and Lawrence Elizabeth Wood, 18, Klamath Falls.

DIVORCE ACTIONS FILED

HURST—Hazel Josephine vs. Charles Edward.

COLLINS—Doris K. vs. Joe W. HODGES—Hope Corinne vs. Pierce.

CASE—Donna Marie vs. Floyd E. ERICKS—Evelyn Eugenie vs. Vern A. TRUMPOWER—Elizabeth Louise vs. Robert Henry.

COURT ACTIONS FILED

Carter-Jones Collection, Inc. vs. Don and Mary Lou Freeman, et al.

Frank R. Weaver vs. City of Klamath Falls, et al.

State of New Mexico, County of San Juan, ex rel. Maxine Shaw vs. Clarence Shaw.

James L. Chipman vs. Oscar L. Anderson Jr.

Julia L. Gonzales vs. State Industrial Accident Commission.

Carter-Jones Collection, Inc. vs. Clarence and Evelyn Miller.

B. L. Whit vs. Eugene Lynch, et al.

Richard O. Reichold vs. Eugene Lynch, et al.

Carman Smith vs. Eugene Lynch, et al.

V. R. Dalton vs. Eugene Lynch, et al.

James A. McClain vs. Eugene Lynch, et al.

C. H. Skinner Jr. vs. Eugene Lynch, et al.

Kiwanis Annual BENEFIT

SUIT SALE

200 SUITS

Including Some Childrens

Excellent Condition

Cleaned & Pressed

Mon. - Tues.

7 to 9 P.M.

Old Malere's Restaurant

Across Main from Winch

Proceeds for Bill Carson

Kiwanis Park Rest Rooms

Now! See The Complete Line of 1964 British Motor Cars!

WIN

this 1964



1898 p.o.e.

MG SPORTS SEDAN

NOTHING TO DO! Just take a FREE ride and you are eligible to WIN! Free drawing open to any licensed driver!!

HURRY COME IN TODAY!

ECCLES MOTORS

605 5th St. S.W.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The General Accounting Office (GAO) said Tuesday that the federal government was making a costly mistake by renting instead of owning its post office facilities.

A GAO report covering a study of 91 postal facilities leased by the Post Office Department showed that after 15 years, the amount paid in rent would exceed by \$2.1 million their cost of construction.

A COSTLY MISTAKE

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The

General Accounting Office (GAO) said Tuesday that the federal government was making a costly mistake by renting instead of owning its post office facilities.

A GAO report covering a study of 91 postal facilities leased by the Post Office Department showed that after 15 years, the amount paid in rent would exceed by \$2.1 million their cost of construction.

FANTASTIC SAVINGS! TOWER FURNITURE'S

BIG ROOM GROUP SALE

9-Pc. DAVENO and CHAIR GROUP

REG. \$300

\$199

Pay Only \$2 a Week!

- Handsome daveno with double spring construction . . . 5-year guarantee . . . seats 3 comfortably . . . opens to make a double bed!
- Large, roomy matching club chair!
- 2 step-end tables!
- Matching cocktail table!
- 2 gorgeous table lamps and shades!
- 2 decorator pillows!

ANOTHER FABULOUS BUY!

YES... it's true... a whole living room full of decorator furniture . . . for less than you'd expect to pay for the major piece alone! Naturally . . . such value is only at . . .

TOWER FURNITURE!

12-Pc. SOFA, CHAIR & MATCHING OTTOMAN

REG. \$350

\$299

Pay Only \$2.50 a Week!

- Luxurious sofa in modern textured fabrics . . . 5-year guarantee . . . seats 4 . . . opens to make spacious bed for two!
- Deep-comfort matching chair and ottoman . . . will sleep one more!
- Smoking Stand
- 2 step-end tables!
- Matching cocktail table!
- 2 color-accent pillows!
- Magazine Rack
- 2 Handsome Lamps

TOWER FURNITURE

12th and MAIN STREET
Klamath Falls, TUxedo 4-8858

OPEN FRIDAY TILL 9:00 P.M.

No Money Down!
No Payment Till Dec.!