

'Publish or Perish' Rule Topic of Hearing

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District
Are our colleges over-emphasizing research at the expense of their prime purpose—teaching?

This is the question which the Assembly Subcommittee on Higher Education will

New Funds Approved For Garden

Funds for a tram road and foot paths throughout the 87-acre South Coast Botanic Garden have been allocated by the County Board of Supervisors in the 1966-67 budget. The allocation also includes funds for the first of three planned tram stations, according to Glenn H. Hiatt, assistant director of the garden.

South Coast Botanic Garden was begun in April, 1961, when the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, Inc., was organized. It was headed by Mrs. Frances Young. The foundation and a small staff of county employees planted some 40,000 plants on a 3-acre bank which has just been completed by the County Sanitation District.

Since that time, plans have been made to develop the east bank of the garden and a large nursery area has been developed.

Some 10,000 visitors have toured the garden since Jan. 1 of this year. When the tram roads, paths, and restrooms have been completed, the garden is expected to be open on weekends.

Agencies Seek Aid In Office

Volunteers interested in clerical work—typing, filing, keeping records up to date—are being sought by the Volunteer Bureau of the Harbor Area, 1427 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro.

Mrs. J. C. O'Donnell, executive director, said several local agencies have asked for volunteers to assist with filing and records-keeping chores.

Persons interested in the work may contact Mrs. O'Donnell at the Volunteer Bureau any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 9 a.m. and noon.

tackle Friday at a hearing in San Francisco. The committee chairman, himself a college teacher, heads both the subcommittee and its parent group, the Assembly Education Committee.

Acknowledging that faculty research at the University of California and at the state colleges has contributed to many scientific advances toward a better society, he nevertheless questions whether the research role has been encouraged to become so dominant that the quality of classroom teaching may have suffered as a result.

RESEARCH cannot be allowed to rob our colleges of the top personnel and funds which they need to provide quality education to the thousands of new undergraduates who enroll in these institutions every year," the chairman said. He noted that the

recent unrest on the Berkeley campus of the university called attention to the students' feeling that there is a growing distance and lack of communication between college professors and their students.

The chairman said the committee wants to find out whether there is a proper balance in the use of state funds by the colleges for research and instruction.

Behind these questions are several others affecting our sons and daughters preparing for careers through college educations.

ENMESHED in all this is the matter of professional status for faculty members, including both prestige and promotions and salary. "Publish or perish" is at the heart of the problem.

On some campuses, if the professor is to retain his job

or to gain advancement, he must do a certain amount of research, followed by publication of his findings in a professional journal. At other colleges or universities, not so much stress is placed on research and publication and more is placed on the teaching role—the ability by an instructor to stimulate, motivate and teach his students all that he possibly can.

AT MANY large universities, a major share of the classroom teaching is done by graduate students who are only recently advanced beyond their own under-graduate days. Presumably, the professors or department heads exercise some degree of general supervision in the preparation of course material and in the graduate student's conduct of the class, but keep themselves relatively free to carry on their own

research or administrative duties. Thus they often have little or no direct contact with the students.

Another factor is the human element, the capability and interest of a given professor in classroom teaching vs. research. Not everyone is equally adept at both.

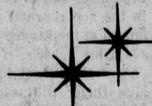
SO WHERE should the line be drawn? What proportion of a professor's time should be devoted to teaching? Are our college students getting a fair break in the quality of instruction they are getting? Going on with the questions, should the state, which foots most of the bill for state college and university support, pay for research at a time when it is getting more and more difficult to find enough qualified college teachers? Is new legislation needed?

All of these matters and more may be raised at the

subcommittee's San Francisco hearing. There is sure to be testimony aplenty on both sides of the research vs. teaching question is raised by the committee chairman. He makes it clear that he recognizes the value of research money's worth all around.

at least some of it—but wants to make sure that the testimony on both sides of the research vs. teaching question is raised by the committee chairman. He makes it clear that he recognizes the value of research money's worth all around.

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