

Big Pressure on High Schools Is 'Just Around the Corner'

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

We Californians are still gasping because of our efforts to finance and build schools fast enough for our kids who crowd them. Though we've gained a bit in the struggle, and have cut the number of pupils on double session down to around 100,000 this year, it's only a temporary relief. The big pressure on high schools is just around the corner, and matters are expected to get worse, instead of better, unless we come up with a really good answer soon.

Of course, the heart of our problem has been paying for the new schools. Individual school districts, with only limited ability to use pay-as-you-go methods, and with authority to issue school bonds restricted by state law to five per cent of their assessed valuation, years ago were pretty much whipped in the fight to house their students. We legislators helped by passing a series of school building loan bond issues, now totalling \$835,000,000, all of which have been approved by the voters, and also made an additional \$75,000,000 available from other sources. While these loans eased the situation greatly, most of us realized they could be only a stop-gap device.

OUR SEARCH for the best solution possible has continued over the years. At every budget session we have been confronted by the necessity of deciding how big a bond issue to put on the next ballot, or of finding a better answer. Also we have had to maintain that delicate balance between local autonomy in administration of public school affairs and centralized control which might be required in the interests of economy and the equitable treatment of all the many school districts.

An important suggestion as to a possible solution of this troublesome perplexity has been advanced after years of impartial study by a civic or-

ganization of world-wide reputation, the Commonwealth Club of California. In brief, the recommendation is that state assistance to districts for school construction costs be put on a permanent basis similar to the "foundation" system by which the state now participates in the costs of operating our public school system. So significant is the suggestion regarded that the Joint Legislative Budget Committee has instructed our legislative analyst and his staff to investigate its possibilities thoroughly, in preparation for our 1960 budget session.

IN ITS essentials the proposal would call for legislation to establish a basic "foundation" grant to each district for construction costs of schools on a minimum basis, and then for additional grants to "impoverished" districts on the basis of need. The precise formula would be worked out by legislation, but would probably be similar to that now being used for operating grants to school districts.

Proponents of the idea maintain that it is based on sound principles which will do much to even the load on taxpayers all over the state. They argue that it will preserve local control over public school administration, will encourage local participation in school building costs, and will put an end to unequal assessment of property without upsetting local assessment practices.

It will not be an easy task to develop legislation embodying the proposal. Other efforts to do so have shown that many difficulties may arise. That is why the joint committee has requested the preliminary study.

Whatever the outcome of the investigation, its results will not be wasted. The problem of new school construction is so huge that all the facts possible must be found to aid in getting the correct answer.

Next year's children must find the classrooms ready when they need them, and they will.

Indecent Literature Problem To Be Aired by San Pedro Club

Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the San Pedro Woman's Club, at the corner of 11th and Gaffey Sts. in San Pedro, the Women For Good Government will be addressed by Dr. Donald Cortum on the problem of distribution of indecent literature.

Dr. Cortum, past president of the Bay-Harbor Osteopathic Society, is well versed on his subject. He was appointed by Mayor Isen of Torrance to serve as chairman of a committee which was set up to investigate the sale of indecent literature. Since assuming the responsibilities of the committee, Dr. Cortum has accumulated a wealth of vital information on this subject.

When asked if the problem was of a local nature only, the doctor replied, "The distribution of indecent and harmful literature is one of the principal activities of people seeking to degenerate American youth. The practice of distributing such material is far wider and deeper in scope than I visualized before accepting the Torrance City Council appointment."

Since the Torrance committee submitted its report, many other city councils have created the same type of committee in their towns which have patterned their operation after the Torrance committee.

The National PTA and the United Church Women of America have affirmed their position of opposition to the indiscriminate distribution of indecent literature. Because of their courageous stand, Mrs. Clyde Haslet, newly elected president of the San Pedro group, has requested that all members invite their friends who participate in local PTA and United Church Women work.

Father Ara of St. Lawrence Catholic Church of Redondo Beach will deliver the invocation.

Vice-president and program chairman Mrs. Howard Patterson, Jr., reported, "Any individuals or groups who would like to join in a common goal of providing uplifting and cultural literature for our youth are welcome to attend the Wednesday meeting to hear Dr. Cortum."

New Beach Area Phone Books

The new telephone directory for the Palos Verdes and Redondo, Manhattan and Hermosa Beach areas will be delivered to subscribers beginning Tuesday, Sept. 29, according to Bernard LeBaron, South Bay division manager for General Telephone Co.

"Anybody who does not receive a copy of the directory by Monday morning, Oct. 5, should conduct the business of office at FRontier 6-2411," suggested Redondo manager, R. E. Frahm and Palos Verdes manager, John M. White.

The managers suggested subscribers notice the important information contained in the first few pages of their new directories. Of particular importance is remembering to mark your police and fire department telephone numbers in red.

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RED NICHOLS OPENS AT MARINELAND TUESDAY

Red Nichols, the musical idol of the 20's and a current Capitol Records star, will open Tuesday night, Sept. 22, with his "Five Pennies" in a return headline engagement at the Marineland Restaurant in Palos Verdes.

The famous star of American jazz will entertain nightly (except Mondays) in owner George M. Foster's aquatic "Porpoise Room."

Regarded by most professional musicians as the greatest living trumpet player of modern jazz, Nichols recently had his life story made into a motion picture at Paramount, with Danny Kaye starring in the film, "The Five Pennies."

One of his latest record albums, incidentally, was actually waxed in the "Porpoise Room" during last year's record-breaking engagement at Marineland Restaurant.

The greatest names in the music world once were instrumentalists in Nichols' former bands, and his golden cornet

Children's Art To Be Displayed

An imaginative and colorful exhibition entitled "Swiss Children's Paintings," sponsored by Palos Verdes Community Arts Assn., will open at Palos Verdes Library Gallery Sunday, Oct. 4.

The show, which is being circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, will be on view at the gallery through Oct. 29.

The exhibition consists of crayon drawings, watercolors and collages executed by school children of Switzerland representing three of the four linguistic regions of the Alpine Republic: Berne (German), Lucerne (French) and Zuz (Romantsch).



SPEAKS HERE . . . Dr. Eugene A. Erny, president of the Oriental Missionary Society, will speak at the Hope Evangelical United Brethren Church, 3343 W. 174th St., Sunday at the evening worship services. Dr. Erny served 20 years in overseas mission fields before returning to the United States in 1950 to head up the Society.

St. Andrew's Women to Meet

The Women of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church will hold their fall rummage sale on Friday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the church, 1432 Engracia Ave.

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Latest News Poll Shows:

Public Backs Steel's Fight On Inflation

Readers of the San Francisco Chronicle, one of the nation's leading newspapers, recently were invited to give their opinions on major issues in the steel strike. The results of the poll, and an accompanying editorial, are reproduced here with permission of The Chronicle.

The opinions expressed were overwhelmingly in favor of the steel companies' determined opposition to the inflationary wage demands of the Union leaders. The results agree with surveys by newspapers in other parts of the country, and by independent opinion research organizations.

Clearly America wants a non-inflationary settlement of the steel strike.

San Francisco Chronicle

Charles de Young Thieriot, Editor and Publisher
George T. Cameron, Publisher 1925 to 1955
Founded 1865 by Charles and M. H. de Young

PAGE 34 Monday, August 31, 1959

Public Opinion On Steel Strike

PUBLIC OPINION in Northern California, as revealed by respondents to the August 10 Chronicle Poll, runs in favor of management arguments and against union arguments in the steel strike.

The strength of popular agreement with management's case in the dispute can be seen in a glance at the percentage figures on the ballot in the adjoining columns. We confess to some surprise at the fact that the tide of opinion should run against labor's case in every one of the first five categories, but that is surely what the responses indicate.

For example, 47 per cent say the union bears the main responsibility for the failure to reach agreement prior to the outbreak of the strike. While this is short of a majority of all votes, it is still almost double the percentage of those who feel management was responsible.

One of the most decisive votes on the entire ballot shows 62 per cent disagreeing with the union contention that wages should be raised to offset the rise in living costs. Almost exactly the same percentage agrees with management's contention that wage increases demanded by the unions would seriously aggravate inflation. Sixty-six per cent feel that, if granted, wage increases would create a pattern for inflationary demands in other industries.

The steelworkers' union leadership clearly believed that when the announcement of record steel profits hit the public, it would strengthen the argument for a wage increase. Yet the poll shows only one-third thought this high-profits argument valid, while more than half thought it irrelevant.

The great majority agrees that the Government should not intercede to settle the strike by using its full powers under the Taft-Hartley Act. This is covered in point 6. It is the only point on the ballot on which the views that have been expressed by the union clearly prevailed.

THE CHRONICLE POLL

Results of Ballot No. 12 - The Steel Strike - As compiled by the Statistical Tabulating Corp.

- Strike Background: Which side bears main responsibility for failure to reach agreement prior to the outbreak of the strike?**
 - a. Unions Yes 47.1% No 18.8%
 - b. Management Yes 26.8% No 23.6%
 - c. Both sides Yes 21.2% No 17.2%
 - d. Breakdown was unavoidable Yes 9.4% No 29.9%
- Strike Issues: Do you agree with union's contention that wages should be raised:**
 - a. To offset rise in living costs? Yes 26.8% No 62.0%
 - b. To give labor a share in increased productivity of the industry? Yes 28.7% No 53.1%
 - c. To give labor a share in increased profits? Yes 28.5% No 55.6%

- Do you agree with management contention that granting wage increases demanded by the unions would:**
 - a. Seriously aggravate inflation? Yes 61.8% No 30.9%
 - b. Make steel price increases inevitable? Yes 47.4% No 40.7%
 - c. Create a pattern for inflationary wage demands in other industries? Yes 65.9% No 24.9%
- Do you agree with management's claim that steel wages have gone up faster than workers' efficiency?**
 - Yes 58.7% No 29.6%

- Record steel profits have been announced. In your opinion are these profits:**
 - a. An argument for wage increases? Yes 33.8% No 49.9%
 - b. Irrelevant to the wage question? Yes 54.1% No 21.9%
- Should the Government intercede to settle the strike by:**
 - a. Invoking full powers under the Taft-Hartley Act? Yes 30.2% No 45.0%
 - b. Continue only with mediation and fact-finding, as at present? Yes 57.5% No 14.4%

THE STEEL COMPANIES COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation • Arma Steel Corporation • Bethlehem Steel Company • The Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation • Great Lakes Steel Corporation • Inland Steel Company • Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation • Kaiser Steel Corporation • Republic Steel Corporation • United States Steel Corporation • Wheeling Steel Corporation • The Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company.