

A Correction

Garford G. Gordon, assistant director of research, California Teachers Association, points out an unintentional misstatement concerning the Education Code of the State of California appearing in an article in this column in a recent issue. "The Listening Post," Educational Leadership and the author of the article are indeed glad to publish the following correction, based upon information furnished by Dr. Gordon:

On page 324 of the February 1954 issue of Educational Leadership, in the article entitled "Who Legally Is a 'Colored' Pupil?" the following statement appeared: "In California the law requires segregation of children of American Indian and certain named Asiatic parentage." This statement is contrary to fact.

Prior to 1947, Sections 8003 and 8004 of the Education Code did make provisions for segregation at the desire of the local governing board of school districts. Both of these provisions were repealed by the Statutes of 1947, Chapter 737. The Education Code never made the segregation of students on a racial basis mandatory; and since the repeal of these Sections in 1947, it is not even permissible for school districts to undertake such segregation.

JOYCE COOPER

Pending Legislation Affecting Schools

AT THIS writing Congress has just gotten under way. Major emphasis has been given to debate on the Bricker Amendment. It looks now as if it will be defeated, and I believe most people who are concerned with the preservation of our Constitutional system and our relationships with other nations will be relieved that such an amendment did not become law. Congress will then get down to discussion of many of the issues presented in the President's Message to Congress. A good many of these issues are of major concern to teachers. Most of the bills are still in the formative stage so that it is not possible at this point to give the numbers of all bills. By the time

this issue is in print many of these bills will be on the floor and their numbers may be obtained from the Congressional Record or by writing your Congressmen.

Following is a brief discussion of some of the proposed legislation.

Federal Aid to Education

Although there is little chance of any comprehensive bills for federal aid to education this year, the question is not a dead issue. Educators will continue to push for legislation which would give direct aid for teachers' salaries to equalize educational opportunities in the various states. There is, however, more possibility of other education

bills coming to the floor. Two good bills for school construction are the Humphrey Bill (S536) and Cooper Bill (S2601). The Murray Bill of the last Congress for scholarship loans to students also merits our support, as should the bills for help to schools in areas affected by federal programs.

The school lunch program will need twice as large an appropriation as last year's if it is to meet its needs. This item will be included in the appropriation bills. Medical examination, another service to children, was presented by Senator Douglas in the 81st Congress. It passed the Senate but was killed in the House. This legislation should be re-activated.

Social Security

President Eisenhower in his message to Congress called for extension of social security to ten and one-half million persons now excluded, for higher minimum benefits, and for modification of the present "work clauses" under which an individual loses his entire benefit in any month in which he earns \$75 or more through employment. Teachers should be interested in these proposals because many persons employed in public service are not covered by state or local pension systems. (Frequently cafeteria workers and other school employees have no coverage.) Some of the bills also extend coverage to those state and local employees now covered by other pension plans. Such provisions would include teachers. Local and state pension payments would be supplemented by social security—not replaced by it. This type of benefit would be especially valuable to teachers in states where pensions are small and to persons who move into and out of the teaching profession. Whether the bills are extended to teachers or not, we should be interested

in preserving and extending the essential features of our social security system. Certain powerful groups are lobbying for legislation which would reduce the prescribed payroll tax and destroy the insurance features of OASI. Such legislation should be opposed.

Health Programs

Recent data released by the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Chicago reveals the alarming fact that 16 percent of our population goes into debt yearly for health service. One million persons spend over half of their income for sickness costs.

Although voluntary health insurance has increased tremendously in the past ten years, and 57 percent of the population now have some type of hospitalization, most persons holding this kind of insurance are in salary brackets above \$5,000. The present administration does not favor any form of national health insurance or direct aid to states for insurance, but the President's Message did suggest certain measures which might help provide more medical service for the country. It suggested broadening the present Hospital Survey and Construction Act, and providing re-insurance for private and non-profit insurance companies so that they can offer broader protection to more families. The House Commerce Committee has resumed its health inquiry and Chairman Charles A. Wolverton (R., N. J.) has stated that consideration should also be given to legislation which would permit deduction for income tax purposes of payments made to medical insurance plans; and to provide for an increased number of medical students and nurses. All teachers will want to encourage legislation extending health services.

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