

Curriculum News

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- Throughout this year and next, many curriculum planners will cooperate with others in some phase of the preparatory work for the 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth to be held in March 1960. Such participation will provide new opportunities for projecting imaginative approaches to the problem of how to bridge the gap between knowledge about children and aspirations for them and the programs schools sponsor.

- Those concerned with the problem of secondary school curriculum reorganization will watch with interest some of the projects currently being sponsored by the Commission on Experimental Study of the Utilization of the Staff in the Secondary School, a commission of the National Association of Secondary-School Principals. With support from the Educational Division of the Ford Foundation, this study consists of a number of widely differing kinds of projects under way in secondary schools. Several of the projects reported in the special January 1958 issue of the *Bulletin* of the National Association of Secondary-School Principals have direct implications for curriculum. As these projects continue, forthcoming reports may be expected to analyze their further development and to evaluate their effectiveness.

- It continues to be good curriculum news when a school specifically plans to make use of the many human resources available to it in the community. Sixteen hundred families whose children are in the Harrison, New York, schools were surveyed last spring to develop a resource file of the names of parents with special interests and abilities, individuals who are to be invited to the schools as resource visitors this year to help enrich the learning experiences of their children.

- Over 500 high school teachers are participating in a program to understand newer concepts of mathematics. Planned by the Metropolitan School Study Council, the program involves from 65-70 hours of instruction at three centers—one for Northern New Jersey, one for Southern New York and Connecticut, and one for Long Island. Mathematics professors staff the centers and will consult with teachers and administrators in schools. Curriculum reorganization in mathematics should be one outcome of this kind of intensive in-service effort.

- The National Safety Council has released a statement of criteria for the preparation of safety education materials for schools which should be helpful not only to those preparing safety materials, but also, to others preparing supplement-

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tary materials. These criteria may also serve as guides to help teachers select from among the many materials intended for school use those that are likely to be most effective. Single copies of the criteria may be had free from the National Safety Council, 425 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois.

• The Foreign Relations Project of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, which began in 1956, currently involves approximately 1400 schools, 3000 teachers and more than 150,000 students. One feature of the project has been the preparation of a series of booklets on American foreign policy problems to supplement existing social studies texts. In 1958-59, six such booklets are available. A second feature is the sponsorship of conferences designed to help teachers improve their background in the area of international relations. James M. Becker, director of the project, reports more than 30 conferences of this kind in the past year.

• An important conference for those interested in secondary school curriculum change was the sixth national conference on core teaching held October 17-19 at Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, Indiana. Harold Alberty keynoteed the first general session with an analysis of core in a sputnik era.

CAPCI News

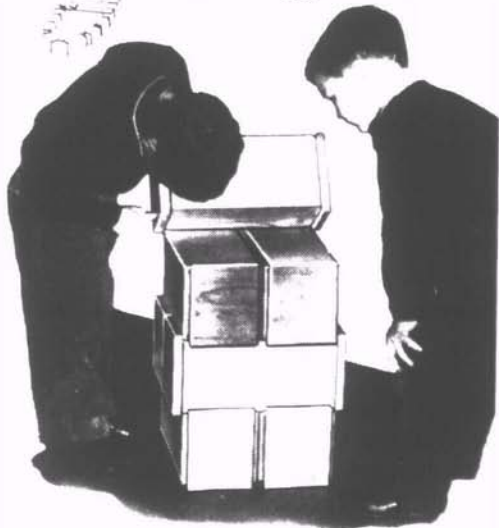
By the time this column is in press, most of its readers will already have been involved in the national survey under way as a part of the Cooperative Action Program for Curriculum Improvement. Others will wish to join in the effort to identify promising practices in providing for individual differences, practices which in their judgment merit further study and evaluation. Individuals

are invited to select and report two such illustrations from elementary and secondary schools. Additional forms for reporting illustrations are available from state and regional ASCD presidents and from the ASCD Washington office.

This undertaking is a part of the assessment of where ASCD resources can be used most effectively to stimulate continued curriculum development in school settings. As such, it represents a task on Level 2 of CAPCI. At the same time, the results of this survey will serve to support proposals for the sponsorship of field research studies involving substantial cost, a Level 3 task. Although the survey is concerned with one of the three large problem areas which define the scope of the proposed program, these illustrations, in many instances, will be related to the other two areas—reaching toward a balanced curriculum and evaluation of learning.

In addition to widespread participation in this survey, many state units are moving ahead in their plans to bring a CAPCI focus to their activities. In some cases, such as with the Kentucky ASCD, for example, Pat W. Wear reports that the October 5-6 fall conference made CAPCI a central matter for discussion and deliberation. The Ohio ASCD, meeting October 11, planned its program around the problem area, evaluation of learning, a continuation of the emphasis given to its summer workshop, its president Martha King reports.

For review by the ASCD Executive Committee when it met in Washington, October 17, the CAPCI Committee presented a preliminary draft of a proposal for foundation support of specific field research studies. This column will report more fully on this proposal as new developments occur in this national project of the Association.



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