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THE duties of assistants in education are set forth in a recent *Staff Newsletter* from the Baltimore Public Schools. Instructional assistants for elementary schools "will assume some of the simpler instructional duties so that the teacher can concentrate on a more intensive teaching program." These include some "manual tasks" that lead to the supervision of "independent groups in the classroom in work and play activities" and eventually to "such instructional duties as testing, story hours, literature presentation, and group supervision." The assistant will also help in collecting and organizing materials, preparing bulletin boards, and the like.

The assistants in secondary education are assigned to "relieve the administrative staff of those duties that do not require critical professional judgment." These duties are spelled out to include:

Assisting in disciplinary cases where suspension is not involved

Supervising locker alcoves and passing in halls during periods of student movement

Handling parent conferences concerned with minor problems or placement difficulties

Supervising the issuing of supplies to teacher personnel when necessary

Supervising of janitorial staff  
Collecting and organizing data of statistical nature.

### **Institutes in Reading**

Seven one-day institutes in reading were provided Montana elementary and secondary teachers in October by staff members of the State Department of Public Instruction.

### **Great Books Program in Madison**

The Great Books program, adopted by sixteen Madison, Wisconsin, schools in the fall of 1965, has been extended this year to twelve more. Organized on a voluntary after-school or evening basis, the program is open to pupils in grades 5-12.

### **Elementary Education Committee in Indiana**

A new committee to study elementary education has been set up by the Indiana State Department of Public Instruction under the chairmanship of Anne Hopman, Director of Elementary Education, Hammond Public Schools. The committee is preparing a series of statements on "positions in education" that will form

the basis of a new publication of the state department for use in in-service education and also school evaluation.

### **McNerney to Edinboro**

Chester McNerney has moved into the presidency of Edinboro State College, Pennsylvania, from the deanship of the University of Akron College of Education.

### **Social Studies Fair**

The third annual social studies fair at Swanson Elementary School (South Bend, Indiana) attracted 217 entries. The sixteen judges awarded 26 first place ribbons.

### **Iowa Telewriter Project Launched**

Six counties have joined to develop the Northeast Iowa Telewriter Project, approved under ESEA's Title I. Co-operating with the counties is the State Department of Public Instruction. Equipment includes the Victor Electro-writer Remote Blackboard Systems and the Bell "Tele-Lecture" Amplified Telephone Conference Sets. The primary purpose is to establish a more effective method for continuous in-service education for teachers of educationally deprived pupils.

### **Overseas ETV Personnel Trained at Hagerstown**

Under a new federally financed program, the Hagerstown Schools (Washington County, Maryland) are expanding their service to overseas personnel who come there to learn more about educational television. Under the coordination of David Miles, executive producer of televised instruction for the school system, the participants study writing,

producing, directing, and camera operation. Trainees have come from Uganda, Nigeria and Jamaica.

### **State Help in In-service Education**

The Wisconsin State Department of Public Instruction has added a new assistant superintendent in charge of teacher education, Allan Slagle. His work will center on assisting school districts to upgrade their in-service education programs. The staff of the department has also been augmented with new supervisors in many areas, including reading, social studies and English.

### **Action on Racial Balance**

When Massachusetts became the first state to adopt a state law requiring racial balance in the public schools (Chapter 641 of the Acts of 1965), the Springfield Public Schools began to plan how to meet the new demands. The law provides that any school system with schools having more than 50 percent non-white pupils must correct the situation or face loss of state aid.

By change of district lines, adoption of a modified open enrollment policy with free transportation of pupils, and the abandonment of one school (built in 1898), the Springfield schools opened this fall with the reassignment of somewhat more than 2200 pupils and the conviction that "a significant step" had been taken "in correcting racial imbalance and improving human relations education."

### **Emphasis on Economic Education**

A recently received list of Omaha curriculum committees includes grade level committees in economic education, kindergarten through grade 12; also, one for

economic education in business education.

#### **In-service Courses: San Francisco**

Among the seventeen in-service courses being provided teachers this year in the San Francisco Public Schools are three in audio-lingual methods of teaching French and Spanish designed for elementary teachers. Two courses are offered in teaching literature and social science through the elementary school library. Another course for elementary teachers is entitled "Understanding Art" and is meant to provide a background for the teaching use of the three art museums in the city.

"Social Change: Implications for Teaching and Learning," open to all interested teachers and administrators, is described as "organized to explore the social changes occurring since World War II. Attention is given to the motivations and circumstances leading to these changes. The educational implications occasioned by the factors of social interaction, prejudice and discrimination are pointed out. The development of insights in the techniques of the improvement of human relations is a major objective of the course."

A course is also offered for teachers of a senior high school social studies course bearing the title "Great Decisions—1967." The in-service course is described as follows: "A decision-making, thematic, and historical approach to the teaching of current affairs will be illustrated through the use of the eight topics covered in the Great Decisions booklet. The topics are: (a) Communist China and the U.S., (b) India and Pakistan, (c) Vietnam, (d) Yugoslavia and Romania, (e) Spread of Nuclear Weapons,

(f) New Deal in Chile, (g) NATO in Crisis, and (h) The War on Hunger."

#### **Sabbatical Leave in Tucson**

Under a policy adopted last year, nine teachers from the Tucson, Arizona, Public Schools are on sabbatical leave this year. The policy provides half-pay while on leave; teachers must have served seven years in the district to qualify.

#### **Tours at Cowboy Hall of Fame**

In Oklahoma City, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage is offering tours for elementary and secondary students. The tours include a map lecture coordinated with lights that show early settlements on the eastern seaboard and trails west on a relief map that measures 32 feet by 48.

#### **Foreign Language at Shaker Heights**

Four foreign languages are included in the curriculum of the Shaker Heights, Ohio, school system. Instruction in French begins in grade four. Spanish and Latin are offered in the eighth grade, and German begins in grade ten.

#### **Family Camping Program**

Last summer for the fifth year Shaker Heights included week-end overnight family camping as a part of its summer program, with nearly 200 family members participating.

#### **Industrial Arts In-service Program**

Riverside County, California, schools are engaging in a year-long in-service education program in industrial arts based on study of the electronics, drafting, automotive and building industries. The program involves meetings with

industrial leaders and tours of selected plants. The focus is on review and expansion of new curriculum guides.

### **Diffusion of New Science Programs**

Another new venture in Riverside County, California, is an ESEA project in accelerating diffusion of innovative science programs being conducted in cooperation with Imperial County. The project has three aspects: (a) preliminary testing out of a new California elementary science program to be officially installed next year, (b) demonstration and evaluation of selected new programs proposed for grades 7-9 from other sources, and (c) development, evaluation and refinement of alternative strategies for in-service education of teachers using new programs.

The programs for grades 7-9 are: Introductory Physical Science (Educational Services, Inc.); Time, Space, and Matter (Princeton Secondary School Science Project); Investigating the Earth (Earth Science Curriculum Project); Interaction of Matter and Energy (Rand McNally Science Curriculum Project); Science for Life (Greater Riverside Area Curriculum Council); and Inquiry Development Program (Richard Suchman).

### **Survey of Pennsylvania School Personnel**

From the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction's survey of public school personnel comes information that women outnumber men by 22,000 in the total of 97,000. Men have a higher education level, women more years of serv-

ice on the average. As the report puts it, "the female plurality is concentrated in just a few categories: kindergarten teaching, elementary teaching, special education, library services, and school nursing. There are, however, six male nurses in the school system."

### **Topics of Newsletter Series**

Science Research Associates is offering bi-weekly newsletter series this year in the following fields: education and the economically disadvantaged, current tactics for teaching high school composition, elementary trends and issues, the nongraded elementary school, the new social studies, health and physical education, and schoolwide guidance and counseling.

### **Continuing Education Office in Idaho**

A new Office of Continuing Education, under the State Board of Education, has been created in Idaho to mobilize resources in order "to continue the education of our people and to solve the problems of our communities." In Idaho, more adults are engaged in part-time education than there are full-time students in institutions of higher education.

### **Lower Pupil-Teacher Ratio Proposed**

The San Diego, California, schools are applying to the state for additional funds authorized by recent legislation to enable nine elementary schools serving the most concentrated poverty areas to establish a pupil-teacher ratio of 25 to 1.



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