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"THE St. Louis Public Schools have been in pain for ten years." So opens Superintendent William Kottmeyer's most recent report to the community on the condition of the schools. Under the title, *Hard Times . . . and Great Expectations*, the report identifies sources of pain and then points to signs of progress and the prospects for relief.

The problems include:

Decrease in value of assessed property per pupil about 20 percent from 1953 to 1967

Lower income and greater age of city residents compared with those of county

Seventy percent of school children living in poverty areas

About 35 percent of the people in St. Louis supporting a parochial school system in addition to public schools

Undue burden on city dwellers in supporting metropolitan services

Lack of state support (only 26 cents out of each school dollar comes from the state)

Overcrowded classrooms, short supply of teachers (10 percent are substitutes in regular assignments)

Flight of white families to suburb—loss of 24 percent in white pupil population from 1953 to 1967, increase in Negro pupils of 132 percent (present overall: 62 percent Negro)

Reluctance of Negro students to take vocational or technical training that would provide marketable skills

Growing indifference of parents to activities of the parent organizations in support of the schools.

But to balance this "melancholy account of the school system's ailments," the report cites many instances of new promise:

Influx last year of \$6,600,000 in federal funds

Increase in state aid for this year of \$1,736,000, including support of the kindergartens for the first time (St. Louis pioneered public school kindergartens)

Prospect of more responsiveness from Missouri legislature as a result of reapportionment of representation

Many partial programs for relief of class size and teacher load, mostly from federal funds

Success of system's remedial reading program and ungraded primaries

Installation of tests of proficiency in high schools last year, with free summer programs for students failing tests

Bussing of 2,400 elementary pupils to effect improvements in integration

Proposal made to eight contiguous suburban school districts to accept some Negro students.

"Yes, the St. Louis Public Schools

have been wounded and are still suffering pain," Superintendent Kottmeyer says in summary, but the report is offered as "a clarion call to all—to the parents, the civic agencies, the churches, the news media, the business and community leaders—to all who can give understanding and support to a great and noble cause that badly needs that kind of help."

More Language Experiences

Another language development resource is *Access to Learning*, a 265-page teaching "resource" developed by the Columbus, Ohio, Public Schools Enrichment Unit Project. The emphasis in this guide is on vocabulary development. Teaching suggestions are geared to content "cores"—animals, clothing, communications, food, plants, seasons, and so on—and include lists of key words for which meanings may be developed.

Administrative Leadership Services

The Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction has established a new Bureau of Administrative Leadership Services to assist local boards in establishing criteria for selection of administrative and supervisory personnel. The bureau will also assist administrators in solving local problems and "conduct studies and conferences relating to administrative leadership." Director of the bureau is Burt Lewis Dunmire.

Study of Supervision

Under direction of Ione Perry, the Florida State Department of Education is conducting a study of the developing role of supervision in the state.

Teaching Four-year-olds To Read

This year the Children's Center of the Mount Vernon, New York, City School District is engaged in a federally funded experiment on teaching four-year-olds to read. The experiment involves 270 children, divided into five groups: (a) one taught exclusively by modified Montessori methods; (b) one taught exclusively by the Edison Responsive Environment Instrument ("talking typewriter"); (c) one taught in a regular kindergarten classroom with conventional methods and materials; (d) one taught by combined Montessori and E. R. E. I.; and (e) one control group of children not attending school.

School Money:

Where It Comes From and Goes

Another report to the public comes from the Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nevada, in the shape of a leaflet entitled *Stockholders' Annual Report and Budget Digest, 1967-1968*. Under new legislation, 52 percent of the Clark County operating tax dollar now comes from the state ("direct taxes including sales, and indirect taxes including tourism, gaming, tobacco, liquor"). Eighty-four percent of this year's budget is allocated to employee salaries and benefits.

The leaflet contains a briefly defined list of the ten elements in the district's "plan for tomorrow," which includes curriculum continuity ("Emphasis is placed on development of curriculum guides . . . on a K-12 vertical plan"), innovation design ("The development of a master plan of research and experiment with the focal point being a demonstration-laboratory school—rapidly



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becoming a reality"), evaluation blueprint ("Each aspect of our educational program needs to be assessed to determine its relative value for continuation and/or revision for the future"), technological advancement ("We need to develop a district-wide communications center for multi-technical media and make the best possible use of the computer in school settings"), and personnel enrichment ("We are refining and expanding professional opportunities for all employees to bring the latest and best insights, methods, and models in education to our area for the benefit of staff"). James I. Mason is superintendent of the Clark County Schools.

English Council with Two Divisions

The Houston, Texas, Area Council of Teachers of English has reorganized to encompass two divisions, an Elementary School Division and a Secondary School-College Division. Although there is a president for the council, each division will also have its own officers and will plan meetings in addition to those held for the total membership.

TV Math Course for Teachers

Pennsylvania State University is giving college credit for a television course in the new mathematics for elementary teachers that it is offering over educational stations WITF and WPSX. The course involves a combination of broadcast television, closed circuit television, and direct classroom instruction through centers in University Park and Middletown. Thirty-eight half-hour kinescopes have been specially prepared for the series.

Relationship of AAAS Science Program and Xerox

The contract relationships between the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Xerox for the issuance of materials produced by the project, *Science—A Process Approach*, call for the payment of royalties to AAAS and from that body to the federal government. "The copyright is held by AAAS until September 1, 1974. After this date no copyright shall subsist or be claimed and the first version materials shall be in the public domain."

The chronology of the study's development is summarized usefully in an AAAS Commission on Science Education *News Letter* (Vol. 3, No. 2), which also contains current information about the project. (Available from the Commission, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.)

Wide Range of Field Trips

Seventeen field trips were taken last year by Doris Williams' class at the Guilford Avenue Elementary School, Baltimore, Maryland. Included were trips to two fruit and vegetable markets and to a firehouse, a post office, a bakery, and a dairy. Loch Raven Dam, Druid Hills Park, the B&O Railroad Museum, Fort McHenry, and the Children's Zoo were also visited. Big event of the spring was a visit to the circus.

Study of Children's Writing

The Educational Research Council of Greater Cleveland has under way a study that will compare the compositions of 150 children taught to read with i/t/a materials with those of first-graders in the regular reading program.

Today's Poets on First of New Record Series

Robert Francis, Donald Hall, Joseph Langland, and Louis Simpson are the poets who read some of their work on the first recording from the new Scholastic Records series on contemporary poetry. Other poets who will appear on subsequent records include Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Robert Creeley, Galway Kinnell, Josephine Miles, Gary Snyder, and May Swenson. (Available from Folkways/Scholastic Records, 906 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632.)

Language Development Experiences

Language Development Experiences for Young Children, published by the Mental Retardation Instructional Materials Center Project of the University of Southern California (Los Angeles), is a 300-page bulletin that lists innumerable activities that may serve as language sources or stimuli. For each activity, the guide specifies material needed, things to do, and variations of activity. Activities are classified as art, daily procedures, dramatic play, "messy" (cookies, papier-mâché, etc.), motor, and the like.

National Science Foundation Reports

Two useful publications from the National Science Foundation (Washington, D.C. 20550) list materials prepared by course and curriculum improvement projects supported by the Foundation: *Released Instructional Films and Kinescopes* and *Definitive Editions of Textbooks and Other Printed Instructional Materials*.

New Curriculum Guides

Among the new curriculum guides in use in the Toledo, Ohio, Public Schools this year are these: guide to new reading program, K-8; guide to spelling, K-8; junior high school grammar guide; elementary composition guide; and guide to high school biology for slow learners, using adapted national curriculum materials.

Guide to Educational Trips

Educational Trips: A Program for Enriching Experiences in Kindergarten-Grade 12, issued by the Metropolitan School District (Nashville, Tennessee), offers an annotated list of 125 resources for visitation in the area.

Middle Schools in Portland

Conversion of 30 of the district's 90 elementary schools into middle schools over a ten-year period has been recommended by a staff study made for the Portland, Oregon, Public Schools.

Report on Professional Growth Program

A two-year professional growth program subsidized by a \$224,000 Carnegie Foundation grant has been reported in a 143-page publication of the Portland schools. Intended as a prototype of new directions in in-service education, the project covered science, mathematics, home economics, music, and the elementary program, grades 4-6. ☛

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