

ALEXANDER FRAZIER\*

THE Connecticut State Board of Education has approved a set of procedures for use by the Department of Education in seeking out qualified Negro applicants for professional positions. These procedures include:

Letting a specially constituted recruitment committee know about all expected vacancies

Giving the committee funds to develop and maintain a current list of qualified applicants for possible job openings

Giving black candidates preference when all other factors concerning qualifications are equal

Considering a temporary downgrading, under certain conditions, of associate consultant and consultant positions for desirable black applicants lacking academic preparation or experience.

### Three-Level Open Classrooms

Two new elementary schools in Hartford, Connecticut, designed by Caudill, Rowlett, and Scott, feature three-level open classrooms intended to house 100 pupils, four teachers, and several teacher aides.

Carpeting and other acoustical features will cut down noise.

As described in a recent issue of *Connecticut Education*, state department of education newsletter, the space is laid out so that many different activities can proceed at once without interference.

In one section on the main level, for example, some pupils might be seated on plastic pillows discussing poetry. Other pupils might be off in the science corner conducting experiments. Others might be putting on a play on the sunken stage. Others might be busy at enclosed carrels or "think tanks." Others might be watching television. Others might be taking a test. Others might be using electronic equipment on the mezzanine.

The new schools will also combine some smaller classrooms with the open classrooms or "multiple instructional areas," as they are called in Hartford.

### Post-High School Education in Lincoln

The Lincoln, Nebraska, public school system has organized its Division of Post-High School Education into

seven primary departments, each of which also works with programs in the secondary schools where they exist. The departments are office and business education, distributive education, industrial education, home economics education, adult education, manpower development and training, and health service-related occupations.

### Resource Bulletin on Minorities

Seattle, Washington, elementary school teachers are testing out or "troubleshooting" a new curriculum resource bulletin, *The Role of Racial Minorities in the United States*, this year. Prepared after two years of study, the guide includes information about the contributions of three ethnic groups—American Indians, Negroes, and Asians (Chinese, Filipinos, and Japanese)—that will be used to supplement material already available in the regular study materials.

Plans for revision already indicate the need to include information about smaller minorities in the Seattle area,

\* Alexander Frazier, Professor of Education, The Ohio State University, Columbus

including Spanish-Americans, and the preparation of a teachers' manual.

### **Experiment in Group Counseling**

Under the direction of counselor Jerry J. Donovan, the Lincoln High School in Seattle is experimenting this year with the value of a voluntary group counseling program for 25 boys and girls who have experienced "interrupted education." Meeting two or three times weekly during the school day, the group discusses topics of common interest, such as military service and planning for the future. The group selects its own topics for discussion.

Meetings are held at different times during the day, with members agreeing to make up work missed when absent from regular classes.

### **Local Involvement Sought**

The Michigan State Department of Education is pursuing an aggressive policy of local involvement this year in determining state curriculum needs. Many persons who have formerly served on curriculum projects are being asked to assume leadership in the new effort. Also a state Curriculum Coordinating Council will serve to assess and coordinate suggestions derived from the local level.

### **County Mergers in Iowa**

In the four years since permissive legislation enabled mergers of county school offices, Iowa has seen five such mergers, involving 15 counties. The state board of education is now considering a recommen-

dation to the legislature that would require sparsely populated counties to merge, with an optimum pupil base of 30,000. At particular issue is the inability of many existing county districts to provide programs for handicapped pupils.

### **School Libraries Open on Sunday**

After a tryout year, libraries in five of the six high schools in Des Moines, Iowa, are open Sunday afternoons this year from 2 to 5 p.m. The sixth school lacks parking facilities.

### **Urban Education Projects in New York State**

The New York State Department has approved 86 urban education projects with a price tag of \$29 million for the year. The projects include these:

English as a second language, New York City, to involve more than 110,000 pupils, K—grade 12

Nongraded programs, Buffalo, in 10 elementary schools

Evening counseling program for parents and children, Port Chester

Tutoring program, Binghamton, in mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science three nights a week

More effective psychological services in two schools, White Plains (use of graduate students in psychology as interns).

### **Study of Student Unrest**

With a small grant from the Danforth Foundation, the Board of Regents has authorized a study of secondary school unrest in New York State.

### **20 School-Apartment Skyscrapers Authorized**

The first of 20 New York City dual-occupancy skyscrapers authorized by a new state agency, the Educational Construction Fund, is now under construction. Trinity Towers, a 26-story middle-income apartment house, will rise above the present Trinity School, which will also gain a three-story addition.

Three other projects are also under development: a 35-story school and luxury apartment development at 87th Street off Park Avenue; an addition to P.S. 99, topped by a 120-unit luxury apartment house, Kew Gardens, Queens; and P.S. 126, an elementary school with space for 1,200 pupils, to be built under a 400-unit middle-income cooperative apartment project in the Bronx.

### **Two-Story Library Dedicated**

The new University City, Missouri, Senior High School Library was dedicated last fall in a ceremony that honored the retiring president of the board of education, Alfred J. Fleischer, after whom the library has been named. Built in a courtyard of the school, the library is two stories in height, with an interior arranged in multiple levels.

At the dedication, Mr. Fleischer announced a gift of \$10,000 to establish a fund for support of the library. Mr. Fleischer served 15 years on the board, including 10 years as president.

### **Arts in General Education**

The University City school system has received a Rockefeller Foundation grant

of \$232,000 to support a program to forward the role of the Arts in General Education. Twenty-four teachers are presently involved in the development of units of study for the program.

#### **Community News Insert**

For the second year, the University City schools monthly newsletter contains a four-page insert prepared by the City Council of University City.

#### **Senior Citizens Attend Free**

Again this year senior citizens of University City may attend school functions without charge. Last year 150 passes were issued. Events open to passholders include athletic contests, student concerts, some student musical and dramatic productions, and student concerts of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

#### **Two-School Campus**

Kansas City, Missouri's first elementary and junior high complex, comprised of the Mary Harmon Weeks Elementary School and the Martin Luther King Junior High School, has opened on a 17-acre campus. Each school will house 1,000 pupils. Space in both schools is built for optimum flexibility.

Four different classifications of certified personnel plus interns and special teachers of art, music, and physical education have been assigned to the schools.

#### **Sullivan Reading Program**

This year Kansas City has installed the Sullivan Pro-

grammed Reading Materials in grades K-4 of its inner city schools.

#### **Oral Language Program**

The Oral Language Program for Spanish-American, Negro, and Indian children, as developed by the Southwestern Cooperative Educational Laboratory with headquarters in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has its materials under test this year in 144 classrooms in Bernalillo, New Mexico; Odessa, Texas; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Tempe, Arizona; and in reservation schools through the Office of Navajo Economic Opportunity.

Recent refunding has provided money to develop materials that will extend the project from a one- to a two-year program.

#### **School Size in Santa Barbara**

The Santa Barbara, California, school system has set the following policy regarding school size:

Elementary schools—fewer and larger schools, with efforts made to equalize enrollments

Junior high schools—plant size for maximum of 1,400 students, with not more than 15 percent relocatable facilities

Senior high schools—maximum of 2,200 students, with not more than 15 percent relocatable facilities.

#### **Elementary Curriculum Council**

Santa Barbara operates an Elementary Curriculum Council to maintain communication among its 13 schools. Membership is composed of one teacher from each school plus three central office mem-

bers. The work of the council is coordinated closely with the activities of the Elementary Principals Group. Recommendations to the board of education carry support from both bodies.

#### **Double Sessions Less This Year**

Los Angeles has 2,000 fewer pupils on double session this year than last. Double sessions are maintained in 157 of the district's 434 elementary schools, with 27,000 pupils in half-day attendance.

#### **First of Its Kind**

Under new state legislation, the board of the Los Angeles school system has acted to authorize the adult education department to contract with private firms to provide specific educational courses and services through a company's job training program. Believed to be the first of its kind in the United States, the program might include such classes as these, offered on industrial sites: basic education, prevocational orientation, guidance and counseling, and sensitivity training.

#### **Bilingual Materials in Los Angeles**

Mathematics materials in Spanish have been prepared for seventh graders in some Los Angeles schools this year. Bilingual social studies materials will also be introduced on a pilot basis in eight schools as part of the eighth-grade course in U.S. history and geography.

In addition, a new program of courses is being tested out in response to requests from students, parents, and

teachers of the East Los Angeles area for more attention to the needs of Mexican-American students. New courses include Mexican-American Studies, Latin American Studies, American Cultural Minorities, and America's Inter-Cultural Heritage.

### Noise Level at Airport Schools

A recent report to the Los Angeles board of education estimates that it will cost \$3.5 million to noise-condition eight schools in the vicinity of the Los Angeles International Airport. Peak exterior noise level at the schools ranges from 78 to 112 decibels. The district has established 45 decibels as an acceptable noise level. As

reported here earlier, one of the schools has been closed pending a decision about reduction of noise.

### Film on Migrant Education

Now issued by the Montana State Department of Public Instruction in Helena is *Summer's Child*, a 27-minute film on the state's program for migrant children.

### List of Educational Needs

Harriet Miller, Montana State Superintendent of Public Instruction, retiring this year after 12 years of service in that position, included the following list of educational needs in her biennial report for 1968:

- More really good teachers
- A more relevant and contemporary curriculum
- Increased curricular offerings
- Greater recognition of the importance of education
- Improved communication within the school, between students and teachers, and between teachers and the administration
- Better understanding between the school and the community
- More individualized education, to give each person an opportunity to develop his own talents to the best of his ability
- More emphasis on human understanding—between individuals, and between nations and societies.

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