

Office of  
Volunteers for Humphrey  
1722 Hennepin Avenue  
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BRidgeport 4112

*Sp. Till - Oct. 22*  
*mpol -*  
*Teachers*  
FOR RELEASE  
FRIDAY P. M.  
OCTOBER 22, 1954

SENATOR HUMPHREY WARNS OF TEACHER-SHORTAGE PROBLEM

America's future supply of qualified school teachers is dwindling at a time when the school population is expanding, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey warned today in a non-political address before a conference of the Minnesota Federation of Teachers in Minneapolis.

"Despite its importance to our society, young people are not choosing the teaching career in sufficient numbers", Senator Humphrey declared. "Yet the need is really great. The number of new teachers available has declined 21% since 1951. Today there are an estimated 167,000 teaching vacancies in the primary and secondary schools of our Nation. Yet last year the teacher training institutions of the country turned out only 35,000 teachers holding degrees which qualified them to teach in elementary schools.

"This teacher shortage hurts everyone. It hurts all students, because it means larger classes and doubling up. It hurts those in the teaching profession, because those large classes make it difficult -- and sometimes impossible -- for teachers to do the good job they would like to do", Senator Humphrey said.

Senator Humphrey commended the group for "showing as great an interest in pupil needs -- for adequate school facilities and adequate and competent teaching staffs -- as you have about decent wages for yourself".

"Decent wages for teachers are vitally important, however," Senator Humphrey said. "They are important individually -- to your morale and pride as teachers and members of your community. But they are more important in attracting able people into this most important of professions, important in helping to cope with the problem of teacher shortages which now exists.

"We will not have an adequate educational system while teachers are underpaid and under-recognized. Neither can teachers with the best will in the world do an adequate job in schools where more than 35 youngsters are crowded in a classroom, or in schools where youngsters attend in shifts and in schools in which the students themselves cannot take any pride."

Senator Humphrey pointed out that the aims of the American Federation of Teachers with which the Minnesota group is affiliated "are broad and public-spirited", calling opposition to the organization by some school administrators "short-sighted".

"The AFT is not only interested in the wages and the working conditions of teachers -- though this interest is an important and legitimate one", he declared. "The AFT also has long been interested in advancing the whole level of education in this country, and is performing an extremely valuable service in using its influence toward more adequate facilities and resources for education".

Senator Humphrey said he was proud to be one of the only four Senators belonging to the American Federation of Teachers, the others being Senator Douglas of Illinois, Senator Morse of Oregon, and Senator Mansfield of Montana.

LET'S ENTER THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

NOTES FOR SPEECH TO  
MINNESOTA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

OCTOBER 22, 1954

I am particularly happy to be able to be with you  
this morning. It is good to be, not only among friends,  
but also among colleagues. ~~And I feel I am among Col-~~  
~~leagues, not only because I am a~~ fellow member of the  
American Federation of Teachers, ~~but also because I~~  
claim to be something more than a mere card-carrying  
member -- I am deeply interested in the problems of  
education. The fact that I have left teaching for office <sup>Public</sup>  
has only served to deepen that concern.

This is not an ordinary convention; it is an  
educational conference, a working meeting. I con-  
gratulate the Minnesota Federation of Teachers on the  
attendance at this meeting. I understand the Minnesota  
Federation of Teachers now has a membership of 4,000;  
and that Minnesota ranks third among the States in

4000  
members

membership in the American Federation of Teachers.

There has been some short-sighted opposition by some school administrators to the right of teachers to organize. The fact that this opposition has confronted you only serves to do more credit to the attendance at this meeting. For it has sometimes been the case that teachers' jobs have been in jeopardy because they chose to join the American Federation of Teachers and chose to work for the objectives of that grand organization.

It should be more widely known that it is that the aims of the American Federation of Teachers are broad and public-spirited. The AFT is not only interested in the wages and the working conditions of teachers -- though this interest is an important and legitimate one.

The AFT has also long been interested in advancing the whole level of education in this country. It has realized that one very important aspect of this problem is the need for more adequate facilities and resources for education.

We will not have an adequate educational system while teachers are underpaid and under-recognized. Neither can teachers with the best will in the world do an adequate job in schools where more than 35 youngsters are crowded in a classroom, in schools where youngsters attend in shifts, in schools that students themselves cannot take pride in.

*Salaries*  
Decent ~~wages~~ <sup>salaries</sup> for teachers are ~~terribly~~ important. They are important to you individually — to your morale and pride as teachers and members of your community. They are important in attracting able people into this most important of professions. They are important in helping to cope with the stringent problem of the shortage of teachers which now exists in our Nation. Despite its importance to our society, young people are not choosing the teaching career.

The American Federation of Teachers, by organizing to achieve better ~~wages~~ <sup>salaries</sup> and working conditions for teachers, is making a realistic approach to this problem of getting

promising young people to choose the teacher's career.

The need is great. Today there are an estimated 167,000 teaching vacancies in the primary and secondary schools of our Nation. The number of new teachers available has declined 21% since 1951, according to a NEW YORK TIMES survey. Last year, the teacher training institutions of our Nation turned out only 35,000 teachers holding degrees which qualified them to teach in elementary schools.

∟ This teacher shortage hurts everyone. It hurts all students, because it means larger classes and doubling up. It hurts those in the teaching profession, because those large classes make it difficult -- and sometimes impossible -- for teachers to do a good job.

∟ It is also a fine thing that the American Federation of Teachers has shown a concern over school facilities.

This is a deep personal interest of mine, because this is a field where legislation in Congress can be helpful. It is a field of legislation in which I have long been interested.

In 1949 when I had the honor of being Chairman of a subcommittee of the Senate which took up the question of Federal assistance for school construction. The result of the work of that Subcommittee was the passage of Two Acts - Public Laws 815 and 874.

One of these acts provided for a survey of school construction needs in the States -- and as a result of the surveys which were made we now have definitive information on the school construction needs of our Nation. That information is alarming; it cries aloud for action. It shows that this year the country has a deficit of 370,000 classrooms. It shows that in 1952-53 more than 700,000 children were attending school in double or triple shifts, and that number has increased since then. It ~~showed~~ <sup>revealed</sup> that in 1952-53 more than one-third of our school children ~~were~~ attending classes in buildings of questionable safety from fire; 18% of our school children went to school in buildings which were not fireproof at all.

The survey shows that today the cost of building the classrooms we need is about \$12 billion. In Minnesota alone, we need classrooms worth about \$166,000,000. 90% of this for new construction. If the State Legislature and every local school district taxed and appropriated up to the legal limits, we would still fall \$46 million (or about 28%) short of meeting our need for more classrooms.

L This is the immense problem faced by our State and our Nation.

L The other Act of Congress, of which I was also the chief author, provided for Federal aid for school construction in areas declared to be 'Federally impacted' -- affected by Federal activities and installations which provide more school children in the district but which do not provide taxes to meet the cost of added school facilities. This Act established the principle of Federal aid for school construction. Our next job is to pass legislation extending the principle to cover the Federal share of the \$12 billion need for new classrooms.

Minns  
Get help

The Surveys carried out under Public Law 815 have given us the information to go on. We know what the need is. And legislation has been introduced. I introduced legislation in the 83rd Congress. So did Senator Cooper of Kentucky. A bill was finally framed which pooled the best features of most of the school construction legislation introduced in the last Congress.

✓ This bill - an 'Emergency School Construction Act' - would have provided a two-year program of aid for school construction; it would have made a start on the problem.

✓ It would have provided \$10 million for Minnesota over the next two years. But it was not passed, despite the continued urging of those of us interested in school construction. The administration held that still more study was necessary before an emergency school construction act could be enacted.

✓ So we have still done nothing further about school construction. This year, pupil enrollment in the Nation



increased by 1,600,000 over last year. For the remainder of this decade an annual increase of at least a million pupils is expected. The Senate Subcommittee on Education this year concluded that right now we faced an emergency condition in school construction. And each year we are going to add a million more pupils to that condition.

Free and adequate public education for All Americans is one of our oldest and firmest American ideals. Yet we find ourselves engaged in a constant fight for the realization of that ideal. Now, in the middle of the Twentieth Century, when the very survival of a Nation depends upon its scientific and technical advancement, as well as upon the quality and the understanding of its citizenship, our government is still dragging its feet over a situation that finds 700,000 children going to school in shifts like factory workers, that finds us short 167,000 school teachers, that finds half of our elementary schools teachers without college degrees, that finds one in three of our institutions of higher education operating financially

in the red.

✓ The Twentieth Century has faced growing boys and girls with more difficult problems, more dangerous challenges to human understanding than at any time in the past. Our Nation is failing to equip its youth to meet these problems. And by failing to do so, our Nation is failing to care for its own future.

✓ No business would be so shortminded as to skimp this way on research and development for the future. Particularly when its competitors were straining every nerve to ensure their own future growth and development. Yet this is the position we find ourselves in <sup>relation to</sup> ~~in~~ education. As a matter of sheer survival in the cold war, <sup>with</sup> the Soviet Union ~~is~~ putting more resources into education than we are, at least in the fields of scientific and technical education, ~~we~~ cannot afford to fall behind.

✓ And as a matter of humanity, and a matter of building an effective democracy, capable of international understanding

Conservation  
of  
Natural  
+  
Human  
Resources.

and world leadership, we are failing to provide for our first needs.

L Just plain survival in the twentieth century demands  
an alert and educated citizen body. A twentieth century  
economy demands an educated citizen body. And the ad-  
vancement of a twentieth century culture demands ~~an~~  
educated citizen *ship*

Just one more reflection -- there has been a lot of  
criticism of proposals for Federal aid to education and  
school construction on the ground that this would promote  
big government. Of course, all of this aid would be  
dispensed through the States. But beyond that, you  
are never going to get the kind of educated, alert,  
public spirited Nation which can take on local community  
responsibilities until you provide adequately for  
education.

L One of our biggest problems today is the danger of  
a decline in the feeling of community responsibility of  
the individual citizen. Each citizen finds himself

Use  
Can do  
something  
on Ed

confronted with bigger and more complex problems,  
with organized groups, with less time to understand.  
There can be no real responsibility without knowledge  
and understanding, and the basis of democracy on the  
local level, the national level, and in terms of our  
international responsibilities, will surely be undermined  
if we do not provide for the education of our youth.

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One of the really far-sighted organizations working  
to advance the aims and the methods of education in the  
American Federation of Teachers. I am proud to be a  
member of that organization, and I have been proud  
to speak with you today.

Teaching  
Citizenship

U. N.  
Exchange  
Information  
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DEMOCRACY IN EDUCATION + EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY

# Minnesota Federation of Teachers Educational Conference

OCTOBER 21, 22, 1954



GENERAL SESSIONS

HOTEL NICOLLET BALLROOM  
MINNEAPOLIS



GENERAL LUNCHEON

CALHOUN BEACH HOTEL BALLROOM  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Friday Morning General Session - - - - Hotel Nicollet Ballroom  
October 22, 9:30 o'clock

*Presiding:* Miss Selma Larson, President, Minneapolis Women's Teachers,  
Local 59

*Speaker:* Senator HUBERT HUMPHREY, a former teacher at Macalester  
College and member of the AFT, recently elected Vice President  
of the American Political Science Association. The topic of  
his speech: "Let's Enter the 20th Century"

*Panel Discussion:*

General Subject: "Teachers Have Rights Too!"

Co-ordinator: Charles Boyer, Minneapolis

*Members:*

Mary McGough—"The Right to Belong to Professional Organizations  
of One's Own Choice"

Ann Isacson—"The Right to Security, with Dismissal Only After a Fair  
Hearing"

Carl Grittner—"Legislation for Education"

Margaret Bateman—"The Right to Participate in the Political Life of the  
Community"

Carl J. Megel—"The Right of Collective Bargaining"

Friday Noon Luncheon - - - - Calhoun Beach Hotel Ballroom  
2925 Dean Blvd., Minneapolis

*Presiding:* Lavinia Gilson, Treasurer MFT

*Invocation:* Rev. Paul Neale, Columbia Heights Community Methodist Church

*Musical Selections:* Soloist, Kenneth Burns, President Local 710, Columbia  
Heights

"My Friend"—Malatte

"The Lord's Prayer"—Malatte

Accompanist: Ralph Strom, Columbia Heights

*Address:* Miss Roma Gans, "Today's Pupils, Tomorrows Citizens." Professor,  
Teachers College, Columbia University



*"They must upward still and onward"  
Who would keep abreast the truth"*

—Lowell

*Thursday Morning General Session - - - Nicollet Hotel Ballroom  
October 21, 9:30 o'clock*

*Presiding:* Mr. Ben Lundquist, Chairman of Conference Committee

*Invocation:* Father Thomas Meagher, Head of Catholic Charities

*Greetings:* The Honorable Eric Hoyer, Mayor of Minneapolis  
Mr. Walter Cramond, Chairman of C.L.U., Minneapolis  
Doctor Rufus Putnam, Superintendent of Schools, Minneapolis  
Mr. George Beacom, Vice President of the A. F. of T.  
Mr. Carl J. Megel, President of A. F. of T.  
Mr. Henry Winkels, Executive Secretary, M. F. of T.  
Mr. Harvey Otterson, President, M. F. of T.

*Main Speaker:*

Doctor EDITH SAMPSON, "The United Nations, a Record of  
of Performance." Dr. Sampson is Alternate Delegate of the  
United States to the United Nations' sixth and eighth general  
assemblies, and a member of "The World Town Hall of  
the Air"

*Thursday Noon Luncheons - - - Hotel Nicollet*

Social Studies Section, Hennepin Room

*Presiding:* Miss Leona Winners

*Speaker:* Doctor Edith Sampson, who will informally discuss the problem  
of human relations here within the United States

English Section, Room J-K (French Room)

*Presiding:* Dorothy Halver, Instructor of English, Columbia Heights

*Speaker:* Doctor James J. Colwell, Ph.D. University of Edinburgh, Scot-  
land. Staff Member of the Hill Foundation, presently  
teaching World Literature at St. Thomas College. He will  
will discuss "The English Teacher and the Educational  
Crisis"

The Minnesota Federation of Teachers Executive Board, Parlor E

*Thursday Afternoon General Session - - - Hotel Nicollet Ballroom  
October 21, 2:00 o'clock*

*Presiding:* Harry Brown, Vice President, Duluth Area

Musical Interlude: South High Quartet

Clayton Hutchins, Almon Hoye, Ralph Casperson, Bob Rainey

*Speakers:*

Miss Lillian Herstein, "The Role of Organized Labor in Education." She  
is a former teacher, and now President of the Women's Trade Union  
League of Chicago

Mr. Nelson H. Cruikshank, "The Teacher and Social Security." Director  
of Social Insurance Activities, AFL, Washington, D. C.

Mr. George Zaikaner, Administrator of the Official Federation Insurance  
Plan

## Displays

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No Admission Charge to General Sessions



*A Welcome Extended To Everyone*

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- 59 Minneapolis Women, Miss Selma Larson, c/o Nokomis Junior High School, Minneapolis
- 238 Minneapolis Men, Mr. Charles Lobdell, 5229 Portland Ave., Minneapolis
- 331 International Falls, Mr. Fred Williams, 1120 11th St., International Falls
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