

Be careful with fire: There are babes in the woods.



AN AP News Analysis

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court decision upholding local property taxes for financing schools is going to slow but not stop the movement to change the way public education is paid for.

Those who want to reduce or reform the dependence of the schools on the local property tax will shift their emphasis from federal courts to state courts and to state legislatures.

Already there has been action even in states where no court has ordered it. At almost the same time the court rendered its 5-4 decision, Virginia Gov. Linwood Holton signed a bill that

will increase state aid per pupil to \$628, in an effort to make spending per pupil more equal within the state.

The problem with the local property tax has been that one community with expensive homes or a lot of industry could set a low property tax rate and raise more money per pupil than a community with a higher tax rate but with less taxable property.

Federal and state courts in California, Texas, Wyoming, New Jersey, Michigan, Minnesota, Kansas and Arizona had ruled since August 1971 that this violated either state or federal constitutional provisions, particu-

larly the 14th Amendment's equal protection of the laws provision.

The Supreme Court, to the surprise of many, said there was no right to education protected by the federal Constitution. Still many of these decisions may stand on the basis of state laws.

Further, these decisions did not outlaw the property tax, even locally administered. They only said that each child had to have roughly equal tax resources behind him for education whether the resources were spent or not.

Many states which have considered the issue have gone to the further conclusion that spending per pupil should be roughly equal, though the courts did not require that.

The federal Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, a permanent panel of state, federal and local officials, estimated that in 1970 it would have cost \$7 billion in new educational spending to virtually equalize spending per pupil within states.

Despite that cost, the ACIR said in December that even if the Supreme Court ruled as it did Wednesday, this type of litigation "has so dramatized intrastate disparities in spending, that state political leaders will hereafter be under constant pressure to improve the state's distribution of school funds."

Meanwhile, state commissions

in California, New York, New Jersey and Vermont, which studied school finance and reported before the Supreme Court decision, all recommended reducing the reliance on the local property tax in favor of increased statewide taxes.

While those recommendations were rejected by the New Jersey legislature and never submitted to the New York legislature, in California late last year the legislature increased the state's percentage of school costs from 35 per cent to 50 per cent.

In Minnesota, the legislature has increased the state share of school costs from 43 per cent two years ago to 70 per cent this year. Utah too has increased the state's share this year.

As of the middle of last summer, official studies of school financing were being made in 47 states.

"State legislatures really have begun to grapple with this," said Stephen Browning of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, which has coordinated school finance suits around the nation.

"In at least a dozen states, the prospect for substantial school tax reform is very high," he said. "These states are moving because of the inequities in the present system and not because of the threat of litigation."

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Muon Interaction With Iron Subject Of Chemistry Study

Muons are particles that can routinely penetrate several meters of solid iron, and their interaction with iron will be the subject of a newly funded study by Dr. Philip J. Green of the Chemistry Department.

"Since muons can penetrate solid iron so easily," Dr. Green said, "they are extremely difficult to study. We want to examine some apparent differences between positive and negative muons that have no particular reason for existing."

One of the properties under

investigation, according to Dr. Green, is that positive muons seem to interact more than the negative muons in solid iron.

The \$7,830 grant, made by Research Corporation, a New York-based institution, is expected to run more than two years, according to Dr. Green.

Research Corporation is a non-profit institution for the advancement of science that currently grants more than \$3 million each year to support research in the natural sciences and for public health nutrition programs.

CWENS Tap New Members In Ceremonies This Weekend

Fifty freshman women will be tapped into membership of Alpha Zeta CWENS Friday morning in the MSC Social Room.

The Texas A&M Chapter of CWENS, created last spring, is a national honorary and service society for sophomore women based on old Anglo-Saxon ideas and customs. The word CWEN refers to an old Anglo-Saxon word queen or lady, and the society is characterized by rituals from that time period.

"Any girl with at least a 3.0 GPR was eligible to apply for membership into CWENS," said Debi Blackmon, vice-president.

"We had over 300 freshman women attend our tea and 100 of those applied for active membership."

"Of those, we interviewed and discussed each girl—her involvement in campus activities and her willingness to be involved in service projects and other special programs usually undertaken each year," she said.

"There's a lot said about how useless societies are and how they attract only superficial students. All this is too often true," Blackmon said, "but we hope CWENS has more than that kind of appeal. To insure that, the Election Board has tried to pick down-to-earth people who are interested in Texas A&M and don't mind working."

ver-based Education Commission of the States, supported by 44 state governments, said "This decision is going to make it even rougher to get anything done, but the commission is committed to reform on educational and moral values regardless of the decision."

The 9,000 state and local affiliates and 1.2 million educators who are members of National Education Association also will continue to press for tax reform, according to Allan M. West, acting executive secretary of the group.

The following women were picked for membership next year:

- Manette Bard, Pam Barlow, Barbara Bell, Karen Boerner, Judy Brockett, Jean Buttery, Sue Caneby, Mary Corey, Carissa Cravey, Donna Durov, Sherri Ellis, and Robin Elsie.

Margo Heinrich, Cheryl Fricke, Wanda Gaston, Karen Grunwald, Judi Gundersheimer, Monica Hajda, Sara Hixson, Meredith Howard, Pamela Jewell, Debbie Karr, Paullette Lasater, Kathleen Lowry, and Karen Mahler.

Also, Debbie Mills Michele Moss, Rhonda Motal, Cindy Murray, Martha Puckett, Robin Radelin, Ann Ramage, Jane Reed, Diane Roberts, Kathy Rodenberger, Debbie Rodgers, Donna Schroeder, Brenda Scoggins, Patsy Shannon, Sally Slomer, Gradyne Sparks, and Connie Stephenson.

Karen Sterling, Kit Thornton, Fran Titus, Cynthia Walters, Gay Weaver, Marilyn White, Kimberly Wolf and Teresa Wymola.

New members will choose officers Saturday for 1973-74 and discuss CWENS.

Old members will sponsor the CWEN Feast Sunday in the Bryan Woman's Club at 7 p.m. to initiate incoming members and offer new members a chance to accept or reject membership in the CWENS Society.



DR. JOHN E. HUTCHINSON Associate Dean of Agriculture and Director — Texas Agriculture Extension Service

We are proud to announce . . .

Dr. John E. Hutchinson, Director of the Texas Agriculture Extension Service and Associate Dean of Agriculture at Texas A&M, has joined the family of Companion Companies National Farm Life — Agricultural Workers Mutual Auto Insurance Company as a member of the Board of Directors of both companies. Dr. Hutchinson replaces James D. Prewitt (deceased) former Vice-Director of the Agriculture Extension Service at A&M.

Dr. Hutchinson, with three degrees from Texas A&M and his Doctorate from University of Chicago, taught Vocational Agriculture nine years prior to 1945, when he began his career with the Extension Service. He was made the Director in 1954 with service in that position for almost 20 years.

Dr. O. M. Holt, who is professor in the graduate section of Ag Education at Texas A&M, has been promoted to the Executive Committee of Management and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Agricultural Workers Mutual Auto Insurance Company, the position formerly held by J. D. Prewitt of College Station. Dr. Holt is also a member of the Board of Directors of companion company, National Farm Life. Both companies are headquartered in Fort Worth in their Home Office on the Fort Worth-Dallas Turnpike.

Dr. Holt, who has two degrees from Texas A&M—a B.A., Masters in Ag Education and has Doctorate in Education from University of Houston. Dr. Holt taught High School Vocational Agriculture from 1942 to 1947.



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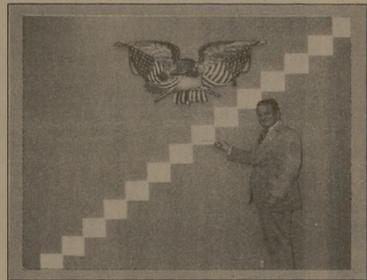


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