

# Researchers Expect Supply Of Teachers To Drop

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "The nation is turning the present flood of college-age population down the spillway when it should be used for generators and reservoirs," Terry E. Herndon, executive secretary of the National Education Association, said today in releasing information on teacher education enrollments.

The study by NEA Research Services indicates that, for the first time in recent years, the

number of college graduates prepared to teach will probably drop this year, starting a trend expected to continue indefinitely "if trends toward improved school staffing continue." The situation has resulted from (a) publicity on the difficulty of getting jobs in teaching and (b) what may be the end of the historic trend of annual increases in the proportion of the college-age population enrolled in higher education.

Expressing deep concern that the nation is already beginning to lose the potential resources offered by the present "wave" of college-age population, including teacher education graduates, Herndon declared:

"There is very little evidence that the nation is taking any actions necessary to utilize this tide of college-educated manpower to increase the nation's annual progress toward desirable goals,

or to effectively employ it now so that the pool of qualified manpower will be adequate to the demands in the 1980's when the size of the college-age population will decrease each year."

Recent enrollment data for teacher-preparation programs indicate that students have responded to the reality of the current shortage of jobs for beginning teachers. Evidence from 67 of the 124 largest teacher-preparation

institutions suggests that the number of graduates completing preparation to enter teaching in 1973 may be smaller than in 1972 by 8,650. Whereas teacher-education graduates made up nearly 36 per cent of the total graduating classes in 1972, the percentage is expected to decrease to 32.6 in 1973 and to slightly under 20 per cent by 1976.

The supply of new teachers is expected to shrink in 1973 but

available teaching jobs will decrease even more — 20,800 fewer than in 1972, if there is no change in the quality of school programs and staffing. The ratio of supply to demand, however, appears to be rounding the corner. The ratio of graduates seeking teaching jobs, to the number of jobs open to them, will improve by 1977 from about 2 to 1 to less than 1 1/2 to 1.

"But if we brought the teach-

ing staffs up to minimum quality levels, there wouldn't be — even now — enough qualified teachers to go around," Herndon emphasized. "Last year, for example, we would have needed 670,000 more qualified beginning teachers than were available from the graduating classes. But what actually happened was that 100,000 teacher education graduates were unable to find teaching positions."

According to NEA Research Services, the 670,000 additional positions needed to upgrade programs fall into these categories:

- 245,000 additional teachers provide special education programs and services for school-age youth now prevented from taking full advantage of regular school offerings.

- At least 21,000 additional teachers for kindergarten and nursery school programs for 5- and 6-year-olds not now enrolled.

- 6,000 or more additional teachers to reinstate a variety of programs and services cut back since 1969 because of financial deficiencies, or which were considered desirable but were not offered for other reasons. These include job-related courses, fine arts offerings, and basic academic courses. The number of teachers needed would be considerably enlarged if schools offered the wider variety of programs designed to serve students currently leaving school before graduation.

- At least 400,000 more teachers to reduce class size and teaching loads to a level conducive to effective instruction.

"Immediate investments in the improvement of public school programs and services, along with the creation of appropriate jobs for college graduates in other fields, will not only raise the quality of public education but also improve the present and long-term utilization of the present wave of college-age manpower," Herndon concluded. "The decreasing total number of children and youth, providing an outlook for fewer potential college graduates in the 1980's than in the 1970's, along with the presently depressed job market for college-educated manpower as a whole, indicate that now is the time to act."

The study on "Trends in Teacher Supply and Demand in Public Schools, 1973-1976" was conducted by William S. Graybeal, Educational Manpower and Higher Education, NEA Research Services.

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## DPC Increases Memory Banks

Texas A&M University's Data Processing Center will enjoy a 50 per cent increase in auxiliary memory storage capacity with the installation of new memory disk drives this week.

Dr. Dick Simmons, director of TAMU's computer center, said the conversion will be undertaken during hours when the center is normally closed, except for early closing times Aug. 1 and 2.

The center's present disk drives will be replaced by 12 single-density drives and 12 double-density drives, according to Dr. Simmons, giving the center a total auxiliary memory storage capacity of more than one billion characters.

The auxiliary storage disk system supplements the IBM 360/65 system's main memory core. The new disk system will offer more economical operation of the DPC, as well as the increased storage capacity.

## Auto Thefts On Decline

DALLAS — C. C. Benson, manager of the Southwestern division of the National Automobile Theft Bureau, has sent letters to the police chiefs of six Texas cities congratulating their departments for the decrease in auto thefts for the first quarter of 1973 over the same period last year.

Along with the congratulations, Mr. Benson pointed out that of the 17 cities in the Southwest with populations over 100,000, ten showed decreases. The average change for the 17 cities was 8.7 per cent decrease — compared with a nationwide decrease of 7 per cent for all of last year — and that, Mr. Benson said, is "certainly encouraging."

According to the FBI Uniform Crime Report, the six Texas cities showing decreases were: Austin, 30.5 per cent; Amarillo, 29.9 per cent; San Antonio, 15.2 per cent; Dallas, 12.3 per cent; Lubbock, 8.0 per cent, and El Paso, 3.7 per cent.