

Survey says Texas schools provide quality education

United Press International

DALLAS — A survey shows most educators believe Texas public schools provide high quality of education, but they would like to see higher salaries for teachers, more parental involvement and more competent instructors, a survey showed Wednesday.

The results of the statewide survey were presented to members of Gov. Mark White's Select Committee on Public Education, a blue-ribbon panel studying reforms in Texas schools.

The committee is considering proposals for inclusion in a comprehensive report to be presented to White March 1 recommending an overhaul of the state's schools. White attended Wednesday's meeting.

The Pilot District Management Process Survey, conducted in November by Si-

rota and Alper Associates Inc., a New York research firm, included 5,000 teachers and 1,000 principals and superintendents from Texas' 39 school districts.

Ninety-five percent of the principals surveyed said they believed their school provided a high quality of education, compared with 73 percent of the teachers.

Fifty-nine percent of the teachers believe they are well qualified for their job, and 52 percent felt that only 1 to 5 percent of the faculty was incompetent, the survey said. Forty-one percent of the teachers believe incompetent instructors are rarely fired.

Ninety percent of superintendents and 95 percent of the principals said teachers in their school district were doing a good job. Twenty-three percent of the principals and 41 percent of the superintendents said too little is

being done to weed out incompetent teachers.

Only 23 percent of the principals believed academic standards for promoting students to the next grade were too low, compared to 46 percent of the teachers. Fifty-three percent of the teachers believed academic standards should be increased before a student can participate in extra-curricular activities, compared to 37 percent of the principals.

H. Ross Perot, the Dallas computer magnate who chairs the committee, said such attitudes indicate administrators are not as aware of the problems in the school system as they should be.

"This is like a failing business and the managers are saying they are satisfied with the performance," said Perot. "The teachers are aware of the problem, but this indicates a large amount of com-

placency on the management level."

Dr. David Sirota, an industrial psychologist who conducted the survey, said the percentages generally were higher than those in similar surveys in the business sector, but said he believed the results were positive.

"It shows there is no morale disaster. Educators are saying 'Things are pretty good, but lets make some changes and make it better.' There's a high level of overall satisfaction. Though they are not satisfied with everything, they are extremely satisfied with the work itself," Sirota said.

Twenty-two percent of the administrators said higher teacher salaries would raise the quality of education, while 14 percent believed more teachers should be hired to lower the teacher-student ratio and 13 percent said more qualified teachers are needed.

Red River may not open due to huge budget cut

United Press International

BOSSIER CITY, La. — A Louisiana congressman warned Wednesday the massive federal budget deficit could mean a cut in money for government projects, including one to open the Red River to commercial barge navigation.

Rep. Charles "Buddy" Roemer told delegates to the Red River Valley Association convention he was one of several congressmen working on an alternative budget proposal. But he said the \$200 billion deficit could force them to reduce federal dollars for all programs, including the Red River Waterway.

"I want to warn you that a portion of that alternative budget might be to cut all government programs across the board 3, 5, or 10 percent," he said.

Roemer also criticized the suggestion that the navigation project be made an issue in the 1984 presidential race in order to secure guarantees of continued support.

"We in America have often times paid a very high price for political muscle because it usually means you vote for my project and I'll vote for yours," Roemer said. "A cynic might say these advocates of 'let's make a deal' really want the candidates to buy our votes by speeding up the project. I know they really don't mean that."

"We hurt the project here and in Washington if we give people the impression the project is just another example of political muscle and deal making."

Roemer's comments came one day after Sen. J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., said he would try to speed up work on the waterway by making it a campaign issue and pushing candidates to pledge their support.

Roemer, also a Democrat, said the project to open the river to barge traffic from central Louisiana north to Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma has been shown to be cost efficient and worthy of federal investment.

"This is the nation's project, not Louisiana's," he said. "We'll benefit first and we might in the long run benefit the most. But the project will be paid for by the nation's tax dollars, and it serves us well to remind the nation the project will benefit them."

The \$81.6 million earmarked for the project in Reagan's proposed 1985 budget is unrealistic, Roemer said, and an amount of money he could not support spending on the waterway.

"I'll spend whatever we can stand," he said. "The project is touted as helping north Louisiana and I think it will. But also of help to north Louisiana would be lower interest rates and jobs, and those will only come if the deficit is lowered."

Edgar Harris, Red River Valley Association president, said the group would not oppose across-the-board funding cuts, but said money for the project should not be reduced unfairly.

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