

## PRESIDENTIAL TABLE TALK

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## LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Elsewhere in this issue are bills proposed for submission to the next session of Congress. We invite teachers and Parent-Teacher Associations to discuss and criticize these proposals. If they meet with the approval of representative groups, resolutions may be sent to the Congressmen representing the different divisions asking them to support the bills.

The most important bill is the one proposing to revise the Educational Act of 1940. There would seem to be unanimous approval of the provisions to revise the present curriculum. The most controversial provision is that one about the financing of the intermediate classes. While it is true that any bill calling for additional taxes would be unpopular, it is believed that with proper build-up, the people will be convinced to share a little more of the support of education. Can the government spend more? If not, would the people be willing to continue with the inadequate school system that we now have, or would they rather directly share a little more of the burden of supporting better schools?

The proposal to improve salary allocation needs no defense. Teachers and school officials might wish to study the relative importance of the positions and determine if there should be changes in the salary rates proposed. Please note that the clerical positions have been included in this proposal.

The proposal to convert into cash the service credit given to teachers for the proportional vacation pay earned in 1941 also needs no elaborate defense. The right to the cash value

of this service credit is a vested right which has accrued to teachers through the years. The recent government policy to substitute service credit for the proportional vacation pay is a distinct disservice to the schools and to the teachers. A reversal of public policy which is not based on justice is obviously a repudiation of the high ideals of government that have been dangled as worthy goals before the eyes of the youth, the teachers, and the public.

A request has been sent to authorities concerned to do the same thing that is now proposed in this bill. The herein proposal will be sent to Congress in case no action is taken on our request.

The bill proposing the establishment of a general retirement system for all government employees was prepared by the Office of the Government Service Insurance System and the Budget Commission. It seems that it will be most difficult to revive the old pension system for teachers because other government employees will object to a special legislation for teachers, especially one as desirable as a pension system. On the assumption that it will not be possible to pass pension legislation for teachers only, we are in favor of the approval of this general retirement plan. Before the bill is officially taken up with Congress, however, teachers should study the plan and suggest ways of improving it. The provisions may not be as liberal as those of the old pension system for teachers, but this bill seems to embody features which make the proposed general retirement fund actuarially sound.