

Ferdie J. Deering

1-8-76

## Federalization Threatens Schools

**T**HE stroke of a bureaucrat's pen in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare appears to have brought every public, private and religious college in America under federal control.

It happened at Hillsdale college, a small independent institution in Michigan, a few weeks ago when it was declared a "recipient institution," even though it had taken no federal aid.

Most state and many private colleges already had made themselves beholden to the federal government by applying for funds, but a few institutions have declined such help. The Hillsdale case has set a precedent for bringing all under federal regulation.

The ruling by HEW that Hillsdale is a "recipient institution" was based upon the claim that some students had received federally guaranteed or veteran student loans. This made the entire institution subject to enforcement of HEW regulations

concerning discrimination, race matters and sex equality.

By making loans and grants easier to obtain, federal agencies have helped many students, serious and otherwise, to enroll. A scandal last summer reflected more than \$60 million in uncollected college student loans in the five state region that includes Oklahoma. Not all of the borrowers attended classes regularly.

Federal grants to support research and matching funds for financing new buildings on campuses also are tempting to college boards of regents, with many made recipient institutions by this route. Officials do not always notice the hook of federal control that may be hidden by easy money bait.

The pattern for extending regulations by HEW, and possibly other federal agencies, into new areas of higher education has been set. Where is the federal court that will overthrow it?

In any federal, state and local pro-

gram, top priority rests with the federal agency in charge. State and local authorities may do nothing except by permission of federal officials.

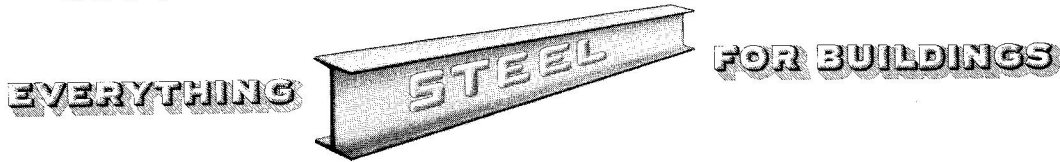
Federalization of local high school and elementary schools has advanced farther than the college regulation, and it may be a preview of what to expect on university campuses.

Probably no school system in the nation, public or private, is exempt from regulation by HEW now. Federally funded school books have been provided for needy children and federal subsidies for school lunches are irresistible. It isn't clear whether welfare for parents would qualify pupils as federal aid recipients.

Even though it is obvious that centralization of control over all aspects of our educational system increases the hazard of having official textbooks edited along "party lines," that is the direction we are headed.

*Education*

# ROBBERTSON STEEL COMPANY



OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73125

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January 29, 1976

R. W. ROBBERTSON  
PRESIDENT

Mr. Ferdie J. Deering  
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Dear Mr. Deering:

Since you transferred to the "Daily Oklahoman", I have not been following your editorials as closely as I used to. However, I was very interested in your article on Thursday, January 8, 1976, "Federalization Threatens Schools."

I have been barking at Oklahoma Congressmen in Washington on this subject for quite some time. It seems our school system is "out of balance." We are too far away from the fundamentals of education:

"READING - RITING - RITHMETIC"

Athletics is the predominant subject today!! We are into a lot of exotic subjects which only a very small percentage of the students are interested in. But when one school begins teaching these exotic subjects, the rest of the schools must follow suit!!

We receive applications from potential employees who cannot count to ten without using their fingers. Their handwriting is sometimes impossible to interpret and the English language is abused. Our educational programs need a severe overhaul.

HOW MANY STUDENTS DROP OUT OF HIGHSCHOOL?

HOW MANY STUDENTS GO BEYOND HIGHSCHOOL?

HOW MANY STUDENTS FINISH THEIR FRESHMAN YEAR OF COLLEGE?

HOW MANY STUDENTS FINISH THE SOPHOMORE YEAR OF COLLEGE?

HOW MANY STUDENTS FINISH THE JUNIOR YEAR OF COLLEGE?

January 29, 1976

Mr. Ferdie J. Deering


# HOW MANY STUDENTS COMPLETE THE SENIOR YEAR OF COLLEGE?

It seems the students who take an interest in law, medicine, or various other specialties are a special breed or "cross breed." The educational system does not take the proper consideration for these special students.

Of course I had a very expensive education. When I was 2½ years old, I learned the full vocabulary of profanity from an ox team driver who was breaking out a garden spot for my father. This garden spot was on the 160 acres my father had staked during the "Run of 89" in the northeast corner of Cleveland County. At times, it seems doubtful that I have outgrown this "early education." I also received some pretty strong "tutoring" from my former employer in the steel business (starting in 1913).

As you know, I have picked up and absorbed a little in the agricultural field (livestock, horses, cattle, hogs, and sheep). An oil developer came along and "punched a hole" in some of my farm land. The hole is about 9,000' deep. The bureaucrats in Washington are not going to let me enjoy it while I am here. I am positive I cannot take it with me. The gift tax is absolutely ridiculous! The inheritance tax is still higher!! The government makes it almost impossible to accumulate worldly goods and more difficult to pass these goods on to members of one's family!!!

Very best wishes,



R. W. ROBBERSON

Enc.

RWR:db

 FEB 5 1976