

Teachers Open Institute; To Hear Outland

McWilliams Talks On Race Issues; State Chief Here

Congressman Geo. E. Outland and State Educational Supt. Walter F. Dexter will be on the program for the general session of the Santa Barbara County Teachers' Institute here this evening. The meeting is set for 8 in the high school auditorium, and is open to the public. Supervisor T. A. Twitchell will preside. The congressman's subject will be "Planning for the Post-War Period." The subject of the state superintendent will be "Planning for Educational Leadership in Wartime."

The two-day institute opened this morning in the auditorium with Harry E. Tyler, Santa Maria high school superintendent, as chairman of the first general meeting and Mrs. Muriel Edwards, county school superintendent, welcoming the teachers, and was followed by section meetings in various rooms in the high school and junior college throughout the day. The Rev. A. A. Heist offered the invocation at the opening session.

McWilliams On Program

On the program today and tomorrow were several addresses by Carey McWilliams, whose controversial talks and writings on race issues have featured his public activities in the state. He was chief of the State Division of Housing and Immigration under the late Gov. Culbert L. Olson regime, but was one of the first men Gov. Earl Warren relieved when he took office.

McWilliams spoke this morning, his talk being on "America's Treatment and Status of Minorities in the United States and Its Territories" and "Racial Relationships in California."

In the first talk, he pointed out that the term "melting pot" when applied to the United States refers solely to white European immigrants and said:

"The 18,000,000 negroes, Mexicans, Indians and Orientals who populate the United States and its territories, some of whom are

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increasing at a rate greater than that of the white population, are today segregated from the white population, and have never become a part of its culture."

He ascribed the feeling of white superiority to colored groups from the warfare that developed between the Indian and the white settler, the bias of Colonial culture in this country and the fact that the first contact with negroes was through the institution of slavery.

The result, McWilliams said, has been restricted public health services and educational opportunities, particularly for the American negro.

"Yet the problems of these racial groups," he declared, "are different from those of the European immigrants only in the degree of skin color."

Urges Integration

He recommended adoption of acts "to change our bias and to achieve the adjustments to realities of the rapid progress being made by these groups—ignorance of which is causing strife today."

Our attitude can be changed toward the negro, he said, much as it has been changed toward the Chinese as a result of the present war.

In his second talk, he referred to California, hot spot of racial problems, as a group of racial "islands" each isolated from the others and each with its own culture.

"We have residential suburbs, we have little Tokyos and Italies and Oklahomas, and we have—Hollywood," he illustrated, pointing out that such diversity has led to an "anti-foreign" feeling in California, the most recent example of which was the war against Okie migration.

Social Stereotypes

"The development of social stereotypes in this state are even being reflected in school textbooks as well as in the press," McWilliams said. "Such stereotypes once barred testimony of a Chinese from a court of law, on the assumption that 'all Chinese are dishonest.'"

Because of its pattern of "cultural islands," McWilliams referred to California as "a society with no structure—a society of isolationists" and asserted: "This state has never achieved population stability or equilibrium."

He asserted that "we must develop an understanding of cultural diversity of the various racial groups if we will trade and live in peace with peoples of the Pacific area," and declared: "The future of California lies in the Pacific—the great world of the future that will be linked to the rest of the globe and notably to California by the new transportation, and which must, if we are to avoid further Pacific wars, be considered in our plans for the post-war period."

The program runs through tomorrow afternoon and is for all teachers of Santa Barbara county except those in Santa Barbara.

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