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UA3/2/4 In-Service Education

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In-Service Education

It has been suggested by the previous speaker that a high school teacher especially may lack adequate preparation in subject matter in his teaching fields. I hardly think there is much danger of this under the present requirements for certification in as much as the teacher must have two majors or a major and two minors. There is of course still the problem in Kentucky that in the small school the teacher may be asked to teach a subject in an additional field in which he does not have as much preparation as would be desirable.

It seems to me that in-service education depends to a very great degree on pre-training selection and in-training guidance. In-service training means continuous growth both in improved teaching techniques and in general education. It involves constantly increasing knowledge of the community in which one works and the solution of individual problems which arise in connection with one's teaching. Obviously unless the person who enters the teaching profession has more than average intelligence, industry, and initiative--to mention only a few of the qualities essential for good teaching--he will not be able to recognize problems much less work intelligently at their solution. The extent to which the teacher in the field enters into all the activities of the community and constantly keeps informed as to modern educational trends

and works to become a better teacher will be conditioned largely by the type of training which he has received in college.

I think we all realize what a great advantage it would be if the members of the college faculty who have been responsible for the methods' courses and the supervision of practice teaching could get into the field to work with the teachers there, especially those who have just entered the teaching profession. This would benefit both parties. It is true at Western and I think most other colleges in the State that we are fortunate in that our teachers of education have had experience in the public school field. It is quite true however that with the passage of time one tends to lose touch with the actual problems which confront the teacher there. Supervision on the part of members of the college faculty in cooperation with the local administrators and supervisors would enable them to do a better job in their teaching in the college because of a better understanding of the problems in the field.