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1900-1907

William J. Kerr

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Letter from W. H. Elson, Edwin B. Cox, C. N. Kendall, F. T. Oldt, and A. W. Rankin

W. H. Elson

Special committee of Department of Superintendence

Edwin B. Cox

Special Committee of Department of Superintendence

C. N. Kendall

Special Committee of Department of Superintendence

F. T. Oldt

Special Committee of Department of Superintendence

A. W. Rankin

Special Committee of Department of Superintendence

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Pres. W. J. Kerr
Director N.E.A.

To the Board of Directors of the National Educational Association and to
the National Council.

Gentlemen:

The acceptable duty was laid upon us by the Department of Superintendence, February 24, 1904, of formally apprising you of its adoption of the two following resolutions, and of respectfully asking your concurrence in them.

Resolved 1.—That the Department of Superintendence approves the first of the resolutions addressed to it by the State Teachers' Associations of Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and respectfully requests the Board of Directors to appoint a permanent, self-perpetuating committee of thirty prominent citizens in different walks of life, particularly scholars and educators, and representing the various sections of the country, to head the movement for simplifying our spelling and to promote its interests in all ways which they find feasible and deem wise.

Resolved 2.—That the Department of Superintendence approves the second of the resolutions addressed to it by the State Associations of Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and respectfully requests the Committee on Investigations and Appropriations of the National Council to recommend to the Board of Directors, and the Department respectfully asks said Board to make, the appropriation of \$2,000 a year for five years, for the use of the above Committee, to be paid to it semi-annually, each payment to equal such a total sum as shall have been paid for the same purpose, within the preceding six months, to the treasurer of said Committee by any individuals, teachers' associations, or other organizations, the amount paid by the N. E. A. never to exceed \$2,000 in any one year, and never to exceed the sum contributed from outside sources during the previous six months.

Permit us to call your attention to the significance of the decisive vote of the Department on each of the resolutions, and also to the significance of the decisive similar action by the State Teachers' Associations of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and by the principals' associations in over 75 of our largest cities and towns, as Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Syracuse, Toledo, Detroit, Columbus, Indianapolis, Springfield (Ill.), Minneapolis, etc.

It gives us pleasure to present to you herewith a petition signed by 1,545 of our active members, asking you to comply with the requests of the Department of Superintendence. We also present, in parallel column, the names of the 171 active members who oppose your taking such action. The vote thus stands over nine to one in favor of your complying with the requests of the Department.

You will notice that while your petitioners pay into the N. E. A. treasury directly, every year, about \$3,000, they indirectly put in much more, as a large proportion of them are superintendents, who are the chief agents in securing the large attendance of grade teachers which we have every year.

To facilitate your action in this matter we submit (on following pages) two different plans which have been suggested and carefully considered for organizing the proposed commission or committee. We submit them in a purely tentative way, merely as a working basis for your deliberations. While we hope to be heard fully when the matter is before you for action, we deem it proper to say here, that, in our judgment, the interests of the N. E. A. will be best conserved by a working organization fashioned in the main in accordance with plan A. But we are not strenuous on this point, and we are sure that whichever plan you adopt will prove acceptable to the Department of Superintendence and to all your other petitioners.

Respectfully submitted,

Special Committee of
Department of Superintendence

{	W. H. ELSON, Chairman, (Supt. Grand Rapids, Mich.)
	EDWIN B. COX, (Supt. Xenia, Ohio.)
	C. N. KENDALL, (Supt. Indianapolis, Ind)
	F. T. OLDY, (Supt. Dubuque, Iowa.)
A. W. RANKIN, (State Inspector of Schools, Minneapolis.)	

On behalf of our respective State Associations, we heartily avail ourselves of the privilege kindly accorded to us of endorsing the above letter.

DAVID FELMLEY, (Pres. State Normal, Normal, Ill.)
Chairman Illinois Committee
on Simplification of Spelling.
R. H. HALSEY, (Pres. State Normal, Oshkosh, Wis.)
Chairman Wisconsin Committee
on Simplification of Spelling.
J. F. MILLSPAUGH, (Formerly Pres. State Nor'l, Winona,
Minn., and Chairman Minnesota Committee on Sim-
plification of Spelling. Now Pres. State Normal,
Los Angeles, Cal.)
C. W. G. HYDE, (Editor School Education, Minneapolis.)
Chairman Minnesota Committee
on Simplification of Spelling.

P. M. J. [unclear]
[unclear]

To the Board of Directors of the National Educational Association and to
the National Council

The receipt of this was laid upon us by the Department of Superintendence
Resolved 1.—That the Department of Superintendence

RESOLUTIONS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Regular Meeting 5:30 P. M., MONDAY, JUNE 27, 1904, Library Hall, Administration Building,
Exposition Grounds, St. Louis.

Whereas the Department of Superintendence of the National Educational Association, the State Teachers' Associations of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, together with many other educational bodies and a large number of our active members and of other prominent persons, have memorialized this Board to create a permanent committee and to provide it with a limited contingent fund for the purpose of promoting and directing the movement to simplify our English spelling, therefore

PLAN A

Resolved 1.—That this Board hereby invites and constitutes the persons hereinafter named to be a Commission on the Simplification of our English Spelling, under the following terms and conditions:

1. This Commission is established to labor, directly or indirectly, with discretion and patience, and with persistence lasting thru generations, if need be, to induce our people gradually, but as rapidly as wise and scholarly leadership may render possible, to adopt such changes in our spelling as shall ultimately reduce it to a simple, regular, phonetic basis, so that all our words shall be spelled as they are pronounced, with one sound for each sign and one sign for each sound.

2. This Commission shall consist of the following persons, or of so many of them as shall accept their appointment within 30 days after receiving notice thereof.

(A list of 30 or more persons, prominent as educators, writers, scholars, business men, etc., and representing different sections of the country, will be nominated for consideration by the Board as soon as this resolution and its constituent sections are adopted.)

3. The Commission shall organize by electing a president, a vice-president and an executive board from its membership, and also a secretary and a treasurer, who may be members of the Commission or not.

PLAN B

Resolved 1.—That a permanent Committee on the Simplification of our English Spelling is hereby established as one of the activities of the National Educational Association under the following terms and conditions:

1. This Committee is established to labor, etc., same as in plan A.

2. This Committee shall consist of the following persons, or so many of them as shall accept their appointment and become active members of the N. E. A., if not already such, within 30 days after receiving notice of said appointment.

(A list, etc., same as in plan A.)

3. The Committee shall organize by electing a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary and an executive board. The secretary need not be a member of the Committee, but he must be or become, within 30 days after his election, an active member of the N. E. A. The treasurer of the N. E. A. shall act as treasurer of the Committee, and as such he shall account for all money placed in his hands for the use of said Committee.

4. The Committee shall be free to make its own rules for the conduct of its business, to determine its policy and methods, to invite, in the name of the National Educational Association, scientific, literary, and other organiza-

Plan A—Continued.

4. The Commission shall be free to make its own rules for the conduct of its business, to determine its policy and methods, to increase or decrease the number of its members, to elect honorary members, to fill all vacancies that may arise in its membership, to affiliate other organizations with it in its efforts and work, to become a corporate body and to hold and administer bequests or other funds for the best interests of the cause which it is created to serve, and to do any and all other acts which its judgment may approve as tending to promote the simplifying of our spelling.

5. The Commission shall keep a record of all receipts and disbursements, which shall be open to inspection at all suitable times by any officer of the N. E. A. or by any regular contributor to its funds. It shall make an annual report to the Secretary of the N. E. A. covering the general features of its work for the year ending June 30, which report shall be published at the discretion of the executive committee of the N. E. A. in the volume of proceedings.

6. The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, excepting the one who may be chosen to act as secretary or agent, who shall receive an appropriate salary. The actual expense incurred by any member in performance of any service to which he was duly appointed may be reimbursed to him.

Resolved 2.—That beginning July 1, 1904, there is hereby appropriated from the current revenues of this Association, for the use of said Commission, the sum of \$10,000, or so much thereof as shall be available after the regular expenses of this meeting are paid, and as shall never exceed the amount contributed from other sources for the use of the Commission, said \$10,000 or portion of it to be paid to the Commission in ten semi-annual installments, each equal to, but never exceeding, the amount contributed during the same period, as above indicated.

Plan B—Continued.

tions to join with it in its work, to increase or decrease the number of its members, and to fill all vacancies that may arise in its membership, providing that any person elected as a member shall be an active member of the N. E. A. or become such within 30 days after notice of his election. The Committee shall make an annual report to the secretary of the N. E. A. covering the general features of its work for the year ending June 30, which shall be printed in the annual volume of proceedings.

5. The trustees of the N. E. A. are hereby authorized and requested to act as trustees for the Committee on Simplification of Spelling, and to receive and administer gifts and bequests made in its behalf.

6. The members of the Committee shall serve without compensation, excepting the one who may be chosen to act as secretary or agent, who shall receive an appropriate salary, to be fixed by the Committee and paid from its fund. The actual expense incurred by any member of the Committee in the performance of any service to which he was duly appointed may be reimbursed to him from the funds of the Committee.

Resolved 2.—That beginning July 1, 1904, there is hereby appropriated from the current revenues of this Association for the use of said Committee the sum of, etc., as in plan A.