

A Few School Facts

2/10/32
With a rather obvious attempt being made to distort the school situation to make it appear that North Las Vegas is being seriously discriminated against it is high time a few facts were presented in order that all may understand, and another inter-community feud avoided.

There is no question but that under normal conditions, North Las Vegas should have school facilities. After being promised those facilities several times without realization, the citizens of that community are certainly not to be blamed for getting rather hot under the collar and demanding some sort of consideration. But there is no excuse for distorting the facts and attempting to arouse public sentiment against the various governing boards that participated in the tax conference earlier in the week, by declaring that Las Vegas school children, under next year's budget, will be afforded "luxuries" while their neighbors in North Las Vegas do not have even the "bare necessities."

It is the purpose of this article to present a few facts which have not hitherto been mentioned—or if they have, seem to have been overlooked.

In the first place, the grammar school district faces a deficit of approximately \$9,000 for the present school year. This deficit will be increased to \$24,000 if the federal government fails to reimburse the district for the facilities provided for Boulder City pupils during the past year. This deficit was caused by the heavy increase in attendance without the benefit of any substantial increase in apportionments from state-county school funds, which under ruling of the attorney general were based on last year's attendance instead of the 1931-32 figures. These apportionments represent approximately sixty per cent of the income in the grammar school district. If the federal funds fail to materialize, it will be necessary to make an emergency loan to complete the present school year. In either event, however, it will be necessary to absorb at least half of this deficit during the coming school year, which means a portion of 1932-33 school funds must be used to pay operating costs for the present semester.

With a reduced tax rate, the expenses for 1932-33 as estimated in the budget must be cut in the neighborhood of \$29,000 in order to meet the income now anticipated. Eliminating the North Las Vegas school means cutting \$7,500 from operating costs. This leaves approximately \$21,500 still to be cut. This \$21,500 will be cut from the "luxuries" now being provided for the students of Las Vegas. Among these luxuries is the privilege of attending school a full day. In order to meet the situation, this luxury will be cut in half, and present indications are that half day sessions of school will be resorted to thruout the grammar grades, except perhaps, the two or three higher ones. It will also be necessary to curtail the free supplies meted out to school students, if the present income cannot be augmented. Such luxuries as paper, pencils, erasers, notebooks and the like, which have been provided all school students for many years past, will of necessity have to be eliminated in order to meet the situation. Several other similar cuts will have to be made to stay within the income of the school district during the coming year. These things have all been discussed previously, and could have been easily ascertained.

The cut in the tax rate as ordered by the board of county commissioners means reduced income of \$3,098. Prior to that cut the school board was faced with the necessity for eliminating "luxuries" to the extent of some \$26,000 in order to finish the next school year on the right side of the ledger.

But there is a silver lining to the cloud—if thru victory in the pending tax suit, or congressional action, Clark county finally gains the right to tax personal property within the Boulder dam reservation, there will be sufficient funds to go all the way around. That question will be definitely settled within the next two or three months—within sufficient time to revise all budgets. If that action is favorable, North Las Vegas will get her well-deserved school, and the "luxuries" of full day sessions, free supplies and other things now in danger of being eliminated, will be restored. Otherwise serious curtailment of grammar school facilities is almost certain to result, not only for North Las Vegas but for the entire grammar school district.