from the NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

1201 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W. - WASHINGTON 6, D. C. ADAms 4-4055

FOR RELEASE:
Tuesday p.m. January 5, 1960

Teacher Report Card on
Schools: Need Improvement

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 - The nation's teachers gave the nation's parents a report card on schools this week and some of the scores were low indeed.

The message to parents is in the form of a 16 -page pamphlet called "Will Your Child Get a Quality Education?", and is published by the National Education Association, representing some 700,000 teachers. Among the findings:

Of every 10 pupils in the fifth grade, only 6 will finish high school; of every three who enter high school, one will leave without a diploma.

Among the top quarter of the ablest high school graduates, 3 boys in 10 and 4 girls in 10 do not enter college.

The chances are 1 in 14 that this year the child's elementary school teacher will not be a college graduate; 9 in 10 that at some time during a child's years in elementary school one of his teachers will not be a college graduate.

Only one elementary school in five now has a library.
Nearly a fifth of the high schools offer neither physics nor chemistry; nearly a fifth do not offer plane geometry; only half of the urban school systems offered either enrichment or remedial programs last summer.

Many schools pose definite safety hazards. (In 1957 there were 4300 school and college fires).

Teacher salaries, averaging $\$ 5025$ this year, are fixed as though teachers were in oversupply; actually there is a current shortage of at least 135,000 qualified teachers.

The booklet is being sent to every member of the National Education Association with the January issue of the NEA Journal.
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Note to Editors: This story is being released to Washington
correspondents for their use January 5. However, because
of the feature possibilities of the booklet, we thought you
would be interested in having a copy for future reference
and possible editorial comment.

FROM--
National Commission on Safety Education, NEA 1201 l6th Street, N. W. Washington 6, D.C.

FOR RELEASE AUGUST 6

WASHINGTON, August 6 -- Announcement of a National Student Traffic Safety Conference, designed to enlist the aid of high school students all over the nation in an all-out war against traffic accidents, was made here today by the National Education Association Commission on Safety Education.

This new approach to the problem of traffic safety, says the Commission, is made possible by a grant from The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio.

High school students, two from each state, including Hawaii and Alaska, have been invited to meet in Kansas City, August 30September 2, to devise a plan of action they can put into effect in their own schools and communities to help cut down traffic accidents and aid in the development of proper driving attitudes.
"We at Firestone have been increasingly concerned with America's growing traffic problem" said Raymond C. Firestone, president of the tire company financing the Student Safety Program. "It is our opinion that the ultimate solution to this problem which is claiming up to 40,000 lives each year is in our youth.
"We have every confidence that the youngsters of America with the proper guidance can make an invaluable contribution to highway safety and that is why we enthusiastically are supporting a program for youth that properly originates in our schools under the supervision of qualified educators."

To date, says the Commission, school, community, and in some cases, state-wide groups of teenagers have been organized to combat the increasing toll of traffic accidents among themselves and others. The efforts of these groups have in the past been weakened by lack of a plan which would permit these youngsters to join forces with other student groups to compare notes on what they have learned by experience in their respective communities.

Student delegates, with the help of professional traffic safety specialists, plan to map out an action program to include groups already organized and as many more high school students throughout the country as possible.

Primary goal of the conference, Safety Commission officials point out, is to encourage students to chart a program "initiated by young people for young people" which will help them make their contribution to traffic safety as a fully responsible citizen group.

Driver and safety education courses in the schools, says the Commission, have produced excellent results in cutting down traffic accidents among youngsters, but many hundreds of thousands of boys and girls are not yet included in such programs. The sponsors of the conference - and the students themselves - believe that a great deal can be done by creating a strong "safety-conscience" among new, young drivers and that young people do not admire the few "show-offs" in their group who give all young drivers a bad reputation. Groundwork for this movement was laid during the 1958-59 school year with the new National Student Traffic Safety Program instituted in high schools throughout the nation. The program, a continuing activity, was planned by the National Education Association's Commission on Safety Education with guidance from a business-industry and education advisory committee and financial support from the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company

It is planned that the conference will serve to crystallize and exchange the knowledge and ideas gained during the past year's program activities and to plan further progress and expansion of the program for the next school year.

