

REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
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E D U C A T I O N

CONSTRUCTIVE REPUBLICAN PROGRAM ON EDUCATION FROM WORLD WAR II TO PRESENT

AT THE CLOSE OF WORLD WAR II, THE DEMOCRAT PARTY HAD BEEN IN CONTROL OF THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE FOR A DECADE AND A HALF. THE SOLE REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR DURING THAT PERIOD, IN THE YEARS 1941 TO 1945, HAD BEEN HAMPERED BY A DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURE.

IN 1947, A REPUBLICAN-DIRECTED LEGISLATURE HAD CHARGE OF THE STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 16 YEARS. IN 1953, REPUBLICANS FOR THE SECOND TIME IN TWO DECADES WERE IN CONTROL OF LEGISLATIVE POLICIES.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY CAN BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN THIS STATE UNDER ITS GUIDANCE DURING THE NINE YEARS SINCE WORLD WAR II.

1. SUPPORT OF BASIC EDUCATION

THE 1953 LEGISLATURE PROVIDED SEVENTEEN MILLION DOLLARS (14%) MORE FOR THE SUPPORT OF BASIC EDUCATION THAN HAD EVER BEFORE BEEN APPROPRIATED IN THE HISTORY OF THE STATE.

COMPARISON OF THE TOTAL REVENUE RECEIPTS PROVIDED BY THE STATE FOR WASHINGTON COMMON SCHOOLS SHOWS THE FOLLOWING:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1940-41	\$ 38,918,737.43
1944-45	\$ 59,768,247.11 (50+% INCREASE)
1947-48	\$100,730,953.58 (67% INCREASE)
1954 (APPROX.)	\$120,000,000.00 (20% INCREASE)

(TOTAL OF 100% INCREASE SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II)

THIS LIBERALITY IN DEALING WITH THE NEEDS OF THE SCHOOLS IS PERHAPS BETTER UNDERSTOOD WHEN MEASURED BY THE COST OF SCHOOL OPERATIONS PER PUPIL IN AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1940-41	\$113.00
1944-45	\$156.64
1947-48	\$191.72
1953	\$250.00 (AFTER ELIMINATING APPROXIMATELY 6% FOR SCHOOL LUNCH MONIES PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED.)
1954 (ESTIMATE)	\$265.00 (AFTER ELIMINATING APPROXIMATELY 6% FOR SCHOOL LUNCH MONIES PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED.)

2. TEACHERS' SALARIES

WASHINGTON STATE NOW RANKS THIRD HIGHEST IN TEACHERS' SALARIES AS A RESULT OF THE AFFIRMATIVE POLICY OF THE 1953 REPUBLICAN-LED LEGISLATURE.

PRIOR TO 1947, THE POLICY OF THIS STATE IN DEALING WITH TEACHERS' SALARIES HAD NOT COMPARED SALARIES TO INCOME IN OTHER FIELDS OF ENDEAVOR, BUT MERELY RELATED APPROPRIATIONS FOR SALARIES TO SUMS GRANTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

THE 1947 REPUBLICAN LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHED A NEW AND CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY.

THE RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE WEA STATED, "THE 1947 LEGISLATURE ADJUSTED SCHOOL SALARIES TO THE HIGHER COSTS OF LIVING AT THAT TIME, INCREASING THE AVERAGE SALARIES OF CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES FROM \$2,659 TO \$3,298.....THE LEGISLATURE INTENDED THAT SALARIES SHOULD BE INCREASED ABOUT 25%."

THE REPUBLICAN LEGISLATURE OF 1947 INCREASED AVERAGE SALARIES BY APPROXIMATELY \$750.00. THE 1953 REPUBLICAN LEGISLATURE INCREASED SALARIES BY AN AVERAGE OF OVER \$400.00. REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP IN THESE TWO REPUBLICAN LEGISLATURES WERE FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT IT WAS VITAL TO OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO OBTAIN CAPABLE, SATISFIED AND WELL-EDUCATED TEACHERS IF OUR SCHOOLS WERE TO FUNCTION SUCCESSFULLY.

WEA ANNUAL TEACHERS' SALARY STUDY FOR 1953-54 STATES, "THE BIG NEWS IN TEACHERS' SALARIES IN WASHINGTON THIS YEAR IS THAT THEY HAVE AGAIN ATTAINED THE THIRD PLACE RANK THEY HELD IN 1947. THE SALARY OF THE MEDIAN TEACHER IN WASHINGTON AS OF OCTOBER 1 WAS \$403 HIGHER THIS YEAR THAN LAST." IT IS NOW ESTIMATED THAT THIS MEDIAN HAS BEEN FURTHER INCREASED IN 1954 BY APPROXIMATELY AN ADDITIONAL \$150.00. IN CONTRAST, THE AVERAGE RAISE OF THE U.S. WAS ONLY \$171.00.

THE AVERAGE SALARIES RECEIVED IN 1950 WERE APPROXIMATELY 29% GREATER THAN THE SALARIES BEING PAID AT THE CLOSE OF WORLD WAR II. IN THE CURRENT YEAR, THE AVERAGE SALARY IS AT LEAST 45% HIGHER.

AVERAGE TEACHERS' SALARIES

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1940	\$1,667
1946	\$2,530
1951	\$3,475
1953	\$3,878

THE MEDIAN SALARIES FOR CERTIFIED PERSONS HAS NOW RISEN TO APPROXIMATELY \$4,400.00 AND THE MEDIAN FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS IS OVER \$4,300.00.

THE 1947 LEGISLATURE ALSO ESTABLISHED A MINIMUM SALARY OF \$2,400.00. THIS WAS NEARLY 50% HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE TEACHER'S SALARY AT THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR II. THIS WAS A VITAL NEW PRINCIPLE OF VAST IMPORTANCE TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

THE WEA COMMITTEE ON SALARIES, RECOGNIZING THAT THE QUESTION OF A HIGH TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE MUST BE RELATED TO MAINTAINING THE FISCAL SOLVENCY OF THE STATE, SAID IN 1950, "WITH WASHINGTON RANKING VERY HIGH AMONG THE STATES OF THE NATION IN ITS TEACHERS' SALARY STANDS, CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN IN THE RANK IN PER CAPITAL WEALTH, A PROPOSED SALARY SCHEDULE MUCH HIGHER THAN THE HIGHEST IN THE NATION MIGHT SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE THE WHOLE PROGRAM OF SCHOOL SUPPORT IN THIS STATE."

3. TEACHERS' RETIREMENT

IN 1947, THE REPUBLICAN LEGISLATURE REDRAFTED THE TEACHER'S RETIREMENT PROGRAM WHICH HAD NOT BEEN ACTUARIALLY SOUND UP TO THAT TIME. THE NEW PROGRAM PROVIDES FOR RECEIPT BY THE TEACHERS OF ACCUMULATED CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THEM AT THE RATE OF 5% OF THEIR SALARY UP TO \$3,600.00 PLUS AN AMOUNT UP TO \$100.00 A MONTH PAID BY THE STATE DIRECTLY DEPENDING UPON THE LENGTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL TEACHER'S SERVICE AND HIS AGE. THIS IS GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE THE BEST RETIREMENT PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY.

4. SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

THE 1947 LEGISLATURE FOUND THAT A SHARP INCREASE OF POPULATION AND REDUCED CIVILIAN CONSTRUCTION DURING THE WAR YEARS HAS CREATED AN ACUTE SCHOOL HOUSING PROBLEM. IN ADDITION, THE \$76,000,000.00 LAID ASIDE BY GOVERNOR LANGLIE IN 1941 TO 1945 FOR PURPOSES OF POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION HAD BEEN DISSIPATED AND WAS NO LONGER AVAILABLE. A PROGRAM WAS IMMEDIATELY EMBARKED UPON TO PROVIDE SCHOOLS WITHOUT DESTROYING THE SOLVENCY OF THE STATE.

A REPORT OF THE WEA'S RESEARCH DIVISION IN 1950 DECLARED, "IN 1947, THE LEGISLATURE HAD SUFFICIENT REVENUES TO MAKE AN EQUITABLE DIVISION AMONG THE VARIOUS STATE SERVICES WITH A TIDY BALANCE AT THE END OF THE 1947-49 BIENNIAL."

THE PROGRAM INITIATED BY THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP IN 1947 AND AS ADJUSTED IN SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS, HAS MADE POSSIBLE A SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, INCLUDING ALL MATCHING FUNDS, OF THE FOLLOWING MAGNITUDE:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	
APRIL, 1947 - DECEMBER, 1950	\$ 47,489,661.66	
1951 - FEBRUARY - 1953	\$ 94,311,939.45	
FEBRUARY, 1953 - PRESENT (APPROX.)	\$ 40,000,000.00	(SOME OF WHICH IS <u>STILL</u>
		UNALLOCATED FOR REASONS
		BEYOND THE CONTROL OF
TOTAL	<u>\$181,801,601.00</u>	THE STATE GOVERNMENT.)

IN THESE YEARS SINCE THE WAR, WASHINGTON HAS MADE AVAILABLE \$96½ MILLION IN OUTRIGHT GRANTS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR CONSTRUCTION. NO OTHER STATE IN THE UNION HAS GIVEN ITS SCHOOL DISTRICTS GRANTS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE FOR BUILDING.

THE 1949 LEGISLATURE WAS HANDICAPPED IN PROVIDING INCREASED ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF THE ENACTMENT OF INITIATIVE 172 WHICH PROVED DISASTROUSLY HARMFUL TO THE STATE FINANCES DURING THE ENSUING TWO YEARS. IT WAS UNABLE TO HELP AS MUCH AS IT DESIRED. THIS INITIATIVE WAS PASSED WITH THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY OVER THE OPPOSITION OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. ITS EFFECT WAS RECOGNIZED BY

WEA RESEARCH DIVISION IN ITS 1950 REPORT PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED AS FOLLOWS: "IN 1949, THE LEGISLATURE FACED DEFICIT FINANCING DUE TO THE ENACTMENT OF INITIATIVE 172 AND THE FAILURE OF TAX BILLS PROPOSED IN THE SESSION AND FOUND IT NECESSARY TO MAKE THE SCHOOL APPROPRIATION LESS THAN IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN."

IT IS CERTAIN THAT WE WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM OF CONSIDERABLE SIZE FOR MANY YEARS, BUT IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT WASHINGTON RANKS SECOND ONLY TO NEBRASKA IN TERMS OF SQUARE FEET OF SCHOOL SPACE AVAILABLE PER PUPIL (SCHOOL FACILITIES SURVEY - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE - DECEMBER 1953.)

5. CONCLUSIONS

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS SHOWN A CONSISTENTLY WARM AND VIGOROUS SUPPORT FOR THE NEEDS OF THE SCHOOLS OF THIS STATE. IN SUMMARY, THE TWO REPUBLICAN LEGISLATURES SINCE THE WAR HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THE FOLLOWING:

- A. ESTABLISHED A \$2,400.00 MINIMUM TEACHER'S SALARY.
- B. PROVIDED FINANCES TO INCREASE THE MEDIAN TEACHER'S SALARY FROM APPROXIMATELY \$2,500.00 TO \$4,400.00, MORE THAN DOUBLE.
- C. INCREASED THE PER STUDENT OR PER PUPIL SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS BY APPROXIMATELY 60%.
- D. ESTABLISHED A PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM AND PROVIDED MORE THAN \$180,000,000.00 FOR THIS SERVICE.
- E. DRAFTED AN ACTUARIALLY SOUND TEACHER'S RETIREMENT PROGRAM PROVIDING THE TEACHERS OF THIS STATE WITH THE FINEST RETIREMENT PLAN IN THE NATION.

SOURCES: 1954 WEA ANNUAL TEACHER'S SALARY STUDY
 DEC. 1950 REPORT OF WEA RESEARCH DIVISION
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SURVEY
 REPORTS OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
 OCT. 1948 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REPORT
 SCHOOL REPORTS OF COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
 DEC. 1953 SCHOOL FACILITIES SURVEY, U.S. DEPARTMENT HEALTH,
 EDUCATION & WELFARE