



CLIFFORD HARTMAN — State Commissioner of Education Clifford Hartman is driving home a point during his discussion on high school education before the members of the THEATA Club, a native college students organization on the campus of the University of Alaska at College. Commissioner Hartman was subjected to a wide range of questions on education of native stu-

dents in Alaska. Shown with him are: center, Jane Sutherland and Vic Fisher, director of the Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research at the university. Fisher was introduced by the THEATA President Reva Wulf as "the head of the Institute of Everything."

Photo by TIMES EDITOR

Cliff Hartman Favors Regional High Schools

Commissioner Clifford Hartman of the State Department of Education does not necessarily agree with the legislature's idea that urban high schools should be built in Anchorage and Fairbanks for rural students.

Hartman favors the idea of regional high schools and feels that "closer and smaller high schools are better to go to where a student can live with foster

parents."

He said he feels that the boarding home program should be pushed with careful selection of homes for students and that once the student is accepted in a home, he should not be asked to do only menial labor.

Last Sunday, Commissioner Hartman was subjected to a wide range of questions from

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Regional Schools . . .

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the members of the THEATA Club of the University of Alaska, a native student organization on the campus.

The session was under the direction of the THEATA president Miss Reva Wulf who introduced Hartman to the members. She also introduced Vic Fisher, director of the Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research as "the head of the Institute of Everything."

Commissioner Hartman said that the State started with the idea of placing 215 rural students in foster homes and succeeded in placing 194 that although that the result was not too bad, it was also not successful.

"In large schools, a student practically loses his own identity—he becomes a number," Hartman said.

He also said that a student should not necessarily be tied to a grade level; that this was an archaic manner of conducting high schools.

Hartman cited the Community College in Anchorage and its comprehensive program in adult education and that it gave credit for experiences to the older students who wished to get high school diplomas and that it was the only institution in the State that is doing this work.

He also said that in the event regional high schools are established that certain specializations could be instituted. Some schools should be connected with community colleges to take care of shortcomings.

"Some students can adjust but not all of them," Commissioner said. "They can't break away from their cultural backgrounds all at once."

Hartman said that he was hopeful that "halfway houses" for the purpose of preparing high school graduates for college education might be established and

that such a supplementary school could be established at University of Alaska.

Mt. Edgecumbe High School near Sitka entered into the discussion. Some of the former students of that school had been dissatisfied. One former student said, "I hated it."

Mrs. Nettie Peratrovich, a former Mt. Edgecumbe student herself, thought that the school was too drastic a change for students from the northern part of Alaska.

She said the Eskimo students tended to congregate together while the Indian students did the same. She said that the Indians were more fortunate because they were closer to home; that their parents and relatives came to see them occasionally; that when there were trips for competitive sports, Indians could visit with their families and relatives and have places to stay.

Woodrow Morrison of Hydaburg agreed:

"In Southeastern Alaska there's so much rain—about 100 to 150 inches a year—which they're not used to. That's one thing that dampens their spirit right then."

Commissioner Hartman said that some fine steps had been taken in recent years that Mt. Edgecumbe was slated for improvement up to around \$6 million; that William Beltz High School was to have a \$2 million expansion and that \$5 million the State legislature authorized would probably be used in its entirety to build a high school in Bethel.

"We are recognizing the impatient Alaskans on their demands for better education," he said. "Regional high school is the place to start. We want to get away from sending the students too far away—from sending them out."