

# State Department of Education Hires Ruff

Dr. Otto G. Ruff, Director of Teacher Education and Certification in the Colorado State Department of Education, is presently in Alaska working with the staff of the State Department of Education and other Alaskan educators on proposed revisions in the Alaska certification regulations, Commissioner of Education Dr. Cliff R. Hartman announced today.

Hired as a consultant to the Department in 1967 to study Alaska's certification needs, Dr. Ruff recommended that certification be based on graduation from an approved teacher education program.

During the past two years, Dr. Ruff has worked with Department staff to develop the proposed revisions in the Alaska certification statutes.

Informal hearings on certificates were held last year in various communities across the state by Mrs. Norma Bowkett, Supervisor, Teacher Education and Certification, Alaska Department of Education; and Dr. William Marsh, former director of the Division of Instructional Services.

Under the revised regulations, standard certification will be provided by the Department to applicants who have completed approved teacher education programs at accredited, degree-granting institutions of higher learning.

This approach will eliminate the necessity for detailed course checking or credit counting, but preparing institutions must recommend the applicants as teachers to the Department.

Dr. Ruff is presently updating previous certification reports

which he executed for the Department. Emphasis is being given to the implementation stages and to the role of the newly created Teacher Education and Certification Advisory Board.

Dr. Ruff assisted the board in defining its role and responsibilities at the initial Teacher Education and Certification Advisory Board meeting December 10-12 in Anchorage.

The board will seek invitations from Alaska's teacher training institutions for a visitation team to study its program and make recommendations. The board will be responsible for selecting the team, reviewing the team's report, and subsequently recommending education programs for certification purposes.

December 13 Dr. Ruff and Mrs. Bowkett met with the Alaska Education Association's Teacher Education Professional Standards Committee.

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