

Year-Round School Benefits Argued By State Board

School for 12 months would signal all sorts of changes in the American way of life, and the idea is being seriously considered in several Michigan school districts.

Some educators have endorsed the plans for moving into year-round operation but others remain skeptical.

State Board of Education member James F. O'Neill has proposed that schools and

teachers be used on a year-round basis with students attending nine months of the year, but having staggered vacations.

Pontiac Schools Supt. Dr. Dana P. Whitmer says this idea does not appear promising to him.

"IN EVERY PLACE this four-quarter system has been tried it has been discontinued

because it is not supported by parents," he commented. "Parents don't like their children to get vacations in the winter."

Secondly, he pointed out that this type of operation would be expensive.

Whitmer, instead, advances a year-round school calendar which gives students a chance to enrich their education or offers them a chance to catch

up if they are behind.

"The four-quarter system assumes that all children can get all the education they need in three-quarters of a year," the superintendent remarked. "I don't think this is possible. Some children need more time."

Whitmer's dreams of a year-round school year with a minimum of vacations for teachers and students will not come true in the near future, he agrees.

"MANY MEN teachers may like teaching almost year-round," Whitmer said, "but the women tend to prefer the long summer vacations."

Supporters of the year-round school calendar say the present system of having all summer off is outdated since it is no longer necessary for teachers and students to get time off to work on farms as it was one hundred years ago.

O'Neill, in Livonia, proposed that school districts go to year-round high schools, part of a continuing effort by educators and government officials to achieve round-the-clock school attendance.

ACCORDING TO O'NEILL, year around schools would provide youth with greater opportunities:

- Graduates would have greater

opportunities to get jobs or gain entrance to colleges.

- Students would have a greater opportunity to get vacation jobs.
- Students would have less cause to drop out since they would have an opportunity to repeat a subject at the end of a quarter before they become hopelessly behind.

O'Neill claimed that year-round schools would also eliminate teachers shortages, provide more adequate pay for teachers and provide savings to taxpayers by reducing facilities costs.

OTHER SUPPORTERS of year-round schools explain the buildings in the summer ought to be put to use and that teachers have to seek extra work to supplement their 10-month-a-year salaries.

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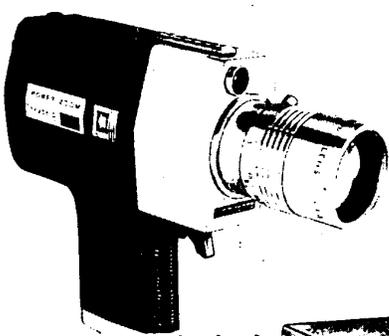


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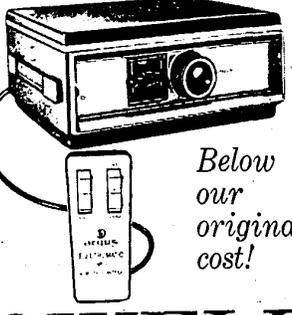
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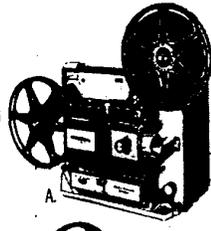
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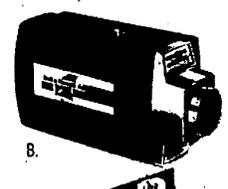
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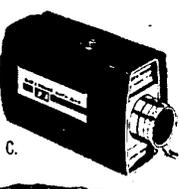
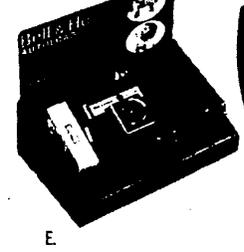
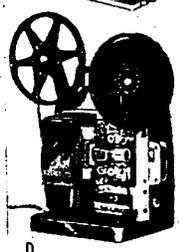
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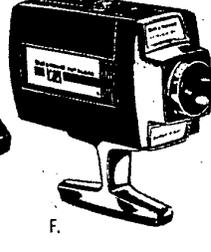


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