

VanAmeyde Talks About Bargaining

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VanAmeyde was both blunt and philosophical when he discussed teacher contracts with the Farmington Area PTA Council Wednesday night.

Talking about the 80-egotiation meetings he sat through to arrive at a contract with the Farmington Education Association, VanAmeyde said, "I'm sure my team (administration team) could have taken our attitudes and our proposals directly to the teachers and won approval. But you don't bargain that way."

"I was told that I would never get a contract because I wouldn't pound the table," he added. "When it's all over, it takes a long time to heal the breaches."

CONTRACT in hand, VanAmeyde began his talk with the blunt statement, "This is a labor contract, it doesn't matter whether it was written for professionals, it's a labor contract. The only reason it exists is because it renders a service to a group of people."

"It deals mostly with rights and in the article about the FEA's rights and responsibilities there is not much about responsibilities."

MOVING ON to the school calendar article, the administrator commented, "We (the administration team) had a great deal of difficulty in getting even the number of school days required by law."

Looking at the whole picture of contract negotiation, VanAmeyde conceded, "The advent of bargaining in the public sector can be wholesome, but what the future holds I don't know. As has happened in industry, it could be someday that the people at the bargaining table do not really represent the teachers."

"It alarms me that, in the professional sector of public education, contract challenges do not come for professional reasons but only come in those districts where there are rival organizations."

VanAMEYDE had his own description of union bargaining: "Management has a bunch of

sticks. The union takes them away one by one -- what it doesn't take this time, it will take the next. How many can be taken away and still leave you with a productive program?

"When you have a contract, you lose flexibility," he continued, Ending on a philosophical note, the assistant superintendent said with a sigh, "I believe America became great because of individual involvement. If we don't provide for the motivational needs of human beings, we're going to be worse off as a nation than we have ever been."

With that he put away the teacher contract and sat down.

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education for Monday, November 25, 1968, will be held at the Farmington Junior High School Cafeteria commencing at 8:00 P.M.

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This Thanksgiving Day let us remember, as did our Pilgrim fathers before us, to give thanks for the prosperity we enjoyed in the past year. We who share in the blessings of a good life should lift our voices in prayerful thanks for the abundance of our festive board, spiritual freedom and boundless opportunities. We have watched with pride as our friends and family blossomed... our community prospered in this land we can proudly call our own. Now, when we pause to take stock of our joys... let us not forget ours is a hard-won heritage, one we have worked for, fought for. Let us pledge to reaffirm our faith in this heritage and determine to preserve and cherish it...



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