

Assemblyman Scores Stress on Teaching Methods vs. Subject

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
Assemblyman, 46th District
Willard F. Libby, doctor of
philosophy in chemistry, and
professor of chemistry, Uni-
versity of California at Los An-

geles, who has been one of
the few recipients of the Nobel
Prize, said two things of im-
portance to the public on Mon-
day, Nov. 20, as follows:
(1) The quality of instruction

in the elementary and second-
ary schools of California is
not satisfactory for the age in
which we live. He said that
this applies not only to the us-
ually accepted "hard core"

subjects such as mathematics,
physics, chemistry and biology,
but also to English, because a
scientist must be able to write
intelligible reports.

(2) One of the principal rea-
sons for this unsatisfactory
quality of instruction in our
elementary and secondary
schools is the fact that school
teachers are required to spend
more time on so-called "teach-
ing methods" than on the sub-
jects they expect to teach. For
example, a man or woman may

have only one year of mathe-
matics, physics or chemistry in
college, but may be required
to take three or four times as
many class hours in teaching
methods, commonly called
courses in education.

FOLLOWING THE remarks
of Dr. Willard F. Libby, Frank-
lin D. Murphy, chancellor of
the University of California,
was asked this question by me:
"Do you, Doctor Murphy, con-
cur in the remarks of Dr.

Willard F. Libby, and if you
do concur, will you do all that
you can within the scope of
your legal authority to make
sure that no person graduates
from the University of Califor-
nia with a degree in education
who does not have a very
sound record of taking more
classroom and laboratory
hours in the subject which he
or she will teach than he or
she has in the so-called teach-
ing methods (education
courses)?"

FRANKLIN D. MURPHY,
who is not only chancellor of
the University of California,
but also a doctor of medicine,
then replied.
"Yes, I concur with the re-
marks of Dr. Willard F. Libby,
but I must add that we have
comparatively few students
who are working for the bach-
elor's degree in education in
the University of California.
Most of our students majoring
in education are graduate stu-
dents (candidates of the mas-

ter's or doctor's degree), but I
can assure you without reser-
vation, and you can take this
message back to your constitu-
ents in your Assembly District,
that the head of the depart-
ment of education agrees with
Doctor Libby and with me that
the subject matter is much
more important than the so-
called teaching methods (edu-
cation courses)."

THE ABOVE words are not
the exact words of Doctor
Libby or Doctor Murphy but
they are my understanding
and interpretation of what
they said before members of
the Congress of the United
States, members of the Assem-
bly of the State Legislature,
and outstanding scientists and
department heads of the Uni-
versity of California at Los An-
geles. However, Chancellor
Franklin D. Murphy has
enough authority to carry out
this policy in all branches and
divisions of the University of
California throughout the state.

ALTHOUGH Chancellor
Franklin D. Murphy cannot un-
der the law exercise authority
over state colleges or junior
colleges in the State of Califor-
nia, his policy and that of his
department heads brings a
clear, cool breeze of logical,
sensible thinking into the
whole field of teacher training
in California.

The taxpayers of this state,
including students in the pub-
lic schools, and the overwhelm-
ing majority of teachers in the
tax-supported public schools of
California will rejoice that a
new day is dawning in Califor-
nia in the field of public edu-
cation.

ONE OF THE great educa-
tors at the University of Califor-
nia at Los Angeles said on
Nov. 20: "If you do not know
your subject how can you
teach it, regardless of how
many courses you have had in
teaching methods (education
courses)?"

If you agree or disagree
with me, please write to me at
Post Office Box 327, Redondo
Beach. If you expect a reply,
please say so, but if you mere-
ly want to express your opin-
ion, let me know, because, un-
like members of congress, I
do not have a ranking privi-
lege (free postage), and I have
only one secretary who is over-
worked already. If you want
an answer, you shall have it.

Drama Group Gives Plays

Two plays by Tennessee Wil-
liams will be presented in the
Starboard Theater of Harbor
College as the second Noon-
time Playhouse production of
the year.

Performances of "Moony's
Kid Don't Cry" and "The Case
of the Crushed Petunias" will
be staged.

James Schuler and Carrie
Henson will play the leads in
"Moony's Kid Don't Cry." Tina
Rehwal gets her first leading
role as Miss Dorothy Simple in
"The Case of the Crushed
Petunias." Dale Reynolds has
the male lead and James Schu-
ler and Miss Henson appear
again as a police officer and
Mrs. Dull.

Eugene Dynarski, who has
been a dramatic mainstay in
previous plays, this time acts
as producer and director.

Although the plays are giv-
en during the day so that stu-
dents can attend, the public is
invited to the performances.
According to Reuben Plaskoff,
Harbor drama instructor, the
presentation of plays at noon-
time has met with great suc-
cess. Productions in the past
have ranged from the classi-
cal to the avant-garde and ex-
perimental.

The Starboard Theater is lo-
cated in the women's gym
building.

The production of "The Four
Poster" and "A Sunny Morn-
ing" in October, which featur-
ed Eugene Dynarski, the direc-
tor of this production, was the
most successful to date.

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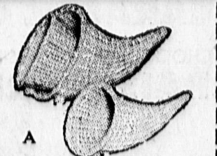
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