PRESS-HERALD

DECEMBER 20, 1964

# From the Mailbox

#### Editor, Press-Herald:

It is a fact today that teachers can be and are certificated to teach in the public schools of California with the Standard Teaching with the Standard Teaching Credential without a single course in the teaching of reading. Reading is one of the areas that may be chos-en as an elective by a preprofessional preparing to become a teacher; but it is not a required course. When one considers that

success in all other subjects depends upon the quality of the student's reading ability, it looms as the most important subject. If depends upon the quarty ing of reading, and all pri-of the student's reading mary and elementary school ability, it looms as the most important subject. If one had to choose only one subject for a school, it would have to be readig. Few beginning teachers this official non-attention trained for the new stand-to the basic subject with

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ard teaching credential have more than one three-hour course in this all-im-portant subject. So they practice it in their first all the hubbub about im proving education in Cali-fornia.

While the state board is teaching assignment. To teach the new teacher how to teach reading requires extensive in-service traincommendably busy attempt-ing to eliminate some of the non - essential prescriptive courses from the School Code and state board re-quirements, it should give a little thought to this most important of fundamentals. In its anyiety to place emextensive in-service tran-ing. Large classes for ce remedial reading measures to compensate for the time a child does not get from a busy teacher. Every teach-In its anxiety to place em er really needs to know something about the teach-ing of reading, and all prithe state board has forgot-ten the importance of the basic subject of the entire curriculum.

curriculum. Reading is a very compli-cated process. The convert-ing of sounds to printed symbols is the heart of it. There are only 26 letters but over 40 sounds in the English Language Eighty. English language. Eighty-

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words in most common use.

words in most common use, according to linguistic au-thorities. This creates some very serious instructional problems when children do not take to reading natural-ly. Under the pressures they meet at every turn their emotional state makes it difficult to teach read-ing to children in large classes. People who are con-cerned with this problem should let the State Board of Education know about it. If we are going to insure

rom these non-readers come our discipline prob-lems, our school failures, our drop-outs, and our un-employed and less employ-able citizens. It is a serious problem, one which should pot he super under the pue If we are going to insure that we have teachers prop-erly trained in the techery trained in the tech-niques of teaching reading, it should have official at-tention. With the profes-sional units required and everyone trying to get an oar in for this subject matfor the sake of subjects someone thinks are more important. Asking a slow

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five per cent of our words are phonetic; however, the remaining 15 per cent, which are non - phonetic; constitute 75 per cent of the remain with are non - phonetic; constitute 75 per cent of the phases on reading. This con-there is no answer to the reading phases on reading. This con-there is no answer to the reading phases on reading. This con-there is no answer to the reading phases on reading. This con-there is no answer to the reading phases on reading. This con-there is no answer to the reading phases on reading. This con-there is no answer to the reading phases on reading. This con-the there is no answer to the reading the there is no answer to the reading phases on reading. This con-the there is no answer to the reading the there is no answer to the reading the there is no answer to the reading the there is no answer to the reading phases on reading. This con-the there is no answer to the reading the there is no answer to the there is How long must California Cheerleaders Spark Spirit cerns parents who have a child with a reading prob-lem should be made known

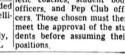
to state officials, who seem to be administering educa-tion these days down to the last detail. We at least

ought to teach everyone to read his native language before we get excited about

teaching him a foreign lan-guage or even math or sci-

From these non-readers

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when you

wear a tie

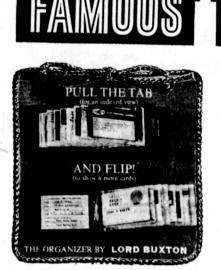
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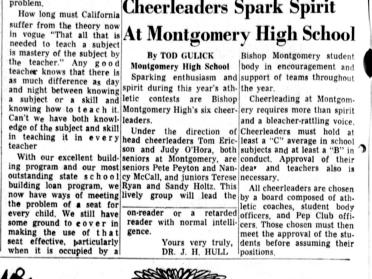
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