



Principal Curtis Johnson

## AS PRESIDENT OF NASSP Johnson ends term

by Walt Hard

Principal Curtis Johnson ended his year-long term of office as president of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) last March.

NASSP is an organization of more than 35,000 principals in North America and Europe.

In Johnson's words, it is a, "Professional education organization which provides leadership and research in education."

In 1964, Johnson was elected to the NASSP Board of Directors. In 1968, he was elected president of the 54 year-old organization, and took office a year later. He succeeded Dr. Delmas Miller of the University of West Virginia.

The NASSP presidency is somewhat of an honorary position, although it does involve a lot of work. Johnson had such duties as speaking at conventions and serving as an observer in national and international programs.

And most of all it involved travel, lots of it. As NASSP president, he had to attend regular meetings in all sections of the U.S. Most of his trips were on weekends.

Johnson ticked off a list of the states his trips have taken him to: New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Florida, Tennessee, North Dakota, Nebraska, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, South Dakota, Colorado, and California.

He has also been outside the U.S. several times. Two summers ago he evaluated secondary schools in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, and Britain.

One of his most interesting trips was to Abidjan in West Africa. He represented NASSP at the World Congress on Teacher Preparation there last summer.

"There were representatives from over 80 nations there," he commented. "It was very interesting to see the education situation there and hear about education in the many different countries of the world."

In addition to his travels, Johnson has met many interesting and important people.

"Each year we have a national convention with a number of speakers. This year on the program we had the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, the U.S. Commissioner of Education, and astronaut Mike Collins.

"Then, a year ago we had many interesting persons. Hayakawa was on our program. We also had Henry Cabot Lodge."

Johnson has been to Washington many times on NASSP business. "I spent a week in Washington once as an observer at the U.S. Senate Youth Program. There were 102 students there from all the states and the District of Columbia. They visited Congress, the White House, the FBI, the Pentagon, and other government departments. They talked to their senators and Defense Secretary Laird spoke to them. I think it was a very interesting experience for them, and for me to watch them."

He feels that one of his most fruitful experiences as NASSP president was a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

"It was a regional meeting of principals from eleven southern states. There were no news media present, and they discussed their problems, such as school integration, freely and objectively, and without emotion." Johnson said this conference enabled him to understand southern problems in Minnesota.

Overall, Johnson believes it has been an enriching experience.

"It gives a person an opportunity to have contact with people in education all over the country. It's been an opportunity to meet all kinds of people whose goals are in education."

He has received several honors for his service. He has plaques from Minnesota and Michigan education associations, and he is very proud of a gold watch given him by NASSP. Also, the White House invited him to Cape Kennedy for the launch of Apollo 13.

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## TV, radio express concern over pollution problem

by Sue Smiley

Americans are concerned—so the sudden sprout of pollution specials and documentaries on television and radio make it seem.

ABC TV

Television stations with the advantage of tear jerking, death defying scenes now changed to "disposealls" tend to focus on getting people involved by the use of feature angles. For example: A 3M documentary last week on channel nine pictured the beauty of wildlife, for the sake of pleasure, which is being destroyed in many areas by the forces of progress.

"This Land Is Mine," the documentary featured a few Americans, who as actress, Kim Novak made "a search for beauty" and found it.

NBC TV

"Pollution Is A Matter of Choice," an ecology report shown last week on Channel five, put the emphasis "squarely on the average American and what he is—or is not-willing to do about pollution." Here again the approach toward the viewer was not in the form of guest, discussion, or lecture programs. People involved were laymen in the anti-pollution movement.

KTCR TV

KTCR TV, channel two, broadcasts an hour program entitled "Environment News" each Tuesday at nine pm. Last week the topic was discussed in a variety of ways.

WL0L RADIO

Several radio stations have times set aside each day for guest speakers and or open discussion periods. Among these WL0L AM FM has held two or three such sessions in the past couple of months. The unique purpose of WL0L as a radio station is to discuss issues of public interest 24 hours a day. Two hours at a time are devoted to guest speakers and discussions. One announcer on WL0L noted "an increasingly more important issue" in pollution with "many calls a day."

A biology professor and a student from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota, discussed an environmental teach-in to be held at St. Mary's. Immediately following, a series of commercials advertizing such things as gasoline additives were played with short background evaluations of the products following each commercial.

KSJN RADIO

KSJN FM has held a series of discussions, addresses, and impressionistic programs in preparation for the environmental teach-in. Every Tuesday and Thursday at 11 pm Studs Terkel, announcer, holds interviews with such people as Paul Ehrlich, author of "The Population Bomb," Mary Commoner; George Wald; a Nobel prize winner in biology, Ralph Nader; Hal Borland, nature writer; and "Laugh-In's" Arte Johnson.

KQRS RADIO

KQRS AM FM hasn't joined the stations with pollution specials. An announcer from KQRS stated, "About the only thing we've been polluting with is music."

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