EDUCATION LEAD MAY BE SHIFTING

Possible Loss by Cities
Cited by McClure

Belief that the leadership in American education may be passing from the cities to the communities and rural school systems was expressed here by Dr. Worth McClure, Washington, D. C., executive secretary of the American Association of School Administrators.

"For the past 100 years the cities led," said Dr. McClure, a featured speaker at the Southeast regional conference on administrative leadership, which closed Tuesday at the Jung hotel.

"It was they that produced the graded school, the broadened curriculum, adult education, the kindergarten, vocational education and guidance. They were a part of the American tradition that bigger is better."

Business Questioned
Dr. McClure said "in this clear-eyed second half of the 20th century, things are beginning to happen that teach us to question the idea that bigness and excellence are one and the same."

He said "when we choose a president, the tremendous vote often registered in the primaries seems to have little weight in the nominating conventions."
The speaker said, "about the only way an individual citizen can have a voice in anything at the national level today is through membership in a national organization."

"We don't say bigness is a sin," added the speaker, "but we do say we must balance it with smallness, and both are essential to our national life. Sometimes it seems that the very size of cities militates against them. They begin to fall apart, to disintegrate into warring little communities. They become the prey of self-centered groups."

Dr. McClure said often the size of the city school budget excites the envy of politicians and boards of education have trouble protecting the educational welfare of the pupils.

Suburban Loss Factor
Another handicap, he added, is universal migration to the suburbs. Dr. McClure said "this often takes with it the very people, who a generation ago would have supplied the civic leadership."

"But what the cities lose, the smaller communities are gaining," said the educator. "And until the cities realize that the answer is to set their own houses in order and offer better educational facilities, the migration will continue."

School administrators were urged to show personal interest in the educational job being done.

MEDICAL EDUCATION WEEK starts Sunday, according to a proclamation issued at City Hall. Dr. A. N. Houston (left), president of the Orleans Parish Medical Society, receives the document from councilman Glenn P. Clasen. From left are Dr. Houston, Dr. Percy Phillips, Dr. M. E. Lapham, dean of the Tulane university school of medicine, and Clasen.

by teachers and pupils in an address by Dr. E. R. Robertson, Baton Rouge, dean of the college of education of Louisiana State University.

Good Teaching Urged as Aim
"No matter how high you are on the totem pole, you should still show children, teachers, principals and parents that your primary concern in good teaching," said the dean. "When you visit a school, adopt some device for showing interest in the school work. Some superintendents look at the writing, some listen to the language being used. Some take part in the activity going on at the time. Both teachers and children appreciate this."

The afternoon session of the conference was devoted to a school building clinic. Speakers at this clinic, designed to recapture of common sense architecture in school construction.

William W. Caudill, Bryan, Tex., architect, said "we should return to the architectural approach that produced the Southern mansions and great cathedrals."

Building Should Fit Need
"This does not mean, of course, that we build in the same fashion we did years ago. Everything building should be individual and designed to fit needs."

Raised First Floor
Caudill said traditional ideas should be carried out with modern methods. He said "the idea of raised first floors has long been recognized as a satisfactory solution to New Orleans climatic problems."

At a banquet session of the conference Tuesday night at the Jung hotel, the more than 300 school superintendents in attendance heard an address by Bill Martin Jr., of Philadelphia, Pa., known as "The Winston Storyteller."

The conference was sponsored jointly by the American Association of School Administrators, the Department of rural education of the National Education Association and the National Council of the Professional Educational Organizations in the State.