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5-1-1978

### AERA-SIG Curriculum Newsletter

American Educational Research Association

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NEWSLETTER  
of the  
SIG on THE CREATION AND UTILIZATION OF  
CURRICULUM KNOWLEDGE

Editors: William Pinar, University of Rochester  
George Posner, Cornell University  
William Schubert, U. of Illinois-Chicago Circle

Issue No. 13

May, 1978

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Report on the Business Meeting Following Session 22.07

1. George Willis convened the meeting and presented nominations of officers as suggested by the SIG Coordinating Council. The Coordination Council includes:

George Posner.....Cornell University  
William Pinar.....University of Rochester  
William Schubert.....University of Illinois-Chicago  
Edmund Short.....Pennsylvania State University  
Daniel Tanner.....Rutgers University  
Laurel Tanner.....Temple University  
George Willis.....University of Rhode Island  
G.H. Cannon.....University of British Columbia

2. The following officers were elected for 1978:

Co-Chairpersons: George Posner and William Schubert  
Secretary-Treasurer: George Willis  
Program Chairman: Tom Vickery  
Newsletter Editors: William Schubert, George Posner, and William Pinar

3. Special thanks are extended to 1977 officers:

EDMUND SHORT... who has served as secretary-treasurer, a continuous time-consuming task of record-keeping, not only for 1977 but since the SIG began.

GEORGE WILLIS...who served as chairman in 1977 and for four years prior to that.

DANIEL TANNER...who designed and chaired the fine symposium: Session 22.07 entitled "What the Curriculum Field Needs to Learn from its History." Together, but from differing perspectives, the presenters were asked to address the question: "Why has the curriculum field at various times during the 20th century been marked by vital and creative changes, whereas at other times it has been characterized as suffering from relative inertia, retrenchment, and reaction? Leonard Berk (OISE) argued, drawing upon several historical sources in the field, that we should study curriculum history as an aid to curriculum problem finding, thus becoming more responsive to children and youth. Art Wirth (Washington University) argued that curricular applications which promote either overly romantic freedom or the image

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of business efficiency function as impediments to a Deweyan style of curriculum development, because they negate the teacher's role as one who continuously seeks meaning through inquiry into what the teacher and his/her work can and should become. Ralph Tyler (SRA) drew upon his long and distinguished career in curriculum and evaluation, from prior to the Eight Year Study and beyond National Assessment; he concludes by posing a number of provocative questions for those who are concerned with curriculum history. Philip Jackson (University of Chicago) emphasized several signs of educational progress, including the spread of schooling in the Western world, the gradual reduction of consciously created human discomfort, and the relative rise of critical rationality as compared with "sing-song" recitation methods. An interesting brief interchange of ideas among the presenters and audience members followed the presentations.

4. The matter of uses for the small amount of accumulated assets in the SIG bank account was discussed. Suggestions included: (a) a monograph of previous and/or future SIG papers; (b) a social hour for SIG members at the 1979 AERA Conference in San Francisco; (c) support for a research venture that involves the general interest of SIG members. No decision was reached with regard to these suggestions.

However, it was agreed that funds would be provided for distribution of two of the 22.07 presentation papers, those by Arthur Wirth and Ralph Tyler, to all 1979 SIG members. Many thanks to Professors Tyler and Wirth for providing their papers for this purpose.

Suggestions for other uses of the funds may be made to any member of the Coordinating Council listed above. The council will review all suggestions. Approximately \$200. remains in the account.

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Dues for 1978-79 year remain the same as last year: \$3.00. This amount goes toward the following expenses:

- several issues of the SIG Newsletter
- payment to AERA for Annual Meeting program space
- mailing of occasional papers to all members (two are enclosed and two more a scheduled)

Membership for 1978-79 will be valid upon payment of \$3.00 (DUE DATE, JUNE 15) to SIG Sectary-Treasurer:

George Willis  
Department of Education  
705 Chafee Building  
University of Rhode Island  
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is \$3.00

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ AERA member

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(zip code)

State your position:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the space below to describe briefly (limit 150 words) a little about yourself and your current scholarly interests and work. We will use the newsletter to share this information with other members.