

County Committee Holds 2nd Meeting On Junior College

4-21-53

There wasn't as much opposition expressed against the establishment of a junior college for Santa Cruz county last night, but on the other hand, there didn't appear to be as much said in favor of one either.

As a matter of fact, if it hadn't been for the running conversation of Linton Forrester, chairman of the county school redistricting and reorganization committee, there wouldn't have been much said at all.

During one of the periods of desultory conversation, followed by a lull and then complete silence, Forrester observed:

"I guess we've reached the thinking stage in the proceedings."

It was the second meeting of the county committee and the boards of trustees of the three high school districts in official session. One more official session is slated at least, before the board decides whether to recommend the junior college.

Whatever the outcome, the matter, if approved by the committee, must be voted upon by the electors of the county. The county committee may either recommend that a junior college be established, vote to drop the matter, or simply refer the matter to the people, without a recommendation, for election.

A vote could be taken by the committee at its next session, slated tentatively for Thursday night. There will be eight votes, five from the county redistricting committee and one from each of the three high school districts.

However, Forrester said last night that the votes need not be taken at the next meeting.

Nothing new was added during last night's discussion to facts already presented during previous meetings.

Little of anything was said by the representatives of the San Lorenzo unified, namely Eugene Haskell, district superintendent, and Trustee Kathryn Claver, Vincent Locatelli and Earl Adam.

Previously the trustees have expressed themselves in favor of a junior college for Santa Cruz county.

Watsonville had only one representative in Hugh Keturakat.

He wasn't too much in favor of a junior college, stating that the Watsonville high school district was faced with rising costs with possible bond issues, etc., to cover the cost of maintenance, the swimming pool, salary increases, etc.

He said he felt that maybe it was better to contribute to the functioning of a good plant, maybe such as Salinas, rather than maintain several smaller colleges in various districts.

Santa Cruz representatives included Homer Cornick, city school superintendent; Bert B. Snyder, Tom Polk Williams Jr., Dr. Samuel B. Randall, Donald Johnson and Mrs. Dorothy Skoegard.

Cornick, Snyder and Randall took the same stand as in the past, namely, that while they had nothing against a junior college for Santa Cruz county, they felt that the high school and elementary plants should be brought up to state standards first.