

Opinion Split On Junior College Plan

Two Schools Of Thought On Proposal

In the first official meeting of the county school reorganization committee and the high school trustees last night, it became apparent that there were two camps of thought regarding the establishment of a junior college in this county.

The one, represented by the Santa Cruz high school district, was expressed by Bert B. Snyder, who said "not now, but ultimately." Some of the Watsonville representatives and those from the San Lorenzo valley unified district feel that "ultimately, why not now?" should be the theme song.

Homer Cornick, superintendent of Santa Cruz city schools, pointed out that a number of school buildings in Santa Cruz, do not come up to the Field act, which sets the standards of safety, etc.

Dr. S. B. Randall, Santa Cruz high school trustee, reminded the group of the defeat of the permissive school tax here last year.

"Santa Cruz has had rather a stinging experience during the last year," he said. "It indicated the people were not in a mood at that time to vote more money for school purposes. . . . I agree, a junior college would be a fine thing. However, I don't feel this is the time to initiate a junior college movement."

Later Randall asked Linton Forrester, chairman of the reorganization group, if the junior college idea was the result of Dr. Calvin Flint's thesis for a Ph.D., which took as its subject, a junior college in Santa Cruz county.

Forrester replied that it was not, but that as the result of the thesis, the "study forced our hand and so many people jumped on us."

Then, he said, this county was asked to sit in with Monterey and San Benito counties on a study of a tri-county junior college, since abandoned as San Benito signified it was not interested.

Asked by Randall if Flint's study was considered a bible, Forrester replied, "no", just a handbook.

C. S. Franich, president of the Watsonville high school board, said he was in favor of a junior college, and could afford to pay for it, but wondered about the other taxpayers.

"They are going to ask, 'Is there enough money and are there enough students,' Franich stated. 'I'm trying to find out of the forecast of the number of students from Watsonville, who might attend the junior college is accurate. I'm doubtful,' Franich said.

L. L. Jones, superintendent of the Watsonville school district expressed similar opinions as those he advanced at the last meeting, namely that a junior college is feasible and should be established.

According to figures compiled by him, it would cost the average home owner with a \$5000 assessment approximately \$9 a year in taxes, for a junior college.

Trustees from the San Lorenzo valley felt that a junior college should be established in this county, adding that students wishing to attend are now deprived because of the distance to out-of-county institutions.

Next meeting of the group was slated at the same time and place April 13.

At that time Forrester said he would attempt to bring in someone who could tell the trustees of some of the headaches connected with a junior college.