

The October Meeting of the Iowa Section

A combined meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Iowa Section was held October 10 and 11, 1960, at the State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. The meeting was a Regional Orientation Conference in Mathematics, sponsored by the National Council of Teachers in Mathematics under the Regional Director, Dr. H. Vernon Price, State University of Iowa. Some twenty members of the Iowa Section attended the conference.

The following program was presented on Monday, October 10:

1. "Progress in Mathematics and Its Implications for the Secondary School", by Professor G. Saley Price, Professor of Mathematics, University of Kansas.

Changes in presenting mathematical materials today were described as being so great as to be called revolutionary. Three causes of this revolution were presented (1) advances made in mathematics as a result of mathematical research (2) automation revolution--introduction of machines that control machines (3) introduction of large scale automatic computing machines.

Implications for schools were (1) small high schools cannot normally provide the program and teachers needed (2) many high school teachers need more training (3) higher standards should be required of teachers of mathematics--from elementary teachers on up (4) teachers must re-examine techniques they are now using.

2. "Projects in School Mathematics" by Dr. Kenneth Brown, Specialist in Mathematics, United States Office of Education. Dr. Brown discussed the school mathematics projects that are underway in various parts of the country. He pointed out that these projects are discussed briefly in "Aids for Mathematics Education: Mathematics--A Universal Language of Modern Civilization; OE-29013," a bulletin from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare--Office of Education--Washington, 25, D.C.

3. "University of Illinois Program (UIGSM)", by Miss Grace Wandke, Barrington Consolidated High School, Barrington, Illinois.

4. "University of Maryland Program (UMMAE)", by Mrs. Ruth Brown, McKistry Junior High School, Waterloo, Iowa.

5. "Ball State Program", by Mr. Wilson Banks, Pleasant Valley--Riverdale High School, Bettendorf, Iowa.

6. "School Mathematics Study Group Program", by Miss Joan Tanzer, Mechanical Arts High School, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The following program was presented Tuesday, October 11:

1. "Implementing a New Mathematics Program for Secondary Schools", by Dr. W. Eugene Ferguson, head of the mathematics department, Newton High School¹, Newtonville, Massachusetts. Eight basic steps were listed for implementing a new mathematics program: (1) recognition by the school authorities of the need for a new mathematics program (2) adequate preparation of teachers in the mathematics that is now being taught for the first time in secondary schools (3) selection of a new program (4) selection of students for the program (5) informing parents about the new program (6) informing other members of the school system about the new program and its implications for the mathematics program Kindergarten through Grade 12 (7) continuation of teacher preparation for carrying the new program to higher grades and also lower grades (8) provision for adequate time and compensation for carrying on the new program year after year.

2. "Question and Answer", by a panel, Dr. G. Baley Price, Dr. Kenneth Brown, Dr. W. Eugene Ferguson and Mr. Frank B. Allen, head of the department of mathematics, Lyons Township High School and Junior College, La Grange, Illinois.