



## Central Coast Counties Service Center Council

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November 13, 1984

Mrs. Violet Kazue de Cristoforo  
20121 Portolo Drive, Serra Village  
Salinas, California 93908

Dear Mrs. de Cristoforo,

Enclosed is a copy of the resolution passed by the Board of Directors of the National Education Association at their meeting in Washington, D.C. on September 22, 1984.

The action item read as follows:

" Approved the motion that the NEA Board of Directors endorse the findings and recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC). Further, that NEA support the following resolution or similar resolution, on this important civil rights issue."

I hope that this resolution will be of help to you in achieving the laudable goals of your organization.

Very truly yours,

Dorothy M. Lund  
Political Action Chair



California Teachers Association  
National Education Association  
United Teaching Profession

# CTA president deciphers state school trends

By BARBARA DETERS  
Californian Staff Writer

Californians can expect to see an improvement in primary grade level test scores, a decline in the number of college graduates entering the teaching field and a drop in state university enrollment figures.

Those trends were outlined Tuesday by California Teachers Association President Marilyn Russell Bittle, who visited Monterey County education facilities Tuesday.

The CTA is the state arm of the National Education Association (NEA).

While California student test scores are still below the national level, they have been improving over the last two years, Bittle said.

"Results are now showing in the sixth grade scores a gradual improvement in math, science and reading," she said. "But we still need to emphasize (improvement) at the high school level."

Bittle, who spoke at a Hartnell College news conference, said teachers need to be educating their students to meet the needs of a communications society rather than an industrial one.

"If we can not educate our young people (to survive in so-

ciety), then all we do in the area of defense spending is going to be for naught," she said.

The November election is proof that Californians are finally beginning to understand that education reforms cost money, she said, because Californians elected a high number of pro-education legislators and either passed or defeated propositions based upon their effects on schools and education, she said.

"It's been an outstanding year for public education in California," Bittle said. "It's the first time in many years we've seen new money for public education."

Public education received new money from passage of the education reform measure, Senate Bill 813, she said. And California voters passed Proposition 26 in the November election, a \$450 million bond issue for school construction and repair.

But while this was a good year for public education in California, keeping education in the political limelight is going to take some work, Bittle warned.

"How are we going to keep the momentum up?" she asked. "Is this going to be the only year to look at public education?"

More money needs to be directed toward teacher salaries

BITTLE

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Marilyn R. Bittle speaks at Hartnell College.

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## Bittle

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so the public education system can be competitive with private industry, the CTA president said.

Last year's statewide statistics showed a majority of new graduates ranking in the lower third of their class entered the teaching field.

"The upper class is going to private industry because they can see advancement and higher salaries," she said.

"Within the next two years, we won't have enough teachers to meet the need in the state, she said. "There's a shortage now."

In addition, she said, teachers are expected to accept a great deal more responsibility now than they did 10 years ago without having any more time to prepare for classes or to be trained to handle the job and with no higher pay.

Problems such as child molestation and drug abuse have added to the responsibilities of the educator. Suddenly, teachers are finding themselves in the position of providing instruction in parenting, nutrition and social values, she said.

"Money seems to be a key to a lot of this," she said. "But the citizens of this state are realizing that and making some giant steps forward."

On the stiffening of entrance requirements by the California State University system, Bittle said she foresees a drop in enrollment figures, "much as we have

seen a drop in community college enrollment figures since fees were initiated, because the new requirements will cut out a certain segment of the population.

"But once it's put into place, we won't have a problem," she added.

On Proposition 37, the state lottery issue, Bittle said the CTA has been working with the Legislature and Bill Honig, state superintendent of public instruction, to pass a bill assuring that money earmarked for education be used to supplement current school district budgets and not replace them.

She also said the CTA hopes the issue of how the money will be used will be worked out at the bargaining table between teachers and district officials.

Bittle visited Salinas High School, Washington Junior High School and Santa Rita and Roosevelt elementary schools Tuesday before making her way down to King City and Gonzales to visit teachers at schools there.

While in Salinas, Bittle accepted recognition for the CTA from Violet de Cristoforo, chair of the redress committee for the Salinas Valley Japanese American Citizens' League.

Cristoforo thanked the CTA for its efforts in passing resolutions supporting congressional legislation to redress the internment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

## Salinas Visit

# CTA Head Details Teachers' Problems

Herald Salinas Bureau

**SALINAS** — Coping with drug and alcohol abuse, escalating child abuse problems and the need to teach children good nutrition and morals because they don't learn them at home are a few of the issues facing teachers in California in coming years.

According to Marilyn Russell Bittle, president of the 150,000-member California Teachers Association, classroom teachers need improved education to help them recognize the problems and counsel parents and students in those areas.

At the same time, she said to a question at a press conference at Hartnell College Tuesday, statistics show that the teaching profession now is attracting people from the lowest one-third of college graduates.

"That distresses us very much," she said.

The main reason the profession is no longer drawing the top level graduates, she said, is low salaries.

While private industry is offering beginning salaries of \$21,000 to \$22,000 a year, Ms. Bittle said, starting salaries for teachers tend to be much lower. In Santa Rita School District, for example, she said, new teachers are paid about \$18,000 a year.

### Lottery Money

Although her organization came out in opposition to the statewide lottery on the November ballot, it is now engaged in trying to get legislation passed to ensure that any profit to education from the lottery be used to supplement, not supplant, other funding.

Ms. Bittle said she hopes that each school district will be able to decide, in negotiations with teachers, whether lottery monies should go for higher salaries or into capital improvements or into general funds.

In general, she said, the CTA was pleased with the results of the Nov. 6 election in California, having opposed Propositions 36, 39, 40 and 41, all of which were defeated.

As for the organization's endorsement of unsuccessful presidential candidate Walter Mondale, Ms. Bittle said that "timing is critical" and added, "I am sure we will debate that over the next four years."

She also said that while the CTA failed to endorse William Honig in his successful 1982 bid for the post of state superintendent of public instruction, he has turned out to be "a real advocate for our profession and certainly for the young people in this state."

### Other Visits

Ms. Bittle also visited schools in Salinas, Gonzales and King City and made several other appearances during a two-day "media tour" of the area.

Also speaking at the press conference was Violet de Cristoforo, chairwoman of the redress committee of the Salinas Valley Japanese-American Citizens League.

She presented Ms. Bittle with a



(Herald Photo)

**MARILYN BITTLE**  
... CTA president

copy of John Tateishi's book on the World War II internment of Japanese-American citizens, titled "And Justice For All."

Mrs. de Cristoforo said social studies textbooks are being carefully checked to be sure students get a full and accurate understanding of that era of American history so that similar violations of human and constitutional rights never recur.