

first to explore outer space. With the launching of Sputnik I, however, our drive for supremacy to be first, best and unequalled was challenged. Mr. Average American, heretofore more or less complacent about our schools, suddenly qualified himself as an expert critic; and soon the most degrading avalanche of protests against our educational system was underway throughout the nation. Suddenly, schools were important and a new and critical look was being taken in every locality.

The fact that Miner is being abandoned this year is a direct result of that new and critical look. It is highly possible that something would have been done in this community anyway. Fort Wayne has had a rather enviable record of school progress compared to other portions of the state. Certainly many of our increased facilities would have been necessitated by the projected enrollments caused by the growth and expansion of our city. Nevertheless, we patrons at Miner felt the impact of this new emphasis on schools, and we joined the ranks of millions of others who wanted the best educational opportunities available to their youngsters.

Fort Wayne Community Schools made a concentrated study of our city's immediate needs as well as a long-range program of expansion. This was revealed to us in 1959 and projected the expansion program through 1962. The public was well-informed through assemblies, newspaper articles etc. Both praise and criticism resulted. Increased tax-rates are never happily received. The competitive feeling of being "first" to get a new building or an extensive renovation caused much concern and even some unfavorable demands in certain areas. A new Miner School was slated for 1961 possibly, but not later than 1962. But we all know the proverbial bit about how the best laid plans sometimes go astray. Unpredicted changes, miscalculated pressures, and unforeseen hindrances all have a part in necessitating change. This is what has happened to the plans for a new Miner. Mr. Grile, our present Superintendent, explains this further in Chapter IV.

Of course, mixed feelings result among our patrons. However, this writer feels it is far better that we take an objective view of the circumstances involved. Curricula has been investigated and evaluated by people who know what to look for. Buildings have been inspected, areas surveyed and needs extensively studied. The recommendations finally presented are what seem best for the area at the present time.

With the onslaught of criticism in the curriculum area, came a new emphasis on Math and Science. The needs for more scholarships, increased grants to colleges, the controversial issue of Federal Aid to schools, stricter teacher training and qualifications and other reforms have all been born out of this change. Many of these reforms will have been witnessed by the patrons of Miner in these last ten years. Many of these reforms are at present in the trial and error method of experience. It is too soon to conclude the ultimate results of these reforms. Most of them seem qualified and will be rewarding to the educational level of our nation. However, as all interested parents and school people know, not all children are college bound.