

Federal Security Agency
U. S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Washington

INFORMATION CONCERNING REGIONAL
TRAINING INSTITUTES ON PHYSICAL FITNESS

The U. S. Office of Education, in cooperation with the Army and Navy is actively trying to help the high schools of the country plan and carry out a wartime program of physical fitness. A manual outlining a proposed program of physical education has been completed by a committee composed of representatives of the Army, Navy, U. S. Public Health Service, Division of Physical Fitness of the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services, public schools, and the U. S. Office of Education. Another manual outlining a high-school program of health education, directed toward wartime health problems, is in preparation and will be ready early next year.

A plan has been developed for interpreting and introducing the physical education program to the high schools. This plan includes (1) a series of nine regional institutes, one of which will be held in each Army Service Command for a period of three days, and (2) a series of training institutes in each State.

The purpose of the regional training institutes is to train a group of persons from State departments of education, State teachers colleges, universities, city school systems and other key positions to serve as organizers and faculty members for the training institutes within their home States. After these persons complete the program of training at the 3-day regional training institutes they should return to their States and promptly conduct a series of training institutes for the men and women high-school teachers of physical education and the school administrators from the local areas adjacent to the State training centers. In conducting these regional institutes the Office of Education will have the assistance of representatives from the Army, Navy, the Physical Fitness Division of the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services, and other interested educational and governmental agencies.

Each State department of education is invited to cooperate with the Office of Education in introducing this intensive wartime program of physical education in high schools. This would involve (1) arranging for representatives from the State department and from other strategic agencies in each State to attend the regional training institute at State or local expense, and (2) conducting several local institutes at convenient points in each State for the purpose of familiarizing the high-school teachers and administrators with the physical fitness program.

It may seem wise to suggest that some of the younger faculty members, as well as some of the more mature persons in administrative positions, be invited to attend the regional training institute. Approximately 25 persons would probably be an adequate number of representatives from each State.

Teachers and supervisors of health education in each State who can conveniently attend the regional institute will find an opportunity to discuss their problems and the new health education program with the Consultant in Health Education from the Office of Education who will be a member of the institute staff.

It may be that the State superintendent would wish to designate some member of his staff as a person with whom the Division of Physical Fitness in the U. S. Office of Education may communicate directly concerning the details of the institute.