

May 23 1955

Miller Hearing Set for May 28

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eleven days ago Dr. Duane Miller, superintendent of the Bridgeport Public Schools, was suspended from all his duties within the school system. This action was brought about when he received a letter dated May 12, from the Board of Education, School Dist. 63. . .

The letter stated in part:

" . . . Attached to this letter is a list of complaints that have been received by the Board and which will be considered at a meeting and hearing, and as to which you will be afforded an opportunity to respond.

"In the meantime between now and the hearing date you are suspended from your duties . . . and are directed to stay away from the school facilities and not attempt to exercise the duties of superintendent."

(The hearing, open to the public, is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 4:00 p.m., at the school.)

The complaints in the letter against Dr. Miller total 17. They

are not being published here for two reasons. (1) The amount of space required to print them and (2) the accusations involve names of other persons, and if used may cause unnecessary em. barrasment.

But examples of the complaints include that Dr. Miller allegedly was manipulating the school staff, helping to break down mutual trust among faculty and staff, downgrading the school system, and causing a breakdown in the educational process.

The complaints will be aired at the open hearing.

Following are some of the questions directed by this writer and answered by Dr. Miller:

Q) "Why were you hired to fill the unexpired term of the former superintendent?"

A) "I was hired to deal and hopefully solve a number of problems within the school system."

Q) "What was one of the main problems the Board of Educa-

tion was concerned about?"

A) "The lunch program and its loss of large amounts of money. Because of many problems including inadequate book keeping and reports not filed on time, the school is being penalized around \$10,000 in federal funding."

Q) "What were other problems you were to help solve?"

A) "The Board wanted a superintendent to run the school, helping in hiring of teachers more help in office and to solve administrative problems."

Q) "Why do you believe, with out dealing with each separate complaint, were you suspended?"

A) "I was hired to deal with school problems, some named in the complaints, but when I dug too far into them and others I uncovered, I was suspended."

Q) Had you any inclination you were to be suspended prior to the letter you received from the board?"

A) "No. When I was hired, I asked the Board to contact me immediately if any grievances were made against me, but this did not occur."

Q) "There have been many rumors floating about town concerning your life elsewhere. It is said you were fired from the Lyman, Nebr., school system."

A) "No. I left when I was 16 years of age, far too young to teach."

Q) "Were you fired at Humphrey, Nebr.?"

A) "No. I was there three years and one month. My contract was extended one month. I left to return to school."

Q) "Have you gone from one school to another to cause trouble?"

A) Actually I have been brought into school districts as a 'trouble shooter'."

Q) "Is it true your teacher's certificate in Wyoming was revoked?"

A) "No. In fact the next year I received my master's degree."

Q) "Do you encourage the people of this school district to attend the open hearing?"

A) "Yes. It is the only way to judge for themselves the complaints against me, and to understand the problems within our school system."