

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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THE NEW Minnesota English is only one sign that the Council is on the move. The organization ended the last year with about 1200 members, which should be a force of some influence in the state. The three fine regional conferences held in the fall of 1964 carried the organization to schools in areas of the state which had not heard of the Council. The Morris Conference brought together teachers from the western areas of the state, the Bemidji Conference penetrated isolated schools in the north, and the Rochester Conference carried the Council to elementary and secondary teachers in the southeast.

The awarding of six summer NDEA institutes to the state demonstrated the alertness of Minnesota colleges to English problems. This past summer saw the completion of the report of the Committee to Advise on NDEA Institutes and the circulation among colleges of the successful 1965 proposals, all of which should make the 1966 institutes even better.

The new school year begins with the NCTE-MCTE co-sponsored Conference on the State of English, which should result in recommendations, reports and perhaps resolutions on three very significant issues: teacher awareness of new developments in English, teacher load, and certification and preparation of teachers of English.

All of these developments are directed toward one main goal: better communication and exchange among English and language arts teachers. The mail to this office continues to mount, but too much of it is simply routine--memberships, requests for information, and registrations for conferences. This is necessary and we want it to increase, but might I suggest that you also communicate to this office your concerns, suggestions for projects, and, yes, your complaints too. What seem to you to be very obvious problems or projects may go unnoticed by your executive committee because of our ge-

ographical locations or our differing positions on the educational spectrum. If you have a concern or a pet project, why not write the executive secretary? Minnesota Council may not be able to do anything about it, but your executive committee will listen and consider.

MINNESOTA COUNCIL does not yet have a location for the Spring Conference at the end of April or the first of May. A decision should be made at the Advisory Board meeting at the end of October. Is anyone willing?

#### FROM THE EDITORS

With this issue, Minnesota English begins what its editors hope will be steady growth in size, quality, and appearance. Two more issues (in January and April) are planned for this year, to be supplemented by the Minnesota English Newsletter.

For this first issue we have tried to provide, from what was easily available, articles which would be of interest at several levels and which would deal with a variety of subjects. Future journals will continue to publish such articles, and we hope that so many manuscripts on so many subjects reach our office that the editorial decisions will be difficult and continuing significant attention can be paid to the problems and promises of teaching English in Minnesota.

Minnesota English has several purposes. It should provide communication among members of the Council in particular and teachers of English in general. It should publish information about research, curriculum development, and useful practices for Minnesota schools. We hope that it can also provide a respectable medium for the publication of worthwhile articles by English teachers at all levels in Minnesota.

We hope Minnesota English will stimulate you to respond in some way. We need articles and reviews, information and opinions about teaching English in Minnesota. Most of all, we need ideas. Don't be bashful.