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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Is a dead horse worth beating? Apparently, according to our editors, if the horse just won't lie down. The very live issue in this case involves the controversial "stock plans" periodically proposed for our nation's schools.

Ever since stock plans first came up, FORUM has taken a firm stand against the idea, two years ago even went so far as to hold a round-table discussion on the subject with leading government and school officials, architects, and manufacturers. The distinguished panel's consensus: there will be no savings worth noting in school stock plans, and educational progress will be inhibited.

Perhaps even FORUM can be accused of speaking too softly in the past: the specter of stock plans has appeared once more, in New York State. So, if a good, no-holds-barred scrap is what you're looking for this time, turn to the editorial on page 75.

With stock plans off their chests, the editors settle down this month to exploring another critical school problem: urban schools. Here, for almost the first time, FORUM school expert Walter McQuade sees some hopeful signs in a handful of schools recently completed and others soon to get underway (pages 78-99).

Schools—their social, economic, and architectural problems and promises—have always been a special province of Senior Editor McQuade. Born in Port Washington, N.Y., he received his architectural degree from Cornell University in 1947, later that year joined FORUM's editorial staff. An active member of AIA, McQuade also serves as architectural and design critic of *The Nation* and is a regular contributor to the pages



WALTER DAHAN

of FORTUNE. The high esteem held for him in scholastic circles stems partly from his best-selling *Schoolhouse*, a handsome book on school design and construction published in 1958 by Simon & Schuster.

Largely due to the alertness of editors such as McQuade in spotting and analyzing school problems and trends, FORUM has been the happy recipient of several awards. The most recent is the School Bell Award, presented to



ELLEN SHAFER

FORUM this summer by the National Education Association for distinguished service in the interpretation of education. The story which won the award was "The city school: old problems, new solutions," by Senior Editor David Carlson (Nov. '62). If you'd like to have a copy, along with the articles on city schools from this issue, special reference reprints are available at 50¢ apiece prepaid. Write Room 19-39, Time and Life Building, New York 20, N.Y.—J.C.H.JR.

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