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Readers Voice Opinions on **Proposed School Bond Issue**

Being deeply interested in my community, I have listened carefully to the arguments on both sides of the school bond issue. Now I would like to add my thoughts to the discussion.

First, I would like to urge everyone to make sure before they vote that they know the correct facts and figures. Too many of us get arbitrary ideas in our heads and stick to them whether facts support them or not. Let's be fair.

The thing I have been most disappointed in is the way that so many of us have seemed to feel that if it isn't done our way, we will be against it. These differences about the gym, location, etc., are futile, because let us please remember that if 1500 people are running something, it will be done 1500 different ways. This is a fact of life. We cannot each have it done just the way we think. It is simply impossible. We have elected fine city leaders from our city to our school board. Let us not show so little faith in them. Let us be gentle with each other. Bitterness hurts us all.

Be very certain that your reasons for your vote are valid. Would you really vote against the school bond because you possibly don't care for Mr. Baack or one of the school board members? None of us really wants to be petty. Let us take personal pride in the accomplishments of our wonderful town.

I am honestly convinced that financially this community simply couldn't lose from a new school. Even leaving aside the fact that the taxes will be a little different whether we have a school or not (an important point that has already been well made-ask to have this explained to you if you don't understand it) the revenue brought into town fr m our tuition families would enrich our town by Thousands and Thousands of dollars. This is simple economics. For example, if our school must refuse tuition pupils from Emmet, and they go to Atkinson, revenues lost could include gas drugs, clothing, hardware, medical, furniture, appli-ances, and in fact almost any kind of business that is in O'-Neill. Surely we can see that the more prosperous our town is, the better off we all are.

The final point I would like to make is that this money is not going down a rat hole thousands of miles away. We are heavily taxed for foreign aid, and get pretty tired of the burden. But this school would be built here in our own community for our own good, and for our own child-

Let's build this school, and let's do it right when we do it. In a town as fine and vital as ours, surely we won't settle for any

Horn-tooter for O'Neill

Dear Editor, The ones that voted against the new school should go and investi-gate the O'Neill public school and see why we need more room. How would the ones that voted against the new school like to go

to school at 7:33 like the seventh grade and fourth grade do? The mothers that voted against the school who do not have children to get ready would probably change their minds if they did.

Perhaps you have a child in first or second grade. Please look ahead a few years. Do you honestly think that a half day of school is all you want for your child when he is in the fourth Linda Walton

Though many people say that O'Neill doesn't need a new school they themselves probably haven't investigated.

The people of O'Neill don't know how crowded it is in the class rooms. It's fine for you to speak for what you believe in, but you should know what you are speaking about.

Many citizens of O'Neill say we need a school house but not another gym. The gym we have now is used by St. Mary's for sports practice, the O'Neill high school uses it for physical education, basketball and volleyball. The junior high has physical ed-ucation and basketball in the gym. There are meetings, concerts, assembly programs, class plays, basketball tournaments and people of O'Neill use it for 4-Lions Club activities and many

In a few days there is going to be another bond issue. Before you vote investigate what you are vot-Kathy Farrier

Dear Editor Once upon a time there was a little village named O'Neill-a store, a postoffice and a dirt street. Settlers came, liked the rich grasslands and nearby Elkhorn river. Banks, more stores, the railroad came through. The little village became the county seat of Holt County. Two schools, and several churches were built and little O'Neill needed better streets for the new-fangled horseless carriages.

Years went by-the ranches grew and prospered, the town expanded, put in new lighting facilities, businesses and homes

The little village kept in step with the times, welcomed a new airport, its own radio station and a National Guard unit. A swimming pool, drive-in theatre and blocks of new business houses lured surrounding customers within a radius of nearly 60

Trailer houses, new ultra modern homes, and over 70 traveling salesmen chose the little village because of its stretegic location, good highways, progressive schools and churches.

Came the day when the city school board realized the present school was crowded to capacity-40 children in a room, desks pushclose together, science and math labs woefully inadequate, one medium-sized auditorium was being used by multi-groups of physical education classes, volley ball and basketball (both junior and senior high plays, concerts, programs, assemblies and band programs.

Besides this, the school was generously sharing the same gymn with its neighboring parochial school and adjusting schedules for St. Mary's teams and games.

A group of far sighted villagers aid plans for a new school—it would take care of the senior high, it would be convenient and adequate and attractive, just like their own newly built homes and stores. How could O'Neill's teachers do their best when crowded and hampered by lack of facili-

Voting day came-the issue failed. Why? It would cost too much! This thriving, bursting-at the seams little village, with its huge potential trading area couldn't afford a new school for its

Why, it would cost each property owner at least \$1.50 per month! So it failed! Will the little village of O'Neill

have a second chance? Lets Hope So

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Many will say delinquency is the responsibility of parents and this is true to some extent but aren't we, the citizens of O'Neill, helping delinquency along by closing the doors of education to the young inquiring minds and

Mr. and Mrs. taxpayer, who pays for correctional institutions and vandalism? Wouldn't tax dollars be better spent on education rather than correction?

'A Thinking Ahead Mother'

Dear Editor: When in the very near future you are driving around our fair city, please notice the fine store buildings, supermarkets, modern bars, lovely homes—then, park in front of our public school building and take a good look at the place where our children are getting the knowledge which will someday be used by adult citizens.

I don't say children need frills and gadgets for play, or ultramodern surroundings. I do say tn y are entited to a good building which will provide adequate space, lighting, ventilation and in-

ing together when it comes to any local matter. Now is the time to once again show that spirit. Vote YES for our school building.

Dear Editor.

Many people think the town should pave streets and make runways at the airport before building a new school house. But what are we going to do for

Many people say that there is enough room for the children but only the children know how bad it is without enough room. The seventh and fourth grades have to go from 7:30 to 12 and it's hard for them. They have no study periods and have to take all the

u ies home. world is going to do tomorrow. Dorothy Gorgen

Dear Editor.

room when more and more children come in.

The fourth and the seventh grades are having half-day classes now. This will not have to

In the winter these half-day morning children will be coming to school at 7:30. In the evening the afternoon children are coming home at 5 p.m. This is a bad situation for either classes.

tional background they will need plenty of room to study. Mary Pribil

do go only in the morning. We can't see films because the

film room has classes in it. If you don't let us have the new building we will be sitting on the gym floor having classes. We might not be able to let country kids come to our school.

O'Neill think that we do not need a new school because they do not have any children that go to school. If they had any children that were in the fourth or the seventh grades they would have to get their child up at 6 or 6:30 and get them off to school by

The new school would not be for seniors alone, it would be for the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades. A new schoolhouse would help keep salesmen and other people in town. They would make O'Neill their headquarters. All Dear Editor, We children that go to the O'-Neill public school definitely need more room. Most people just talk about the situation but never

seem to do anything about it. Some people don't even bother to Going to school a half-day isn't

the most fun in the world and

Dear Editor:

"Old Guard" says "Guard your own finances - nobody else will." How many times have we spent money for something we possibly never used? Now we are in a position to help our youth acquire the education they need so badly in their future. Unless the standards of education in our school are not elevated to the needs of the future where does that leave our children of the future?

In this fast moving day and age, are we to stand still in O'-Neill, or do we want to better ourselves and our community? If you have your eyes on the future, go to the Polls and vote YES on the Bond Issue December 9. "A Promoter"

> O'Neill, Nebr. November 29, 1960

The Frontier: Why the hurry?

We are intrigued by the rapidion general election day.

Sometime ago, a letter appeared in a local paper from one "Ima Taxpayer" that certainly hit the nail on the head. He mentioned the unused space in the old school of some 2000-2500 square feet, (old gymnasium) that could be converted to a better use than

the school board and those desiring a new school, to be so erected that additional floors could be erected on top of this structure. If additional rooms are now needed, why not build? Also, how many square feet of the so called "band room" could be converted to school rooms? This bond overwhelming vote, it is "high pressure" selling at its worst. The electorate should be given the following information, so that the

many square feet for offices, rest Is this school to have a gym also? Surely the younger pupils

This proposed school plan is obnoxious, and irresponsible School Board and educators leadership is at its worst. The plan has not been thought through, nor have the voters been dealt with as responsible and intelligent individuals.

also show that they are constructive as well. This is what should be done. Utilize to its fullest extent the present school plant by conversion of unused or illused space to class rooms! If these are not sufficient then build on the new grade school! If these prove inadequate or insufficient, then eliminate the gymnasium and all non-direct school facilities in the proposed school. Advise the electorate as to the location and cost of the proposed junior high school. Additional costs as to utilities etc. If absolutely necessary to build a plant of this size, why not wait for federal funds to assist the city and school district, both Kennedy and Nixon were for additional

These are a few of the things that should be set forth by the

school or schools, as I live here and expect to continue doing so. However, I won't be here long my landlord raises my rent least 25 per cent as she has

The second Special School Bond election will be held on Friday, Dec. 9. All Eligible voters will cast their banous at the Courthouse-NOT at the regular wards. Before casting your ballot on this School Bond issue, please review and consider carefully the following facts:

Federal Aid To Education The Democratic Party offered Federal Aid to Education as one of the chief planks in its Party Platform. If O'Neill will wait until January 20, 1961, perhaps Uncle Sam may assist us in a new building program. (We are still carrying a debt of \$38,000 on the building now in use.) Cost of building and operating

another school plant. The operation of the present Public School plant will cost \$102,150 this school year, plus the several revenues which are assigned to the School Fund. Some, of these sources of revenue are fuition fees, head tax, traffic (and other) fines, school land leases, State appropriations, etc. These revenues add a considerable amount of money to the operational funds each year. To build new half million dollar High plant AND TO MAIN-TAIN AND OPERATE SAME ON TOP OF OUR PRESENT COM-MITMENTS seems almost prohibitive. Taxes would skyrocket, and the school levy would jump at least 10 mills, perhaps more. Gymnasiums-How many do we

O'Neill Public School already has one of the best gyms in Northeast Nebraska. St. Mary's will begin work on its new gymnasium and High School soon. The new Armory plans include a regulation court, which will be available for practice sessions. (Despite rumors, the Armory plans not have been scrapped.) Population Census-1960

Official 1960 population figures show that Holt county population has decreased 1,137 persons since the 1950 census. O'Neill's population has increased 131 persons during the same period.

Do the above figures indicate that the school enrollment in O'-Neill is likely to increase in any appreciable number scon? Do these statistics warrant the expenditure of one-half million dollars (and more, to build a new High School at this time? (Please remember that our Public School is educating only about one-half O'Neill's children.

No one wishes to deprive our children of an adequate education. Few towns of O'Neill's class and size can boast of two good schools such as O'Neill already

O'Neill's present enrollment is only slightly higher than in recent years. Free Tuition students not be turned away after 1964, hence tuition revenue will not be lost despite repeated warning to that effect. Effect upon Business

O'Neill is the County Seat of Holt county and is the BIG town in this area. O'Neill will attract business IF our merchants are not forced to mark up their prices to offset higher taxes, higher

Our High School will continue to function-new building or not. O'Neill's facilities are as good (or better) than many of those located in Northeast Nebraska. Procuring and holding good teachers in our school system would be easier if our teacher's salary schedule were more adequate and properly scaled. Rentals on homes and business property will advance when / if

taxes are increased to finance proposed School Bond. O'Neill's most urgent need is a workable long range City Improvement Plan including a building program, industrial develop-

ment, etc. The hit and miss method of the past is neither an adequate nor wise procedure. When the new Grade School building was built, the plan was to build a matching building directly opposite the existing new grade school when the need for more elementary space The plan has been passed for a new High School plant on a new site. This indicates a woeful lack of long range planning-or adherence to former

Here are a few improvements that O'Neill MUST plan for and should strive to adjust the development plans accord-

Sewage disposal plant. (State of Nebraska will demand this soon.) Paving projects Municipal extensions of water and sewer facilities.

Lets plan our city improveprogressively, carefully and intelligently. Let's not plunge school District No. 7 into massive debt beyond its capacity. Taxpayers' League

Inman, Nebraska

Dear Editor, I think the people of O'Neill should be glad to save a little money for their children of tomorrow. The people against it say no. Only the children for it speak up, the mothers and fathers keep quiet.

The people who have no children are usually the ones against it. Even if your children are small they will need it when they grow up. So for the children' sake vote for the new school. Judy Riley

Dear Editor.

I, a seventh grade morning student, may not be very smart, but going to school a half day is very inconvenient for most of the boys and girls in my room. Some of the boys have paper routes. Some get up early so they can get to school

Some people didn't vote for the new school because they didn't have any children going to this school. They said they're just taxpayers. That's right, but even if we don't get the new school taxes will go up because of country students being barred from attending O'Neill school.

I'm asking you, would you like to get up at 6:30 to get to school on time now? Please think about what I said for either the district will have to close doors to tuition students, or more and more elementary grades will have to go on a half-day set-up. A Seventh Grade Student) Sandy Trant

Dear Editor, We Need a New School

One of the main problems facing O'Neill is a crowded school. Even after rearranging different rooms they found that they couldn't crowd in all the students. That is why many students are going half day. In this half-day we are seated from 12:30 until 5 with a ten minute break at 4 o'clock. We have to take home all studies that are assigned to us since we have but a short study period.

It is also very inconvenient for the mothers as well as the whole family. Dinner is cooked for the seventh or fourth grader and then warmed up when the rest of the family gets home.

The inadequate school we now have could be compared to a car with a spark plug missing. It would run but not properly.

With a new school all of these problems along with many others would be solved. Also with better teaching facilities teachers would naturally like to teach here than other places with less adequate

facilities. Sandra Philbrick

O'Neill, Nebr. Dec. 5, 1960 Editor, O'Neill Frontier

I am addressing this letter mainly to the landlords of rental properties in O'Neill, who are opposed to the building of the new

It has been pointed out that if ve do not expand our educational facilities for the high school, that we will have to shut out the students from outside our own district with a loss of \$34,000 or more each year which we will have to make up in taxes. Besides this, you are saying to these people, "Take your children elsewhere, we don't want them here" and so they take them to the surrounding towns and that is

You cry about getting industry into O'Neill and yet you are willing to drive away the most vital industry that we have, our farm-

By having this kind of a town we will not attract new business or new families, and you Mr. Landlord will be the first to saffer because your property will be the first to go vacant, and the loss of rent on one house for six months would pay the increase in taxes on all of your property for several years.

You should be encouraging your renters to vote for the school inhigher rent if they do. Let's keep our town growing

and a good place to live, let's build when and where we need to, that is the only way you or any of us can keep our business pros-

A Businessman

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In answer to Census Makes Sense, I'm wondering of what

value the figures presented are . They do give a distorted picture. How does a census based on all age levels throughout the county have a bearing on the need for a school in this community? It would seem more enlightening to know the number of children in the district involved rather than the census figures including babies and adults throughout the county. Why not use school census figures; even these can't be used as accurately

as enrollment figures to spell out

the need for a school. If some of

the smaller communities are losing people is that easing our enrollment here? If the school officials could disperse the pupils as easily as 'Census Makes Sense' does on paper we in O'Neill wouldn't have an overcrowded school. Of course, if you subtract the complete kindergarten enrollment and those moving out-you can decrease the enrollment of 460 to

356. What about those moving in (surely they didn't all move out and none come in) and what about the kindergarten students that are here this year . building. they're still here-are we to believe they will all leave for St. Mary's as 'Census Makes Sense' figures would indicate. Our problem doesn't rest soley with the

kindergarten class but with the growth throughout all grades. O'Neill's eighth grade class numbered 50 beginning this year compared to a class of 38 in 1950, how can anyone say this isn't an upswing in enrollment? Next years class will have 47 students

compared to 30 in 1950, is this not upswinging? The county superintendent's office reveals an average of 254 Holt county students graduated from the eighth grade in the past five years. This years class shows 296 will graduate followed by 312 in 1962. 'Census Makes Sense, can you honestly say there isn't an upswing in public school enrollment? O'Neill won't claim all of these students but its safe to assume we would get our usual number and more with this larger class graduating if we aren't forced to deny them schooling

because of inadequate space. Several of my rural friends have told me of receiving invitattions from neighboring high schools inviting their children to attend their school when O'Neill no longer accepts them. If we follow the guidance of 'Census Makes Sense' we'll certainly not

be an upswinging community. Let's think before we believe facts before you deny that boy or girl an education. The best source of information is your school board them. school board, they're elected by you and serving you-so ask

A Figuring Mother DANCE

SATURDAY, DEC. 10 SHORTY AVERY

Country Swingsters Summerland Ballroom Ewing, Nebr.

Admission: 75e

Dear Editor:

Our school is crowded with children. We don't learn as much as we should, we don't get to see educational films, nor do we have the pleasure of dances and parties as children in other schools

This year, next year, and the year after that the fourth and seventh grades will have it rough going either at 7:30 and staying until 12 or going at 12:30 and staying until 5.

Our teachers have hard times giving us the instruction we need in the shortened class periods. We need study periods under a teacher's guidance as much as

any other grade does.

When a room wants to see a film it is usually impossible because there are five high school classes a day in the film room. The gyms are usually busy with basketball practice, gymn classes, games, dances, assemblies, and

community activities, so you see we can't have classes there. Some people say that there is never a full room everywhere, and that we seventh graders could study there but we can't, We can't move ourselves, our books and supplies all over the

Ask yourself "Is my bedroom in use all the day?" If not, then why not change half of into a kitchen? Is your bathroom in use all the time? Would you like to use it as a bedroom part time? Rooms are equipped for special purposes in a school just as they are in a home. Marilyn Peterson

> Letters Editor

Inman, Nebr. Nov. 21, 60

The Frontier O'Neill, Nebr. Gentlemen: Enclosed find \$2.50 for which renew my subscription to the Fron-

tier for an

your paper and Thank You. A Reader Mrs. Josie Dohnal Box 24, Inman, Nebr.

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O'Neill

O'Neill, Nebraska

O'Neill hasn't had half-day sessions long enough to feel the impact of delinquency which usualfollows in communities with

half day schooling.

leaving them with this idle time.

The building is a disgrace, especial y for such a wonderful city

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to show how proud we are of our young folks-and they are tinest in the country! O'Neill has the reputation for being civic minded and for always stick-

Another Taxpayer!

room for chi'dren in school?

Only a few planes land at the airport a year. It is true we need the streets paved, but think, does education mean more then paving runways or streets? The children's education decides what the

The room is very scarce for the children coming to the O'Neill public school. There will not be

continue if a new school is built. Also there is very little time for any discussions or questions to be

There will be more of these half-day classes if a new school is not built. If you want your children to have a good educa-

Dear Editor, We need more room to have better classes. The classes we have now are too short. Some are not interesting because we have too short a period. We need more study class period. Our grades are down because we have to get up so early that we don't feel wide awake. It gets a little cold walking to school at 7 in the morning. The class rooms we have are too small even if we

Richard E. Cradit Dear Editor, Some of the people who live in

the way around we need a new stated.

is really hard on the teachers. Some of them must go to school very early in the morning to teach us and then some must stay until five or later teaching We need a new school and I hope we get it. Worried Celia Peterson

Education is a MUST for youth today. Too large an enrollment per room, as we now have, does not give the teacher time to give the needed attention to their stu-

ty in which the proponents of a new senior high school are pressing the voters of the O'Neill school district for a redetermination of their views on this school. the bond issue being voted down

the "rainy day" utilization by students whose sole use is eating lunch in this place. The new grade school erected some few years ago was said by issue should be defeated by an

voters could make an intelligent choice in the matter. 1. How many square feet in the proposed new school is to be used solely for class rooms? How rooms, teachers lounge, power plant, recreation purposes (gym etc). What is the anticipated price per acre for the necessary land and is it true that the school board has already sounded out the property owners in the north and east ends of the city to acquire land at \$1000 per acre? Is this cost included in the \$465,000? How much additional cost for paving, water, sewer, lights etc.,? 2. What is the anticipated cost for the junior high school, where is it to be built? Additional costs etc., The cost for this school must be greater than the cost for the senior high school for there are always more freshmen and sophomores than juniors and seniors?

should not be forced to go across town to use other gymnasiums?

Now those who criticize must

proponents of the new school, before time for the selection or nonselection of a new school by the electorate. I have a direct interest in this

Sincerely Yours, IMAN INDIRECT TAXPAYER

Dear Sir.

High School.

where they will do their trading

ers and ranchers.

stead of threatening them with

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

Mrs. John Alder

Phone 135, Inman