Keema Urges Yes Vote on Junior College District

Elwood J. Keema, superintendent of the Grant Union High School District, on Friday urged the resident of his school district to vote for the formation of a junior college district in Friday's election.

The election will be held in each elementary gym in the Grant and San Juan Union High School Districts. If a majority of the voters approve the proposal, junior college will be established to replace the Grant Technical College.

Established Need

In a letter to voters in his district, Keema pointed out the need for the junior college was established by a state department of education study which showed there were 26,886 kindergartners through 12th grade students not enrolled in American River Junior College on October 31, 1953, against 23,531 students in the same 12 grades enrolled in American River Junior College.

He said the consolidation of the Grant and San Juan districts should double the property valuation and cut the tax rate from its current 45 to 20.

Even after the construction of the junior college plant, he added, the bond tax should be the same as that used to operate the Grant Technical College.

Backed by School Boards

"The school boards of the San Juan and Grant Union High School Districts," Keema explained, "have sold the necessity of meeting this growth on the high school level and therefore have voted for the establishment of the junior college district.

"The proposal for junior college district will be able to provide adequate needs not only of junior college students, but of the numerous adults seeking high school diplomas, lower division college work and trade and vocational.

Initial Action Is Filed To Acquire Land For New JC

The first condemnation suit to acquire land for the new American River Junior College District has been filed in the superior court by District Attorney Francis O'Shea. The suit seeks $135 acres of property in an area east of Walnut Avenue and bounded on the south by the south by the south, and on the north by Myrtle Avenue.

Reveals Site Picked

Filing of the condemnation action was the first indication that the board of trustees for the new junior college had settled on a future campus location. The new school district school will be called the Grant Technical College and will serve the San Juan and Grant Union High School Districts.

Principal landowners named in the suit include: Charles D. Evans, Ray and Charles Parks, Henrietta Johnson, Robert L. and Ruth Cameron, Arnie H. and Hilda Johnson, E. A. and Helen Johnson, Clarence W. and Helen Kelcher, Gordon W. and Sylvia Frese, Arthur W. and Helen Creason, and Ruby and Aaron Comer.

Trustees are Edwin D. Winter, B. W. B. Evans, Mrs. Kenneth Hammmaker, Stanley W. Prestyer and George E. McNeeley.

$5,000,000 Bond Issue

The voters of the two high school districts last November approved a bond issue to build the college. It is anticipated the college will serve 4,000 students when completed.

A comprehensive survey of possible campus sites was completed by Elwood J. Keema, superintendent of the Grant Union High School District; T. R. Smedberg, county superintendent of schools; Mr. Preter, William T. Mooney, superintendent of the San Juan High School District; Mr. Prestyer, William Mooney, superintendent of the San Juan High School District; James R. Cowan, superintendent of the Grant Technical College District.

Junior College Post Attracts North Area Men

Two north area educators, Elwood J. Keema and Dr. James R. Cowan, are being considered for the job of superintendent of the American River Junior College District.

Stanley W. Prestyer, director of the Board of Trustees, made the announcement today and will interview Keema and Cowan and three other applicants for the post this month.

North Area Votes For Junior College By Wide Margin

North area voters have approved the proposal to establish a junior college district by an overwhelming vote of 1,882 to 225. An unofficial count disclose voters in the Grant Union High School District favor the proposal 825 to 46, a margin of 18 to 1, and those in the San Juan High School District approved the measure 1,057 to 141, a nine to one victory.

Elwood J. Keema, superintendent of the Grant district, announced the following totals from various precincts:

- Grant: 650, yes; 175, no
- San Juan: 470, yes; 225, no

Jr. College District Approved

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The new junior college district will be the appointment of an inter board of trustees by T. R. Smedberg, the county superintendent of schools.

The board, he added, will hire an architect to make plans for the school, locate a school site, set up a curriculum to employ teachers, and other school personnel.

The temporary trustees will serve until next May when the voters will elect a board which will establish the district.

The Grand Superintendent announced there is a possibility the new district may use the facilities of the American River Junior College district until a new school more centrally located can be built. The Grand College will cease to operate as part of the Grant Union High School District on June 30, 1955.