

the washington county

# news-times

VOL. 92, NO. 50

FOREST GROVE, ORE., MAY 11, 1977

15 Cents

## State team probes equality at NAJHS

A team of four educators experienced in civil rights matters, headed by Larry Mylnechuk, equal education and legal specialist for the Oregon Department of Education, was in Forest Grove on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week to determine if School District 15 is complying with equal educational opportunity guidelines of the state. They were spending most of their time at Neil Armstrong Junior High School, but also planned to visit the high school.

Decision to make the evaluation in

Forest Grove this spring instead of waiting until a statewide program is launched next fall came in the aftermath of complaints by the Concilio de Padres of discrimination against Mexican-American pupils in the schools. The school board expressed its desire for a state investigation in order to "clear the air", but decision to make it was that of Verne Duncan, state supervisor of public instruction, according to Mylnechuk.

At the board's Tuesday luncheon meeting, Mylnechuk said that the team could come up with three possible findings when it completes its report, probably in three weeks: (1) District 15 is in full compliance with state guidelines;

(2) The district is basically in compliance but some recommendations are made, and

(3) Some aspects of the district's pro-

gram are not in compliance and the district will be given a certain period in which to draw up a proposal for correction of the problems.

Mylnechuk said the team will do a thorough job similar to investigations by the U.S. Office of Civil Rights, but, he added, hopefully avoiding that agency's mistakes. He said Duncan will review the report and make the final determination.

"We have good assessment tools," he told the board, and "we are aware of the community pressure and politics involved." He added that the problems are similar to those experienced in Dayton and Ontario which have now been solved. He noted however that sometimes the matters seem to grow worse for a time before they subside.

At its regular Thursday meeting at 8 p.m. in the district board room, the

(Continued on Page 2)