

Threat to Teachers Who Discuss War

Sacramento

Legislation to allow firing of teachers who digress from their regular subjects to discuss the war was approved 46-13 by the Assembly yesterday.

Assembly Speaker pro tem Charles Conrad (Rep-Sherman Oaks), introduced the legislation in response to Vietnam Moratorium days last October and November.

It allows suspension or dismissal of public school teachers who either dismiss classes or deviate from their regular topics. Conrad said the initial action would be at the direction of the local school superintendent.

"This bill says, 'Don't you dare talk about relevant things in the classroom,'" said Assemblyman John Vasconcellos (Dem-San Jose). "This is the time to talk about really important things like race, war, poverty and hunger," he said.

"Physics is a science," replied Conrad. "It is neither moral nor immoral. If we are going to solve the problems Mr. Vasconcellos talks about, we are going to need these sciences."

The measure, which has been pending nearly a month on the Assembly floor, now goes to the Senate.

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