

TO : B. Wilder
FROM : P. Basler
SUBJECT : Monthly Report for Nov.

I. Practical Arts Instruction :

Classes in the French Section started Nov. 7. We are not too happy with the schedule. As long as classes in the practical arts are compulsory, adequate time should be allotted for them. These classes should be taken into consideration when the French section schedule is made out.

This year as in past years the French have made out their schedule and then practical arts classes have to be fit in the free hours. This year the problem of scheduling these classes was compounded by the new school hours. Last year the French did not want to teach in the afternoon from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM so we had these hours free for practical arts. This year with classes over at 3:00 PM and an increased student load in the academic subjects it was impossible to fit P.A. classes into the schedule.

In order to give the students more than one or two hours a week we were forced to schedule classes from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM in some cases. This is not fair to the students or the teachers and it also downgrades the whole P.A. Program. If the P.A. Program is important enough to make it compulsory it should not be made extracurricular.

This is the third week of classes and I am surprised that the students have not as yet registered any complaints at being forced to attend classes after 3:00 PM when the rest of the students are free.

Classes are going along as well as can be expected under the present schedule. Absentees are no higher than usual. If this continues throughout the year there will be enough time to cover most of the subject matter.

II. Maintenance : Construction and School Services :

We should start to see a change for the better in the motor pool area. Robert Bryson has been fully schooled on the problems confronting him in this area. I have had some time to talk with him and have tried to explain the situation. I feel in some ways he has a good chance of getting more accomplished in this area

in the next two years than I was able to do in the past three years. Reasons being : 1. He has faced many of these same problems in his position with the P.C. ; 2. He has a very good background in the field of mechanics ; 3. I have taken him to see and introduced him to men in positions to be able to help him. (Head of USAID MTS, Head of BPR Maintenance, Head of P.W. Maintenance) I was on very friendly terms with these people and in all cases they told Bob to come and see them if he thought they could be of help ; 4..I have told him exactly the problems he has to face. He seemed to come up with the same solutions, in most cases that I had tried and I explained to him the reasons these solutions had not worked in the past. I also told him that just because they did not work in the past does not mean they will not work in the future.

In the Farm area all the rice seedlings that the farmers wanted have been taken. They are now going to plant mug beans in the same area to improve the soil.

Dave St. Louis has written a very comprehensive outline entitled "Technical Cooperation Program at the ESP Farm". The outline is being sent out to all parties that will be involved in the program. It shows a lot of work on Daves part. It is good to see plans for the future that show the aims and the direction that the farm can strive for.

Even though Dave is looking to the future he still is running into everyday problems. 1. The school business manager has asked the farm to pay for repairs made to the farm L.R. pick-up truck. I see no reason why the money should come from the farm fund ; when the school has money in their budget for repair and maintenance for school vehicles. 2. Tractor drivers working for the farm think all they have to do is drive the tractor. Dave is trying to convince Mr. Kila Mounivong that the drivers are farm workers too and only drive the tractors when they are needed. 3. For some reason the director of the school kitchen would not buy pork from the farm. Dave reports that he had a written order from the school business manager and also that the price of the pork was less than market price. It looks like poor kitchen management.

Things in the plumbing area are going along as usual. Dell Johnson has helped Songkon set-up course material for plumbing. Dell also spent some time this month in Vang Vieng. He is working with the Bureau of Public Works Advising plumbing Construction for a new hospital.

In the Home Economic's department Judy Green states that

the new Horbart food equipment has been received, set-up and was running. After she handed in her report one of the food cutter attachments was handed to her and it looked like some one was trying to cut stones. The blades were bent and some broken.

Bob Van Nest has spent most of the month getting all woodworking tools rejuvenated. Work has also been done on the Lao house and ready or not Dr. Porter is going to move in this week.

III. Local IVS Business.

A. Kip Accounts :

All IVS kip expenditures now need prior approval by Dr. Somphou and Dr. Hall. I have asked Dr. Somphou if it would be O.K. to get Mr. Thiem's signature during Dr. Somphou's absence. He said yes and this will make the process faster as Dr. Somphou is a hard man to find.

B. Logistics :

Most of the household affects have arrived and been handed out to the new IVS'ers. We are still waiting for sheets, blankets, pots, pans and kitchen utensiles. When these things arrive the team should be fully equiped and things on loan from USAID can be returned.