

GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD WILL END SERVICE

HAS SPENT 40 MILLION FOR NEGRO EDUCATION

NEW YORK CITY, Sept. 29—(ANP)—It was learned here this week that the General Education Board, world-famed organization which in 35 years has given more than 255 millions of dollars for the education of American citizens, will bring its distinguished career of public service to a close when its present funds are exhausted.

A release from the office of the Board President, Raymond B. Fosdick, this week, explained: "The life of the General Education Board is running to its close. It is probable that within a few years its fund will be completely exhausted and the organization will be liquidated. The Trustees have felt that in the rapidly moving times, through which we have lived since the war, it was more important to meet challenging opportunities in the development of fields like medical education for example, than it was to conserve principal funds for some indefinite future.

"There are no scales, of course, by which the potentialities of the present can be weighed against those of the future. But the present is vividly here, with its needs and possibilities; the future is beyond reckoning and we of this generation must live in the faith that it will find means to provide for itself. This in brief is the point of view which has led the trustees to approach the coming liquidation of the General Education Board with the belief that it represent as far as limited human intelligence can foresee, a socially desirable step."

Reaction of colored leaders to the board's announcement were varied, but all agreed that with the board's closing the cause of Negro education will lose a valued and potent ally. A prominent Southern business man, connected in an official capacity with a Southern college, in New York on a business trip, declared:

"I am surprised to learn that the General Education Board, which has been one of the most important influences in the educational life of the Negro, is to leave the field. Stemmed in a conference held in 1902 at Tuskegee Institute with Booker T. Washington, Dr. Wallace Buttrick, George Foster, William H. Baldwin and others present, the board was destined to serve not only the Negro, for whom it was to some extent formed, but national and international projects.

"Of the 255 million dollars spent by the board in 35 years, only 40 million dollars was spent for Negro educational facilities.

"The General Education Board has done a grand job, but it is one which is far from being finished. What great force can take its place? How far can Negroes help? How far will they actually help? Have Negroes in Southern States been wakened enough so that they can unite, use their political strength, direct and indirect, and thus bring about greater equality in expenditures, equipment and curricula in the educational institutions of the South?"

Established in 1902 by John Davison Rockefeller, the General Education Board was dedicated, in the words of its charter, to "the promotion of education within the United States without distinction of race, sex or creed." While Mr. Rockefeller's gifts to the board, extending from 1902 to 1921, constituted practically the entire principal fund, smaller gifts came from Miss Anna T. Jeanes, the estate of Laura Spelman Rockefeller and the estate of Lucy M. Spelman, as well as from other miscellaneous sources. The total amount received by the board in gifts and the accrediting thereof, exclusive of income from investments, was \$179,754,751.44.

The total of \$255,334,670.57 spent in the 35 years ending 1937, was divided by the board as follows: Medical education, \$89,000,000; higher education (college of liberal arts) \$68,000,000; Negro education, \$40,000,000; special educational programs, \$53,000,000.