



MOURNED—Dr. Walter F. Dexter, state superintendent of public instruction and widely known in Pasadena, died in his sleep late yesterday in a Sacramento hospital.

Dr. Dexter's Rites Being Arranged

Funeral arrangements were being made today in Sacramento for Dr. Walter F. Dexter, 44, state superintendent of public instruction and father of L. J. (Jed) Walter F. Dexter, U. S. Sen. of Pasadena.

Dr. Dexter died in his sleep yesterday in Sutter Hospital in Sacramento after being stricken with a heart attack last Tuesday in his state office. Earlier he developed hypotensive pneumonia, according to the physician, Dr. C. Norman Green, and yesterday morning lapsed into a coma from which he did not recover.

Lieutenant Dexter was returning to the United States from Puerto Rico when his father was stricken and was believed to be flying from Washington, D. C., today. Lieutenant Dexter's wife, the former Louise Geringhouse of Pasadena, who lives with her father, 1, 11, Gardinghouse, at the family home at 1241 North Los Robles Avenue, was in Sacramento with her 11-year-old son, Walter F. Dexter III, at the time of her father's death.

Whittier Ex-President
Born in Chicago and educated at Harvard University, Dr. Dexter came to California in 1912 to become president of Whittier College. He served there 11 years and in 1923 was appointed executive secretary to former Gov. Frank Merriam.

Merriam appointed him state superintendent of public instruction in 1937. He was re-elected in 1937 and 1942.

Dr. Dexter, a past international president of the Lines Club, has been mentioned at various times as a prospective candidate for governor and U. S. Senator but had never actively sought either office. Gov. Earl Warren was expected to appoint a successor shortly. Dr. Dexter's term would have expired in 1946.

Nationally Known
Dr. Dexter was a nationally known authority on education. One of the highlights of his career as head of the state system of education, which post he assumed Feb. 11, 1937, was during the Silver-Burdett language fiasco. The State Board of Education adopted a series of books and Dexter refused to sign the contract, contending the books were unscientific. The contract was never consummated.

In addition to his son he is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ethel Dexter of Sacramento. Gov. Earl Warren today in Sacramento expressed regret at the death of Dr. Walter Dexter, state superintendent of public instruction, in a statement which read: "The passing of Walter Dexter is a sad blow to the people of our state. For many years he has led the fight for better schools in California. Every child in our public schools has been a beneficiary of his fine service. It is regrettable that he could not have lived to put into execution his plans for education in the postwar era."

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