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Are You Going?

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Editorial Comment

ARE YOU GOING?

For conscientious teachers of reading and reading specialists, the IRA conference in Seattle is an opportunity for growth. Teachers who say they cannot afford to attend should ask themselves, "Can I afford not to attend?" Some complain that their school is unwilling to pay their expenses and, well, they are not going. Neither does the school pay their professional fees in learned societies or their life insurance premiums. Their expectation is somewhat unreasonable.

Alert teachers attend a conference for a purpose and plan carefully well in advance what meetings to attend and what meetings not to attend. As they participate in those of their choice, they ask questions of the speaker and contribute to discussions. They are active, not passive. They know when to spend time in the corridor and they know what people to see and what people not to see. They make new friends and seek new ideas. They are busy and have a well planned schedule.

Apt teachers of reading are frequently on the program because their associates recognize their contributions and leadership. They may go early and stay late in order to participate in conferences within conferences. As critical thinkers, they are stimulated by a conflict of ideas and consider objectively points of view which differ from their own. The conference for them is not "just a trip" sponsored by their school administration. It is an opportunity for growth and advancement.

Homer L. J. Carter
Editor