

We direct your attention to the appended tabular presentation of enrollment by grades from October 1, 1960 through October 1, 1974, which showed the total Lexington School System, Grades 1 through 12, climbing from 6,280 in 1960 to a figure of 8,264 in 1966. Then with inclusion of kindergartens in 1967, it jumped to 9,110 pupils, rising to a maximum of 9,609, kindergarten through 12 in 1969 and falling now to a total enrollment of 8,397, kindergarten through 12 as of October 1, 1974.

Due to the change in the age groupings of the citizens of Lexington the Town has presently realized a decrease in school population during the past five years of 1,212 children. At the same time the total town population increased. A study of enrollment projections in the appended report will show the assumptions that have been made concerning Metco pupils and vocational students, which are being provided for on a regional basis.

Acknowledging the challenges which

may be raised for any system of projections, the appended material indicates without question a continuing decline in the school age population. We have taken that material and extended it further than the authors so that we might project the school population for 1980. These Figures do not have the same degree of accuracy but they are indicative. Through the continuing process of review, we would expect each year to further develop these figures so that any change in the present trend could be incorporated at the earliest possible time. It is also of the utmost importance that any decisions reached as a result of this survey will provide a flexibility that will accommodate these statistical revisions. Our projections to 1980 show:

October 1, 1974	
Grades K -12 Total Enrollment =	8,397 pupils
October 1, 1980	
Grades K - 12 Total Enrollment =	<u>5,542 pupils</u>
NET LOSS =	2,855 pupils

This is the equivalent of all the students housed in either the Junior

High Schools, or the Senior High School plus the students housed in the Hastings Elementary School as of 1973. It is the equivalent of 114 classrooms filled with children at an average number of 25 students per room. It is based upon this history of growth and change that we start our survey.

### III. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The educational philosophy of the Town of Lexington is the responsibility of its School Committee implemented through and with the assistance of its Superintendent of Schools. We have not endeavored to influence that philosophy. We have seen its most recent physical embodiment in the Bridge and Bowman Elementary Schools, the Clarke Junior High School and the most recently renovated portions of the Senior High School. Though these schools are all relatively new, the constant process of change requires us to view even these schools differently than when they were constructed.