



FROM **WATERLOO LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY**

WATERLOO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE - WATERLOO LUTHERAN SEMINARY

75 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA

TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 519, 744-8141

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Richard K. Taylor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCHOOL DROP-OUT PROGRAM

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The dean of students at Waterloo Lutheran University urged here last night that it is time Ontario adopted a more imaginative program to assist school drop-outs and failures.

Dr. Frederick J. Speckeen, speaking to the Kitchener Men Teachers' Federation at the Breslau Hotel, said.:

"Too many pupils with above average ability are leaving school as soon as possible, in addition to those with below-average abilities."

He said he would like to see a program implemented for the so-called under-achievers to demonstrate what could be done to reclaim them from the education scrap heap.

"Take a group at the Grade 8 level and give them a three-month course of instruction under highly competent teachers. Have them live with residence instructors seven days per week in a new environment, conducive to study, and see what happens."

Dr. Speckeen said those who drop out of school at elementary or early high school levels are Ontario's, even Canada's, forgotten men. They are doomed to temporary or dead end jobs or face eventual unemployment.

"Many Canadians do not know how to write a cheque, fill out an application form, read a road map, make a long-distance phone call, plan a budget. These skills are too frequently learned at home but the early drop-out, usually a product of drop-out parents, does not learn at home."

"The federal government must act at once to remedy an intolerable situation," Dr. Speckeen said. "On the local level much would be accomplished by a school, specially designed to educate potential drop-outs and repeaters."