

# Disposition of Resolutions

Mrs. Herb Maluske, Convener

## EASTERN AREA

### Requesting the Government's stand on cannabis legislation.

The Hon. Monique Begin, Minister of Health and Welfare Canada, replied: "It was indicated in the Speech from the Throne on April 14, 1980 that the Government intends to move cannabis to the Food and Drug Act from the Narcotic Control Act and to remove the possibility of imprisonment for simple possession of marijuana. There is no intention of legalizing marijuana."

There is no doubt regarding the potential harm to health which may result from continued use of cannabis, and it worries me to think that Canadians may not be aware of these risks. I am concerned about the short and long term effect of cannabis on the health of young people. Also, about accidents which may result from the operation of motor vehicles or other machines by people of any age while intoxicated from using cannabis.

Survey data indicate that use among young Canadians has been rising steadily and I wish to ensure that any changes which are introduced do not contribute to the rate of increase. The Government wishes to convey a clear message of discouragement of cannabis use.

It does seem unjust that current criminal procedures annually result in many thousands of young Canadians receiving criminal records. It is with these concerns in mind that officials in my Department, the Department of Justice and the office of the Solicitor General are studying the problem. To alleviate these difficulties they have been asked to propose changes in the current statutes which, when combined with an education campaign, will clearly convey the Government's firm policy of discouragement of cannabis use."

## RAMSAYVILLE WI,

### CARLETON EAST DISTRICT—EMERGENCY

#### Requesting legislation requiring pharmacists to label medicines with precautions.

The Hon. Monique Begin, Minister of Health and Welfare, replied: "The detailed labelling of drugs dispensed pursuant to a prescription has traditionally been considered as coming within the scope of the practice of pharmacy, thus a matter of provincial jurisdiction. This Department is responsible for the labelling of drugs at the manufacturing level." The Ontario College of Pharmacy publish a brochure to assist the public to understand the drugs they are taking. It is not their policy to mandate use and education policies on labels.

## ONONDAGA WI,

### BRANT NORTH DISTRICT—EMERGENCY

#### Requesting the Hon. Dr. H. C. Parrott to eliminate a proposed interim storage facility at Middleport for the dangerous chemical PCB.

Dr. Parrott wrote, "The storage facility is being proposed to avoid the danger of PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyl) entering the environment. Unless this chemical is safely under lock and key we run the danger of PCB's entering into the food chain and causing enormous harm to human beings. I would rather destroy them for all time—and scientists of the Ministry believe that this could be done safely and efficiently in the St.

Lawrence cement kiln in Mississauga. However, I am sure you are aware of the opposition we face from the local residents no matter what assurances we give them. The plasma arc and other similar destruction technology will hopefully prove out successfully, but these are still in the research and development stage and will not be available at full-scale for at least three years, at the very earliest.

My ultimate goal is to destroy PCB's, but until I am in a position to do so, I firmly believe that we cannot run the risks inherent in having PCB's left wherever they may happen to be. For instance, there is no community in Ontario that doesn't have electrical transformers in it. Surely, if a transformer were to leak, the PCB's should not simply be put in a container and left in place?

Which is safer, from the point of view of your family, for instance: to know exactly where the PCB's are and the safety conditions attached to the storage facilities pending their ultimate destruction?—or to be uncertain of children's safety when they go out to play because they might stumble into a stored container of PCB's at any location in the community? Dr. Parrott urged that WI members attend the Environmental Assessment Board Hearings when they are held for this proposal so that all those concerned can receive full details of the proposal."

## MUSKOKA SOUTH DISTRICT

### ANNUAL—EMERGENCY

#### Requesting the prohibition on playing any game or sport in cemeteries.

The Hon. Frank Drea, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, directed M. A. Thompson, Superintendent of Insurance, to respond: "The Prohibition against playing at any game or sport in a cemetery is to remain in the Cemeteries Act. While we expect changes to be made to the Act, the prohibition section will remain as it is at present."

# Resolutions

## CENTRAL AREA

FWIO requests the Ontario Ministry of Education

(1) to promote in our schools reverence for God and respect for all human life through a brief period of daily devotions in the classrooms.

(2) To discourage, through our education structure, the disintegration forces of moral permissiveness, drug abuse and violence, and at the same time, encourage a lifestyle which leads to the stability of home life and responsible citizenship.

## EASTERN AREA

FWIO requests the Department of National Health and Welfare that the Food and Drug Act Regulations require food manufactures to eliminate, as soon as possible, all questionable additives to improve the quality and safety of the food we eat.

A new tax will primarily be based on a re-assessed value of farmland, if this tax becomes law the indications are: that the tax load will be shifted more toward the rural landowner, in many cases, farmers' taxes will almost double. The FWIO requests the Ontario Government to reconsider the decision to change the tax structure.