

Disposition of Resolutions

Mrs. Clarence Diamond, Convener

Twenty-two Resolutions were sustained at Area Conventions in 1980. All were presented at the annual meeting for the Directors' consideration. Two were lost — one regarding the lowering the age of 4-H and another asking that laborers be used for brush cleaning on roadsides. Two resolutions were similar from Grey Bruce and Hamilton, re: Bell; and Hamilton and North Central re: Caloric content being listed on products. In both instances Hamilton Area were considered.

All Resolutions with consumer input were forwarded to the Ontario Division Consumers' Association of Canada.

RESOLUTION RE REVERENCE AND RESPECT IN CLASSROOM AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF A LIFE-STYLE TO LEAD TO STABILITY OF HOME LIFE AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP:

Hon. Bette Stephenson, Minister of Education replied, that steps have been taken regarding regulations requiring public and secondary schools to be opened and closed each day with religious exercises consisting of the reading of scriptures or other suitable readings and repeating the Lord's Prayer or other suitable prayers. There appears to be general consensus that any extension of this practice which would involve all students in a daily devotional period, as you have proposed, is inappropriate in our multicultural schools. This is not to say that there are not other ways, support document developed for teachers, was mentioned.

RESOLUTION RE-ASSESSMENT OF LAND TO MARKET VALUE:

Hon. Lorne Maeck explained because of continued growth of inequities in the property tax system, Section 86 re-assessment program was developed and is available to any municipality which requests it. It involves assigning property to various classes and reassessing all property to market value within the class. Under this, all single family housing and all farms will be assessed at the same level as all other farms and single family housing. The main purpose, is to remove inequities in the current assessment system without disturbing the relationship between the levels of assessment for different classes of property. To ensure this, the process is governed by a proviso that the total tax on any given class of property shall not increase as a result of the re-assessment. "I trust this is a reassurance that the farmers' tax burden will not double as a result of the assessment revisions taking place across the Province."

RESOLUTION RE THAT FOOD AND DRUG ACT REGULATIONS REQUIRE FOOD MANUFACTURERS TO ELIMINATE ALL QUESTIONABLE FOOD ADDITIVES:

Hon. Monique Bégin stated the use of additives in foods is optional but if used each additive must be declared on labels of pre-packaged foods. On basis of labelling she said that a consumer may make informed purchasing decisions and value judgments or alternately may choose not to purchase foods containing additives. Based on our present knowledge, additives used in accordance with provisions of Food and Drug regulations do not constitute a hazard to the Consumer.

RESOLUTION RE LANGUAGE OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS BEING WRITTEN IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC CANNOT UNDERSTAND IT: Hon. Frank Drea, Consumer and Commercial Relations said that preference for clear, plain language is understandable but as legal contracts have evolved, they have been steeped in 'heretofores and notwithstanding', which have been the subject of judicial interpretation and have taken on specific meanings. As desirable as plain language may be, changes in words can create their own uncertainties. We are working to develop wordings that are clear and readily understandable by the lay person.

Hon. Bud Olson, Minister of State for Economic Development replied, insofar as simplification and clarification of the language used in formal documents is concerned, this has not been actively considered.

RESOLUTION RE JUNK FOODS IN SCHOOL CAFETERIAS:

Hon. Bette Stephenson replied and enclosed a copy of a working paper on school food services. She stated that nutrition, as a topic in the school system curriculum would be included in courses of study developed from these guidelines. In conclusion she stated that the food sold in cafeterias is within the responsibilities of local school boards.

Hon. Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Health said he shares FWIO's interest and said that in health units where nutrition in schools is given high priority the staff nutritionist becomes very active in initiating improvements in school food services.

RESOLUTION RE HOME CARE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE:

Hon. Timbrell explained the three pilot projects initiated in 1975 for chronic Home Care Services across the Province which has, as of Feb. 10, expanded to eighteen local ones. The expectation is to virtually complete the extension of Chronic Home Care Centres across the Province during the next fiscal year. The current annual expenditure of approximately 49 million will rise to approximately 70 million in the next year. The support and enthusiasm expressed by FWIO are appreciated and will assist in large measure in the extension of these important services.

RESOLUTION RE BELL CANADA'S PROPOSAL TO INITIATE USAGE SENSITIVE PRICING:

Hon. Mr. Fox, Federal Minister of Communications, the CRTC, Provincial Minister of Transport and Communications, President of Bell Canada, all were sent copies. Replies stated, if changes are to be made in their service, they will come only as a result of full study and consideration of factors. Further, it was stated that in 1977 the CRTC supported by a number of Consumer Groups asked Bell to study feasibility of measured service as a form of budget service. We are very much aware that special provisions will have to be examined for telephone users who have special needs and a field trial would give us data needed for consideration of such questions.