

Prayers, Anthem May Be At Principal's Discretion

Halton County Board of Education trustees have received a confidential report on religious principals the authority to eliminate prayers and the national anthem from opening exercises in secondary schools.

The report of the education board's Religious Education Committee was recently received by trustees and is stamped confidential. The report is signed by all members of the committee.

Trustee Douglas Palmer headed the Religious Education Committee which held a series of public hearings in Halton before writing the report.

12 RECOMMENDATIONS

The report will be tabled before the board during a closed meeting on September 13 when preliminary discussions of its 12 major recommendations will be considered.

The board had planned to consider the report last week, but could not do so because Palmer was not present to officially launch debate.

The 12 recommendations of the Halton religious education report follow in part the 12 recommendations of the provincial government's Committee on Religious Education in the Public Schools of Ontario.

The provincial committee was headed by former Lieutenant-governor J. Keiller Mackay who died this year.

KEY SUGGESTIONS

The main recommendations of the Mackay committee are:

1) The present course of study in religious education in the elementary schools of Ontario be discontinued and that its aims as set out in related legislation, programs of studies, regulations and guide books be abandoned.

2) The elementary schools opening exercises consisting of the National Anthem and a prayer, either of universal character appealing to God for help in the day's activities, or the Lord's Prayer, be held in the home rooms each morning.

3) The secondary schools opening exercises consisting of the National Anthem and either a prayer of universal character or the Lord's Prayer be held at the beginning of any student assembly but not daily in the classroom.

4) That the high duty of public education to foster character building be discharged through a clearly understood continuously pursued, universal program pervading every curricular and extra-curricular activity in the public school system from the beginning of the elementary to the close of secondary education. This program, which is to be distinguished from a course of study should be carefully planned and administered incidentally throughout the whole school spectrum. It will have as its focus character building, ethics, social attitudes, and more values and principles.

REPORT DIFFERS

A committee member Rev. B. F. Rice said this week that while the Halton religious committee was in "general agreement" with some of the major recommendations of the Mackay Report, it differed in many areas.

He said, "I believe our committee has come up with a far more flexible program. For instance, rather than completely wipe out morning prayers in high schools, we have left it up to the individual principal, while in other areas we have left certain matters up to the board."

Rev. Rice said the Halton committee does not favour "wiping out the present religious education program as suggested by the Mackay report, and starting all over again. We tried

MORE FLEXIBLE

to salvage the best of what we now have, and improve upon it. We have remained more flexible than Mackay."

Rev. Rice said the Halton committee "was not so concerned as the Mackay report with offending those people who object to religious education being taught in the public school system."

He added: "I feel our committee has avoided the inequities of the Mackay report,

mainly by being more flexible. Our report is more positive in that it does not call for all regulations and legislation concerning religious education to be discarded. This is the approach of the Mackay report."

Rev. Rice said basically the Halton religious education committee attempted to present recommendations which "adjust the present program to meet the needs of today's community... and we did not try, as did Mackay, to separate religion from any aspect of life including the schools."

Tanhardt's Kanaka Now In Animal Hall of Fame



OPP Cpl. Ab Boley with Tanhardt Kennel's Kanaka

Kanaka, the famous Ontario Provincial Police dog from Miss Laura Treble's Tanhardt Kennels at RR 1, Georgetown was admitted to the Animal Hall of Fame Wednesday.

The seven year old black German Shepherd retired from the force's canine team earlier this year and now is a family pet for its trainer Cpl. Albert Boley of Mount Forest.

OUTSTANDING RECORD

Kanaka's awards were a large photograph of himself and a year's supply of food. Presentations were made at the Hot Stove Lounge in Maple Leaf Gardens.

Duplicate copies of the photographs will hang in the Hall of Fame.

King Clancy, a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame made the presentation.

Kanaka has given distinguished service as a member of the OPP canine team with an outstanding record of rescues, arrests, recovery of evidence, stolen goods and money.

Robert McPherson, 83 Was Abitibi Employee

A retired employee of Abitibi Provincial Paper, Ltd. and Henry Davis Wood Products, Robert Ellison McPherson died in Georgetown hospital on September 7. He was 83.

An Amaranth township native he was the son of John and Eleanor Ellison McPherson. He farmed and did carpentry work at Laurel before moving to Georgetown 32 years ago. He was a member of St. John's United Church.

Predeceased by his wife, Lottie Haines, he remarried in 1943. He leaves his wife, Susie Mitchell; two sons, Irvin and Earl of Georgetown; a brother Stanley McPherson, Grand Valley and sisters Mrs. Ross Lomas (Ethel) of Waldemar and Mrs. James Bryan (Fanny) of Orangeville.

Rev. Robert Scrivens conducted the funeral service on Wednesday at the Harold C. McClure Funeral Home, and interment was in Greenwood Cemetery. Pallbearers were Wm. B. Hamilton, John Kennedy, Chesley, Lloyd Bryan and Mervyn McPherson, Orangeville, Jack Lomas and Bruce Manary, Laurel. Flower bearers were Graham Porter, Brampton, Paddy Woods, David Foster and Lorne Hammond.

The dog then had to walk out, through granular snow, ice and freezing water played havoc with his feet. He required constant medication on cuts to his pads and was put out of service as a result, for two weeks.

OPP Corporal Ab Boley, Kanaka's trainer and handler, believes without reservation that the lost hunter owes his life to the dedication and endurance of Kanaka.

Kanaka's fearlessness in the face of danger, his intelligence and endurance as a working member of the OPP canine team earned him his place in the Purina Animal Hall of Fame.

Miss Treble was among those present at the ceremony.

SILVERWOOD

Dessert Recipe Provides

Silverwood and Limehouse Women's Institutes combined two efforts and held a joint September meeting on the evening of Sept. 3 in the hall at Limehouse.

Mrs. Frank Brown, Limehouse president, welcomed the Silverwood women and Mrs. Harry Marchington expressed their pleasure in being there. It was a public relations and resolutions meeting. Mrs. Brown, who is press reporter for the county explained aspects of this part of Institute work. Mrs. Harry Scott, PR for Silverwood, read a paper on each member's part in creating a public image.

Resolutions were explained by Mrs. Anderson of Limehouse on how, why and the way to draft a resolution and the serious thinking before hand.

"Ben Case Day" was what the sign said and it proved right.

A large crowd of friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Ironside to show their esteem for Mr. Ben Case, a good neighbour and sincere friend to all in the community, and also in the larger community outside Silverwood.

Silverwood's Institute decided to honour Mr. Case and a picnic on the spacious ground of the Ironsides seemed the best way since his friends are so numerous. The weatherman cooperated and it was a perfect day.

Mrs. Ethel Hay visited with her brother, Mr. Ben Case on Sunday, September 8th.

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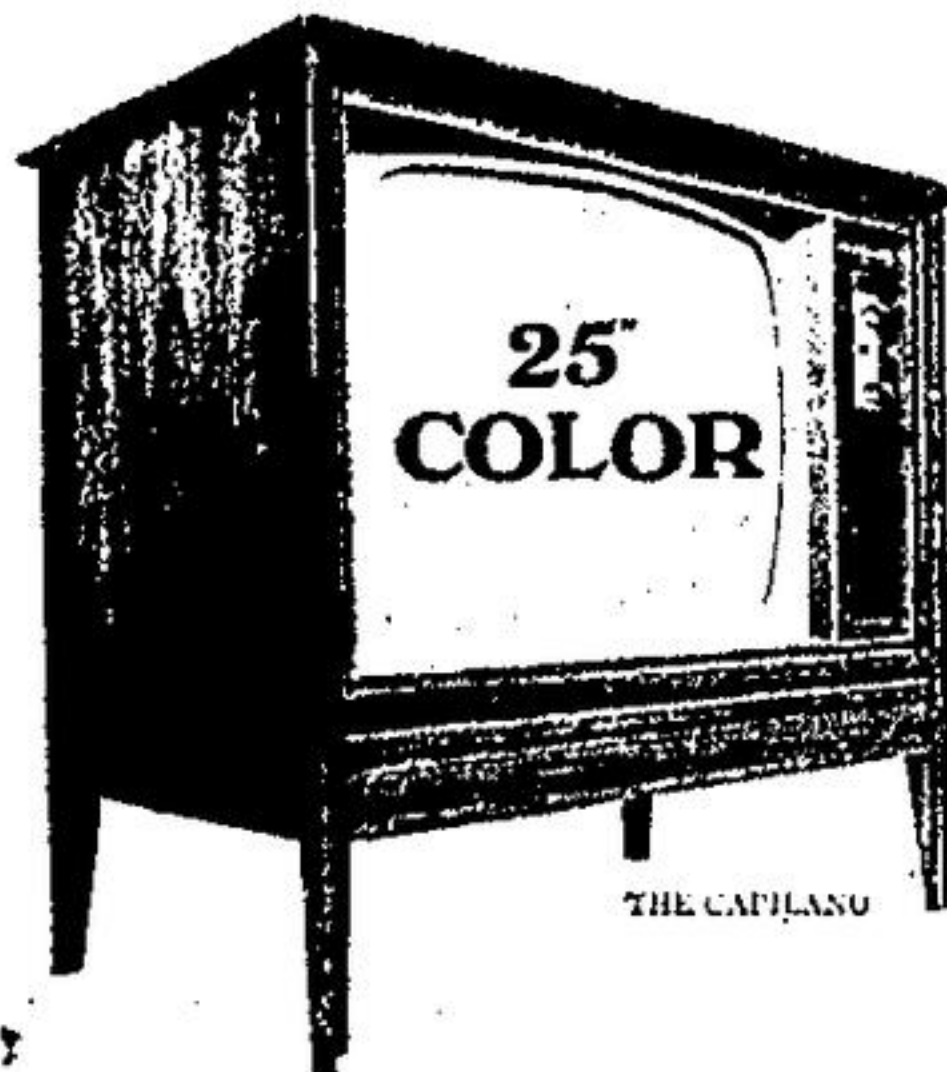
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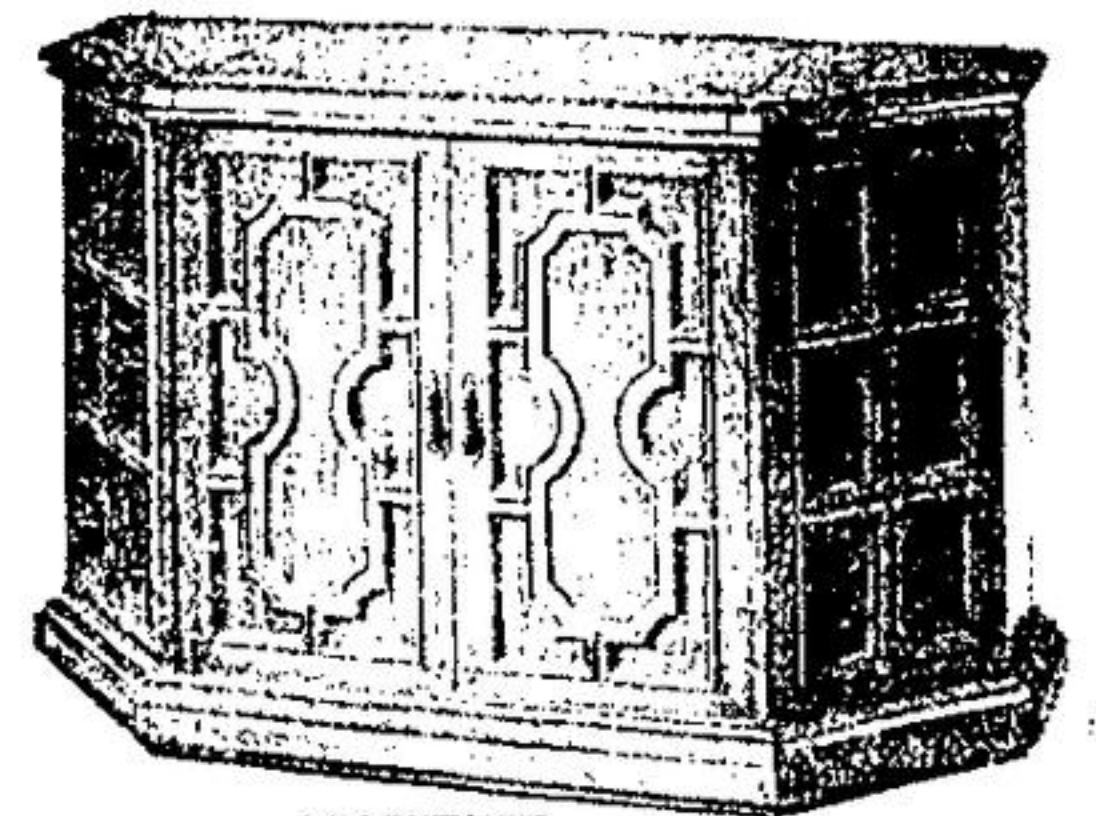
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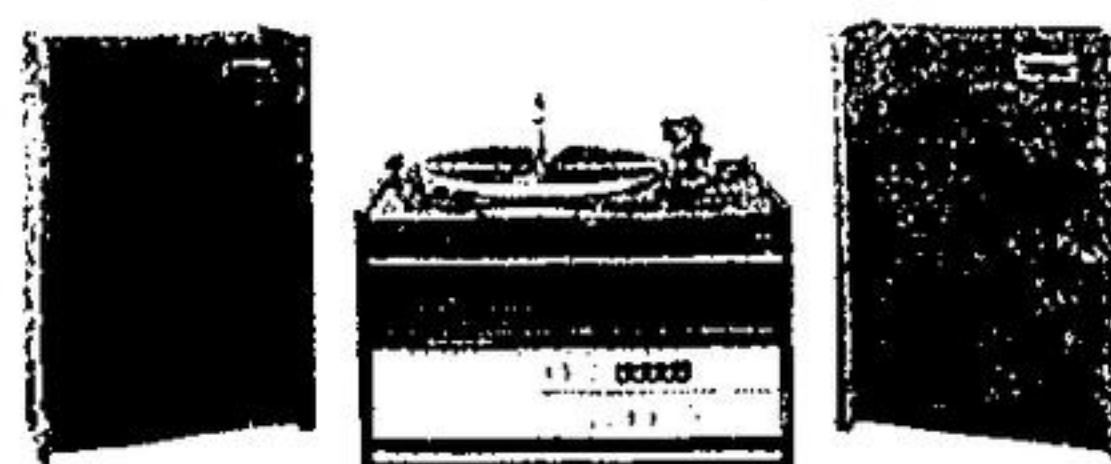
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2,000	36 mos.	66.30	384.56
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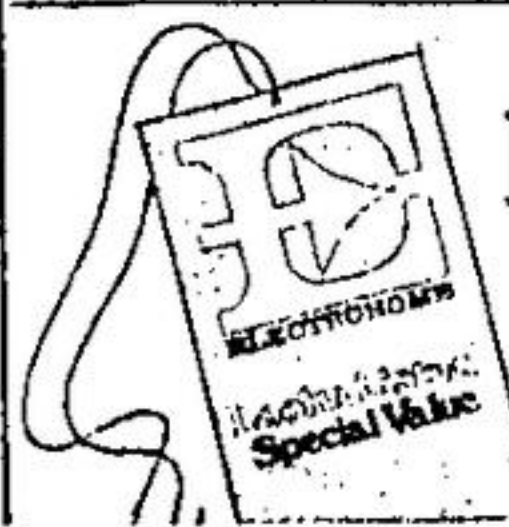


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