

Region alarmed over cost of welfare

Stumped with the problem of accommodating an estimated 7.5 per cent increase in staff salaries on the one hand, and a Council directive to hold 1979 budget increases to three per cent on the other, Regional Health and Social Services Committee decided to send the matter to Administration Committee for clarification.

"It's impossible to meet the three per cent guideline if we have a 7.5 per cent salary increase," Oakville Councillor Ron Planche argued. The proposed 1979 social

services budget, at \$2.9 million, was \$378,000 or 15 per cent over Council's guideline.

Although councilors are reviewing the budget with a fine-tooth comb, they can only make recommendations. Authority to approve the budget will rest with the Council formed after the November civic elections.

Nevertheless, while considering the general welfare assistance budget last week, the committee thoroughly grilled Rene Vivian, administrator of family and social services, on his budget

submissions.

The department's policy of conducting interviews with welfare recipients in their homes came under fire.

Led by Mr. Planche, the committee directed Mr. Vivian to bring in a report on alternative, more efficient ways of delivering services. Specifically, the committee wants to know whether requiring recipients to come to social service sub-offices would result in a saving of travel costs and time for staff.

"We've gone into a Cadillac

service in the assistance area," Mr. Planche stated. "We may have to look at the business of assisting people as a business and modify it in a way that would make business sense."

The issue was raised in the context of a discussion concerning Mr. Vivian's request to hire another supervisor for the general welfare assistance program. Councilors learned it would cost a total of \$23,900 to hire one more supervisor when the cost of furnishing and equipping an office in the new regional

headquarters as well as salary was taken into account.

Milton Councillor Jim Kerr suggested a way be found to cut down the field workers' loads so one of the workers could assume some supervisory functions.

Asking clients to report to welfare offices would be a regressive step, Mr. Vivian argued, recalling the long line-ups and crowded waiting rooms of many years ago when this practice was in effect. Moreover, additional secretarial staff and office

equipment would have to be obtained, he said.

Going into the home can be revealing, Mr. Vivian said, adding provincial policies required at least the initial interview be made in the applicant's home.

Mr. Vivian maintained an additional supervisor is needed for an on-going staff training program designed to orient new personnel and keep staff up to date. He said changes in legislation, particularly the revised family law, had greatly increased

the supervisors' workload. Decision on the extra supervisor was deferred pending Mr. Vivian's report.

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Halton Regional Police are investigating a break and enter at Clements and Noble Insurance at 16 Martin St. Thursday, Sept. 28.

According to police, just over \$10 was taken from the cash box. Thieves kicked in a door to enter the building.

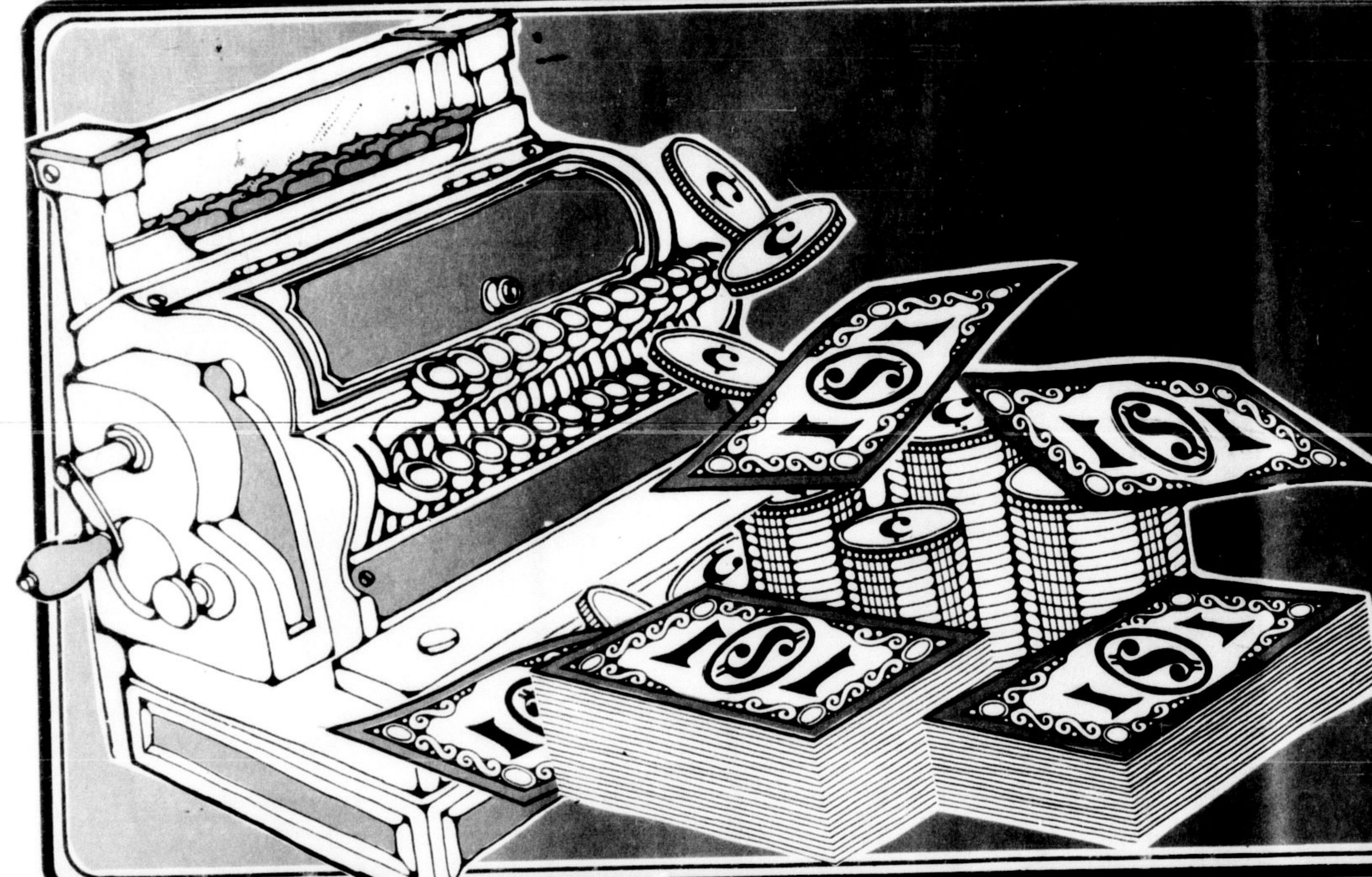
Name area minister to Seminary faculty

Rev. William Payne, Pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church in North Burlington, was appointed professor of Pastoral Theology and Homiletics at the Toronto Baptist Seminary this Fall.

Mr. Payne has pastored Trinity Baptist Church situated on Appleby Line and No. 2 Sideroad since its inception six years ago. He is in regular demand as a conference speaker in Canada and the United States, and two years ago was the guest speaker at the Carey Family Conference in Sussex, England.



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