



Why are these men smiling? They are looking at a \$25,000 cheque presented by Milton District Hospital Auxiliary to the hospital expansion fund at the group's Silver Anniversary Tea Sunday afternoon. Sam Nadalin (left) is chairman of the service clubs and organizations campaign and Bruce Dolson overall campaign chairman.

## Standards hike costs

Improved standards for private day care centres have won the support of Halton's social services committee.

That support, however, was coupled with a concern over the effect of the costs of the higher standards.

Committee members voted last week to endorse a new set of provincial standards of private day care centres, based on a recommendation from the day care advisory committee.

Some members, however, expressed concern about the effect the new standards will have on the costs of operating the centres and on the fees to be charged people using the facilities.

Debbie Oakley, Halton's social services director, said the new standards, implemented by the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services in January, have generally meant cost increases ranging between 1.5 and two per cent for private centres.

She warned, however, the new standards will have to be phased in if the costs are to be controlled.

Among the new standards approved are a requirement for a qualified Early Childhood Education graduate working in each licensed centre, an increase in the minimum amount of space required and a tighter staff-to-student ratio.

Despite their concerns, however, committee members were told they had little choice but to support the new standards.

"We have to realize the new standards mean higher costs, but we can't afford to get into any more centres of our own so we have to support them," said Oakville councillor Jackie Cutmore.

Councillor Rob Forbes (Burlington) said the cost effects of the new standards should be watched carefully because they could force some private operators out of business.

"I don't want to see the private sector pull out of this because they have pulled out of too many areas already," he said.

"We have to see that our private day care

operators are properly compensated so we can stay out a business where we don't belong."

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## Trustees expell book

By ALEX MATHESON

'The Sin of Jesus' has been eliminated by the Halton board of education without that body ever confronting the sin.

In a deft motion Thursday, the board neatly sidestepped the issue of the merits of a piece of controversial reading material recommended for its students and removed the offensive book from course curricula along with some others.

The original motion, put forward by trustee Len Crosier, was that the book 'The Story-Makers' be deleted from the list of approved textbooks.

It is a collection of short stories containing the one entitled 'The Sin of Jesus' by Isaac Babel, which raised the ire of some citizens. However, at the board table, a motion calling for the deletion of all books on the approved list not currently in use was made.

The objectionable book is not currently 'in use'. The motion was passed.

Trustee Crosier said that had the book been in use, he would have had to have gone with the original motion seeking the deletion of the particular book.

As it turned out, he said, the matter was dealt with through a routine "housekeeping motion".

Although the intent of the motion was aimed at 'The Story-Makers', that was because you can't take one story out of a book, said Mr. Crosier.

It was not necessarily passing judgement on the rest of the book.

He said there was no banning of the book or criticism of the people who chose it. The book is deleted and a teacher still has the right to make a case to put it back on the approved list.

Trustee Crosier said that anything 'put in the school has the stamp of approval of society as a whole.' The book may still be in a school library but not on the approved list as a textbook.

In speaking to the motion placed before the board, trustee Elaine Riehm said, "Controversial ideas may be part of the curriculum, but those ideas should be tailored to the age and maturity of the children."

She also told the board that there should be an intermediate step whereby there would be a review of controversial matters.

Director of Education Wally Beevor said that staff would devise a review process and bring it back to the board.

The issue of debating the merits of individual items by the board was a worry.

"We were concerned about a debate at the board table about a book, any book, although it may come to that at some point," said Mrs. Riehm.

There are 20 people with 20 opinions and the board doesn't usually deal with details of a book or programs, rather with policy, she added.

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