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## Doan Panel Considers Juvenile Responsibility

Mr. C. A. Chevis, program director of Ross Doan Home and School Association, spoke at the well attended meeting held recently of the general concern arising over acts of hooliganism in different areas of the community — a concern which gives rise to questions on the best ways of guiding children into a sense of responsibility.

He introduced members of the panel who represented various basic groups who influence the child, and invited opinions from two young people as well. Panel members were Mrs. A. Blackburn, representing parents, Mr. E. J. Sand, Supervising Principal, representing the teaching profession, Miss Jean Baylor, a last year's graduate from Ross Doan School, Reverend J. F. O'Neill, Rector of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Kenneth Green, a Ross Doan graduate two years ago, and Mr. Jesse Bryson, Councillor and member of the Vaughan Township Police Committee. Mr. Chevis was moderator for the discussion.

To the question regarding the effect of the school sports program toward the training of the child of any age, Mr. Sand felt that the effect is a very desirable one, if it develops the majority of the children and does not become a spectator sport. A co-ed program teaches perfection, fair play, unselfishness, proper attitudes toward others, and also enables him to recognize his own limitations.

Reverend Mr. O'Neill, answering the question on whether children who go to church manage to keep out of trouble more than others said that a church-going family is a responsible family with a high standard and there was less call to rescue the children from the courts. "Of course some people do divorce their Sunday life from their daily life," he said.

In response to: When children are told to do something should a reason be necessary? Mrs. Blackburn said that it depended on age and circumstance. With little children, she agreed, but as children grow older, if they are gathered around and their duties and time off each week apportioned she felt that little explaining is necessary.

Kenneth Green was asked if children expect an explanation and from his viewpoint it was important to know why, because the child might think he was being punished and do the opposite.

Asked if she felt parents are responsible in their requests in regard to proper behavior, Jean Baylor replied that it depended on the parents. "Some parents don't even know what they want. They might go along for three weeks without seeing anything, then all at once, its: 'You must learn to act like a lady—or a gentleman.' It is important to know what the parents want of them."

"There are no problem children, there are only problem parents." This modern adage was used by Mr. Sand to point up the value of the teacher and the parent—and sometimes it could be the nurse—sitting down together to assess a situation and talk it over together, arriving at a solution to help the child. "It takes a lot of looking into, a lot of love, a lot of understanding, so that the child will feel the people all around him want him to be long and understand him. The parent should also get in touch with the teacher if there are peculiar attitudes that need looking into," Mr. Sand suggested. Double standards of people, one for the Church and Home and School, and another for the home, are confusing for the child.

Mr. Bryson was asked about the attitudes between children and the police. He felt that on the whole the children respect the police and the police try to maintain friendly relations with children. "We should instill in our children that they are in this world to make it better. The child knows that by smashing windows he is not making the world any better. He needs direction."

Asked if the police should be more strict in enforcing the law, such as two on a bicycle, and confiscating the bicycle, Mr. Bryson replied that the police would take the offenders to their parents, rather than confiscate the bicycle. "After all we parents can't escape our responsibility," he said.

Mrs. Blackburn pointed out that respect for the law is exemplified by parents' attitudes, and their example toward traffic laws for instance—would be a greater influence than anything they might say. She did feel that the day was past when parents threatened children with getting the policeman after them.

In answer to: Does the school try to instill in pupils more than the three "R's", Mr. Sand pointed out that the teachers are selected for more than the subjects they teach. Every hour that they are with them they are instilling the intangibles into the children to prepare them for living.

Asked what type of discipline is needed for minor home rule infractions Mrs. Blackburn said that if the child receives lots of love and lots of attention and lots of discipline when he is little, when he is older he will take discipline better. Her observation was that a child is frustrated because we don't follow through. "If we can slow down a little, don't say 'No' so quickly, think a little about it, the question of discipline would diminish."

Kenneth Green was asked if he would feel that he would have to go along with the gang even though he knew it was wrong. His reply was that you feel as though you want to go along or you might lose your friends. There might be someone who thinks the same as you but is afraid to speak up, where if one youngster has the courage to speak up against the plan, others

might go on his side and something else could be planned.

"Are there enough activities in the community to interest the young ones?" Jean Baylor was asked. In mentioning the activities available in Richmond Hill, Jean said that Richmond Hill was growing so fast that there would soon be no room for the children of Richvale which left children pretty well with the Guide, Brownie, Scout and Cub activities here. She felt the people of Richvale should get busy and get something going for the teenagers. The idea of fun is always changing in the teen-age group," she said. Asked if teenagers can control situations in their own group like writing on walls, Jean cited a high school dance attended by 600 students. Three teachers were present and nothing was done, except a few broom handles were broken.

"How much freedom should a fourteen-year-old have?" This question was taken by the Reverend O'Neill, who pointed out that a child that age should be accorded more freedom in these days because now more is expected of him, more mature conduct. Freedom should be linked with responsibility and this should be worked out in family discussion and a family standard established. At this age a child is concerned with religion and while the parents will want him to make up his own mind the family needs to define what freedom means in religious things, to talk it over—to discuss it—so that he can make his own decision.

A fourteen-year-old needs direction in his responsibility to old people, and to the groups he joins.

By working out in family discussion certain standards, the child will know what is expected of him and be able to live up to them, Mr. O'Neill advised.

Mr. Bryson felt that by sitting down and talking over a problem it could be resolved every time. There was a case he mentioned of a boy whose father gave him everything he needed in worldly goods, even gave him a car, yet he went out and stole a car. When the police talked it over with the father to discover why, the father was asked "How much time do you spend with your boy?" "Time" the father replied "I haven't any time."

From the floor the question of hitch-hiking was raised, and opinions varied on this issue. For children and girls, it was felt to be dangerous but for teen-age boys going to school and for young men there was a certain acceptance of the idea.

Again from the floor came the question of instilling respect in the young.

Reverend O'Neill: Respect is taught where it is seen. It is learned from the parents' attitude backed up by the moral law where religion is taught.

Mr. Sand: Teaching respect for law by punishment is the hard way. We can try to maintain respect but it must come from within. Then we don't have much trouble."

In closing the discussion Mr. Chevis said that in training the young in a low-pressure way it is apt to stay. He thanked the panel and the large audience.

The panel discussion was preceded by a short business period and colored slides of the summer trip to Midland were shown by Mr. Kinsinger. Refreshments were served.

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## TEMPERANCEVILLE NEWS

CORRESPONDENT: MRS. MILTON WELLS, R. R. 3 KING

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It was very gratifying to see so many in the congregation of Temperanceville United Church on Thanksgiving Sunday, to enjoy Mr. Kennedy's wonderful thanksgiving message. Appreciation to God for His many bounteous gifts to us this season was shown in the contributions of vegetables, fruit, clothing, etc., which have been taken to the Fred Victor Mission. Many thanks to all those who responded so generously to this request. Many homes will be made happier by your kindness.

On October 19 Temperanceville will have two church services. At the morning service, 9:45 a.m., Layman's Sunday will be observed. Mr. Percy Bennett of Victoria Square will be the speaker. Everyone is welcome. At 7 p.m. a very special treat is in store for this district. The Lake Shore Inter Church Business Men's Choir will be our guests. Mr. Neville Hodgson will be the speaker after which the choir will give a program of classical and sacred music. This service will be so outstanding that we are anxious to have the church filled for the occasion. Be sure to come and bring your friends at 7 p.m. to Temperanceville United Church.

On Thursday, October 9th, Mrs. Fred Hare was hostess to the Temperanceville W.A. and their guests, the ladies of Wesley Evening Auxiliary. Mrs. Jack Macklin, president, conducted the W.M.S. meeting. Mrs. Kennedy, as devotional convenor, read Edna Jake's poem "For Little Things." The one hundredth Psalm was read in unison, followed by an article "Oh Thank the Lord."

Prayer led by Mrs. Kennedy was followed by the hymn "Count Your Many Blessings." The poem by Marion Douglas, "A Good Thanksgiving," was read by Mrs. Kennedy.

The guest speaker of the evening, Dr. Margaret Arkinstall of Newmarket, was introduced by Mrs. Wm. Turner. Dr. Arkinstall is president of the York Presbyterial W.M.S. and spoke to us on the "Thanksgiving Theme." We have much indeed to be thankful for — food, clothing, freedom of worship, we may even choose our own colour schemes, said Dr. Margaret. The Psalms are full of thanksgiving and it is good to give thanks for all is given by God. We like to be thanked for what we do—God must be thanked for the many blessings He bestows upon us. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life and have it abundantly." What are we here for? What is our purpose in life? How vast the earth — God's creation is tremendous. How small we must seem and yet to God each individual is very important. We are here to carry out Jesus' plan that of revealing the love of God to all people by Christians. It is

a commandment. Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy mind and thy neighbour as thyself. But who is your neighbour? He is anywhere, near or far if he is in need, was Dr. Margaret's reply to this query. Our church has done much in Angola. Agriculture missionaries there are improving production and the people are being taught to feed properly etc. The Korean widows are busily employed making articles from the nylon stockings given them. New curtains are coming from this source, woven from nylon stockings, for new United Church buildings there.

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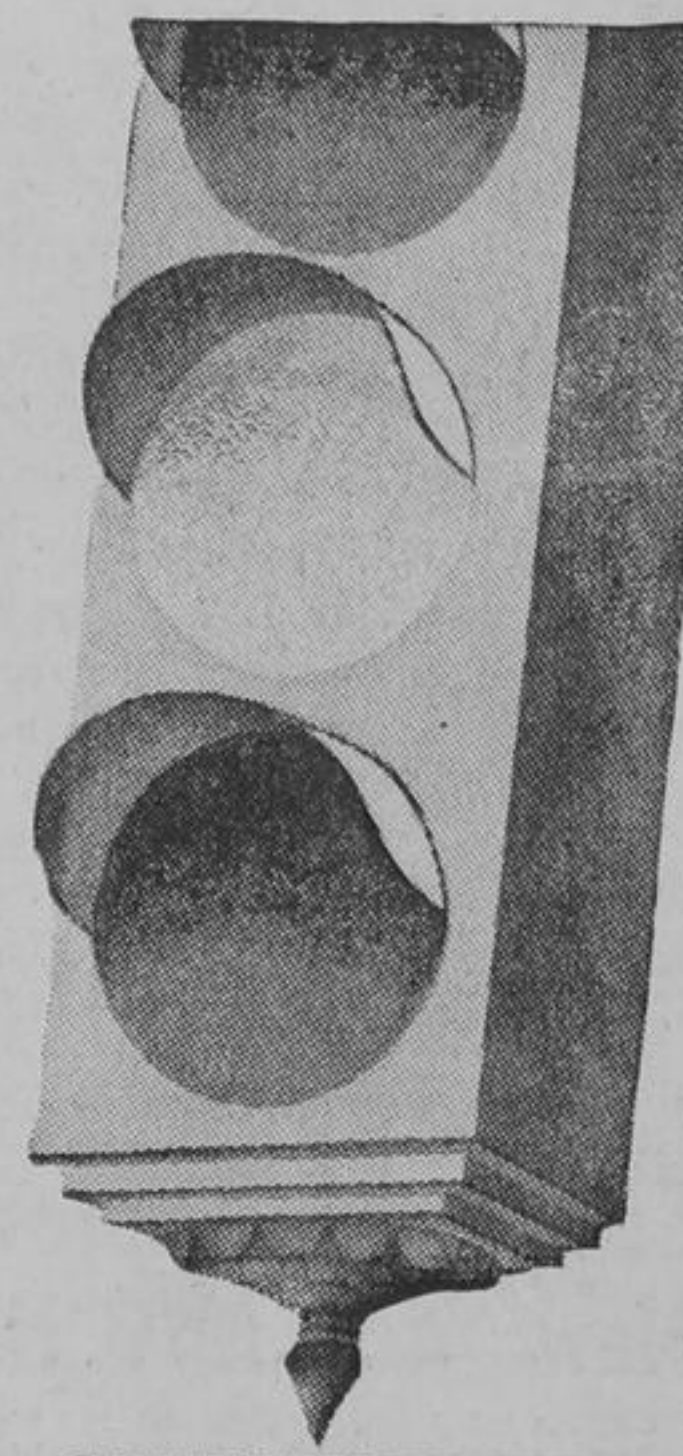
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