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Two Urgent Needs

A story in last week's "Liberal" points out a glaring lack in social and educational services in this area. It related how the family of an emotionally disturbed child spent almost 10 years trying to cope with the problem, getting no help from school authorities and little from other sources until by a happy accident a doctor was found who had the child, by this time a severely troubled teenager, admitted to Warren- dale, the residential treatment centre for disturbed children in Oak Ridges. A survey of school boards in this area shows that none have adequate facilities for recognizing children who are emotionally disturbed, as distinguished from those mentally retarded. Only one board has attempted to provide special classes for such children, that of TSA 1 Markham which is in the process of setting up such a class. In other areas, either nothing is done for these children (except referral to outside agencies which parents may or may not be able to afford) or it would appear that they are too often put in auxiliary classes with slow learners. Is there a need for such special classes and is it the school board's responsibility to provide them? We reply with a strong affirmative to both questions. Certainly these children have a right to an education. The same 60c of their parents' tax dollar goes to support schools as does that of all of us. When a teacher tries to cope with such a child in the regular classroom, the whole class suffers when routines are disrupted daily. If the teacher, aware that the child is disturbed, allows him a wider latitude in behavior, the discipline of the entire class may be undermined. On the other hand, if the teacher attempts a punitive action to bizarre behavior, the children can be pushed over the edge into mental illness. In a separate classroom, with one teacher to a maximum of eight pup-

ils, it is possible to cope with such children, prevent their condition from deteriorating and often within a short time, return them to the regular stream. No educator seriously questions the need for such special classes. David Porter, the attendance officer for the 11 schools in the Richmond Hill Public School system and the York Central District High Schools, reports that he sees emotionally disturbed children daily. Private psychiatric care is often beyond the means of average parents. While referrals are made to the mental health clinic at York County Hospital, Newmarket, this agency is overburdened. Neither type of assistance answers the question of how to cope with these children at school or at home during what may be weeks and months of treatment. We see two acute needs which must be met, in this community and others, if we are to avoid being overwhelmed by what the Canadian Mental Health Association has described as "the Quiet Disaster". School boards, acting either alone or in concert, must set up facilities for spotting disturbed children and provide special education for them. Richmond Hill's Social Planning Council, which is now working on a survey of available resources in the area, should act speedily to set up a family service centre where troubled families may seek help and be referred to special agencies. It is little good treating a disturbed child in isolation. The whole family needs help, if not before certainly immediately after a child begins to display atypical behavior. While the cost of these two remedies may seem high to mill-rate conscious school boards and people generally, it will undoubtedly be less than the drain on human hearts and community resources if disturbed children are neglected and allowed to slip into chronic mental illness.

Co-operation Needed

The first of six hearings scheduled by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Transportation Study is scheduled for November 18 in Richmond Hill municipal offices. Ontario Minister of Transport W. I. Haskett will chair the meeting called to allow the public and various community organizations to speak their minds about public transportation needs for this area. The committee which has undertaken the study has listened to experts and received briefs from municipalities concerned. They are now prepared to listen to individuals who may have something to suggest which will prove practical in providing adequate transportation for this area for at least the next 20 years. This plan to give the public a chance to make suggestions, point out difficulties and make objections is most laudatory. But we feel that a meeting scheduled for two o'clock in the afternoon is defeating its purpose. Few if any of the interested people will be able to attend in the middle of a working day. Surely members of the committee are aware of this. Richmond Hill Town Council requested that a change be made in the time to enable as many people as possible to attend, but this request

has apparently been ignored, since council has been informed that the meeting will be held at two o'clock. Since the great majority of residents of this area are commuters, the subject of transportation, present and future, is of prime importance to them, but they will not be able to attend an afternoon meeting on the subject. The commuting section of the population in this area is vitally interested in the future of transportation between their homes and their places of employment. That the subject of commuter travel is of serious import was evidenced during the federal election campaign concluded by Monday's election — when it became one of the major issues. The public, which is so vitally interested in the subject, we feel should have the opportunity of attending the meeting scheduled for November 18, and without having to sacrifice a day's pay in order to do so. We suggest to the Metropolitan Transportation Study that it is not yet too late to co-operate and set the time of meeting so that those whose lives will be directly affected will have an opportunity to attend. This type of co-operation would be an admirable gesture and would be greatly appreciated.

Private Meetings Back-Fire

Little by little the business of municipal council in Markham Township is passing from public scrutiny, and is kept away from public discussion. Operation by committee is the best way of handling municipal business without public interference or knowledge. This is the way in which this township is run. The township council has evolved a system of two meetings a week. The one is held on Monday and is advertised as a public meeting, and at which little takes place in the way of discussion, and there are few council opinions expressed. The second meeting held on Wednesday, is virtually a private meeting, and at which all topics are discussed and councillors freely express their opinions. Here there are no listening public ears and projects can be wrapped up neatly ready for the rubber stamp approval of council at the public meeting on the following Monday. Last week this system back-fired, and this was not the first time. One

member of council failed to make the private Wednesday meeting, with the result that on Monday night he was completely in the dark and protested vigorously at what his colleagues had done without his knowledge. Despite argument the four who had discussed the project fully and had made the decision, would not give way and the opposition was defeated. It is no secret that some members of this council hold to the view that the less the public knows about what is going on, the more easily the business will be accomplished. This is rule by committee and is about as far as council can go at keeping ratepayers in the dark. Markham Township Council has worked the system up to a point where, as was the case last week, they are even keeping each other in the dark. The system is unfair to the ratepayers directly and is a direct stumbling block to the press whose duty and job it is to report to the people on the conduct of township affairs. — Stouffville Tribune.



(Photo by Barbour)

"We Shall Remember Them"

During Sunday afternoon's annual Service of Remembrance at Richmond Hill's Cenotaph in front of McConaghy Public School, Yonge Street South, Miss Linda Kaiser of Toronto, granddaughter of the late J. A. Greene who served Richmond Hill as councillor and reeve for many years, places a wreath in memory of her uncle, Fred Greene, who paid the supreme sacrifice in World War II. A portion of the large crowd who gathered to participate in the service may be seen.

Plan Homecoming Centennial Year

Richmond Hill's Centennial Committee got down to planning a calendar of events for Canada's Centennial year, which will give citizens of the municipality of all ages a chance to participate in their country's year-long 100th birthday celebrations. Detailed planning of the events will come later. A suitable ceremony will be held on New Year's Eve 1966 to start the Centennial year off with a literal bang, with a Boy Scout project scheduled for March, the Centennial Caravan for May, a homecoming weekend in June, a community entertainment on July 1, an art show by local artists on Richmond Hill in 1967, and a closing ceremony at the end of the year. Armed service participation will be sought for special events. All service groups, clubs, churches and church groups, cultural organizations, theatrical groups, in

Dear Mr. Editor

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Dear Mr. Editor: On behalf of the membership of the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion I would like to express thanks to you for the support which you have given us in our recent poppy day and throughout the year, with our column, Legion Reports. The space which you allocate without charge in "The Liberal" towards the furtherance of the ideals of the Legion is to be admired. We in the Legion have noted that your newspaper also charitably covers many reports of local community endeavors, and we feel this should be so. We are grateful to have such a newspaper within our community which we know is widely read, and is lately evidently becoming widely read abroad. Sincerely, ERIC CHAPMAN, Public Relations Officer, Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion.

Local Teachers Co-Author Book

Two Richmond Hill public school teachers are the co-authors of a new English text, "In Your Own Words", which has been written especially for the grade seven course in English in Ontario. The book, which was published by Clark Irwin and Co. Ltd., was written by Nathan Davidson, principal of Walter Scott Public School, and Mrs. Eleanor Robertson, a former teacher at the school. Mrs. Robertson is at present on a year's sabbatical leave, attending University of Toronto, where she is taking a post-graduate course in library science. She will be librarian at the new senior public school — Crosby — when she finishes. Last week at its regular meeting, Richmond Hill Public School Board agreed to send a letter of congratulations to the two authors and to request an autographed copy of their book for the board library.

Flashback In Years Gone By

James Playter, whose mother was Miss Hannah Miles, inherited the Richmond Hill holdings of his uncle, James Miles, William Harrison wrote in December 1888. Mr. Playter is described by Mr. Harrison as a well-read man, useful in many ways and kind to the poor. He was captain of the 4th Battalion of York Militia, retiring with rank in 1861. He was the grandson of Captain George Playter, an Englishman by birth, who settled in Pennsylvania among the Society of Friends before the American Revolution and became a Quaker. During that struggle for independence, Playter manifested his loyalty to England very strongly. As the excitement ran high and hostilities were imminent he became more and more belligerent until one day he threw off his cutaway buttonless coat and giving his broad-brimmed hat a fling, said, "Lie there, Quaker." Donning a military uniform he was ready for marching and fighting. He was engaged in active service until the close of the war. After the fighting was over he discovered that he was looked on by his neighbors as a dangerous citizen in the past and a doubtful citizen of the future. His life was made as uncomfortable as possible. At the close of the 18th century Kingston was just coming into prominence as a naval and military station. There Simcoe was sworn in as governor of Upper Canada, the first cabinet formed, and from there the writ was issued for the first legislative assembly to meet in Niagara. It was known as the centre of attraction to French emigres, United Empire Loyalists and military officers. Captain Playter came from Pennsylvania to this thriving pioneer community and between him and Governor Simcoe there sprang up a friendship which lasted as long as His Excellency remained in Canada. When the seat of government was moved from Newark (Niagara) to York in 1795 among the first settlers in the new capital were the Playters. The captain acquired an estate in the neighborhood of Castle Frank, the governor's residence, and his son secured land on the other side of the Don.

Second Thoughts

BY GEORGE MAYES ● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead Eney . . . Meeney . . . Miney . . . Moe, Which of our printers was the one to blow The line: If we holler "Let him go!" In last week's Eney, Meeney, Miney, Moe . . . ? Aping the Monks — The action of an American peacenik setting himself afire in Washington in protest over U.S. intervention in Vietnam set the whole country to thinking . . . about whether he used kerosene or gasoline for the big burn. We see where Princess Margaret's plane to the states was held up for several hours because of an anonymous telephone call saying the water on it was poisoned . . . Ah, that Sinclair and his fluoridation! And speaking of Sinclair — it's The Leaf vs. the Leafs at the Gardens this year. Grouchy Gordon has taken on the management team for not flying the new flag on the building; while the Smythes insist on sticking with the old Ensign — saying the Gardens already gets enough garbage on the ICE. MOSCOW — (Reuters) — Jayne Mansfield might one day play Juliet to save Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company from bankruptcy, the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia suggests . . . Yes, there WOULD be quite a saving with Jayne supplying her own balcony. BOURNEMOUTH — (CP) — A Hampshire (Continued on Page 12)

Dirge For A Dead Infant (Armistice Day)

While a mother mourns three sons departed, She has died. And life had barely started. As sere November rots the mouldering hay, And the wind's cruel teeth that rip last leaves away From trees already bare of Spring's adornment, Sing for her a lonely, last forlorn lament, I cannot grieve, for in my heart I know God in His wisdom has some need for these Three men, one child. And all of them shall grow In wisdom and stature in Heaven's happier leas. I will not grieve; but turn and succour those She left behind — the family God chose To leave her with this little while On Earth. Parents young she did beguile, Sister sweet, a brother twin. Amen. Seven months a life time. Death, then Life again. Muriel E. Shaw, 18 Maryvale Crescent, Richvale.



Rambling Around

The Story Of Welfare For The Unmarried Mother by Elizabeth Kelson

The Ontario Department of Public Welfare, the Children's Aid Society and many private charitable organizations recognize the plight of the unmarried mother and are deeply concerned for children born out of wedlock. The unmarried mother is assured of finding assistance by getting in touch with the Children's Aid Society. There are 55 in Ontario, one for virtually every county and district in the province. A single pregnant woman is also assured of assistance if she gets in touch with one of the 12 homes for unwed mothers in seven Ontario cities. All these homes are operated by religious organizations: Faith Haven of Windsor; the Salvation Army Girls' Home and St. Mary's Home in Ottawa; Bethesda Home in London; Grace Haven, Hamilton; Mercy Shelter, Chatham; Armagh, Clarkson; Bethel Home, Humewood House, Rosalie Hall, Salvation Army Girls' Home and Victor Home in Toronto. In the Toronto area, the Salvation Army home is interdenominational; Armagh is Presbyterian; Bethel Home is Pentecostal; Humewood House, Anglican; Rosalie Hall, Roman Catholic and Victor Home, United Church. The Children's Aid and the homes are private autonomous organizations but all are supported in part by public funds. If a girl goes to a home first, the home will put her in touch with the CAS. Because the homes have religious affiliations, it is sometimes helpful for a girl to speak first to her clergyman. He probably would be willing to make the initial contact with the local CAS or one in another district. However he can only act as an intermediary. Before the CAS or a home can assist an expectant mother there must be a personal interview with a counsellor. In some homes a girl is not admitted until she is in her last two months of pregnancy and she must pay part of the cost. This is usually due to lack of room. If a girl has no money and a certificate from her doctor that she is unable to work, she may be eligible for municipal welfare. If she has no money when she enters the home, there is a good chance that she will be maintained free. Some girls pay the home after they have left. In the Toronto area, payment by residents makes up only 10 to 20 per cent of the total income of the home. The rest comes from private donations, United Appeal, and public grants. Outside Toronto, the percentage of revenue from residents is generally lower. Each person is generally charged according to her ability to pay. If a girl does not want to go into the business world to work, the CAS and possibly the home may refer her to a private household where she can do light work, live in and get a small wage. A girl may be admitted to a home before her seventh month if room is available and if the home decides that she needs help. Each resident is usually referred to a clinic for her medical attention and there is generally no charge for this or for the delivery. Hospital bills are usually covered by the girl's own hospital insurance.

The Child

This is where the Children's Aid Society comes in. If a girl does not want to keep her baby she may sign a form consenting to the child's adoption. This is never done until seven days after birth and the mother has 21 days to change her mind. Once a woman gives up her child, the CAS may seek a hearing in family court to decide guardianship. The court usually makes the child a permanent ward of the society, thus available for adoption. If a mother can't make up her mind about keeping her child, the CAS will take over temporary care. In Toronto, as in other Ontario communities, the CAS will ask the mother, or anyone else willing to take the responsibility to contribute to the child's care. If the mother is on her own, and she can't pay anything, the CAS will usually foot the bill. Usually they put a limit of three months on this care before going to court. In smaller communities they may take on temporary care for a much shorter period. The society suggests tracing the father to take on some of the financial responsibility, but won't try to find him unless the mother specifically agrees to it and signs the necessary affidavits. She can't be forced to reveal his name. In the case of the unwed father, the society exercises compassion realizing that often he is confused and in need of help also. In many cases, the father is even more emotionally involved than is the mother. When the CAS goes to court to seek a decision on the guardianship of a child born out of wedlock, the court may make the child a temporary ward of the CAS if the mother can't make up her mind about giving him up. Temporary wardship can last no more than two years, when the child must be returned to the parent or made a permanent ward. Few cases drag on as long as two years. Usually they are decided (Continued on Page 12)

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