Troubled Child Conference Lays Ground For Regional Social Planning Committees

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parents and children together with a view to learning more about how to relate in a healthy way to each other.

In the group from Newmarket, Holland Landing and Mount Albert, a need was felt for public relations for all existing services and agencies.

They listed as community needs: family services, citizens advice bureau, birth control clinics, family life education in schools, facilities for children of working-mothers, east-west public transportation, and youth facilities such as treatment centres, half-way houses, hostels and a bail program for young people.

This group recommended expansion of juvenile detention facilities, volunteer participation in communication, co-operation and co-ordination of services.

It also urged that the Committee for the Troubled Child prepare a brief requesting the establishment of a combination youth hostel and receiving centre for young people requiring temporary lodgings. It was suggested that youth crisis centres now operating in Richmond Hill and Newmarket could be used as a basis for such a facility.

The organizing committee and its sponsor, the York County Mental Health Association, had prepared and circulated background material on recognized needs as well as lists of educational, recreational and service facilities in York County.

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In his evening summation of the events of the day, Dr. Frei warned the meeting not to be overwhelmed by community apathy. "It is something you have to cope with."

Only a small percentage (one or two percent) are persistent workers, but if this group can produce something for the people to see and use it is an important step in overcoming apathy.

He also warned against spreading efforts too thin, suggesting that one or two major needs be recognized such as day care, and turned into a reality.

"When it integrates you can go on to the next step."

He recommended assessment of human and financial resources and a realistic program developed for presentation to the new regional council.

"New governments want to try something new," observed Dr. Frei.

He recommended setting up of neighborhood service centres for the various agencies with a central location for administration. A great deal of time and talent is wasted when there are ten executive directors, ten secretaries, ten bookkeepers, etc., etc., "It runs into millions."

On the other hand, in operating as a region full use could be made of available talent, both professional and non-professional.

"An agency is as good as its executive director, and you don't need ten of them."

Better service and higher quality service could be provided by using non-professionals trained by the professionals.

"It is a misuse of time to have a master of social work filling in forms and doing clerical work," declared Dr. Frei.

Facilities should be located in the communities where they are needed, but through a system of central purchasing, acounting, etc. a great deal of money could be saved. "With efficiency comes effectiveness. Administration and leadership should be centralized and services decentralized with a well-functioning flow of information from below."

He cautions against "bureaucraticization."

"Ask the people what they want, and do what they want."

Too often programs are drawn up by middle class professionals and boards of directors and imposed on the public. This process should be reversed insisted Dr. Frei.

"It is not easy, it is a change of the whole attitude to what should be done."

A co-ordinating committee should be established to look at present services, to see how efficient they are, how the job can be done better.

"If there is a lack of communications between agencies, start communicating. You will have to have a regional co-ordinating committee and an information exchange."

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Referring to the case histories discussed earlier in the day, Dr. Frei said the common problem seemed to be lack of communication in the family relationship, lack of parental support and understanding of child development.

A lot, said Dr. Frei is heard of parents expectations, but what does a child expect from parents?

Working mothers and busy fathers may feel guilty and become over - indulgent, shoving the responsibility for disciplining the child onto the school or onto the other parent.

Children belong to the home, he declared, and should not be put in foster homes or institutions if it is at all possible to keep them in the home. Mother deprivation can be a very serious thing, particularly for a small child, and if the child lacks a mother or effective mother-substitute for too long it can result in retardation.

Although young people today are much more knowledgable than their parents were at the same age, older people still have something to offer, Dr. Frei declared.

"The old have the experience of life, but they must exercise restraint, passing on what can be useful, but not forcing on the young which is obsolete. We must not force the young to accept what we thought was wonderful, but some of the things we know are wise," the speaker continued, observing, "Old is 25 or 35."

The "old" he continued, know that nothing in life is black and white, but youth tend to think it can be. Adults must be patient in their attempts to discipline the young, for it is only through discipline that they can learn self-discipline, and if there is no self-discipline, discipline is provided in the form of laws.

In dealing with young people, he observed, communication is most important, and flexibility is essential.

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There were a number of young people present at the conference, and the meeting approved a motion from Dr. John Wynne of Richmond Hill that "We believe that the composition of any county, regional or community organization which deals with the affairs of adolescents must contain at least 30 percent of this age group."

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The meeting also approved a recommendation from Richmond Hill Police Chief Robert Robbins that the same group hold a mini-conference in six months time. Dr. Denison and his interim committee were delighted to make arrangements for this conference.

Meanwhile the committee will meet at least six times and following each meeting will send out letters of information to the conference delegates. The York County Mental Health Association has offered to handle distribution of these letters of information.

Four electric cars for use in the Richmond Hill Police Bicycle Safety Program have been donated to the police department by public spirited citizens.

Traffic Safety Officer Douglas Young is pictured above with Douglas Hinchcliffe of Mutual Life of Canada, one of the donors. The car, says Constable Young, will bear the weight of a 280 pound man.

One car was bought by Peter Kinnear of Kinnear Pontiac Buick Limited, and individual members of Richmond Hill Town Council chipped in to pay for another.

The fourth car was jointly paid for by Perry-Hill Wood Industries and by Street Construction Road Builders.

The safety program is now underway in the public and separate schools of Richmond Hill.

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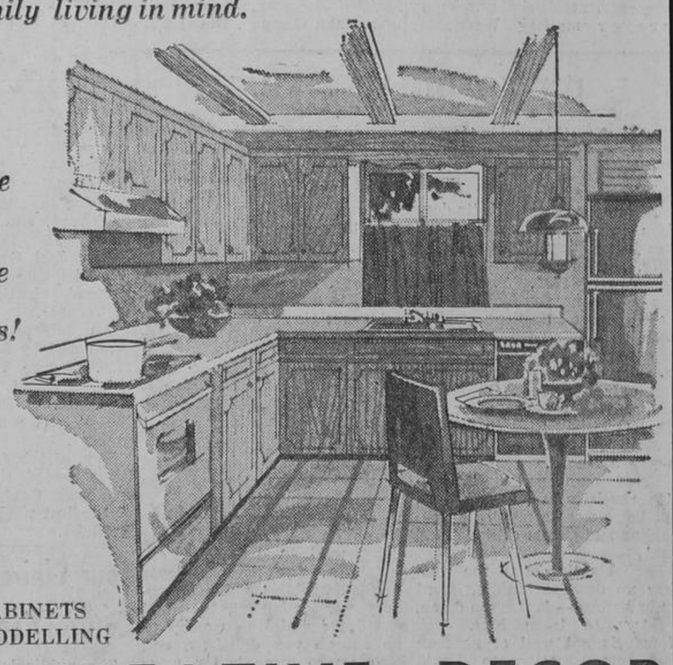

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New Safety Program In Local Schools

Something new has been added to traffic safety programs in the public and Roman Catholic schools of Richmond Hill.

For years local police have been visiting the schools, giving instruction on traffic safety, using charts, diagrams and other aids. Now when Safety Officer Douglas Young visits a school he takes with him four electric cars purchased by public spirited citizens.

The cars, explains Constable Young, are used in a program of traffic safety involving "proceedural and perceptual skills in operating a bicycle."

The sturdily built three-wheel vehicles are lined up on a driving range laid out in the school gymnasium, and each child has an opportunity to operate a car, but when he violates a rule of the road he must get out of the car and let the next youngster take a turn.

It is one of the best programs in child traffic safety he has seen, Mr. Young declares. It involves the student in the program, stressing driver attitudes as well as traffic laws.

"By actually being involved in a traffic situation themselves, they get a better understanding of their responsibilities as bicycle drivers in today's traffic."

The program starts with very simple driving tactics and proceeds to a more advanced program involving more complicated driving proceedures.

"The beauty of using this type of vehicle is that they don't have to worry about balancing. They can concentrate on driving," says Constable Young.

Students from grade 3 to 6 are involved, and there is thought of going further, with a program for grades 7 and 8 upgraded to suit the age group.

Each lesson goes on for about 45 minutes to one hour, and every class will have two sessions with the cars — three if time will permit.

The program was introduced in a pilot program last summer when Constable Young took the first cars around to summer playgrounds.

"A good example for the need of this type of program was pointed up in one location where there were about 160 children," reports Mr. Young. "Only three of them completed the course without an error, and the majority did not make it half way through without a driving error.

"I would like to thank the sponsors of this program," concluded the safety officers, "It is money well spent."

PICKERING — A 49-year-old pedestrian was struck by a car on Highway 401 at the Church Street bridge, Pickering at 12:30 pm October 16 and died after arrival at the Scarboro Centenary Hospital.

Whitby OPP said Mrs. Margit Soltesz, an outpatient at the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital was struck by a car in the eastbound lane, driven by Mrs. Mona Smith, 25 Cougar Crescent, Scarboro. No charges have been laid.

Queen's Park Report

William Hodgson MLA, York North

Davis Warns Boards Education Costs Must Be Cut

Education Minister William Davis has warned that he expects boards of education throughout the province to keep their spending within his guidelines by 1972. This warning was contained in a letter to board chairmen, sent recently. By 1972 boards will not be allowed to spend more than the maximum set by the province under which they may get provincial grants. At present they may spend more by levying more on the local ratepayer.

New amounts per pupil for 1970-71 set by Mr. Davis are $545 for elementary pupils (up 9%) and $1,080 for secondary students (up 6%). Last year the province's share of these education costs was 51% (York County received 46%) and it is intended it will rise to 60% by 1972.

Boards which exceeded the designated cost per pupil have been instructed by the Minister to cut their costs by half the over-expenditure in 1971 and to eliminate it entirely by 1972.

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Health Minister Tom Wells has told the Ontario Hospital Association that tight money for hospitals will be the pattern for the forseeable future. He warned that health and education will use up the whole of the gross national product by 2000 AD if costs continue to escalate at the present rate.

Ways will have to be found to curtail these rising costs of health services without lowering the quality and quantity of health care, the Minister stated. He also declared that it is no longer acceptable to have complex, expensive hospital facilities duplicated in several locations when not absolutely needed. He appealed to hospital trustees to support efforts of hospital planning councils to develop a better integrated system.

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The Legislature approved in principle legislation introduced by Financial and Commercial Affairs Minister Bert Lawrence last June, designed to keep Ontario trust and loan companies Canadian owned. The proposed legislation limits foreign control to 10% of the voting shares for any individual interest and to 25% of total ownership.

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Premier John Robarts has announced appointment of lawyer Gordon Carton, the PC member for Armourdale Riding in Willowdale as chairman of the Pension Commission of Ontario. Also named a member of the commission was Hamilton Accountant John Trimble.

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Transport Minister Irwin Haskett will request a freeze on applications for the discontinuance of rail passenger services in Ontario. He is seeking assurance of sufficient rail passenger service to meet the economic and social needs of residents.

However he will not appeal a Transport Commission decision to permit CP Rail to discontinue its passenger service between Toronto and Owen Sound. The service, which ends November 1, charges a fare of $3.65 but it costs $19.61 a passenger to operate.

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Ontario's welfare bill this year was $256 million, compared to $198 million last year, according to the 1969-70 annual report of the Department of Social and Family Services.

There was a 16% increase in expenses for general welfare assistance due to the high unemployment rate. About 1.9% of the total provincial population receives this assistance; 63% of the cases being in the unemployable category and most recipients in the 20-50 age group.

People on family benefit allowances numbered more than 61,000, an increase of 2,000 in the year. Average payments were $134 monthly compared with $130 a year ago. Disabled and mothers with dependent children make up two-thirds of this case load.

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