

SCHOOL DAZE



By John MacRae

Money, Money, Money

There's an educational questionnaire being circulated in one of the Toronto Metro Boroughs that is unique in my experience. It makes a series of statements and asks parents to check one box in a range from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". One for example says that the board of education is generally spending the taxpayers' money wisely. Now if the annual budget is a \$100 million it takes a lot of effort and a lot of questioning to find out if it's spent wisely. The Minister of Education decided that Metro should reduce its spending by \$17 million. This seemed like a bold gesture based on a firm conviction that the Metro Board was not spending its money wisely. Obviously even the Minister (Thomas Wells) didn't have enough information. He began to ask questions. He's now reconsidered and decided that \$17 million was unrealistic, that \$7 million reduction is more sensible. Now if the Minister with the advice that all the Ontario Department of Education officials supply, can't tell whether boards are spending money wisely, how can the average citizen?

These provincial financial guidelines are either a stupid joke or a clever political ploy. Let's suppose that you and your wife decide to spend \$1,000 on general maintenance and improvements to your home. Yours is a nice home in a nice district and you're proud of it. It's an ambitious project but you're both working and it won't change your life-style to make these expenditures. Now the government takes a look at the amount you intend to spend and compares it with the provincial average. Yours is twice as high! Despite the fact that you are spending your own money, that you are an autonomous member of a democratic society, that you are not putting the money on your back but investing it in your own property, the government says you can only spend half the amount.

You complain. They allow you an interview and advise you that aluminum eavestroughs are much cheaper in Inuvik, that decorating a room in James Bay can be done for much less (do you really need a rug on the floor?) that the garage door still works doesn't it? You point out that houses in Inuvik are only half the size of yours, that wages for painters in James Bay are much less than in Toronto, that rugs are really the cheapest type of floor covering, that the garage door is rusted and dented. They listen patiently and agree to let you spend more if you put on a new roof. You don't want or need a new roof!

That's an involved analogy but fairly accurate. The Department of Education guidelines on spending were calculated by averaging the amount spent by small remote country boards, who provide very few services for their students, with the amount spent by Toronto Metro Boards. Now Metro Toronto has honestly tried to provide special services for special needs. They have classes for the hard of hearing, for visually handicapped, for emotionally disturbed, perceptually handicapped, slow-learning students. These classes require highly-trained expensive teachers, a great deal of special equipment and supplies. The department recognizes this need and in a recent pamphlet entitled "Who Needs It?" lists these and other services and urges all boards to meet the challenge.

In effect then the province wants these services in the schools but is not prepared to allow boards to spend enough to provide them. But if boards want to start French instruction for pupils in the lower grades they'll let them spend more money. We've been spending money in Ontario for three generations teaching English-speaking students to speak French in an English-speaking community. It has been a notable failure.

The boards of education are thought to be autonomous bodies, duly elected in a free society but they can't raise and spend money as they see fit. Board members, morally responsible for education in the community have accepted this with very little public outcry — it's the teachers who are screaming and doing something. They know what the effect of budget restrictions will mean in the classroom. Many are sincerely motivated — they hope that the learning conditions for students will not be allowed to deteriorate.

Oppose Tenure For Teachers, Supervisors

(Continued From Page 1) along with one board might give very good service to another board, Honsberger said.

NO DISMISSAL APPEAL
Trustees agreed with the committee recommendation that there should be no appeal to dismissal. It would put all parties concerned in a difficult position if it was found that a person was unjustly dismissed and an unwilling board was forced to take back a senior officer "at arm's length, or at least seriously at odds with the board."

Although the committee had not been asked to comment on tenure for teachers, a recommendation opposing tenure for teachers was included in the report.

Special emphasis should be placed on this recommendation, he said. It should be included as a rider from the York County Board to the OSTC.

RAP TENURE CONCEPT
The committee spelled out its feeling on tenure: "It was felt that the concept of tenure had outlived its original purpose and was incompatible with any institution or organization which is striving for excellence in the service it provides. This is particularly so at an incongruous."

time when there is so much necessary innovation and response to changing needs and demands imposed upon the organization.

"Some universities and many departments in other universities are mediocre or condemned to mediocrity simply by reason that the academic staff had tenure."

BOARDS SUFFERING
The recommendation continued, "It is becoming evident that more than a few boards of education are suffering from the same condition. The great majority of our citizens go through their working lives without the security of tenure and must compete and suffer, and at times benefit from the normal risks inherent in the supply and demand of labor."

"We see no difference between the administrator and the teacher," says the report. "Each must, like anyone else, be expected to perform his daily duties and tasks allotted to him at an acceptable level of performance. If he cannot or will not reasonably fill the position for which he was employed, he should not have the right to continue to hold the position until incapacitated or until he reaches the age of retirement." The recommendation concludes, "With certain elements in the teaching profession assuming a stance more usually associated with trade unions, the concept of tenure becomes more incongruous."



High School Play Tells Of Irish Troubles

A very topical play is Sean O'Casey's "The Plough And The Stars", being presented this week by Richmond Hill High School Drama Club under the direction of Roy Clifton. It unfolds a story of the futile efforts of the leader of one of the Irish revolutions. Although written in 1926 its message is particularly interesting in these days of renewed Irish unrest.

In a scene from this 18th annual production by the school's drama club above (left to right) are William Honeyman as Peter Flynn, Adrian Truss as Fluther Good and Thomas Grieve as The Young Covey. Tickets may be secured by telephoning the school at 884-2131.

Richvale Youth Faces Long List Of Charges

A 20-year-old Richmond Hill man faces several charges of shopbreaking, auto theft, and malicious damage in connection with break-ins at a series of

People Meet April 11

To Study New Airport

An attempt to get some answers for people in the new Metro airport zone and surrounding areas is the object of a meeting at the Markham District High School, Tuesday at 8 p.m., says Al Vitter, spokesman for a group of concerned Markham citizens.

Land Economist Wallace Beaton of Woodbridge will speak on matters related to land evaluation and property values. Residents will also be able to assess the impact of airport noise on the properties from information to be provided by well known engineer James Crang of Toronto.

There will be opportunities for questions and discussion.

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 7, FRIDAY, 8 pm — Duplicate Bridge, every Monday and Friday, Lion's Club Hall, Oak Ridges Plaza, Phone 773-4280 for further information. clw41

APRIL 8, SATURDAY — Rummage sale, 1-3 pm at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Sponsored by CWL. csw37

APRIL 8, SATURDAY — Rummage sale, 10 am to 1 pm, at Senior Citizen's Day Centre, Legion Court. *2w40

APRIL 8, SATURDAY — Rummage Sale 10-12 noon — At St. Gabriel's Anglican Church, Bayview and Crosby Avenues, good used clothing, white elephant, remnant tables. c2w40

APRIL 8, SATURDAY — Rummage sale, sponsored by 5th Richmond Hill Scout Ladies' Auxiliary, at 9:30 am in auditorium of Richmond Hill United Church. Free coffee. clw41

APRIL 8, SATURDAY — Dance, Legion Court, spot dances, door prizes, \$1 per person, purchased at door. Music by George and Ken. clw41

APRIL 10, MONDAY, 8 pm — Discuss your government with Barney Danson M.P. and Don Deacon M.P. at Bayview Secondary School, Richmond Hill. clw41

APRIL 15, SATURDAY, 9 am — 6th Richmond Hill Cubs rummage sale in Presbyterian Sunday schoolroom. Donations appreciated. For pick-up call 884-7591. c2w40

APRIL 18, 1972, TUESDAY — Regular monthly meeting, Richmond Hill Coin Club at the Lion's Hall, Centre Street East. Door open at 7 pm, meeting commences 8 pm. Auction, lucky draws and bourse dealers. Guests most welcome. For further information, 222-2131 or 884-5379. c2w41

APRIL 22, SATURDAY, 1:30 pm — Rummage and bake sale at Maple United Church. c3w41

Thornhill Peewees Win All Ontario

(Continued From Page 1) and won several big tournaments, including ones at Don Mills and Peterboro and the Silver Stick championship.

"I'd like to add that there were several ingredients that went into this team and added up to a championship," said Grant. "It was all mixed in together. You name it. There was their fantastic desire, hustle, will to win, determination and all that. Put it together and you have the Thornhill Minor Peewees."

Assisting Grant in coaching the team was Jim Davidson, Manager is Jack Haggerty. The lineup comprises: Goal, Jamie Davidson, Scott McCarthy; Defence, Greg Warga, Mark Haggerty, Scott Burkart, David Johns; Centres, Scott Coyne, Ricky Booker, Eric Coughlin, Robert Greiner; Right wing, Ricky Buchan, Carl Clutchev, Ward Williamson.

Coach Grant is already pointing to 1973 and the Quebec International Peewee Tournament.

"These guys will be moving up to Peewee and I'll be

Richvale Youth Faces Long List Of Charges

Charged is Peter Talbot of 89 Spruce Avenue in the Richvale area of town. The alleged offences included break-ins at Baker's Sales and Service, Standard Auto Glass, York County Roman Catholic School Board, Kinnear Pontiac, Ferritronics Ltd., Don Little Ford Sales; Minerva's Beauty Salon and Bowden Lumber Ltd.

Auto thefts were at Baker's Sales and Kinnear Pontiac. Malicious damage was at Richmond Hill TV and Figure Magic stores, police allege.

York Regional Police said small amounts of money or keys for cars were taken in the break-ins. The cars would then be taken on rides and later returned.

The accused was arrested in Toronto on March 23.

Correction

In announcing the conference on "The Quality of Life for Senior Citizens" at the Aurora Conference Centre, the wrong date was published in "The Liberal." The date of the conference is Friday, April 7, not April 9 as we reported. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

RICHMOND HILL LIONS CLUB BINGO

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106 Centre St. East

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Early Birds 7:40 p.m.

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69 Ford LTD 4 door hardtop, V8, auto., power steering, power brakes, radio, vinyl roof, Brougham interior. Finished in bronze with black trim. Lic. N80021.

69 Ford Gal. 500 4 door hardtop, V8, auto., power steering, power brakes, radio, factory air conditioning, white walls and wheel discs. 1 owner car. Lic. N88740.

69 Mercury MARQUIS, 2 door hardtop, V8, auto., power steering, power brakes, vinyl top, radio, wheel discs and white walls. Lic. N88739.

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