

# As good as boss wants

By Jim Irving

A secretary is often only as "effective, as efficient and productive as her boss will permit her to be," Richmond Hill Councillor Lois Hancey told a dinner meeting of secretaries at Summit golf and country club last week.

The secretaries were guests at the meeting sponsored by Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce in connection with "Secretaries Week" in Canada.

Mrs. Hancey traced the history of secretaries from the time they were known as "Lady Typewriters," through their various stages of up and down, to the present when many have achieved the status of "executive assistants."

However, secretaries still had to fight for any gains they made, the speaker said.

Salaries and positions still favored men, with most companies convinced they didn't have any problems involving equal opportunities for women, because the only women they employed were secretaries "and secretaries have nothing to complain about."

"Available evidence suggests nothing could be further from the truth in the typical Canadian organization."

"Indeed, the 'girls' — nearly half of whom are 35 — who occupy secretarial positions appear to be Canadian industry's most discontented female employee group," Mrs. Hancey said.

A secretary tended to be thought of as "an extension of someone else, rather than a free standing entity," with "ill-defined" responsibilities, varying work loads, and "almost totally dependent on a boss's evaluation," she said.

It still boiled down to a battle of the sexes, Mrs. Hancey said. Men didn't mind asking women to clear off their desks or get them coffee, but they wouldn't think of asking another man to do the same thing.

Also, there was a feeling among men that secretaries' jobs didn't offer enough of a challenge to men, the latter having an "inner feeling" for such things, something women lacked.

"With attitudes like these, it's something of a miracle there hasn't been a general uprising among secretaries long ago," Mrs. Hancey said. "Can you imagine the chaos which would result if every secretary in Ontario went on strike?"

Mrs. Hancey said any man who was content for a secretary to be "little more than an extension to typewriter," was short-changing all concerned.

"He is losing a unique source of intelligence, dedication and enthusiasm, which might well prove to be the decisive factor in the success or failure of his endeavours," she said.

Mrs. Hancey said she welcomed the opportunity to pay tribute to secretaries.

"There is an old saying people get the government they deserve," she said. "Possibly the same immutable rules applies to business executives and professionals — they get the secretaries they deserve."

"Think about it."



Photo by Johnston

## Cheaper by the dozen

The town office must have been left in chaos without the 12 secretaries treasurer Bill Rice took out to lunch last week. Attending the chamber of commerce luncheon in honor of secretaries week were (back row left to right)

Betty Brien, Kim Barker, Debbie Kaszper, Sandy Oxley, Phyllis Pilcher, (front row) Peggy McColl, Betty Gilmor, Kay Bellis, Debbie Huke, Bill Rice, Diane Hawtin, Margaret Trotman and Barbara Brownlee.

## Students to develop intelligence test

AURORA — York County board of education last week gave approval to a project in which 120 students from kindergarten to Grade 9 will participate in the development of a wide-range intelligence test.

The test, which is being conducted by Innard Ltd. of Circle Pines, Minnesota, will require parental permission before students can take part.

Purpose of the test is to establish norms for the instrument, which the board said would be used by "many other Canadian and U.S. jurisdictions this year."

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## French aid offered

Education Minister Thomas Wells said this week the ministry of education will offer Ontario school boards \$44 million in incentive grants over the next three years to improve and expand French courses in the schools.

The plan, which is for both elementary and secondary schools, is based on three types of programs: basic core of 20 to 40 minutes a day instruction; basic core, plus one or two of the regular subjects in French; and immersion programs in which the majority of instruction is given in French.

The grants will be based on the number of hours of French language instruction students accumulate during their school years.

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