

How the letter got to the legislature

By ALF STONG
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During the third week of November I received in the mail a photostat copy of a form letter which was on the stationery of the York North Law Association and over the signature of the secretary of that body.
The letter was addressed simply "dear sir" and was purportedly distributed among the

lawyers who practice law in the Regional Municipality of York.
The first sentence of that letter indicated that the executive of the York North Law Association had received indication from some lawyers that "cases of misconduct by the York Regional Police Department have become so frequent and involved so many police officers that they are gravely

concerned about the standard of police protection in the Region".
The letter also invited the recipients to make contact with the representative of the Association and indicate his willingness to attend at a meeting, the date of which would be set to discuss the situation in the Regional Municipality of York.
I subsequently



queen's park

discovered that this letter had received wider notoriety than that confined merely to the lawyers practicing in the Regional Municipality of York and that some 20 lawyers have indicated their desire to attend such a meeting.

Because of the seriousness of the allegations emanating from the York North Law Association and the notoriety that resulted from the distribution of the letter I asked the Solicitor General on December 1 whether he was aware that such a letter had been distributed among the lawyers and whether he would be prepared to

attend or have a representative attend at that meeting so that if the facts warranted it an investigation could be conducted by his Ministry.
He indicated that he would be prepared to have representation at that meeting.
The seriousness of the situation is such that I believe the matter should be dealt with by the

Ministry which is in charge of police forces throughout Ontario right from the outset so that the rumours can be dispelled and the police exonerated or if the situation demands, an investigation conducted.
The Solicitor General announced in the Legislature that an independent commissioner and review board will be established to hear citizen

complaints against policemen.
The new seven-member Citizens' Complaints and Police Discipline Review Board would be appointed for a three-year term, and would have power to dismiss, demote, fine or reprimand police.
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