



Safe driving awards were presented to several York truck drivers last week. Included were (front row, left to right) Herb Hornshaw, Custom Readymix (14 years); Clyde Lehman, Ralph Spademan Ltd. (12 years); Richard

Bone, Rumble Transport (18 years). Back row, left to right; Cliff Dalton, Custom Readymix (1 year); Peter Mercer (1 year); Larry Price, Rumble Transport (19 years). (Liberal photo by Bruce Hogg)

Ceiling on special teacher salaries off

The York Region Separate School Board and its 465 teachers have agreed to make two adjustments to a two-year collective agreement rather than going through the hassle of re-negotiating their contract.

The teachers' Classicomm coverage

Classicomm, Richmond Hill's community television channel, has organized its plans regarding federal election coverage.

The station will conduct interviews with the three York North candidates, beginning with Liberal Barney Danson, April 9; NDP Bruce Searle, April 16; and Tory John Gamble, April 23.

The interviews will be seen at 7, 9, and 11 p.m. on those dates.

Classicomm is also planning a "live hot-line, phone-in show" with all three candidates scheduled for April 18 at 8 p.m.

negotiating team under chairman John Stokes had been concerned about the amount of money in the contract (which was effective last September 1) reserved for teacher upgradings. Both parties had agreed to a ceiling of \$40,000 for this year's upgradings, in a letter of understanding contained within the agreement.

Upgrading funds reward teachers who acquire extra degrees and improve teaching qualifications.

In getting the board to delete the letter and thus remove the ceiling, the teachers offered to forgo

a re-negotiation clause which stated negotiations on salary schedules could be reopened by either party if the cost of living rises by more than 10 per cent in any 12-month period of the two-year pact. The other proviso for reopening salary discussions (also deleted) was an increase of Ministry of Education grants of one per cent or more over the 1977-78 level.

The adjustments are beneficial to both sides since the additional funds will not affect this year's budget or the Separate School mill rate, already

up 5.5 per cent over last year.

"The re-valuation will be accomplished by internal measures," said chief board negotiator Jack McDermott.

"There is a grantable portion of the upgrading money and only 48 per cent of the total will be paid this year. Our concern for our teachers is just as much for anyone's... this particular year we were able to gain an additional \$32,000 of the \$45,000 in

grant — which leaves only \$13,000 to take care of internally," he said.

Besides this year's total cost of \$85,000, the board was just as worried about a growing teacher morale problem over the issue.

"We needed the co-operation of teachers and all staff to carry this off," said Mr. McDermott. "They approached us about removing the re-negotiation clause, which showed they were quite serious about the letter of agreement."

Queen's Park Report

Naming suspects would be prohibited if bill passes

By ALF STONG
MLA — York Centre

During the past week I introduced a Private Member's Bill in the House which is entitled "The Innocent Persons Protection Act, 1979". This Bill recognizes as an inherent Principle of law and order and fundamental to the preservation of the freedom and dignity of every person that any person charged with a contravention of an enactment of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario or of the Parliament of Canada, is innocent and so remains until proven guilty in accordance with due process of law.

The Bill being a short one prohibits the publishing or broadcasting of the name of an accused person, or the name of the relative of an accused person, or any other information that is reasonably likely to disclose the identity of an accused person until the trial of that person has commenced.

Further provisions of the Bill would impose a fine of up to \$2,000 on a person contravening this Bill and \$25,000 on a corporation found to be offending the principle contained therein.

DANGER

We are all aware of the immense damage that can be and on occasion has been perpetrated against a person charged with a particularly serious offence whose name has become public knowledge by virtue of that charge and subsequently has been vindicated at trial.

The Bill is designed to prevent trial by media particularly in this day and age where modern technology can inform the public months before a person's innocence or guilt can be tested in accordance with due process of law.

The Bill is likewise designed to cover situations where a fair trial could be interfered with by virtue of publication of names in connection with alleged facts and it is also designed to protect those individuals who are subsequently found guilty of a lesser charge than initially laid.

Particular adverse publicity creates immeasurable hardship in such a situation where a lesser charge, if laid initially, would not have merited publication.

My Private Member's Bill is slated to be debated in the Legislative Assembly April 19.

SHIFT FUNDS

Almost \$5 million is being taken away from the Province's largest children's treatment centres and training schools to finance programs aimed at keeping youngsters out of such last-resort institutions.

The Government will save about \$3.4 million by reducing the number of residential beds and other services at children's mental health centres which have annual operating budgets of about \$1 million or more. Fifteen of the province's 76 centres will be affected.

More than \$1 million is expected to come from cutbacks and possible closings of some provincial training schools to be announced next month.

At a closed meeting with representatives of children's service agencies and associations, the Minister of Community and Social Services said the \$5 million, plus a further \$10.4 million from his ministry, has been earmarked for a major shift toward preventive programs in 1979-80.

Before the meeting, he said in an interview that the reallocation of spending is part of a change in priorities by his children's services division "to move away from a reactive role treating and providing treatment after the damage is done) and into a prevention role."

According to a ministry official, the new emphasis will be on "front end services", which concentrate on early intervention and prevention

of behavioral problems.

The two largest mental health centres affected by the spending changes are Thistletown Regional Centre in Toronto, which has been ordered to make a 5 per cent reduction over the next several months, and Browndale Ontario, which the Ministry last year awarded a \$9.1 million contract to provide treatment for emotionally disturbed children across the province. Browndale is to cut 30 to 40 beds from its province-wide operations totalling 280 beds, and to reduce non-residential services.

NO SHOCK
Money being taken from the various agencies "will be removed slowly over a period of several months so that there is no sudden shock to any of these institutions."

The centres have been anticipating the change, and "they themselves have been moving in the direction of day services and outpatient services as opposed to residential services." The Minister does not, therefore, expect the reductions in residential care to give rise to any serious problems.

New measures to be financed include programs in the following areas: child abuse \$3,225,000; foster care \$2.2 million; francophone services \$500,000;

prevention \$1 million; hard-to-serve children \$500,000; mentally handicapped children \$2.7 million.

OHIP

Under heavy attack by both Opposition Leaders, the Minister of Health has stated that he plans to change the Health Disciplines Act to require doctors to tell patients before treatment when their fees exceed the current OHIP rates.

As the law stands at present, a doctor is only obliged to tell the patient when the fee will exceed the Ontario Medical Association rates, and those are now 30 to 42 per cent above the OHIP rates.

The Minister contended that billing practices at any of the teaching hospitals permitted

groups of specialists to bill the plan at the OHIP rate, and that at those hospitals, "you will find a very high percentage of claims had, in fact, been billed on an opted-in basis."

Liberal Leader Stuart Smith stated that this practice was subjecting the public to a means test administered by the specialists.

The Minister said he doesn't like means tests either, but that as long as people have a choice, they aren't obliged to take the test.

In an emergency, however, the victim "should not be charged in excess of OHIP."

He said he understood that it was a common practice among doctors to hold emergency fees to the OHIP rate.

Atkinson College York University Summer Session

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