

**Queen's Park**

**Police may take  
your license away**

By ALF STONG  
MCA-York Centre

**LICENCE  
SUSPENSIONS**

The Attorney-General has told the Legislature's justice committee that he is considering giving policemen the discretion to hand out 24-hour licence suspensions to drivers who have been drinking.

Anyone given such an one-the-spot suspension would have to make his or her own way home, and the car (plus licence) would be returned 24 hours later.

While the details of such a scheme have not yet been worked out, it would have to be carried out in conjunction with widespread use of the "Alert" portable breathalyzer machines which are used by police to determine whether a driver should be taken to the station for a test on a breathalyzer, which is capable of giving more accurate readings.

**TEACHERS'  
STRIKES**

According to the Minister of Education, the province still has no intention of imposing compulsory arbitration to end disputes between teachers and Boards of Education in North York and Brant County.

The Liberals urged the government to do so before the Legislature adjourned for the Christmas break.

However, the Minister said it's "up to the parties to end the dispute in Brant, to find the solution to their problems with the assistance which can be provided through the Educational Relations Commission".

We also asked the Minister if the government "condones the possible threat of sanctions or blacklisting" of coaches who took part in a basketball tournament in which a North York team, coached by a student because of the work-to-rule, took part.

He called for action "to ensure that students may participate in athletic competition in Ontario regardless of whether there are sanctions in force."

The Minister replied that working to rule can potentially lead to "damage and jeopardy for the rounded educational program of students". She said this was partly the reason the Ministry's recently appointed external review committee had been asked to examine the province's right to strike legislation for teachers.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

While the Liberal Party was pleased to see the Government finally move toward granting rights for disabled, our support for such legislation was contingent upon discussing the matter with representatives of disabled persons' groups.

We met with the Ontario Federation for the Physically Handicapped, which represents some 39 different associations of disabled people - in-

cluding the Canadian Hearing Society, the Ontario Society for Crippled Children and the March of Dimes. Their opinion was unanimous: Bill 188, as it is written now, has a number of serious weaknesses.

Specifically, it does not completely prohibit discrimination against handicapped persons in the very crucial areas of employment, housing, pension and insurance schemes, and provision of services.

It also establishes yet another government office for handicapped people which the Federation believes will have a dubious advocacy role and could simply create more confusing red tape for disabled people.

Above and beyond these problems, the Federation is unhappy with the whole idea of having a separate Bill for the handicapped, believing such a policy to be discriminatory. The Liberal Party accepts the view of disabled people that they should be included in the Ontario Human Rights Code rather than made the subject of separate legislation.

We recommend that the government not bring forward Bill 188 for second reading and produce instead a proper amendment to the Human Rights Code.

**PRISON GUARD  
STRIKE**

After an illegal strike which lasted two and a half days, the Province's 3,000 prison guards have voted 70 per cent in favor of a tentative settlement which would settle the key issue in the dispute - a separate bargaining unit for the guards - to binding arbitration.

During the course of the dispute, the union president pleaded guilty in the Supreme Court of Ontario to contempt of defying a court injunction which forbade prison guards to strike. Both sides have agreed to a list of six arbitrators, including the current mediator.

The strike left management personnel in charge of jails, with Ontario Provincial Police and the Canadian Forces alerted and prepared to respond in case of trouble.

**PCB DISPOSAL**

Assessment hearings will soon begin into the construction of a \$4-million storage site for polychlorinated biphenyls near Brantford, Ontario. The site, which has a planned capacity of 5,000 tons of PCB's, is a Hydro transformer station about 15 km. from Brantford and 6 km. from Middleford.

Currently 550 tons of PCBs are stored at various sites around the province, and another 14,430 tons are in use, mostly in transformers.

While PCBs have been used, mainly in electrical transformers and capacitors, since 1929, in recent years a link has been established between these chemicals and cancer, liver and skin

diseases, and birth defects.

The Minister was attacked by Opposition Members for his refusal to assist public interest groups in preparing their cases for the hearings. He indicated that he wants to avoid "protracted debate" and that people should learn to trust the Ministry's employees.

Liberal Leader Stuart Smith pointed out that financing public interest groups for the hearings is essential "to make sure we're not just told what a great thing it is while citizens' groups sit by not knowing the right questions to ask".

He said the government is letting the permanent disposal issue cool down after the recent dispute in Mississauga over ministry plans to burn PCBs in a converted cement plant.

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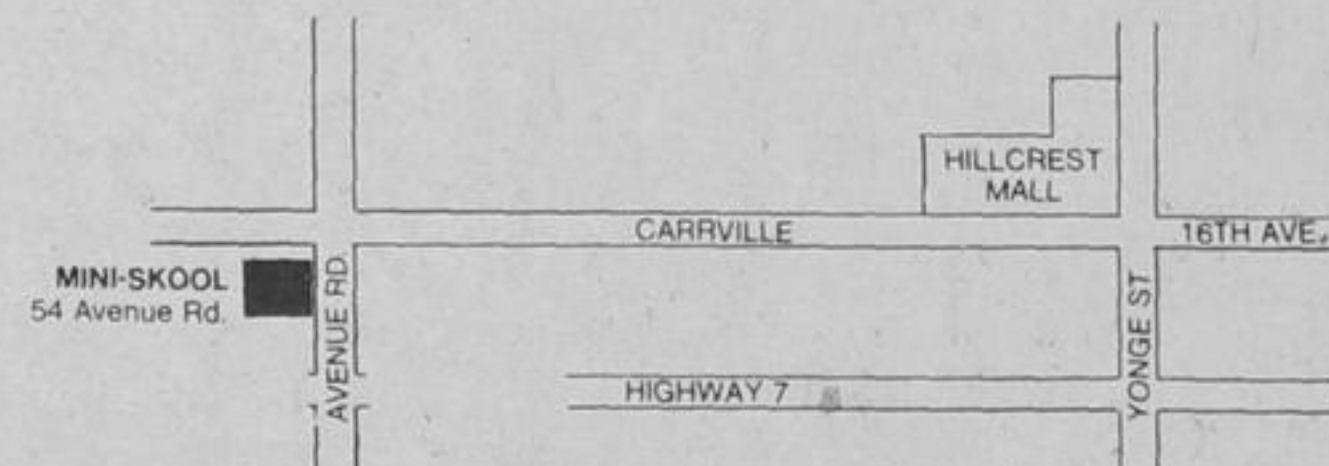


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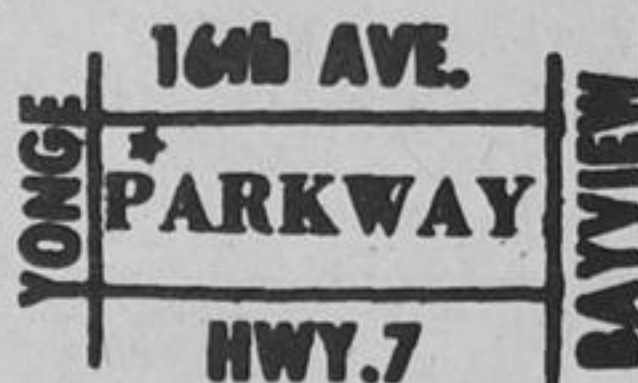
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