

'Hall-Dennis report - not Holy Writ'

Rational approach to change urged by teachers' union

YORK CTY. — "Educational change has become so fashionable that far too often change is being forced on schools and teachers for the sake of change and not necessarily in the interests of educational improvement," said Miss Dorothy Martin, Executive Secretary of the 30,000-member Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario.

"We are becoming more and more alarmed at the high toll in terms of teacher energy, nerves and health demanded by the frantic push for educational change throughout the province," Miss Martin continued.

"No one could accuse the Federation of wanting to stand in the way of progress, but we must be sure that progress is in the best interests of children and teachers, and not just change for its own sake."

Miss Martin went on to cite the Federation's record of innovation and leadership in changing education in Ontario: support for a university degree for all teachers; conferences and film production in such fields as new science and new math; in-service training for hundreds of Federation members; pressures to improve teacher education; a progressive brief to the Hall-Dennis Commission. "We do not stand for reaction; we stand for a rational approach to change."

"What concerns us now," Miss Martin said, is that too much 'progress' in this province is taking place at the expense of the classroom teacher. Without prior consultation, without re-training, sometimes with very little support, the teacher is called upon to teach new courses with new methods in new schools. The pressure is just too great."

"We must not be stampeded into change because it is fashionable. The old is not sacred, but neither is the new. Even the Hall-Dennis Report is not Holy Writ!" Miss Martin concludes.



The buzz saw - an old trick in new trade

The old saw mill was said to have had its day ten years ago. But one is still operating just west of Stouffville and turning out cords of wood each week. Bert Cary (shown here) is the man behind the project. He puts a keen edge on the saw teeth.

Family allowance  
Should first child be omitted?

By John Roberts, M.P., York-Simcoe

YORK SIMCOE — Usually, I write in this column about political events in Ottawa, or about my views on current issues. This week I am going to reverse the usual process. Instead of giving you my opinions I am asking for yours. I am going to describe three proposals — "way out" but serious — which have been put forward recently and ask for your reaction to them. Write to me at the House of Commons, Ottawa with your answers. I promise to publish the results (if any) later. Apart from informing me of public opinion, your letters will give me some idea of whether I have any readers.

1. — Family allowances — the baby bonus — cost over \$560 million dollars each year. Studies indicate that this money is paid basically by middle income earners (\$4000-\$8000) since these people are, by far, the major source of government tax revenues. This money is largely paid to people in the same income bracket since they are in

the age group which generally has young children. A Liberal backbencher has suggested that family allowances no longer be paid on the 1st child in a family. He argues that only larger families need this help. His proposal would save the government \$350 million each year. It would also make life a bit more difficult for young couples who often have heavy mortgage payments, or are saving to buy a house when the husband's income is relatively low. Do you agree, yes or no, that family allowances no longer be paid for the first child in a family?



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Delay hospital addition

YORK CTY. — A one-year delay is anticipated for the construction of an eight million dollar addi-

tion to York Central Hospital at Richmond Hill.

The new wing, to increase the building's accommodation from the present 126 beds to 385, has been postponed to March 1, 1970.

The present hospital, that opened in 1963, is now operating at full capacity.

Other cut-backs in hospital construction have

been ordered elsewhere, including the New Mt. Sinai, the General, Western and St. Michael's.

It's all part of a provincial government austerity drive, after Ottawa limited its cost-sharing agreement to \$12 million. Matched 50-50 by Ontario, it would mean only \$24 million — not enough to finish hospital projects already started.

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