

Federation urges new tax plan for education

The Ontario government should introduce a special education tax on income to replace the present system of education taxes on property, Ontario Federation of Agriculture President Gordon Hill told a news conference Tuesday.

The proposal, outlined by Mr. Hill, calls for an education tax of 3.27 percent on

personal income, and 11.61 percent on corporate income, based on 1969-70 figures.

Taxation at these rates would raise the \$735 million derived from municipal taxes on property in 1969-70.

This proposal is the latest move in the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's campaign for education tax reform in Ontario.

Last fall, the farmers' organization

encouraged property owners to withhold the education portion of their property taxes. It was protesting the fact that property owners must pay almost half the costs of education.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture advocates a system in which education costs are distributed on the basis of ability-to-pay.

Said Mr. Hill, "Our proposal for a special

provincial tax on income for educational purposes is a serious attempt to find a way out of the current dilemma".

"That education taxes on property are obsolete and inequitable, there is no doubt. We recognize, on the other hand, the difficulty the provincial government has in removing education taxes from property. Our figures show that the province would lose \$122 million to the federal government if it paid all education costs out of general tax revenues".

(Education taxes being a deductible expense for farms and businesses, taxable incomes would increase. The province shares income tax revenues with the federal government).

"Our proposal for a special education tax on income overcomes this difficulty. This special tax would be a deductible expense for regular income tax purposes. Thus the

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province would not lose tax revenues to the federal government".

Mr. Hill said that the Ontario Federation of

Agriculture would present its proposal for education tax reform to the government of Ontario for con-

sideration. "We

believe this is a completely workable and acceptable proposal and we look forward to its early implementation.

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Bird fund \$12,600

A fund to rebuild the Roy Ivor bird sanctuary is reported to have topped \$12,000. Sanctuary buildings in Mississauga were destroyed by fire early this month.

Biggest donations - \$1,000 each - came from all-Canadian companies with strong farm links: Canada Packers Ltd., noted for its meat processing and livestock feeds, and John A. Labatt Ltd., a brewing-feed company conglomerate.

The Toronto-Dominion Bank branch in Streetsville, headquarters for the fund, reports donations from across Canada and the U.S. Most contributions are in small amounts from individuals and companies.

The sanctuary, near Lake Ontario, is a haven for birds, particularly injured ones. Rural and urban people take incapacitated birds there for treatment. The 91 year old Roy Ivor is particularly concerned about rare species and maintaining an ecological balance in the countryside.

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