

Editor's Mail

Equality - the only answer

Dear Sir:

I was disappointed to read your recent editorial charging the Liberal Party with making the Separate School grant rejection an election issue.

As I have stated in past reports which I have sent you from Queen's Park, the Separate School system we inherited is not disappearing. We could force its disappearance by changing the Constitution or making it economically impossible to continue. Most of us wish to eliminate, in some way, this aspect of our educational system which divides youngsters on religious grounds. However, forceful "persuasion" results almost invariably in unfortunate conflict and retaliation. I believe that only under conditions of grant equality can these two groups work effectively toward co-ordination and co-operation which will eliminate the religious division in our school system.

It is well over two years ago that the Roman Catholic Separate School Trustees presented a brief to the Government and the two opposition parties for the extension of grant support to Grade 13. They pointed out that in 1965 the then Minister of Education, Premier Davis, had approved extension of grant support beyond Grade 8 to Grade 10. They argued that with the new upgraded school system, and with a much larger percentage of youngsters attending school beyond Grade 10, this was the only way we could maintain equality of educational opportunity in our two publicly supported school systems.

Nearly two years ago the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party studied the question and announced their policy. On the other hand the Conservatives held off making an announcement until two weeks before Premier Davis called the election. Which of the three is truly responsible for making it an election issue?

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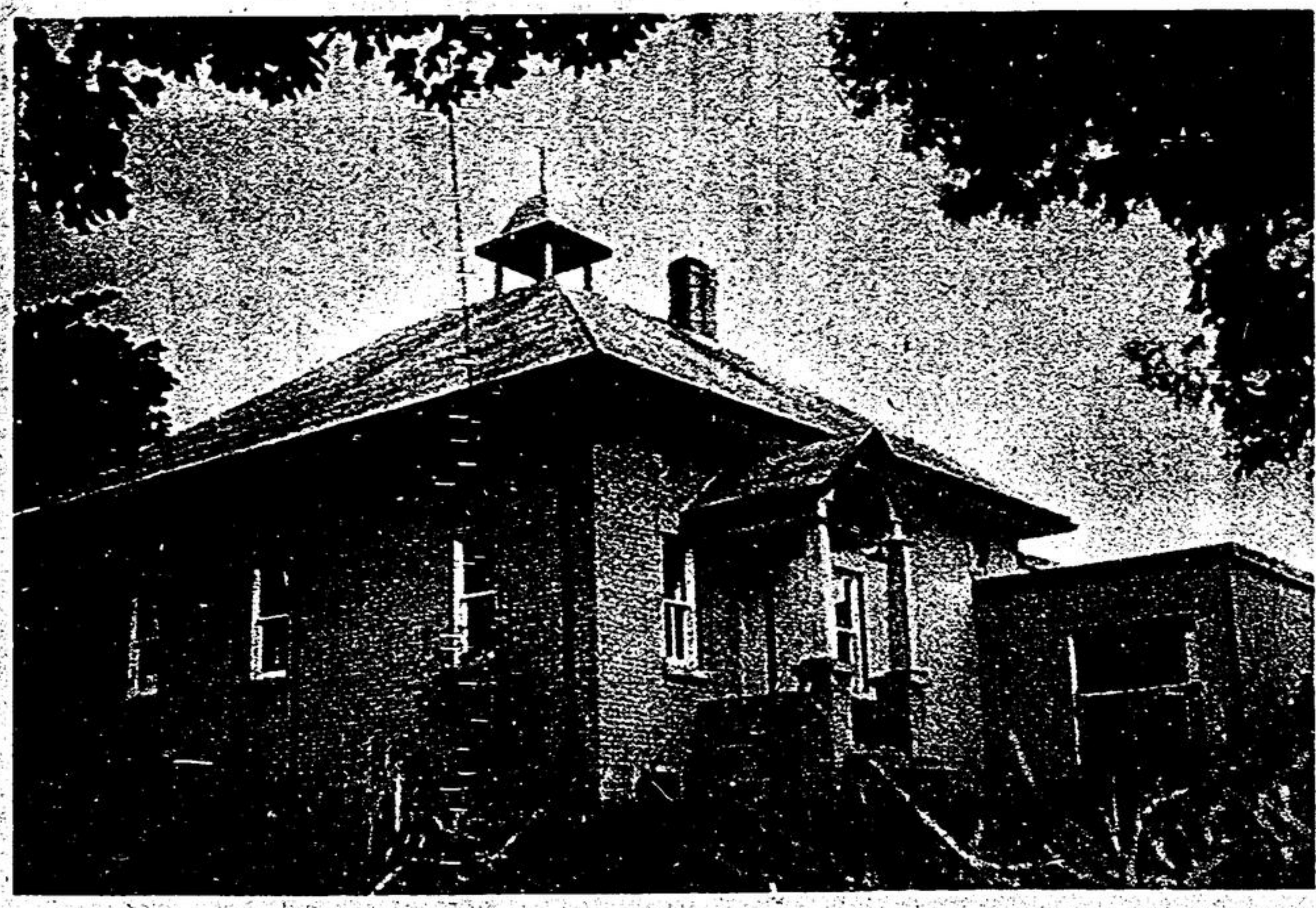
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Donald M. Deacon, Liberal Candidate, York Centre.

Fire Prevention Week will be recognized in Whitechurch-Stouffville, Oct. 3 to 9.



**Suggest Lemonville School for community centre**

The 48 year old Lemonville school may be acquired by the residents for use as a Community Centre. The suggestion has come from ratepayer, Henry Nauta, prior to its proposed sale. The York County Board of Education has withheld a final decision on the building's future, pending a decision by Town Council.

—Jas. Thomas.

Service withdrawn

By Isobel Nigh

**MELVILLE** - Worship services at Melville Church, Sunday, have been withdrawn so that members may attend the anniversary at Locust Hill.

The annual chicken barbecue was a tremendous success. The committee wish to thank those who assisted with the project.

Rev. Harold Modde, former church pastor, was the guest minister at the annual Decoration Day Service, Sunday. Special music was provided by Mrs. Wally Koster and Mrs. Henry Nauta with Mr. John Houck at the organ.

The first U. C. W. meeting of the fall season was held at the home of Mrs. Bruce Carr. Mrs. Harry Lewis, program convener, chose a Labor Day theme. Mrs. Grant Wells showed slides taken this summer on a trip to the West. Hostesses were Mrs. J. Frisby and Mrs. C. Hoover. A speedy recovery is wished for Dale Hakonson and Mr. Clarence Powell, following surgery.

On Thursday evening (tonight) a meeting of the Sunday School workers will be held in the lower auditorium of the church.

Consumers Assoc. The Consumers' Association of Canada, will meet, Monday, Sept. 27 at the home of Mrs. Barry Case, conc. 3, near Gormley. The time is 8 p.m. Further information is available by calling 887-5662.

Young Wives Meet The Young Wives' Organization of Stouffville, invite interested ladies in the community to join in a period of discussion and fellowship, Wed., Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. in Christ Anglican Church, Sunset Blvd.

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Separate School Board conference

Gov't. grant rejection not 'political issue'

**YORK CTY.** Rejection by the Davis Government of an applied grant program past Grade 10, will not be made a political issue, Board representatives agreed at a Separate School Conference, held recently in Toronto.

Eugene Jacobs, Board Chairman for York County reported that while every conceivable position and action had been mentioned, the general feeling was that the decision should not become a political football. "It has been clearly stated all along", he said, "this is a pedagogical issue, not a political or religious one".

Opinions of individual members varied however. Some trustees felt that Premier Davis, by his timing, had himself made the decision 'political'.

F. J. Hodge, Area Superintendent, said that, in his opinion, the question of aid to private schools should not be confused with the question of completing the Separate School system. He was optimistic that, in spite of this setback, justice would prevail.

Dr. Wm. R. LaCroix, trustee for Markham, criticized the Premier for not stating clearly the answer to the question - "Do separate schools have a right to exist or do they not?" He noted too, that board members had also failed to present the general public with a clear picture of the separate school stand. He said most people did not know that the Department grant for separate schools (Grades 9 and 10) is approximately \$550 while public school boards receive \$1,050.

"This is inequality", he said.

John J. McDermott, (Whitchurch-Stouffville) said he found it hard to believe that such a high percentage of people were opposed to extending the grant system through Grade 13 for separate schools. Most trustees seemed to feel that the response had come mainly from those supporting public schools.

Father F. C. Robinson (Richmond Hill) said only 50 families, or approximately 6 percent of 800 families in his parish, send their children to public schools, indicating their overwhelming support for the separate school program. He observed that during the past year, six provincial elections had been lost by the government in power. "Mr. Davis", he said, "may find that number 7 may not be so lucky for him".

**Paper drive**

The Stouffville Scouts and Cubs will conduct a Paper Drive, Saturday, Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. The co-operation of residents is requested.

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