

newsletter

BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION

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OCTOBER 12, 1978

A problem for the RA

How can BCTF provide aid for fired teachers?

The Representative Assembly will be asked later this month to clean up a mess it unwittingly created last June when it adopted a policy of financial aid for teachers fired because of declining school enrolment.

That policy, in the words of a legal consultant, has the potential to bankrupt the federation.

Furthermore, it may have been beyond the powers of the RA to adopt such a policy, and the means by which the RA chose to implement it may be illegal.

Discussion of the problems created by the RA took up several hours of the Executive Committee's last meeting, Oct. 6-7. The executive had no quarrel with what the RA had attempted to do, only with the way in which it was done.

The executive will ask the RA to rescind its policy motion when the assembly meets Oct. 19-21. Meanwhile the federation's full-time table officers, the Learning Conditions Committee, members of the BCTF staff and legal advisers will all be working on ways to achieve the RA's aim of supporting redundant teachers, in a safer and legally acceptable way.

The problem arose at the June RA when geographical representatives tried to prepare for the possibility that some teachers might be laid off this fall as a result of dwindling numbers in the province's classrooms.

The RA sought to assure such members that the BCTF would support them by fighting their terminations through the grievance procedure and by trying to find alternative employment for them.

If all else failed, the RA said, the federation would pay the fired members' salaries for as long as they were out of work.

The RA wrote this into policy by inserting a new Section 13.7 and amending Section 13.8.4 of Policy Statement 21.B.05 (the Provincial Declaration of Basic Learning and Working Conditions).

The Declaration already included two sections (13.8.2 and 13.8.3) promising federation support — including salary maintenance — to teachers whose services were withdrawn in support of other grievances under the Declaration. So GRs apparently felt this was the logical place to insert new policy to protect redundant teachers.

The weaknesses of the new policy came into focus this fall when the executive had to deal with the first claim for support under the new policy, from a Powell River teacher faced with elimination of his job.

Federation solicitor Des Grady was asked to study the RA policy. At its August meeting the executive endorsed the Powell River grievance and authorized support to be provided, subject to guidelines being established.

At the executive's September meeting, Grady summed up his view: "In effect, the decision of the RA was contrary to policy, constitutionally unsound, and probably in breach of the statute (the provincial Societies Act)."

The executive asked for a second legal opinion. Legal consultant Allan Black concurred.

The two lawyers also pointed out at the October meeting that the RA policy is open-ended: no limits are set on the number, amount or duration of claims for support. If a large number of teachers were fired because of declining enrolment, and no new jobs could be found for them, they could

drain the federation's treasury.

The potential costs could be enormous, said Black. They could virtually bankrupt the federation.

In the view of the lawyers, the RA had no constitutional right to initiate a new support program. That is the prerogative of the Annual General Meeting.

Further, Black said, the objects of the federation, as set out in its constitution, do not permit it to operate what would be, in effect, a kind of private unemployment insurance plan. To set up such a plan would require a 75-per-cent majority vote at an AGM, plus the approval of the provincial superintendent of insurance and the cabinet.

Grady's advice to the executive was to suspend any action to provide support to fired members under the RA policy, and to ask the assembly to rescind its policy amendments.

In reply to past president Bill Broadley, Black said members who felt themselves entitled to protection under the RA policy might be able to sue the federation for support, while others who opposed the policy could seek injunctions to stop the federation from providing support. The organization could be caught between two fires.

Executive members also felt themselves torn between the obligation to uphold a moral commitment to the fired Powell River member, and the need to abide by the constitution and the law.

Repeatedly members of the executive indicated they wanted to honor the federation's commitment. The problem was, how?

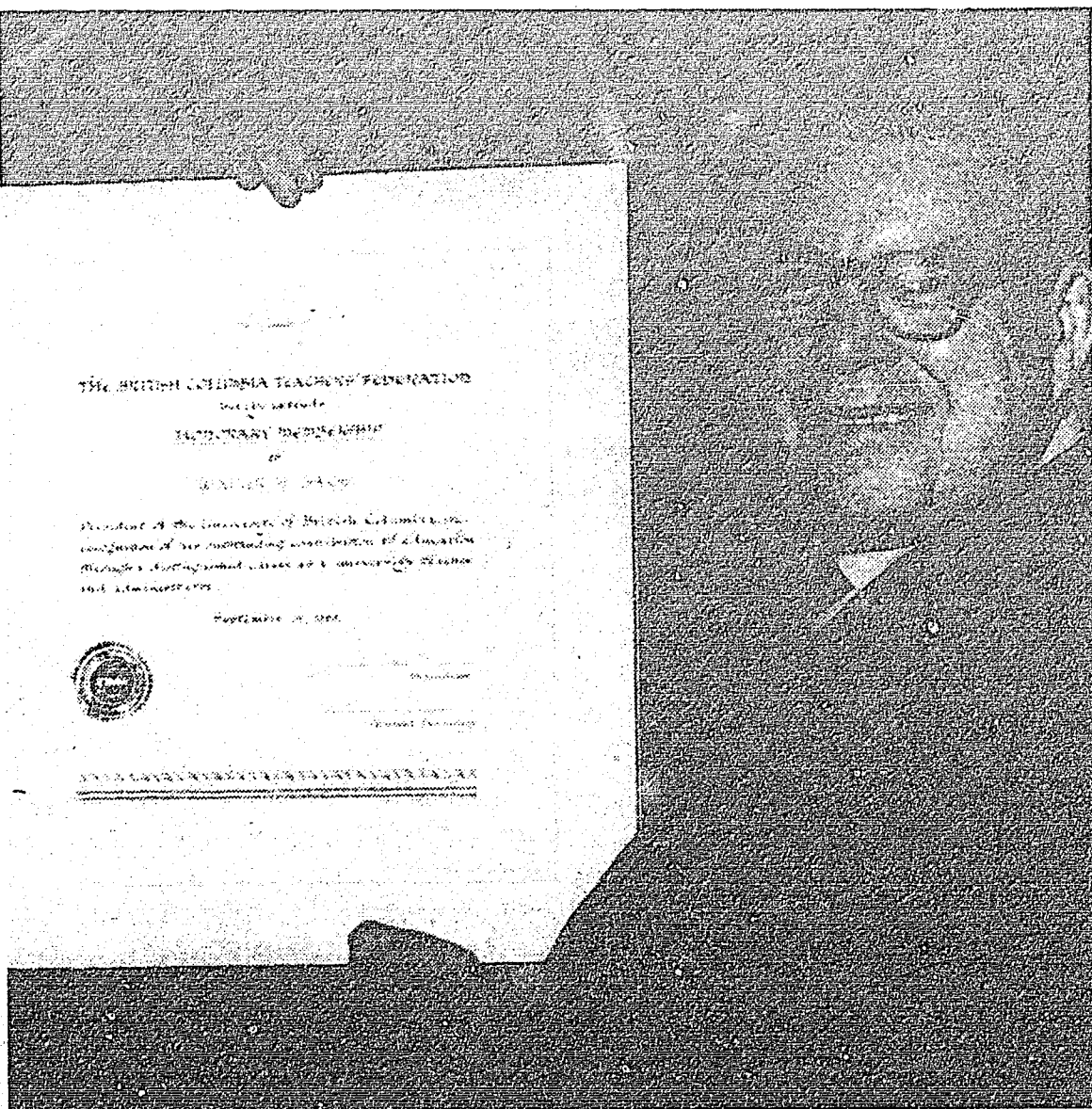
Executive member Pauline Galinski of Powell River urged that the federation contribute a sum of money to the BCTF Assistance Society (an off-spring of the federation but for years a separately incorporated body), and then invite the Powell River grievor to claim support from the Assistance Society.

(Continued on page 4)

Correction

In our April 27, 1978 edition the Newsletter reported that the Langley school board had rejected a request by Uplands School for a comprehensive Grade 3 outdoor education program.

We have since learned that this was not the case. The request was accepted by the board in the particular case.



"Mr. UBC", Dr. Walter H. Gage, who died Oct. 3, is shown receiving honorary membership in the BCTF in 1969. See story on page 3.

Half-way there?

Fairtax gains more support from public

It seems the federation's Proposition Fairtax is being adopted by the provincial government — piecemeal.

Last week touring cabinet ministers announced plans to implement two of the four proposals contained in the Fairtax plan.

During a four-day tour of communities along the B.C. Railway line, Premier Bennett promised to increase the provincial homeowners' grant. He did not specify the amount of the increase.

The Fairtax plan calls for increases in the homeowners' grants, which are intended to offset local school taxes, to \$520 for senior citizens and to \$350 for younger homeowners.

On the same tour, Education Minister Pat McGeer announced that the government would proclaim its 1977 Colleges and Provincial Institutes Act.

This was another Fairtax proposal. The effect would be

to transfer approximately \$28 million of the costs of post-secondary education from local taxpayers to the provincial treasury.

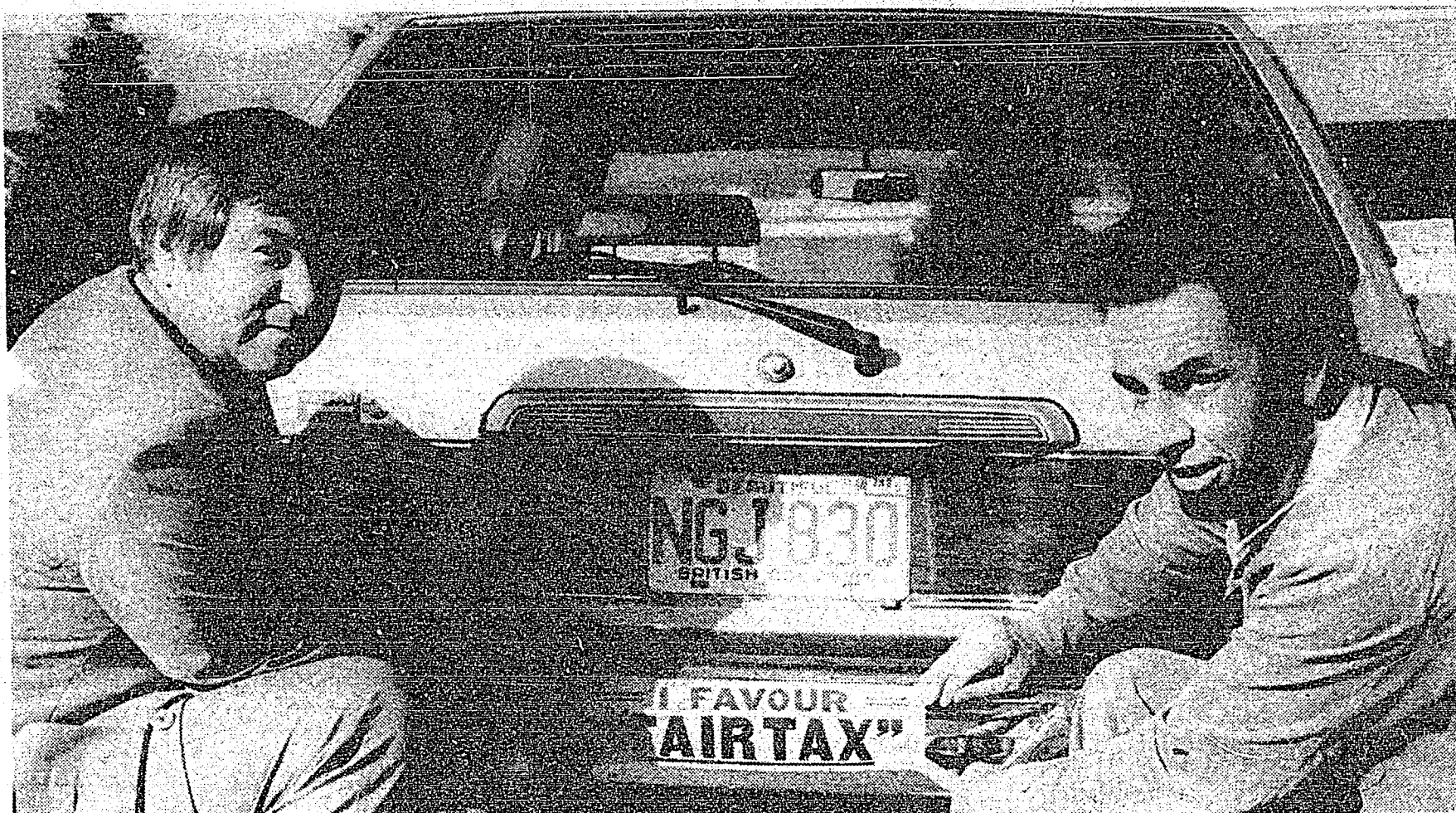
Federation President Pat Brady said he was delighted by the news. He added that he hoped the government would now give further consideration to the other Fairtax proposals: increased provincial grants to school boards, a reduction in the uniform mill rate for school taxes (now set at 39.75 mills), and a minimum school tax of \$1 (it's now \$50 for taxpayers under age 65).

The Fairtax proposals have been getting increased exposure and a generally positive response for the last several weeks.

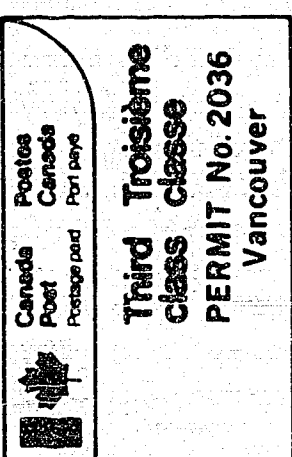
Brady said he was pleased at the reception the proposition got when he presented it to several hundred municipal council members and officials at the annual convention of the B.C. Union of Municipalities in Penticton.

A number of delegates approached Brady for further information after his presentation. The federation sent 500 copies of the Sept. 20 Newsletter, which contained a two-

(Continued on page 4)



They're for Fairtax! BCTF president Pat Brady (left) and first vice-president Al Blakey put a Fairtax campaign sticker on a car bumper.



IF UNDELIVERED, return to 2235 Burrard St., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9

BCTF proposals sent to McGeer

The BCTF has proposed a mixed bag of amendments to the Public Schools Act dealing with such matters as tenure, teacher education, employment of superintendents, the scope of collective bargaining, and mainstreaming of handicapped students.

The federation's requests are a response to an invitation from the government, proposed through the Deputy Minister's Advisory Committee, for suggestions on improvements to the act. The B.C. School Trustees Association was also asked to propose changes.

The BCTF proposals are contained in a four-page letter to Education Minister Pat McGeer from federation president Pat Brady.

In it he states the federation's continuing concern over the problem of reconciling compulsory school attendance with the special problems of mentally retarded, deaf, blind and other exceptional children.

The letter urges that "funds be provided by the province to enable school districts to provide the necessary specialized accommodation, tuition and other support services at the local level."

If instruction and facilities are inadequate, Brady warns, "the social and emotional benefits of 'mainstreaming' may be illusory."

The letter also calls for the establishment of local review panels to consider teachers' appeals against transfers from school to school or from an administrative to a classroom position, and against dismissals resulting from declining enrolment.

Brady also asks that boards of reference be given discretionary powers in imposing penalties on teachers; at the moment they may only confirm or reject a school board's decision.

He repeats the federation's concerns about McGeer's "announced intention to deal with teachers who have received conditional or absolute discharges as though they had been convicted of crimes."

This is a reference to the minister's threat to fire teachers who use marijuana, even though they are discharged by the courts. (A discharge does not count as a conviction.)

On the question of probationary appointments, Brady refers the minister to draft regulations submitted earlier by

the federation. These would require a school board to give a teacher notice that it intended to place him or her on probation and to hold a hearing at which the teacher would be told the reasons for this decision. The board would not be able to act until it had received a report from the district superintendent with an assessment of the teacher's work.

The federation urges formation of three bodies proposed in the McGregor Report on teacher education: a council for the education of teachers, a board of certification with a majority of BCTF-nominated members, and local co-ordinating committees.

The letter says school boards should have freedom to choose their own superintendents or chief executive officers and to set their salaries, and that superintendents should have the same safeguards against wrongful dismissal as senior executives in business and industry.

And again the federation calls for broadening the scope of collective bargaining to include all terms and conditions of employment, not just salaries and bonuses as at present.

A reminder

You are reminded that deadline for applications for the administrative staff term appointment advertised in the Sept. 20 edition of the *Newsletter* (page 8) is 5 p.m., Oct. 13. Female and male applicants are encouraged to apply in writing to:

General Secretary
B.C. Teachers' Federation
105-2235 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9

Co-op plans open house

The Teachers' Investment and Housing Co-operative is holding open house week Oct. 16-20 at its new location, 2110 West 43rd Avenue at West Boulevard, Vancouver.

Members and teachers are invited to bring along guests and take a tour of the new facilities.

Tours are scheduled for 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and, for active teachers, 4 p.m.

If these times are inconvenient, members of the Co-op staff will be happy to conduct tours for individuals any time in the afternoon.

Legal ed workshop

A workshop for teachers, sponsored by the Legal Services Commission as part of its schools legal education project, will be held in Kamloops Oct. 20.

The workshop is being held as part of Kamloops Justice Week and the one-day session will cover such topics as "Law in the Elementary School" and "Juveniles and the Law."

The objective of the legal education project is to improve the quantity and quality of legal education in B.C. schools.

Letters

'Fascist inroads'

Over the weekend of Sept. 23, word came to me from a nearby school district that recommendations from its official offices had already been made to head teachers for saving money in order, according to those teachers, that the municipality will stand well for "rewards and merits" recently suggested publicly by Education Minister Pat McGeer.

Some of these recommendations are as follows:

- Eliminate French and foreign languages;
- Eliminate "spares" from high school time-tables;
- Eliminate non-essential courses with low enrolment;
- Bus ESL students to key centres;
- Designate special kindergarten classes and bus little tots to them;
- Increase overall enrolment of classes by one student.

These few suggestions, deceiving by their apparent "insignificance," would in themselves cut by at least a dozen the staff of a school like

Richmond Senior Secondary with an enrolment of over one thousand, and increase the load on teachers remaining. Multiply this by all the schools in the province and we can see the kind of progress these eager beavers, who knock themselves out to save the system, are thinking about.

After all the benefits teachers have won over the years to the advantage of the profession as a whole — with many more that can and should be attained in future years, particularly for elementary teachers — it would not be long before all gains made could be abolished by adverse educational restrictions such as those given above, if enforced.

For those who are not sure how social conditions develop, here we have a prime example of how fascist inroads make their way almost without notice; and we can surely see the danger such inroads have of growing, if teachers or any other affected group do not rise to the occasion.

Ivor J. Mills,
Richmond,
Sept. 27

More languages in schools

In September, 1981 high school students will have had to have studied a second language to enter university.

There are many reasons why a person studies a second language:

1. to become a scholar in the language
2. to become a bilingual person in a second culture
3. to become bilingual in another "official" language of a country
4. to travel and broaden and enjoy oneself
5. to read scientific journals in other languages
6. to apprehend and appreciate cultural and linguistic diversity.

All of the above are valid reasons for studying other languages. Personally, I feel 6

is the most important. Can insufficient exposure in language programs with a single course of studies reach many of the above objectives?

We need more languages in the schools. We need them at the ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL when students learn them easier and when there is time to reach a wide range of objectives. And, we need them as "living cultural experiences" that become part of the learner. What we don't need are "academic" language requirements and the risk of generating negative feelings towards other languages and their respective speakers.

Yours truly,
Joanne Whitney,
Teacher, Van. Tech.
Sept. 21.

Declining enrolment

On behalf of the Declining Enrolment Task Force, I wish to express appreciation to the organizers and participants at the LC conference.

We feel that it is imperative that the declining enrolment program be recognized as one aspect of other BCTF programs, specifically learning conditions.

The zone meetings, held during the conference, were particularly helpful to us, as they provided opportunities to relate declining enrolment issues to budget, class size,

He wants Roberts letters

I am, with the permission of Lady Roberts, collecting the letters of her late husband, Sir Charles G.D. Roberts (1860-1943), for publication.

Roberts was a well-known poet and writer of animal stories, and an avid outdoorsman. He lived at various times in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Toronto and Vancouver, travelled extensively in Canada between 1880 and 1943 on lecture tours and personal visits, and had contacts with persons from all walks of life.

This is my final attempt to collect additional Roberts letters prior to completing the preparation of the existing collection for publication. I should greatly appreciate hearing from any persons holding letters from Sir Charles.

Fred Cogswell,
Head, Roberts Letters Project,
c/o Department of English,
University of New Brunswick,
Fredericton, New Brunswick,
E3B 5A3,
Sept. 22

Tough times ahead for women teachers?

Tough times could be ahead for women now teaching or hoping to teach, Lynne Hampson, chairperson of the BCTF Declining Enrolment Task Force, told delegates to the federation's Status of Women contacts' conference held in Vancouver Sept. 29-30.

She warned delegates of current social attitudes which imply that working women are taking men's jobs and referred to a statement made by Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau last fall that unemployment would be reduced if working women returned to the home. "These are attitudes," she said, "fostered by governments when the economy is unhealthy."

Hampson said that women must challenge these statements, asserting their own rights to employment, and quoted statistics to show that out of every ten women, one never marries; eight out of nine working married women work outside the home for an average of thirty years; 85 per cent of single-parent families are headed by women; 61 per cent of working women are single, divorced, separated or widowed, or have husbands who earn less than \$10,000 a year.

She said that evidence provided by the Ontario Federation of Women Teachers shows that discriminatory attitudes exist in hiring of teachers.

"Women may well be the declining majority as new trends indicate that in a period of declining enrolment men are often hired in preference to women," she said.

Hampson said that although we haven't heard yet in B.C. that teaching couples should share jobs, there is strong evidence that women teachers are being pushed into part-time work, and that because under the Public Schools Act teachers must resign from full-time jobs to take part-time jobs, this means loss of seniority and could mean loss of fringe benefits.

She also said there appeared to be an increase in temporary appointments, filled mostly by women, "totally out of line with the numbers provided for under definitions of the Public Schools Act in some districts."

She said that all teachers — and women in particular — face an even bigger problem than declining enrolment today — "generalized slander" of the public school system, not backed by data, and a decline in public trust.

She cited one damaging current perception: "As education is a costly enterprise and one which is supposedly not living up to public expectations, declining enrolments provide an opportunity to cut costs by cutting services. This is the Proposition 13 point of view."

"The federation has taken the position that teacher layoffs are unnecessary and that we are a long way from adequately meeting the needs of students," she said.

Hampson said the Ministry of Education and the media have contributed to the conditioning that fewer students will mean lower educational costs. And, she said, "the government has contributed to these



LYNNE HAMPSON

perceptions by certain claims." Among them:

- Schools are not educating students to fit into the job market and are therefore contributing to unemployment;
- School taxes are an intolerable burden;
- Schools are failing in their task of educating children.

Hampson cited another myth that needs exploding — declining enrolment is severe.

She said the overall decline in B.C. was only 1.6 per cent from 1976 to 1977, but that the significant statistic is that 66 per cent of school districts have been affected.

She warned delegates from still unaffected districts not to turn their backs on the declining enrolment problem because school districts could be affected by critical public attitudes toward public education and tighten budgets. This in turn could affect women teachers.

Magazine contest

Calling all junior Picassos

One of your students could have his or her artwork featured on the cover of the January-February 1979 issue of *The B.C. Teacher*.

That issue of the magazine will be devoted to kids, to mark the beginning of the International Year of the Child.

"We hope some art classes will be interested in submitting pieces of work that can be used on the cover," says Ken Aitchison, editor of the magazine.

"In effect, we're running a contest for the students. The winner's prize will be to see his or her work used as the cover for the special issue."

Art teachers interested in

having their students participate in the contest are asked to select the top entry and submit only that one to the BCTF office by Dec. 1. The magazine's editorial board will select the winner from the entries received.

There are no real restrictions, says Aitchison, but entries should make use of the color reproduction possible on the magazine's covers.

"We're also looking for good manuscripts. We want to feature the world of children, so articles about and by kids from Kindergarten to Grade 12 are welcome."

Manuscripts should be no

Pension survey gets enthusiastic response

The pension survey announced in the Sept. 8 *Newsletter* is in full swing.

About 50 retired teacher-volunteers have attended training sessions and are now conducting the survey in most parts of the province. Those selected to participate in the survey who are not contacted personally will receive their questionnaires by mail.

Selection of the survey group was done on a random basis

and therefore, for the results to be valid, it is important that all participate. "To date the reception has been enthusiastic," says Bert Wales, the survey co-ordinator, "and we hope this will continue throughout."

If you received a notice from the federation that you have been selected to participate and have not been contacted further, please notify the Retired Teachers' Association by calling 731-8121, local 214.

Walter H. Gage

By JOHN HARDY
Walter Gage is gone. News that he died Tuesday, October 3 travelled the province's news media quickly, a tribute to the man and a recognition that B.C. had lost a giant in education.

Among the eulogies, and there were many, was a statement by Roy Daniells, who spoke for the UBC faculty. He said "Each of us feels a special and personal grief at the loss of one who gave of himself so fully to each individual on this campus. . . . His life was one of total devotion, not only to his chosen mathematical field, (but) to his teaching and to administration; it was a commitment to each of us whom in varying contexts he encountered."

"His years of labor on committees dealing with scholarships and bursaries were especially typical. He seemed to know each recipient and to remember his subsequent career."

Let me flesh out those thoughts because it seems to me they define the main characteristics of the man: his individual attention to students, his teaching ability, and his generous spirit coupled with a phenomenal memory.

It happened to me as it happened to so many others who needed financial assistance and who would, therefore, go to see Dean Gage.

He would cheerfully shove aside a mound of papers on his desk, tell you to sit down, and then in that warm way of his find out all about you. It would

be information stored, as I've found, for 25 years and probably longer.

If the student loan were distant, say six weeks away, and you needed money for the next meal, Walter would reach into his desk drawer, pull out a cheque book to help you survive the period. Some say the money was put there by wealthy alumni, but one suspects it was Walter's own money.

It would come back, of course, through later donations from graduates mainly by way of the Walter Gage student loan fund. Also it has occurred to me that Walter Gage was, in his own way, an enormous change agent in the social system, because he ensured that children from poor backgrounds, children with no parents or parents unable to afford continuing education, were not denied opportunity for lack of funds.

Some 90,000 people have graduated from UBC and in his 57-year association with the university Walter Gage must have influenced the lives of many of them. It is out of this broad constituency that is not only province wide, but world wide, that the influence of the man will continue. And the main mechanism will be the Walter Gage student loan fund.

As the years go by, he will become only a name to future recipients, but that doesn't matter. What matters is that the lesson he taught to generations of students in this province is kept alive.

Honorary membership for Macfarlane at RA

This fall's BCTF Representative Assembly, to be held Oct. 19-21, will present an honorary membership to Barbara Macfarlane, associate editor of *The B.C. Teacher* until she retired in 1977.

The meeting will also hear two legal appeals and will face a heavy agenda, much of it business unfinished by last spring's RA.

One thing the 115 geographical representatives and the 11 members of the executive committee (the latter sitting as non-voting members of the assembly) won't have to face is the budget for the year.

That — 98 per cent of it, anyway — was adopted by the spring RA. The lengthy budget debate last spring was the main reason so much other business had to be deferred to this fall's meeting.

One of the matters on which geographical reps need the advice of their colleagues is Statement 2.A.15, which reads: "That if an arbitrary provincially-legislated adjustment in teachers' salaries is proposed, a special general meeting be called in accordance with By-law 9, with prior regional study sessions held in the required 14-day notification period."

The statement was passed by the 1976 AGM, during the time of the Anti-Inflation Board controls. The RA will decide whether to keep the statement or recommend it be changed or deleted.

The RA will also debate a

motion from the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association: "That it become future policy of the federation that in statements issued regarding agreements, there be no percentages quoted, and that consultation with local associations regarding such matters be emphasized at the time of such press releases."

The BCTF's reaction to the McGregor Report on teacher education will be discussed, as will the federation's Fairtax proposals (see pages four and five of the Sept. 20 *BCTF Newsletter*).

Declining enrolment will get attention too. The RA will see a new slide-tape production on declining enrolment and will examine the federation's declining enrolment program for the year.

The RA will receive a report on the proposed reorganization of the BCTF staff into six divisions (see pages one and four of the Sept. 8 *Newsletter*).

A matter that promises to be controversial will be the suggested deletion of sub-local associations from the provisions governing in-service education grants.

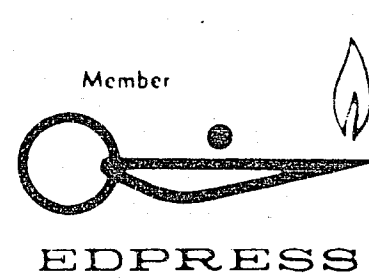
Section A.5 of Statement 13.C.16 (page 24 of the *Members' Guide*) allows a maximum of \$3,000 in grants each year to any one local or sub-local association. The Executive Committee will recommend deletion of the words "or sub-local" from the statement.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION
105 - 2235 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9

newsletter

Editor
ARNIE MYERS
Associate Editor
MARDEE GALT



Letters to the editor must be signed by and bear the address of the writer. The Newsletter may edit letters for brevity, clarity, legality or taste. Articles contained herein reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily express official policy of the BCTF.

Phys ed specialist looks to fourth 'R'

(The following article was submitted jointly by D. Kemprud, principal, Bakerview Elementary School in Abbotsford and Al Fischer, coordinator, physical development, School District 34.)

The concept of specialists in the elementary setting is not a new one, but one that has not gained wide acceptance either by district supervisory staff or teachers. Over the past few years we have become accustomed to specialists in the library and learning assistance areas but little real progress has been made in other curricular areas.

Bakerview Elementary School in Abbotsford has taken on a new dimension within its physical education program with the addition of a trained physical education specialist. While the administration felt that an adequate job was being done by the regular classroom teachers, there was a feeling that a better job could be done by a full-time person specializing in physical education.

'Why settle for anything but the best?' were the words used by one parent in an assessment of the program.

The addition of the specialist stemmed from the principal's observations of some of the basic inadequacies of the elementary program. These included the lack of trained personnel, inattention to or unawareness of a well-rounded program of fitness and skills, and the near-absence of development of the affective domain in physical education (more pronounced in progressing through the grades).

Concern for the quality of physical education in the school is the *raison d'être* of the program. Numerous medical publications have recently pointed out that when the B.C. school system receives children in kindergarten and grade one, they are receiving a relatively good product—one that is probably on a par with European children. After a few short years in the system, however, these same children's fitness level has declined sharply.

To be sure, television and

peer-group activity play their part in the decline but would it also not point out a basic inadequacy in existing thinking on the importance of physical education in elementary education? All too often, school programs are solely game-oriented and not fitness-oriented. This emphasis has augured well with some secondary school sports programs where the best athletes were groomed for 'super-team' development.

Curiously, the secondary schools of the province are recognizing the need for a changing emphasis and have been steadily increasing their course offerings in activities oriented to lifetime fitness.

A list of characteristics of a good physical education program would include:

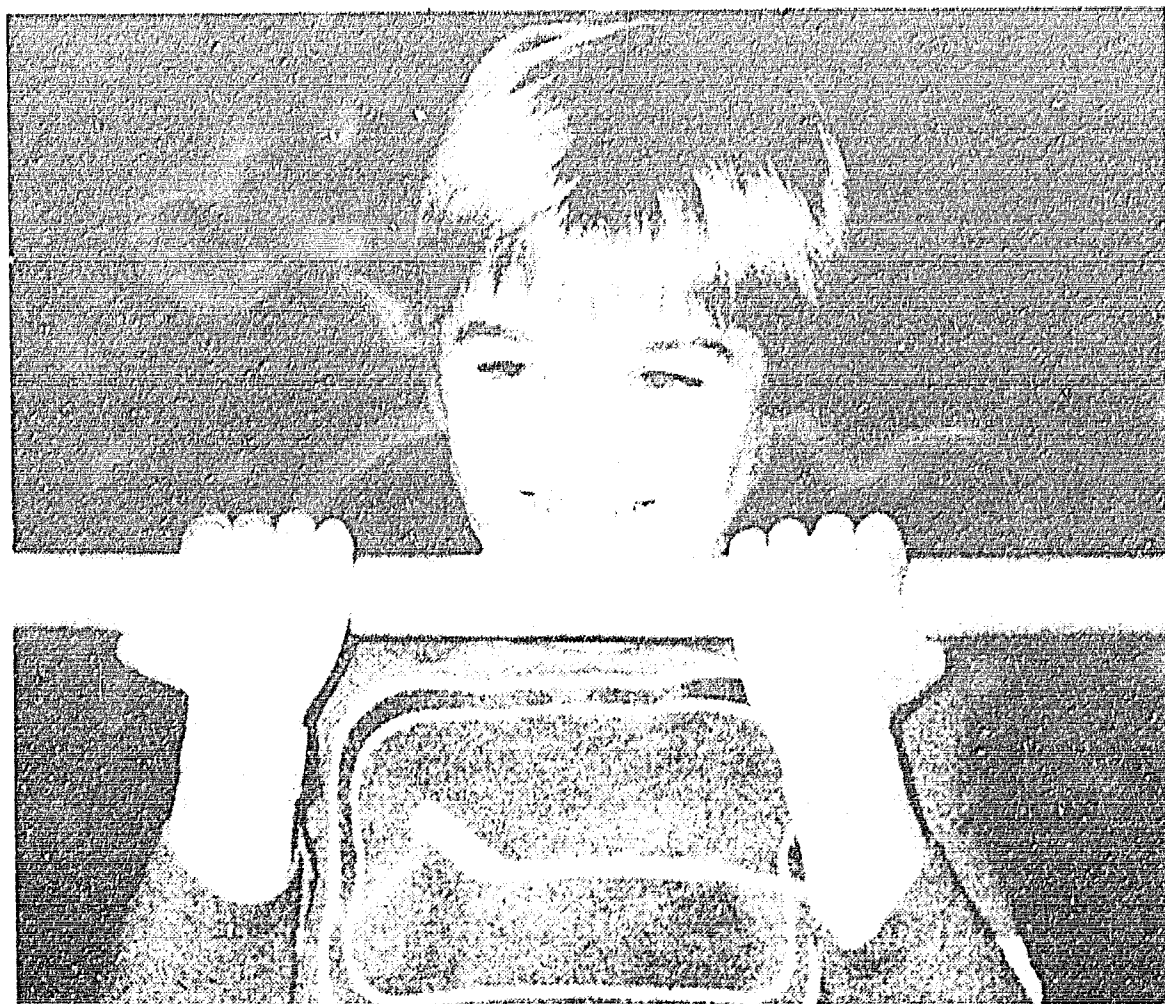
1. Daily instruction;
2. Maximum active participation;
3. Wide range of movement experience;
4. Total-fitness activities;
5. Qualified, competent teachers;
6. Adequate and appropriate facilities and equipment;
7. Principles of child growth and development as its base;
8. Opportunities to develop a positive attitude to activity; and
9. Suitable competition.

Teachers at Bakerview seem pleased with the quality of the new program and when asked to compare it with their own efforts in physical education, provided consistent commentaries in the following areas: 'The pupils seemed more alert and responsive in regular classes following their PE period;' 'The level of instruction pertaining to skill development is more consistent than previous programs;' 'School equipment and gym time is more efficiently used and better maintained than when all teachers were in the gym;' 'The specialist is available on staff to act as a resource person and advisor.'

The overall reaction of the staff toward the program, to date, has been excellent.

'We've known about hypokinetic disease since 1961. We know that inactivity is cited as a major cause of cardiovascular disease, obesity, poor physiological development and overstress. Given the overwhelming medical evidence, the question that all teachers and parents should be asking themselves is: 'Are we prepared to take preventive steps or will we wait and take the normal curative steps that are overburdening the present health programs and budgets of North America?'

We are all well aware of the importance of the Three Rs in education; is it not time to consider the 'Fourth R': the Recognition of health-inactivity of our student adult population?



With a P.E. specialist in attendance a wide range of activities are possible and a wide range of equipment can be used.

(John Morrow photos)

From page 1

Financial aid

This was only one of 11 motions proposed to solve the problem.

In the end the executive agreed:

- To suspend any action to provide financial support to members under Article 13.8 of the Declaration, either to redundant teachers or those pulled out of schools to support grievances;

- To ask the RA to rescind what Galinski and Brady called the "hasty and ill-considered" motion it passed in its attempt to protect fired teachers;

- To ask the Learning Conditions Committee and legal advisers for policy recommendations to enable the federation to "support the job security of members affected by declining enrolment" and to support those withdrawn in a grievance;

- To ask the federation's lawyers to develop possible constitutional amendments to legalize the federation's desire to support these members; and

- To ask the BCTF staff and full-time table officers to pre-

pare a report for the executive's next meeting, Oct. 20, to give effect to the Galinski plan to support the Powell River grievor.

General Secretary Bob Buzza points out that in the meantime the federation will continue to provide advice, including the services of a lawyer, to any member faced with dismissal, suspension or transfer under any provision of the Public Schools Act.

CEC meet set

The third national congress of the Council for Exceptional Children will be held in Winnipeg Oct. 18 to 21.

Congress dates coincide partly with the conference of the Manitoba branch of the CEC.

There will be seven speakers from the U.S. and Canada and 130 mini-sessions during the congress.

Information is available from Peter D. Smith, CEC Congress '78, Box 78, Westwin, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2R 0T0.

From page 1

page spread on the Fairtax plan, to Penticton to be distributed to the UBCM delegates.

The UBCM group immediately passed a resolution calling on the provincial government to implement the colleges act.

In contrast to the warm reception they gave Brady, some UBCM delegates snickered when Education Minister Pat McGeer unveiled his plan to "reward" school districts that show "excellent fiscal control."

The news media have shown increasing interest in Fairtax. The proposition got slight initial coverage when it was introduced at the summer conference for local presidents at Naramata in August. It got increased attention when reporters were given Fairtax material while they were covering a taxpayers' protest meeting in Surrey.

First Vice-President Al Blakey carried the message to the Interior, where he was interviewed by a *Kelowna Courier* reporter. In Vancouver, Brady discussed Fairtax with CKNW interviewer

Fairtax

Barrie Clark and with Laurier Lapierre of CKVU's televised Vancouver Show. Ralph Sundby of the federation's Learning Conditions Work Group was interviewed about Fairtax on the CBC Radio talk show, *Three's Company*.

Several local associations have initiated activities to give further publicity to Fairtax in their own communities, and the work group is encouraging others to follow their lead.

The Victoria, Sooke and Saanich teachers' associations have collaborated on a half-page newspaper ad to plug the proposition.

Teachers at Fort St. James, led by Alan Child, seized on a unique opportunity to put the proposition before the province's decision-makers. When they learned the provincial cabinet was to meet in their community, the Fort St. James teachers obtained several hundred brochures to explain the Fairtax plan to citizens and legislators before the meeting.

Later, at Fort St. John, Sundby and local teachers were able to discuss Fairtax briefly with Premier Bennett

and with Municipal Affairs Minister Hugh Curtis, who told them a cabinet subcommittee is working on the whole question of local taxation.

"Support for Fairtax seems to be easily obtained," says Sundby. "What we need now is sufficient exposure of the plan so that the degree of visible support makes it incumbent on the government to implement the Fairtax proposals."

Sundby urges local associations to schedule meetings with school trustees, municipal officials, parents and community groups to give Fairtax further publicity and discussion.

Copies of the Fairtax brochure have been made available to local associations and small numbers of "I Favour Fairtax" bumper stickers and lapel buttons can be obtained from Sundby.

Meanwhile, the federation will continue to press the Fairtax plan in meetings with the B.C. School Trustees' Association and the B.C. Home and School Federation. Meetings are also being sought with the provincial cabinet and party caucuses.