

ATA back to basics

At a meeting with members of the Alberta cabinet, the Alberta Teachers' Association emphasized that while the 'three R's' are important, the definition of 'basics' must be expanded beyond this to include a common core curriculum.

Presenting a brief at the Legislature were ATA president Mac Kryzanowski and officers of the association.

They reported that an association survey of teacher opinion on basic education has suggested that such a core curriculum would include "all the communication and computational skills, the sciences, the social sciences including history and geography, health and physical education, the fine arts, industrial and environmental education, and family living education."

The association reiterated that teachers have never left the 'basics' and advised against any drastic reduction in optio courses, supporting instead strengthening them through provision of materials and resources to teachers.

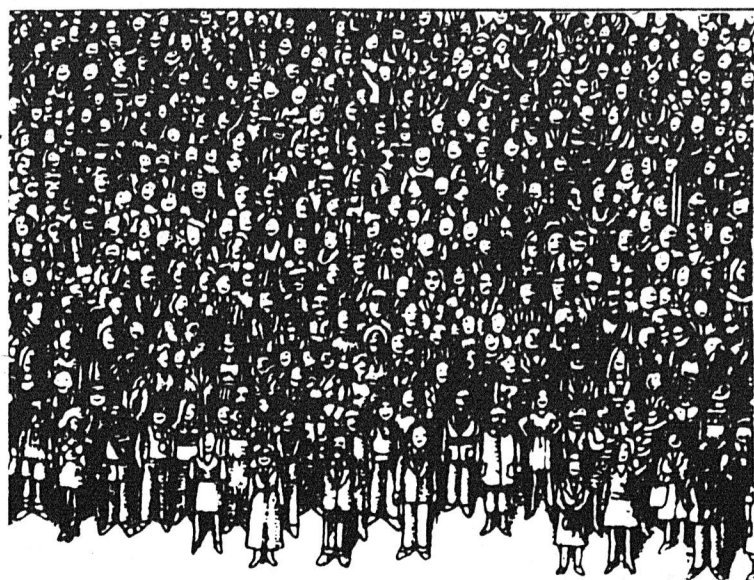
Calling for a 1978 increase in total education funding of 12 percent, the ATA reminded the government that increases in material costs and salaries, in-

creasing pupil enrolments, and the need for quality improvement necessitated a higher level of funding.

The association strongly rejected a government suggestion that the ATA consider dividing itself into two organizations. It advised that an "overly-simplistic application of (possible government) professions guidelines to the teaching oc-

cupation would be a grievous error."

Other discussion at the meeting dealt with requirements of computer-assisted instruction. The ATA noted that this "can be useful for taking over some of the mechanical tasks, but cannot provide teaching service in its fullest sense" and warned that it does not appear to be a fruitful avenue for cost cutting.



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