

Full funding issue addressed at York

By DONOVAN VINCENT

A forum held at York last Wednesday (October 30) on the separate school funding issue had the participants worrying about the effect it will have on the quality of education in Ontario.

Gordon Doctorow, a Toronto mathematics teacher and New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate, was the first of the speakers to address the full funding question. Doctorow said he was opposed to funding Roman Catholic schools because "it violated the fundamental principles of democracy, and the principle of separation of church and state."

He also attacked the funding on the grounds that it "gave preference to one religion." Doctorow said "we live in a secular and diverse society that must foster pluralism in its most basic institutions." In order to encourage social progress Doctorow said "students must develop synthesis and harmony with each other."

He believed the public school system allowed for students from a diversity of cultures to function well together. He said the absorption of cultures by the public school system gave students a feeling of equal status in society.

Doctorow also said the "public school system serves a vital function in that it provides role models for ethnic and female students," a function that he feels the Catholic School system does not provide. He also said that in terms of the historical accord (in which provincial government funding was promised to Catholic schools at the time of Confederation) funding is an "historic anachronism" and by clinging to old accords Ontario is "moving backwards."

Lyle McBurney was the next speaker to address the separate school funding issue. McBurney, who is the Executive Director of the Ontario Association of Alternative and Independent Schools, said "the notion of public education needs to be redefined."

He argued that "the provincial government needs to formulate a public education policy that addresses the questions and issues of groups having special needs and particularities like denominational groups."

Doug Knott, presently the Deputy Director of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, expressed his "consternation about the public outcry against the policy

of funding to Catholic schools." He said funding was guaranteed at the time of Confederation, and so we should live by historical accords and agreements.

He also said that any qualified teachers entering the Catholic system would be guaranteed a position and would not be discriminated against, on grounds of religious or ethnic background.

Peter Gayfer, a member of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, told the crowd that he "remains steadfast" in his "opposition to further funding (grades 11-13) of Catholic and Separate Schools, and no amount of amending to the proposed bill will make it acceptable."

Gayfer said that "the security and promotability of Non-Catholic transferees to the Catholic system would be in jeopardy."

Gayfer said his main concern was the "quality of public education." Declining funds to the public school system would impact negatively on labour because of the erosion of vocational and shop programs. He said students leaving the public school system seeking technical or vocational jobs will be less qualified to meet the standards of these jobs.



Barbara Greene and Mel Lastman at Stedman debate last Thursday.

INGRID AWONG

Vanier, Mac reconsider CYSF

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Both presidents said that it was important to remain with the existing government so they could give their input into the New Model. Hammond said that Vanier hopes to have "a more effective voice in the new government."

Hammond said that even though he thought Vanier has "backed down now" by reconsidering to stay in CYSF, "the one thing we did achieve was to inform students of the OFS issues." Hammond said that about 75 to 100 students came into Vanier council office last week enquiring about the organization.

"A lot of students didn't know what OFS was," Hammond said. "We realize there are two sides to the issue of leaving OFS, so we wanted to inform students of them." Hammond said the council provided OFS introductory magazines and pamphlets to help answer students' questions.

After last night's CYSF meeting, Ali met with college presidents to further discuss the implementation process of the New Model. Morrell said he hoped for a process that would "maximize student input and provide a quick implementation."

Canada 'vital' in UN women's forum

By SHELLEY WEISFELD

Canada played a leading role in developing strategies to implement the United Nations' (UN) long-term goals for women who represent 159 countries in non-governmental organizations, said the coordinator of the Status of Women's Bureau in Canada.

Maureen O'Neil, who was also deputy chief of Canadian delegations at the UN's Nairobi forum held last July 10 to 26, told a small group in Vanier Senior Common Room on October 23 that the goals of the conference were to "review and appraise the achievements of the UN's declared Decade for Women." Her talk was sponsored by the Women's Studies program of Atkinson College.

Under a plan called Forward Looking Strategies (FLS), O'Neil said preparations were being outlined until the year 2,000. She also said Canada "played an active role" in developing the UN's long-term plan. Before March, 1985, there was no consensus pertaining to the content of the FLS plan. As in the Copenhagen meetings of 1980, contentious

foreign policy issues threatened the prospect of achieving an agreement on strategies for the advancement of women, O'Neil said. Canada voted against a document that was in favour of channeling aid to Palestinian women through the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

As coordinator of the Western group of nations, Canada was vital in aiding negotiations between heads of the Eastern bloc and the Third World group of nations to reach a partial consensus on the FLS plan. Although O'Neil said "the success of the outcome of the Nairobi conference was far from ensured...the intense period of negotiations did in the end result in an agreement on much of FLS document."

Also present at the Nairobi conference was Walter Maclean, Canada's minister responsible for the Status of Women. Maclean was recorded as saying that "In addition to Canada's efforts in relation to the Nairobi conference, Canada was the leading country in calling the precedent-setting meetings of commonwealth ministers responsible for women's affairs."

A post-Nairobi forum with talks and a slide presentation from various faculties will be held on November 12 in the Atkinson Fellows' Lounge.

Nicaragua

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Nicaraguan economy and to its people," Arguello said.

Then in October, 1983, with the direct approval of Reagan and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operatives, Nicaragua's civil airports were bombed.

"The final point had been reached; something had to be done," said Arguello. Not long after the airport bombings 20,000 people had to be evacuated from the town of Corinto after oil storage facilities were blown up.

Then in early 1984 Nicaraguan ports were mined "...directly by the CIA with the approval of the President of the United States," Arguello said. In April of that year Nicaragua filed its application before the World Court and is waiting for its decision.



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