

## TAKE YOUR SKATES WHEN YOU GO ON POSTING (continued)

Most children learn the basics while playing with their friends, but they will feel more motivated if their parents take an interest. It is not necessary to have been a good player, or even to have played hockey at all, to teach a child to keep his head up: a few sessions with you in goal will suffice.

If the child began playing in Canada, you might wish to have him undergo training in a summer hockey school before leaving for another country. If he began playing abroad, he should return to Canada during the first summer vacation to attend a school, unless there is a good one locally. For example, one of the best Canadian schools is in Switzerland. It was well-attended during the summer of 1986. Plans are to continue it this summer and through 1988.

The choice of school is very important, because the quality of instruction varies greatly. As a general rule, the best ones have been established for some time.

In a number of countries, the parents of Canadian children are often asked to help the local coaches, to serve as referees or to help organize teams. This involvement encourages the other parents to take more of an interest in their own children and to coach them off the rink, a common practice in Canada. And in Europe, Canadian diplomats are often asked to contact the Canadian Forces in Germany to organize friendly games.

If you are concerned about violence in hockey, be assured that it is less of a problem in other countries than in

Canada. In the United States, a training program has been set up in which technique is emphasized at a much earlier stage than in Canada. The larger ice surfaces in Europe also promote an open style of play in which speed and passing predominate.

For various reasons, a number of post reports no longer have up-to-date descriptions of rinks and hockey abroad. Thus, before resigning yourself to putting the skates and hockey equipment in storage, you should inquire about the current situation at your new post. Better to have your children appreciate your foresight than to arrive with no equipment and find out that they could have played. Opportunities to play are often found in the most unlikely places □

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## SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE AIDS KITS

Beginning in September, the Catholic schools of Ontario are planning to offer information sessions on AIDS to their Grade 7 and 8 pupils.

Mrs. Carmen Gervais of the Ottawa Separate School Board (OSSB) indicated that educational kits would be distributed to all the Roman Catholic school boards in the province at the end of June. The kits are designed to assist teachers, but how the videos, brochures, books, etc. in them are used will be left entirely to the teacher's discretion.

"School boards are free to refrain from using the kits should they find them unacceptable," stated Mrs. Gervais, adding that this teaching tool was prepared not to attack any groups or individuals, or to pass judgment on anyone.

Mrs. Gervais is a member of a provincial committee formed by the Ministry of Education. Since last spring it has

been endeavouring to formulate recommendations on how to deal inoffensively with the delicate question of AIDS in the Catholic schools of the province.

One of the committee's recommendations that was accepted by the ministry requires Ontario's Catholic schools to warn Grade 7 and 8 pupils of the dangers of AIDS and to tell them how it is contracted. "AIDS has become a daily reality. We can no longer stick our heads in the sand hoping it will go away," stated Mrs. Gervais.

However, Mrs. Gervais feels that the ministry's strategy is too restrictive because it does not include in the AIDS awareness program students in the senior grades, in accordance with the committee's proposal. "There are some students whom we will not reach, and that's unfortunate," maintained Mrs. Gervais.

In Mrs. Gervais' view, the initiative of the ministry, however praiseworthy, was somewhat late. In her opinion, it is well past the time when this very current issue should have been dealt with in the schools. "Young people have a lot of misconceptions about AIDS," she added, citing the example of a boy who was afraid of catching the disease from a friend who had cut himself in the school-yard.

John Connelly, Chairman of the OSSB, believes that it is up to the schools to deal openly with the problems that are affecting society. "The students must be aware of how AIDS is transmitted and how it can be prevented," he stated in a telephone interview.

And what about the parents' reaction? In Connelly's view, they are looking to the schools to explain openly to their children the "new facts of life" □