



Stephen Lewis

'Intervene in their education'

Lewis urges parents to take part in children's schooling

By JOHN STEWART
Times staff writer

"There is no advocacy more worthy than to intervene for the benefit of the educational life of a child," Stephen Lewis told an Erindale College audience last week.

The former leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party explained that even though children are guaranteed a free and universal

education, there is no guarantee of an "appropriate, useful, just, valid, or substantial education."

"Parents have little say in the quality, content or direction of education which is a considerable transgression of civil liberties."

Rights of parents are so "illusory as to be almost non-existent," Mr. Lewis told a large audience in

the first of three lectures on the Right To Know sponsored by The Associates of Erindale.

When parents do try to intervene to express their concerns, their children often beg them not to "because the consequences for the child are grave."

"It's difficult for parents to persuade educators what's in the best interest of their own

child." Teachers won't accept the fact that, "a mere mortal parent" could know what's best for his or her own child, he said.

The only meaningful way to involve parents is "to give them power," Mr. Lewis said.

Bill 82, which will be debated in the provincial legislature later this month, "is an elixir" which could be model

legislation for all of North America, he said.

Amendments to the bill made by New Democrats and Liberals guarantee a free and appropriate education to all students, he said.

The government will be obligated to provide individual educational plans for children, proper assessment, evaluations and a proper setting. If parents are unhappy, they

will have the right to appeal to the Ontario Special Education Board.

In response to a teacher's question about how the program could be paid for when there isn't enough money for chalk and paper now, Mr. Lewis said there is enough money to pay Ford \$68 million and the pulp and paper industry \$100 million but not enough to ensure a proper education for children.

Tomorrow at 8 p.m. Toronto lawyer Edward Greenspan will speak on the power of the police

Park Royal closing studied

A decision to close Park Royal Public School will be reconsidered.

Bob Allan, one of the parent members of the review and analysis committee, says reconsideration was prompted because of a "flaw" found in enrolment projections.

The committee was prepared to recommend closure of Park Royal in June, 1982 after studying alternatives in the family of schools which also includes Willow Glen, Emcrest and Hillside schools.

But Mr. Allan says if Park Royal school were closed, another school might have to be considered for closure by 1986.

Ward 2 trustee William Kent, one of the people who chairs the committee, says its recommendations will likely be presented to a public meeting of residents in January.

Shaw display at Peel museum

The Peel Museum and Art Gallery features the works of Ontario landscape artist Stewart Clifford Shaw Nov. 18 to Jan. 11. Proceeds from the sale of his oil paintings will go to the Toronto Orthopedic and Arthritic Hospital.

Mr. Shaw, a resident of Peel from 1951 until his death in 1970, made many arduous trips across Canada despite a physical handicap caused by polio. His work bears some resemblance to his contemporaries, the Group of Seven.

The sale begins Nov. 20 at the gallery, 3 Wellington St. East in Brampton, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For further information contact Lynne Clifford at 490-1111.

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