

Perspective

Opinion

Better late, than never

House Bill 1181 calls for educational improvement

Hearings are currently being held across the state of Pennsylvania concerning the advantages and disadvantages of House Bill 1181.

This bill - our representatives hope - will be the answer to a "failing American education system" as Rep. Thomas Tighe, a member of the House Education Committee quotes.

Tighe, in a recent television interview, claims House Bill 1181 does not contain "utopian answers" but is rather "a step in the right direction."

The bill, which calls for stronger educational requirements in our schools, will attempt to produce something more than "functional illiterates." Instead of pushing students up the educational ladder according to their ages rather than their knowledge, the bill will require students to know as much as they should before advancing to a higher grade.

As in all cases, however, this educational crackdown is going to cost money. And, since we can't possibly expect the students to bear the expense of a better education, the burden, of course, will fall on the taxpayers.

Rep. Tighe admits the committee pushing this bill realizes the money is going to have to come from taxes, however, he says the fine details of how our taxes are going to be affected have not yet been worked out.

Education is one thing in which we, as Americans, can pride ourselves. Every one of us has the opportunity to pursue an education and for that, we can be thankful.

Spending money for our education is not something at which we should balk, either. Considering some of the foolish things the American people - and the American government, for that matter - spend money on, we should not think twice about money spent on bettering our educational system.

House Bill 1181, or something of its like, is one bill that is long overdue. The American educational system has been failing for some time now and, while students flounder around from one grade to the next, the one thing which we have to be proud of has been going straight down the tubes.

It's high time the government spends some time on improving the quality of education in its own country. And it's time the people here at home are given the opportunities they deserve.

If House Bill 1181 does everything it is supposed to do, if our educational system improves and if a high school diploma will someday mean more than simply spending 12 years of one's life inside the confines of a school building, then maybe the taxpayers won't mind having to finance it.

- DOTTY MARTIN

HL Protective Association needs residents' cooperation

Hats off to president Guy Giordano and the members of the Harveys Lake Protective Association for all they have done this summer in an attempt to make Harveys Lake safer for everyone who uses it.

After meeting in a closed-door session earlier this season and drawing up a proposal which included things from the installation of warning signs at all public boat access areas to asking state legislators to close the loopholes on boating laws, the Protective Association is now selling buoys to lake residents.

For \$56, which really isn't a whole lot of money when you consider the necessity, lake residents can have a buoy installed 100 feet from their docks. These buoys will not only make it easier for boaters to judge the distance they are required to remain from the docks, but will certainly make the dock owners feel much safer, knowing their property is properly marked.

The only requirements of lake residents after the buoys are installed is that they remove the buoys by

Oct. 15 and place them again in May so that they will be visible at all times during the summer boating season.

The Harveys Lake Protective Association seems to be coming on as a somewhat powerful organization in that through its members work together to make their lake safer for all of us.

Although some residents may scoff at the idea of having to pay the price of making the lake a safer boating area, they must realize these kinds of things come with the territory. People who want to live at the lake or own lakefront property are expected to pay the price of keeping the lake safe for its users.

The Protective Association is doing its job - and doing it well. Its intentions are good and hopefully, with 100% cooperation from the lake residents, future boating accidents will be prevented and Harveys Lake will once again become a safe, healthy place we can all enjoy.

- DOTTY MARTIN

Letters

Reader favors passage of Renewal Employment Act

DEAR EDITOR:

While the American economy is pulling itself out of the worst recession since World War II, many experts are forecasting a split-level recovery which could leave millions of industrial workers and others, both men and women, behind. Such a recovery would have profound policy implications for the country. Pennsylvania would also be hard hit. I believe it's up to Congress to address the problem.

The Community Renewal Employment Act, of which I am co-sponsor in the House of Representatives, would provide jobs in areas of high unemployment through grants to local government for labor costs involved in the repair, maintenance or rehabilitation of essential public facilities, such as bridges, hospitals and schools. Funds would also be provided for the conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of public lands and for funding of essential public safety and health services.

The legislation would focus on providing jobs for the long-term unemployed and to families where no one is employed full time.

The bill not only makes good economic sense; it also makes sense from a policy point of view. The recent bridge collapse on a Connecticut highway vividly illustrates the shape of many of our nation's streets and bridges. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that governments at all levels must spend an extra \$11 billion each year in this decade to repair deteriorating transportation and water systems.

Additionally, the social services provided by the bill are in short supply. The U. S. Conference of Mayors

reports that only 36 percent of the eligible population receive health services, only 14 percent receive day care and a scant four percent are reached by employment and training programs. Currently, the U.S. Conference of Mayors estimates, local officials met only 43 percent of the demand for emergency services, such as food and shelter.

Approximately half-a-million jobs would be created this fiscal year if the legislation becomes law. In fiscal year 1984, over 900,000 people would be employed if the authorization was fully funded.

The bill also contains strong language prohibiting unemployed workers from replacing public employees already on the job. In addition, the legislation has provisions designed to guard against patronage development in the placement of unemployed workers. Pennsylvania would be one of the major beneficiaries of the Act. According to the formula contained in the bill, the state would receive \$223 million in funds for additional unemployment programs.

No recovery will be complete if we are caught looking over our shoulders at a huge unemployed workforce which has little chance of finding a job or making a meaningful long-term contribution to our economy. That's why passage of the Community Renewal Employment Act is essential.

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Letters policy

The Dallas Post encourages and invites its readers to voice their opinions, complaints, and/or compliments by participating in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Letters to the editor should be typed or written legibly and addressed to "Editor, The Dallas Post, Box 366, Dallas, Pa., 18612." Letters must be received by Thursday for publication the following Wednesday.

Names will be withheld upon request, however, all letters must be signed and contain a telephone number for verification.

Letters submitted without a signature or a telephone number will not be published.

Group gives support

The Parenting Council of Northeast Pennsylvania is a non-profit organization formed to help strengthen and support all aspects of family life.

Anyone desiring additional information on the organization may write to the Parenting Council of Northeast Pennsylvania at 936 Market St., Kingston, Pa. 18704 or call 283-0506.

Only yesterday

Noxen Tannery employees start move to form union

50 YEARS AGO - AUGUST 4, 1933

Noxen Tannery employees move to form a union calling for higher wages, less hours, more men. The tannery's wage scale ranged from 27 cents to 43 cents an hour with 224 persons being employed there.

Dr. Carl E. Hontz, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hontz, Sweet Valley, passed the State Board Dental Examination and was serving his internship at the Fifth Avenue Hospital in New York City.

Married - Katherine Yeisley and Earl Van Campen.

You could get - Sardines 4 cans 19c; shredded wheat 11c pkg.; applesauce 3 cans 19c; macaroni or spaghetti 4 lb. 25c; salmon ½ lb. can 10c; ginger snaps 2 lb. 25c; cooked corned beef 2 cans 29c; gelatin or chocolate desserts 4 pkg. 19c.

40 YEARS AGO - AUGUST 6, 1943

Fred Westerman, Royal Canadian Air Force pilot, was listed missing in combat over Germany. The son of Mary Westerman, formerly of Davis Street, Trucksville, Fred graduated from Kingston Township High School where he was a star football player.

Lightning hit three barns in Wyoming County burning them to the ground. Burns O. Sheldon, Donald Williams and Herbert Place lost property in the severe thunder storm.

Engaged - Enda Fritz to Dr. Benjamin Shortkroff; Eleanor Jane Dunclee to Lt. Robert Lewis Fleming.

Married - Alice Eipper to Leslie H. Tinsley. Deaths - Margaret Space, Forty Fort; Clifford Space, Huntsville Road.

You could get - Cantaloupes 25c ea.; yellow sweet corn 29c doz.; carrots 5c bunch; tomatoes 2 lb. 25c; red fish fillets 32c lb.; sausage 39c lb. sugar 10 lb. bag 63c; Nabisco Graham crackers 18c lb.; 3 cakes Lava soap 17c.

30 YEARS AGO - AUGUST 7, 1953

John F. Sheehan was elected to fill the unexpired term of Harris Haycox. A master of the George M. Dallas Lodge F & AM, Sheehan was an active member of Prince of Peace Church. He was an employee of Bell Telephone.

Dallas-Franklin Township Schools appointed four new teachers: Helen Sliker, language; Marjorie Wagner, home economics; Loretta K. Cherneck, physical education; William James, music.

Engaged - Dolores Adamshick to Rudolph Ruiz. Married - Bobby Lee Crews to Russell DeRemer.

Library news

Library display case features Teddy Bears

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

"Teddy Bears and other loveable Cuddles" - that is what is now appearing in our display case in the main library.

Lisa and Maria Augustine of Wyoming have allowed us to borrow some of their favorites. There are three large ones in the center; a nice, big brown teddy bear which was a Christmas present to Lisa, a large potbelly teddy bear, and a white fluffy dog with a winter hat, which was a gift to Maria.

There is a tan rabbit, a black Halloween cat, a sleeping puppy and sleeping tiger, a rather snobby Avon signature-type dog and a gray mouse with a band-aid covering a sore spot. There is a smaller, rather scruffy looking teddy bear, a pink pig, a corduroy bear and a koala bear. Included is a tiny koala bear and a raccoon. There are also two rather special teddy bears, a girl and a boy, affectionately called Ron and Lisa.

This collection will be on display until the end of August.

Lisa and Maria have been collecting stuffed animals over the years and have quite a large collection. Both of the girls are working at the library this summer as pages. Maria is back for her second summer with us and will be starting her second year at Kutztown State College in the fall. Lisa has been with us for a year and will attend classes at Luzerne Community College

in September.

This display makes a nice, friendly, fun-loving spot in the library to finish the summer on a happy note.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library has received a puppet theatre and movie screen from the Collector's Group, which meets in the annex once a month. We are very grateful for these new gifts, which will be put to good use.

New books at the library: "Wilderness Empire" by Allan Eckert is the gripping narrative of the 18th century struggle of two powers to win the allegiance of Indians in a war for territorial dominance. It is the story of English strength and French power.

"Exocet" by Jack Higgins is a novel infiltrated by surprises, the first is into Queen Elizabeth's bedroom by a masked intruder. This story is of a second majestic woman, Gabrielle Legrand and an international triangle with dangerous assignments.

"Karpov's Brain" by Gerald Green is the story of Abram Levitch, a most unlikely hero, who seeks to emigrate to Israel where he will join his wife. He becomes a figure of courage and the focus of international attention when he is persecuted and imprisoned.

Planning a vacation? Whether you're thinking about travelling in our own state, a visit to a national park, or a trip to a foreign country - you will enjoy your vacation more by planning it with the help of books from your library, an information center!

Sen. O'Connell feels budget robs our small communities

The dust from the battle of the state budget has settled, however, State Senator Frank J. O'Connell (R-Kingston) believes gaping wounds were inflicted upon most of the programs important to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The conditional surrender brought on by the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives robbed smaller communities of the funding necessary for projects important to the 20th Senatorial District in order to finance numerous Philadelphia "give away" projects.

O'Connell said, "The Democratic leadership of the House eliminated previously Senate-approved appropriations for critically needed programs administered by various state agencies."

Without the aid of Governor Dick Thornburgh, the Republican-controlled Senate acted in a responsible manner by drafting a sound tax plan to provide funding necessary for many state programs.

O'Connell said the Republican leadership failed to represent and aid the Republican caucus. "The leadership concurred rather than disagreed with House powers," he said.

The Luzerne County Republican stated, "Within the next few months the Senate will attempt to restore funding to a reasonable level for many programs that were neglected."

O'Connell said the Republican leadership followed the House amendments to the Senate tax package.

The Democratic House amended the Senate tax package by changing the state income tax from 2.4 to 2.45 percent for 1983 as well as the first six months of 1984. The tax would then be 2.35 percent.

O'Connell noted the Senate originally planned a modest increase in the income tax from 2.2 to 2.5.

The Senate cigarette tax plan was removed totally. Instead, smokers will be subject to the six percent sales tax in addition to the current .09 cent excise tax.

The House also added a new section to the tax plan which would exempt Pennsylvania State Lottery prizes from the state income tax for individuals, and, instead, would require quarterly transfer from the

Lottery Fund to the General Fund of an amount equal to the present value of prizes won times the income tax rate.

O'Connell condemned the use of lottery funds for general appropriations. "The lottery is solely for the benefit of our senior citizens and should not be used for anything else," he said.

The House followed the Senate plan to accelerate quarterly sales tax returns which are due the last day of April, July, October and January. Under the Senate plan, returns are now due on the 20th day of those months.

Further, the House agreed with the Pennsylvania Utility Realty Tax Act (PURTA) plan. The PURTA tax liability is to be reported by April 15 and paid by June 1.

"Beginning April 15, each public utility is to report its tentative tax liability equal to 90 percent of the previous year's liability and pay 25 percent of such amount quarterly," O'Connell said.

Disappointed with the new budget, O'Connell said it was the best that could be obtained under the circumstances.

In February, Governor Thornburgh announced his plan to expand the sales tax to include items otherwise immune. At the same time, House Democrats proposed a one percent jump in the income tax.

"The Senate leadership clearly saw that both the Governor and the House had made bad proposals," he said.

O'Connell also disapproved the increase in gasoline taxes. The 11 percent gallon gasoline tax will rise a penny while the oil franchise levy goes from 3.5 to six percent.

"The increased gasoline tax translates into a three cent per gallon increase," O'Connell continued. "I have been fighting the Department of Transportation's administration for two years, arguing that the distribution formula of gasoline taxes is inequitable and adversely affects rural communities in the East and Western part of the state."

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