

TUESDAY 1st.

TEACHERS "REFRAIN FROM DUTY"

TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE INADEQUACIES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

A mass meeting of teachers is being held at the Albert Hall at 10 a.m.

WHY ARE TEACHERS "REFRAINING FROM DUTY ?"

To bring attention to the government's failure:

- (i) to provide adequate staffing.
- (ii) to provide adequate relief staff.
- (iii) to provide adequate training of staff.

- for additional information , see overleaf.

WHY SHOULD YOU SUPPORT THE TEACHERS ?

- (i) The quality of your education effects your entire life and the Development of Australia.
- (ii) Unless teachers aims are fulfilled, the general standard of education will worsen.
- (iii) It is necessary to arouse public concern over these problems. So far, due to lack of public pressure the government had failed to remedy these problems.
- (iv) It is important to show that not just the teachers are aware of these problems.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP ?

1. STUDENTS ATTEND THE SCHOOL AT 9.a.m. IN NORMAL SCHOOL UNIFORM.
2. THEN SENIOR STUDENTS FROM SEVERAL CANBERRA HIGH SCHOLLS ARE MARCHING TO THE ALBERT HALL TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE AIMS OF THE TEACHERS.
3. THE BEST METHOD OF SHOWING YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE AIMS OF THE TEACHERS IS TO BE AT THE ALBERT HALL BY 10 o'clock.

STUDENT SUPPORT WILL HELP !!!

It is important to the achievement of the teacher's aims that those students who go to Albert Hall behave in a responsible manner.

We wish to point out that students under the age of 15 are under an obligation to attend the school.

SOME NEEDS OF NEW SOUTH WALES PUBLIC EDUCATION

Australian society today expects more from its teachers and schools than ever before in history, and these rising expectations have placed increasing burdens on the already inadequate framework of public education in New South Wales.

For this reason the continuing failure of the Commonwealth and New South Wales State Governments to both remedy existing educational shortcomings and take strong measures to avert the even worse deficiencies already indicated for 1969 must be condemned.

Immediate urgent action and massive financial grants are needed, for which it is suggested, the following could act as a guide;

THE NEEDS OF THE PUPIL.

The education of the vast majority of pupils in New South Wales is being jeopardised by:

- (i) increasing numbers of overlarge classes denying the pupil all hope of the individual attention essential for educational progress;
- (ii) long periods without a teacher because relief staff, and in many cases appropriate permanent staff, is not available;
- (iii) the inability of teachers to devote the correct time to their classes because of heavy period loads and time-consuming non-professional duties;
- (iv) the failure of the educational authorities to provide for specialist teachers (art, needlework, music, etc.) at primary school level,
- (v) classes being taught by teachers who have not been trained specifically for that class, subject, or subject level;
- (vi) the lack of library facilities, and failure to provide adequate text, reference and library books in all public primary and secondary schools.
- (vii) the lack of basic educational equipment such as projectors, P.A. systems, pianos, TV sets, record players, tape recorders, duplicating and copying machines, physical education and sporting equipment, duplicating materials - paper, ink and stencils, reading machines and laboratories, mathematical aids, art and craft materials, stationery and other teaching aids.

THE NEEDS OF THE TEACHER .

A rapid increase in the numbers of fully trained general, subject and specialist staff is required at all levels of primary and secondary education.

To achieve such an increase, sufficient finance must be made available to:

1. Expedite the construction of and provide the necessary staff for the proposed new Teachers' Colleges at Newcastle, Lindfield, Goulbourn, and Lismore and to establish a further teachers college in the Metropolitan West area;
2. grant teacher training scholarship, including a greatly increased number of 4 year trained schools to all suitable and qualified applicants in 1969, and provide the suitable emergency accommodation necessary.
3. Recruit mature age candidates for the teaching service, by providing them with the opportunity for an adequate period of professional training on a reasonable salary;
4. Increase teachers' salaries to a point where teaching can compete with other professions; as a first step to this re-opening the current salaries agreement with the Public Service Board;
5. increase teacher trainees' allowances to at least the rates paid in Victoria.
6. Ensure an adequate provision of relief staff in all areas.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS NOT DETAILED HERE.

Grave inadequacies in facilities (particularly in N.S.W.)
Needs of technical education; neglected areas of education;
Preschool and special, Needs for basic changes in educational administration.

This sheet put out by R. Swan, S. Bisset, K. Press, P. Blamey, I. Barnes, J. McCrorie.

THE DAY THE TEACHERS WENT ON STRIKE

10,000 vote for limit on classes

Almost 10,000 striking teachers yesterday unanimously voted not to teach classes of more than 37 pupils from the start of the 1969 school year.

They also decided that class loads will be progressively reduced from 37 pupils over the following three years.

The teachers unanimously passed a motion of no confidence in the Minister for Education, Mr C. B. Cutler, and called for his resignation.

They voted to ask the council of the N.S.W. Teachers' Federation to increase its publicity campaign on the inadequacies of N.S.W. education and "if necessary ask for a \$2 voluntary donation from members to help the campaign."

These resolutions, taken at a one and three-quarter-hour strike meeting at Sydney's Wentworth Park, will go before the federation's council.

The meeting began at 10.35 a.m. and teachers were still entering Wentworth Park up to half an hour later.

A group of about 70 High school students met outside the park in support of the teachers but were refused admission to the meeting.

They distributed a "special strike supplement" of the newsletter "Student Underground" telling students they must support the teachers and "don't scab! don't scab! your future is at stake."

PLACARDS

About 60 trainee teachers marched through the meeting with placards reading "Canadian trainee teachers," "Who could stand eight sardine tins a day?" "Cutler for chop," "Education is living, but dead in N.S.W.," "Resurrect education," "Send Cutler to Canada," "Recruit teachers from Canada," "We're sick of askin' Askin" and "Happiness is having ANY classroom."



Only these 29 children out of the usual 300 turned up for classes at North Sydney Infants' School yesterday.

CUTLER SEEKS EXTRA \$4.2m FOR SCHOOLS

The Minister for Education, Mr C. B. Cutler, told State Cabinet yesterday he would need an extra \$4.2m a year for school buildings "over the next few years."

The extra money is 10 per cent of the average yearly spending on capital works by the Department of Education in the past four years.

Mr Cutler said: "It will enable me to build schools to keep up with the vast increase in the number of children staying on at school."

CONFERENCE

Speaking at a Press conference on the teachers' strike, Mr Cutler said:

"A 'great many more' teachers reported for work than school-area directors had expected.

About 80 per cent of schools had opened, although they were not adequately staffed.

A greater proportion of infants' and primary-school teachers reported

for work than secondary schoolteachers.

He would visit Canada next year to study the education system, including teachers' salaries and conditions. This decision was made several months ago.

PROGRAM

Mr Cutler said he had reported to Cabinet on the needed capital works by his department over the "next few years".

"I will need more money next time," he said. "I indicated that more loan money will be necessary.

"The building program has emerged as a result of young people staying longer at school.

"We have roughly 65 per cent of children who started first year in 1965 in fourth form at the moment. It was 18 per cent 10 years ago.

"Loan expenditure on capital works has already been increased from \$30m in 1964-65, for primary and secondary schools, to over \$40m today.

"It has been kept at that rate in the last four years.

It will need to be increased.

"In addition, there has been an expenditure of \$2.5m for science, making an average of about \$42.5m a year in the last four years.

"In addition to that \$42.5m a year, I expect that our requirement will increase by 10 per cent.

"As far as teacher training is concerned, we will hope that the Commonwealth will renew its grant of \$7.5m for the next triennium (1970-71-72)."

ATTENDANCES

Mr Cutler said a Teachers' Federation resolution that teachers would not take classes of more than 37 in 1969 solved nothing.

"If the teachers are not available (at colleges) now, how can you produce them in 1969?" he said.

Tenders for stage I of the new Newcastle Teachers' College had been called. Tenders for the new Lindfield college would be called this month. Tenders for preliminary roadworks for the Goulburn college had been sought.

These colleges should enrol their first students in 1970, but he hoped that other students would be enrolled before then in "expanded facilities" at other colleges.

Minister faces Labor attack

While more than 2,000 teachers demonstrated against him outside the Legislative Assembly yesterday, the Minister for Education, Mr C. B. Cutler, faced a barrage of Labor questions.

Chanting and slow hand-clapping by the demonstrators could be heard clearly as Mr Cutler vigorously defended his policies.

Answering his Opposition critics, Mr Cutler said he did not intend to resign and denied a Teachers' Federation statement that he repeatedly had refused to meet deputations.

He said that when he became Minister for Education he had not inherited a single plan for a teachers' college.

Mr Cutler denied that he had an unsympathetic attitude to teachers.

COMMISSION

He said a committee examining the establishment of an education commission would report to the Government late this month or early next month.

During Labor questioning of Mr Cutler, the Speaker, Mr K. Ellis, repeatedly called for order as members shouted at each other across the Chamber.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr P. D. Hills, launched the barrage against Mr Cutler by asking when the Government would implement the promise by the Premier, Mr Askin, before the 1965 elections to set up an education commission.

Mr Cutler said that after the Government was elected he had found there were many difficulties in setting up such a commission.

He said the Government had set up a committee, which included representatives of the Teachers' Federation, to inquire into the facts of setting up an education commission.

"But more than I deplore the circumstances leading to the strike," Mr Whalan said.

Mr Whalan said Cutler had been very about the strike, have had no appeal to the Minister to hold their labour feel they should.

"I have been with the federation for and I am still taking to the Minister to take down then," he said.

"The Minister clearly has had a legacy from the past. Perhaps he has had enough of something about

There were no speakers to a motion denouncing the State Commission and Public Board for failure to adequate staffing, class sizes, grant to college scholarships suitable applicants, reduce a promise to a minimum three-year ing, set up an education commission and the current salaries ment.

"We earnestly urge the Premier, as a matter of urgency, to receive a delegation from the federation to discuss the grave of education and the necessary provision to them," the motion said.

"All association school staffs are upon to obtain maximum local publicity concerning education needs and make representation through their M.L.A.s.

"The position will be viewed by the federation council on October 1

Mr Whalan read grams of support from teachers' unions in W Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland