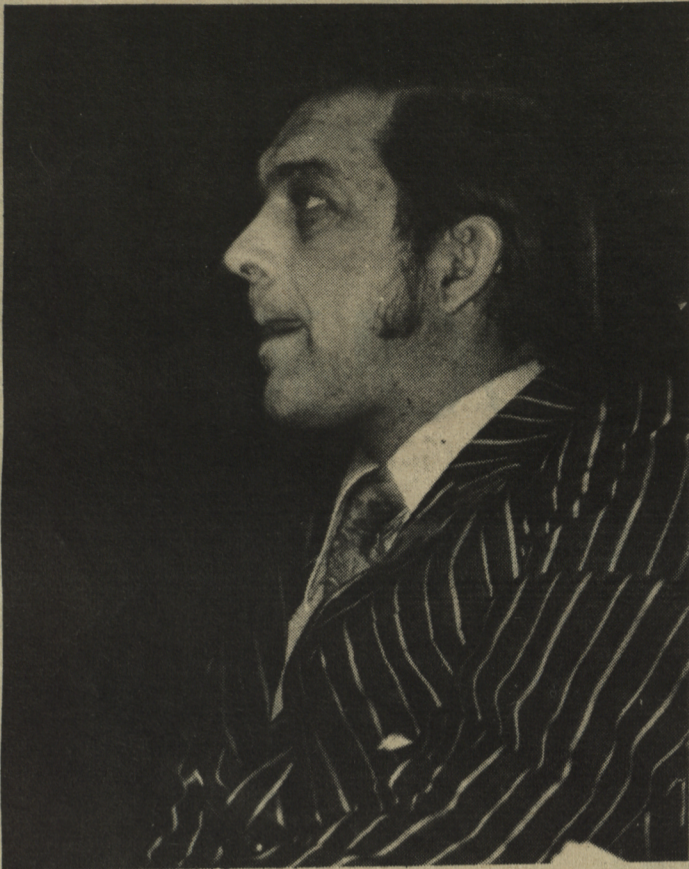


A TYPICAL RUNAROUND



Last Monday evening at Col. Gray High School Premier Campbell, Education Minister Gordon Bennett and Finance Minister T. Earle Hickey, met with approximately 600 people representing the citizens and School Boards of Charlottetown, to discuss the new government bills on tax reform and Education.

Premier Campbell opened the speeches by saying that he hoped that the meeting would not be one of confrontation but instead one of discussion on matters of concern regarding the new tax act and school act, concerning the controversial Foundation Education Program. The Premier stated that the Government was endeavoring to bring about equality among students no matter where they were located on the Island.

Messers Bennet and Heckey both addressed to the meeting after Premier Campbell was finished. Mr. Heckey gave a lot of technical figures on the new tax act and ended by saying that he thought that the new act was very simple and he could see no problems to it. Education Minister Bennett on the other hand gave a very "warm" homey talk in which he congratulated the people for attending the meeting, something which he considered unique in this province, and stated that never in the past have we had such an opportunity to get the opinions of the public.

One of the female speakers brought up the point that many of the people of Charlottetown felt that their school system would be held back by the Government Plan to equalize all school systems by 1976. They felt that, while the rest of the Island is catching up, they will be forced to stand still. They seemed to shock the government representative who had been informed of this opinion before.

However, Mr. Bennett said that the City School System would not suffer and would probably improve.

Mr. Bennett stated the Island School System would be composed of 5 boards, each composing of 15 members to administer a school system of only 30,000 students and the idea of splitting it down even further is unrealistic as there is an added expense of \$50,000 for each Board, and he knew of places where this was 15 man board for a population of 160,000 students. Thus administration costs is the main reason for Charlottetown not having its own board.

Concerning the matter of Supplementary Program Mr. Bennett said that that there were provisions in the Act for this, however, all the people in the district would have to vote for it. Premier Campbell asked, "What did Charlottetown really want, their cake and eat it too?" It seemed to him that they wanted the benefits of the foundation program plus extra

benefits which in the long run must come out of the pockets of the rest of the people on the Island.

The meeting lasted almost three hours and gave its overwhelming approval to a resolution submitted by Karl Winter of the West Kent Home and School Association. This resolution called for Premier Campbell and government officials to meet with representatives of the City Council, the City School Board and Home and School Associations to study all matters regarding the establishment of a separate regional administration of a separate regional administrative school unit for Charlottetown.

We are open to suggestions, meaningful suggestions, and as there are 28 sets of regulations in the School Act still to be worked out, we look to bodies such as this for views and suggestions. Government authorities should be listed as well as talking.

Poor Mr. Bennett, the representatives of the School Boards led by Dr. Gordon Lea, Chairman of the City School Board, came so well prepared to back their demands for a separate school system for Charlottetown that it seemed as if Mr. Bennett had not done his homework for the meeting.

