

# Parents should be educated to help students with problems

By CARL STODDARD

Dr. Sandra Caldwell estimates that 325 percent of the children in any school district have learning problems.

And to tackle these problems, she believes in educating not only students, but parents.

Dr. Caldwell lives in Southfield, but spends the majority of her time as director of special education and learning disabilities at Marygrove College in Detroit.

At Marygrove, she established a

series of seminars on learning disabilities for parents, students, teachers and other interested persons. The first series, held this past fall, drew more than 120 persons a week, she said, and encouraged her to establish another series for this winter.

**THE SERIES** of six seminars begins Jan. 29 at Marygrove and is held weekly (Wednesday nights) at 7:30 p.m.

She said the seminars provide additional information about learning disabilities. Speakers at the various sessions, she said, have been asked to gear their discussions for persons without degrees in learning disabilities.

The problem of students with learning disabilities is not new but it is only recently that learning disabilities have been recognized as separate areas of concern.

Dr. Caldwell said that most people think of the mentally retarded when they hear the phrase "learning disabilities." Nor was the misclassification helped, she said, when learning disabilities programs were included with special education to get government funding.

Persons with learning problems, she said, have at least an average intelligence. So the classification may include gifted children with high IQs, children who cannot read because of perceptual problems or children with an inability to distinguish sounds.



DR. SANDRA CALDWELL

These children would have the intellectual capacity, she said, but have some type of learning problem that must be overcome.

**MOST** of those attending the seminars, she said, are mothers with learning disabled children.

I would say that 99 per cent of the parents attending these seminars have a child with a learning disability, and they want to know how to handle the child after school.

The parents are looking for ways to cope with their child's disability and for ways to carry over what the child has learned in the classroom, Dr. Caldwell said.

The seminars are not intended to include information on the mentally retarded, the emotionally disturbed, the

hard of hearing or those with visual problems, she said.

Rather, the seminars will cover the broad range of learning problems with special emphasis on areas of possible weaknesses.

DR. CALDWELL has been involved in learning disabilities for more than 10 years. She received her Ph.D. from University of Michigan, where she did field work in educational psychology, with concentration on learning disabilities.

She was later the first learning disabilities consultant for the Ann Arbor school district.

"It's always been the parents asking what's available for them," she said. In an effort to meet that need, Dr. Caldwell established last summer a graduate-level course in learning disabilities. The course included a conference period in which parents could talk about mutual problems and ways to cope with those problems.

"The parents were so enthusiastic about these that they asked if there was some way the parent conference (portion of the course) could be extended through the school year."

About half of those enrolled in the summer class attended the seminar last fall.

"I'M A FIRM believer that a parent can achieve a lot more than we give them credit for," she said.

The idea of the seminars is to give them the information and the impetus to assume an active role in the education of their learning disabled child.

Dr. Caldwell and her husband have lived in Southfield for about two years. Her husband, Dr. Esley Caldwell, is chief of medicine at Pontiac General.

## Officials oppose income tax hikes

By JACKIE KLEIN

**SOUTHFIELD**—Gov. Milliken's contention that the repeal of the food and drug tax necessitated his proposal to hike income taxes is pure fiction.

So said state Sen. Daniel Cooper (D-15) at a legislative breakfast Monday sponsored by the Southfield Chamber of Commerce.

Cooper, whose district includes Southfield, is majority floor leader of the senate and a member of the commerce commission which deals with banking, insurance, utilities, energy and liquor.

"In 1972," he said, "people in the State of Michigan were given tax relief totaling \$450 million. They can get further relief by cutting the fat from government departments, but not by cutting vital social services. It's tough to face society's problems."

"Nobody wants to raise taxes, but our complex society makes more and more demands, and social consciousness is manifest."

**GOVERNMENT** spends \$100 - \$200 million for the handicapped, from \$100 - \$800 million for mental health and many millions on welfare which puts the private sector in a tirade, Cooper said.

"Every time you cut a vital service, someone gets hurt," he said. "We're talking about a bill for special education and citizens are down our throats. It's a difficult tightrope to walk."

Cutting fat from governmental agencies would be a drop in the bucket considering the demands of 9 million persons in Michigan, Cooper said. Rep. James DeFbaugh (R-65), assistant Republican floor leader who represents Southfield Township, agreed with Cooper that the sales tax repeal isn't a rationale for the pro-

posed income tax increase. "If the voters hadn't approved the appeal, there would still be a push for a tax increase," he said.

"WE'RE FACED with an unbelievable, supplementary appropriations bill for social services. Welfare rolls rise with unemployment and especially auto industry lay offs."

"There have been declines in corporate income tax revenues. When General Motors was struck in 1970, it cost the state \$70 million."

While corporate taxes go through major peaks and valleys, personal income taxes remain remarkably steady, according to DeFbaugh. The average personal tax increase, due to inflation, is seven per cent, he said.

"The Republican caucus decided before it considers an income tax hike, it will take action to remove non-priority, non-essential areas of state government," he said. "The state has 56,000 employees, one for every 1,600 citizens."

About 82 per cent of the state budget goes for the administration of public schools, colleges, universities, mental health and social services, DeFbaugh said.

"WHERE DO we pick up the \$200 million that was lost through the sales tax repeal? There's more and more dependency on government for services and citizens have lost their independence."

"We used to have a carrot and stick society. Now we have the carrot, but not the stick."

A top house priority this year will be to help the business community, said Rep. Joseph Forbes (D-47) whose district includes Southfield.

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**JANUARY 8, 1973**  
**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY:**

Dear Citizens:

By this time I am certain that you are aware of the potentially explosive situation which exists in the tri-county public schools as a result of the firing of the Crestwood teachers by the Crestwood Board of Education. I feel it is important that certain facts be made known to you which may not have appeared in the press.

1. Since the legislature enacted Public Act 379 in 1965, giving teachers the right to bargain collectively, only one contract has been agreed to in Crestwood without Court intervention.
2. Crestwood teachers have been without a contract for 18 months.
3. Crestwood teachers returned to school this fall without a contract and were paid on the 1972-73 salary schedule.
4. The School Board's offer of "binding arbitration", which was rejected by the Crestwood teachers, included a penalty clause which would have penalized the Crestwood Education Association's officers and negotiators by putting them back two years on the salary schedule.
5. The crisis which we face today in the tri-county area is not caused by the inability of the two parties to reach a contract settlement but because the Crestwood teachers were summarily fired.
6. Crestwood teachers attempted to avert the crisis by submitting the issues in dispute to binding arbitration WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

Because of these facts, teachers and teacher leaders across the tri-county area as well as across the entire state are increasingly alarmed of the threat that teacher firings will have on the collective bargaining process. I hope you can understand that teachers cannot allow such a precedent to be established.

If you are as concerned as I believe you are, you can help to prevent the spread of teacher unrest by calling the Crestwood School Board at CR-80900 and urging them to rehire the fired teachers so the collective bargaining process can continue.

Sincerely,  
**Jerry Kaplan**  
President  
Farmington Education Association

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