

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED TO 30 MARCH FROM POLITICAL PARTIES

## 1. OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY

The responsibility for education in Northern Ireland should be for a devolved government in order to examine the full nature, scope and costing involved.

The scrapping of the 11+ without an objective alternative is queried though the need for change is recognised.

Favours "a system of comprehensive education" rather than "a system of comprehensive schools".

Supports the continuing evolution of the educational system rather than its possible destruction by a revolutionary approach. The status of "intermediate" could be raised by a more generous points system for the employment of ancillary staff. More relevant work should be devised for non-academic students who should be encouraged to remain at school until they obtain employment.

NOTE: The above recommendations have been endorsed by the policy making body of the whole Party.

## 2. UPMI (3 Press releases issued last few days of July 1976)

a. Statement by Mrs Anne Dickson, UPMI Spokesman on Education (now leader of the Party). Alleges it is hypocritical that a Labour Minister (Mr Moyle) educated at Cambridge should impose an educational system of total lack of choice in Northern Ireland. Alleges this is socialist and doctrinaire. The thought of religious integration at sixth-form level seems half-hearted.

b. Joint statement by Mrs Eileen Patterson and Mr Michael Long.

Disagree that comprehensive education is the best form of education after the age of 13, and favour guided parental choice. Point out that there has been no attempt to face the religious integration issue. Alleges that comprehensive education will be foisted on Northern Ireland and that decision has already been taken.

c. Statement by Mr Michael Long

States that the UPMI will campaign to maintain excellence in education in Northern Ireland and will seek to implement a policy of seeking to create a system where

parents will have the widest possible freedom of choice based on a degree of selection at 13+. UFNI intend to campaign on this platform in the Local Government Elections in May 1977. The only hope for Northern Ireland's education system may well be the early return of a Conservative Government.

3. SDLP (An initial statement) (Full statement to be presented to the Minister in early April)

Agree the need for the introduction of a truly comprehensive system of secondary education. Transfer arrangements should be national and pressure free. Feel that neighbourhood or contributory schools would be the best method of achieving this. Banding as a means of selection for second level schools is not acceptable. All through 11-18 schools recommended for areas where this is feasible. In other areas 11-16 schools feeding into sixth-form colleges are recommended. With reorganisation, management structures and financial arrangements should ensure no special privileged or entrenched positions for any group. The opportunity should be taken in the reorganisation of the education system to encourage maximum co-operation between schools particularly across the community divide.

4. ALLIANCE PARTY (Submission by Education Policy Group)

1. Welcomes Consultative Document.

2. Supports:

- a. retention of 11 as age of transfer;
- b. the end of fee paying within the state supported system;
- c. the proposals for Boards of Governors and Management Committees;
- d. the proposed system of financing voluntary secondary schools.

3. Criticises:

- a. the scope of the study;
- b. calls for a further examination of Craigavon (two-tier) system;
- c. the proposal to have 11+ - 16+ - 16+ - 18+ schools side by side;
- d. the absence of plans on integrated education;
- e. the absence of plans for Technical Colleges;
- f. the acceptance of single sex schools - seeks more consideration of co-education.

4. General:

Wart 11+ abolished. Is opposed to over-large schools. Favours parental choice and equality of opportunity. Point out that no single system is suitable for all of Northern Ireland. The two-tier system is best suited for large urban areas.

Of the various systems their order of preference is:

- i. Junior high schools 11-14 and senior high schools 14-18.
- ii. 11-16 schools with one sixth-form college for each area.
- iii. Several 11-16 schools with one 11-18 school for each area.
- iv. Several 11-16 schools and several 11-18 schools for each area.

- 1. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 2. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 3. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 4. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 5. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 6. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 7. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 8. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 9. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 10. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 11. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 12. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 13. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 14. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 15. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 16. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 17. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 18. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 19. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 20. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 21. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 22. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 23. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 24. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 25. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 26. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 27. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 28. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 29. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 30. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 31. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 32. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 33. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 34. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 35. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 36. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 37. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 38. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 39. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 40. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 41. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 42. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 43. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 44. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 45. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 46. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 47. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 48. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 49. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)
- 50. ... (Statement by Mrs Miss ...)