

Albany Books
S. School

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and a pseudo shock

FOR your paper to describe the increase in English school fees as a "shock" (SCM Post, December 15) is to employ a decoy to distract attention from the real and bigger "shock," namely, the parity principle recommended in the 1965 White Paper is in danger of being thrown out of the window.

Considering that most families with children attending English schools receive allowances from either the Government or their employers, the fee increase shock is a "pseudo" one since much of the increase would be eventually absorbed by the Government anyway.

Moreover, there is talk of "re-examination" of local education allowances by the Government. The Government should publicise estimates of cost per student borne by the Government, for both English schools and Chinese schools, taking into account education allowances and other forms of subsidy, so that parity is seen to be maintained.

May we also have straight answers on the following:

Are Chinese schools allowed to be run by a "Chinese Schools Foundation," and will it receive the same level of subsidy?

Also, why do Chinese children start primary school a year late, at six instead of at five as in the case of English-speaking schools?

THINKING CHINESE

Board of Education reports

I WISH to correct some factual inaccuracy in your story about the Board of Education (SCM Post, December 19).

A summary of the minutes of each board meeting is prepared by the secretary of the board in accordance with the minutes and that summary is cleared by me personally.

Both the summary and the full minutes of the meeting are then referred to the Governor through the Secretary for Social Services.

Neither I, nor any member of the board, have initiated a query at any board meeting as to whether "the Governor actually sees the minutes of the board's meetings or if he is only presented with a summary which the Vice-Chairman of the board, the Director of Education, Mr Kenneth Topley puts to him."

Any suggestion to the contrary is untrue.

Q. W. LEE
Chairman, Board of Education