

Board's headquarters. Peter A Clancy, Thomas V Tozzi, George D Busher and Donald Darcy were present at the meeting and interviewed Dr Loretan.

Before finally acting on this matter, a meeting is planned with Superintendent of Schools Dr William Jansen, and this matter will be fully discussed with the Board following that meeting.

SCHOOL PRAYER PROPOSAL

John M Lyons reported that last November, the New York State Board of Regents recommended formally that every school day begin with a non-denominational prayer and include programs stressing the moral and spiritual heritage of the United States. The Board of Regents stated that they were convinced that the fundamental American belief in the dependence on God was the best security against the dangers of these difficult days.

It is now up to each respective Board of Education throughout the State to adopt or reject his proposal. The Board of Education of the City of New York will soon hold public hearings to determine whether or not this proposal should be applied to the public schools in this City.

Feeling that it is a duty of a civic organization such as the Board of Trade to be concerned with the moral climate of the community, on motion made, seconded and carried it was voted that the Board go on record with the Board of Education members urging the adoption of the Regents' recommendation.

DOUBLE PARKING

A letter was read from Dr Abraham Tamis, immediate Past President of the Bronx County Medical Society and a member of the Board of Trade, which asked us to urge the Police Department to favor double parking for doctors actually making professional calls.

After discussion no action was taken on this request.

ITINERANT STREET PEDDLING

The Board was advised that we were represented at the public hearing before the City Council's General Welfare Committee on January 6th, to urge the adoption of the so-called Kranis Bill to curb itinerant street peddling.

The Bronx Board of Trade and 30-odd civic organizations have been, for the past three years, attempting to get this bill introduced and passed. In effect it would bar all peddlers of general merchandise from major shopping areas. Moreover, the bill is designed to give the police greater strength in dealing with peddlers and the magistrates mandatory powers of imposing fines and even jail sentences where necessary.

Our Board has long approved this measure and this was in the way of a report that final victory in this effort is in sight. There are indications that the measure will soon be approved by the Council.

WEST FARMS LIBRARY

Mr Busher reported that the Board of Trade appealed to the National Production Authority for steel which has been allocated for the proposed West Farms Library. The site of the project in West Farms had been excavated and the job abandoned waiting for the steel. The pit caused by the excavation was a dangerous nuisance and the Board received approval of its request to NPA and work on the Library was resumed this month.

SEX OFFENDERS

William T Whalen, retired Chief of Detectives in New York City, in a recent interview, drew attention to the serious problem of sex offenders and the lack of proper laws to cope with them. At that time Mr Whalen made a number of recommendations including psychiatric examinations for offenders and the need for institutional or clinical care.

He stated that under present laws, minor offenders can only be charged with disorderly conduct, given a small fine or a short term in jail, even though they are picked up a thousand times. Under present laws they can't be compelled to take mental examinations.

After discussion, no action was taken by the Board on this matter. Instead, the opinion of Bronx District Attorney De Luca on the need for such legislation is to be sought.