

WEST VANCOUVER Lions Gate Times

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Responsibility . . . and the college

The opportunity to vote on the junior college plebiscite, Thursday, March 7 on the question: "Are you in favor of establishing a Community College on the North Shore?" carries with it a cogent need for responsibility on many levels.

You, the voter, carry the heaviest responsibility.

You hold the future of "the neglected majority," those students unable to meet the high entrance requirements of university in your hands. To meet this responsibility you, the voter, should be informed what a community college will do and its need in the light of today's standards and computer-changing world.

Dr. Jay Halliday of Los Angeles, an expert in the college field, says:

"Community Colleges can be the key to the future prosperity for the Lower Mainland. Like it or not, in an automation era, we'll either have to support people who are unable to be productive, or we'll retrain them to contribute to the economy."

Not helping you, the voter, to discharge your responsibility is the cloudy issue of provincial cost-sharing formula of junior colleges.

The government will share 50-50 on operating costs. It seems realistic that municipalities which will be able to dictate the curriculum to suit their needs and will have an educational facility to serve those needs, would assume some

of the cost.

What the voter must recognize is this: a negative vote would not change the government's present formula; it would only compound the tragedy by depriving young people of the education they need and must have.

Municipal councils and community organizations have a responsibility too. They must give active leadership. Politics and narrow judgment must be put aside.

And lastly, the interim community college board has a responsibility to inform the voter of all the pertinent information he should know before casting his ballot. Peter Jones, at a news conference last Friday, assured the group this would be so.

He said qualified people are doing the long-range planning and they could foresee a college of 2,00 students by 1970 and 6,000 to 10,000 by 1985. He admitted, however, that cost would depend on many factors, such as enrolment, demand for certain courses and so on. But a report coming out in a few days would project costs five years from now as far as was possible to estimate.

The Times is initiating today a special series on the proposed community college. It is the responsibility of you, the voter, to read these articles, and be informed of the tremendous opportunity you now have of assisting hundreds of young men and women in furthering their education — yes even **your** children's future.