



# The National Association of Head Teachers

NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION

Towerview Primary School,  
Ballymacormick Drive,  
Bangor.

Mr. N.R. Jennings,  
Department of Education,  
Rathgael House,  
Bangor.

12th June, 1981.

Dear Mr. Jennings,

Thank you for your letter of 22nd May in answer to our request that the Department should take some responsibility for decisions to close in periods of unrest.

X || It has been reported to us that the Department's action in taking the unusual step of asking for explanations of absence from teachers in St. Louise's, Belfast, one school which stayed open during recent unrest, has caused considerable resentment. It is also regrettable to us that the advice of the Principal or school authority was not sought before such action was taken.

We find the Department's reaction to the difficulties of our members in troubled areas at best insensitive. Unfortunately it is probable that similar problems will again arise and in such circumstances our members will have to consider carefully the extent to which the Department's behaviour to date will influence their decisions on the heavy burden placed upon them.

Yours sincerely,

*Walter J. Ievers*

W.J. Ievers.

*Mr. M. Lemon*

*could you let me know what exactly happened  
in regard to +.*

*WJ*  
*16/6.*