

# The Acton Free Press

Eighth Year—No. 43.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, APRIL 21st, 1955

Ten Pages—Six Cents

## Hall Rental Debate Spotlights Dispute Over Red-Led Union

### Lack of Space Hard On UE Efforts To Hold Meetings Here

**By Staff Reporter**  
Culmination of action by local groups in refusing meeting space to the Communist-dominated United Electrical Workers of America was reached this week when Acton Council took firm stand against the Red-led union and efforts of its out-of-town organizers to meet in the town hall.

Acton was yesterday joined in efforts to ride out the UE, known to the Canadian Congress of Labor from both Congresses (the Canadian Congress of Industrial Organizations) because our membership was satisfied because the UE was Communist controlled. This is not to say that the UE members were Communist. The UE was expelled from the CCL-IO in Cleveland in the fall of 1949.

**Thrown Out In Georgetown**  
Near home, the UE was thrown out as agent for employees of Smith and Stone Ltd., Georgetown, in 1947 after a membership loss confidence in this union's ability to carry out satisfactory collective bargaining. Stanley Allen, former local president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (A.F.L.) which succeeded the UE in Smith and Stone, said the Georgetown town workers felt their action-well-taken, particularly after the UE was labelled in 1949 by the CIO as Communist controlled.

Mr. Allen said that in 1947 it was believed that some of the higher officers in the UE were sympathetic to the Communist party.

Indirect action by the Chamber of Commerce was taken two weeks ago in the form of a letter to employees of the S. G. Smallwood plant which began electrical parts manufacturing here in February. The Chamber letter asked the employees to investigate the union before they signed.

The letter did not exhort the employees not to join a union, as UE organizers later claimed it did.

**Legion House Banquet**  
Last week the local branch of the Canadian Legion voted not to rent their hall to the UE for organization meetings. The hall had been rented to this union once before.

Officials in charge of renting another large hall in Acton this week agreed they would not let this private hall to the UE.

The action by the Chamber, the Legion and other civic groups was motivated by responsible information from the CCL and other union leaders, that the United Electrical Workers of America had a higher echelon by men known to have Communist records.

Monday night this information was made public at a regular meeting of town Council and as a result members ruled to bar the UE from meeting in the town hall. Council on the part of councillors that the UE is Communist dominated led to their decision.

(While firm in this conviction Mayor E. Tyler told the Free Press following the meeting that neither he nor any member of Council would go for this Communist-led outfit.) The Mayor said, Discussion veered for a moment

### An Observation

During the past week an incident of Acton town hall rental has been pyramided into an episode that went beyond the confines of the community and in the shuffle became a Canada-wide matter. The discussion became the concern of everyone here and elsewhere.

It was a climax to a series of charges and assertions against a new industrialist who had just come to Acton and established his business in Acton. These assertions were instigated outside this community that has until this date enjoyed favorable relationships with a variety of unions representing Acton workers.

It was hoped this matter can be brought back into the proper perspective in the thinking of the citizens of Acton and that incidents of the past week will be relegated to the circles in which they belong.

The attitude of citizens in Acton is not anti-union but is opposed only to unions which have proven Communist leaders such as the UE which have been ousted from the Canadian Congress of Labor and plants in which their conduct was not satisfactory to employees they represented.

In an industrial town such as Acton, unions have a definite place and perform a valuable service in the welfare of its citizens. Let's keep our heads and good judgment in choosing wisely and accepting our responsibilities of citizenship in Acton and in Canada.

G. A. DILLS, Editor.

Mayor Tyler replied, adding the council was not bound to rent the hall to anybody.

"Was the door to the hall padlocked?" Mr. Footitt queried.

"Yes," said the Mayor.

"Are we going to have padlock law in this town," Mr. Footitt asked.

"No," replied Mayor Tyler, "but we heard they'd take over the hall anyway. When rental was refused to them the door was locked."

Mr. Footitt continued: "There are about 25,000 in this union, it's not a Communist union in membership but it may be Communist dominated. I don't think we should be involved in such a dispute at all."

Councillor Lindsay injected here to emphasize the way "these organizations operate." He said a letter was left around town from the UE committee, written by the organizers, full of propaganda about the Chamber of Commerce. Councillor Lindsay explained the motive of the Chamber in writing to the Smallwood employees and said the UE organizers had replied by saying in the letter left about town that the Chamber urged the employees not to join any union. The Chamber did not urge this at all, he pointed out.

**Misinterpreted Letter**  
"Should we help this union organize when we know it's Communist-dominated," the Mayor demanded, after Mr. Footitt replied to Mr. Lindsay's comments that he still didn't think the council should interfere.

Mr. Footitt repeated he didn't think council should get involved.

"Every time I get a chance to stamp on these (Communists) I'll do it, as a private citizen or as Mayor," Mayor Tyler exclaimed.

Councillor Irwin joined the debate: "I'd like to see council keep out of labor-management relations," he said, after agreeing he didn't have any use for Communists either.

At this point stress was again laid on the errors in the UE's interpretation of the Chamber of Commerce letter. Turning to another aspect, several members debated the criterion council should adopt in renting or not renting the town hall.

It was emphasized council never has or never would refuse rental of the hall to other union locals in town for meetings. "But that's what the Communist-led outfit," the Mayor said.

Discussion veered for a moment

**Overflow Crowd Attends Sixth Father and Son Banquet at Y**  
So many fathers and sons attended the annual banquet in the Y on Thursday evening of last week that when they were about to begin, it was discovered there was not accommodation for all of them at the tables in the downstairs meeting room. Hastily, another 30 places were set in the new leaders' corps lounge downstairs.

There was sufficient food for all, with roast turkey featured. Dessert was pie and ice cream.

**Fishing Contest Again This Spring**  
The Free Press will again this year sponsor a fishing contest on the first weekend of the fishing season. Fish over 10 inches in length will be eligible.

Fishermen are asked to contact the Free Press on Monday, May 2 and to keep that big fish on ice meanwhile! A picture of it will be necessary to prove to those other sportsmen your catch isn't just another "fish story!"

Prizes: Again this year, a print of the picture to prove your spectacular prowess and a year's subscription to the Free Press.

PICTURED THE LAST EVENING of the current year's study are members of the basic English classes. The new Canadians have been studying during the winter with teachers Gordon Ringler and Jack Heron. Ladies of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter, I.O.E., provided refreshments after the last class Monday and two films were shown.

### New Tapes, Nets Needed For Courts

Plans for the coming year were discussed when a meeting of the Terms Club was held Monday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Graham. A eueche is one of the coming projects.

New tapes and nets are to be purchased. It was decided that fees will remain the same this year.

A nominating committee was appointed to arrange a slate of officers.

### C. Taylor Heads Home and School!

Elections, an address on summer camps and a square dance highlighted the final meeting of the public school Home and School Association on Monday evening.

A committee was set up to look after the purchase of a piano for the school auditorium.

Milton Watson, a former student at Acton school and now a high school principal in Hamilton, gave a most interesting talk on summer camps illustrated with colored slides. A former schoolmate, Joe Hurst, introduced the speaker.

The evening ended with a square dance which was enjoyed by an energetic few.

The following were elected to the executive for the coming year: president, Cyril Taylor; past president, Wes Wolfe; vice president, Mrs. R. R. Parker; secretary, Mrs. J. Crump; treasurer, Chas. Landsborough; executive, Mrs. J. Black, Mrs. G. Barbeau, Mrs. C. Leatherland, Lorne Frueler, Bill Matlocks, Horne Masters, Mrs. J. S. Sargent.

### C. Holmes Succeeds F. Crump, Chairman Of Planning Board

The resignation of Frank Crump as chairman of the local planning board was accepted Wednesday night with regret by members. Mr. Crump is taking a new position outside of town. He was succeeded in the chair by C. (Mickey) Holmes who presided over last night's meeting.

A large part of the session was given to discussion of facts involved in a desire for transfer of lease obligations by F. Quee who let a parcel of land in the Jany property before it was sold to the Fraleigh Construction Co. for subdivision purposes.

Members of the Board considered Mr. Quee's problem involved legal complications, but pointed out the lease in the first place was contrary to the subdivision control by-law. It was suggested all parties involved should get together and iron the matter out.

The Board agreed to apply for a corporate membership, at \$25, with the Community Planning Association of Canada and thus receive eight copies of all literature.

Town planning consultant F. A. Deacon, in an interim report, described efforts to collect available contour maps of Acton and tabled contact aerial prints of the town. He proposed a photomatic contour survey to provide complete and accurate ground data. This may be undertaken at a later date.

Discussion was held at length as Mr. Deacon outlined action to be followed preparatory to the creation of a town plan.

### Grant of \$2,500 for Work

Halt County Council in regular session last Tuesday, approved a grant of \$2,500 to the Oakville District Association for Retarded Children following a brief presented by Brig. James Roberts, president of the Association. He urged council to consider assistance with the project of purchasing a building to conduct classes for this group of children. It was estimated \$10,000 was necessary for the capital expenditure.

Further, he advised members there were more retarded children in the county than one would realize. The rate in Canada was four for every 1,000 persons, and not until recent years had a movement been devised to give training to

## Council Raps Misuse of Dump Area As Cause of Fire Hazard, Eyesore

Indiscriminate unloading of refuse and wastepaper near or inside the local dump area was rapped by council Monday night when the mayor described haphazard burning of paper as dangerous to nearby farm buildings and irresponsible dumping along the Third Line as an eyesore.

Whether a fence would rectify the problem in part seemed doubtful, as alternatives were sought to locking the dump entirely. A representative of the County Health Unit suggested an incinerator might help the situation. Several councillors were doubtful if it would be used properly by the public.

Conditions at the dump and public practices in leaving waste at the

## Contract Awarded for \$36,600 For Addition to Acton School

Contract for the three room addition at Acton High School was awarded Monday night to J. B. Mackenzie and Son of Acton. Total cost of the new addition will be \$36,600 and the contractor stipulated a completion date of September 5 in his bid to the North Halton District High School Board.

J. B. Mackenzie and Son were the builders of the original building last year and the new addition follows closely the design and structure of the original building. Sub-contractor on the plumbing and heating are Sanitary Plumbing and Heating of Fergus and electric wiring. Total of these three sub-contractors amounts to \$30,000 of the total contract price by the successful bidder. Work is to commence at once following the awarding of the contract.

### Seven Tenders For Work

There were seven tenders for the work with the top bid at \$58,750. It is interesting to note that the two lowest tenders were both Acton contractors, Messrs. Jones and Van Gil's bid was second at \$38,000 for the complete construction.

Mr. Barnett and Mr. Turner, architects, were present at the meeting and assured the board that the specifications and details for the Milton High School would be ready for next week, and ample time was available for finishing before the opening of the fall term.

Inspections of the schools at Acton and Georgetown were to be made next week with details handled by the contractor for repairs that were necessary before release of the guarantee of the structure.

**Arrange Salary Schedule**  
The management committee reported on the arrangement made on salary schedule, at a meeting held with the principals of the three schools. The schedule called for a minimum of \$3,100 and \$3,200 for specialists. Maximum salary was set at \$5,100 and \$5,200 for specialists. A bonus this year in addition to the annual increment was made for all present members of the staff of \$100 and \$200 to principals. Maximum salaries of principals was set at \$6,200.

The secretary reported that teachers at Milton had been engaged Mr. Begin of Burlington, Mr. Lee of Guelph, O.A.C. and Miss Ryan of Seaford. The resignation of Mr. Clare Wilson from the Milton staff was accepted with regret. Mr.

## Contract Awarded for \$36,600 For Addition to Acton School

Wilson will become principal of Timworth high school.

Three new teachers have been engaged on the Acton staff. Mr. Cyril Buchanan of Mountview, Mr. Carl Pichlusch of Kitchener and Mrs. Valeryotte, who now resides at Arkel. The teacher for commercial work has not yet been secured.

**Negotiate to Fill Vacancies**  
Negotiations are in progress for two teachers to fill vacancies on the staff at Georgetown and these have not been finally confirmed.

Correspondence was read regarding the liability insurance at Milton and Acton schools which will come up for renewal this month. No action was taken pending a report from the board's producers.

## Hire Nine Teachers For Acton Schools

Six new teachers have been hired by the Acton public school board and three by the North Halton school district board to fill vacancies in the Acton school staff's next fall.

The high school staff will be Carl Pichlusch, Cyril Buchanan and Mrs. Valeryotte. Mr. Pichlusch comes from Kitchener, Mr. Buchanan from Mountview and Mrs. Valeryotte from Arkel. A teacher for the commercial department has not been secured yet.

Mrs. Muriel Simpson will be moving into town from Lorn school to teach in Acton public school. Miss Ena Jennings, a graduate of Teachers' College from Acton, will be coming to her home town to teach. Miss Denise Coles, who moved from Acton to Brampton about two years ago, has been teaching piano in Acton and now will teach school as well.

Mrs. Donald Switzer, who taught in Acton before, is returning from Erin. Mrs. Cay Laughlin is coming to the staff from Wellington county and Wayne Stratton, whose home is in Wallaceburg, comes near from Hespeler school.

## Set Aside Hairdressers By-law

Reviewing the work sheets, councillors noted a variety of items to be attended to in ensuing weeks. These included repairs to catch basins, manholes and ditches as well as grading and sand and rubble clearing in various sections of town.

J. Robson of the Halton County Health Unit reported Dr. Bull, the M.P.H., was favorable to the hairdressers by-law draft recently studied by council. He said the Unit would co-operate with council where required.

Purpose of the by-law was reassessed in view of information offered by Mr. Robson, who reported the Health Unit already has provisions for inspection of hairdressing establishments. In view of this and other data revealed by Mr. Robson, council agreed to withhold passing of the by-law, which is aimed mainly at health and sanitation control but contained an inference to employment restrictions.

Before Mr. Robson left, a discussion on the nuisance value of outside privies prevailed. The Health Unit representative said the Public Health Act allows a by-law to prohibit these structures when they become offensive to health. Legislation which can compel the owner of an outside privy to connect to sanitary sewers was reviewed with stress on the extent of power under the Act and local by-laws which a town or Health Unit may use.

**Referred to Planning Board**  
Council, advising F. Quee to approach the Planning Board with a problem of land transfer. Mr. Quee pointed out he holds a lease with option to buy on a piece of land under ten acres in an area which has been sold to a developer for subdivision. He was not aware that his position left him contingently to the subdivision control by-law, he indicated.

Clerk J. McGeachie told members there is some confusion at the Municipal Board over the sewer rental scheme in the town's sewer extension by-law for Queen Street.

(Continued on Page Five)

## Contract Awarded for \$36,600 For Addition to Acton School

Wilson will become principal of Timworth high school.

Three new teachers have been engaged on the Acton staff. Mr. Cyril Buchanan of Mountview, Mr. Carl Pichlusch of Kitchener and Mrs. Valeryotte, who now resides at Arkel. The teacher for commercial work has not yet been secured.

**Negotiate to Fill Vacancies**  
Negotiations are in progress for two teachers to fill vacancies on the staff at Georgetown and these have not been finally confirmed.

Correspondence was read regarding the liability insurance at Milton and Acton schools which will come up for renewal this month. No action was taken pending a report from the board's producers.

## Hire Nine Teachers For Acton Schools

Six new teachers have been hired by the Acton public school board and three by the North Halton school district board to fill vacancies in the Acton school staff's next fall.

The high school staff will be Carl Pichlusch, Cyril Buchanan and Mrs. Valeryotte. Mr. Pichlusch comes from Kitchener, Mr. Buchanan from Mountview and Mrs. Valeryotte from Arkel. A teacher for the commercial department has not been secured yet.

Mrs. Muriel Simpson will be moving into town from Lorn school to teach in Acton public school. Miss Ena Jennings, a graduate of Teachers' College from Acton, will be coming to her home town to teach. Miss Denise Coles, who moved from Acton to Brampton about two years ago, has been teaching piano in Acton and now will teach school as well.

## Set Aside Hairdressers By-law

Reviewing the work sheets, councillors noted a variety of items to be attended to in ensuing weeks. These included repairs to catch basins, manholes and ditches as well as grading and sand and rubble clearing in various sections of town.

J. Robson of the Halton County Health Unit reported Dr. Bull, the M.P.H., was favorable to the hairdressers by-law draft recently studied by council. He said the Unit would co-operate with council where required.

Purpose of the by-law was reassessed in view of information offered by Mr. Robson, who reported the Health Unit already has provisions for inspection of hairdressing establishments. In view of this and other data revealed by Mr. Robson, council agreed to withhold passing of the by-law, which is aimed mainly at health and sanitation control but contained an inference to employment restrictions.

Before Mr. Robson left, a discussion on the nuisance value of outside privies prevailed. The Health Unit representative said the Public Health Act allows a by-law to prohibit these structures when they become offensive to health. Legislation which can compel the owner of an outside privy to connect to sanitary sewers was reviewed with stress on the extent of power under the Act and local by-laws which a town or Health Unit may use.

**Referred to Planning Board**  
Council, advising F. Quee to approach the Planning Board with a problem of land transfer. Mr. Quee pointed out he holds a lease with option to buy on a piece of land under ten acres in an area which has been sold to a developer for subdivision. He was not aware that his position left him contingently to the subdivision control by-law, he indicated.

Clerk J. McGeachie told members there is some confusion at the Municipal Board over the sewer rental scheme in the town's sewer extension by-law for Queen Street.

(Continued on Page Ten)