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Second Section.

Federation calls press conference

Teachers critical of Halton Board of Education



HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS met last week to iron out difficulties and explain to the news media the operations of the Halton Division of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. Division president Paul Martindale of Acton High School discusses Federation policy with several of his colleagues. — (Staff Photo)

Too many children in each class, a large gap in pay scale between teachers and administration and many other problems were conveyed to newsmen at an Oakville press conference set up by the executive of the Halton Division of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Wednesday.

Bill Jefferies, a teacher at Oakville-Trafalgar High School, suggested education administrators and consultants should return to the classroom

after three years of administration. "Education is team play," and the high salary for administration and the gap between that and teachers' salaries ruined team play, he said.

All of the teachers refuted any idea that they as a group were apathetic or indifferent and insisted they wanted and deserved a role in the decision-making.

Division president Paul Martindale of Acton said education must be a community-run show with press, parents, teachers and board members contributing to the success of the program.

In his summary Mr. Martindale explained the board had been criticized for their efforts. "But you have to remember Halton Board is a byby and if you remember some of the mistakes babies make before they're a year old, you'll understand. Part of the problem is bigness and we

have to learn to use this bigness to our advantage."

Teachers pointed out the need for teacher assistants and more secretarial help. Hugh Childs from M. M. Robinson High School, Burlington said there must be incentive enough to keep the good teacher in the classroom.

Teachers explained projects underway in various Halton schools. Program councils are set up by the Federation with as many as five sub-committees to work together and investigate better methods of teaching.

At Nelson High School some students study on their own and by doing this they can complete two years of a certain subject in one.

Students from Acton sometimes go to Guelph University where better facilities are available. These ideas along with the increasing number of field days are cited as improvements.

Roy McCallion, guidance instructor at Blakelock High

School, said the past five years have marked a revolution in education. He complained that parents who don't know what is going on because of changes turn the kids off and he said there was a growing responsibility for the press to "turn them back on again."

Several of the teachers complained of the lack of communication from board to teachers.

The conference was called to publicize the workings of the Federation and to make known their wants and needs. But it was overshadowed by a story appearing that day in a Hamilton paper. The story reported on a working paper drafted by Oakville-Trafalgar High School teachers leveling charges at the board of education.

The Federation said later the paper did not represent the views of the Federation or the Halton teachers but just one group and it was released without prior consultation with

the president or any member.

The working paper suggested teachers use "puppets" manipulated by the Halton Board. Part of the working paper reads: "It would appear that in the Halton County Education Board the chief objective is to reduce the status of the teacher and elevate the status of the administrator."

The report also complains about the high wages administrators are paid. "We strongly feel the consultants are not needed. Rather a teacher should be appointed to such a position for a limited period and after that time should return to the classroom."

The teachers supported the Star Manifesto. The principles of the manifesto are as follows: (1) make high schools more student oriented, (2) raise the salary of status and salary of teachers, (3) "Turn on" parents and school trustees, (4) Bring life problems into the classrooms.

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Approve middle schools

A middle school program for Halton—termed a gradual transition from elementary schools to secondary schools—will be in effect by September of 1970. The county board of education gave its final blessing to establishment of the middle school project, following debate that ranged over the previous three meetings.

A set of 12 guidelines approved indicates schools will be established in Burlington, Georgetown and Oakville as pilot projects, with grades 6, 7 and 8 students to be included. The pupil-teacher ratio will remain the same as it is now and industrial arts and home economics, science rooms, library-resource centres, general purpose room, change room and showers and music rooms will be included in all three buildings.

Montclair school in Oakville is the only one needing transportation of pupils, although some transportation may be needed in outlying areas of Georgetown. Typing and instrumental music will not be offered until more study can be given these subjects. Oral French will be on the curriculum, and a program of continuous progress will be adopted.

Reporting for the study committee, assistant director of education D. S. Lawless told the board there are presently 57 per cent male teachers in the senior elementary grades, 43 per cent female, and 31 per cent of the present staff hold university degrees. It was agreed the same ratios would be maintained in the new program, although some trustees felt more of the staff should have university educations, and some felt a higher teacher-student ratio should be adopted for the middle school program.

In a discussion on transportation, Mr. Lawless suggested in the near future middle schools would be able to be planned in urban areas where no transportation is necessary. For now, some will be needed.

Trustee John Noble of Milton urged the board to make sure all parents of middle school students are aware of the program before it is begun. Mr. Lawless assured him meetings would be held to inform the parents.

Earlier attempts to have the Martin St. School in Milton designated as a middle school were turned down, due to the small enrolment. There are approximately 350 grades 6, 7 and 8 students at this school but Mr. Lawless reported it would not be worthwhile launching such a program for less than 500 or 600 students.

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Acton Home Furnishings	Lovell Bros. Meats	Symon Hardware
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May build drive-in theatre in Esquesing

David Axler of Premier Operating appeared at Monday night's regular meeting of Esquesing Council to find out the township's reaction to the advisability of the construction of a drive-in theatre. Mr. Axler's company presently operates 42 theatres and five drive-in theatres including one on the Ninth Line of Oakville.

Mr. Axler made it clear that he had not yet made any contact to purchasing property in the township, but was interested in getting the township's reaction to such a move first.

Mr. Axler pointed out his company always purchases more land than is needed to build a theatre itself, so that there is a buffer zone around the theatre, to eliminate the problem of unnecessary noise. He also told council his group was prepared to conform to the laws of the Department of Theatres and the Department of Highways.