

Board stands firm . . .

(Continued from Page One) Hinton's claim saying the administration did not proceed with implementation of chairmanships knowing they might be illegal. He said, "this administration may have many faults but being deliberately dishonest certainly isn't one of them."

Hinton suggested the administration was forcefully pursuing chairmanships for fame and glory as innovators and Lavender denied that too observing, "We have more fame and glory than we can handle. We don't need any more."

Hinton said if the board continues acting illegally the teachers might take the board to court. He suggested if the board doesn't take care of the problem themselves then it was the teachers' duty to take the board to court.

"I think it is highly undesirable that we let our position deteriorate to this point through stubbornness," Hinton stated.

He said many parents have contacted him about this subject and are concerned about experimentation with their children in the form of chairmanships, believing the quality of education could suffer. "It is not this board but our children and grandchildren who will suffer if our quality of education decreases and the morale of our teachers continues to decrease."

Hinton said Halton is losing fine teachers who just don't want to fight the politics of Halton education and suggested if chairmanships go through the administration might then decide to do away with vice-principals.

"We will have the most efficient schools in the world and will be able to produce uneducated students at a rate that even by today's standards would seem impossible."

Hinton pointed out chairmen don't have to be subject specialists so they won't command the same respect from teachers that department heads do. He said good teachers with high qualifications will leave because there aren't as many opportunities for advancement and they don't want the "hassles."

"We innovate and then pyramid innovation on innovation without reasonable evaluation. Our students have been the guinea pigs for all of Ontario."

He noted the board has admitted feelings over this issue could result in teachers quitting. He summed up the board's attitude is "if you can't live with company policy, change companies."

Hinton suggested this can work two ways. He said 40 per cent of last year's board members are "working for other companies" now. "If this increases to 50 per cent in the next election the administration will be faced with the same problem."

Lavender noted there is a difference between the teachers' position and Hinton's since the teachers aren't against chairmanships in the schools where they exist now but the Acton-Esqueving trustee is against chairmanships anywhere in Halton.

Burlington Trustee Bill Priestner said he has never supported chairmanships but thought the board should follow through on things now since the whole subject is in

the hands of an arbitration board. He said after the arbitration decision is handed down is the time for the board to debate chairmanships.

Milton Trustee Ivan Armstrong lost out in a bid to amend the reaffirmation of board policy on the motion. He wanted to add, schools which have been reorganized already be allowed to continue the system. He anticipated the possibility the board might drop chairmanships leaving the schools which have reorganized high and dry.

Chairman Garry Morton ruled it was out of order and Armstrong asked for a ruling by the whole board. The board supported Morton's decision.

Hinton said Armstrong's amendment didn't oppose the motion so it should stand. Armistage replied, "Trustee Hinton has demonstrated, as I knew he would, his broad ignorance of parliamentary procedure."

"I have 64 years experience in ignorance," Hinton countered before both men were urged by Morton to quit throwing "darts" across the table at each other.

Armstrong said when chairmanships were first introduced heads had gotten out of hand and was being used as an incentive to stay at a school. He noted the board couldn't seem to reduce the number of department heads but the threat of chairmanships has.

He said the board should only change something when it is going to get either reduced costs or better program. He pointed out reorganization of nine more schools won't do either. Armstrong says public sentiment precludes reorganization because parents are saying "Quit making changes until my children get through school. Then you can make all the changes you want."

Another Milton board member, Trustee Bill Lawson, said the board is running a large business and noted there aren't any other large businesses which operate under a "multi-system of management." He said all the schools should have chairmanships and countered arguments that it will affect the quality of education asking, "How does it affect the quality of education?"

Georgetown Trustee Don Long said the criteria in considering chairmanships was quality of education, costs, and improved efficiency.

He said there was no evidence regarding the relationship between chairmanships and the quality and while the administration says chairmanships and department head systems cost just about the same, a study he did would indicate otherwise.

Long said he had compared Lord Elgin High School with Georgetown High School which have roughly the same number of pupils and Georgetown has a staff of 107 and Lord Elgin 100. On top of the 100 regular staffers Lord Elgin also has another 25 paraprofessionals and audio-

visual technicians. "Based on these figures we must conclude the Lord Elgin costs are higher than Georgetown," Long observed.

He pointed out chairmen teach 33 per cent of the time while department heads spend 60 per cent of their time teaching. Long said this means teachers at schools which have chairmen have bigger classes.

He wondered why the board has about 50 consultants and co-ordinators who are working on curriculum development when that is a job earmarked for chairmen. Long added it is assumed schools offer essentially the same program.

"Based on the job description of the chairmen, at the very least we would appear to be creating another level of non-teaching bureaucracy."

He said he couldn't support reorganization until there is solid proof that it will improve the quality of education and reduce costs.

"In the recent past we have had the educational pendulum swing from a highly conservative, severely structured system which operated for decades, to an ultra liberal, do-your-own-thing system. Hopefully our objective is to keep closer to the middle ground and avoid excesses of extreme conservatism or liberalism."

Long urged the board keep both the chairmanship system and department head system and let the school and community pick the one which best meets needs. He said this would give each system a chance to prove it is the superior method of school organization.

Oakville Trustee Elsie Hinton tried unsuccessfully to have separate school representatives kept from voting on the basis that chairmen must have expertise in curriculum taught in grade kindergarten to 13. He said since elementary school concerns are chairmen's concerns separate school representatives shouldn't vote since their interests must be confined to the high school level. Priestner said Hinton's remarks obviously indicated he couldn't read since chairmanships apply only to high schools.

When the vote was called Long, Armstrong, Hinton, Hinson, Elaine Reihm and Gam Jackson, all new trustees, voted against.

Incumbent trustees Judy Alexander, Bill Herd, Garry Morton, Noel Cooper, Len Auger, Dr. Helen Howard-Lock, Edna Robinson, Cleland, Crosler, Armistage, Lawson and Priestner were joined by new board members John Bradley and Florence Mears in supporting chairmanships.

Long said it was an important issue and the board shouldn't be pressed into making a hasty decision because of time restraints.

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MISS HOPKINS' grade four class at Speyside, despite their protestations of Valentine's day love, seem to be more interested in the photographer.

Region told no freeze

"There's nothing wrong with a speculator buying farmland and holding it for 20 years and building on it," Peter Branch of Norval told the Halton Regional Planning

Committee Tuesday afternoon.

He told the committee he'd welcome the opportunity of renting land from a developer or speculator near or adjacent his land. While Mr. Branch isn't a full time farmer, he says his wife is and the operation is assisted by three farm helpers.

Mr. Branch appeared at the meeting to present a brief he had drawn up in opposition to the goals and objectives that would lead to the official plan. He spoke against plans to permanently zone or freeze lands into agricultural use.

He told the committee that the plan should concentrate more on encouraging Ottawa and Queen's Park to ensure markets for farm produce. If that was done and farmers were encouraged to produce at their optimum there would be less need to freeze the land he argued.

Halton Hills councillor Roy Booth suggested the speculator could help farmers in the

short term but eventually all of the land would be gobbled up. He felt many of the problems rested with farm marketing boards.

Councillor Ben Ciprietti of Burlington said the onus was on the region to designate and preserve farmlands. He agreed that the region should be concerned with tariffs and other protection for the farm operation but felt that preservation of farmland through zoning was a must.

Oakville Councillor Archie Donaghy suggested that the zoning designation of farmland should be like any other zoning designation. "There's nothing to say you can't get a rezoning. It isn't a freeze."

Mr. Branch quarrelled with that statement, noting it took his family four years and a great deal of money to have an official plan amendment passed in another municipality. He indicated it is very difficult to remove zoning restrictions once they are applied.

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Teacher talks underway

Negotiations between Halton Board of Education and its teachers for a new contract are underway.

The board announced last week negotiations got started February 3 with bargainers for both the Halton Elementary Teachers' Federation and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 9 Halton, involved.

The board's negotiators are Oakville Trustee and former board vice-chairman Bill Herd and Superintendent of

Program John Bolch. Talks will deal with salaries, fringe benefits and working conditions. One subject which is sure to come

up is the teachers' opposition to the planned change from the department head system to chairmanship at nine Halton high schools this fall.

Public meetings

Halton Board of Education will let the public know how much it plans to spend this year at a meeting on February 24. The board is also inviting the public to make presentations regarding spending at three meetings in March.

The portion of board meetings open to the public usually start at 8:15 p.m. but for the special meeting dealing with expenditures the public will be admitted at 7:30 p.m.

In the past the board presented its budget, both expenditures and revenues, in four parts over four meetings, but this year things are being changed so the public and trustees will be able to get a better overall picture of what the board plans to spend.

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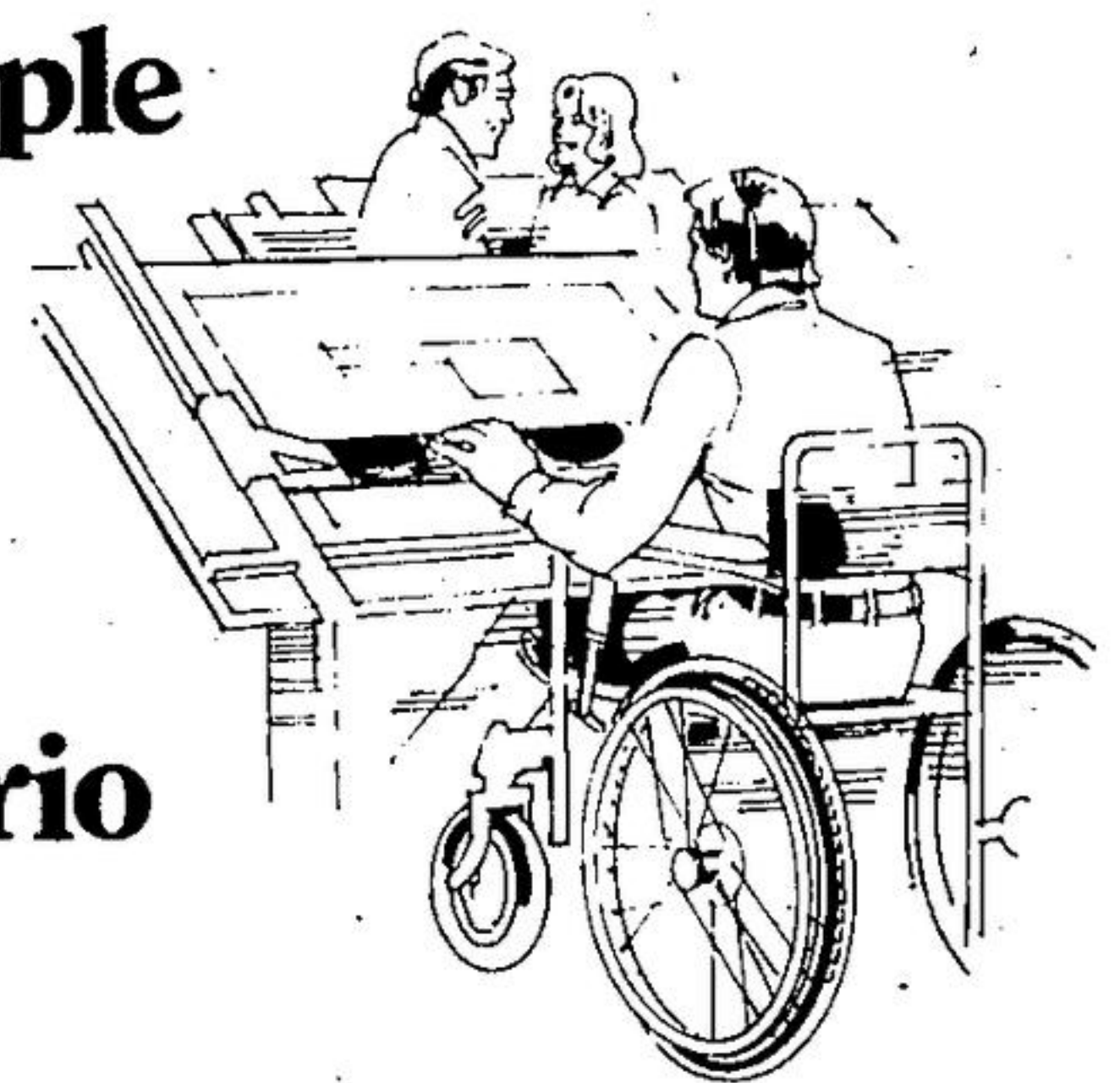
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Through the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, a staff of trained counsellors and supervisors helps the handicapped person develop his or her work potential.

For more information, write for your copy of the free booklet "Help for the Vocationally Handicapped", which describes the Vocational Rehabilitation Services program in detail. Contact your local Ministry of Community and Social Services office, or write to:

Rehabilitation Branch
 Ministry of Community and Social Services
 Hepburn Block, 4th Floor
 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9

Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services
William Davis, Premier

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