Rod Wilson tosses Mike McNiven candies at the penny sale at George Kennedy school. It was the last celebration for the playground at George Kennedy school.

Strike holds up telegram

The air-traffic controllers strike has "messed up" the Full Employment committee's decision to send a telegram to Canada's three federal party leaders asking the government to discuss the unemployment situation before the summer recess.

The decision to send a telegram came from about 50 unemployed persons in Halton Hills and Brampton at a special meeting of the full employment committee of the Brampton and District Labor council, in Brampton Thursday.

The telegram was sent Wednesday, but only Ed Broadbent, New Democratic Party leader replied.

Buzz Hargrove international representative of the United Auto Workers, said Mr. Broadbent brought the issue up in the House of Commons.

"We'll wait and see what happens," Mr. Hargrove said. "The national unity issue is being used to cover up the unemployment problem. Price and wage controls have failed, AIB regulations have failed, it's time the government did something about the situation."

Mr. Hargrove and Bill Cumptsy, committee chairman, recorded complaints unemployed persons have with the government. It was repeated over and over that Canada has the highest unemployment rate in the world.

"If the government recesses after the pipeline debate and air strike is settled, no legislation will be discussed until October," he said.

In future public meetings, Mr. Hargrove said, local politicians will be invited. "The situation can no longer be ignored," he said.

During the meeting, Gwen Korzack, 6 Elizabeth St., Georgetown, unemployed since Domtar closed in April was angry when Manpower told her she was expected to spend her "pogle" on transportation for a job interview.

She said she was also told to buy extra papers to search the want-ads for a job. "I've worked for 16 years. Luckily my husband is working."

Mrs. Korzack was told by Manpower there were no jobs asking for her qualifications. "It's a very bleak picture," she said.

Firehall addition closer

The addition to the Acton fire hall is a step nearer since Halton Hills council instructed consulting engineer, Alan Zeegen to draw up the plans and specifications ready to go to tender. Estimated cost is $200,000.

Although both Mayor Tom Hill and councillor Mike Armstrong wanted to know how council was going to dig up the extra $100,000, which Mr. Zeegen says the project will cost, council voted unanimously Aug. 2 to proceed with it since the firefighters are in need of the space.

Several councillors pointed out that Mr. Zeegen's original price of $100,000 for which council already has tentative approval to issue debentures, was nothing more than a rough guess since he had now drawings ready at that time and there was then no question of retaining the old town hall which is adjacent to the fire hall.

Mr. Zeegen said that he hoped the renovations and addition could be built for $185,000 but advised council to budget for $200,000 to be on the safe side.

Tieing the addition to the old town hall is raising the price of the project, Mr. Zeegen said. While totally demolishing the old building would have cost only $10,000, demolishing the stage and repairing the roof will cost $15,000.

On top of that the citizens who are working on restoring the town hall have requested that the addition to the fire hall be built so that the facades of the two structures will match. This means that the ceilings in the fire hall must be considerably higher than those in most new buildings and this will raise the price of the project by $6,000 or $7,000. They also want arched windows to match those in the town hall. As yet Mr. Zeegen could not say what they will cost beyond the fact that they will increase the price.

Councillor Roy Booth suggested that the entire project should be paid for with lot levies which the town already has in their possession. This money was originally earmarked for part of the construction of the new Georgetown library but since that building "may be delayed quite awhile" he felt that the levies could be used on the fire hall instead and avoid going to debenture on the project at all.

He reminded council that going to the Ontario Municipal Board for final approval on debentures for the fire hall would require a full hearing with input from the public and "that could be difficult."

Councillor Booth pointed out that there are a number of new businesses which will be paying lot levies to the town in the near future and that money could go towards financing the library when that project is ready to proceed.

Mr. Zeegen said that the firemen are satisfied with his proposed plans which include two washrooms, a kitchen, a bar area, and two self-contained stairwells. He expects to have the drawings and specifications ready in two weeks since they are already "70 per cent complete."

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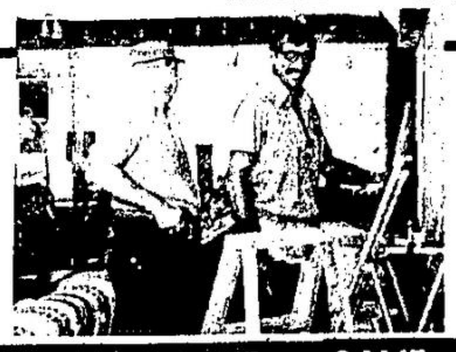

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