# Teachers—Board agree to use mediator

by Eric Elstone teachers hit upon a new strategy to beat the seven-month-long contract dispute. They're go-

ing to let Martin do it. The Martin in this case is Martin Teplitsky, a lawyer, who is on the receiving end of all the outstanding issues between the secondary school teachers and the Halton board.

Mr. Telpitsky is to be mediator-arbitrator concerning the wages, working conditions, benefits and retirement gratuity He is also to handle the

whole package for next trustees present-all the year's contract.

Spokesmen for both sides believe two months work without a contract,

litsky's fee is to be split dispute between the board and the Ontario Secondary school Teacher's Federation.

Halton Trustees voted Thursday to accept the recommendations their salary committee. They gave Mr. Teplitsky the power to determine

Milton trustees and one from Burlington were absent-voted unanimously

The vote, according to spokesman, as they have since Aug- Trustee Cam Jackson, is indicative of the board's The cost of Mr. Tep- willingness to solve the without teachers' strike.

> Halton school teachers-895 of 1,147 who cast ballotsalso agreed to binding mediation-arbitration. of There were 245 teachers opposed. Seven ballots were spoiled.

Under mediation-arbitfor the 1979-80 contract. which issues are out- ration Mr. Teplitsky will each of the major items standing. The 16 to 20 try, again, to persuade in dispute."

the sides through one half of the process, mediation, to come to an agreement. Under the other part of the process, arbitration, he can name the terms of a settlement Those terms stick under

Mr. Teplitsky succeeded in getting the two sides to agree to consider mediation-arbitration, a process resisted by teachers, during 14 hours of mediation in Toronto a couple of weeks ago. An earlier attempt at mediation failed when Mr. Teplitsky found "serious differences of principle separating the parties on

OSSTF President Ron Ness said that while teachers oppose mediationarbitration they are prepared to accept it because the process will meet their contractural concerns. A better way to reach a settlement would be through open talks between the parties, he

Sending the contract dispute to mediationarbitration was "The only responsible route to take," according Acton-Esquesing trustee Betty Fisher. Georgetown Trustee Barry Shephard said "it's probably the best way out for

Mr. Shephard has,

since January, been a get our minds back to the member of the board's kids," said Mrs. Fisher. committee. Though not a member of the sub-committee dealing with teachers, he was at the meeting which saw Mr. Teplitsky urge the parties accept mediation-

arbitration. The negotiations by the board, he said, he believed were conducted fairly. "I'm thankful we can all avoid a strike." In an earlier vote teachers delivered a 93.5 per to normal." cent strike mandate to

entatives. "If the two parties can settle, I think it is healthier for board-staff re lations," observed Trustee Fisher. Mrs. Fisher is chairman of Halton's staff-board standing

committee. "Anytime you've disputes of this length (seven months), it no doubt affects morale of the staff. Now that the matter has gone to arbit-

**OSSTF** President Ness ference after Thursday's special board meeting i there are relationship

problems with the board." "I don't think the staffboard relations are as critical," said Trustee Fisher, "as at other boards. I hope things will settle down and get back

Mr. Shephard said: "If their OSSTF represthere are real morale problems in the teachers' ranks, that concerns me. I hope the rank and file can take this without it affecting their morale."

Both trustees indicated a hope the negotiation process will be strengthened with the review of legislation provincial covering such matters that is underway.

One of the trustees absent for the vote was

ration, we'll be able to Burlington's Fred Arm-

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critical of teachers' expectations for retirement gratuity. Mr. Armitage is one of those trustees who believes the gratuity has outlived its usefulness. He stressed

itage who earlier was

that if the board was to finance retirement gratuities properly it would, this year, have to add another million dollars to its \$404 million budget.

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## Region budget discussion today expected to be donnybrook

By Jim Robinson morning on the 1960 Halton Regional Council budget which will be the largest in history and probably will reflect the largest percentage crease since the switch to regionalism six years

Already the battle lines have been formed between those prepared to accept the preliminary budget figures and those who want to cut the proposed budget back drastically. Councillor

Anderson, chairman of

the Administration and mark. Finance Committee, committee which responsible for recomfiscal spending to council, has already warned he will lead the fight to shrink

Although the object on this budget. had been not to exceed the 1979 budget by more than eight per cent, the cent. With the 1979 operating budget at \$34 million, it means the 1980 budget, if approved as is,

Mr. Anderson told Wednesday's regular council meeting he is not a significant bearing on prepared to send a 20 per cent taxation increase on to the ratepayers.

"I want to say here and operating now that I am prepared to go back to square one "We've already been

conned on the grants," he said, intimating the 20 per cent proposed inpegged at about 19.8 per crease may also be far more than is necessary. When councillors meet today for a full-day session, Treasurer Don will top the \$40 million Farmer will also be in-

provincial equalization factors which could have the final budget outcome. These factors provide a formula for assistance extremely complicated—so complicated in fact, that their issuance to municipalities has already been

Also bearing on the minds of councillors will inconsistencies which have cropped up during the budget debates.

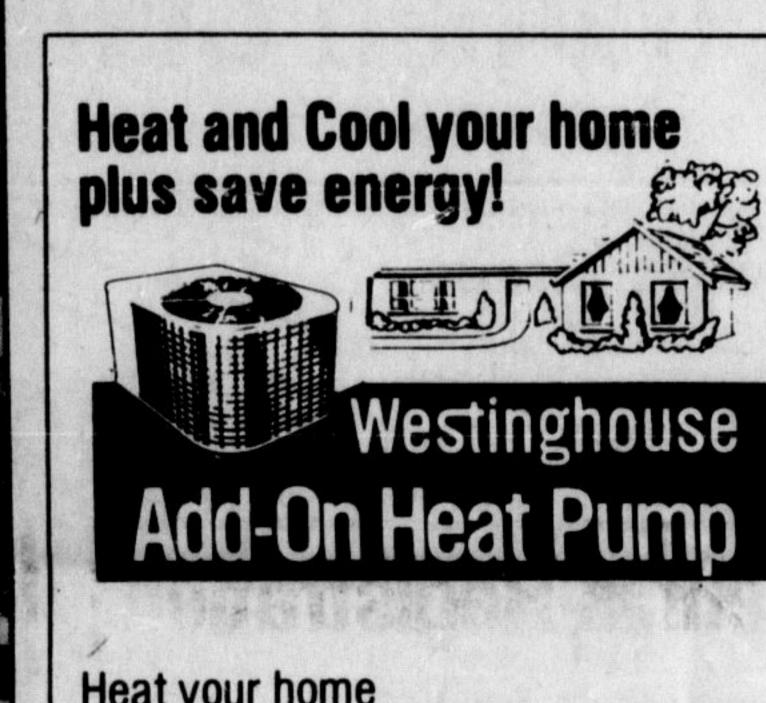
delayed once.

involve deliberation

Army have been totally denied funding; while in others, the guideline eight per cent increase limit has been exceeded. This is particularly true in the case of the Halton Children's Aid Society which got a 25 per cent increase, even though there were warnings from the Chief Administrative Officer this move inconsistent with stated grant guidelines.

groups like the Salvation

What is certain is that two distinct camps exist at Region Council, and the today's debates will the probably see the most to sprited exchanges of charitable groups in dialogue yet in Halton Halton. In some cases Region headquarters.



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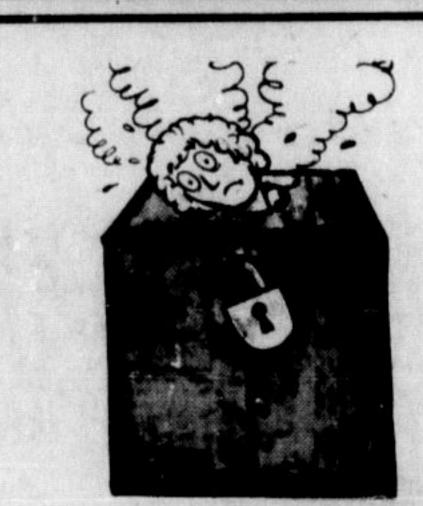
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### visits Maplehurst making clothing and be paid, said Mr. building tools in an effort Roberts, despite the fact By Linda Kirby to cut costs and make the institution expects to will be cutting wood to be jails as self-sufficient as make money on the sold to firewood concessionaires in a move to project. cut costs at the medium-

mates with work and is a

means of cutting ex-

penses at the institution.

Inmates now work at a

variety of community

projects as well as jobs in

the laundry room and

kitchen at Maplehurst.

Two large vegetable

security institution. Roberts. superintendent Maplehurst, made announcement Tuesday during a visit by Corrections Minister Gordon Walker

acre wooded area Elliot Tract near Acton

Making the rounds. Corrections Minister Gordon Walker paid a

visit to Maplehurst Correctional Centre Tuesday, April 2. Wood

Correction Minister

cutting is one of the newest projects undertaken by inmates.

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Maplehurst where it is chopped and stacked, ready to be sold. Mr. Roberts said soft correctional wood will be given to the

firewood in public parks, inmate work while hard wood will be that inmates inmates are expected to

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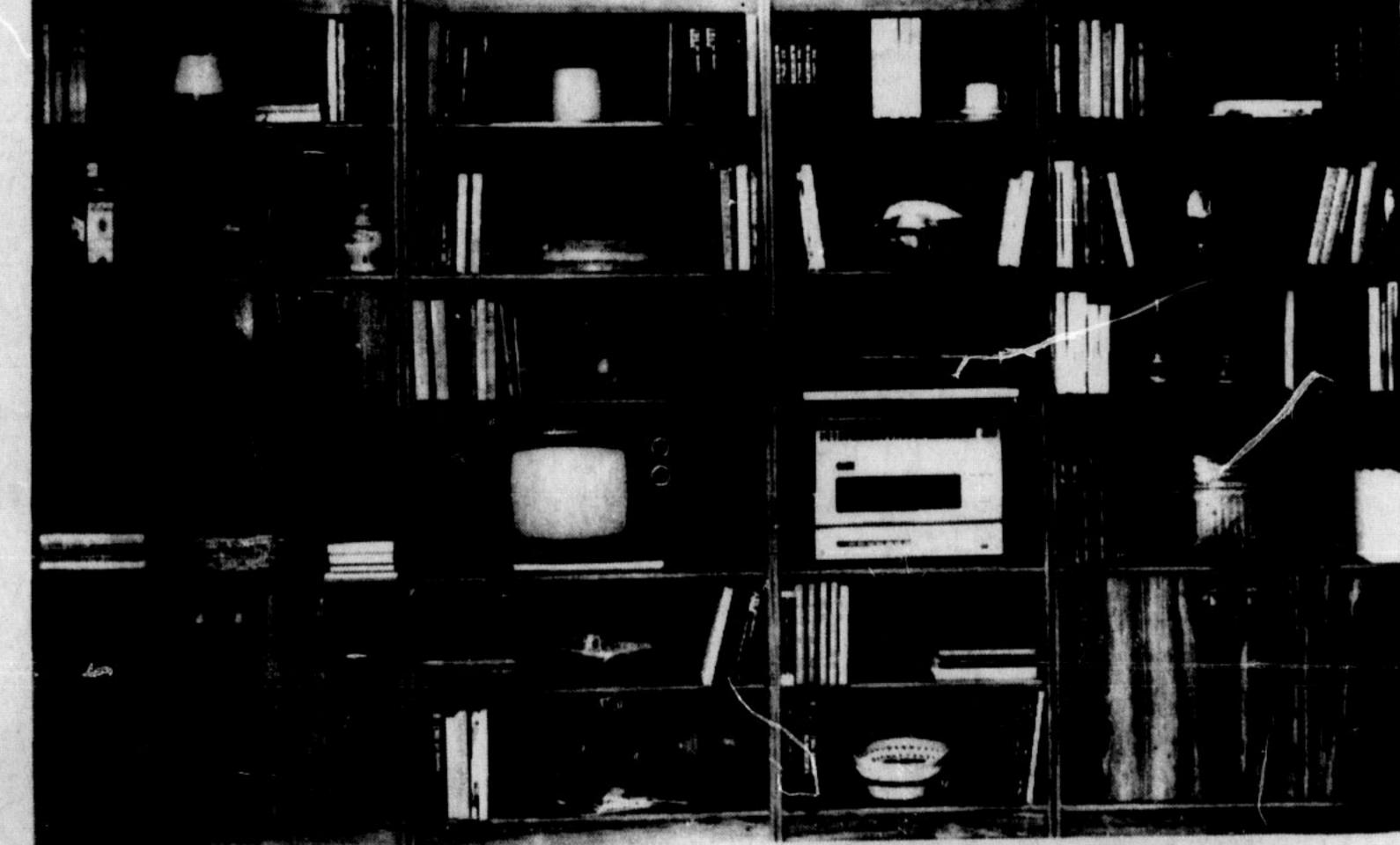
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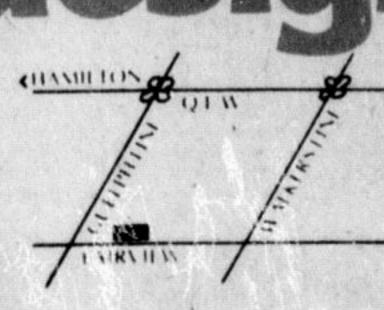
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