

Education dispute

# Board wants to speed up negotiations with teachers

The Halton Catholic District School Board wants to speed up negotiations with its secondary school teachers.

Rather than wait for the next scheduled round of negotiations Thursday (Oct. 8), Halton Catholic District School Board chair James Sherlock is asking the teachers to meet earlier.

At a closed-door private meeting last week, trustees also directed Mr. Sherlock to ask the secondary school teachers to abandon their current job sanctions in the interest of the students.

**Partial strike**

The Halton Secondary Unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) has imposed a partial strike upon the Catholic Board.

Catholic secondary teachers have withdrawn their services for extra-curricular activities and those scheduled to teach a fourth class this semester have refused to do so.

Last week, the board sent a letter to the Education Relations Commission (ERC) of Ontario to intervene

on behalf of the students.

If the ERC feels the students school year is in jeopardy, it can ask the Ministry of Education to order the teachers back to work.

Last Thursday, Mr. Sherlock and senior board staff met with their secondary school principals to discuss options for making up lost instruction time due to the teachers' sanctions.

The main stumbling block in negotiations has been the requirement under Bill 160 that the instructional workloads of secondary school teachers be increased to 1,250 minutes.

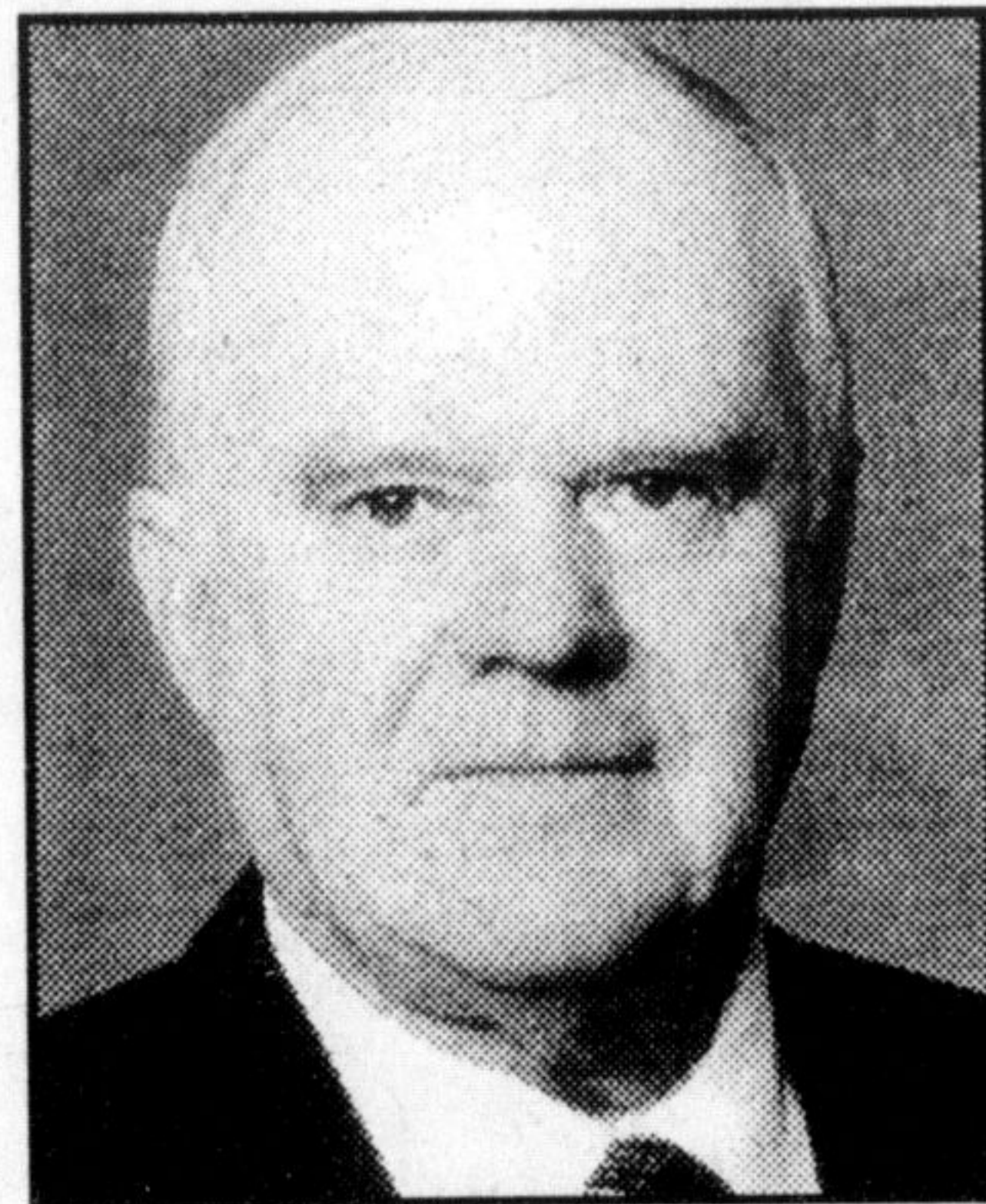
**Teach extra class**

Halton and other Catholic school boards have interpreted this by telling teachers they must teach seven of eight classes over two semesters, instead of six of eight as in past years.

Joe Pece, president of the OECTA Halton Secondary Unit, has expressed frustration in the past over the board's unwillingness to budge from the seven of eight classes demand.

He said the board is bordering on bad faith bargaining.

In Milton, the situation affects students at Bishop Reding Secondary School, the town's only separate high school.



James Sherlock

# Farmers get new line of loans

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) recently unveiled a new line of farm loans known as AgriStart.

The program encompasses the following:

- The Family Farm Loan enables the developing farmer to finance the purchase of farm assets, or transfer shares in a family farm business. Successfully launched in 1993, it has been updated and streamlined to increase flexibility and serve a wider market;
- The 1-2-3 Grow Loan provides financing with

deferred payment options to farmers starting or expanding an enterprise that will have a reduced income stream for one to three years;

- The Payday Loan, designed for individuals with off-farm employment who are interested in starting or expanding a farm business.

For more information on the loans program, call Cathy Gale, Market and Product Development Officer of the FCC at (306) 780-8336.

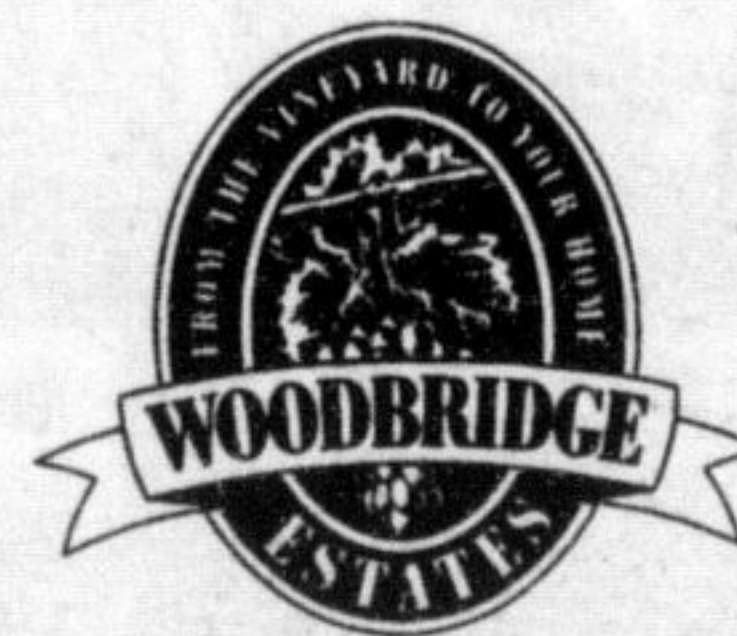
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