

Carpenters' group protests at regional council meeting

Carpenters don't think Region should conduct business with firm convicted in accidental death of workers

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**
The Champion

Local carpenters are furious with what they call the "insensitivity" of regional council following a decision to shortlist a company convicted in the accidental death of two construction workers.

The Carpenters' District Council of Ontario (CDCO) filed a protest with Halton politicians last week over the inclusion of North America Construction (NAC) on the pre-qualifying list of contractors for upgrades to the Kelso well pumping station. Seven other companies were also short-listed to bid on the project.

"The fact that they were convicted in the death of two individuals means they are unsuitable to do

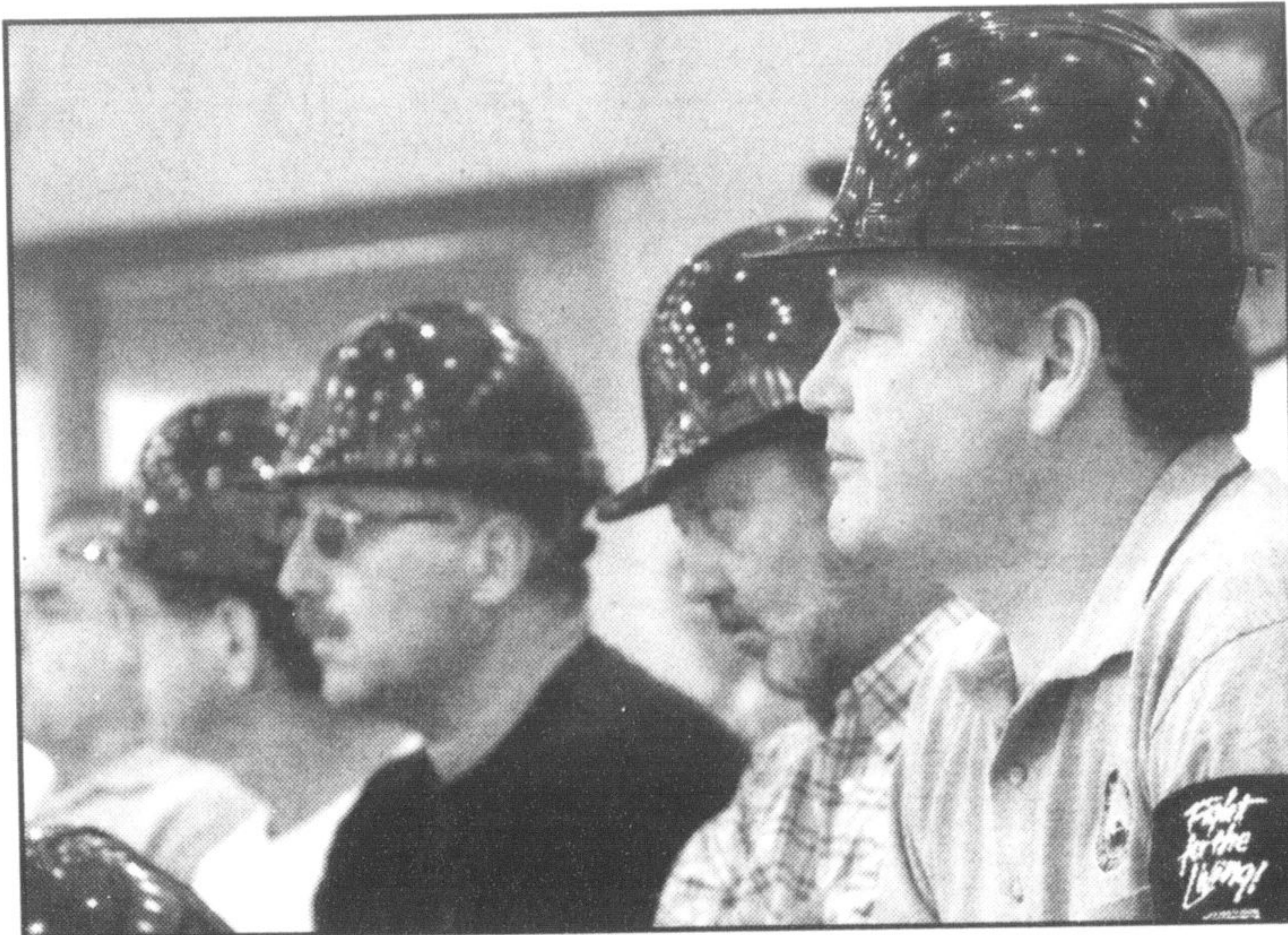


Photo by BARRIE ERSKINE

Carpenters wear hard hats and arm bands in protest at the Halton regional council meeting Wednesday.

work for the Region of Halton," said Rob Maxwell of the CDCO.

"The facts are that two years ago, two people were killed because of this company's negligence and we think that the Region of Halton has got to pay some heed to that."

Last month, NAC was fined \$220,000 by a provincial court judge in Burlington in connection with a June 19, 2000 accident in which two construction workers were killed and two others were injured. The incident occurred at the Mid Halton Wastewater Treatment Plant in Oakville where

NAC workers were performing upgrades for the Region.

Under the Occupation Health and Safety Act, NAC was found to have failed to ensure equipment wasn't used while it was defective.

To demonstrate their objection to the short-listing, about 30 carpenters sat in on a portion of Wednesday's regional council meeting wearing hard hats and arm bands.

"We want them (regional council) to remove North America from the pre-qualification list and we • see SAVOLINE on page 28

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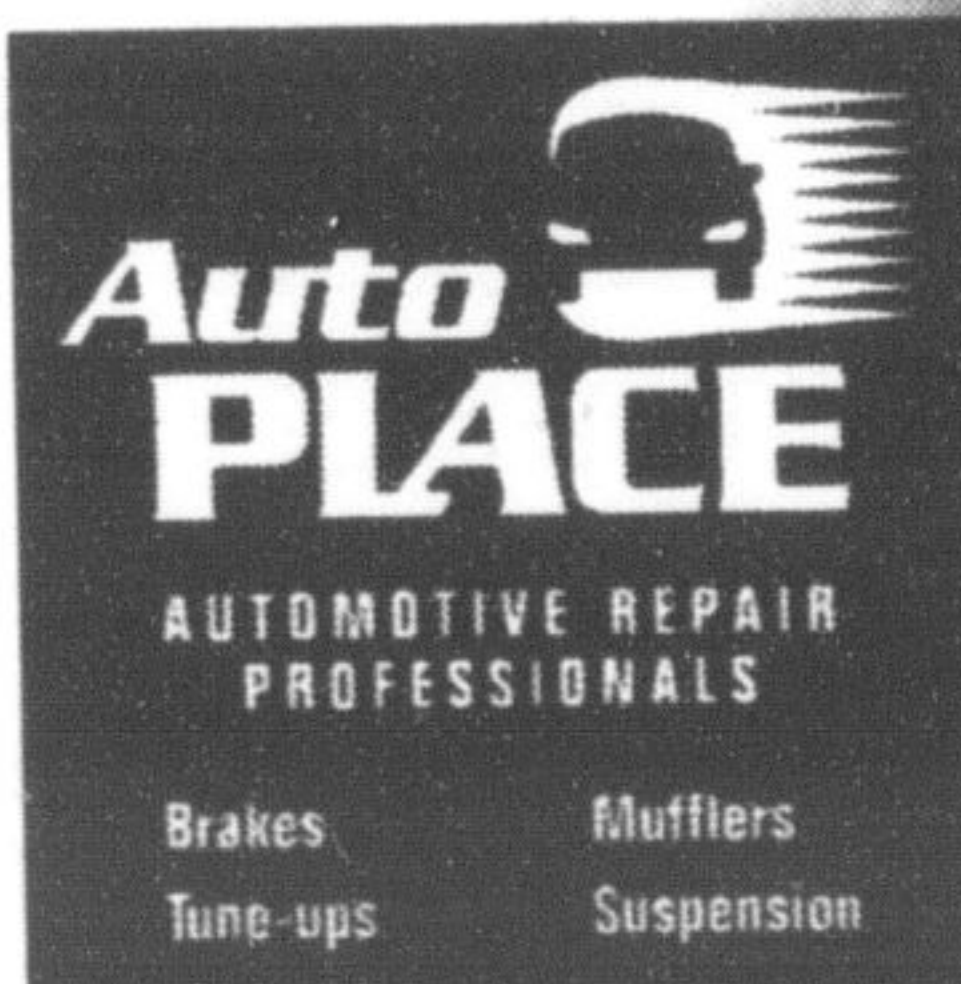
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