

Board and teachers relationship turning point, fact-finder says

by Murray Moore

An independent fact-finder who has examined the dispute between teachers under contract to the Simcoe County Board of Education, and the board, as the two parties attempt to reach an agreement on contracts agreeable to all parties, warns in his report that relationships between the parties may continue to deteriorate.

Richard Jackson was appointed on Sept. 25 to look into the dispute between the SCBE and its employee elementary teachers, Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation member teachers, and L'Association des Enseignants Franco-Ontariens teachers. His report was released to the public this week.

Jackson says in his summary, "I have recommended that these parties consider the implications of this situation very carefully with an eye to future dealings with each other in what will inevitably be a turbulent and challenging environment. They should face such challenges as allies,

not as adversaries."

At the time of a Oct. 20 meeting between Jackson, SCBE representatives, and representatives of the Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario and the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation, five issues were agreed upon, and 19 issues remained in dispute.

At the time of an Oct. 15 meeting attended by Jackson, board representatives, and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation representatives, seven issues were settled, and 22 issues remained in dispute.

The board and the several teachers' groups began their contract negotiations last March.

Jackson concluded in his report that one impediment to agreements being reached was the large number of negotiators used by the teacher groups, and the use by the board of outside, professional, negotiators.

"These difficulties have been compounded by the board's feelings that, due to problems encountered in

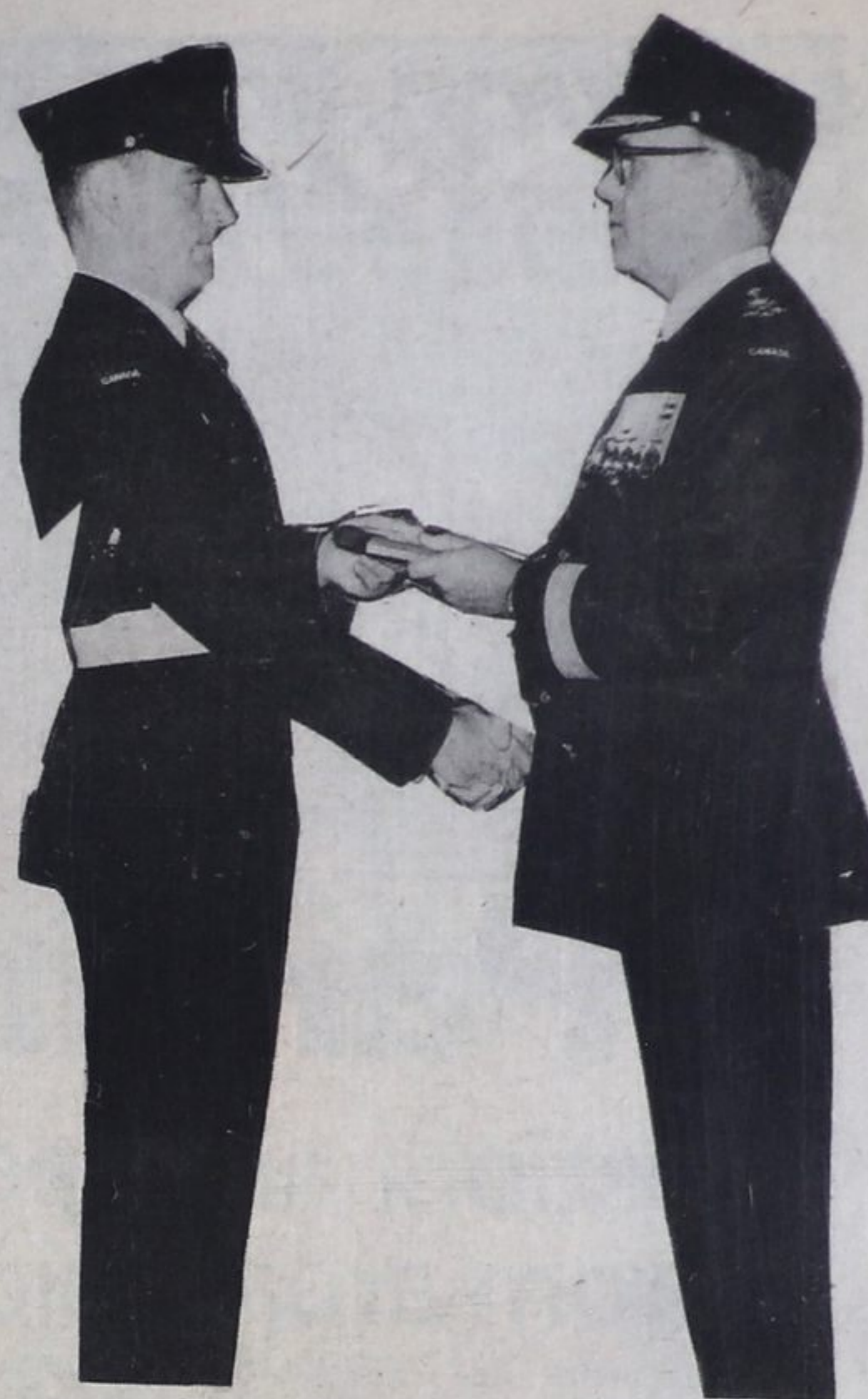
administering the previous collective agreement with the secondary teachers, it needed to 'tighten up' much of the language for the new agreements."

The L'Association des Enseignants Franco-Ontariens is for the first time bargaining separately for its own collective agreement. Jackson recommends that the 11 AEFO teachers be granted a collective agreement similar to that of the OSSTF teachers, "except in those areas directly affected by the obvious size differences between the two groups."

Jackson has made recommendations in those areas where he thinks agreement can be reached.

But, "In some other areas, I do not believe problems can be properly or effectively addressed under the pressure of collective bargaining."

Jackson has therefore recommended that these problems be addressed by a joint committee of board and teacher representatives, after contracts have been signed.



Whelan honoured

Pte. Whelan LT, age 20, of Penetanguishene, graduated from Canadian Forces Recruit School, Canadian Forces Base Cornwallis on Oct. 8. Pte. Whelan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Whelan, 229 Fox St., Penetanguishene.

Pte. Whelan has spent 11 weeks at CFB Cornwallis, the basic training centre for all English speaking recruits. At the end of his basic training, Pte. Whelan was presented with the "Commandant's Shield" trophy. Presenting the award is General R.M. Withers, CMM, CD, CDS NDHQ Ottawa.

Can't find stretchers Province needs help

The Ministry of Health's Air Ambulance operations have been in effect for over a decade.

The program now includes five aircraft, transporting over 5,000 patients per year.

Along with the growth of the Ministry's Air Ambulance program, a major problem has emerged in the form of disappearing no. 9 stretchers.

The stretchers are being misplaced at the rate of over 50 per year at a cost of more than \$400 each.

The problem seems to arise when a patient is being transferred on and off the aircraft and occurs primarily between northeast and southern Ontario.

Wayne Stott, Manager of Air Ambulance Operations, is currently working on ways to eliminate this inconvenient and expensive situation.

One solution being considered is a system of trading stretchers. The air carrier would be supplied with an appropriate number of no. 9 stretchers.

When the patient is lifted aboard the aircraft, the crew would trade a no. 9 stretcher from the plane's supply with the ground am-

bulance crew, therefore retaining the same number of stretchers in both vehicles.

It is obviously in the patient's best interests and comfort to be moved as few times as possible from one stretcher to another. Thus, the switching of stretchers appears to be a feasible alternative to each vehicle keeping its

own stretchers.

It is hoped that the problem of disappearing no. 9 stretchers will soon be resolved and the more than \$20,000 that is wasted to replace them can be put to more effective use.

If you know the whereabouts of any of these missing no. 9 stretchers, please call Mike Fisher at the

Ministry of Health's Stores, 185 Judson Avenue, Toronto (416) 252-2832.

The Ministry will arrange to pick up the stretchers. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

The above item appeared in Code 4, a quarterly newsletter for the Ambulance Service of Ontario.

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