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MERRY CHRISTMAS

To All Our Readers — from The Management and Staff of The Liberal



"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12

Lora Casement, 8, daughter of Richmond Hill photographer Stuart Casement lights an Advent candle for Christmas.

Hunter Asks Who Runs Schools

The following statement was issued by the York County Board of Education Chairman Marvin Hunter of King in which he details the elected trustees' position regarding teacher negotiations and the threat of a strike. Mr. Hunter's statement was made public at last week's press conference held in Richmond Hill.

"The real issue, as I see it, is whether the elected trustees or the teachers are to run the schools. The trustees agree that teacher input on policy is valuable and necessary. What they refuse to concede is that the teachers have the right to CONTROL policy.

"If trustees make policy with which the taxpayers disagree, the voters can change their trustees with no difficulty. On the other hand, when teachers seek to include such things as pupil/teacher ratio under working conditions, it would appear that they want to take over both policy and management protection of iron-bound, lifetime individual employment contracts."

"The reason, of course, that the inclusion of pupil/teacher ratio in working conditions is opposed by trustees is that teacher salaries compose about 60% of school budgets. An industry, in a time of rising prices has three alternatives, raising its prices, going out of business entirely, or reorganizing its operation to use fewer workers. The Ministry of Education forbids us the first two alternatives—we have had expenditure ceilings imposed and we can't close the schools. The teachers now seek to remove our only other alternative, that of organizing our operations with the number of employees to permit us to remain within the expenditure ceilings.

Christmas Baskets Dec. 22



The Co-ordinated Welfare Services, made up of all service groups in the older part of Richmond Hill, have plans already made to pack and deliver approximately 25 baskets of Christmas goodies December 22. The Richvale Lions will be doing the same kind of work in the southern area of town and the Oak Ridges Lions in the northern area.

"Individual teacher contracts are protected by considerable legislation. This legislation was created to protect individual professional teachers because the Rights and Constraints of the Labor Relations Act did not apply to them. At the time this protective legislation was enacted, it was not contemplated that teachers would act together as a union.

POWERFUL WEAPON

"The mass resignation tactic gives teachers a weapon even more powerful than a strike. An equivalent situation would be if a union were to call a strike but every

MONEY MAJOR ISSUE

"In other words, what I am saying is, that if teachers are to have the right to bargain

possible replacement employees were a member of that striking union.

"When a strike is over, strikers go back to whatever jobs exist under the new conditions. Teachers, on the other hand, fall back on their permanent individual contracts of employment—which really means that they are guaranteed employment! (Reinstatement of individual contracts has always been a condition of returning to work after mass teacher resignation).

"If teachers are to have the right to bargain working conditions and the right to strike, then the legislative protection of the individual contract should be withdrawn and teachers should come under the Labor Relations Act like any other group of unionized employees. People who give the teachers the greatest support in their claims to bargaining rights over working conditions fail to understand that teachers have this protective legislation at the moment.

"Another obvious problem is money and I believe that most teachers, in contrast to the OSSTF leadership, think of this as the major issue. The essential difficulty here is that our spending ceilings have been increased by seven percent and the consumer price index has gone up nearly 8 percent. I believe the teachers would settle the money issue if they could get this 8 percent, plus the amount which they see as having been built into last year's schedule—which is about 3 percent more, although they are of course asking for more than this total.

"There seems to be no way of closing this gap and remaining within our ceilings."

"I am certain the majority of those signing would not subscribe to this statement and would be only too happy to have it changed," stated Regional Councillor

Hill Council Clears Way For Police Building In Civic Centre

A look at the architects' drawings for the proposed building to house a southern branch of York Region Police in the Civic Centre planned for the corner of Yonge Street and Vaughan Road was given to Richmond Hill Council's Planning Committee December 12. The building will be constructed on the southeast corner of Vaughan Road and an extension of Arnold Crescent and will house the three detachments now located in the Towns of Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan. Estimated cost is \$1½ million.

York Region Solicitor Edward Oakes was accompanied by Police Commissioner Stewart Rumble, Police Chief Bruce Crawford and D. G. Halford of the firm of Halford & Wilson, Architects, Oakville. Mr.

Oakes reported the Region of York is purchasing the three acre site from Sander Developments Ltd., the purchase conditional on rezoning the land to allow a police station, a use not permitted under the present bylaw (Vaughan).

The police chief pointed out that it is the intention of the police commission to amalgamate the three southern detachments into one new police facility, located on the south side of Vaughan Road 1,400 to 1,500 feet west of Yonge Street. "This will be much more economical and will put more men on the street. We have given the architect a lot of leeway, the only guidelines set out being that it is not to be an institutional type of building. We do not want it to look like a police building. It is difficult

to estimate the population in 10 years but this building will accommodate 120 officers to start, with facilities for 200 and include facilities we do not now have, even in the Newmarket headquarters, such as a pistol range and a much larger and more sophisticated training room. The public will be invited to participate in the pistol instruction. We would like to be in the building by July 1975 as the lease on the building occupied by the Vaughan detachment will be up then. We hope this building will not look like any police building you have ever seen."

The architect pointed out that three flows of traffic have been planned with three parking areas. Visitors will park near the front entrance and

use it to gain access to a large reception area. Personnel will park their cars at the south end of the site where four completely landscaped bays will accommodate 70 cars, and department vehicles will be parked on an elevated area to the east of the building behind a decorative garden.

Plans are to use rusty brown clay brick topped with chocolate brown, with four roof levels, giving four rooms with high sloped ceilings, the architect said. It will be a two-storey building, although from Vaughan Road it will have the appearance of a one-storey building, the lower floor being used for locker rooms, recreation areas, heating plant, car wash, motorcycle storage, etc.

"It's a smart and functional building," said a committee

Chairman David Stephenson.

Regional Councillor Lois Hancey reported that some residents of the area were concerned lest the noise of police sirens would be increased there. "The use of sirens on police vehicles is very rigidly and strictly limited," replied the police chief. "The site we have chosen is ideal and I am confident it will be a very rare occasion when the police will be sounding a siren in that area."

Mrs. Hancey wondered why a rezoning was necessary since all governments and their agencies are exempt from zoning regulations. The Regional solicitor explained that at the time the Vaughan bylaw was passed in 1960 the Region of York did not exist and was not

included in the list of government agencies.

Chairman Stephenson moved that a bylaw to rezone the land be prepared for submission to council December 17, with recommendation that it be given three readings and circulated as soon as possible. He received the support of the other three members of the committee.

It was noted that this in no way affects the terms of the site plan agreement between the region and the town, since the regional government has agreed in writing to submit final plans to council and/or a committee of architects and has also agreed to provide any easements which may be required for development of the rest of the site at no charge.

Decision Ward 3 Seat Tonight

Richmond Hill Council will decide whether to hold an election or make an appointment to fill the vacant Ward 3 seat at the council table at a special meeting tonight (Thursday). If the decision is to appoint, the appointment may be made any time up to the end of January.

Both Regional Councillor Lois Hancey and Ward 6 Councillor Lou Wainwright indicated at Monday afternoon's council meeting that they would prefer appointment to election, but only if the appointee is Ray Gemmill, who gave the late Charles Stewart a close battle for the seat in last year's election. "But he was defeated," stated Mayor William Lazenby.

It is rumored that some members of council are considering giving the appointment to Tom Murphy, a Yonge Street realtor, who served one term as councillor in 1963.

Should Schools Close?

The Ministry of Education is going to have to decide just who has the responsibility for running the schools — the Ministry or the trustees — Trustee John Honsberger, chairman of York County Board of Education Salary Negotiating Committee, told a press conference last week in Richmond Hill.

Mr. Honsberger termed the government's proposed legislation to make the teachers' resignations throughout the province invalid, "retrogressive," and said that, maybe the schools should be closed down completely by the teachers' strike until the current dispute between the teachers and the trustees was resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

A total of 7,800 teachers in Ontario, including 667 in York, have handed in their resignations, effective December 31.

Mr. Honsberger said that sooner or later, the teachers would have to be covered by one over-all union contract, instead of by individual contracts, as at present.

He said the teachers were "having their cake and eating it, too." They should give up their contracts and

be certified as trade unions under the Labor Relations Act.

Mr. Honsberger said that salaries were not the major bone of contention in the dispute. The major issue centred around the teachers' federation "trying to lock the doors against the question of any teacher being redundant."

Two major issues facing boards of education across the province today is a shortage of tax monies and a dropping birth rate. Less children to be educated.

It was trying to make it impossible for the board to dismiss the teachers, even if there were no pupils to teach.

The teachers still wanted to stay on salary until retirement age, despite lack of students.

Mr. Honsberger said the board had got into "this trouble" by keeping teachers who had been hired for other jobs.

The board should be allowed to terminate their contracts when redundant, or have them teach some other class.

When asked if teachers had a legitimate complaint in the question of job categorization — lower payment when removed from regular category — Mr. Honsberger said they did. However, the board wasn't being inflexible about it and had offered to provide a reasonable cushion to "help us work out something."

Sam Chapman, director of education, who is currently on leave for a year with OISE, said that, so long as the basis of salary payment was one of qualification and not a competitive thing, once a teacher moved out of his area of qualification, he should no longer be paid at the same rate.

He said the board would

like to get on a "pay-by-merit" scale.

RESPONSIBLE TO TAXPAYERS

Mr. Honsberger, when asked if he felt he was losing his power because of Queen's Park intervention, replied he would "come out (of this) as a power," or he wouldn't be on the board anymore. The board was responsible to the taxpayers and if the Ministry wanted to run it, then it could go ahead.

On the question of tenure, he said it had started with the one-room schoolhouse to provide some protection to teachers who might be going great distances to work in some remote area. As the schools grew, however, this was eventually taken away.

Mr. Honsberger said the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation was using its power and money to influence the government. Its organization was thinking politically and could only do so when it had some money behind it.

He said the United States always set the pace in these things, with Canada eventually catching up. First thing was to organize a union and then build up a war chest. The attacking of public figures and using money against those who opposed them were other methods of such groups.

Mr. Chapman said it came down to a question of management rights, and these had to be preserved.

To a reporter who claimed that teachers weren't arguing about money, Mr. Chapman said the teachers didn't even know what was on the negotiating sheet. "They don't know what clauses are being negotiated."

Mr. Honsberger said, the federation was asking that teachers only have to attend three evening functions a year for the school, and was demanding compensation for anything beyond that.

"I wonder how many of our 800 teachers know the federation is asking for this?" Mr. Honsberger said.

He said the board had been under a "self-imposed restraint trying to protect the image of the teachers and the board," running interference between the teachers and the community. But it could only go so far.

He said the federation had said it wasn't with ceilings. It felt what it wanted was fair and it was up to the board to find the money.

Maybe closing down the schools for a year wouldn't be the worst thing that could happen. "Maybe we should take the teachers' resignations," Mr. Honsberger said.

He said the size of the schools was another problem. Even though he had spent time and money going around the schools "trying to put faces on people," he probably didn't know 5 percent of the teachers because of the growth of large regional boards.

Secondary Schools Undisturbed Elementary Teachers Absent

By MARGARET LADE

Despite the massive demonstration of elementary and secondary school teachers in Maple Leaf Gardens and the march to Queen's Park Tuesday, it was business as usual in the secondary schools of York.

The provincial executive of the Ontario School Teachers Federation had given instructions to OSSTF members in areas that have not yet come to agreement on contracts with their local boards to report for work as usual on Tuesday as they did not want the demonstration to appear as a sanction against the local boards.

And a canvas by "The Liberal" showed the teachers of York had co-operated with the provincial executive. Richmond Hill, Don Head, Bayview, Woodbridge, Langstaff, Thornhill, Thornlea and King City Secondary Schools all reported a full complement of teachers, although some schools noticed a slightly higher absentee rate among students.

Some speculated this could be due to family winter vacations, Christmas jobs, legitimate illness, or it could be that some students had simply taken advantage of the situation to take a day

Plan Radio Station Here

Here in York Region we could have an old fashioned type community radio station in about a year if the plans of Richmond Hill and Calgary veteran broadcaster Ken Foss of Driscoll Road work out.

Foss is a well known master of ceremonies at local events. Active in Toronto area broadcasting, he has been news, sports and public affairs director at country and western Metro station CFGM here since 1961. He has been in broadcasting for 26 years after starting in Calgary in 1947.

He told this newspaper he is in partnership with Denison Mines Limited and Roman Corporation Limited which are business interests

of Stephen Roman of Victoria Square. Roman was the unsuccessful close-running candidate for the Progressive Conservative Party in the last federal election.

NO METRO AUDIENCE

Foss says he can't and won't be aiming at all the Metro market. He proposes a station with a prime signal area starting at Steeles Avenue, the northern Metro boundary, and extending north to the Aurora-Newmarket boundary. The signal will be clearly heard in Woodbridge, Thornhill, Kleinburg, Markham and Stouffville as far north as Georgina Island in Lake Simcoe. It is thus exactly designed to serve the newly organized Regional Municipality of York.

The Richmond Hill broadcaster says this region's market and population isn't

(Continued on Page 3)



KEN FOSS Plans Region Radio