Accepting Teachers' Resignations No Ploy School Hours Shouldn't Be Critical Problem By JIM IRVING to get out and visit with the Another speaker, a woman

Deacon Offers Apology To Trustee Quirk

Hill; Mariane Gillan, Georg-

BOTH SIDES NOW

Question: Are the students

who were losing out because

should be?

By JIM IRVING

John Honsberger, chairman of York County Board of Education's negotiating committee, has denied that acceptance of the teachers' resignations by the board and the agreement to hire new teachers, is a ploy to force the teachers back to work.

The question was put to Mr. Honsberger by newsmen following a marathon public meeting Thursday of last week at the board offices in Aurora, at which an overflow crowd sat, stood and slumped in every available space, and listened and questioned as both the board and their own representatives gave their views on the secondary school teachers' strike, now in its sixth week.

Before the evening was over, the board had moved and passed five different resolutions, and three different delegations had made their own

representations.

eard Donald Deacon, MLA grade 12 students, who will sens, Markham; Merna Col- The second called on the MLA Deacon was taken to ork Centre, offer a public be winding up their second- bourne, chairman, East Premier to amend the Teach- task by Mrs. Quirk, who repology to Trustee Doreen ary schooling this year and Gwillimbury; Thomas Johns- ing Profession Act, so that futed a statement of his that wirk, of Markham; and going on to community col- ton, Georgina Township; teachers can be hired by the she had stated she was prerustee Robert Houghton, of leges, or some other course. Douglas Allen, Richmond board of education without pared to resign if a settletichmond Hill, a high school The resolutions passed by Hill; Marvin Hunter and belonging to the Ontario ment wasn't reached soon. eacher who refused to de- the board were as follows: Margaret Coburn, King; John Teachers Federation, lare a conflict of interest The board begin advertising McMurray, Whitchurch-

eacher.

SCHOOL FOR 13's

nts-there are 1,050 in the gin March 15. ounty-to one or two cen- The motion, for which a omplete their courses, even carried 12 to 8. the strike continues in-

BY JIM IRVING

start hiring new ones.

later declared, that by using

concessions if the board charged.

ses, unless mutually agreed at 4 pm.

latest teacher proposal show- had no say.

that PTR be not less than from the floor.

12.5 to 1 for occupational sion had closed off at 5 pm. and special vocational cour- The matter was introduced

upon by the board and the With the continuing im-

Using the projected enrol- patient? asked another man.

ment for all other courses, Said Mr. Mathewson: "It the PTR should not be less could be settled tomorrow,

than 17.0 to 1, nor higher if we said 'you're in charge than 17.4 to 1 under the of the castle and we'll take

agreed to negotiate PTR.

local federation.

son said.

The distance between York stated.

olutions, the meeting also also be instituted for those Doreen Quirk, Donald Cou-binding arbitration.

for teachers, and staff be Stouffville; Conrad Thomp-Mr. Houghton, directed to take the neces- son, Richmond Hill; Morlee tion calling for acceptance of gized to Mrs. Quirk, saying ther teachers on the board, sary steps to fill the comple- Kinee Vaughan and John the teacher resignations, Mr. that he had been hasty in re John McMurray, Whit- ment of teachers so that reg- Honsberger Markham. hurch-Stouffville, and John ular programs can begin with- Voting against were-Trusaniowski, Schomberg, out delay. And those teachers tees Warren Bailie and rustee Quirk is a former who have resigned, be invited Robert Houghton, Richmond to return to work.

A subsequent amendment ina Township; Norm Weller, The board also said it by Trustee Raniowski, set the Aurora; Donald Sim and would consider the possibility date for the advertising and John MacKay, Markham; the strike, was to give the was presented. Mr. Hough- from Vince Mathewson, chief He said also, to big apbusing all grade 13 stud- hiring of the teachers to be- Craig Cribar, Newmarket; teachers everything they ask- ton refused to do so. and John Raniowski.

FOR AND AGAINST | cent (job) proposal to those

Mathewson Says Steeles Boundary

conference at the Black The telegram said that, Answer: Yes, but the board

tion by the school board, in pute. he or she could not matter of obtaining scholar-

jobs, January 31, and to vent teachers from working Answer: The federation

The action was "totally Mr. Mathewson said it ministry of education and

unacceptable" to the students, would probably get the sup- had some commitments.

teachers and the majority of port of enough teachers to These were not elaborated

Queried several times reason why the rest of the Answer: Teachers were

about the importance of board members had backed available on a one-to-one ba-

OMNIPOTENT

er is their main concern." pals.

passe, could parents remain

ers who walked off their | Could the federation pre- of the strike?

with the board?

board to hire.

TOTALLY UNACEPTABLE Mr. Mathewson said the sisting students?

the community, Mr. Mathew- make it difficult for the on.

thewson at first declared it that they would "lose their ing .

wasn't the key issue, and then marbles" if they didn't.

for and accept secondary lity.

Stumbling Block Salaries

Steeles Avenue, Vince Ma- teachers organizations, plus

for the OSSTF, told a press soliciting their support.

resignations of the 667 teach- from OSSTF.

Voting for were-Trustee teachers employed at present

same terms, the proposal the crumbs."

by the board, and that the unhappy with their emnegotiating committee be ployer?" directed to prepare a pro- Citing possible strike ac-

posal on March 11.

were both directed at Pre- last July,

mier William Davis. Besides the numerous re- A separate program would Ross Jolliffe, Vaughan; settled matters be referred to certification.

OSSTF INFLEXIBLE Honsberger said the board no the matter.

negotiating in good faith. ed for.

ral schools, so that they can recorded vote was taken, was The other resolutions—The way the board could possibly Parents' Council, headed by ents because of the present Mr. Honsberger said he board implement the most re- hire all the teachers it need- Jenny Acton, of Schomberg; situation. ed in the next month. How- and by Reverends Robert ever, there was 250 teachers Smith and Robert McElhinworking at present, and it ney, both of Richmond Hill, was hoped that some of the representing area clergymen, ledge of the same thing ap- larger now. present staff on strike would The two men urged the plying to the technical stud- In fact, the board had too

> FINAL STRAW in secondary schools.

Margaret McLean, com- reconciliation." County Board of Education In view of the board's la- He said people must care- munications officer for the The parents' group urged and the Ontario Secondary test proposal to accept the fully view both sides and de- board, said that the "final the board to act on the School Teachers' Federation in their present salary negotiations, is the width of the federation had sent that the federation had sent the federation should make the federation of the propathewson, chief negotiator "key international groups," suffering more than they OSSTF," including an "in- Bill Skarett and Mrs. G. flammatory" half-page ad in Gleurm. Hawk Inn in Richmond Hill, should any teacher apply must share some responsibi- week.

which it agreed to accept the expect any future assistance ships for deserving students, County Board of Education feelings.

ondary school teachers. An estimated 950 people

tion being considered by the All teachers who have con- various groups, the ad also tracted to work, will receive stated that the secretaries Mr. Honsberger was reply- proached by the board and retroactive pay to September had voted to join the Cana- ing to a question from the were well aware of applidian Union of Public Em- floor from a Thornhill wo- cants from this area. Comployees, but the school hadn't man, who wondered if Edu- munity colleges had also The final two resolutions negotiated with them since cation Minister Thomas Wells been informed and Seneca

had felt the matter to be College, for one, "was bend-Mrs. McLean termed this critical. The first called for the "deliberately misleading," as Mr. Honsberger said the commodate the students. board to request the Premier the federation was aware the Minister had not considered In reply to a question from take necessary action direct- board was prevented by law it to be so, and he, Hons- a student as to how lost time ing the teachers to return to from approaching this group berger, felt it was up to the would be made up, Mr. Honstheir jobs, and that all un- while it was considering schools to see how they berger said the "best answer

Mr. Deacon, who had suggested the trustees resign be-In speaking to the resolu- cause of the standstill, apolo-

longer felt the OSSTF was Mrs. Quirk later asked fellow Trustee Houghton if He said the OSSTF had re- he would declare his con- ing the OSSTF, said he a pupil-teacher ratio, per- about by the bigness of the mained so inflexible in its flict of interest as a member negotiations that the board of the OSSTF when the vote any representations to the "board-teacher ratio," Mr. needed to be able to relate felt the only way to resolve on accepting the resignations universities, but had heard Stone said.

He said there wasn't any tions were "A Quorum of prejudice entry of York stud- the school board.

board to settle its dispute ents. and offered the services of Mr. Honsberger said the in many lengthy hours in the numerous other teachers necessary systemic changes around who would like jobs which we believe to be

ganda campaign of the group were: Helen Poulis,

Directed at teachers, secre- issues during the evening by school children back into James Anglican Church in The conference was cal- school position with the Question: Was the federa- taries and school custodians, the audience, it appeared as class by Tuesday night Sutton, organizer of the stu- Robert McFibinney of Rich led to discuss the latest ac- York board during the dis- tien going to assist in the tien going to assist in the the add asked "Why are so if the latter was just as (March 12) then the Par- dent march on Queen's Park Robert McElhinney of Richmany employees of the York divided as the board in its ents Action Groups from the last week, said that many mond Hill; Ernest Johns

Also, it was felt there were the clergy in "bringing about universities had been ap- office and didn't have time essential to the process of reconciliation." The parents' group urged Dorene Trunk Leader

He said he had no know- go back. Everything was

students in class this year, should not be a crit-

Board of Education, told a public meeting at

Thornlea Secondary School in Thornhill last week.

in the area to discuss the current walkout of sec-

should handle the problem. | should come from your

ered if either the board or settled quickly, it was hoped

School Teachers' Federation the bulk of what was lost

had made arrangements with through extra work periods

to give special consideration sible extension of the school

be entering university in the Jack Stone, of Grandview

fall. Also, had any arrange- Avenue, Thornhill, said he

ments been made to accom- felt the "system" could be

to York students who would day.

UNIVERSITIES

APPROACHED

The questioner also wond- teachers." If the strike were

Ontario Secondary the teachers could make up

were in attendance.

The meeting was called by concerned parents

ing over backwards" to ac-

tended to be ignored.

If the provincial govern-, The decision by PAG, a Toronto newspaper last From the amount of ment doesn't commit itself which was released by Rev. applause given to various to a date for getting York Charles Edwards of St. region will be in Toronto new PAG groups in the reg- and Reginald Howden of schools by Wednesday morn- ion had voted their support Thornhill; Arthur Thomson, ing to register their child- of the action. ren, Dorene Trunk, 267 Richmond Hill Rotary Club Gretel Drive, said this week. has sent a message to Edu-Mrs. Trunk, who organized cation Minister Thomas the PAG of Richmond Hill, Wells expressing its concern said the group had plan- about the current teachers ned to enroll the students strike and urging the govin Toronto on Monday, ernment to bring it to an March 11. However, it had end. delayed its plans, pending the latest word from Educaincluding sending both sides

to compulsory arbitration.

few administrators. They put

that the board and the delay," the message read...

president Dr. Dennis Stainer. effect.

teachers the way they should. who was also a parent and intendents to students in if both sides were in favor ical issue in determining their final standing, York was the second lowest of "face-to-face meetings on John Honsberger, chairman of York County in the province.

> INSULT with one questioner, who ers back to school by March

asked if York was being 7? singled out as a political target by the OSSTF. To say so was an insult, to the second.

Mr. Connor said. There was no possible way the OSSTF tions; in fact, a settlement face. had been reached in Northumberland by sitting in the

without the mediator. He said that, in calling the strike, the teachers had undertaken a "drastic step," need anybody to hold your feeling that the only way they could get a settlement was through pressure. He said meetings, such as the one that night, put pressure out the mediator and hadn't on both groups.

universities in the province - less spares - and a pos-Thornhill, said area ministers had made an appeal to the teachers and trustees the board were instituting resolve the dispute.

medate technical students in the problem. It was too untheir statement was that community colleges at the wieldly, too many supervist there was "an obvious need end of the present school ors and chiefs. The teachers for an ongoing process of didn't know what the board reform within the system it-Ralph Connor, represent- Instead of worrying about self." Was this need brought didn't know firsthand of haps there should be a system? The community to the local school.

negotiator for the OSSTF, plause, that management members of the clergy, also Also making representathat the universities wouldn't must remain in the hands of offered them assistance, both the public will have a long agreed it would be nice to ing about necessary changes get back to a smaller opera- they felt essential to the longed applause. tion, but it was impossible to

in the immediate resolution memory in the next elecof the dispute, and in bring- tion," she concluded." process of reconciliation. The clergymen asked the two sides to: negotiate now

with a view to immediate stein. settlement, negotiate all outstanding issues, get the teachers and students back into the classrooms, recognize the gravity of the situation both within and without the educational system, and agree to compromise set positions in the interests of an immediate settlement of the impasse.

INFORMAL MEETINGS Signing the petition were: Bernard Barrett, Donald Downer, James Dauphinee, John McTavish, William Wallace, David Dyer, Robert John Hunter, Homer Mc-Avoy, Fred Hall and Paul Kritsch of Aurora; Douglas Paterson, Kettleby; Norman

of Markham. Mr. Honsberger said that meetings such as the one in progress, were the best ways "It has become apparent for the group to get involv-

McNairn, Sutton; and Don-

ald Parr and Charles Beaton

able to resolve their dif- should speak to the trustees ferences alone. We think it and attend board meetings is essential therefore that at every opportunity. They the Province take the neces- should also meet with the sary steps to resolve this dis- teachers and the board in an pute forthwith, so that the informal setting, without the students may resume their administrators in attendance. education without further He said he wasn't downgrading the latter, but they did It was signed by club tend to have an inhibiting

He said the ratio of super- a teacher, wanted to know the nuts-and-bolts issues we decide here? Also, were Mr. Connor took exception they ready to send the teach-

> Mr. Connor said "yes" to the first question and "no"

Mr. Honsberger said it was up to the mediator to see if could set a trend in negotia- they should meet face to

So far as the second question was concerned, it wasn't same room across the table for him to say, but the teach-

"You're over 21," said another speaker. "You don't hand. Let's go."

Mr. Honsberger said they had had 40 meetings withachieved anything. Since working with a mediator, Reverend Ernest Johns of they were now getting some-

One woman wondered if in an effort to get them to any scholarships, seeing as the five-week layoff had One of the points made in made the grade 13s inelig-

ible for scholarships. Mr. Honsberger said he would do, but he would present the matter at the next meeting and the board would

consider it. The speaker said also that she was "exasperated at the

The petition, signed by 20 length of time the negotiations have gone on. I hope The remark drew pro-

> David Cork chaired the meeting. Assisting him were Peter Ritchie and Mery Hol-

Two Streaks And Out! Much of what went on

at a meeting called by the Students' Action Committee at King Secondary School last Sunday afternoon to discuss the current teachers' strike in York County, was old hat. But there were at least a couple of firsts.

The meeting, which attracted between 400 and 500 people to hear OSSTF panelists, Dave Robinson and Ralph Connor, also attracted a couple of streakers, who roared across the back of the stage during a discourse by a female member of the audience, who, witnesses said, gained the undivided attention of her audience for the first time that after-

The streakers, themselves, kept right on going after their stage debut, out the front door and into a waiting car, where no doubt, they also

made a costume change. A petition, signed by 300 students, was presented to the meeting by Nick Papandreou, of SAC, calling for support of the teachers and an end to the six-weekold strike.

had made overtures to the ministry of education and had some commitments. Deacon Asks Voters Question: How are you assisting students? Answer: Teachers were For Trusteeship about the importance of board members had backed available on a offection be a settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection backet available on a offection be settled in the horizontal backet available on a offection backet available of a offection backet availab

the difference in pupil-teach- the board was "very zealous- Answer: The marks would terms agreeable to the gov- the board were John and cided on that course, giving

er ratio and salaries enjoyed ly guarding its power. The be submitted: the responsi- ernment. by teachers on the south side retention of omnipotent pow- bility was with the princi- Mr. Deacon made his pro- Anthony's Court, Richmond posed arbitration all along, He said also that salaries He said the beard had Question: Can you forsee the York County Board of telegram to John Hons- cide. Monday night, the and PTR were the major taken the extracurricular a settlement the way things Trustees to submit to his berger, chairman of the teachers turned down the issues dividing the two sides, jobs that the teachers did are going now? suggestion to resign and let trustees' negotiating com- plan.

although many minor ones voluntarily and put them on Answer: Yes if they can the government take over. | mittee. a compulsory basis. If the get down to the bargaining Instead the board voted 12 "As parents, taxpayers and In answer to another ques- teachers didn't "fulfill their table where the board would to 8 to accept the resigna- voters, the educational systion, he said the OSSTF responsibilities" in these have to show its reasoning. tion of the 667 secondary tem of York County is treatwould be willing to make areas, they would be dis- The board was reluctant to school teachers and start hir- ing us shamefully. Your divulge its position on ing new ones, March 15. board was elected to conduct The board was all power- things, Mr. Mathewson said. Mr. Deacon said he had educational affairs in our

the press conference were terminated as soon as an us. We especially resent and ed that they were willing to "It's important that you Eric Mclean, executive assis- election for a new school are disgusted with your forknegotiate PTR "by any name put on record how much distant, District 11 of the board can be held. cussion took place on that OSSTF, and Jack Lindop, "In this way, the students through the media and your The proposal also asked document," one man said chief negotiator for the ele- can get back into the schools refusal to compromise in the 12:00 to 1, nor higher than Mr. Mathewson said discus- York.

Centre, has asked registered the best court we have-the who was considering sev-Question: What had hap- voters to sign a request to ballot box," Mr Deacon said. eral options at that time, pened to the students' mark, the province to set up a said. the Steeles Avenue analogy, When asked to amplify which had to be submitted trusteeship to get the schools he meant that it represented the statement, he said that to the Ministry by March 15. back into full operation on Equally outspoken against The government since de-

posal following refusal of Hill, who sent the following until 9 pm Monday to de-

Mr. Mathewson said the ful at present, the leaders Also appearing with him at asked that the trusteeship be County and you have failed

who is right and wrong in Ccunty."

Melba Lounsbury, 188 St. the teachers, who have op-

ed togue pronouncements mentary school teachers in immediately and the issue of interests of education in our

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