

THE RICHMOND HILL Liberal

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Unless agreement reached

Schools out-of-bounds to high school teachers

Over 1,000 secondary school teachers will not be allowed in the Region's 15 high schools next Tuesday unless negotiating teams can arrive at a contract settlement before the term's opening day.

Monday night, in front of more than 100 teachers and spectators, trustees voted 14-3 in favor of a lockout. There were two abstentions (including the chairman) and one trustee was absent.

In a previous vote, the group showed its solidarity by unanimously rejecting a Form 7 — the teachers' official response outlining their final position on negotiations. Though the board relented on its hard line toward arbitration in July, and agreed to take all money-related items to a third-party arbitrator, the teachers' final demands still left five issues outstanding in the stalemate.

The Crux

Of those issues, the crux of the matter has boiled down to the request by teachers to have it written into the contract that 20 per cent of their time be unassigned — to be used strictly

as class preparation and evaluation time. The board refused to allow this issue to go to arbitration.

Another attempt at mediation was scheduled for yesterday (Tuesday) and while both sides regretted the severity of the situation, they claimed every effort would be made to reach a settlement before the opening school day.

In his opening address to the board Monday, chief negotiator Bill Monroe said the dispute has now become one of ethics and morality. He was referring to a work-to-rule campaign begun during the final three days of last year, which the provincial federation has promised would continue again next week.

Unfair to Students

Because of the teachers' likely compliance with a long list of 'sanctioned activities', Mr. Monroe explained his negotiating committee felt it would not only be unfair to the students and taxpayers in the Region to allow the teachers into school, but it could also be detrimental and dangerous for students because of a lack of organization and supervision.

"The gist of the whole thing is that it does take away the right from a principal to administer his own school. This in fact is why our committee opposed allowing the work-to-rule to continue," he said.

"... there has been a lot of publicity in the press, in TV appearances and through letters and calls from parents to trustees. In a sense, I was unhappy to see so much support for a lockout but in another sense I was saddened by it. Since the negotiations began, I've personally felt they have gone well. The name of the game is the education of the students — but it has come to a matter of ethics and morals. I think it would be highly unethical to pay people for a job they are not doing. At this point, the only way to prevent a lockout is if an agreement is reached in mediation between now and September 4," he said.

Priorities

In an 11th hour attempt to get trustees to change their minds, District 11 OSSTF President Tony Bulson asked them to postpone a decision on a lockout until mediation at least had a

chance to produce a settlement. He claimed the board is "putting more priority on administrative practices and conveniences than on the learning process," a statement which prompted one trustee to retort the teachers are more concerned with contracts and salaries than being interested in children and education.

Though Mr. Monroe had asked for board solidarity on the lockout vote, June Armstrong (Richmond Hill), Hector Massey (King) and Audrey Hall (Georgina) broke ranks and voted against it.

Mrs. Armstrong stressed she did not favor the work-to-rule campaign because, if allowed to continue, the flexibility of York's three types of high schools would be undermined.

"I just wish this meeting were on Thursday because the mediation must be given a chance. On that grounds, I cannot vote for a lockout," she said.

Principals and vice-principals are not included in the lockout so registration for school will carry on as normally as possible. Director Sam Chapman said it would be in the best interest of

the students to send them home on September 4. On subsequent days, no buses will run (a majority of high schoolers are bused in) but he said students would be let into resource centres to the extent they could be supervised.

Special meeting

Chairman Don Cousens cut the director off, saying a special closed meeting of the board was already slated for today (Wednesday) to discuss contingency plans.

On salaries, which will eventually be settled by an arbitrator, the teachers are asking for a 23.2 per cent increase over two years, plus a COLA clause, 100 per cent of fringe benefits and other allowances relating to responsibilities and extra degrees. The board has offered 16.9 per cent for the two-year package, with a .5 per cent COLA in 1980-81.

"My concern about opening for the first week is that salary costs alone would be \$600,000 and we'd only be getting \$300,000 worth of services," said Aurora Trustee Norm Weller. "If you think about it, the teachers owe us, as taxpayers, for the final three days of last term. If you want to be big boys and girls and make the big dollars, you have to earn them."

Oak Ridges Principal Ed Burlew dies



ED BURLEW

He had a heart attack earlier this year and was off the job for several months. He returned to complete the school year.

Staff supervisory officer Terry Gray has been appointed acting principal of the school for the first two weeks of the school year. Following that, Ed Wells, principal of Lake Wilcox Public School, will serve as acting principal until a permanent replacement is named, a spokesman for the York County Board of Education said yesterday.

When the new Town of Richmond Hill became a reality in 1971, Mr. Burlew was instrumental in involving his Oak Ridges students in inter-school activities with other Richmond Hill schools. (Prior to 1971, Oak Ridges was in King Township.) Mr. Burlew is survived by his wife Edna and a son, Edward, a lawyer in Oak Ridges.

An Ed Burlew Memorial Fund has been established to purchase school equipment and a trophy. Persons wishing to contribute may make cheques payable to the fund in care of Ken Blyth, P.O. Box 520, Oak Ridges.

Funeral services were held from Thompson's Funeral Home in Aurora, with burial in Aurora Cemetery.

The students of Mr. Burlew's Grade 6 class from last year took up a collection and contributed it to the Canadian Heart Fund.

Funeral services were held Saturday for Edward Burlew, principal at Oak Ridges Public School, who died last Tuesday of a heart attack at age 52.

Mr. Burlew was principal at Oak Ridges for 10 years. Before taking over the Oak Ridges school, he was principal at Kinghorn Public School for a year.

Stong is down on hydro wires

York Centre MLA, Alf Stong, said he is disappointed with the Minister of the Environment and he is afraid residents of Richmond Hill are going to be faced with a wall of wires over the entrance to the town.

"It's going to be a monstrosity," he said about the hydro transmission lines to be constructed next year in the Parkway Belt West, located in the Highway 7 area.

Mr. Stong said he is disappointed the Honourable Harry C. Parrott, Minister of the Environment, will not "apply the law that is available to protect the rights

and investment of citizens who will be affected by these towers."

He said he is disappointed Mr. Parrott has left it in the hands of municipal councils or individuals to take their problem to the courts.

The only alternative seen by the provincial representative is to start a court action asking for an injunction. This would precipitate a hearing under the Environmental Assessment Act.

"There is no doubt in my mind," he added, "these lines are being constructed to transfer power to the United States."

Bond Steel, council wrangle over site

A proposal for a new location by Bond Structural Steel gained firm support of council last week.

Bond Steel and a committee of staff and council have been scouring the municipality intensively for seven months for a site to be rezoned for the steel fabricating company.

The present site on Markham Road is needed by the region to build a grade separation at the CNR tracks.

At a special council meeting called last Thursday, Bond Steel outlined a proposal to buy a 12-acre site on the south side of Markham Road, just west of Leslie Street, and a further 12 acres immediately south of that property.

Leonard Prusky, president of Bond Steel, and solicitor David Samuel were present at the meeting to ask council's blessing in the form of support for rezoning before buying the property.

Council was split in support of Bond Steel's proposal, with Mayor Dave Schiller and

councillors Al Duffy, John Birchall and Mike Burnie against the proposal for several reasons.

Some of the arguments brought forward for consideration were that rezoning in this spot would set a precedent, the area is designated "agricultural" in both the town and the Region's official plan, the area is considered "rural", it would not be compatible with the small rural community of Hedford, and a building could not be easily hidden with berms or buffers.

Councillors Al Duffy and John Birchall felt agricultural land should not be taken out of production.

Councillor Bill Corcoran put the agricultural aspect in perspective by questioning council why it would object to 12 acres being taken out of agricultural production. He said no one complained when 600 acres of "prime agricultural" land were designated industrial for the Beaver Creek Industrial Park at Leslie Street and Highway 7.

Speaking for Mr. Prusky, Mr. Samuel agreed the site suggested was not the best in the community, but questioned how long the company could go on looking for a site.

"No matter what site we choose we're going to create problems," he added.

At one point debate became heated, both for and against the proposed site. The timing of the grade separation and the reason for the hold-up were focal points for conversation.

Leonard Prusky hotly referred to the negative approach of the mayor to the Bond Steel problem.

He stated flatly there was a personality conflict between himself and the mayor and accused the mayor of being instrumental in holding up the relocation. Mr. Prusky gathered his notes and promptly left the meeting in apparent frustration at this point.

After his exit, council members settled down to try to find a solution to the problem.

Conflict of Interest changes recommended

A conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) last week received recommendations on procedures already in force at Richmond Hill council.

Richmond Hill's mayor, Dave Schiller, sat on a committee studying changes in Conflict of Interest legislation at the municipal level.

The committee presented an in-depth report to AMO, which the mayor said was "well received".

Mayor Schiller said the purpose of most of the recommendations made by the committee were to make it clear when a politician is in a position of conflict of interest.

To protect public interest the committee also suggested harsher penalties for persons found guilty of breaching the Conflict of Interest Act.

Legislation enacted in 1972 states if a judge finds a person breaching the act in a flagrant way, such as using the office for financial gain, he or she can be suspended for up to seven years.

Mayor Schiller said recommendations by the special committee were to include a time-period of six years when a person could still be brought to court for breach of the act.

The committee also recommended a fine up to \$10,000 be

attached if a person is found guilty. Restitution will also be required.

A short time ago, Richmond Hill passed a resolution requiring any member of council declaring conflict of interest on a matter, to state the nature of the conflict.

Mayor Schiller said recommendations from the committee to AMO included this point and the reason for the declaration, must be recorded in the minutes.

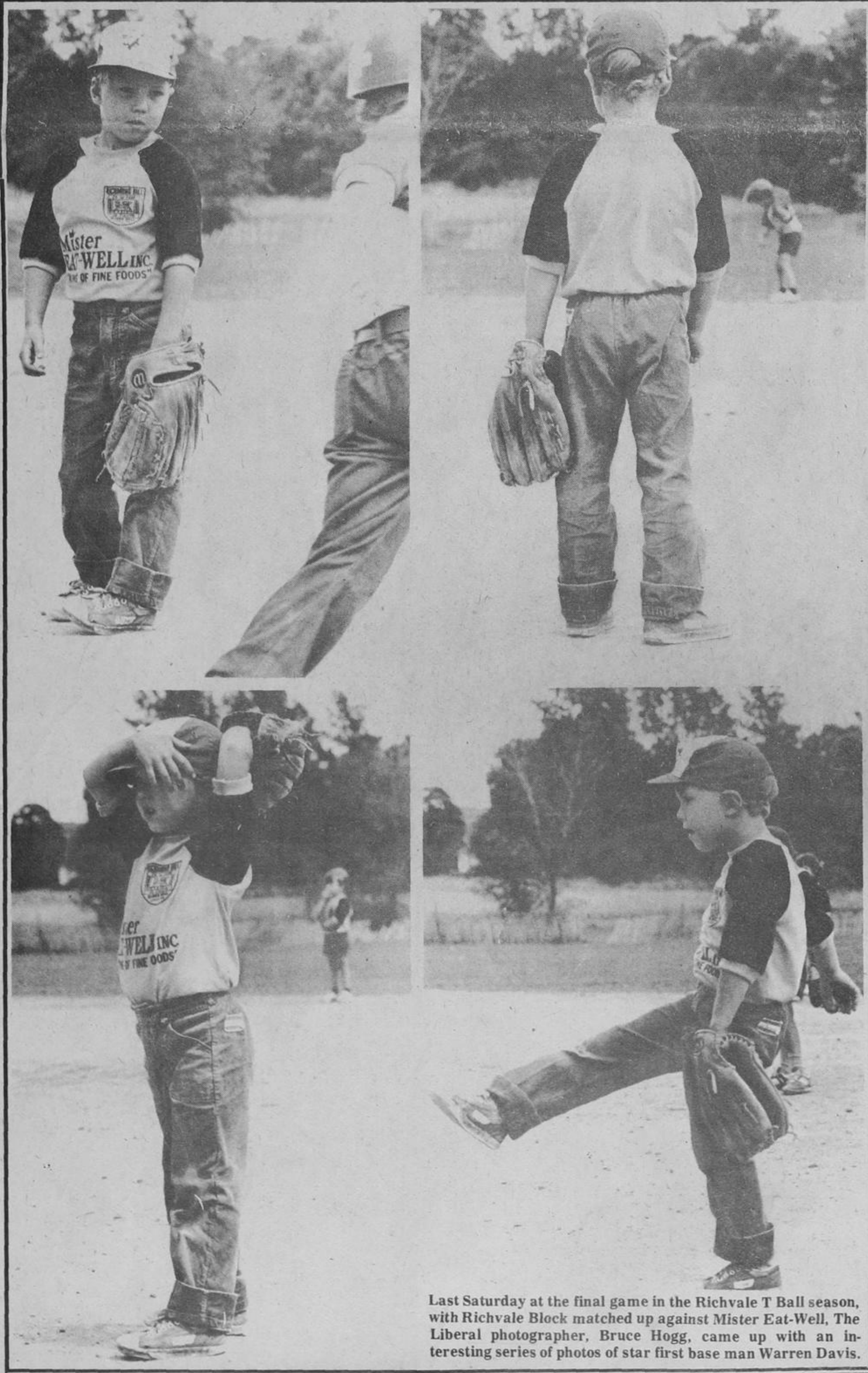
The recommendation to AMO goes one step further, said the mayor, in suggesting the establishment of a central registry of declarations of conflict of interest, so ratepayers can check on their member and the reason for his withdrawal from a certain issue.

At this time, if a meeting is held "in camera" or in private, a member who declares conflict of interest can still sit through the meeting. With the new recommendation, such a person would be required to leave the meeting.

"Justice must not only be done but must appear to be done," quoted the mayor.

The fact Richmond Hill already adheres to most of these policies is important, agreed the mayor, but the committee felt it must put down on paper procedures already followed by a few municipalities.

The recommendations were accepted by AMO and will now go to the province for review before they are adopted into the act.



Last Saturday at the final game in the Richvale T Ball season, with Richvale Block matched up against Mister Eat-Well, The Liberal photographer, Bruce Hogg, came up with an interesting series of photos of star first base man Warren Davis.

Holiday hours

In order to give staff the Labour Day weekend, The Liberal display, classified and business departments will be closed Monday, Sept. 3.

Deadline for display advertising is 5 p.m. Friday, and classified is 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The editorial department will be open, Monday, Sept. 3.