

Queen's Park

By ALF STONG

In light of the contract dispute between the York County Board of Education and its elementary teachers, and more particularly because the teachers refused to accept the contract even though the Board ratified the Agreement in August, the situation involving the elementary school teachers in Peel County is of great interest to the Regional Municipality of York.

The issue of elementary school teachers being on strike dominated much of the thinking at Queen's Park last week as the Province's first elementary school teachers' strike completed its second week in Peel County.

Since 1974 when the right to strike was approved by the Ontario Legislature, there have been 19 strikes involving more than 300,000 students with an average of seven to eight weeks of lost schooling.

A recent report analyzed the long and bitter secondary school teachers strike in Toronto and concluded that many students did not return to school and those who went on to University experienced more difficulties with their studies. There were also signs of reduced respect for teachers by their students.

The issue is not an easy one to settle. Both the teachers and the school boards have genuine concerns that need to be resolved. The teachers are looking for a fair and just wage settlement that recognizes today's runaway inflation.

In a time of declining enrollment, they also want some fair and equitable arrangement for deciding which teachers are to be let go.

The school board on the other hand, must be aware of its stewardship of the taxpayers' money, especially at a time when a larger share of the cost of education is being borne by local property taxpayers.

The board is also responsible for providing the best quality education it can and therefore wants to retain its best teachers. The issue is not black and white — both sides have strong feelings about the rightness of their case.

The real question then is not who is right or who is wrong, but rather how to resolve the differences in a fair way. We have now had five years of experience in using strikes as the settlement procedure. Nobody seems satisfied with the results.

Teachers are professionals; they are aware of their responsibilities to their students; and they do not like the disruptive effect of a strike on the learning process.

Trustees are elected to keep schools open, not closed; they are deeply aware of public animosity to a strike situation; and they too do not want students schooling to be so violently disrupted.

Students and their parents see themselves as the innocent victims in this power struggle. Students become skeptical and disenchanted with the value of education when they see that it can be interrupted for almost two months. Parents see their family life seriously disrupted, especially in those families where both parents must work outside the home.

The social and moral consequences of large numbers of children having so much free time on their hands has not yet been measured, but it must surely be detrimental.

As we move into the 1980's, it seems clear to me at least that a better way must be found to resolve such disputes. The Liberal Opposition, Education Critic has recommended that the provincial government establish a permanent board of arbitrators from which two or three members could be drawn when a local negotiation breaks down.

Such board members would quickly become very knowledgeable about the education process and become understanding of the concerns of both teachers and school trustees. Since they could not disappear after making their settlement decisions, they would quickly tend to arrive at fair and responsible decisions.

Radio Shack

FREE catalogue

Our 1980 catalogue has arrived, with 176 colourful pages of the latest in electronics for your home, hobbyroom, boat, car, business and more. Pick up your free copy at your nearby Radio Shack store today — you'll see once again just what makes us the world's leading retailer in specialty electronics!

autumn audio sale



What a deal on a radio/recorder!

Realistic CTR-45, our most popular AM/FM radio and cassette recorder/player combo, is priced to clear out and make room for a newer model. What a break for you, because it's loaded with super features. You can take it with you to record meetings, lectures, band concerts... or whatever you like. You can play pre-recorded tapes or build a tape library by recording "off-the-air". And of course, you can listen in to your favourite AM and FM stations. Operates on AC (cord included) or 4 "C" batteries (not incl.)... or plug it into your car with a DC lighter adapter. (Not included). A great buy! 14-830

69⁹⁵ Was 109.95

CLEARANCE

Save \$40



AM/FM and phono stereo system with 8-track. 379⁹⁵ Reg. 419.95



Reg. 439.95 399⁹⁵ AM/FM and phono stereo system with cassette. Tapes not included

Get more than just great stereo listening... get a whole entertainment centre!

Turning on the AM or FM stereo and listening to great sounds is just the beginning. Playing pre-recorded tapes is super, too! And when the mood strikes you, you can play your favourite 45s, 78s or LPs. You can also borrow a record from a friend and tape it for yourself. Or build a tape library that you can also use in your car, by recording from records or off the air. Like to sing? Then use the Sing-Along feature to add your own voice to the music as you record. And that's not all... you can create your own mono recordings by adding one mike or produce your own stereo by adding two mikes. Add two more speakers for a glorious theatre-type surround-sound. Entertainment? Believe it... these Clarinette™ systems have it all, including all of the meters and controls you want for making super recordings. The handsome speakers are 22" high. Each has an 8" woofer, 5" midrange and 3" tweeter. Come on in and hear them today. 13-1202. With 8-track. Reg. 419.95. Sale 379.95 13-1203. With cassette. Reg. 439.95. Sale 399.95



REALISTIC

Add FM to your AM auto radio

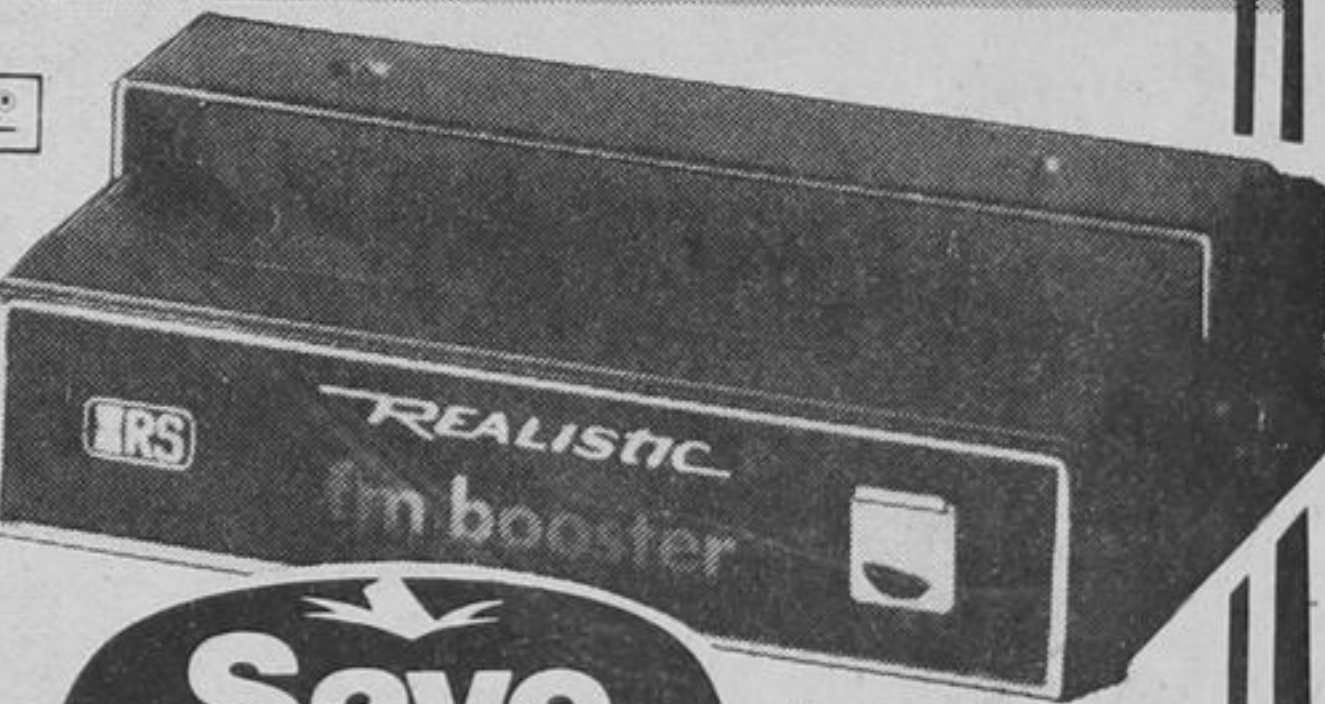
Get a lot of extra entertainment from your auto radio by adding your favourite FM stations. There's nothing extra to buy. The adapter plug lets you hook it up without rewiring and it connects to your present AM antenna. Works with any 12VDC auto system. Has automatic polarity switching for negative or positive ground vehicles. Fits under the dash of any car. A super entertainment buy! 12-1348

29⁹⁵ Reg. 39.95

REALISTIC

Get more stations on your auto FM radio

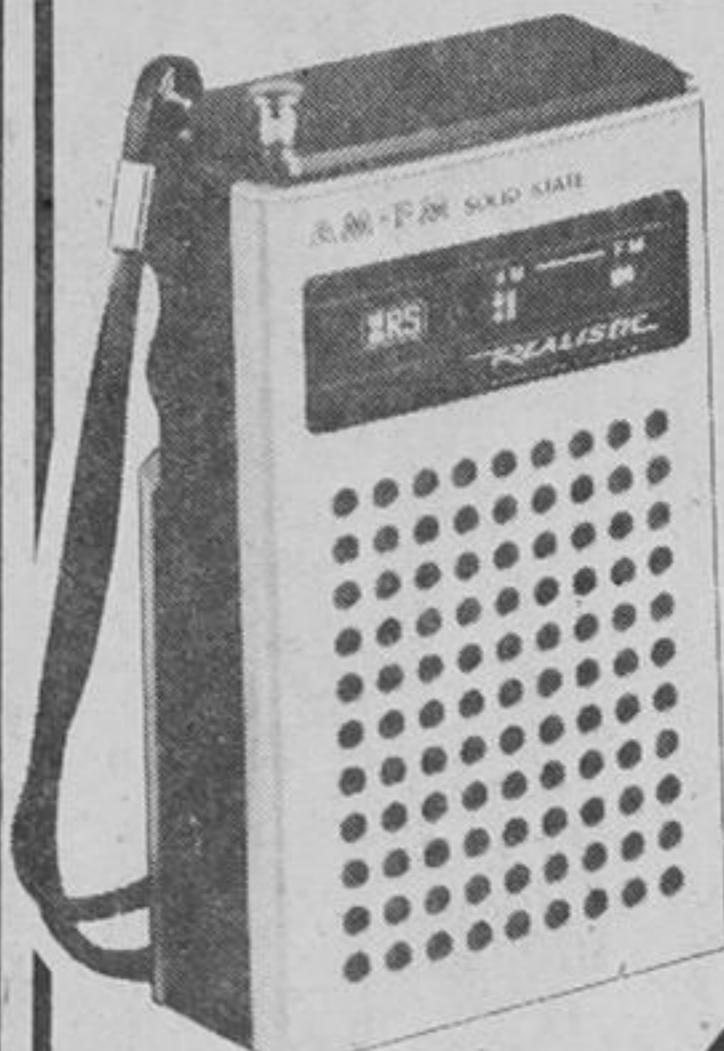
This compact FM booster amplifies the range of your FM or FM-stereo auto radio so that you can pick up more of your favourite stations and receive those that you already get, with a clearer, stronger signal. It's also great when you're out on the highway and need all the signal you can get. Comes with all the necessary installation hardware and instructions. Hooks up easily without rewiring. 12-1873



Save \$5

Shown actual size 1 x 3-1/2 x 2-3/8"

19⁹⁵ Reg. 24.95



REALISTIC

Big-sounding little radio

We've packed a lot into this little AM/FM portable radio. Two ceramic filters produce outstanding FM, with excellent sensitivity and tonal quality. Uses one 9V battery (not incl'd). Earphone and wrist strap. Take the music with you and save. 12-609

17⁹⁵ Reg. 22.95

Save \$5



Save \$5

24⁹⁵ Reg. 29.95

Attractive AM/FM table radio

This super little radio will look great on your kitchen counter or anywhere in your house. AFC lets you tune in your FM station and helps to keep you from drifting off. And transformerless input/output gives you superior sound. Get your working companion today, at this low sale price.



Save \$10

37⁹⁵ each Reg. 47.95 each

Add a second pair of speakers to your stereo system

This Realistic MC-500 speaker produces wide-range sound in an enclosure about 1/3 the size you'd expect. Recommended handling power is 35 watts... and that's surprising too, for the size. A great little add-on speaker. 11-3/4 x 9 x 5-3/4". 40-1981

Radio Shack

RADIO SHACK'S POLICY ON ADVERTISED ITEMS

The products in this ad were selected in advance of this offering, therefore, situations may occur where all products may not be available at some stores. If the product is temporarily out of stock, we will issue a Rain Check enabling you to obtain the item at the advertised price. Prices shown are in effect at Radio Shack stores and are the maximum at Authorized Sales Centres (dealers). Dealers are not obligated to stock, but may obtain the full Radio Shack line. We are not liable for typographical errors. All registered trade-marks are the property of Tandy Corporation. Tandy Electronics Limited being a registered user.

Sale prices in effect until October 27, 1979

Hillcrest Mall
Richmond Hill
Richmond Heights
Shopping Centre,
Richmond Hill

Bayhill Mews,
Thornhill
Upper Canada Mall,
Newmarket

