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Wednesday, November 14, 1979

Teacher lockout hearings

Tape recording may be key piece of evidence

By DON BERNARD

The tape recording of a private school board meeting looms as a key piece of evidence in determining whether York Region's 1,000 high school teachers were illegally locked out of their schools last Sept. 5 and 6.

As three days of testimony before the Ontario Labor Relations Board ended Friday, the teachers' lawyer said he intends to subpoena tapes of a Sept. 4 meeting where the York County Board of Education debated the teachers' work-to-rule sanctions and voted to close the 15 high schools.

The teachers are asking the OLRB to declare the closure an illegal lockout and give them about \$250,000 worth of lost pay for the two days. The case is the first of its kind in Ontario history.

The hearing has been adjourned to Dec. 4, and will reconvene Dec. 18 for at least four days. The teachers have subpoenaed more than 50 witnesses.

Last week lawyer Morris Green, representing District 11 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, said he would subpoena the tape in an effort to show that the board closed the schools as an act of

revenge against the teachers.

In his opening remarks Wednesday, Mr. Green said trustees voted to close the schools "in retribution and vindictiveness because the teachers did not discontinue their work to rule." Board lawyer Roy Filion argued, however, that the board had passed the closure motion "in good faith, based on the board's assessment of the facts before the trustees at that time."

The closure was effected under a section of law allowing the schools to be shut down when trustees judge that "a strike will substantially interfere with the operation of a school."

Written reports from top-level board supervisors indicated that the opening day (Sept. 4) in York's high schools proceeded without serious problems, despite the sanctions.

However, these officials also stressed in their testimony that they feared problems would soon arise if the work-to-rule continued.

The hearing also made public for the first time that the board originally considered a motion to close the schools only on Thursday, Sept. 6. However, on an amendment by Aurora Trustee Norm Weller, trustees

decided to implement the closure for two days.

Only George Massey of King, Audrey Hall of Georgina and separate school representative John Stephens voted against the closure. Sixteen trustees voted in favor and one abstained.

Mr. Massey, who bitterly criticized the closure in a news release the next day, was unable to shed any light on the private Sept. 4 debate when he was called to testify last week.

He repeatedly testified that he was unable to recall specific parts of the trustees' discussion. OLRB panel chairman Michel Picher asked Mr. Massey, "In your view, was there that element present of 'teaching the teachers a lesson'?"

Mr. Massey said no statement of that nature was made at the closed meeting.

The day after the closure debate, Mr. Massey called the decision "emotional" and said in a news release: "If the teachers sometimes sulk and threaten to pick up their marbles and go home, far too often we trustees yield to the temptation to banish them from the playground."

Trustees said they believed the teachers had agreed to relax the

sanctions as a result of a tentative agreement reached Sept. 3. The teachers argued that they had made no such agreement, and last week, a presentation OSSTF negotiator testified that the teachers had agreed only to make Sept. 4 "as normal a day as possible" under the circumstances.

Under Mr. Filion's questioning, OSSTF negotiator Jim Forster agreed that the OSSTF "takeover team," which he headed, could have ordered a relaxation of the work to rule.

He also said an OSSTF work-to-rule memo to teachers represented an "instruction," not a guideline, and that teachers who failed to comply with the sanction rules could be disciplined by the federation.

Mike Wasylenky, an OSSTF branch president and a Sutton District High School teacher, testified that he had assured his principal that teachers would not see students "jeopardized" on Sept. 4.

Work-to-rule instructions were not followed to the letter, some teachers passed out textbooks and some supervisory duties were performed at his school, Mr. Wasylenky said.

Mr. Green, the OSSTF lawyer, called eight witnesses last week. Four were board supervisory officials. Mr. Green also entered into evidence their reports to the board of the visits they made to various schools on Sept. 4.

The four were Ken Stanley, Frank Wilkinson, Tim Roebuck and Peter Ross. Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Ross also made oral presentations and answered trustees' questions at the closed meeting.

Although they agreed there were few problems in the schools Sept. 4, the four supervisors noted in their reports that principals were being careful not to cause confrontations by asking teachers to carry out functions that would violate the sanctions.

The four supervisors testified that they did not think the situation could have continued for long without students taking advantage of the lack of discipline.

Mr. Wilkinson testified that he felt disciplinary problems would have been inevitable.

"I would have a very serious concern (if the work to rule continued)," Mr. Wilkinson said. "Pupils bring a definite expectation of discipline before they arrive."

The students likely were taking a wait-and-see attitude on the first day of school, he suggested.

In reply to a question from Mr. Filion, Mr. Wilkinson said, "My own feeling is that it's extremely difficult to run a school without supervision."

"To do so you're asking for severe safety problems for the students," Mr. Wilkinson added. "It's not a matter of if they will happen, but when."

Under questioning from the OSSTF lawyer, Mr. Wilkinson cited the student violence that followed the North York teachers' work to rule campaign.

The same thing likely would

have happened in York Region "because students in any area are much the same regardless of where you live."

As the first round of the hearing closed Friday, the board lawyer objected to the OSSTF plan to subpoena the tapes. Mr. Filion said he felt tapes of a private board meeting should not be played in public.

Mr. Picher, the hearing chairman, said he would consider the matter once the tapes were subpoenaed. He said he saw no reason why relevant portions of the tapes could not be played for the three OLRB panel members.

Another surprise

Cindy Allingham, Richmond Hill Transit's millionth rider, received another pleasant surprise Monday night at council meeting.

Wayne Dow, of Travelways, "the company which operates the buses for Richmond Hill Transit, appeared to hand over tickets for her ride, a trip to Nashville, and added that Travelways had taken the liberty of enclosing \$100, for spending money.

Transit Co-ordinator for the town, Bud Newton, presented Mrs. Allingham with a pass to town transit facilities for one year.

Mr. Newton said it took three and one-half years to get to number 1,000,000 but he expected the second millionth passenger to board a town bus in about two years — then there will be another celebration.

HELPMATE INFORMATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY												
<p>Your community needs you</p> <p>to WELCOME LILLIAN SILVER, Lillian is the new Richmond Hill Volunteer Bureau Co-ordinator and she needs you to continue to support the Volunteer Bureau.</p> <p>For the past year the Richmond Hill Volunteer Bureau has been funded on a project basis by Canada Works. During the past year the Bureau has referred over 260 volunteers to different agencies in the Richmond Hill-Thornhill area.</p> <p>People who have not previously volunteered are now involved in work with children, sports programs, schools, animals, offices, social service agencies, seniors etc.</p> <p>The success of the Volunteer Bureau in recruiting and placing people into volunteer positions indicated the need to continue the Bureau's services after the project's completion.</p> <p>To this end a plea was made for the community to financially support the Volunteer Bureau. Some donations were made (although more support is needed) and it now appears that the Volunteer Bureau can continue in operation until March 1980.</p> <p>883-2234</p> <p>November</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Canadian Progress Club-York Central, 7 p.m. Call Dave Amos 884-3888.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Public Library "The Treasures of Tutankhamen" lecture and slide show, 7:30 p.m. Registration limited.</p> <p>"Hooked on Books" book sale and events at Bayview Fairways Public School, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>St. Mary Immaculate Church, craft night and bazaar preparation, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Lake Wilcox Program Committee offers euchre and games 8-10 p.m. at Lake Wilcox Community Centre. Info: 887-5933.</p> <p>St. Matthew's United Church, UCW at the church, 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Richmond Hill Lions Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Lions Hall, Centre St. Richmond Hill.</p> <p>Book sale and events at Bayview Fairways Public School, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>Thornhill Newcomers Club coffee party. Info: 881-8094 or 881-0457</p> <p>Creative Recreation program for children aged 5 to 10 at Charles Howitt and Beverley Acres Schools, 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. Info: 884-4811.</p> <p>YCAMP adult coffee house at St. Mary Immaculate Church, 8 p.m.</p> <p>B'nai B'rith meeting, Gallanough Public Library, 8 p.m. Members welcome. Info: 881-2655.</p> <p>UCW General Meeting, St. Matthew's United Church, film on the work of the Bible Society with the blind. All welcome.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Benefit Dance for Vietnamese refugees at St. Mary Immaculate Church, 8 p.m. All welcome. Tickets: 884-3009.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Naturalists, 8 p.m. Blue Flame Room, Consumers Gas Building.</p> <p>Wheelhouse Senior Citizens Club, craft and work day at 12 King Side Road, 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Thornhill Community Centre Library-Life Accreditation Seminar, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. November 15 and 16. Registration, Seneca-King Campus. Info: 884-9901.</p> <p>Thornhill Comm. Ctre. Library, Art-Tapestries to November 17.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Hollyberry Bazaar, St. Gabriel's Anglican Church, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Info: 884-5443 or 884-3697.</p> <p>Pottery and Weaving Sale, Burr Craft House, Carrville Rd. 1 to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Cornhusk Scarecrow Workshop (ages 8 to 12) Charles Connor Library 10 a.m. pre-register.</p> <p>Toronto Waldorf School, 9100 Bathurst Street, Christmas Fair, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: 881-1863.</p> <p>Xi Beta Rho chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, Torchlight Dance at Thornhill Community Centre.</p> <p>Thornhill Comm. Ctre Library, Children's Book Festival, 10:30 a.m. children 6 to 12 pre-register. 881-5668.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Santa Claus Parade, Richmond Hill 1:30 p.m. Info: 884-7005.</p> <p>Annual Craft Fair, Thornhill Community Centre 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Eta Psi chapter Beta Sigma Phi.</p> <p>York Region Family 'Y' Run, everyone welcome, 9 a.m. Info: 884-0961.</p> <p>Pottery and Weaving sale, Burr Craft House, 1 to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Richvale Lions Bingo, 31 Spruce Avenue, Richmond Hill 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Richmond Hill Group of Artists workshop, 7:30 p.m. Crosby School Call 889-1362.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Historical Society, McLaren Auditorium 8 p.m.</p> <p>Rotary TV Auction in honor of Year of the Child to be held first week in December to raise money for Centre for Learning Disabilities. Info: 884-6274.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>One Parent Families Association, Richmond Hill Volleyball at Crosby School, 8-10 p.m.</p> <p>Lake Wilcox Program Committee Evening activities for children ages 5 to 13 at Lake Wilcox Community Centre. Info: 887-5933.</p> <p>TOPS Christmas Bazaar 7:30 p.m. in portable at St. Gabriel's Anglican Church.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Coin Club, 7 p.m. Richmond Hill High School.</p> <p>King College Ratepayers Association general meeting, 8 p.m. Thornlea Secondary School.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCW meeting 8 p.m.</p> <p>Thornhill Radio Amateur Club meeting at Thornlea Secondary School 8 p.m. Call 881-2891.</p> <p>Evening Book Discussion Group, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Thornhill Community Centre Library.</p> <p>Canadian Diabetic Association Annual meeting at York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill 8 p.m. Topic — Stress and the diabetic.</p> <p>St. John Ambulance brigade training session, Richvale Comm. Ctre Lounge 8 p.m. Info: 884-4204.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Thornhill Newcomers club meeting 8 p.m. Heintzman House. All newcomers welcome. Info: 881-8094.</p> <p>Civic Improvement meeting, Town offices, Committee Room B 8 p.m.</p> <p>St. Matthew's Singles Group with a Difference, coffee and conversation evening, 53 Rockport Crescent, 8 p.m. Info: 884-3606 or 884-5831.</p> <p>Thornhill Community Centre Library at 7:45 p.m. a demonstration by Marilyn Barnes on how to beautify your home for Christmas with flowers.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Hilltop Operetta Society Concert, 8 p.m. Wrixon Hall, St. Mary's Anglican.</p> <p>Wheelhouse Senior Citizens Club craft and work day at 12 King Side Road, 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Richvale Library, Children's Book Festival from November 17 to 30.</p> <p>Art-Thornhill Amirault from November 19-30.</p> <p>Thornhill Village Library, Children's Book Festival Week from November 17 to 24.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Monte Carlo Night-Heintzman House for Thornhill Thunderbirds Hockey Association 889-4431 or 889-2490.</p> <p>Pottery and Weaving Sale, Burr Craft House, 1 to 4 p.m.</p> <p>St. Mary Immaculate Church, Bazaar and Luncheon, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <p>Christmas Bazaar, Emmanuel Anglican, Richvale, 1 to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Oak Ridges Minor Hockey Dance, Bond Lake Arena 8 p.m. Tickets: 884-0886.</p> <p>St. John's Baptist, Poinsettia Bazaar 1:30 to 5 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pottery and Weaving Sale, Burr Craft House, Carrville Road, 1-4 p.m.</p> <p>Group Run from Family Y, Richmond Hill, 9 a.m. Info: 884-0961.</p> <p>Richvale Lions Bingo, 31 Spruce Avenue, Richvale, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>York Regional Camera Club, Richmond Hill High School, 7:30-9:30 p.m.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Group of Artists Workshop, Crosby School, 7:30 p.m. Info: 889-1362.</p> <p>Al-Anon, St. Matthew's United Church, Crosby Ave., R. Hill, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Stroke Recovery Meeting, St. Mathew's United Church, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Exec meeting for One-Parent Families, 337 Neal Drive, Richmond Hill 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Al-Anon, St. Matthew's United Church, Crosby Ave., R. Hill, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Canadian Progress Club, York Central, 7 p.m. Info: 884-3888</p> <p>Babysitting Co-op Meeting, 117 Arnold Crescent, R. Hill, 8 p.m. Info: 884-3903.</p> <p>Thornhill Village Library, pre-school French, 1:30 p.m. 881-8299.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>YCAMP adult coffee house, St. Mary Immaculate, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Thornhill Newcomers meeting, 8 p.m. 881-8094 or 881-0457.</p> <p>Curtain Club "The Lady's Not for Burning", 8:30 p.m. 884-3703.</p> <p>Creative Recreation: Chas. Howitt, Beverley Acres schools, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Curtain Club "The Lady's Not for Burning", 8:30 p.m. 884-3703.</p> <p>Wheelhouse Seniors, 12 King Sideroad, craft work day, 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Curtain Club "The Lady's Not for Burning", 8:30 p.m. 884-3703.</p> <p>"Raffi", kids' concert, Bayview Sec. School, 1 & 3 p.m. 773-4152, 884-8281, 889-7218.</p> <p>Wheelhouse seniors, Christmas Bazaar, 12-4 p.m. 12 King Sideroad.</p> <p>Maple Lions turkey shoot, Noon, Shur-Gain Farms, 833-2643.</p>

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p>Thornhill Barbershoppers, Highland Jr. Hi School, Don Mills & Cliffwood, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Cantabile Chorale, Thornhill Baptist, 8 p.m. 881-1105.</p> <p>Lions Bingo, Centre St. 7:40 p.m. R. Hill.</p> <p>Bridge, 12125 Yonge, 8 p.m. 884-1689.</p> <p>York Philharmonic practice, R.H. Baptist, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>St. Paul's United Church crafts, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. 773-5603.</p> <p>Thornhill Lodge, B'nai B'rith</p>	<p>Bingo, Thornhill Comm. Ctre, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>RCSCC Patriot Sea Cadets, St. Mary's Anglican, 7:30 p.m. 884-3630.</p> <p>R. Hill Aquatic Club practice, Centennial Pool, 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 884-8003.</p> <p>YCAMP Crafts instruction, Richvale Comm. Ctre, 7:30 p.m., Orff Music, 12 & under 7 p.m., over 12, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Thornhill Comm. Ctre. Library story hour, children 3-5, 1:30 p.m. Pre-registration, 881-5668.</p> <p>Legal Aid Clinic, 7-10 p.m. 884-9148.</p> <p>Mothers' Break, 9:30-11:15 a.m. R. Hill United, 884-4294.</p> <p>Yoga, R. Hill United: 7:15 p.m., beginners: 8:30 p.m. intermediate, 884-2671.</p> <p>Thornhill Community Band practice, Thornlea Sec. School, 7 p.m., beginners; 8 p.m. concert band, 889-9620.</p> <p>CGIT, R. Hill United, 7 p.m. 883-5971.</p> <p>York Choral Society rehearsal, Our Lady Help of Christians School, 8 p.m. 884-4532.</p>	<p>York Floor Hockey League, Crosby, Hts. Public School, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Hilltop Operetta Society, St. Mary's Anglican Church, 7:30 p.m. 884-1831.</p> <p>Thornhill Community Centre Library story hour, 3-5 years, 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration, 881-5668.</p> <p>Thornhill Lions Bingo, Thornhill Comm. Ctre, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Parent Concern Meeting, 8 p.m. Call Joyce, 884-3503.</p> <p>Counterweight at R. Hill Library, 7:30 p.m. 255-4421.</p> <p>A.M.O. at R. Hill United, 9:30 -</p>	<p>11:15 a.m., 884-9722.</p> <p>Seniors euchre, 1:30 p.m., 10149 Yonge.</p> <p>Bridge, 12125 Yonge 1 p.m. 884-1689.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Legion bingo, Legion Hall, 7:35 p.m.</p> <p>Pre-school story hour, R. Hill Library, 2 p.m., Pre-school French classes, 2 p.m.</p> <p>Thornhill Village Artists, Gallanough Library, 7 p.m. 889-6320.</p> <p>Richmond Hill Lions majorettes & drum corps practice, Lions Hall, 7 p.m. 884-6745.</p> <p>Yoga, R. Hill United, 8 a.m. beginners; 10:15 a.m. intermediates.</p>	<p>Thornhill Recycling Depot, Bayview & Green Lane, 7-8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Air Cadets, male & female, 13-19 yrs. Legion Hall, Ohio Rd., R. Hill, 7 p.m. 884-4521.</p> <p>R. Hill Youth Concert rehearsals, 7 p.m. St. Joseph's School, 884-8873.</p> <p>Maple Leaf Accordion Band, MacKillop School, 7-9 p.m. 884-8390.</p> <p>Weight Watchers, Concord Community Centre, 7:30 p.m. 669-2173.</p> <p>Duplicate Bridge, 12125 Yonge St. 8 p.m. 884-1689.</p>	<p>YCAMP Teen Drop-In, Thornhill Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m. 889-0536.</p> <p>R. Hill Recycling Depot, Elgin Mills & Leslie, 10 a.m.-noon.</p> <p>Bayview Recycling Depot, Thornhill & Green Lane, 10 a.m.-noon.</p> <p>Seniors euchre, 10149 Yonge St. 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>R. Hill Minor Hockey skate & equipment resale, 1-3 p.m. new arena.</p> <p>YCAMP bowling league, Newkirk Bowl, 2-4 p.m.</p> <p>Crest Club, Centennial Pool, 1-2 p.m.</p>