

# Police watch picket line as tempers flare

By PAUL PIVATO  
 Accusing management of harassment and union-busting, some employees of a Markham publishing company began a strike Monday, that has been marked by repeated clashes on the picket line.

Less than a quarter of Fitzhenry and Whiteside's editorial and warehouse employees are hoisting picket signs at the company building at 195 Allstate Parkway in the first strike against a book publisher in Canada.

Douglas Gray, president of Local 91 of the Toronto Typographical Union, said that management's "anti-union tactics" have eroded the union's membership to fewer than 25 from more than 40 when the union was first certified last September.

But Robert Fitzhenry, president of the firm, denied charges that management is trying to break the union.

"The union is a fact; there's nothing we can do about it," said Mr. Fitzhenry, who stood by the picket line Thursday afternoon and waved to employees as they left work.

"We can live with the union if the union members can work," he said.

The firm's president added that productivity slackened after the union was formed. "At 4:30 (p.m.) they just piled out of here like sheep, regardless of whether work was done or not," he said.

Striker Kurt Rathfelder, director of advertising, promotion and

publicity for the firm, said that management embarked on a campaign of "intimidation and harassment" after the union was formed.

Striking employees complained of nepotism and favoritism in the office. Non-union workers receive higher wages, more sick days and other perks than unionized members do, said Monica Charny, a member of the union's bargaining committee.

But Mr. Fitzhenry said that prior to the strike management did not know which company employees belonged to the union.

Jeff Masuda, secretary of the union's Local 91, was reported earlier this week as saying that the union is seeking a 25 per cent wage increase.

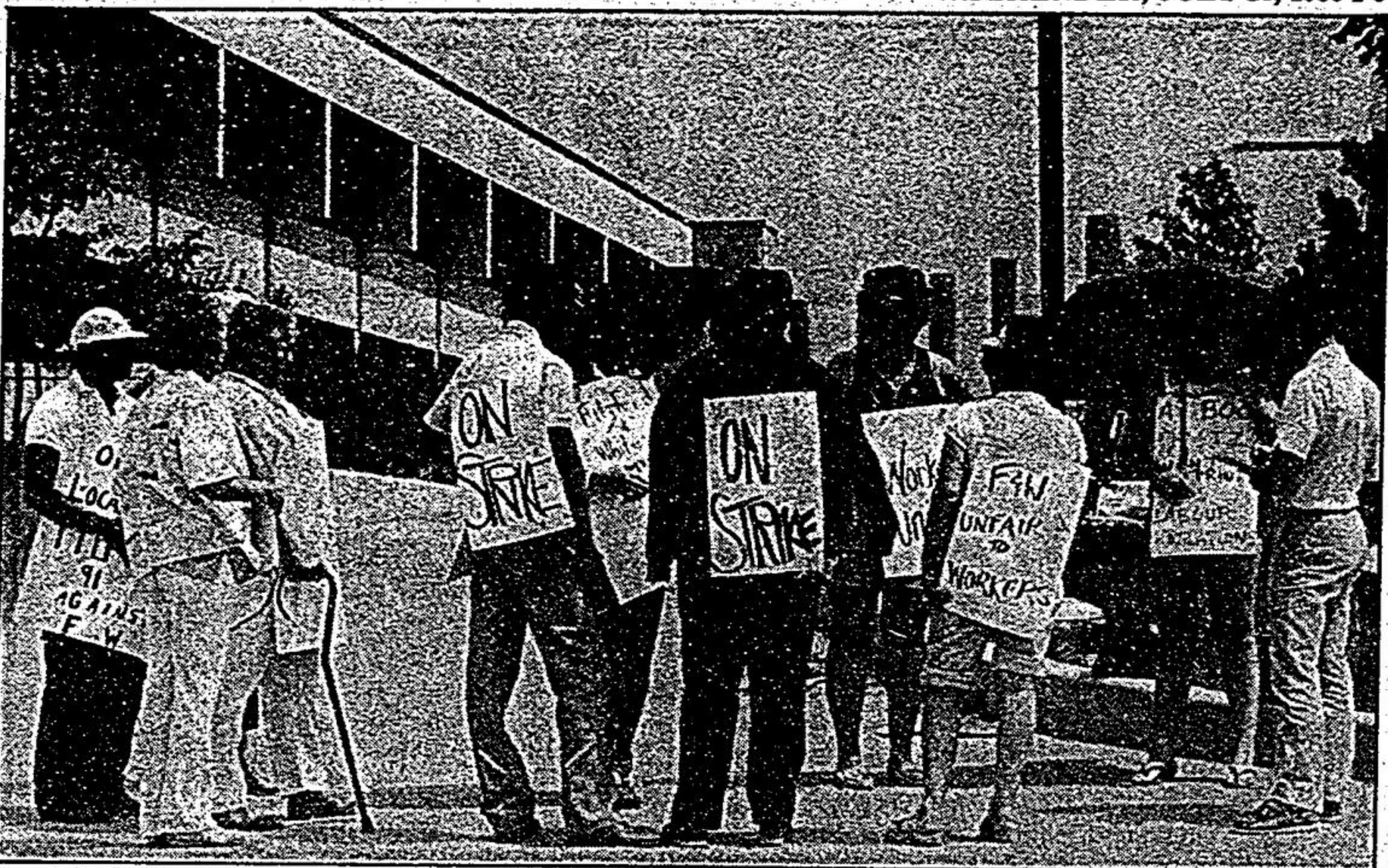
Fitzhenry and Whiteside is offering a 13 per cent salary hike over two years.

York Regional Police crews are now monitoring the picket line with morning and afternoon shifts following several incidents.

On Monday a former Fitzhenry and Whiteside employee was charged with causing a disturbance and has since been barred from the picket line.

Three charges of mischief causing damage to private property were also laid against strikers who allegedly scratched employees' cars as they crossed the picket line.

The sides have agreed to meet next Thursday at the Parkway Hotel in Markham to try to reach a settlement in the dispute.



Unionized employees of the Fitzhenry and Whiteside publishing company on Allstate Parkway in Markham picket in the first strike against a book publisher in Canada, which began on Monday. — Sjoerd Witteveen

## Markham riding

When you mark your ballot in the next provincial election, you'll be voting in a new riding.

The Town of Markham will no longer be part of the York Centre riding but will become a separate riding bearing the town name.

And Whitechurch-Stouffville, previously part of York North riding, have been lumped into a new riding called York Ontario which also includes Uxbridge, Georgina and East Gwillimbury.

Markham is one of five new ridings created by the Representation Act, which revised the boundaries of Ontario's electoral dis-

tricts. The new changes will take effect on Aug. 31 after the first dissolution of the Legislature.

According to Elections Ontario, Markham riding has a population of 107,000 — approximately two-thirds of which will be eligible to vote.

The newly defined and much smaller riding of York Centre, which includes Richmond Hill and Vaughan, has a population of 67,452.

Elections Ontario said population increases dictate the need for changes in electoral boundaries.

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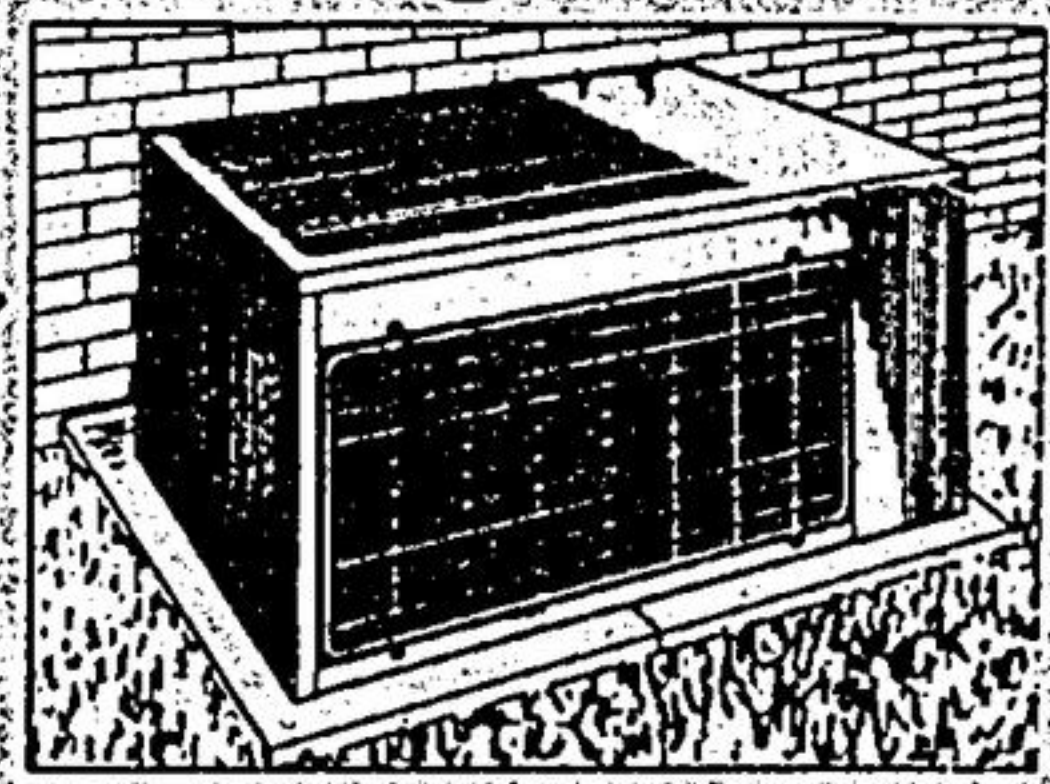
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