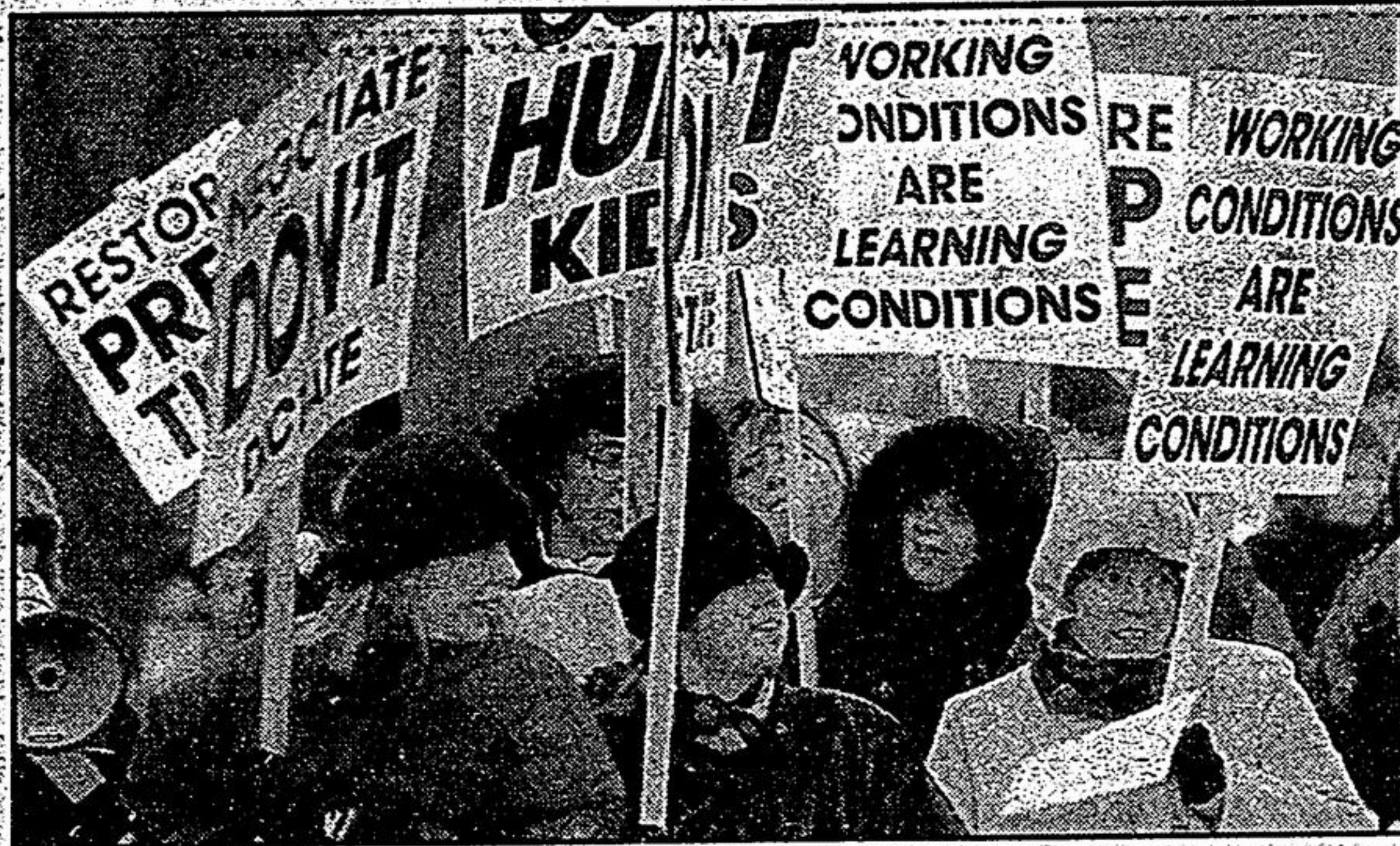


Stating their case

Elementary teachers protested at the board's headquarters in Aurora Thursday.



Elementary teachers rally

(From page 1)

trustees accused the board of deliberately breaking its contract with teachers. "The board robbed the teachers of 100 minutes of prep time a week," she argued. Heeler said teachers need that time, "the oil in the engine," to plan lessons and do a "myriad of small tasks" like checking homework, counting supplies, or helping a student with a stuck zipper.

Trustees should be explaining to parents that quality education costs money, argued Mayor. "We refuse to participate in ruining the system," he warned. Trustees exchanged doubtful looks. "Each one of us has our students' best interests at heart," responded board chair Bill Crothers. "Unfortunately, both sides are being swept along by circumstances beyond our control." Outside, he said the teachers are acting on "inaccurate or incorrect information."

The meeting began with a Richmond Hill trustee's lengthy invocation. Reading from a book, "If It Ain't Broke ... Break It!" Patricia Hunter spoke a rather grim manifesto of unstoppable change. In the future, she read flatly, we will work longer and sleep less. "The 40-hour workweek will become a dinosaur," she recited.

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