

Teachers are proud to draw their protest line in the sand

Dear Editor,

I have never pictured myself as a unionist, and especially not a militant one. So what was I doing on a picket line in the snow and freezing rain this past Monday morning?

Was I there for higher wages? No. Was I there for better working conditions and benefits? No! Was I there to protect my pension? Again, no!! I was there to protest a principle. The principle that all Ontarians, regardless of their race, religion or financial ability had the right to quality education that was responsive and responsible to local needs.

Many think that because the current work stoppage by teachers has been described as "illegal" that we don't have the right to be out of our classrooms.

Civil disobedience has long been considered an acceptable way to protest government and societal inequity. Rosa Parks was breaking the law when she refused to move to the back of the bus. Likewise, Rev. Martin Luther King was breaking the law when he marched through the streets of Selma, Alabama. Ghandi can also be accused of breaking the law for his peaceful demonstrations that eventually lead to the removal of the Indian nation from the heavy-handed oppression of the British Raj.

In hindsight I'm sure we would all agree that these actions were both necessary and worthy. The current actions by Ontario's teachers are no less necessary or worthy.

Bill 160 is a giant step to funding reforms that would see our schools receive money based on test results, not needs. It is a giant step towards the 'American system', a system that,

LETTERS

according to the U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare (October 1997), has produced "40 million Americans that can neither read nor count."

If your child is in Special Education, a gifted program, or involved in any type of extra-curricular activity, say "No!" to Bill 160 while you still have a chance. The teachers of Ontario can not fight this fight alone. We need your support.

Like General Schwarzkopf of the United States, when the freedom and democracy of Kuwait was threatened, the teachers have drawn their line in the sand.

We are proud to be prepared to maintain our position.

John Lowrie, Stouffville,
Head of Music, West Hill C.I., Scarborough

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HERALDS OF HOPE, INC. INCORPORATES IN ONTARIO, CANADA

On September 9, 1997 HERALDS OF HOPE, INC., located near Breezewood, PA, completed the application to become a non-share-capital corporation in Ontario. Services of the law firm of Cattanach Hindson Sutton VanVeldhuizen of Markham, Ontario, were employed. A board of six men was named, three from Ontario, three from the US HERALDS OF HOPE, INC. existing board.

Officers named are: J. Otis Yoder, President, Eugene Z. Zimmerman, Vice President, J. Mark Horst, Secretary, Harold L. McDowell, Treasurer.

The new corporation has offices in Stouffville, Ontario and the mailing address is: HERALDS OF HOPE, INC. Box 176, Markham, Ontario L3P 3J7, CANADA.

HERALDS OF HOPE, INC. USA in its thirtieth year now broadcasts in six languages to 3/4 of the world. More than 700,000 English letter responses have come from 180 countries. With respect to the Ontario incorporation Yoder says, "In due time we hope to enter the Canadian airwaves with multiple language broadcasts."

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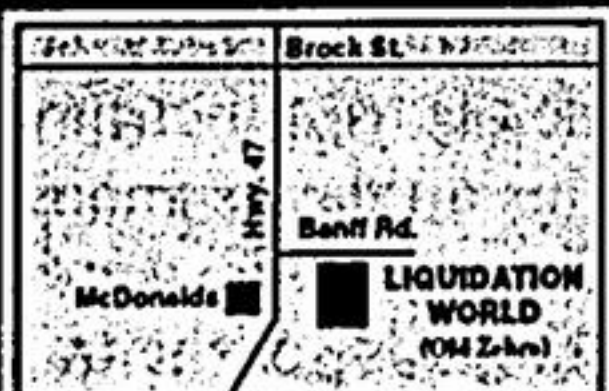
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