

ERINDALE DEMONSTRATION:

Protesting children get bus service

The 50 Erindale children who demanded a bus outside the Peel County Board of Education rode to school yesterday.

Small children, spear-headed by parents, staged a demonstration Thursday because they didn't want to cross Dundas Highway.

Parents threatened to keep children out of Springfield School if bus service was not provided.

"I'd rather let my six-year-old be ignorant than send her out on that highway," said Dr. Paul Mahoney, Robinson Drive.

WANT BUS

In a protest that rivalled the one staged by farmers in Queen's Park, children shouted, "we want a bus," for over two hours. They were met on the steps by J. A. Turner, director of education, who referred them to the Safety Council.

An emergency meeting of the sidewalk committee was called Thursday night by Counsellor Harold Kennedy and the bus service was announced Friday.

Allan Verch, spokesman for the board of education, told demonstrators who gathered again Friday that a

temporary bus would take them to school.

He said the Mississauga Safety Council and township engineering department will survey the school route along Dundas Highway and Credit Woodlands to Springfield.

Mrs. Mahoney said Friday parents would not be satisfied with "temporary service."

DISCONTINUED

Earlier this year the service was discontinued by the board of education after the Mississauga Safety Council said traffic hazards did not warrant a bus.

The distance from Erindale to Springfield P.S. on Credit Woodlands is under the two-mile limit required for bus transportation.

The demonstration started at the Presbyterian Church in Erindale. Children carried placards and mothers followed pushing baby carriages and shouting as they paraded around in front of the building.

Mrs. Don Robillard, mother of two, said she has a four-year-old who would have to cross the highway.

"If there's no bus I'll keep

him home," she said.

She was supported by Mrs. E. Bowers, Mrs. Ron Habkirk and Mrs. G. Brinkman who were marching with their children.

WISE GUYS

Protestor Oliver Kellhammer, 10, said he was protesting because, "some wise guys in education won't give us a bus."

Doug Simms, a Gr. 7 student, said it was a "non-

a safety guard) to Dundas Cres. N. Then the children would walk along the wooded area of the Crescent until they reach the intersection of Credit Woodlands Rd. and Dundas Cres. N.

He said children had to walk on a very uneven shoulder along Dundas Highway. The crescent is not paved.

Dr. Mahoney noted that

Story by LINDA REED

Photo by MIKE SOLOMON

violent demonstration."

Mr. Turner, busy shooing children out of the lobby, said it was the first demonstration he had received which used small children.

Dr. Mahoney noted that children were ideal because they were loud and police and officials could not push them around.

ROUTE

He outlined the proposed route children were expected to take to school. It runs along Dundas Highway to a crosswalk (with

Credit Woodlands is extremely busy during the hours the children would be on the road. They would walk the route four times each day.

DANGEROUS

"It will be very dangerous in the winter," said Dr. Mahoney.

He has learned that the cost of bus service would be \$1,000 for one year.

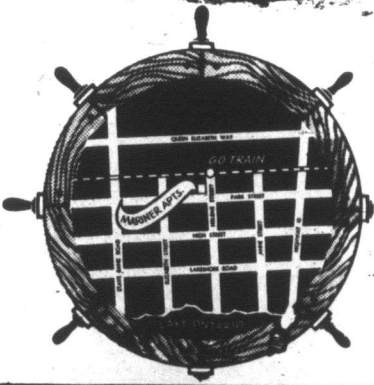
"The board," he said, spends money on oak panelling and bathrooms for administrators but refuses \$1,000 for children's safety."



Peel's education director Archie Turner holds up a restraining hand as a couple of dozen chanting youngsters, banging pot lids and blowing horns, attempt to invade board offices.

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