

WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING

The Peel Board of Education attempted to prevent a strike by the Peel elementary teachers by offering major proposals during mediation sessions held this weekend but these were rejected by provincial union negotiators. In fact, teacher negotiators escalated demands.

The Board regrets the unwillingness of the provincial teachers'

union representatives to be conciliatory. The Board feels frustrated in its attempt to prevent a strike by its inability to communicate directly with its own employees. It is the conviction of the Board that the teachers in Peel are being used in a concerted campaign by the provincial teacher unions, both elementary and secondary, to bring the taxpayers in the Region of Peel to their knees.

TEACHERS' DEMANDS:

TENURE

Teachers continue to demand absolute job guarantees for teachers even if there are no classes for them to teach. **THE BOARD REFUSES TO MORTGAGE FUTURE TAXPAYERS BY GUARANTEEING WORK WHEN THERE MAY BE NONE.** The Board has offered to set up a joint teacher-trustee committee to

study how to handle declining enrolments in future, should this ever be necessary. The Board also feels this is not a relevant issue at present. In the past two years, 229 teachers have been hired on permanent contract and another 245 on short-term contracts in order to meet growing needs in Peel.

BOYCOTT:

The provincial Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation is boycotting the Board's night school programs in order to back

demands they have made in their negotiations which are still in progress. This tactic is being used across the province.

STRIKE FUND:

It has been widely reported that the local District 10 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation has established a \$1 million strike fund for elementary teachers in Peel — at a time when

negotiations between the union and the Board were at a very critical stage.

PROVINCIAL ISSUES:

Provincial teacher union representatives are conducting negotiations, making it impossible for the Board to communicate with its own employees. The result is that they are raising "provin-

cial issues" such as tenure, rather than solving issues of immediate concern to the elementary teachers in Peel.

WHAT NOW?

The provincial teacher unions have put the Region of Peel in a state of siege. The Peel Board of Education has no intention of surrendering its responsibility to the taxpayers and is not prepared to meet the extreme demands of the provincial teacher unions. The Board, therefore, intends to keep schools open even though faced with a complete withdrawal of services — unless a threat to

student safety exists. **THE PEEL BOARD RECOGNIZES THE TEACHERS' LEGAL RIGHT TO STRIKE, BUT DOES NOT AGREE THAT TEACHERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CLOSE DOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WHICH ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE TAXPAYERS.**

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Carefully consider whether you will send your youngsters to school unless you are certain there will be sufficient supervision there. (If you do send them, please leave up-to-date information about where you may be reached in case your children must be sent home for safety reasons during the day.)
2. Anyone interested in volunteering their time and talents to help supervise children in schools during the strike is urged to contact the local school principal. Leave your name and telephone number, so that you may be reached in the future.

William Kent, Chairman,
The Peel Board of Education.