





by Hans Beckers

Teachers back to workload

TORONTO (CUP) — Teachers at Ontario's 22 community colleges, back to work after a three week strike, are unhappy with what they call the provincial government's feeble attempts to solve the issue of workload.

"They legislated an end to the strike but they did not solve the problems which started the strike," says Katie FitzRandolph, spokesperson for the Ontario Public Services Employees Union, which represents 7,600 college teachers, librarians and counsellors.

"They are still unwilling to admit that workload is a problem."

After the Ontario government legislated the teachers back to work Nov. 12, it referred all the issues except workload to an arbitrator and made moves to establish and assignment review committee to examine the issue of workload. The committee will review all aspects of instructional assignments in the colleges.

During the strike, the teachers said heavy workloads affected their ability to teach well. After the legislation passed, teachers at Algonquin College in Ottawa publicly demonstrated their concern by driving to their campus in a funeral procession. They say they were mourning their loss of collective bargaining, and entered the school singing union songs.

Government spokespeople however, see the issue differently.

John Humber, college and universities ministry college affairs branch director, says the committee is the best way to solve the issue.

"I don't see how an arbitrator could have dealt with the issue. I

think the committee is a good concept. It gets the thing out of the arguing area and has it objectified," he said.

Education minister Bette Stephenson agrees. In the provincial legislature, she said the union's demand for a province-wide formula on the reduction of workload was unacceptable to the Council of Regents, which represents the college boards

The Liberal party supported the back-to-work legislation in principle during the two day debate but failed to amend the bill to bring the

workload issue to the bargaining table for both groups to negotiate.

Meanwhile, students are dealing with the major scheduling changes in a variety of ways. Some colleges are shortening the Christmas break, while others plan to eliminate reading week in March or extend the term to include May.

Special student aid arrangements have been made for students who will have their school year extended, says Frances Lamb, provincial customer services manager of student awards. She says cheques will be issued automatically.

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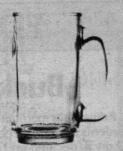
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- content and format to the Advisory Boa
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DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: December 20, 1984