

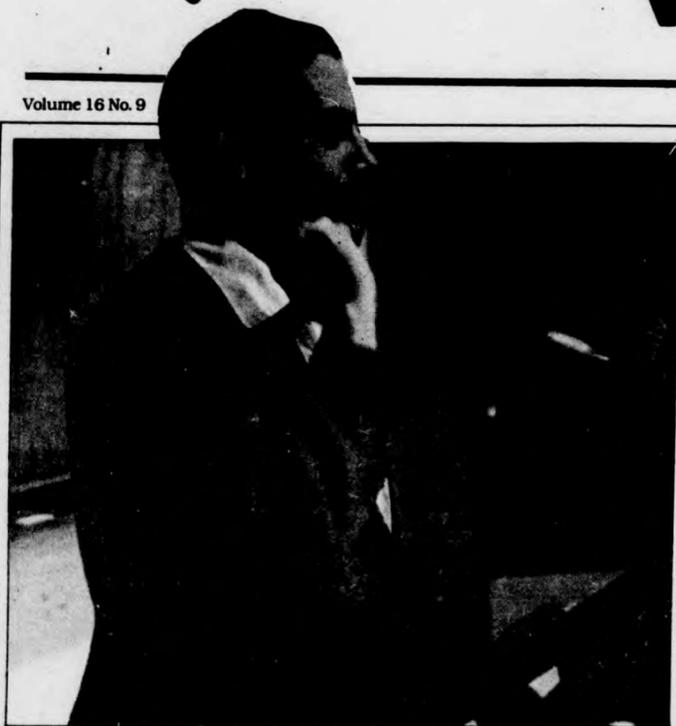
# EXCALIBUR

## Weekly

Volume 16 No. 9

York's Community Newspaper

Thursday, November 5, 1981



Jewish Defence League leader Meir Kahane at York on Monday.

## JDL leader at York Kahane solve conflict

Suri Epstein

In a lecture delivered at York on Monday, Meir Kahane, the colourful leader of the Israeli political party Kach, spoke about the problems inherent in the situation of an Arab population in a Jewish state, within an Arab continent. Kahane spoke about this condition as an incorrigible conflict of interest between the two groups.

Kahane claims that under the spell of Camp David, as well as various post-1967 international pressures, the main blockade to a Middle East peace settlement appears to be the Begin administration's refusal to negotiate the West Bank.

The JDL leader pointed out that although the contemporary response to this 'occupation' calls for immediate withdrawal from these territories, the recent historical context of their conquest, negates the very claim that Israeli withdrawal could bring any peace settlement. When the Arab countries instigated war with Israel on June 5, 1967, the Golan Heights belonged to Syria. The West Bank and East Jerusalem belonged to Jordan and the Sinai desert as well as the Gaza strip belonged to Egypt. Why then did these Arab countries go to war against Israel? Said Kahane, "The question is not the occupied land of 1967, but of a Jewish state in any shape, size or form." In a statement of irony he added, "If 1967 was the obstacle, that what a year of peace 1966 must have been."

A large part of Kahane's speech outlined the conflict of a large population of an extremely strong Arab identity existing as a minority in a Jewish state. He stated that "I respect the Arab nation and long may they live," and because of this respect he does not see how it would be fair to expect the Israeli Arab to sing the words of a national anthem that mentions "the Jewish hope of 2,000 years."

It would also be impossible for the Israeli Arab to stand with Israel in military defense against her hostile Arab neighbours. Kahane sympathizes with the loyalty to the greater pan-Arab cause and suggests that perhaps these people would be better off living in such countries.

The rebel leaders ideas are somewhat unpopular, with regards to the Arab presence in Israel. Since Israel took possession of the territories in 1967, the government has maintained a policy of conciliation towards the resident Arabs that has included the introduction of electricity and plumbing among other conveniences. Kahane derided this attempt to placate this element as a misunderstanding of the vital issue of an interest clash between the two peoples. "You can't buy an Arab's national pride with an indoor toilet", he maintains.

Kahane also discussed the role of the United States in Israeli foreign policy. In regards to the Camp David accords, Kahane said simply, "there is no peace." He described Sadat as a "clever Arab who understood that he could never achieve through war what he could achieve through peace". This point was illustrated with examples of the 1956 war as well as the Six Day war. Kahane asked, "What loser dictates to the winner the terms of peace?" He pointed out that in exchange for an unreliable and temporary peace, Israel has sacrificed an area of land that is twice the size of the rest of the country. For a new border, shared with an historically antagonistic and volatile neighbour, Israel has given up oilfields (Egypt would agree to sell this oil to Israel), settlements, cities, as well as two of the most sophisticated airbases in the entire world.

Kahane concluded that these territorial concessions are too great a burden for Israel to bear, placing the Jewish state in an indefensible position.

## CUEW settles strike

Michael Monastyrsky

After the first week of their first strike, members of local 3 of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers have voted seventy-five per cent in favour of accepting a settlement that contains no ceilings on class size and which was initially opposed by union chairperson Janet Patterson.

The new agreement gives the union an average pay increase of 14 per cent and clarification of contract language concerning job posting and job security. With regard to class size, a new committee has been formed to study the question of workloads for tutorial leaders, and a new statement in the contract says, the university "shall endeavour to ensure" that appropriate facilities are found for all classes.

In addition, union members have won the right to assistance with the grading of papers, once there are more than fifty students in a class. Marker/grader assistants will also be provided for one hour tutorials where the number of students exceeds thirty-two and for one and a half to two hour tutorials that have more than thirty-seven students.

Most of the disagreement among the union leadership stems from differences of opinion regarding the absence of ceilings on class sizes. Patterson, who argued against accepting the settlement, says, "There was no disagreement over the union's goals, but there were differences of opinion over what we could reasonably expect to get." She believes, "It would have been better if we had got some ceilings on class size."

"It's not close to anything we wanted and the struggle will go on in many different ways," says Patterson. "It was realistically the best we could get. That was the opinion of the membership."

Other union members were also disappointed by the resolution of the class size issue. "I feel committees are ineffective," says Bert Keser, chairperson of the strike committee and a member of the steering committee. Union activist Bob Light adds, "It is my contention that we could have had ceilings."

Patterson agrees with chief negotiator Leslie Sanders who states that the union did win some significant ground on the issue. Sanders says, "Class size is a victory as well. I think so, because management wasn't going to discuss the issue or take it seriously before the strike. We now have a basis for building something in the next stage." In Sanders' opinion the next stage of the fight over class size involves the progress of the new workload committee.

According to Tony Wolfson, CUEW's national president and a part-time faculty member at York, the committee is legally obligated to report by March 1. On April 1, the union and administration will begin bargaining on the problems addressed by the committee. It is

normal practice for the two sides to start negotiating in June, but this year April and May will be devoted to the issue of workloads for part-time faculty, an issue which affects class sizes. Furthermore, the present class size committee will also report by March 1, at which time it will disband.

William Farr, Vice President in charge of Employee and Student Relations, believes the administration has met the objectives that it had set for itself before the negotiations. He says, "What I couldn't move on was ceilings. As far as I am concerned I have met my negotiating aims." Farr agrees that class size was the major issue during the strike and adds, "It seems that doing something that resembled (a concession on) class size led to a settlement. Class size was the logjam that we had to overcome."

Regarding the decision to provide marker/grader assistants for large classes and tutorials he says, "It already exists in some cases, but it is now formalized and guaranteed....I don't think it will have an unmanageable effect on the budget, because we already provide some marker/grader assistants."

**"It's not close to anything we wanted and the struggle will go on in many different ways."**

Asked if the workload committee, also known as the Committee on Tutor 1, will have any effect on the issue of class size, Farr replied, "I think it will. One of our best class size people, Ted Spence, will be on it. He is the architect of the language on group sizes that we put into the contract." Spence is an Associate Dean of Arts.

Patterson would not comment on Spence's membership in the committee which will also include two other representatives of management and three CUEW members.

Wolfson feels that the union won a victory on the issue of job security, because the new contract prohibits the laying off of a part-time faculty member in order to redeploy a full-time faculty member. Furthermore, the new agreement states that if a part-time faculty member loses his position for any other reason than a lack of enrolment, he or she will receive one-third of their salary and seniority. This year's contract, as in previous agreements, calls for the payment of one-eighth of a part-time teacher's salary if a course is cancelled because there are too few students.

Sanders is very pleased with the form to the new contract. "We won a much more rational and orderly contract," she said. "The old posting language placed a lot of things at the whim of management rights." She further noted that ambiguous contract language tends to serve management. Sanders sees another change in contract language as very important. Although no ceilings were placed

on tutorial sizes, the contract specifically mentions that the number of students appropriate for a problem and answer session is different from that of a tutorial where there is textual analysis and discussion. "We have acknowledgement that certain enrolment is appropriate for certain classes. The collective agreement actually state that."

While negotiations at York were still underway CUEW's local at the University of Toronto voted to reject their executives advice to strike. Commenting on what he sees as the probable reaction of CUEW's U of T members, Woolfson stated, "They are going to feel pretty stupid because they settled at 12 and 10 1/2 per cent." He added that U of T is "absolutely pathetic. It's the Harvard of the North. They're so close to Queen's Park they buy the scarcity argument."

Farr believes York's strike "was more of a dramatization and demonstration than a labour dispute. It was a rather effective demonstration of the problem of university underfunding."

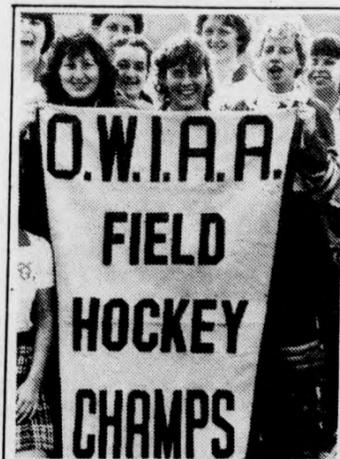
"There were some real tough talks," he continued, "I don't think there was a strike in this, if

there wasn't the underfunding issue."

During the course of the strike Farr consulted with officials of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. According to Farr, "They did not know what CUEW was; they did not know that the university was unionized. I had to tell them that CUEW had six locals in the province."

Asked how students' opinions influenced the outcome of the strike Farr would only say, "I think the degree to which the community in general supports any one of the unions is very important in the final outcome." Patterson states that CUEW will be evaluating student support of the strike.

Bert Keser states, "I feel we should have stayed out longer. Especially on the issue of class size. The community support was building up for it."



**We Are The Champions!**

Story on page 11.