



(NEWS foto by Dennis Caruso)

Happy students walk past picketing teacher at the Plainview-Old Bethpage, L. I., High School after the pupils were sent home because of strike called by American Federation of Teachers. The walkout was pulled in defiance of a no-strike order from the state education commissioner and it forced the closing of seven schools in the Plainview School District.



Classes Go Silent; Teachers Want a Voice

A handful of the nearly 400 striking teachers carry signs [←] as they picket the Plainview-Old Bethpage High School. Of the district's 11,000 students, about 8,000 were sent home. Education Commissioner James E. Allen Jr. cited Condon-Wadlin law in issuing no-strike order. —Story p. 3

(NEWS foto by Ray Platnick)



Boys will be bouyant when they learn that they've just received an unscheduled holiday. (NEWS foto by Ray Platnick)

Teachers Shut 7 LI Schools

By HARRY SCHLEGEL

Defying a state order, almost two thirds of the 619 teachers in Long Island's Plainview-Old Bethpage school district went on strike yesterday—giving 8,000 of the 12,000 pupils in 12 schools an unscheduled holiday.

Officials of the school district hoped that the schools would be back to normal today, but this appeared doubtful because of an impasse between the teachers and the board over the teacher's demand for a voice in academic policy.

The board said it would not negotiate with the teachers until they returned to work, and the union leaders of the teachers, as

adamantly insisted that it would not send its members back to class until the board resumed talks.

The strike by 399 members of Local 1401, State Federation of Teachers, forced closing of the senior high school, two junior highs, and four grade schools. Five elementary schools remained open.

The union is also seeking an average two-year salary increase of \$1,500 per teacher, with wages in the district now ranging from \$5,600 to \$10,650 after 14 years. The board said it is willing to raise pay so that teachers will be in the upper third of the salary scale in Nassau County.

(Other pictures in centerfold)

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Teachers See Long Strike, Board to Reopen 3 Schools

Plainview-Old Bethpage school officials and members of the Plainview Federation of Teachers remained deadlocked yesterday, as the teachers' four-day-old strike continued.

Federation president Jerry Berger warned "we'll be out for a year," if the district Board of Education persists in its "adamant position."

To Reopen 3 Schools

But spokesmen for the board said preparations were in full swing to reopen the senior high school and two junior high schools Monday. More than 4,000 students in these schools have been enjoying an unexpected holiday since Wednesday when the walkout forced the school's closing.

Some 7,300 other pupils in the district's nine elementary schools were unaffected by the strike, however. The board had 131 substitute teachers working in those classrooms, supplementing non-striking teachers.

More Substitutes Called

More substitutes are being mustered from the ranks of teachers in neighboring districts, for the planned resumption of classes in the upper schools Monday.

The board said 390 teachers were absent yesterday, or nine fewer than when the walkout started Tuesday. The union

claimed 473 were out. A total of 613 teachers normally serve the 11,300 pupils in the district's 12 schools.

An effort by a committee of local clergymen to bring the clashing sides together has failed, it was learned.

Clergy's Offer Rejected

The school board rejected the clergymen's offer to arrange a meeting, according to Rabbi Julius Goldberg, who heads the committee.

Negotiations have been at a standstill since the strike was called in the dispute over teachers' demands for a greater share in administrative policies, increased salaries and a written contract.

Control of Schools Called the Issue

Albany, March 11 (UPI)—A spokesman for the New York State Teachers Association said Friday control of the schools is the issue behind the Plainview, L. I. teachers strike.

"The union has openly challenged the authority of the school district to operate the schools pursuant to state law," G. Howard Gould, executive secretary of the association, said in a statement.

"The education of children must not be the pawn in this union bid for power," he said.

The teachers are striking in defiance of an order from state education commissioner James E. Allen.

Gould said the association has urged Allen "to exert the total powers of his office to effect the reopening of all schools in Plainview and to take immediate steps to resolve the dispute between the board of education and the teachers association."

School Board Reneges, 400 Teachers in Jam

By POLLY KLINE

Despite a no-reprisal agreement, a move was under way yesterday to penalize some 400 Plainview teachers for their four-day strike earlier this month. The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, representing 90 school boards, is seeking the punitive action.

In letters to Gov. Rockefeller and Dr. James E. Allen Jr., state education commissioner, the association's executive board reminded them that the teachers walked out March 8 in defiance of Allen's order prohibiting the strike.

"They should be dealt with accordingly," the school boards said.

Invoked 2 Laws

Failure to take action may make it difficult to enforce the commissioner's orders in the future, they said.

Allen had invoked both the State Education Law and the Condon-Wadlin Law in banning the strike, which forced the shutdown of three of the Plainview-Old Bethpage district's 12 schools. Violation of the first measure can be punished by suspension or revocation of a teacher's license, and the second by dismissal.

The Plainview Federation of Labor, which called the strike, was assured however that the Plainview school board would take no action against the teachers when they returned to the classrooms March 14.

Allen said in reply to the School Boards Association that he would study the case further. He indicated he would go along with the Plainview board's recommendation.

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*Do you think
this deserves any
attention.*