

# Teacher calls it 'a joke'

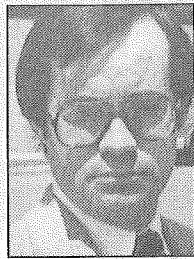
# PROVINCE RE-OPENING FROMM CASE

Fromm, Paul  
Peel Bury. Bn.  
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By JOHN STEWART  
Staff Reporter

Applewood Heights Secondary School teacher Paul Fromm's out-of-class activities will come under scrutiny again, now that the Education Ministry has agreed to reopen a probe into his conduct.

Education Minister Dave Cooke announced Thursday that he will grant the Peel Board of Education's request to look into two incidents to see if Fromm's activities may have contravened letters of reprimand he was given by the board.



FROMM

Following widespread publicity about the English teacher's involvement in an incident where he yelled "scalp 'em" at a native spokesman at a Toronto committee meeting and an incident where he spoke during a right-wing rally at which a Swastika was prominently displayed, the board issued warning letters Oct. 2, 1991 and April 29, 1992. The last letter stated that "if it comes to the board's attention that any additional conduct on your part causes further damage to the employer/employee relationship, we may have no alternative but to recommend to the board that your employment be terminated."

The board was unaware at the time of Fromm's involvement in a birthday celebration for Adolph Hitler, held in April 1991 and a trip last November to support David Irving, a British author who denies the Holocaust existed.

The board says Toronto lawyer Jeff Cowan's report on Fromm, made public a month ago, gives insufficient detail on the incidents to determine whether Fromm violated the letters of reprimand.

"It's outright political harassment," Fromm said Friday of the new investigation. "The first investigation found no evidence of discriminatory behavior or any misbehavior of any sort." He accused Cooke of "knuckling under to the politically-correct pressure groups" who disagree with his political viewpoint.

"It's an April Fool's joke on the taxpayer," the teacher commented, saying the funds could be much better spent on real educational benefits. Fromm asked for guidelines from the board for what outside activities

## New probe set into teacher's out-of-class activities

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would be acceptable, but never received a satisfactory answer. "Can I run for office?" he asked. "Can I write letters about the environment but not about immigration?"

Cowan has once again been appointed to look into the two incidents. Ministry spokesman Douglas Banwell said it hopes to have the report in three weeks.

The Canadian Jewish Congress welcomed the new study. It reiterated that it believes Cowan's original report provided "more than enough information ... of Fromm's racist links and activities" to prompt Peel to fire him.

The first report concluded that, while there was no evidence of discrimination by Fromm against any of his students, his political activities were inconsistent with the "core values" a teacher should uphold.

The Peel Board also asked the ministry to establish a new commission to determine whether Fromm's conduct would cause a reasonable person to conclude he could not provide fair and equal treatment to his students. If that conclusion was reached, the Board would likely have grounds for dismissal. The Minister has not yet dealt with that request.

In his report, Cowan said he could not make a finding on that issue because he could not obtain sufficient information from teachers, parents and students at Applewood.

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