

No Justice, No Peace
The 1996 OPSEU Strike against the Harris Government in Ontario

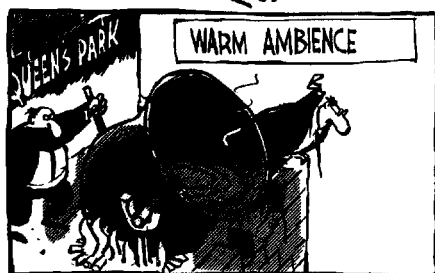
The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) was an early target of Mike Harris's Common Sense Revolutionaries, neoconservatives on a mission to shrink the social safety net, radically reduce social programs, and subvert Ontario's collective-bargaining regimes.

In *No Justice, No Peace* David Rapaport uses details, insights, and anecdotes from over 150 interviews – with picket line captains, local executives, union leaders, journalists, mediators, and union and management negotiators, among others – to provide an insider's view of the strike and its political and economic contexts, often told in the strikers' own voices. Vice-president from 1991 to 1997 of OPSEU's huge Region 5, covering Toronto, Rapaport describes how the election of the Harris government and the early Common Sense Revolution cut-backs led to a large opposition movement, the labour/social justice coalition, the days of action, and the provincewide OPSEU strike.

No Justice, No Peace traces the politics involved, from ideology and belief in free trade to the downsizing of public and private enterprises, from the restructuring and privatization of the public sector to collective bargaining between OPSEU and the Ontario government, and, finally, to the strike vote and the picket line.

DAVID RAPAPORT is president of OPSEU local 503 and a member of the executive of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council. He works for the Ontario Public Service as a computer systems analyst for the Ministry of Education and Training.

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*In memory of my parents,
Alexander and Dorothy Rapaport*