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Socred program outlined to Legislature

Bennett pledges aid to cut unemployment

School grants to be boosted

Special to The Province

VICTORIA — The provincial government will take immediate action to attack the growing unemployment problem, it was indicated in the speech from the throne Thursday.

Lieutenant Governor Ross, in opening the third session of the 25th Legislature, said the government's standing committee on labor will be convened immediately to study ways and means of dealing with unemployment.

Coupled with this, was the announcement the government will increase its education grants to school districts and UBC and will reorganize the department of health and welfare.

Other proposals are:

- Legislation will be introduced for compulsory utilization, with compensation, of privately-owned machinery and equipment in fighting forest fires.

- The government will ask for additional judges of the B.C. Supreme Court.

- A trade and industry conference is planned for the late spring and a second international trade fair, similar to the one held in Vancouver last May, is being planned for 1961.

- The government plans to increase the amount of credit that may be extended under the Farmers' Land-Clearing Assistance Act and to lengthen the period of repayment. The measures will permit low initial payments.

- Benefits of the poliomyelitis immunization program will be expanded during the coming year.

ALTHOUGH CHANGES are expected in labor legislation, there was no hint of them in the speech from the throne.

Creation of a separate welfare department will not necessarily mean appointment of another cabinet minister.

It is expected the mental health services, now administered by Provincial Secretary Black, will be transferred to Health Minister Martin and Mr. Martin will turn over his welfare department to Mr. Black.

The provincial secretary already administers the government's homes for the aged.

THE SPEECH REVEALED

there will be more money for UBC and more bursaries and scholarships for worthy students. No hint was given on the size of the UBC increase.

Higher fees were being considered at the university to offset mounting costs.

Provisions to expand the training and education of mentally retarded children will be contained in other legislation to be introduced.

A HORSE RACING commission, on the books for the past few years, will be set up. It is expected it will deal with applications to introduce dog racing into B.C.

Amendments to mining legislation, with a view to encouraging exploration will be introduced. Amendments to the gas act also are planned.

The speech also proposed establishment and observance of Douglas Day, Nov. 19, to commemorate the founding of the first colonial mainland government at Fort Langley in 1858. There was no indication that this will be a public holiday.

THE 6,000-WORD SPEECH was one of the longest ever read at an opening of the Legislature.

Much of it dealt with the celebrations of B.C.'s centennial year in 1958 when more than 300 permanent projects, such as parks, community halls, museums, libraries were built to mark the event.

It said "the vast program of highway construction will be continued." Also predicted was legislation amending the Highways Act in respect to arbitration of prices on expropriated property and legislation amending the Ferries Act with respect to subsidies.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT to expand the benefits of poliomyelitis immunization is believed to mean that adults will be included in the program.

Just prior to the opening, the premier and the attorney-general introduced Donald L. Brothers, the new member for Rossland-Trail. He came forward, then went back to find a seat in the crowded auditorium.

Today the government will move that the speech from the throne be accepted, opening a two-week debate.

Then Premier Bennett, as finance minister, will present the budget and the House will get down to work.



FIRST INDIAN to become a page boy in the B.C. legislature, John Joe, 13, of St. Louis College, Victoria, is greeted by Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross at the opening of the third session of the twenty-fifth legislature.

The speech from the throne . . .

Throne speeches, by custom and usage, are rather vague and generalized outlines of a legislative program, and the one at Victoria on Thursday was no exception. It contained a sizable basket of legislation but the precise contents were hidden under a gauze of polite wordage.

The intention to ask the standing committee to discuss unemployment immediately reflects the government's concern in that direction and will be welcomed. But how much can be done remains to be seen. What did the committee do last year?

Municipalities will be pleased at the idea of increased provincial grants to school districts but the cheering should be reserved until it is known how large they will be and how they will be applied. The same applies to a promise of larger grants to UBC and Victoria College.

An expanded system of loans, scholarships and bursaries for higher education is in line with the increased public awareness of the need to encourage bright students by minimizing the economic barriers to advanced and specialized courses.

There are indications that the government will meet the continuing and

insistent demands of this newspaper that it pay more attention to needs in the social service field. A promise of expanded provisions for the education and training of mentally retarded children will be widely welcomed, as will the undertaking to introduce new legislation covering nursing homes and other similar institutions.

In the latter connection our columnist Jean Howarth has been urging that all such institutions should be brought under a strict provincial licensing and supervisory system.

The promise of additional judges for the Supreme Court comes none too soon. The present members of the bench are overworked and, despite their unremitting efforts, cases continue to pile up. The wheels of justice traditionally grind slowly, but there is a limit.

Appointment of a horse-racing commission will be welcomed by all those interested in the tracks. At present the only such Canadian commission is in Ontario; the results there have been highly satisfactory. It is felt that such a commission is by far the best way to regulate the industry in the public interest.

Friday, Jan. 23, 1959



DON BROTHERS
... shifted

Sommers seat goes to Corbett

VICTORIA (CP) — Don Brothers, newly-elected Social Credit member for Rossland-Trail, isn't sitting in his predecessor's seat in the Legislature.

Mr. Brothers was elected Dec. 15 following the resignation of Robert Sommers, former Lands and Forests Minister who resigned his seat after conviction of charges of bribery and conspiracy.

Mr. Sommers' seat in the house has been taken over by Irvine Corbett (SC-Yale), the man who put up the major part of M. Sommers' bail following his conviction.

Mr. Brothers has been seated in the overflow section of the Social Credit backbenchers, from where he will make his maiden speech in the house, the reply to the speech from the Throne.

Current surplus declines

VICTORIA (CP)—The province's current account showed a revenue surplus of almost \$52,000,000 in the 1957-58 fiscal year, it was shown in the public accounts tabled in the legislature. It was down some \$17,000,000 from the previous year.

The accounts listed revenue collections for the year ended March 31, 1958, at \$277,324,400. Services charged to that income, including debt charges, public services and hospital insurance, totalled \$225,544,800, leaving a current account revenue surplus of \$51,779,600.

Contingent liabilities — government-guaranteed debts — increased from \$241,334,633 to \$385,163,966 during the fiscal year.

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B.C. workers voice misgivings at program on unemployment

Others greet throne speech with elation, cautious okay

A government move on unemployment, forecast in the throne speech in Victoria Thursday, was received here with misgivings by labor.

Comments ranging from elation to cautious tentative approval, or outright rejection, followed the outline of policy or legislation over a wide range of subjects.

Here are comments on the government's partially-revealed intentions:

On a study of unemployment, Lloyd Whalen, president of the Vancouver Labor Council said: "I'm pleased to hear the government is interested in the unemployment situation and willing to do something about it."

"BUT THEY HAVE HAD time to study ways and means — what we need is some action."

"The situation is really serious. The worst feature is that so many more are without any benefits than were last year. There are more than 3,000 jobless employables on social assistance alone."

ON MORE AID to schools, the university and Victoria College:

'School districts in dire need'

Dean Geoffrey Andrew, deputy to the president of the university said: "I am very glad to hear of increased aid."

"It is needed if the university is to continue to make facilities for higher education available to the young people of the province. Their education is essential to support growth and development."

Lorne Aggett, past president of the B.C. School Trustees Association said: "If there really is a promise of more financial aid then it is a wonderful thing. Many school districts are in dire need."

ON HEALTH AND welfare: Dr. Gordon Ferguson, executive secretary of the B.C.

Medical Association said: "The association has been hoping for some time that mental health services would be brought under the minister of health."

"This pattern has been adopted in all other provinces. It is a logical step because mental health services are involved in the physical health care of people, and the institutions are hospitals."

On aid for retarded children:

Mrs. Win Goepel, executive director of the Association for Retarded Children, said:

"Wonderful. We haven't a clue what is intended but we want amendments to three provincial statutes: Mental Defectives Act, Schools Act, and Welfare Act."

ON APPOINTING JUDGES:

John Farris, president of the Bar Association said: "This will be welcomed. The trial list is badly behind. The present judges are overworked."

"A lawyer can be ready with witnesses and go to a courtroom and find there is no judge present, because he has been delayed in another court."

'Judges need time to think'

"Judges are working harder than they should. They haven't enough time for reflection, and they should have."

ON MINING legislation:

Tom Elliott, manager of the B.C. & Yukon Chamber of Mines said the industry would welcome "any changes in the mining legislation that will encourage prospecting and exploration in B.C."

The throne speech indicated the government would seek amendments to the Mineral Act with a view to encouraging exploration and would seek amendments to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act.

ON COMMANDEERING fire fighting machinery:

A logging executive said the industry is not in favor of the legislation. The reason is that operators provide equipment for the protection of the forest they are working in, and to take away this equipment leaves them defenceless.

"The machinery is there," he said, "to protect the ground he is operating in. If equipment is commandeered for a fire elsewhere, the operator ought to be relieved of his responsibility to protect it."

LIQUOR SALES TOP \$93,000,000

VICTORIA (CP)—Liquor sales in British Columbia in the 1957-58 fiscal year ended last March totalled more than \$93,000,000.

The public accounts, tabled at the opening session of the legislature, showed that gross liquor sales to the public totalled \$66,832,135.95 and to licencees \$26,257,969.48 for a total of \$93,090,105.43.

The sales brought a profit of \$26,838,507.41 into the province's consolidated revenue fund. This was an increase of almost \$2,000,000 over 1957 when the revenue totalled \$25,048,630.26.

TOP REVENUE

Sales tax brings in \$87 million

VICTORIA (CP)—British Columbia's five per cent sales tax was the biggest single revenue producer for the government in the 1957-58 fiscal year.

The public accounts tabled in the legislature Thursday showed the sales tax — which is earmarked for social security purposes — soared to a record collection of \$87,244,382, almost \$2,000,000 more than was collected in the 1956-57 fiscal year.

The government is not expected to make any change in the sales tax structure in its budget which will be presented Feb. 6.

Motor fuel and fuel oil taxes realized \$27,475,237, property taxes \$6,463,390 and motor vehicle plates and permits \$14,685,519.

On the expenditure side the

accounts showed a new record outlay of \$90,000,000 was set in the building and maintenance of highways, roads, bridges, ferries, docks and wharves in the fiscal year.

Things look good in '59, says Bonner

VICTORIA (CP) — The provincial department of industrial development, trade and commerce says things look pretty good for 1959.

The departmental report, tabled at the opening of the legislature Thursday, said business activity was less buoyant in 1958. But the year had closed on a note of optimism that prospects would improve in 1959.

The department, which is the second portfolio held by attorney general Robert Bonner, said in its report ending Dec. 31, 1958 that it expected British Columbia's exports-imports will have a value of \$760,000,000 and \$440,000,000 respectively for the full year of 1958.

It said that a steady improvement is expected in 1959 as reduced domestic and foreign stocks of materials are replenished.

WAITRESSES TAKE OATH

VICTORIA—Even the waitresses in the legislature dining room were sworn Thursday to keep a secret.

As the staff collected for the opening of the Legislature, men and women were lined up outside the office of the clerk of the house.

In turn they entered and took the oath of secrecy.

"Why?" a reporter asked. "Well," said an official, "they might hear something. This keeps them from passing it along to someone else."

The secrecy oath also was taken by attendants and the office staffs.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1959

Tax boost on diesel fuel asked

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A royal commission has suggested a higher tax for diesel fuels.

Both gasoline and diesel fuels now pay a provincial tax of 10 cents a gallon.

A royal commission report filed in the legislature Thursday said diesel fuel should be taxed at 12 cents a gallon.

The commission, named a year ago, had been asked to learn if heavy vehicles were paying a fair share of highway construction and maintenance.

THE COMMISSION included Dr. H. F. Angus, the chairman of the public utilities commission; George Lindsay, the superintendent of the motor vehicles branch; and senior government officials.

The commissions recommended that a department of motor transport be set up "to protect the highways."

- The creation of 27 new weigh stations to make sure that overloaded vehicles do not get onto the highways;

- That there be higher licence fees on a gross weight basis, rather than a net weight basis, for commercial vehicles; (the amount of the increase was not suggested).

- That there be some system to make heavy trucks pay a tax on fuel purchased outside of B.C. The commission was told that big diesel trucks, with big tanks, come into B.C. and go out again without buying a dime's worth of fuel in B.C.

THE REPORT said that the general public should pay a share of highway construction and maintenance costs, but that the heavy users could be expected to pay a greater share than they are now.

Government House insurance \$256,999

VICTORIA — The government received \$256,999 in insurance on the fire which destroyed Government House in Victoria in the spring of 1957. The figure was revealed in the public accounts filed in the legislature on Thursday.

The item was listed as: "The item was listed as: (less insurance claims received, Government House)" in the \$8,366,767 construction bill for government buildings,

Gaglardi's travelling expense tops cabinet

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Highways minister Phil Gaglardi only spent \$4,249 in travelling in the fiscal year ending last March 31.

The figure was listed in the public accounts filed in the legislature on Thursday. The year before he spent \$5,043.

But the full total for Mr. Gaglardi is yet to come. The cost of operation of the airplane set aside for him in the highway department will show later in the annual report of the highway department.

Premier Bennett's traveling expense was listed at \$3,502; Attorney-General Bonner at

\$1,427 and another \$1,725 as Minister of Trade; Education Minister Peterson at \$2,392; Health Minister Martin at \$2,635.

Premier Bennett has said several times that he is careful to separate his political trips, which he pays for himself, from government trips; and that actually politics costs him some thousands of dollars.

Friday, Jan. 23, 1959

BRIDGE

PROFITS PILING UP

Tolls show clear \$1,800,000 gain

VICTORIA—Motorists paid \$1,709,328 in tolls on the Lions Gate Bridge during the fiscal year which ended March 31.

Public accounts presented to the Legislature Thursday also showed that \$725,310 in tolls was collected on Oak Street Bridge between June 1, 1957 and March 31.

The B.C. Highway and Bridges Toll Authority showed an excess of revenue over expenditures at \$1,812,148.

A grant of \$11,383 was added to the \$146,796 collected on the Agassiz - Rosedale Bridge, apparently to make up a revenue shortage.

The new Nelson Bridge showed a revenue of \$47,410 in its first five months of operation. There were no figures for the new Kelowna Bridge as it was not operating until after the end of the fiscal year.

Expenditures at Lions Gate Bridge showed \$161,554 for salaries, \$8,147 for tickets, \$12,074 for miscellaneous costs and \$161,539 as interest on debt. Net revenue from the bridge was listed at \$1,369,993.

Gordon Sloan tribute paid in legislature

VICTORIA — The government paid official tribute to the late Hon. Gordon Sloan in the speech from the throne at the Legislature opening Thursday.

Lieutenant-Governor Ross said the province "has suffered a great loss in the untimely death of the Hon. Mr. Sloan."

"As an elected representative of the people of this province, as a minister of the crown, as chief justice of the Court of Appeal . . . and more recently as adviser to the government . . . he served his native province with distinction and integrity."

Mr. Sloan died Jan. 14.

Throne speech isn't new to Tom --he's heard plenty in 40 sessions

VICTORIA—When Tom Uphill of Fernie sat at his place in the Legislature Thursday and heard the speech from the throne, it was far from new to him.

It was the fortieth time in a row.

MR. UPHILL, 85 next June 26, has been in the Legislature continually since 1920 as the

honorable the Labor member from Fernie.

"Still fit as a fiddle," he told newspapermen when he arrived for the session, "and going into caucus with myself."

As the sole Labor member of the house, he has no colleagues, and therefore doesn't have a caucus. But he does have a separate office, a tiny room where there is space to dictate a letter and see his

constituents, one or two at a time.

This is the thirty-ninth straight regular session he has attended.

"THERE WAS A second one, one year," he explained. "That makes it forty sessions."

He believes he is one of the oldest legislative members in the Commonwealth, and that his thirty-nine straight years constitute some sort of record.

House 256,999

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Strachan plans attack over B.C. phone setup

VICTORIA—CCF Leader Robert Strachan primed his guns Friday to shell the government on three major issues — debt refinancing, mental health services and B.C. Telephone Co. control.

Mr. Strachan will get the B.C. Power Commission debt refinancing row into the legislature with a question on the order paper about bond issues.

He also has given notice of motion that he will attempt to get the B.C. Telephone Co. and its subsidiaries in B.C. under provincial jurisdiction.

The company is now subject to control of the federal board of transport commissioners because it has a federal charter.

HIGH ON THE LIST of Mr. Strachan's targets will be Provincial Secretary Wesley Black for his handling of mental health services.

Mr. Strachan adjourned the

debate in the Legislature Friday afternoon, which means he will have the floor Monday at 2 p.m. He probably will be the only speaker in the afternoon.

Trail MLA in debut at session

By GORDON McCALLUM
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Donald L. Brothers was applauded from both sides of the House as he rose Friday to make his first speech in the legislature.

The loudest desk-thumping came from the government side. That was because everyone knew the government had struggled to a victory in getting Mr. Brothers elected in the Dec. 15 byelection at Rossland-Trail.

HE REPLACES former forestry minister Robert Sommers.

Mr. Brothers who was moving the reply to the speech from the throne asked for development of the Columbia River, and suggested speedy federal action.

He also sought equalization of freight rates.

He hoped labor leaders "are prepared to assume their places as responsible citizens of our community."

"THERE IS NO QUESTION that labor unions are a major factor in our province and must take their full share of the responsibility that comes with power to make sure that the public as a whole are not injured by their actions," he said.

He endorsed the government's policy on debt reduction and assistance to education.

Game violations show increase

VICTORIA—There has been an increase in violations of the fishing and game regulations, the government was told.

The annual report of the Department of Recreation and Conservation said that full figures cannot be given until later.

Cars get lost in B.C. potholes, says Socred

VICTORIA—An MLA Friday asked the government to change its road surfacing mix because motorists are losing their cars in the potholes.

William Murray, Prince Rupert Social Credit member, said potholes in some northern roads were so deep "that signs were placed in them by unfortunate motorists saying: 'Please don't fill this pothole in — my car is at the bottom'."

He admitted some exaggeration, but said the highways department should quit using a road surfacing known as "pulvi-mix" on northern roads.

Truckers face rise in overload costs

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Road-User Commission, which studied the contributions trucks and passenger cars make toward road costs, has suggested much higher fees, on a mileage basis, for overloads.

The commission report, tabled in the House, had suggested the 10-cent tax on diesel fuel be increased to 12 cents a gallon; it did not recommend a change in the 10-cent tax on gasoline.

But there would be a new system for overloads — and it was in overloads, the commission was told,

where highways might suffer the most.

THE PRESENT FEE is \$2 for permission to carry an overload; under the suggested system, it would be based from 10 cents a mile up to an overload of one ton, up to \$2.74 a mile for an overload of 30 tons.

It also suggested strict enforcement against vehicles which carry overloads without permission.

The commission suggested higher licensing fees for trucks and commercial vehicles, and a system of taking the gross weight (the loaded weight) instead of the net (unloaded) weight of vehicles.

HIGHWAY REPORT RELEASED

Gaglardi plane, repairs, cost \$36,000 in year

VICTORIA — The highway department spent \$36,420 on aircraft repairs and expenses during the fiscal year ending last March.

The figure, disclosed in the annual report of the department, was down about \$14,000 from the previous year when new engines were installed in the plane which Highways Minister Gaglardi uses.

The item is in the middle of an expenditure listing for "roads generally."

DURING THE SAME YEAR, \$21,287 was spent on metropolitan road planning in Vancouver, but no findings have ever been made public.

The bill for centre line marking was \$130,287.

It cost \$108,392 for maintenance of Lions Gate Bridge. This bill is paid by the Highway Department rather than from toll revenue. Maintenance at Oak Street Bridge cost \$93,311.

GROSS EXPENDITURE on Trans-Canada Highway in the province was \$26,409,187, with the federal government sharing 50-50 in a large part. A total of \$1,404,547 was spent on bridges on this highway.

Most costly: the nine-mile Canyon bridge and approaches at \$773,918.

There were 184 miles of highway constructed or reconstructed during the year, of which the Trans-Canada Highway had 63 miles.

SIXTY-TWO BRIDGES were completed and work was under way on 30 more, 16 of them on the Trans-Canada Highway.

There are 22,508 miles of highways supervised by the department, 3,528 as trunk highways, 2,395 as main highways. There were 14,617 miles kept clear of snow.

Total expenditure for maintenance for highways bridges and ferries was \$14,621,938.

There were 48 miles of seal-coating (preliminary hard-surfacing) completed.

The entire ferry system carried 2,879,758 vehicles. Besides the drivers there were 4,245,189 passengers. Busiest ferry was at Castlegar with 579,007 vehicles.

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Province Bureau
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Report shows B.C. ordered cut in staff

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A government
document has made it official
that a 5 per cent cut in staff
was ordered more than a year
ago by the B.C. government.

H. C. Davies, personnel offi-
cer in the department of high-
ways, had this statement in
the annual department report:

"The major undertaking of
the year was staff reduction.
In co-operation with the
civil service and our branch
heads, replacements were re-
stricted to a minimum, and
adjustments were made in the
operation of the particular
procedures to reduce unneces-
sary work.

The over-all staff reduction
during the year exceeded 5
per cent and at the peak
period of employment our
work force totalled 5,047; low
was 3,895.

Liquor for Indians urged to erase 'second class' slur

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Social
Credit backbencher asked
the government Friday to
change liquor laws so In-
dians will stop being "sec-
ond class citizens."

And he asked that vodka be
sold by the bottle in liquor
stores.

William Murray, of Prince
Rupert was seconding the
reply to the speech from the
throne.

INDIANS CAN DRINK in
beer parlors, but they can't

buy any beer from the parlors
to take out, nor can they buy
at liquor stores, he said.

"If I gave an Indian a drink
in hours outside of the licenced
sale hours, I would be commit-
ting an offence."

"Our restrictions make the
Indians feel the discrimination
and make them feel that the
label of 'second-class citizen'
is being applied to them," Mr.
Murray said.

IT WAS INCONSISTENT
that people may buy vodka in
case lots from the liquor com-

mission, or by the glass at
some licenced outlets, but can-
not buy it by the single bottle.

He said an explanation last
year that vodka is "an odor-
less and insidious drink" is
hardly consistent with the
sale by case lots.

"I urge this regulation be
rescinded," he said, "particu-
larly in view of its availability
in Alberta and in the U.S.

Liquor: the profit and loss account . . .

The provincial government should be
able to spare more of its enormous liquor
profits to augment the wretchedly small
grant it allots to the government-financed
Alcoholism Foundation of B.C.

Public accounts tabled at Victoria
show that the government sold \$93,000-
000 worth of booze in the last fiscal year
and made a net profit of \$26,838,507,
which went into the consolidated revenue
fund.

Out of this huge sum the government
decided at last budget time that it could
spare only \$50,000 for the Alcoholism
Foundation, a reduction of \$25,000 from
the previous annual grant. The Founda-
tion, which had budgeted \$83,000 for its
meagre operation in 1958, was finally able
to convince the government that the
\$25,000 cut should be restored.

This year the government should see
to it that the grant is considerably in-
creased, for the foundation's staff has had
to be reduced at a time when the number
of alcoholics in B.C. has risen by 2,000

cases in four years to a total of 22,000
cases.

It would be penny-wise for the gov-
ernment to consider grants toward curing
alcoholism solely in the nature of an ex-
pense. Seattle, a city a little larger than
Vancouver, estimates that alcoholism
costs there total about \$3,500,000 a year
for policing, jails, psychiatric hospitals,
traffic courts, lost working time and so
on.

Officials of the Alcoholism Foundation
hope to be able to "educate" the govern-
ment to the point where it will consider
it good business to give the foundation 1
per cent of its liquor profits to ward off
the most expensive results of over-drink-
ing.

Economically or morally there is no
excuse for the government ignoring its
proper responsibility toward minimizing
the bad effects of the abuse of liquor.

It should be able to spare 1 per cent
of its tremendous liquor profit to help
clear up the wreckage.

CCF leader charges:

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1959

B.C. plans sellout of public power

BCE, Wenner-Gren attacked in House

By GORDON McCALLUM
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition leader Robert Strachan charged Monday the B.C. Power Commission was being set up as prey for the B.C. Electric or Wenner-Gren.

He challenged Premier Bennett to a general election, berated Attorney-General Bonner for his handling of the Sommers case and accused Provincial Secretary Black of misleading the Legislature at the last session in his mental services report.

But at the end of the two-hour attack the government ranks were still solid and turned down a want-of-confidence motion by a vote of 37 to 14.

Mel Bryan, the former Social Creditor from North Vancouver who crossed the floor last year, voted with the opposition.

Mr. Strachan charged that the power commission "is being fattened up for the kill, when the time comes to turn it over to a private corporation."

DENIAL BY PREMIER

"The answer is no," Premier Bennett said.

"I've heard you say no before," said Mr. Strachan. "In the past the no has meant yes when the chips were down."

Mr. Strachan claimed the premier was afraid to refer the power question to a House committee.

"He gave it to a royal commission with narrow terms of reference which almost ignored completely the allegations of the former general manager."

(General manager H. Lee Briggs was fired by the commission after he publicly blasted the government on a refinancing arrangement he said the government was demanding. The Shrum Commission is now studying these allegations.)

CHARGES 'SERIOUS'

Mr. Strachan said that when Mr. Briggs made his allegations, the government was reduced to questioning his mental condition.

"The charges made by the former general manager were very serious," Mr. Strachan said.

The premier, said Mr. Strachan, has denied trying to juggle the debt of the power commission, but testimony by J. V. Fisher before the Shrum Commission "proved beyond a shadow of doubt that there was to be a switch in debt."

"YOU'RE ALWAYS WRONG"

"You were wrong and you were proven wrong," Mr. Strachan said directly to the premier.

"You're always wrong," the premier replied.

On the refinancing question, said Mr. Strachan, evidence by Mr. Briggs and former commissioner H. H. Griffin showed there was a refinancing step.

"The premier says no, the evidence says yes," said Mr. Strachan. "Everybody is out of step but the premier."

CITES NEWS STORY

Mr. Strachan said the premier had said, in an article in the Victoria Times, that there was no change in debt, at a very time that the Shrum commission was hearing evidence that there was.

"Not in structure," said the premier.

"Don't talk double talk," Mr. Strachan told him. And he added: "Yes is no to you; black is white to you." "Your conception of (the meaning of) words to you is an entirely different thing."

"Some day," said Mr. Strachan.

(Continued on next page)
See BIG INTERESTS

MLA blasts financing of Peace River power

VICTORIA — Financing of the proposed Peace River power development was criticized by MLA George Gregory in the Legislature Monday.

He would be surprised if the general public were offered shares in the Peace River Development Company—the Wenner-Gren-backed company which is investigating development of Peace River power—at less than \$10 a share, he said.

The Wenner-Gren organization got them for 35 cents a share and B.C. Electric at \$1 a share.

The Victoria Liberal also criticized Attorney-General Bonner for his handling of the Sommers case.

He said the government should turn the generation of power over to a new B.C. hydro authority which could develop power in the most economical way and sell it to the B.C. Electric and the B.C. Power Commission.

The government should hire the best men available to run the new enterprise and be willing to pay them appropriate salaries, he said.

The lawyer-member said one problem in attracting industry to B.C. was that "our power rates are too high."

A hydro authority could get to work developing the province's power resources on the most economical terms, he said. It could start with development of the Columbia and the Peace rivers.

Mr. Gregory said he was not hitting at the government-controlled power commission.

He believed the power commissions had done their best "but you can't expect the very best from men who have already done their life's work."

Bennett ignores Strachan

VICTORIA — Premier Bennett turned his back on CCF Leader Robert Strachan during part of the opposition leader's address in the House on Monday.

The premier, as do other members, sits on a swivel chair.

For many minutes, on Monday, he turned completely around and faced the cabinet members in the row behind him.

At other times he examined documents and discussed them with the ministers beside him.

Once or twice Mr. Strachan needed him into comment.

Once, on Monday, it appeared that Mr. Speaker Hugh Shantz was noticing the fact that the premier was turned around.

He called: "Order, please." The premier partly turned his chair.

"Such disrespect. Wait for him," a CCF voice called.

"Order, please," Mr. Speaker said again.

Mr. Bennett turned all the way around.

But then, there was no spoken-word indication that Mr. Speaker was referring to the premier.

Continued

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"Are you (An election premier.

"Any time said, Mr. S wouldn't dare."

Mr. Strachan is questioning in its relation Wenner-Gren which proposed Peace River

PEOPLE

"For years been dominating pus," he said.

"No wonder BC are feared as long as in power."

The police ment, he said power commission for B.C. Electric.

Gren."

"It will be province if

B.C. Electric have absolute hydro resources

CRITICIZE

"This (made) our ing stock of

Strachan.

The Soc ment has d of B.C. an in jeopardy

Once, as Sommers Shantz called

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Continued from Page One

BIG INTERESTS HIT

chan, "there will be a change
in government" and we will
get a decent power commis-
sion. Oh, you are pretty scared
now, Mr. premier."

"Are you asking for one?
(An election)" demanded the
premier.

"Any time you are ready,"
said Mr. Strachan. "You
wouldn't dare. You wouldn't
dare."

Mr. Strachan said all of BC
is questioning the government
in its relationship with the
Wenner-Gren organization,
which proposes to develop
Peace River power.

'PEOPLE FEARFUL'

"For years this province has
been dominated by an octo-
pus," he said.

"No wonder the people of
BC are fearful of the future
as long as this government is
in power."

The policies of the govern-
ment, he said, had made the
power commission "fair game
for B.C. Electric or Wenner-
Gren."

"It will be a sad day in this
province if such companies as
B.C. Electric or Wenner-Gren
have absolute control of the
hydro resources."

CRITICIZES BONNER

"This government has
(made) our province the laugh-
ing stock of Canada," said Mr.
Strachan.

The Social Credit govern-
ment has disgraced the people
of B.C. and put their future
in jeopardy.

Once, as he discussed the
Sommers case, Mr. Speaker
Shantz called him to order.
But this did not occur until he
had delivered a long criticism
of Attorney-General Bonner's
handling of the Sommers case.

"This government is no long-
er worthy of the confidence of
the people," Mr. Strachan said
in his motion of non-confid-
ence. "It should resign."

GREGORY FOLLOWS

Mr. Strachan spoke from
2:12 p.m. to 4:19 and then
House Liberal leader George
Gregory took up the cudgels
in the attack on the govern-
ment.

Mr. Strachan, a Scot with a
hint of heather in his voice,
accused the government of "a
fear that the government
might get to know too much.
It has a cringing fear of criti-
cism."

He accused the government
of denying an order for a 5
per cent reduction in staff,
and still "there are not enough
stenographers around to do
the job properly of extending
the ordinary courtesy of a
reply (to a letter)."

SHUSHES BENNETT

As he thrust and probed,
Premier Bennett kept, at
times, a running comment, in
a low voice.

"Calm down, Mr. Premier,"
Mr. Strachan demanded at one
point.

Referring to the free space
given by newspapers to the
premier for articles of which
the premier was the acknow-
ledged author, Mr. Strachan
said:

"The premier has accused
the reporters of B.C. of being
fiction writers. He is not do-
ing so badly in his own arti-
cles."

BLACK ATTACKED

He said government cen-
tennial year booklets last year

paid tribute to the pioneers of
roadbuilding at the same time
the Social Credit government
was listing their efforts as "a
vaudeville job."

"He ran," he said of Pro-
vincial Secretary Wesley Black
on the debate last year on the
state of the mental institu-
tions.

He said that all through last
session "he was sitting on a
report" which, said Mr.
Strachan, bore out what the
opposition was saying about
the department.

QUOTES REPORT

"It was a rejection of your
promise to keep the people in-
formed," he told the premier.
It was done for political ad-
vantage. It was a masterful
display of irresponsibility."

Mr. Strachan quoted from
sections of the report which
referred to a blanket order to
cut staff by 5 per cent—and
said Mr. Black had denied last
year that there was such an
order; that it reported that
social services had to be re-
duced and even, in some areas,
to be withdrawn completely.

Mr. Black, last year, said Mr.
Strachan, had termed the op-
position charges as mere pro-
paganda "when all the time
you had the report. You with-
held the information which
you had."

UBC BUDGET HIT

Other observations by Mr.
Strachan:

● "There was a miserable
increase" for UBC in last
year's estimates;

● "I never saw so many
(road) surveyors about as I
did during the Rossland-Trail
byelection";

● This government is the
"sickest, smoothest, most un-
scrupulous political machine
this province has ever
known";

● "There is now the same
type of machine in Social
Credit as that which was so
freely condemned in the other
parties."

CITES SOMMERS CASE

Mr. Strachan again criti-
cized Attorney-General Robert
Bonner for delaying prosecu-
tion in the Sommers case.
(Former forestry minister
Robert Sommers was con-
victed of bribery and sen-
tenced to five years; he is
on bail pending an appeal.)

This is now the fourth year,
said Mr. Strachan, because
there is something before a
commission or before the
courts, that the House has
been unable to freely debate
the case.

He reminded the House that
Premier Bennett made the

legislature sit all one night
"just because we asked for
an investigation. We were not
asking for prosecution nor for
persecution, but for an investi-
gation."

What Mr. Sommers needed,
he said, was "protection from
his friends."

Mr. Strachan, detailing the
Sommers case, in which there
was testimony of the repay-
ment of an \$8,000 loan, said:
"Only three people know
about that loan."

HALTED BY SPEAKER

At that minute Mr. Speaker
Shantz halted his speech and
ruled that further references
were sub-judice (before the
courts.) Despite a plea from
lawyer Gordon Dowding, CCF,
Burnaby, that his ruling was
wrong, the Speaker stuck to it.

Mr. Dowding argued that
the appeal is not on the evi-
dence and discussion in the
House would not prejudice an
appeal.

"This is not a court of re-
view," said Mr. Bonner. "And
there would not be additional
prejudice. The opposition has
been doing it right along."

INVITATION BY BONNER

Mr. Bonner invited that the
question be raised again dur-
ing his estimates "when I can
reply with the same heat."

(Under parliamentary pro-
cedure he was technically
wrong, as was the premier
before him, in breaking in
during this debate).

Mr. Bonner rose to interrupt
several times and at one point
declared: "I'll deal with you
later, my friend."

WILLISTON REPLIES

Mr. Strachan was followed
to the floor by Mr. Gregory
and by Lands and Forests Min-
ister Ray Williston.

Mr. Williston said Mr. Stra-
chan had got up "quite a head
of steam" but his assertions re-
minded the minister of the
sputterings of a rocket that
was finally lost in space.

He said not one of Mr.
Strachan's assertions that the
B.C. Power Commission was
being "fattened for the kill"
to be taken over by the B.C.
Electric Company or the Wen-
ner-Gren interests could be
substantiated.

When the "full story" of the
power commission became
known it would be anything
but the story Mr. Strachan was
trying to write.

BACKING ADVANCES

The facts behind the govern-
ment's financial proposals for
the commission were simply
that it was trying to give
proper backing to advances

made to the commission in the
past.

He told Mr. Strachan he
would not say the commission
was not meeting its debts.

The power commission "has
been paying but the rate at
which it was paying back
would not have retired its
debts on the due dates."

Referring to the opposition
leader's criticisms of a 17-per-
cent increase in freight rates
on the government-owned Pa-
cific Great Eastern Railway,
the minister said the PGE is
committed to follow the course
of the national railways in
freight rate matters because it
has to meet the same wage
scales.

TO ANSWER TODAY

Mr. Williston said the 17-
per-cent rate hike would apply
to only a very few of the com-
modities carried by the line
and would "not affect the
economy of this province very
much."

The minister promised that
today he will go into the
matter of power and Mr.
Strachan's charges about the
Wenner-Gren deal.

'Peace River power vital in six years'

—Williston

By GORDON McCALLUM
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Peace River (Wenner-Gren) power development will help avert a critical power shortage in B.C. in the next six or seven years.

Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston made this declaration in the Legislature on Tuesday as he defended the government's encouragement of power development on the river.

In a speech of one hour and 30 minutes, he said:

● B.C. power demands are going up at more than 9 per cent every year.

● Even if all the difficulties of Columbia development co-operation were solved now, heavy power could not be expected from it before 1967;

● The door is open for both public and private investment in this (Peace River) scheme;

● The people of B.C. should be thankful there is activity in the Peace River now;

● Power development in B.C. will be the magnet for industry, just as the Bonneville project in the U.S. acted as a magnet for the north-west United States.

Mr. Williston got little needling from the opposition as he spoke.

Columbia plans more complex

He said final engineering on the Columbia, in addition to the conclusion of the downstream benefits question, "is a much more complex problem" than that on the Peace River.

He claimed that the present federal government has not been pushing for an agreement with the United States; that U.S. interests dictated a policy of delay in negotiating a Columbia settlement up to the point where B.C. could be so power-hungry that it would make an unreasonable settlement.

Now that the Wenner-Gren development is being planned, he said, "We are in a much better bargaining position as far as the Columbia is concerned."

Mr. Williston declared that the Columbia development envisages many dams.

On the other hand, "the

Peace River project is fairly simple in execution when compared to the Fraser or Columbia. Site selection is limited to three or four locations and already some of these have been abandoned because of poor foundation materials."

He declared that at the present time no other major hydro power development is under way or projected in B.C.

'Less obstacles to be overcome'

"No other major source of power is presently in this statement of development. There seem to be less obstacles to be overcome on the Peace to deliver electricity than from any other present source."

He said there had been claims that power could not be transmitted over the long distance from Peace River to the Lower Mainland; but he said, competent engineers have said it can be done.

He estimated that by 1975, B.C. will need the power from both the Columbia and the Peace River.

"It is mandatory that a major river development be harnessed to supply the provincial power needs by 1965 unless we are to turn more completely to relatively expensive thermal generation."

"By 1975, a substantial portion of all the available energy which I have listed will be required. By the year 2,000, we will be looking toward the Liard, the Upper Stikine, and the Taku for future sources of electric power."

BUDA BROWN APPEALS

Student aid plan backed

By GORDON McCALLUM
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Mrs. Buda Brown asked the Legislature Tuesday for more help for UBC and for development plans for university endowment lands.

The lone woman on the government side of the house, representing Point Grey, said she was pleased that the throne speech said more loans and bursaries would be made available to UBC students.

"Living close to the university, I have been able to observe how many of our worthy young people work at many kinds of jobs and I think they often do without even necessities in order to put themselves through."

"These are the students who will find a raise in tuition fees almost insurmountable."

Turning to Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston, she added:

"May I again make a special plea for the master plan of the university endowment lands to be brought forth."

"This is my constituency and the people living there are getting a little anxious regarding the opening up of the lands."

Uphill appeals for more aid to Fernie area

VICTORIA — Tom Uphill, the veteran, independent member from Fernie, won applause from both sides of the House Tuesday when he called for more government aid for his area.

He said Fernie has lost 200 persons since the coal mines closed a year ago and now it has also lost a second industry, a brewery with a \$100,000 payroll.

He called for road and other developments to take up the slack in employment.

MLA claims workers back Wen-Gren

VICTORIA — Peace River Power Development will "be the turning point in the development of the northland," a Social Credit MLA told the House Tuesday.

Hugh Shirreff, Skeena, who lives at Kitimat, said he couldn't understand why the CCF opposition would oppose the (Wenner-Gren) development.

"The workers were amazed when there was opposition to it because to them it will mean a vast pool of work."

"It will mean an influx of cheap power."

Y, JANUARY 28, 1959

DOWN APPEALS

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DON McCALLUM

ce Victoria Bureau

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"It will mean an influx of cheap power."

Bennett battles over debt

By GORDON McCALLUM
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The Legis- lature voted unanimously at 11:25 p.m. Tuesday to have the labor committee study the problems of un- employment and thus meekly ended hours of bit- ter debate.

The house had argued, in an unexpected night sitting, whether a committee of the whole house, as wanted by the CCF, should study it, or whether it should go to the labor committee, as suggested by labor minister Lyle Wicks.

CCF JOINED IN

When the legislature turned down the CCF amendment, the CCF then joined the govern- ment in passing the original resolution.

The final vote came after a vigorous defence by Premier Bennett of his debt repayment policies, after the CCF had re- ferred to them.

He said that only by reduc- ing the net debt, had the government been able to get millions for expansion by government agencies and guarantee school borrowings.

"The financial policies of this government will make free enterprise work," he said.

He said B.C. pays the highest social assistance rates in all Canada, and the greatest con- tribution to municipalities.

ATTACK ON STRACHAN

In a direct thrust at CCF leader Robert Strachan, the premier recalled an earlier by- election when Harold Winch was CCF leader.

"The CCF had good leader- ship then," he said. "Who would have put on the scene that the present leader did to- day?"

"We had a courteous pre- mier then, too," Mr. Strachan snapped.

For every dollar of debt re- duction, he said, there had been many more dollars spent on the expansion of B.C.

CREATED JOBS

"That (debt reduction) is the reason we have been able to create all this employment," the premier said.

The net debt position will enable the government to get "the hundreds of millions nec- essary" for public develop- ment of the Columbia River.

CCFer Ran Harding sought to placate both sides of the house.

"We deserve to get into the trouble we do," he said. "It is the foolish attitude the gov- ernment takes, and possibly ourselves, which puts us in the position we are in."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1959

Parliamentarians or schoolboys?

It's time our elected representatives stopped the name-calling game and got back to business—the public's business.

We've had the opening run of exhibi- tion circus in both Victoria and Ot- tawa. Derision tactics accomplish only one thing: cheapening both the individual members and the House as a whole in the public's eyes.

How can you blame the public for its "who cares?" attitude on important public issues when the exchange of taunts seems to be the main course in our legislature?

This repartee of ridicule from op- position to government (and vice-versa) boomerangs. The public loses interest . . . and respect.

We believe that Opposition Leader Robert Strachan won no converts in his scathing attack on the government Mon- day—not because of the issues raised but

because of the terms in which many of his remarks were couched.

And Premier Bennett, who joined the cross-fire of taunts and at one point turned his swivel chair and his back to Mr. Strachan while the opposition leader was speaking, did not set a good example.

Small things in themselves, perhaps. But it appears this sort of behavior is be- coming the norm, not the exception.

Not that anyone wants legislative de- bates to become heavy and dull. But where are the knife-edge wit, the sparkling repartee, the scathing retorts with which former hard-hitting parliamentarians like Gordon Wismer, Harold Winch and the late R. H. Pooley, Duff Pattullo and R. L. Maitland enlivened former legislative ses- sions?

Nobody is naive enough to expect that the politicians will stop putting on a show. But let it be a lively, entertaining one. Not an exchange of schoolboy insults.

RECESS CALLED

At 11 p.m., the House had voted 32-14 against a CCF move to send the question to a committee of the whole House.

The night sitting developed when Mr. Speaker Hugh Shantz called a recess at 6 p.m. and then at 8 had to hear a debate, then call another re- cess, to decide if it was a new sitting of the House, or a con- tinuation of the afternoon one.

The ruling: It was a new sitting.

Bennett to seek more aid for B.C.

Meets P.M. on Friday

By GORDON McCALLUM
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier Bennett will be absent from the Legislature today and Friday while he confers in Ottawa with Prime Minister Diefenbaker.

Both sides of the House on Wednesday wished him well on his trip.

Premier Bennett has not specifically said what B.C. is asking of the federal government, but, basically, it might be described as "give us more."

PREMIER'S REQUESTS

The premier will ask, it is expected:

- More federal assistance in highway construction, extending the cost-sharing to secondary roads, besides the Trans-Canada Highway;

- Subsidies on the extension of the Pacific Great Eastern railway to Fort St. John and Dawson Creek;

FOREST FIRES

- Federal sharing in the high cost of fighting forest fires (it was more than \$4,000,000 last year.) B.C. will argue that Canada gets tax earnings from corporations which make money from the forests and should assist B.C. in protecting "the investment;"

- More aid for universities;

- A federal-provincial scheme to help unemployment. Dan Campbell, the Social Credit member from Comox, said the premier is also expected to ask the federal government to share in a \$20,000,000 road program to open up the entire northern half of Vancouver Island.

Fewer accidents in 1958 but death toll higher

VICTORIA—B.C. traffic fatalities increased to 282 in 1958, 30 more than in the previous year. The number of persons injured increased by 78 to 9,599.

However, figures released Wednesday by the motor vehicles branch showed a drop in the number of accidents and property damage.

There were 24,424 accidents, a decrease of 1,530, and property damage amounted to \$11,810,051, down \$241,258.

The fatalities occurred in 246 accidents, indicating there were a number of multiple deaths.

RAPS OTTAWA

Bonner urges fiscal parley

By GORDON McCALLUM
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Deficit financing by the national government "has dangerously expanded the money supply," Attorney General Robert Bonner told the Legislature on Wednesday.

Speaking as minister of industrial development, he told the Legislature deficit financing and monetary expansion can contribute to general recovery, but only if it avoids adding costs to production.

He said dominion-provincial conferences can do much to "improve our situation," and "certainly such a conference concerning the national economy is now overdue."

Mr. Bonner said there are some disturbing problems in B.C.'s general economy, but "we begin 1959 with great confidence in the future."

BUSINESS REPORT

His address covered economic conditions, freight rates and the industrial expansion which may be expected.

"Employment is a barometer of our economic health and it is obvious that we have passed through some very heavy weather in this province," he said.

Mr. Bonner called for closer unified action in Canada.

"One thing is not debatable and may be derived from our own national experience—that is that so far as fiscal measur-

es of government are concerned, national improvement cannot be other than accidental or incidental so long as the 10 provincial governments and the federal government pursue individual, possibly 11 divergent, policies."

He declared that a provincial balanced budget could be wiped out by a month of current national deficit.

PGE FREIGHT RATES

Mr. Bonner defended the increase of PGE freight rates—at a time when the government opposed the freight rate increase of the national railways — by saying that 95 per cent of the PGE increase was decided by the change in Canadian rates or changes in American rates. And, he said, the PGE always has accepted the awards made on wage rates to employees of the national railways.

Mr. Bonner urges barley

McCALLUM
Victoria Bureau
"The government is expanding the money supply," Mr. Bonner told the Legislature.

industrial development, he said, financing and monetary general recovery, but only production.

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MLAs get knuckles rapped; told to mind their tongues

Province Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA—Both sides of the Legislature were sharply rebuked by Mr. Speaker Hugh Shantz on Wednesday for unparliamentary language.

Mr. Speaker was delivering his prepared decision on a procedure hassle which had developed in the House on Tuesday night. It was a technical decision, appreciated only by the MLA's.

But the Speaker added:

QUESTIONS ADJECTIVES

"I shall ask the honorable members in future to make a greater effort to contain themselves to the matters before the House. I shall exercise more care myself in seeing that they do.

"I also suggest that some of the adjectives which have been used are not parliamentary words. I ask the honorable

members to watch their language more closely."

And when Attorney-General Robert Bonner rose to speak a few moments later, he said humorously: "I appreciate your ruling, Mr. Speaker. I

shall now throw away three pages of my notes."

Mr. Bonner was exaggerating, but he did change some of his speech.

A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE

His prepared text, typed before the Shantz ruling, said of CCF opposition leader Robert Strachan:

"His remarks emphasize not only ignorance of this subject, but what is worse, an indifference toward discovering the real answer."

But when Mr. Bonner got to it, he said: "His remarks indicate an unawareness of the true state of facts."

And, clearly, there was a difference.

Old Cariboo getting new look -- MLA

VICTORIA (CP) — The historic Cariboo, not long removed from the pack horse and kerosene lamp, is "on the move" from Clinton to Prince George.

So said William Speare, who represents the Cariboo, when he addressed the legislature Thursday.

The Social Credit member said new roads are going into the land where gold-seekers trekked. Schools and hospitals are going up and new industries moving in.

The abandoned town of Barkerville, once the centre of the Cariboo gold seekers, was already attracting tourists.

But, he warned the government's job didn't end with "primary" development of the Cariboo. There would be "secondary" problems and the government should give them serious consideration.

Good bridges were needed. He mentioned particularly a bridge across the Fraser to serve the Chilcotin and possible replacement of a suspension bridge near Quesnel.

Court house promised for Victoria

Province Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Works minister W. N. Chant told the Legislature Thursday that a start would be made soon on a new court house in Victoria.

Remembering that Mr. Chant made the same promise publicly three years ago, Liberal MLA George Gregory asked:

"This year?"
But he could get no commitment. "In the very near future," said Mr. Chant.

The minister covered other Victoria building needs in his speech.

"I see no reason why we can't envisage not only a university and a museum, but also, in due course, and I trust not too far in the future, an auditorium."

An auditorium would attract conventions and entertainment "and mean added revenue and activity for this city."

But, as minister, he said, "I must consider the building needs of the whole province and there is great urgency for more buildings."

'Flying Phil' finds other bedfellows

VICTORIA—It was an embarrassing moment in the legislature Thursday night when Works Minister William Chant talked about highway speed.

He was extolling the new highways in B.C. and said there is much more safe highway "as long as you stay within speed bounds."

All eyes turned toward highways Minister Phil Gaglardi, three times convicted of speeding, with his licence twice suspended.

Mr. Chant took him off the hook this way: "I doubt if there is a member of this house who has not exceeded the speed limit at one time or another. If there is, let him stand."

No one stood.

Curb asked on new game hunters

VICTORIA—A Social Credit MLA Thursday advocated "learners' licences" for hunters as part of a better hunting safety program.

Don Smith, member for Victoria, also suggested lifetime suspension of a hunting licence if the holder is involved in a shooting accident.

The MLA said a learner's licence would make it mandatory that a hunter, licensed for the first time, could hunt for the first year only in the company of an experienced hunter.

"There are high-powered weapons in the hands of idiots who sometimes can't even load them properly," he said.

Rights bill parley demanded

VICTORIA—A liberal member will ask the B.C. government to seek a federal-provincial conference on a Canadian bill of rights.

Archie Gibbs, Oak Bay, has placed a motion on the order paper.

He said that Canada has introduced "a measure to preserve human rights," and such legislation, to be made fully effective, may require parallel legislation in the provinces.

He suggested that the conference would decide what constitutional amendments may be necessary to "give full effect to a Canadian bill of rights."

AGREE WITH MLA

Used car dealers endorse bonding

Vancouver used-car dealers agree with Socred MLA Alex Matthew that they should be bonded—but some think he exaggerated his case a little.

Mr. Matthew told the legislature Wednesday: "It's about time this province raised the used car industry out of the gutter."

He suggested bonding and quoted opinions that 10 per cent of the dealers are "downright dishonest, and 20 per cent operate on the fringe of respectability."

R. H. Butcher, president of Roy's Car Sales Ltd., said: "Bonding would clear up the situation so the public would know whom to trust."

SOME 'SHADY' DEALERS

"There are four or five dealers who are a little shady, but generally it's just like any other business."

J. L. Cunard, secretary-manager of the Automotive Retailers' Association of B.C., also supported Mr. Matthew.

He said: "Our board of directors recently agreed that bonding would be evidence of stability, and reputable firms could not possibly object."

"WE KNOW THEM"

Edwin T. Orr, manager of Vancouver Motor Dealers' As-

sociation commented: "If responsible people believe there is a need for regulation, then there should be regulation."

And another dealer who didn't want his name used said: "The number of out-and-out thieves is very small, and we know them all. Bonding is a good thing, but I don't know if it would put these men out of business, because I think they could get a bond anyway."

Wicks sees a London on Fraser

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A great dock and wharfing area along the Fraser River up to Mission City was envisaged by Labor Minister Lyle Wicks in the Legislature Thursday.

He declared the Fraser River basin covers an area of 90,000 square miles.

"One of the world's greatest ports is situated on the Thames River, a much smaller river than the Fraser," he said.

"There is no reason why the banks of the Fraser could not become the second city of London with docks and wharf facilities as far inland as Mission City, 35 to 40 miles upstream, or even further."

"As a matter of fact we all know that Yale was at one time the head of navigation 100 years ago so the feasibility was long ago established."

Wild animal sanctuary to honor Winch urged

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Creation of a wild animal sanctuary to honor the memory of Ernest Winch, long-time CCF member for Burnaby, was suggested in the Legislature Thursday.

Mrs. Lois Haggen, CCF, Grand Forks-Greenwood, said it would "be a very fine thing to do, as a memorial."

"As most of the members of this House know, Ernie Winch was a man who loved not only all human beings, but all of God's creatures."

The request was directed across the floor to Recreation Minister E. C. Westwood. He gave no indication of his reaction.

Friday, Jan. 30, 1959

Council hinted to help solve labor problems

By GORDON McCALLUM
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A hint that B.C. will name an advisory council for labor problems was given in the Legislature Thursday by Labor Minister Lyle Wicks.

He said such a council had some value in Australia, and he felt that men and women of the high principles needed could be found in B.C.

But his suggestion was that it be examined further; he did not definitely say that such a council would be named.

In Australia, he said, the group advised the labor minister.

It was the only hint of labor legislation which the minister made.

HIGH CALIBRE

"Whether it is possible at this time in our evolution or at some time in the future to constitute a council patterned along the lines of that in operation in Australia, I do not know," the minister said.

He said it appeared that persons selected "are of such high calibre and are so dedicated that they are prepared to put their country or their state first."

"I believe that such persons can be found here."

ATTRACTED INTEREST

The minister declared that actually there were fewer industrial disputes, 29, last year than in 1957 when there were 35.

"The industrial disputes last year attracted far greater than usual citizen interest," he said, "because they affected more directly the well-being and personal comfort of the general public."

MAKES APPEAL

Mr. Wicks declared that areas which have a system of labor courts or compulsory arbitration did not have "the complete answer. They all had strikes and lockouts and they had time-loss from these causes."

In an appeal to both labor and management, he said:

"The government has viewed past events with some anxiety, and we have been called upon many for action."

"Perhaps labor and management should take a very careful look at their method of operation and, even more pertinent, perhaps re-examine their own position and attitudes."

ment should take a very careful look at their method of operation and, even more pertinent, perhaps re-examine their own position and attitudes."

YOUNG COUNTRY

He declared that last year some industrial groups recommended compulsory arbitration, but at the same time Britain was abandoning compulsory arbitration.

"We are a young country,"

said Mr. Wicks, "younger still in terms of a background in industrial relations."

"Canada's experience in this field has been largely exploratory. If we have reached a stage in our development that we are all prepared to put first things first, then it seems to me that such a move (the naming of an advisory council) might prove useful to the people of the province of British Columbia."

Urge aid on older houses

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Social Credit backbencher urged in the Legislature on Thursday that municipalities be enabled to allow tax exemptions, for limited periods, on improvements made to residential property.

Don Smith, Victoria, said many owners of older property "have a darned hard time making ends meet." They are discouraged from improving their homes because their assessments, and thus the taxes, would go up.

LEAVE IT AS IS

"In short," he said, "they feel they are better off in leaving their property the way it is instead of inviting higher taxes."

He said such a scheme would encourage improvements and help avoid the creation of slum areas.

A deadline would have to be set for the start of improvements, perhaps the end of 1959, and he suggested that the period of tax-exemption on the improvement might extend to five years.

LACK OF REPAIR

Mr. Smith said the city of Milwaukee and the State of New York has legislation similar to that he is proposing.

"The plague on our older houses is lack of repair, and the thing that is tearing them down is financial inability on the part of the owners."

Murray to head committee

VICTORIA—W. H. Murray, Social Credit, Prince Rupert, was named chairman of the legislature's select standing committee on labor.

This is the committee which, directed by the house, will study unemployment.

Mr. Murray said an organization meeting will be held today when it will be decided who is to be called to give evidence. Both labor and management representatives are expected to appear.

Business sessions are not expected to start before next Wednesday.

'WELFARE SUFFERS'

Bennett 'obsession' rapped by CCFer

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Premier Bennett was accused Thursday of "an obsession" to pay off the debt "and of doing it at the expense of human welfare."

Mrs. Lois Haggen, CCF, Grand Forks-Greenwood, told the legislature that she believes in debt reduction, and all good governments should.

"But not," she said, "when it is accelerated to coincide with a possible election; not when it is done at the expense of human welfare as I think is being done at this time."

She declared that "most definitely the services in practically all departments of the government have deteriorated as a result of the premier's obsession to create what he calls a debt-free province."

"I cannot calmly contemplate what the situation will be with another one or two years' continuation of the policy."

She expressed "cautious optimism" the throne speech declaration that there would

be increased grants to school districts and to UBC.

Mrs. Haggen said she was pleased that there will be expanded facilities for mentally-retarded children.

But she urged that there be a companion seminar for the parents of mentally retarded children so that it would help ease the physical and emotional stress they are undergoing.

Wicks critical of bonds deal

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Labor Minister Lyle Wicks told the Legislature on Thursday Ottawa is spending more on refinancing charges, than on creating jobs. He said the reconversion of federal bonds last fall will mean an extra \$90,000,000 a year.

He said the federal government has authorized \$41,000,000 worth of projects on its cost-sharing plan with the municipalities. But he said, the federal government actually will be contributing only \$6,000,000, which would mean jobs for 7,500 for 60 days.

If \$90,000,000 had been used for the projects, it would mean jobs for 112,500, he said.

MLA

Car dealers bonding

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SOCRED TELLS HOUSE:

Vancouver needs more aid, MLA's

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A Vancouver MLA Friday asked for more MLAs and more money for Vancouver.

Fred Sharp, Social Credit member for Vancouver East, called in the House for redistribution of the legislature's 52 seats according to population.

He also said "a new formula is needed for grants to Vancouver."

Mr. Sharp said the city has only nine MLAs to represent one-third of the population of the province.

He said Vancouver gets a total of \$35 million for all purposes from a provincial budget of nearly \$300 million, or "less than 13 per cent."

MORE HIGHWAY AID

Mr. Sharp also asked for more assistance to Vancouver for arterial highways "on the same basis as surrounding municipalities."

He said that highways leading into Vancouver through Burnaby and Richmond are entirely paid for by the provincial government, and then inside Vancouver, the highway assistance is meagre.

On the question of representation, Mr. Sharp compared his own riding with two seats for 74,107 voters to Victoria's three seats for 21,502 voters

and Esquimalt's one seat for 12,708.

OTHER REQUESTS

Mr. Sharp also:

- Called for approval of a Vancouver School Board request to sell Moberly School property at Fraser and Marine so the school can be relocated;

- Urged the government undertake full costs of operating Vancouver Vocational School;

- Asked for a revised formula for sharing school costs to help Vancouver taxpayers, and called for an extension of kindergarten facilities.

Economic planning urged by Nimsick

VICTORIA (CP)—A CCFer held the attention of the Legislature for more than an hour Friday and told Social Credit members the unregulated free enterprise they preach is outmoded.

Leo Nimsick (CCF-Cranbrook) said the system has failed to solve B.C.'s economic problems.

A commission of experts should be established to come up with the best economic plan. It was a "scientific problem" that would not be solved by political thought.

He believed it should start with public power. The government should establish an integrated public power system instead of "giving away" rights to outside private interests.

Another speaker, J. Allen Reid (BC-Slocan) gave much

of his speech to an attack on the CCF brand of socialism. He said the CCF government of Saskatchewan now is "pleading with private enterprise to get it out of the hole."

Mr. Reid also urged park development in the Shuswap Lake area and praised the royal commission report on the tree-fruit industry.

VICTORIA (CP)—Provincial welfare director J. S. Sadler will be invited to appear before the B.C. Legislature's standing committee on labor to report on severity of current unemployment.

MLA protests car insurance 'youth rate'

VICTORIA (CP)—Leo Nimsick (CCF, Cranbrook) told the legislature Friday it is "rank discrimination" to make boys up to 25 pay higher—almost double—normal car insurance rates.

"If a person doesn't drive properly, take away his licence," he said, "but the majority of these young people are good drivers."

"It is definitely wrong to let the insurance companies decide who is to drive and who can not. If you are a risk you shouldn't be driving."

Student aid plan forecast

Peterson reports to legislature

By GORDON McCALLUM

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A new plan to help students get through university was forecast in the Legislature Friday by Education Minister Leslie Peterson.

He gave no details but told the legislature he felt it will be "heartily endorsed by all the honorable members of this House."

Mr. Peterson was making his report to the Legislature.

He cited what the government has done for the university.

But, he said, "more important than the division of the budget between student fees and government grants is the principle that everyone with the necessary ability who wants to undertake university should be at liberty to do so without regard to his financial standing or that of his parents."

STUDENT MUST WORK

Mr. Peterson said he did not believe a university education should be free.

"I believe that every student should be called upon to make some investment in his future career," he said.

He said the Social Credit government has increased university loans and bursaries by "well over 300 per cent;" it has increased the university grant from \$1,900,000 to \$4,334,000; the contribution has increased from \$149 per student enrolled to \$460.

GRANTS CITED

Ten years ago, he said, student fees accounted for more than 60 per cent of the university budget; now, federal and provincial grants account for 70 per cent.

The education minister said B.C. has sharply stepped up its vocational education program. He said that in B.C.'s industrial expansion, many skilled workers have been attracted to B.C., but there is still the need to train more.

CENTRALIZE TRAINING

He said the primary purpose of the new vocational school in Burnaby will be to provide men for skilled trades.

"Several centres" had requested the establishment of vocational training centres; but, he said, costly equipment is required and up to now it has been necessary to centralize this training.

CRITICIZES LAING

Mr. Peterson criticized Liberal Leader Arthur Laing who, at an Oak Bay meeting, had discussed the financial affairs of the school board in Richmond.

He produced a letter from the Richmond board which ended:

"The board views with distaste the interjection of its affairs into the political arena and dissociates itself, without qualification, from the reported statements made by Mr. Laing."

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COSTUMES SMART, PRACTICAL

Opening Well Attended In Spite of Weatherman

By JANET PARTRIDGE
VICTORIA — Main topic of conversation in Victoria Thursday wasn't the opening of the legislature, but the weather, which didn't behave at all well. In fact, it was horrid and grounded on the Mainland many people who, at the last minute, were unable to make the state dinner Wednesday or the opening.

Furs and feathers and everything else dripped. Lieut.-Gov. Frank M. Ross, in his plumed uniform, stood at salute in the rain for the 15 guns, inspected the RCAF honor guard from Comox, climbed the House steps to be greeted by Premier W. A. C. Bennett and, soaking wet, read a very long speech from the throne. It covered much to be proud of in the centennial year.

SMART COSTUMES

In deference to the season and the weather, most women guests wore costumes that, while smart, were on the practical and not too colorful side. Uniforms of members of the RCMP and bright costumes of some of the women guests

were a happy contrast to the dark skies outside.

Red robes worn by Most Rev. Harold Sexton, Chief Justice Sherwood Lett and Mr. Justice N. W. Whittaker looked grand.

Then there was the vibrant blue of Mrs. Frank Ross's little hat, and the pretty green worn with mink by the premier's wife.

Mrs. John MacD Lecky's smart cherry red wool dress with matching quilled hat and mink stole, was another gay touch in the House.

Mrs. Buda Brown, MLA, was in a gorgeous bright royal blue ensemble happily allied with small flowered hat in just the right shades of green. Another bright blue was worn by the Minister of Health's wife, Mrs. E. C. F. Martin.

Mrs. Lois Haggen, MLA, was in a pretty gold shade, with wide fur-bordered collar, and Mrs. R. O. Campney smart in beige wool with fur jacket and bronze coq feather toque.

The honor of wearing the only spring straw hat in the House, a lovely creamy natural shade nodding with pink

rosesbuds was Mrs. Lloyd Turner's. The hat was a perfect complement to her light suit of rough Italian silk under fur jacket, Mrs. W. C. Mearns was in vivid red coat with little hat in light shaded petal effect.

BOUTONNIERES

Black is certainly smart. But on such a day as Thursday we were glad for even the men's gay touches — the red Liberal rosesbuds worn by MLAs P. A. Gibbs and George Gregory; CCF Robert M. Strachan's white heather boutonniere; the perky bow ties worn by veteran Laborite Tom Uphill, Hon. R. O. Campney and former Speaker of the House Tom Irwin who told me he is now strong enough to lick his weight in wild cats. Looks as though he could, too.

Some of the most attractive guests at the opening were in the Chinese delegation, the women in charming costumes of their native land. They included the new Chinese Consul General Che Yin Shou and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kee, Mr. and Mrs. George D. Wong

and Mrs. Lila Chen all now of Vancouver.

In spite of the weather the House, including galleries, was packed and when everyone had scurried through the rain to the Empress for the premier's reception, there were hundreds and hundreds lined up to shake the hands of the government leaders and their wives and happily mill around, teacup in hand.

SPRING FLOWERS

Premier Bennett, members of the executive council and their wives lined up in three receiving lines leading to the crystal ballroom whose decorations were the exquisite masses of bright spring flowers grown in the Government House greenhouses and first seen at His Honor's state dinner Wednesday night.

The many guests lingered in the Empress lobby and no one seemed to want to go home for hours. But finally the crowd thinned out, the atmosphere suddenly seemed relaxing and as my elevator girl said while I rushed for the midnight boat, "It's either a feast or a famine around this place, so to speak."

Strachan Strikes First Blow

By HAL DORNAN
Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA — It passed almost unnoticed.

But Opposition Leader Robert Strachan Thursday threw his first serious accusation at Social Credit cabinet benches during the pomp and formality of opening day in the legislature.

The premier and his ministers had just tabled some three dozen departmental and other reports, when Strachan rose quietly to accuse Provincial Secretary W. D. Black of misrepresenting the contents of one such report to last year's legislative session.

It was a serious charge. The minister, said Strachan, had throughout the 1958 session denied CCF charges concerning cutbacks in mental health services.

Yet the mental health serv-



ROBERT STRACHAN
...first blow

ices annual report, made available to members of the House only after the session prorogued last year, bore out what the CCF had said and what Black had denied.

Strachan used the incident to argue that all such reports should be tabled early in the session and made available to MLAs.

"The report contained statements which the minister had denied all during the last session," Strachan said.

Premier Bennett acknowledged the admonishment with, "The government will take note of the remark of the leader of the opposition."

What could have touched off the session's first explosion was over in minutes before most of the opening day visitors realized what was happening. The premier moved adjournment immediately.



W. D. BLACK
...under fire

\$100,000 Daily to Hospitals

VICTORIA (CP)—The British Columbia hospital insurance plan is close to being a \$100,000-a-day operation.

The annual report of the B.C. hospital insurance service—run by the government as a social service—said Thursday payments to hospitals now are running close to that mark.

The report, tabled at the opening session of the legislature Thursday, said the biggest bill ever paid by the service was \$39,266. It is on behalf of a patient who entered hospital in August, 1951, and is still in need of acute hospital care. The patient is not identified.

TEN YEARS

The service has been in operation for 10 years. In that time, the report—up to Dec. 31, 1958—said \$248,000,000 has been paid on a total of 2,160,000 hospital accounts. In addition, \$21,000,000 has been expended to assist hospitals with construction costs and purchase of equipment.

The average annual hospital bill was \$135 and the average length in hospital per patient was 10 days. But many individual bills totalled \$5,000 to \$10,000, said the report.

The report said that since its inception 10 years ago the plan had witnessed 38-per-cent population increase. In the same period 69 major hospital projects had been completed with an increase of 2,934 acute beds, 368 chronic beds and 643 staff and nurses' beds. The total cost was \$34,000,000.

37 PROJECTS

At present there were 37 major hospital projects under way, the report said, with a potential of 2,800 beds at a cost of \$47,000,000.

Under the B.C. plan the provincial government pays half of the approved costs, plus one-third of all approved equipment for both acute and chronic hospitals.

The report said that the standards of care in B.C. hospitals and the rapid growth of facilities in the last 10 years had almost tripled the cost of hospital operation. In 1948 the total expenditure by B.C. hospitals was \$15,800,000; in 1958 it was \$44,000,000.



MARCHING PROUDLY as he went to open third session of 25th Legislature in Victoria Thursday is B.C.'s Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross. —Bill Dennet photo.

9 Problems Face New Department

VICTORIA (CP)—The department of recreation and conservation, in its first report to the legislature since its formation, said Thursday it had at least nine major problems.

They are:

- 1—Pollution of sport fish areas.
- 2—Prevention of harm to sport fish.
- 3—The search for more game preserves.
- 4—Eradication of coarse fish—especially killer fish—and the erection of barriers for that purpose.
- 5—Predator control.
- 6—Game damage to fertile areas.
- 7—Beaver control.
- 8—Hunting accidents.
- 9—Public relations. This, says the department, "is the most necessary in any game management program."

The department also listed an increase in game and fishing act violations, but said full and complete figures cannot yet be supplied.

The department said that "unfortunately" there was an increase in hunting accidents, although again no figures were supplied, but said in each case of an accident the firearms licence of the person responsible was lifted.

Travel Bill For Cabinet \$31,387

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Travelling expenses for members of the B.C. cabinet during the 1957-58 fiscal year totalled \$31,387.

Highest expense tab was turned in by Highways Minister P. A. Gagliardi. It was for \$4,269. Premier Bennett entered an account for \$3,502. Lyle Wicks spent \$3,192 travelling as labor minister and \$321 as railways minister, for a total of \$3,513.

The figures were contained in provincial government accounts for the year, tabled in the legislature Thursday by Premier Bennett.

Other cabinet ministers' expenses:

Robert Bonner: \$1,427 as attorney-general; \$1,785 as trade and industry minister. Agriculture Minister Milton Steacy: \$1,620. Education Minister Leslie Peterson, \$2,392.

Health and Welfare Minister Eric Martin: \$2,635. Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston: \$1,615. Mines Minister Kenneth Kiernan, \$3,605. Wesley Black: as municipal affairs minister, \$1,029, as provincial secretary, \$920.

Public Works Minister W. N. Chant: \$1,922. Recreation and Conservation Minister Earle Westwood: \$1,736.

STILL SHORTAGE

Teachers Not Fully Qualified

VICTORIA — About 22 per cent of British Columbia's secondary school teachers have "less than regular qualification."

A continuing shortage of fully qualified secondary school teachers is working a "hardship" on interior parts of the province.

These facts were made public Thursday in the annual public school report filed by Education Minister Les Peterson at the opening of the legislature.

The report said 3.1 per cent of elementary school teachers has "less than regular qualifications."

The report also said 22.9 per cent of elementary teachers and 29.6 per cent of secondary school teachers had higher certification than required.

STAFF CUTS TOP PROJECT

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Major project for Highways Minister P. A. Gagliardi's personnel officer, H. C. Davies, in the 1957-58 fiscal year was reducing staff, as ordered by Premier Bennett.

Davies' comments on the subject were included as part of the report of the department for the year, tabled in the legislature Thursday by Gagliardi.

Said Davies: "In co-operation with the civil service commission and branch heads, replacements were restricted to a minimum.... The over-all reduction exceeded five per cent."

9 Problems Face New Department

VICTORIA (CP)—The department of recreation and conservation, in its first report to the legislature since its formation, said Thursday it had at least nine major problems.

- They are:
- 1—Pollution of sport fish areas.
 - 2—Prevention of harm to sport fish.
 - 3—The search for more game preserves.
 - 4—Eradication of coarse fish—especially killer fish—and the erection of barriers for that purpose.
 - 5—Predator control.
 - 6—Game damage to fertile areas.
 - 7—Beaver control.
 - 8—Hunting accidents.
 - 9—Public relations. This, says the department, "is the most necessary in any game management program."
- The department also listed an increase in game and fishing act violations, but said full and complete figures cannot yet be supplied.
- The department said that "unfortunately" there was an increase in hunting accidents, although again no figures were supplied, but said in each case of an accident the firearms licence of the person responsible was lifted.

Travel Bill For Cabinet \$31,387

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA — Travelling expenses for members of the B.C. cabinet during the 1957-58 fiscal year totalled \$31,387.

Highest expense tab was turned in by Highways Minister P. A. Gagliardi. It was for \$4,269. Premier Bennett entered an account for \$3,502. Lyle Wicks spent \$3,192 travelling as labor minister and \$321 as railways minister, for a total of \$3,513.

The figures were contained in provincial government accounts for the year, tabled in the legislature Thursday by Premier Bennett.

Other cabinet ministers' expenses:

Robert Bonner: \$1,427 as attorney-general; \$1,795 as trade and industry minister. Agriculture Minister Milton Steacy: \$1,620. Education Minister Leslie Peterson, \$2,592.

Health and Welfare Minister Eric Martin: \$2,635. Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston: \$1,615. Mines Minister Kenneth Kiernan, \$3,605. Wesley Black: as municipal affairs minister, \$1,029, as provincial secretary, \$920.

Public Works Minister W. N. Chant: \$1,922. Recreation and Conservation Minister Earle Westwood: \$1,738.

Most Groups Hail Gov't Promises

But Some Express Skepticism About Throne Speech Proposals

British Columbia labor leaders, farmers, educators and medical men greeted Thursday's speech from the throne with a mixture of skepticism, cautious optimism and elation.

The 6,000-word speech was delivered by Lieut.-Gov. Frank Ross at the opening of the new session of the provincial legislature.

Here is the reaction to the key proposals:

EDUCATION

The speech promised more money for education from the elementary school to the university level.

Mrs. Everett Crowley, chairman of the Vancouver School Board: "We have to give them credit for saying they will up the school grants. But the speech is worded very carefully, with no reference to the basic wage scale."

"What the board has been after is a change in the basic wage formula—so the government will pay a bigger share of teachers' salaries."

Frederick Rowell, deputy chairman, Vancouver School Board: "It's very gratifying that the government is going

to provide more money for education."

"However, until we have more details it is hard to say how Vancouver has been dealt with and whether this will offset the declining percentage of education costs that the city has been receiving since 1955."

Dr. Norman A. M. MacKenzie, president of UBC: "I'm always glad of anything we get and I'm grateful for this evidence of improvement. But that's all I can say until more details are released."

UNEMPLOYMENT

The speech promised that the legislature select standing committees on labor will start an immediate study of the unemployment problem, meeting with "all interested individuals and groups—labor employers and others—and conduct an inquiry into the ways and means of improving the situation."

Lloyd Whalen, president of Vancouver Labor Council: "The federal and provincial governments have had ample time to study the problem. Now is the time for positive action."

Pat O'Neal, secretary of the B.C. Federation of Labor, took the same view: "We don't want just promises. I hope

something constructive and concrete will be done to take care of the very great need that exists. We have made our proposals—our thoughts on unemployment."

Bill Black, president of the B.C. Federation of Labor: "It's promising, but it isn't a great deal to go on until we see the terms of reference."

HEALTH SERVICES

The speech announced that government health services—including mental health—will be incorporated into one department and welfare will become a separate department.

James D. Ward, executive director, Vancouver branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association: "Wonderful. This is definitely a step in the right direction. The confusion with the two phases of health services has been a major problem. Under this system the mental

health service is where it should be."

Dr. Gordon Ferguson, executive of the B.C. Medical Association: "The association welcomes the change. We have wanted the change for some time. It's very good."

B.C. Surplus Funds Cut \$27,900,000

By ALEX YOUNG

Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA—Social Credit government debt reduction policies and investment losses accounted for the major part of a \$27,900,000 reduction in the province's surplus funds in the 1957-58 fiscal year.

As a result the surplus account was left at its lowest level—\$13,200,000—since the Social Credit government took office in 1952.

Premier Bennett tabled public accounts at the opening of the B.C. Legislature Thursday showing this.

They disclosed that the March 31, 1957, surplus of \$41,169,800 built up by "fat" revenues of previous years, had been reduced to only \$13,228,800 by the end of March, 1958.

'CREATE JOBS'

The premier told reporters the main reason for the use of a large part of his "nest egg" was to create jobs through spending on public works.

The accounts, however, listed the use of the surplus funds for these purposes: \$21,104,000 for debt reduction above the amount required by law for annual debt repayment; \$2,076,814 for "net loss on sale of investments," and the balance for miscellaneous over-expenditures.

No details were given on the investment losses.

FINANCIAL STORY

This was the financial story of the B.C. government for the 1957-58 fiscal year:

Current revenue — \$277,324,400; current expenditures — \$225,544,800; surplus of revenue over expenditure, current operating account—\$51,779,600.

Total cash on hand — \$324,598,600 (including current revenue, plus \$41,169,800 accumulated surplus from previous years, and \$6,104,400 in final payment from Ottawa on a previous federal-provincial tax rental agreement.)

Total expenditures — \$311,366,414 (including current operating expenditures, plus \$62,640,200 in capital projects, \$21,104,400 in supplementary debt reduction, and \$2,076,814 in investment losses).

Balance of surplus—\$13,228,800.

FARMERS

The speech proposed improved terms on government-backed loans for farmers wishing to open up new agricultural land.

Bert Craig, of Aldergrove, president of the B.C. Farmers' Union: "That won't butter many parsnips. It's fine as far as it goes and the farmers will appreciate it. But it doesn't get to the root of the problem."

Ted Kuhn, of Cloverdale, district president of the B.C. Farmers' Institute: "It's good as far as new land clearing is concerned. We've been after this for years."

CAPITAL COLUMN

House Opening Wet—and Windy

By JAMES K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—It was a sombre opening of the Legislature this year, in keeping with the drenching rain beating down on Captain Vancouver high on the dome.

For the first time in years there were empty seats in the legislative chamber, and some of the ladies left their new spring hats at home, rather than arrive looking like drowned ducks.

A lot of familiar faces were missing. We missed former Lieut. Governor and Mrs. Hamber, and U.B.C.'s Dr. Norman Mackenzie, and former Chief Justice Gordon Sloan.

But we were glad to see some former members of the house — Senator Nancy Hodges, who used to be madam speaker, in the coalition days of Premier Byron Johnson; Mr. Justice Norman Whittaker, long-time Mr. Speaker; and another ex-speaker, Tom Irwin, appearing fully recovered from a long illness and the shock of losing his Ottawa seat last March; Judge Joseph Clearihue, a Liberal member in the days of Premier John Oliver.

Perhaps the most distinguished guest was Hon. Robert Mayhew, confidante of Prime Minister Mackenzie King and Louis St. Laurent, and one-time Canadian ambassador to Japan.

Old Tom Uphill, as always, caused a bit of a stir, when he sat down in the premier's chair, but not for long.

For soon Mr. Premier, all smiles, came striding down the red-carpeted aisle, bowing this way and then that, and pausing to shake hands with CCF Mrs. Lois Haggen and her chief, Mr. Strachan. The politeness between these two will soon disappear.

There was a political note when the premier and Attorney-General Bonner marched Donald Brothers, new Social Credit member for Rossland-Trail, before Mr. Speaker Hugh Shantz.

The attorney-general didn't say just "the member for Rossland-Trail;" no indeed.

Instead, he seized the opportunity to say the Social Credit member for Rossland-Trail.

Now, this may have been a smart way of letting the place know it wasn't a Liberal, or a Conservative, nor a CCFer who was elected, but a Socred.

But M.L.A.s aren't supposed to have party tags as far as Mr. Speaker's concerned. Perhaps Mr. Speaker will speak severely to the A.G. about this — not that it will do any good.

The speech from the

throne, prepared by the premier, and read by Lieut.-Gov. Frank Mackenzie Ross was one of the windiest in history.

It took his honor 30 minutes to read it.

He did it very nicely, showing he had done his home work well, and his soft Scottish accent was heard to good advantage.

He appeared at ease, despite what must be one of the most uncomfortable uniforms since the knights of old wore armor.

The speech from the throne, the premier's pride and joy, dealt more with the past than with the future.

It even listed the important dignitaries who had come calling on B.C. in centennial year — this designed, no doubt, to impress the public, so they won't howl too much when they find out it cost them millions of dollars to stage our big birthday party.

As forecast here a few days ago, the speech from the throne had political nuances and patted the government on the back. It had this praise for what the premier calls the brightest gem in Social Credit's diadem: "The Pacific Great Eastern railway is now a great asset to the people of British Columbia. The decision of my government to complete the railway into North Vancouver and to locate the northern terminus in the Peace River area has proved to be a vital step toward the assurance of the future prosperity of this province."

Now, all this may happen, and everyone hopes it will, but it hasn't happened yet, and the PGE is by no means at this moment a paying proposition, though the premier would like everyone to think it is.

The session may, or may not be quiet, depending on your political viewpoint, but if it follows the pattern set by the Speech from the Throne, it sure will be windy, and won't produce too much.

The government's biggest plums are being saved for next year's session, on the eve of a general election.

PGE Profit Sagged To \$15,600 in '57

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Profits of the government-owned Pacific Great Eastern Railway nosedived from \$1,304,728 in 1956 to \$15,600 in 1957.

\$256,999

RECOVERED

VICTORIA — The public works department recovered \$256,999 in insurance for the loss of government house by fire in the spring of 1957.

Public accounts for 1957-58 tabled Thursday contained a notation.

The House was told the new government house, now under construction and expected to cost about \$1,000,000, will be opened in time for the visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip this summer.

This was disclosed Thursday in public accounts presented to the Legislature by Premier Bennett, president of the PGE.

With the slim profit left after 1957 operations, the railway would be unable to make any substantial payment towards its debt obligations.

Operating revenues totalled \$8,767,502 in the PGE's fiscal year ended Dec. 31, 1957. The previous year revenues were \$8,810,326. Expenses were \$7,604,203 in 1957, up from the previous year's \$7,068,339.

In 1957 revenue exceeded expenses by \$1,240,788 compared with \$1,796,728 in 1956.

Deductions for depreciation and interest on funded debt totalled \$1,226,188, leaving the railway only \$15,600 in net income.

The funded debt of the PGE at Dec. 31, 1957, is listed at \$74,500,000. Current liabilities totalled \$12,832,082 including \$9,025,402 in "loans and bills payable."

The balance sheet shows net income for 1954 at \$265,056, for 1955 \$769,358, 1956 \$1,304,728, and for 1957 \$15,600.

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Staff Reporter
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and for 1957 \$15,600.

B.C. Liquor Profit Shows Slight Drop

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA—British Columbia liquor profits are
slipping instead of rising for the first time since the end
of the war.

This was shown in a report
tabled by Attorney-General
Bonner in the Legislature
Thursday, covering the six
months' business ended Sept.
30.

Sales were up slightly over
the same period in 1957, but
both gross and net profits
were off.

The trend since the war has
been big jumps in both sales
and profits.

Sales from March 31 to
Sept. 30 last year totalled \$46,900,000, up \$787,800 over the
same period of 1957, but gross
profits for the six months last
year were \$14,691,100 (down
\$14,400), with net profit \$12,451,500 (down \$80,550).

In the year ended March 31,
1958, sales totalled over \$93,000,000, net profit \$26,800,000.
This was nearly \$5,000,000
more in sales and \$1,790,000
more in profit than the
previous year.

Mr. Bennett Offers Hopes

Yesterday's speech from the throne
creates a strong first impression that the
Social Credit government is about to turn
over several new leaves.

Perhaps the adverse winds from the
Rossland-Trail by-election last month had
an effect on government theory.

The positive assurance that there will
be legislation for enlarged education
grants, loans, scholarships and bursaries
in higher education, is welcome news
indeed.

Particularly is this so when for some
time the public has been disturbed by
rumors of pending higher student fees at
UBC. Municipal authorities have also
been agitated by the apparent disregard
of Victoria for the financial pressures
besetting property owners.

We'll wait, of course, for the full
revelation of government plans before we
unleash a full-throated cheer.

But there seem to be other intriguing
things in prospect.

The unemployed perhaps can't throw
their caps in the air over the proposal to
set up a legislative committee to deal with
their troubles.

This committee may be useful in
ferreting out preventives for future
unemployment but can't be much present
help. Such a committee met during the
1958 legislative session—and this winter
unemployment is higher than ever.

It is significant that the promise to
improve training facilities for mentally
retarded children, so long agitated for by

welfare associations, is coupled with the
announcement of important administra-
tive changes.

Mental health matters are to be
divorced from the provincial secretary's
department. They are to be lumped with
the general field of health, which in turn
is going to be separated from welfare.

This seems to be a tacit admission that
the opposition's criticism of the general
administration of such services is well-
founded.

At any rate, the days when such a load
could be carried by a single minister are
gone.

Summing up, the government's legisla-
tive plans promise an interesting eight
weeks of debate. A lot of questions could
be asked—and no doubt will be answered,
about the plan to promote settlement in
central B.C. and the Peace River block
by giving better terms to farmers taking
up new lands. Continuation of a marine
parks development program "to cater to
the needs" of pleasure boat owners is a
reminder that the new department of
recreation and conservation has been
slow getting off the ground.

Since this was not the budget speech
there's no mention of taxes, new or old.
But forecasters of new taxes may note
that the lieutenant-governor's speech
refers to "measures to cope fully with
current needs and . . . economic
growth."

Which may mean a lot or nothing.

Probers Ask Higher Tax on Diesel Fuel

Commercial Vehicles Should Bear
More Road Costs, Gov't Told

VICTORIA — Higher licence fees and a 2-cent
increase in diesel fuel tax for commercial vehicles in
B.C. have been recommended by a royal commission.

Report of the commission,
headed by Dr. H. F. Angus,
chairman of the Public Utili-
ties Commission, was tabled in
the legislature Thursday by
Premier Bennett.

MORE THAN GAS

It said the diesel fuel tax
should be increased from the
present 10 cents per gallon to
12 cents, two cents more than
the gasoline tax.

By 1960-61 commercial
vehicles should be assessed
\$10,000,000 more than they
now pay towards provincial
road costs, to bring their share
more in line with revenue
raised from non-commercial
passenger vehicles.

The commission was ap-
pointed last April to investi-
gate road-users' charges.

With Dr. Angus on the com-
mission were A. J. Bowering,
assistant chief engineer in the
highways department; George
Lindsay, motor vehicles super-
intendent; and W. F. Veitch,
assistant deputy minister of
finance.

They urged establishment of
a central government agency
or department of motor trans-
port with five main functions:

To protect highways against
destructive use;

To enforce revenue laws
more rigidly than they are
now enforced;

To negotiate reciprocal
agreements where multiple
taxation occurs;

To make and administer
safety regulations;

To continue research and
maintain statistical informa-
tion on road costs and ap-
propriate cost-sharing.

\$2,000,000,000

The commission estimated
that by 1975, the province with
federal help must spend
\$2,281,000,000 on road con-
struction and maintenance, or
an average of \$127,000,000 per
year.

Ideally, said the commission,
provincial road costs should
be paid for equally, one-third
by commercial vehicle owners,
a third by private passenger
vehicles and a third by non-
road-users.

At present the proportion is
33 per cent private passenger,
21 per cent commercial and 46
per cent non-users.

Fri., Jan. 23, 1958

PAID FOR IN 1960

Lions Gate Span Nets

\$1,370,000 Profit

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Lions Gate Bridge continues to be one of the Social Credit government's best investments.

At its present rate of earning it will have more than paid for itself by the end of March, 1960. The government took it over Jan. 1, 1955, at a cost of \$6,054,000.

The tolls will stay on, however, until both the Lions Gate bridge and the new Second Narrows bridge, not yet open, are paid for.

To the end of last March, it had made a net profit of \$3,550,000 on toll collections totalling \$5,500,000.

In the last fiscal year, Lions Gate motorists paid \$1,709,328

in tolls, or 28.2 per cent of what the bridge cost.

After deducting all operating expenses and a major portion of interest on all toll highways and bridges authority debts, the net profit from Lions Gate was \$1,370,000, or 22.6 per cent of its cost.

Figures for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1958, were

contained in public accounts filed in the legislature Thursday by Premier Bennett.

They showed excess of revenue over expenditure for all toll authority operations totalling \$1,812,000—more than 75 per cent of it from Lions Gate. That excess was down \$365,500 from the previous year.

Second big earner in the toll bridges was Oak Street. In the first nine months of its operation, June 29, 1957, to the end of March, 1958, Oak tolls brought in \$725,310.

With expense and debt interest deducted, it realized \$442,150. The other 25 per cent of the revenue above ex-

penditure figure for all bridges.

Agassiz-Rosedale bridge collected \$146,800 and the province had to pay a grant of \$11,383 for it to meet its expenses; Nelson Bridge, in its five months' operation, collected \$47,400, just enough for expenses; Okanagan Bridge, wasn't covered by the report.

To the end of last March, the accounts disclosed, the toll authority had put \$20,675,650 into the Deas Island tunnel and \$11,300,000 into Second Narrows Bridge. Both are still under construction.

Bonded debt of the toll authority at the end of March, 1958 was shown as \$45,500,000 with \$4,477,500 in sinking

fund. Notes payable for temporary financing were then \$13,425,000 and interest accrued \$619,900.

Total debt of the toll authority now stands at \$80,000,000. An order in council this month authorized borrowing to reach that figure, the maximum now allowed the agency.

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THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 1959

BENNETT PROMISES:

B.C. to Boost School Aid

Throne Speech Tells Gov't Plan

By ALEX YOUNG
Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA—More money for education—from the elementary school to the university level—was promised today by the Social Credit government.

This declaration highlighted the speech from the throne read to the opening of the new session of the legislature by Lieut.-Gov. Frank Ross.

Four other major government proposals were disclosed in the speech:

- 1—The government health services—including mental health—will be incorporated into one department and welfare will become a separate department.
- 2—B.C. Horse Racing Commission will be established to police racing on a province-wide basis.
- 3—The legislature select standing committee on labor will start an immediate study of the unemployment problem.
- 4—Farmers wishing to open up new agricultural land will be given improved terms on government-backed loans in a bid to increase settlement in the Peace River and central B.C.

More Loans, Scholarships

On education, the speech said:

"You will be asked to authorize increased grants to school districts as well as to the University of B.C. and the Victoria College.

"An expanded system of loans, scholarships and bursaries will be made available. To facilitate the achievement of higher standards of education by students of senior matriculation standing, of the University of B.C. and of Victoria College, you will be asked to authorize an increased measure of financial assistance and encouragement."

The proposed reorganization of the health and mental health services indicated creation of a new cabinet post, with a possible general cabinet shuffle.

Reorganization of the health services was first suggested last year by CCF opposition leader Robert Strachan.

He said the administration of health and welfare by one minister (Eric Martin) was too big a job for one man.

Strachan suggested mental health services, now under the provincial secretary's department, be included in a separate health department, incorporating general health services as well as hospital insurance.

Sloan's Death 'Great Loss'

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — The death of Gordon Sloan, former chief justice of the B.C. Appeal Court, was termed a "great loss" by Lieut.-Gov. Frank Ross today.

In reading the speech from the throne, His Honor said:

"The public service of this province has suffered a great loss in the untimely death of the Honorable Mr. Sloan . . . he served his native province with distinction and integrity."

At his death eight days ago Sloan was forestry adviser to the provincial government.

For Mentally Retarded

The throne speech, prepared by Premier Bennett, also referred to the survey of mental health services to be undertaken "at an early date" by the American Psychiatric Association.

The move followed opposition attacks on government cutbacks in spending for such services.

The speech promised legislation would be introduced to expand provisions for the education and training of mentally retarded children. No further details were given.

The speech included no details on the proposed establishment of a horse racing commission.

It did say the government is "deeply concerned with unemployment."

"Despite an accelerated program and a huge and unprecedented expenditure of public funds on government buildings, works, highways, bridges, parks development," the speech said, "the problem remains serious."

Please Turn to Page Two

See: "Speech"

Speech From Throne Offers Health, Farm, School Aid

Continued from Page 1

"Despite an accelerated program and a huge and unprecedented expenditure of public funds on government buildings, works, highways, bridges, parks development," the speech said, "the problem remains serious."

AID FOR FARMERS

"For this reason my government will recommend the select standing committee on labor be convened immediately for the purpose of studying this problem. It is desirable that this committee meet with all interested individuals and groups—labor employers and others—and conduct an inquiry into the ways and means of improving the situation."

Agricultural assistance will be in the form of "substantial" increases in the amount of credit that may be extended under the Farmers' Land Clearing Act, and to lengthen considerably the period of repayment by "bona fide" established farmers who wish to increase the size of their present holdings.

There also will be measures permitting low initial payments, substantial credit, and a "generous repayment plan" for the clearing of raw lands with a good agricultural potential.

An additional aid to agriculture, said the speech, will be a consolidation of all legislation relating to diking and drainage.

The government said its "vast program" of highway construction will be continued.

LAND DISPUTES

In connection with arbitrations of disputes over land acquisition by the highways department, the speech said there would be amendments to the Highway Act, but did not indicate their intent.

An amendment to the Ferries Act "in regard to subsidies" will be proposed. The government is expected to increase limits on subsidies it pays to private operators who run ferries in uneconomic areas.

Last summer's disastrous forest fire season in B.C. was noted and at the same time the government forecast legislation "respecting the compulsory utilization with compensation of machinery and equipment suitable for the suppression of forest fires."

LENGTHY SPEECH

The throne speech, about 6,000 words in length, was one of the longest ever delivered in the B.C. Legislature.

About a third of it was taken up by a resume of B.C.'s Centennial Year, with reference to some 300 Centennial projects undertaken, the visit to B.C. of Princess Margaret and other dignitaries.

Other legislation forecast by the speech:

A new Wills Act "of interest to every citizen of the province."

Amendments to mining legislation to recognize "scientific advancement in the field of exploration and to encourage exploration."

Amendments to the Gas Act. Technical amendments to the Municipal Act.

Continuation of a marine parks development program "to cater to the needs of an increasing number of pleasure boat owners and enthusiasts."

HELD FOR BUDGET

Little mention was made of government finances. It was expected this, particularly statements about elimination of the provincial debt, would come in the premier's budget speech, likely on Feb. 6.

"The ways and means for supply to be granted to Her Majesty during the ensuing year embody measures to cope fully with current needs and the economic growth experienced in the province," was the only reference to financial affairs.

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Staff Reporter

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mental health services, now y's department, be included ment, incorporating general ospital insurance.

Sat., Jan. 24, 1959

MLA Urges Liquor Changes

By ALEX YOUNG
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA—A Social Credit backbencher Friday recommended amendments in liquor laws to end discrimination against Indians and to permit purchase of vodka by the bottle in government liquor stores.

William Murray (S.C.-Prince Rupert) told the legislature, in seconding the address in reply to the throne speech, liquor laws as they applied to natives were "medieval if not obsolete" because Indians could order drinks by the glass in beer parlors but not buy bottles of liquor.

EXCESSIVE DRINKING

He said there should be a federal royal commission to study liquor laws as they affect Indians.

"These laws lead to excessive drinking during the closing hour at a beer parlor," said Murray. "Bootleggers flourish. It builds up resentment and a feeling of discrimination."

Murray said Attorney General Robert Bonner was "not too realistic" in his opposition to sale by the bottle of vodka in B.C. liquor stores.

Bonner last session said vodka should not be freely sold because it was "odorless and insidious."

If it is all right to permit purchase of vodka by the case, by special requisition through the liquor board, he said, then "it is completely contradictory" to prohibit purchase by the bottle.

"IKE" AND RUSSIA

Murray also defended the government's "pay as you go" debt reduction policies.

Evidence that they were proper has come from the U.S. President Eisenhower and Soviet Russia, because both countries are operating balanced budgets, said Murray.

Murray referred to problems of small hospitals in B.C. in their wage negotiations with employees. He said a plan should be worked out whereby such hospitals negotiated a master agreement with their employees so that wage rates could be stabilized.

HOUSE WILL SIT AT NIGHT

VICTORIA — A motion providing for night sittings through the current session of the legislature will be introduced Monday by Premier Bennett.

It will permit calling of night sittings any day from Tuesday till the session ends.

An average of three night sittings a week is expected.

Columbia Power Speedup Urged

Rossland-Trail MLA Blames Ottawa for Delayed Negotiations

By HAL DORNAN
Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA—Speed-up of negotiations to permit Columbia River power development was urged in the legislature Friday by Rossland-Trail's new Socred MLA, Donald L. Brothers.

Delay in that development and in equalization of freight rates are the two factors impeding development of his constituency, he said.

He blamed Ottawa for both. Brothers, the young Trail lawyer who won the Dec. 15 by-election, holding the constituency for Social Credit following the resignation of Robert E. Sommers, was making his maiden speech.

To underline the importance of the Rossland-Trail victory, Premier Bennett had the new member move the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

"EYES OF ALL CANADA"

Brothers dealt mainly with the economic problems of his area, but he followed up the sustained desk-thumping reception given him by Socreds when he rose to speak with a little quiet gloating over his victory.

He said Social Credit had been returned "victoriously" in Rossland-Trail, and since the eyes of B.C. and all Canada had been on the riding, it was fitting he should discuss the by-election.

He said he found failure of Liberal leader Arthur Laing and Tory leader Deane Finlayson to run in Rossland-Trail a mystery.

If they had been sincere in their desire to lead strong, united parties "they would most certainly have allowed their names to stand as candidates," he said.

Out of traditional respect to "maiden" speakers, his by-election analysis wasn't heckled by the opposition.

B.C. HANDS TIED

Brothers said the provincial government's hands are tied on Columbia River's development until Ottawa and the U.S. negotiate downstream benefits. He hoped Premier Bennett would be able to speed up those negotiations when he meets with Prime Minister Diefenbaker in Ottawa next weekend.

On freight rates, Brothers said it would be "utterly impossible for us to ever entice major industry to our area until these discriminatory rates have been equalized."

"When these dual questions of power and freight rates have been settled, the future of our area is unlimited," he declared.

CCF Queries Edge-In on Briggs Case

VICTORIA — Two questions which could bring some of former B.C. Power Commission manager H. Lee Briggs' charges into early debate in the Legislature were placed on the order paper Friday.

Both concern BCPC bonds and are asked by Opposition Leader Robert M. Strachan and directed to Premier Bennett. It is expected the premier will submit written replies to both questions early in the session.

BOND COMMISSIONS

One of the questions seeks details of commissions paid to investment dealers on power commission bonds taken up by provincial agencies.

The other inquires about 1955 power commission bonds and whether they were taken up by any government agency or for trust funds of any provincial commission or board, and if so on whose advice.

The BCPC finance questions were only two of 36 put on the order paper on the second day of the session.

OVER WIDE RANGE

Others, from both Opposition and Socred MLAs, cover a wide range of subjects including refusal to allow school boards to open kindergartens, mental health services, social welfare, strengths of staffs in various controversial services, labor disputes, workmen's compensation, monopoly tax collections under the Liquor Act.

There is no deadline for submission of answers.

Power Urged

MLA Blames Delayed Negotiations

JORNAN
Staff Reporter

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CAPITAL COLUMN

House Hears MLA Claim That Ike's a Socred, Too

By JAMES K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — The speech-making got under way in the legislature Friday, with a new MLA making his maiden legislative talk, and another discovering that Eisenhower is a Socred too.

Donald Brothers, elected last month in Rossland-Trail, spoke but 20 minutes, in a quiet, business-like voice, and started no fireworks.

He and Socred William Murray of Prince Rupert, who followed, duly praised the premier and his government, as is expected of the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

Social Credit, said Mr. Brothers, was returned victoriously in Rossland-Trail, a statement which caused some CCFers to murmur something about 30 per cent of the votes, meaning Brothers had more people against him than for him.

There were many inequalities before Social Credit came along, said Brothers, but all is well now, for our premier, in his capable and guiding way has corrected them.

We hear a little about bank clearings in Trail, and retail sales there, and then Brothers said that all gov-

ernments before Social Credit were only interested in perpetuating themselves.

This sounded rather odd, for the premier says Social Credit is going to last 50 years in B.C.

Brothers said he has no worry about any problems facing this province because he knows Bennett's Social Credit government will attack them with its usual vigor.

The premier listened to every word Brothers uttered, and appeared in complete agreement. Why shouldn't he?

The leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, Robert Strachan, mostly read government documents as Brothers spoke.

Murray, attending only his third session, showed a new polish and sureness, and the promise of becoming a first-class talker.

It's constantly amazing to this column how quickly most MLAs lose their shyness and get their teeth into their jobs, and usually do good jobs.

Murray ignored this, assured Brothers that he can bask warmly in the knowledge that his was a great and a real victory in Rossland-Trail, the result of which, to Murray, means

that Bennett's government enjoys the support and confidences of the highest court in the province—the people of British Columbia.

All of which was sweet music to the premier's ear, though sometimes he must have his private doubts.

Then Murray announced he had discovered that President Eisenhower, by his financial policies, is really a Social Creditor, which will shocks the president, if he ever hears about it.

B.C. Takes Untrained Teachers

Almost one-quarter of British Columbia's secondary school teachers in 1958 lacked qualifications for their posts.

Their deficiencies were overlooked because of the province's teacher shortage, according to the annual report on public schools.

The document, filed in the legislature Thursday by Education Minister Les Peterson, showed 2.3 per cent employed as teachers had no training whatsoever.

On the secondary level, 22.3 per cent did not have the required training. On the elementary level the figure was only 3.1 per cent.

On the other hand, 29.6 per cent of secondary teachers, and 29.9 per cent elementary teachers, had more qualifications than their positions demanded.

The report also showed that there were almost as many adults as children going to school last year.

It listed a provincial total of 277,070 children and youths enrolled in regular classes, and 22,331 persons registered in adult classes.

In addition, 3,535 students enrolled for correspondence courses in 1958.

CCF to Seek Government Control of Telephone Firm

VICTORIA—A motion urging the provincial government to seek control over B.C. Telephone Co. Ltd. and its subsidiaries will be introduced in the legislature Monday by Opposition Leader Robert M. Strachan.

The company operates under

a federal charter and the CCF leader claims it is subject only to "limited control" by the Federal Board of Transport Commissioners.

His motion will ask the provincial government to apply to have jurisdiction over BCT

phone rates and services in B.C. transferred to the province's Public Utilities Commission.

Mr. Strachan is scheduled to open opposition debate on the speech from the throne Monday.

Sat., Jan. 24, 1959

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1959

STRACHAN'S CHALLENGE

Socred MLAs Close Ranks, Back Gov't on Sommers

By HAL DORNAN
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — B.C.'s Social Credit government Monday crushed an opposition motion calling for its resignation over the way it handled the Sommers case.

The motion was made by Opposition leader Robert M. Strachan. It was defeated 37 to 14 in the first recorded vote of the session. Two Liberal and two independent MLAs supported the CCF.

The government victory in a House of 38 to 14 wasn't significant.

NO MORE DEFECTIONS

What was, was the fact the cabinet won full support from Socred backbenchers, indicating that any threat of further defection over the case has been overcome in caucus.

Strachan introduced his non-confidence motion at the end of a two-hour speech in which he blasted Socred politics and politics.

After reviewing cabinet handling of the Sommers case, he said:

STRACHAN 'SHOCKED'

"I am shocked that in B.C. we have people in government who cling to office with callous disregard of traditions of

our parliamentary heritage, people who remain unconcerned about the damage they have done to the good name of British Columbia, people who shout their innocence while striving desperately to cover their guilt.

"For these reasons I think the government should resign.

"You no longer have the confidence of the people.

"You have made our province the laughing stock of Canada."

His motion would have added these words to the legislature's thanks to Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross:

"But we regret that the actions of the executive council (the cabinet) have brought stigma, disgrace and jeopardy to the democratic parliamentary traditions of our people."

LIBERAL PERSISTS

"For political purposes, they have acquiesced in the failure of the attorney-general to pursue the normal judicial procedure demanded by his high office."

"They are no longer worthy of the confidence of our people."

Despite the result of the vote, Liberal MLA George Gregory, who spoke after Strachan persisted in demand-

ing explanations from government benches.

He said it was evident the attorney-general had provided Sommers with information because Sommers had launched a slander and libel suit against David Sturdy, based on information in Charles Eversfield's statutory declaration.

"When the attorney-general speaks on this matter," said Gregory, "I challenge him to tell us how this information got into the hands of his then-fellow cabinet minister."

Gregory pressed two Socred MLAs, Tom Bate, of Vancouver-Point Grey, and Bert Price, Vancouver-Burrard, to offer some explanations to the House of statements they had made to the effect that Sommers had committed no wrong doing.

"I want you people who had been so pious to stand up and say what you do think now," demanded Gregory.

During his discussion of the case, Gregory said he could remember Sommers "standing up and saying he wasn't guilty of wrongdoing, but that a conspiracy was out to wreck him and the government."

"Wasn't there a conspiracy?" asked Orr Newton, Socred MLA for Columbia.

EVIDENCE BARRED

Strachan's review of Sommers case highlights was interrupted by Speaker Hugh Shantz, who ruled that evidence in the Sommers trial could not be discussed.

But Strachan had words of sympathy for the former forests minister, Robert Sommers, now awaiting hearing of his appeal from the five-year jail sentence.

PERSECUTION HIT

"The CCF asked for an investigation," he said. "We didn't ask for the prosecution and we certainly didn't ask for persecution, such as that visit by the RCMP at 1:30 in the morning. We don't kick a man when he's down."

"We sympathize with the former minister for the suffering and anguish caused him while the government dillyed and dallied. He has my sympathy. What he needed was protection from his so-called friends."

Speaker Shantz said later his ruling would stand that trial evidence could not be discussed in the house because it may prejudice the appeal.

He said his ruling would not be made in writing.

LIBERAL CAN'T SELL SOCRED MEMBERSHIPS

VICTORIA (CP) — Victoria Liberal MLA George Gregory told the legislature Monday he tried all weekend to sell membership cards in the Social Credit League—but couldn't find one taker.

Gregory had offered to be Works Minister William Chant's campaign manager if Victoria got a new courthouse.

The building was promised for this year and a Social Credit MLA sent a book of Social Credit membership cards to Gregory.

MLAs HISS, SPLUTTER, SNEER, SNARL AND SNIPE

Opposition Leader Robert M. Strachan called Social Credit the "slickest, smoothest, most unscrupulous political machine" ever seen in B.C., as he led off the opposition's Throne Speech debate in the legislature Monday.

Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston countered by likening opposition attacks on the government with unsuccessful U.S. space rockets that "just sputtered" and didn't get off the ground.

Full details on Page 34.

BENNETT DECLINES TO PUNCH TORY MP IN NOSE

By Sun Staff Reporter

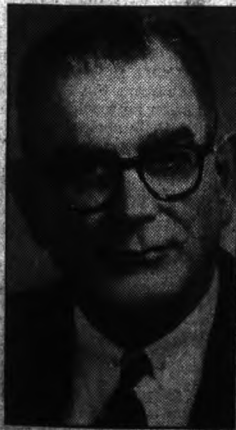
VICTORIA — Premier Bennett Monday declined a suggestion that he punch in the nose Vic-

toria's Progressive Conservative member of Parliament Bert McPhillips for referring to Bennett as a man who "struts around the province like a barnyard rooster."

Liberal MLA for Victoria George Gregory said: "If he (the premier) goes to Ottawa, I wonder if he might punch the member for Victoria City in the nose, for I don't think anyone without the courage to run for this house should go there and criticize our prime minister like that."

Bennett smiled and shook his head.

BERT McPHILLIPS
...the premier declined



Mystery Man Role Queried

VICTORIA — Rod Gibbons, the "mystery man" of the Rossland-Trail byelection, was back in the news Monday.

Gibbons is an old-time Vancouver politician who was prominent in directing the Social Credit campaign in Trail.

What made him a mystery was that while he worked for them, the Socreds claimed they didn't know who hired him.

His part in the byelection was referred to by Opposition leader Robert Strachan.

AN'T SELL MEMBERSHIPS

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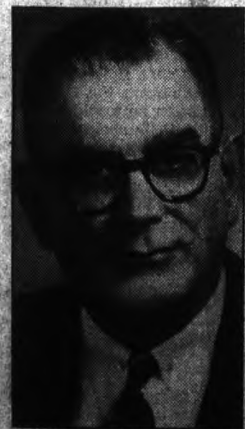
s promised for this year and a sent a book of Social Credit Gregory.

SPLUTTER, RL AND SNIPE

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DECLINES TO TRY MP IN NOSE

Staff Reporter Premier Bennett Monday de- at he punch in the nose Vic-



BEST McPHILLIPS
...the premier declined

Socreds Hit as Slick, Unscrupulous

By HAL DORNAN
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — "The slickest, smoothest, most unscrupulous political machine this province has ever seen."

That description of Social Credit in British Columbia was used in the Legislature Monday by Opposition Leader Robert M. Strachan.

The 45-year-old Scot, now in his third session as CCF leader, made the charge in a two-hour blast as he led off the Opposition's Throne Speech debate.

UNCHALLENGED

And apart from a mumbled objection from Attorney-General Robert Bonner, that it was "pretty unparliamentary language," the description went unchallenged.

Strachan's attack ranged from the nature of the Socred campaign in Rossland-Trail to the premier's power policies; from mental health services to the Sommers case; from education finance to the premier's refusal to answer letters.

He succeeded, without challenge, in discussing evidence before the Shrum Royal Commission investigating the B.C. Power Commission.

PREMIER UP, DOWN

He drew the premier to his feet when he said: "You're a pretty scared man, Mr. Premier. That's why you won't call an election."

"Are you asking for one?" demanded the premier, jumping up.

A chorus of "Yes, yes," "any time," "you wouldn't dare" came from opposition benches, and the premier sat down.

Strachan accused the premier of double-talk regarding power commission financing; of writing fiction in his three-page free-space newspaper series; of limiting the Shrum commission's terms of reference "so that through it he can have the power commission dragged down and gobbled up by the B.C. Electric, Wenner-Gren, or both."

For much of Strachan's speech, however, Premier Ben-

net, on a swivel chair, deliberately turned his back on the Opposition leader and chatted with cabinet ministers.

At one point, Speaker Hugh Shantz called for order, obviously meaning the premier. The premier ignored the Speaker, and Opposition voices called: "Wait for him," and "Such disrespect."

When Mr. Speaker called "Order" again, the premier swung half around, with his back to Mr. Speaker.

Strachan opened his two-hour performance with these words: "As the man said, this is going to be a quiet session."

Then he soon accused the premier of "playing the same old hurdy gurdy, only faster" and threatened, "At this session his nonsense is going to be exposed."

Of the Speech from the Throne, he said: "I don't know who wrote it, but it was an imposition on His Honor, and it contained little information for the people of the province."

The government, he charged, "is imbued with fear that the public will get to know too much; with reluctance to have its policies debated; with a cringing fear of criticism."

It was this "cringing fear of criticism," he charged, that resulted in the premier "bludgeoning the press of B.C. into printing three pages of his nonsense."

ATTACKS BLACK

His bitterest attack was directed at Provincial Secretary Wesley Black for "deliberately keeping the mental health services annual report from members of the Legislature."

He said Black had the report throughout the last session and denied its contents, tabling it only on the last day.

That was a rejection of your promise to keep people informed, a denial of the fundamental rights of a free parliament, a manipulation of our constitutional procedures of political advantage, a monstrous display of irresponsibility. It was shameful."

B.C. Public Power Authority Urged

By ALEX YOUNG
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA—Victoria Liberal MLA George Gregory Monday suggested a public power authority instead of private enterprise develop future major hydro-electric resources in B.C.

Gregory said he offered the idea because of his concern over the proposed Wenner-Gren development of Peace River power and the B.C. Electric's connection with it, as well as present power rates of the BCE.

"It might be a good idea to put our new sources under the B.C. Power Commission, or have a B.C. Hydro which would sell to the BCE and the B.C. Power Commission," Gregory told the legislature.

"BAD CHARACTER"

Axel Wenner-Gren, said Gregory, was a "thoroughly bad character" and should be kept out of B.C. resources' development.

During the Second World War, Gregory said, Wenner-Gren was collecting royalties on Bofors guns, used by both the Allies and Axis, at the same time as he was collecting royalties on a book advocating peace.

The BCE, Gregory said, may "have become too big for its own good and for the good of the people of the province."

CITES SHARES DEAL

He noted that the BCE had paid \$1 each for shares in the new Wenner-Gren firm, Peace River Development Company, while Wenner-Gren B.C. Development Co. had paid only 33 cents.

"When that happens Wenner-Gren isn't playing with marbles," he said.

As well as paying 33 cents, Gregory stated, the Wenner-Gren company also exchanged for shares the memorandum of agreement with B.C. government, under which Wenner-Gren had agreed to undertake railway, industrial and power development in the northeastern corner of B.C.

Wenner-Gren bought 8,000,000 shares at 33 cents each, he said, for a total price of \$2,700,000 plus the memo.

If the memorandum had no value, as stated by the government, asked Gregory, how did it receive \$8,000,000 worth of shares for only \$2,700,000?

"I suggest the difference between \$2,700,000 and \$8,000,000 is the true value of this 'valueless' document," he said.

'LIKE ROCKET'

Critics Out Of Orbit--Williston

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Opposition attacks on the government Monday were likened by Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston to unsuccessful U.S. space rockets that "just sputtered and didn't get off the ground."

He was replying briefly for the government to criticism levelled earlier in Throne Speech debate in the legislature by official opposition leader Robert Strachan and by Victoria Liberal MLA George Gregory.

"We have been hearing they were going to mount quite an attack," said Williston. "Most of the criticism was like U.S. rockets . . . they gathered everyone around, but nothing happened. The rockets just sputtered."

"In some cases they went into space and revolved around and went in all directions but didn't hit anything very specific."

These were some of his replies to criticism:

Mental health service cutbacks: "In connection with statements that more money is needed, there is no official who can't say the same thing."

Government treatment of the B.C. Power Commission: "Statements have been made by innuendo, with no foundation. Just words."

Increase of PGE freight rates by 17 per cent: "We had to move in concert with national railways because of through rates that apply over PGE routes."

Wenner-Gren and power: "Totally irresponsible statements."

CAPITAL COLUMN

Gov't Takes It on Chin—Survives

By JAMES K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—The government took it on the chin from two wings of the Opposition Monday—the CCF and the Liberals.

However, it managed to survive, and when all the SC'ers stood shoulder to shoulder one realized anew that Bennett's government is in absolutely no danger of being defeated on the floor of the house.

The leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, Strachan, tried to defeat the government, though he knew he wasn't going to succeed, and he and his CCF'ers were joined by the two Liberals, George Gregory and Archie Gibbs, and independents Tom Uphill and Mel Bryan, who was a SC'er until last session.

It was quite impossible to see any weakening in SC ranks in the Legislature, though what would happen if there was a general election next month is anyone's guess.

* * *

Strachan made a telling speech. He hit the government in its weakest points.

He gloried in the fact that in last March's federal election not one Liberal or SC'er was sent to Ottawa from western Canada.

He was annoyed because the premier hadn't invited him along on the PGE inaugural to the Peace River last autumn.

Rosland-Trail byelection, according to Strachan, was not a win for Social Credit but a defeat, and because Social Credit lost votes there the premier decided there'd be no general election this year. This set the premier to ho-hoing, if somewhat artificially.

Strachan was filled with complaining. He couldn't get to see the premier all year; indeed, it was even worse.

The premier wouldn't even reply to the letters sent to him by the leader of the Opposition.

The premier got up and muttered something about Strachan wasting time writing letters on subjects which the premier called nothing but a bunch of rubbish.

Perhaps it was when he discussed public versus private power that Strachan was most effective.

Strachan suspicioned that the government is getting ready to sell the B.C. Power Commission down the river.

The Power Commission, said Mr. Strachan, is getting fattened for the kill—for when the time comes to hand it over to the private companies, Wenner-Gren and the B.C. Electric.

"The answer is no," said the premier, looking a bit grim, but Strachan said he had heard the premier say no before when he really meant yes.

And then Strachan called the BCE an octopus, and said it had for years been dominating the life of this province, and therefore it's no wonder, he said, that the people of B.C. are now fearful for the future, because it's not a benevolent society Wenner-Gren proposes to set up.

The premier argued a little with Strachan, but not heatedly, and then in the

midst of Strachan's talk of power he got up and left the House.

Was he afraid Strachan was hitting too close to home, and that perhaps he'd lose his temper, and say something he wanted to keep to himself, or was he just bored?

One never knows with politicians.

* * *

Gregory followed Strachan and he went after the government, too, but more quietly, though, to tell the truth, Strachan did little shouting and roaring, but his barbs and his sarcasm and his lambasting of the government delighted the public galleries.

When a CCF'er and a Liberal speak the same day it's difficult to separate them.

In their dislike of Bennett's government they appear to lie in the same political bed, which, of course, pleases the government, which wants to see the CCF swallow the Liberals.

Every now and then a CCF'er takes time out to scoff at the Liberals, and Liberals will take a swipe at the CCF'ers, but until they can get SC'ers out—if ever—they're really brothers under the skin.

THREE MLAS SPEAK

Jails Job for Welfare, Declares CCF Member

Special to The Vancouver Sun

VICTORIA — The government was urged in the legislature Tuesday to transfer responsibility for provincial jails from the attorney-general to the proposed department of welfare.

Cedric Cox, (CCF Burnaby), made the suggestion in the throne speech debate.

The government announced in the speech from the throne that the department of health and welfare is to be split. All the health and hospital services are to be in one department and welfare in another.

PARK PLAN HIT

The new health department will take over mental health services now administered by the provincial secretary.

Cox suggested the entire corrections branch including jails, now under the attorney-general's department, should be transferred to welfare because, he said, "rehabilitation is primarily a welfare problem."

Cox criticized the government for permitting a private development to start in Garibaldi Park, arguing the entire park should be developed by the government.

UPHILL MORE SERIOUS

Tom Uphill, 84-year-old Labor MLA from Fernie, devoted his speech to listing the needs of his constituency.

More serious than usual in this throne speech appearance, he stressed the continuing plight of Fernie as a result of losing both its coal and brewery industries in the past year.

Uphill, now in his 39th year in the legislature, appealed directly to cabinet ministers opposite him to give his constituency special consideration in this year's estimates.

Among other things he asked for a fish hatchery, access roads for tourists, a new penitentiary ("so I can visit my friends easier") and river bank protection.

BRIDGE PROMISED

From Highways Minister P. A. Gagliardi (he called him "Mr. Gee-ard") he received assurance a bridge over the Elk River on Highway 93, will be in the estimates.

"What we have now is a 50-m.p.h. highway and a 5-m.p.h. bridge," Uphill said. "It's crazy to build super highways and murderous bridges — bridges where there are no highways and highways where there are no bridges."

Hugh Shirreff (SC—Skeena) told the House his northern constituency is solidly behind plans for development of Peace River power.

He appealed to Gagliardi for highway work, claiming "there has been more black-top abandoned on the lower mainland than we have in our entire constituency."

White Rock Ferry Dock Opposed

VICTORIA — Social Credit MLA George Massey of Delta will protest to the government against use of White Rock as a terminus for the proposed Vancouver Island-Lower Mainland toll ferry service.

He said he differed with government engineers who proposed the White Rock terminus. The landing point, he said, should be Tsawwassen beach on the delta because it was closer to Vancouver Island.

The Tsawwassen Beach terminus is only 24 nautical miles from Swartz Bay on Vancouver Island while White Rock is 34 miles, Massey complained.

Fraser Dam Studies to Go Ahead

Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — The provincial and federal governments have agreed to go ahead with engineering studies on a proposal for development of a series of 11 dams on the Fraser River that will produce some power and allow flood control.

This was announced in the legislature Tuesday by Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston.

The scheme is "Plan A" of the Fraser River Board, a joint federal-provincial body which reported to both governments in December on the possibilities of dams on the Fraser for both hydro-electric and flood control.

The power that would result from the project, if engineering studies now authorized prove it economically possible, would be about 7 billion kilowatt hours per year, not enough to transmit to the lower mainland economically.

The plan calls for combination power-storage dams on the McGregor River and on the Fraser near Olsson Creek. Two storage dams and one combination dam are proposed for the Cariboo, a tributary of the Quesnel.

Five dams, three combination and two for power only, would be located on the Clearwater, a North Thompson tributary.

Plan "A" is one that would provide both power and flood control with a minimum of harm to fisheries.

MLAs GET GIFT WALLETS

VICTORIA — B.C.'s 52 MLAs Tuesday received new wallets, courtesy of Burnaby municipal council.

The gifts were distributed to support the plea of Burnaby CCF MLAs Cedric Cox and Gordon Dowding for provincial action to help develop Burnaby Lake as a major recreation area for the entire lower mainland.

Douk Policy Failure, Bonner Told

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Robert Bonner Tuesday was told his government's policies on Sons of Freedom Doukhobor problems have failed.

"It is evident from recent disturbances, and still more from the deep mistrust and misunderstanding manifest in the Sons of Freedom's attitude towards government, that past and present government policies have failed to get to the roots of the problem," said a brief presented by a five-man Vancouver committee on Doukhobor affairs delegation.

The group proposed a non-government body to act as an "intermediary" between the government and the sect.

The delegation said the government policy of seizing Sons of Freedom children who fail to attend school, and placing them in the New Denver dormitory, is "open to grave doubt."

It was suggested, teachers to work in the homes of the children, or a special school with a curriculum approved by the government and Doukhobors.

Gov't Asked for UBC Lands Plan

Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Vancouver Point Grey Soerred MLA, Mrs. Buda Brown, said in the legislature Tuesday the government should "bring forth" the long-prepared master plan for development of University of B.C. Endowment lands.

She made a special plea to Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston to release the report, prepared some two years ago by Dr. David Turner, then director of conservation for the lands department.

"That (the lands) is my con-

stituency and the people living there are getting a little anxious regarding the opening up of the lands," said Mrs. Brown. "They want to be able to buy or lease some of these sites."

Williston has not released the report because it required cabinet "study."

Mrs. Brown also told the government it should move the headquarters of the Motor Vehicle Branch headquarters from Victoria to Vancouver because there are more motorists there.

B.C. POWER SOURCES TOPS

VICTORIA — B.C. possesses the greatest untapped hydro-electric potential on the North American continent, Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston told the legislature.

Major power rivers, he said, are: Columbia—capacity of 21.5 billion kilowatt hours per year; Peace—22 to 23 billion kwh per year; Fraser—7 billion kwh (without major harm to fisheries); 45 billion kwh (with fisheries damaged); Homathko—Six billion kwh.

Legislature Fight Goes on Into Night

Government Succeeds in Plan to Form Committee on Unemployment

By ALEX YOUNG
Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA—The B.C. legislature Tuesday erupted into bitter name-calling debate on unemployment.

The question was over whether unemployment should be investigated by the whole legislature or by an 11-man committee.

Full House debate and immediate action was demanded by the opposition.

NIGHT SITTING

The government, with its overwhelming majority, easily passed its committee proposal, but not without an unexpected 3½-hour night sitting.

It was almost 11:30 p.m. when the government motion carried. By then it passed unanimously.

But before the government won its point, the CCF had scored a partial victory by forcing the major debate on unemployment despite three voting defeats.

The flare-up saw Premier Bennett accused of trickery and "intellectual dishonesty" (later withdrawn), and the CCF accused of making political capital out of the plight of the unemployed.

Much of the debating time was taken up with argument over what rules govern the holding of an evening sitting and who should speak first.

WORST SINCE '30s

"I'm asking the premier to be intellectually honest", protested Opposition Leader Strachan. At one point he was forced to withdraw the remark but he insisted that Bennett stop his "mental convolutions" over rules of debate.

Ron Harding (CCF Kaslo-Slocan) said there was a

"world wide drift to depression." The government was warned and should have been able to offer more this year than a committee probe.

"In my riding," said Harding, "unemployment is more serious than since the depression of the '30s."

Gordon Dowding (CCF Burnaby) said many people are receiving foreclosures on mortgages.

Attorney-General Bonner said the proposal for a full-scale debate was unnecessary because the members of the House were free to debate unemployment during the formal debates on the throne speech and the budget.

MONKEY WRENCHES

"It's easy enough to sit on our fannies," said Leo Nim-sick (CCF—Cranbrook) "and draw our \$5,000 per session, and ministers get \$15,000 a year, and say: 'Well, it's too bad about the unemployed.'"

"The CCF is riding the backs of labor," said Highways Minister Gagliardi. "If I was an unkind man I would say we have monkey wrench politicians, that is, just an instrument with a loose jaw."

Premier Bennett blamed unemployment on the former Liberal federal government's "tight money" policies.

"We said it would create a recession," he said, "but the leader of the opposition disagreed. I am getting a little tired of his overbearing attitude . . . his sneers . . . always getting up and lecturing the house."

CAPITAL COLUMN

All Fireworks Strictly Routine

By JAMES K. NESBITT

Perhaps it's going to be a quiet session after all, as the premier so confidently predicted.

True, the 1959 session has barely started, but so far there have been no explosions, or even hints of them.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan made a good speech, but it didn't raise the roof. His attempt to defeat the government was purely routine. The government was in no danger.

Tuesday, Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston gave a long report about hydro power, but he read it, word for word, and so it lost much of its punch and effect, and most MLAs dozed or wrote letters or chatted with their neighbors as Williston spoke.

Williston talked about optimum plans and downstream benefits, important enough, but it was dull stuff which only the experts could understand.

The hard-working minister blamed the federal government for delays and confusion in development of this province's water power.

"Wicked old Tories," said CCF's Harding, in a tone meant to be withering.

"Used to be wicked old Liberals," said CCF's Strachan, meaning "Always blame someone else—never blame yourselves."

CCF's Mrs. Lois Haggan, of Grand Forks-Greenwood, has a cause—she wants the government to name a provincial park after E. E. Winch, long-time MLA for Burnaby, who died two years ago.

It's a splendid idea, for Ernie Winch was a fine public servant, and he should have this honor.

It's the long speech-making that nearly drives Highways Minister Gagliardi out of his mind. He has no patience with it; he just can't stand it, when he considers all the work piling up on his desk, when he wants to get out and see how the highways and bridges are

coming along, when he wants to fly all over the place, instead of chaining himself to a desk. Well, Gagliardi will just have to accept it as a penance.

It doesn't seem the same this session without Miss Margaret Bacchus of Vancouver who, until now, had been head CCF stenographer.

Miss Bacchus couldn't get over to the capital this session. There's definitely a personality lacking in legislative corridors.

Backbench SC MLAs are all hoping these days—hoping to become a cabinet minister.

Because there's going to be a shuffle in health and welfare, some people think the premier will name a new man to his government.

The premier, liking to keep his boys in line, dangling the plum, so to speak, says nothing, absolutely nothing, only looks wise, which is an old habit of premiers—keep everyone guessing. He'll make up his mind in his own good time.

But a new minister would give the province 13. Surely this isn't necessary.

The premier, after the session, may shuffle his cabinet a bit, but it's highly unlikely he'll name a new minister.

A cabinet with too many members gets top-heavy; the present cabinet is quite large enough.

ure Fight Into Night

Succeeds in Plan to
tee on Employment

ALEX YOUNG
Sun Staff Reporter
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Peace Power Vital To Meet Shortage

B.C. to Face Critical Need Within
Six Years, Williston Tells House

By ALEX YOUNG
Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA—Development of Peace River power is
the only solution to a "critical" electricity shortage
expected to develop in B.C. between 1962 and 1965,
Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston said Tuesday.

The Columbia River can't
be depended upon to answer
the shortage because of inter-
national complications involved,
he told the Legislature in a
major policy speech on power.

FRASER OUT

The Fraser River is out, too,
because of the fish problem,
said Williston.

A power - flood control
scheme, to be studied in co-
operation with the federal
government, is limited in its
hydro - electric potential, he
added, and would be able to
provide only token aid in
meeting he anticipated short-
age.

Williston forecast that B.C.
will need a yearly increase in
power production of 9.6 per
cent until 1975, and 4.7 per
cent annually after that.

By 1961, developments under
construction will add 16 billion
kilowatt-hours, while 18 bil-
lion KWH are required.

CRITICAL PERIOD SEEN

"Conditions are expected to
become very critical in the
period from 1962 to 1967," he
said, and the need may arise
for large imports of energy
in the interval, or the con-
struction of further large
block of thermal power."

He noted that the interna-
tional joint commission took
14 years to complete a "feasi-
bility" study on Columbia de-
velopment.

Before any construction of
Columbia dams in B.C. can
start, he said there are formid-
able problems, including agree-
ment on how much B.C. should
get in downstream benefits,
and lengthy engineering stud-
ies of an over-all Columbia
development scheme in B.C.

HITS FEDERAL GOVT

Williston criticized the fed-
eral government for failing
to cooperate with B.C. in
striving to reach international
agreement on downstream
benefits (B.C. believes it
should get half of the 23 bil-
lion KWH in extra power
made possible in the U.S. by
the B.C. development).

During negotiations with
the U.S., the lands and forests
minister stated, it became
evident that "our friends
south of the border were sure
we were desperate for power,
and that in the near future we
would have to develop the
Columbia — agreement or no
agreement."

For this reason, Williston
said, the Wenner-Gren pro-
posals for large scale power
generation on the Peace
placed B.C. "in much stronger
bargaining position."



RAY WILLISTON
... B.C. needs power

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

He gave these other argu-
ments in favor of the Wenner-
Gren project:

Need for developments to
create jobs; decentralization
of industry in the atomic age,
occupation of remote areas to
develop and protect resources
and establish basic routes of
communication.

To anyone who might sug-
gest that the 22 to 23 billion
KWH potential of the Peace
has no market, Williston said
no one could foresee the de-
mand for power which would
be generated at Grand Coulee
in Washington State, when
the project was started in the
depression.

"It acted as a magnet which
attracted much of the present
industry to the whole Pacific
northwest region of the U.S.,"
he said.

B.C. NEEDS MAGNET

"B.C. requires an equally
strong magnet to attract
people and industry to the vast
unsettled regions of this prov-
ince, so that the rich natural
resources may be utilized."

The Peace development
promises to give the first
large block of power. The Co-
lumbia gives no assurance of
any quantity of power by 1967,
he said.

Within one month the Wen-
ner-Gren interests will be able
to announce they have chosen
sites "for the detailed engineer-
ing work which would lead to
the preparation of construc-
tion drawings."

'Good Year' Due, But Parley Vital

Federal-Provincial Talks Needed For Economic Progress, Says Bonner

By HAL DORNAN
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Robert Bonner Wednesday said an early Dominion-Provincial conference is essential to Canada's economic improvement.

Without it, any improvement will be accidental because the 10 provinces and Ottawa pursue "individual, if not divergent" fiscal policies, he told the legislature in the throne speech debate.

Bonner reported as minister of industrial development, trade and commerce. His report on the attorney-general's department will come later.

GOOD YEAR AHEAD

His 90-minute analysis of the province's economy, unemployment problems and the recession here and in the U.S. boiled down to this: the province isn't out of the woods, yet, but 1959 looks like a good year; investment should remain at about the 1958 level (\$1,232,000,000); in the petroleum field it will exceed 1958.

Most of the encouragement for anticipating the "good year," he said, comes from analysis of what is happening to the U.S. economy.

"The U.S. remains by far our best customer," he said. "It follows that, beyond corrective measures which we can employ as a nation and as a province, we must look to the commercial health of the U.S."

RECESSION ON WANE

The significant factor in the U.S. is that there are 64,000,000 employed compared with 62,000,000 at the worst of their recession, he said.

The consensus there is that the recession has "bottomed out" and this is one of the most significant indications for our own economy, he said.

Deficits in the U.S. of \$12 billion and in Canada of \$100,000,000 per month "contribute currently to inflation, which has been correctly recognized by investors," with the bond market at its worst since the 1930s and the stock market at its highest point, he said.

Effects of individual, "possibly divergent," fiscal policies of the provinces and Ottawa could be improved by periodic Dominion-provincial conferences and one is now overdue, Bonner said.

DEFICIT MENACE

"A balanced budget, pay-as-you-go, orderly debt retirement and the rest, which we in B.C. have stressed, can be wiped out by one month of current national deficit," he said.

He said B.C. had urged such a fiscal conference since November, 1957, when Premier Bennett warned the Conservative federal government of the impending unemployment problem.

The problem of agreement on downstream benefits on the Columbia is far from settled, Bonner claimed.

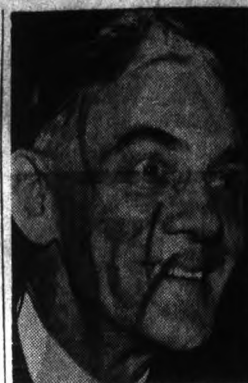
The whole principle of such benefits is being challenged by the U.S. in the "comparatively inconspicuous problem" of Skagit River flooding south of Chilliwack, he said.

AGREEMENT FOUGHT

A lump-sum payment agreement by the coalition government, involving benefits Seattle got from flooding 6,000 Canadian acres from Skagit River dams on the American side, has been fought by B.C. before the International Joint Committee, he said.

The federal government has agreed to an interim \$5,000-per-year payment by Seattle, but IJC has been asked to make B.C. accept the 1942 agreement, a flat \$250,000 payment, he said.

Bonner asked for, and received, opposition support for B.C.'s stand on the Skagit dispute.



ARCHIE GIBBS
...queries costs

OVER ESTIMATES

Probe of PGE, Bridge Costs Asked

VICTORIA — Oak Bay Liberal MLA Archie Gibbs wants Pacific Great Eastern construction costs investigated.

He charges large over-expenditures on the northern and southern extensions of the government-owned railway and in new toll bridges.

He said the public accounts committee of the legislature should be given authority by the House to investigate expenditures "on all these projects, to call witnesses and to obtain such papers and things necessary to ascertain the reasons for this excess expenditure over estimates."

PLANS MOTION

The MLA gave notice that he will ask the House to pass a resolution to that effect.

In his motion he charges that costs of northern and southern extensions of the government-owned PGE "appear to be in excess of \$82,000,000," while the government originally estimated the cost at \$45,000,000.

This is an over-expenditure of 88 per cent, he said.

CITES BLUE BOOK

The original estimate was contained in a blue book entitled "Report on Extensions of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway," tabled in the House in 1954 by Premier Bennett.

The toll highways and bridges authority, said Gibbs, has over-spent by 40 per cent on projects it has undertaken.

Gibbs did not give figures of original estimates and final expenditures of the toll authority.

SURETY

MLA Asks Car Dealers Be Bonded

By ALEX YOUNG
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Vancouver Centre MLA Alex Matthew Wednesday asked the provincial government to take action to "keep a lot of crooked dealers" out of the used car business.

"It is time the province raised the used car industry out of the gutter," he said.

He suggested in the legislature that the government should "make them put up a surety bond."

"It would keep a lot of crooked dealers out of business and put the business on a much higher level," he said. "It has been done in Alberta."

Matthew later said he thought he had Attorney-General Robert Bonner "pretty well convinced" that legislation should be brought in.

He said the Alberta government surety bond was \$10,000.

Matthew's action was backed by J. L. Cunard, secretary-manager of the Automotive Retailers' Association of B.C.

(The Vancouver Sun in a series of articles by reporter Jack Cahill last October reported a flourishing used car racket in Vancouver.)

MLA Lauds \$600 Million Wengren Plan

VICTORIA — A Peace River MLA told the Legislature Wednesday that he expected Wenner-Gren interests to invest "up to \$600,000,000" in its proposed northeastern B.C. projects.

"With that kind of investment," asked Stan Carnell (SC—Peace River South), who can fail to appreciate what it will do for employment?

Carnell saw some tourist attractions in the Wenner-Gren proposal to dam the Peace River near Dawson Creek, Carnell's home town.

"We would have a wonderful triangle tourist route from Dawson Creek, Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope," Carnell said. "If the highways department would only complete the 10-mile gap in the route."

People in northern B.C. have nothing against development of the Columbia River, said the MLA, but they are "pretty solid" on Peace power plans.

"We're on the move," he said, and nobody is going to stop us.

Bigger Bonus Urged for Pensioners

VICTORIA — The provincial government was urged Wednesday to increase the cost-of-living bonus paid to some old age pensioners.

Social Credit MLA for Vancouver-Centre, Alex Matthew, asked the government to grant an increase "at an early date."

Matthew also asked the government to consider extending its \$28 home-owner grant to owners of self-contained apartments and suites.

SERUM COST \$350,000

VICTORIA — The provincial government has spent \$350,000 on anti-polio vaccine since 1955.

Health and Welfare Minister Eric Martin said today there were only 13 polio cases in B.C. last year.

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CAPITAL COLUMN

MLA's Told to Boost 'Tone'; Adjectives Unparliamentary

By JAMES K. NESBITT
VICTORIA — Speaker

Hugh Shantz the Social Credit MLA for North Okanagan, is out to improve the tone of the legislature.

He didn't say so, but he evidently thinks that sometimes it's very low.

Wednesday he warned MLAs that he doesn't like some of the adjectives they use when they're talking about their political opponents.

Too often, said Mr. Speaker, with dignity and severity, some of the adjectives are not parliamentary, and he's just not going to let MLAs get away with such adjectives any longer.

Last year Mr. Speaker ruled that an Hon. MLA may not refer to another Hon. MLA's opinions as garbage.

And, while he was in a lecturing mood, Mr. Speaker said MLAs are not staying with the subject under discussion, but are roaming all over the place.

After this, said Mr. Speaker, they're not going to get away with it.

What Mr. Speaker means, but is too parliamentary to say, is that too many of your MLAs are too windy.

And Mr. Speaker also

might move to stop the reading of speeches.

There's nothing so boring, and falls so flat, as a speech that's read.

And this includes long reports from cabinet ministers, most of which are a waste of time because nobody listens.

Attorney-General Bonner, rising to speak, said Mr. Speaker's ruling about unparliamentary adjectives had caused him to toss out three pages of his speech.

And, indeed, Bonner was more polite than he intended to be.

He was going to say that Opposition leader Robert

Strachan, when he speaks, emphasizes not only ignorance, but what is worse—an indifference towards discovering the real facts.

However, the tone won't long stay high.

Mr. Speaker will have to keep his ears constantly wide open, and he'll have to be tough if he's to keep it high.

However, Mr. Speaker, don't keep the tone too high; it'll be awfully dull in the legislature if you do.

8 Standing Committees in House-One, Labor Has Job

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Eight select standing committees of the B.C. Legislature have been appointed but only one—labor—has been given any assignments so far.

The labor committee of 14 members will inquire into the problem of unemployment that in recent months has appeared "to exceed totals normally associated with seasonal factors."

The committee was appointed after Tuesday's bitter wrangle in the Legislature between the opposition and government.

The opposition wanted a full-scale house debate on the problem, but the government won out in its insistence to place the question before a house committee.

Here is a list of the committees appointed:

LABOR: William Murray (SC, Prince Rupert), convener; Donald Brothers (SC, Rossland-Trail); Herb Bruch (SC, Esquimalt); Dan Campbell (SC, Comox); George Massey (SC, Delta); Bert Price (SC, Vancouver-Burrard); Don Robinson (SC, Lillooet); Hugh Shirreff (SC, Skeena); Fred Sharp (SC, Vancouver East); Labor Minister Lyle Wicks; Cedric Cox (CCF, Burnaby); Ray Eddle (CCF, New Westminster); John Squire (CCF, Alberni); George Gregory (LIB, Victoria); Tom Uphill (Ind., Labor, Fernie).

STANDING ORDERS AND PRIVATE BILLS: Alex Matthew (SC, Vancouver Centre); Tom Bate (SC, Vancouver Point Grey); Brothers; Gordon Gibson (SC, Delta); Price; Sharp; Cyril Shefford (SC, Omineca); Mrs. Buda Brown (SC, Vancouver-Point Grey); Provincial Secretary W. D. Black; Gordon

Dowding (CCF, Burnaby); Rae Eddle; Arthur Turner (CCF, Vancouver East); Gregory; Mel Bryan (Ind., North Vancouver).

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND PRINTING: Irvine Corbett (SC, Yale); Arvid Lundell (SC, Revelstoke); Matthew; Franch Richter (SC, Similkameen); Shirreff; Don Smith (SC, Victoria); William Speare (SC, Cariboo); Public Works Minister W. N. Chant; Health Minister Eric Martin; Ran Harding (CCF, Kaslo-Slocan); Leo

Nimsick (CCF, Cranbrook); Archie Gibbs (Lib., Oak Bay); and Uphill.

MINING AND RAILWAYS: Tom Bate; Wm. Asselstine (SC, Atlin); Brothers; Stan Carnell (SC, Peace River South); Lundell; J. A. Reid (SC, Salmon Arm); Hal Roche (SC, Peace River North); Shefford; Cox; Nimsick; Mrs. Lois Haggan (CCF, Grand Forks-Greenwood); Gibbs and Uphill.

AGRICULTURE: Richter; Carnell; Gibson; Massey; Orr Newton (SC, Columbia); Redl; Roche; Shefford; Shirreff; John Tisdalle (SC, Saanich); Agriculture Minister Newton Steacy; Recreation and Conservation Minister Earle Westwood; Mrs. Haggan; Opposition leader Robert Strachan; and Gregory.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS: Bruch; Carnell; Gibson; Murray; Newton; Price; Reid; Richter; Smith; Tisdalle; Mrs. Brown; Eddie Nimsick; Squire; Turner; Gibbs; Uphill and Bryan.

FORESTRY AND FISHERIES: Speare; Bate; Corbett; Carnell; Massey; Murray; Newton; Robinson; Mines Minister Kenneth Klerman; Lands and Forest Minister Ray Williston; Tony Gargrave (CCF, Mackenzie); Squire; Gregory; Bryan and Strachan.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND EDUCATION: Price; Bruch; Campbell; Smith; Speare; Tisdalle; Mrs. Brown; Martin; Education Minister Les Peterson; Dowding; Gargrave; Harding; Mrs. Haggan; Gibbs and Bryan.

B.C. JOBLESS PROBE TO OPEN NEXT WEEK

VICTORIA—The B.C. legislature labor committee will open its investigation of unemployment next week, probably on Wednesday.

This was announced today by William Murray, Social Credit MLA for Prince Rupert. He was elected chairman at the committee's first meeting this morning.

Murray said the committee will meet again Friday to decide who to call as witnesses. Five days' notice must be given witnesses, he said, thus the actual probe likely won't get started until next Wednesday.

THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 1959

Compensation Appeals Advocated

Alberni MLA Asks Independent Board to Hear Workmen's Pleas

By ALEX YOUNG
Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA—An independent board to hear appeals against decisions of the Workmen's Compensation Board was advocated in the Legislature Wednesday by John Squire (CCF-Alberni).

He said there is a "mush-rooming" problem in B.C. because there is no "proper means for appeal" against WCB rejection of claims.

"The final court of appeal is the workmen's compensation board itself," Squire told the house. "They are asked to make decisions on things they already have decided upon."

"The government is derelict in its duty if it lets this sort of thing go on."

Squire said there is "more heartbreak and social problems being created by this question than on any other single issue."

Dealing with a problem of his constituency, Squire called on the government to force MacMillan and Bloedel, giant B.C. timber firm, to pay full school taxes on its property in the Alberni Valley.

The Alberni school district would lose thousands of dollars in revenue unless the government acted, he said.

Squire explained that in 1946 the company was granted an assessment fixed at \$800,000. This was approved by the legislature.

The school tax can be levied on this amount only, despite the fact that the firm's property has increased in value to some \$31,000,000.

He said there was a "deep moral responsibility" resting on the company "despite the fine legal points involved."

PGE Freight Rate Boosts Defended

Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Recent PGE freight rate increases were defended in the legislature Wednesday by Attorney-General Robert Bonner.

He said they were not only good business but "95 per cent beyond the control" of the provincially-owned railway.

They will bring the PGE \$250,000 to \$300,000 extra revenue in 1959, he added.

He was replying to criticism earlier by Opposition leader Robert Strachan, that the PGE's 17 per cent freight rate increase was inconsistent with the province's opposition to the same increase on national lines.

MUST STAY IN BLACK

"Both the PGE and the government would be criticized if they failed to maintain the railway's operation in the black," Bonner said. "Similarly (they) would be criticized if they breached their long-time policy of paying national

brotherhood rates for trainmen."

"PGE wage rates are those of the national lines and for the most part, the PGE is a feeder line either to Canadian or American lines," he said.

Estimated cost of the PGE in 1959 is \$500,000, Premier Bennett interjected.

FOOB ALTERNATIVE

Bonner said the PGE could keep its freight rates lower than national lines, but the only effect would be to give the provincial line a smaller share of "through rate charges."

The alternative would be "combination rates" which, he said, "would invariably be higher than a through rate."

"I don't think this result is wanted by shippers, government or opposition," he added.

WICKS HINTS DEBT NOT PAID

Is '59 Mortgage-Burning

Off?

By HAL DORNAN
Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA—Will Premier Bennett be able to keep his promise of declaring B.C. debt-free in August?

It didn't appear so Thursday when one of his cabinet ministers, a member of the treasury board, casually told the legislature "1960 will see an end to the province's net debt."

The statement was made by Labor Minister Lyle Wicks in the throne speech debate.

It was in direct conflict with the premier's repeated promise of a monster mortgage-burning ceremony in August, marking completion of seven years of Social Credit government in B.C.

The premier's original debt-free deadline was for 1961 but in the past few years he has advanced it first to 1960 and then to this year.

In Ottawa, Bennett was asked whether his statement still stands.

"Everything the premier

says still stands," he replied. "If it is paid off in August, it will be paid off in 1960, won't it?"

But what the labor minister said appeared to confirm political speculation, that the premier can't—for various reasons—keep his August promise.

(This speculation is entirely apart from dispute over whether the debt-free claim would be valid, no matter when the proclamation goes out.)

One reason for postpone-

ment might be the action taken by former B.C. power commission manager H. Lee Briggs.

What are the others?

Opposition politicians think the recession, dropping revenues threw the big monkey-wrench into Bennett's plans.

They can't see how he could possibly, this year, continue putting much-needed revenue into supplementary—unnecessary—debt retirement.

The Briggs issue put a technical road block in the premier's way.

Despite the premier's denials, evidence before the Shrum royal commission has linked the government's request for B.C. power commission refinancing directly to debt-retirement claims.

Briggs and power commissioner H. H. Griffin refused

to go along with the request to refinance \$26,000,000 advances to the power commission from the government. They said the scheme would increase commission interest costs by more than \$200,000 per year.

Because of their refusal and the big blow-up it created, the commission debt still hasn't been refinanced.

Unless it is by March 31, end of the current fiscal year, the province's public accounts next year will still show the \$26,000,000 commission obligation as provincial debt.

That would make the debt-free proclamation tenuous at best.

If Premier Bennett has, in fact, abandoned his August goal, it's likely he will put the blame on Ottawa rather than either the power commission or short money.

Bill Would Repeal Shaughnessy Act

A private bill to abolish the controversial Shaughnessy Heights Building Restriction Act of 1922 was introduced in the legislature Wednesday.

Repeal of the act would place the Shaughnessy area under zoning control of Vancouver city council. The act was passed to protect the area from encroachment of rooming houses and commercial development.

Council will decide at a public hearing Feb. 9 whether it will pass a special bylaw to continue this protection in First Shaughnessy, Sixteenth to Twenty-fifth.

The bill, introduced by Tom Bate (SC-Vancouver Point Grey) was one of two private bills affecting the city.

The other, introduced by Bert Price (SC-Vancouver Burrard), covers a number of amendments to the city charter.

They include provision to permit British subjects to vote in Vancouver civic elections. At present only Canadian citizens are eligible.

FRASER SEEN 2ND THAMES

VICTORIA — A giant dock and wharfing area on the Fraser River comparable to that on London's busy Thames was envisaged in the Legislature Thursday.

Labor Minister Lyle Wicks, pointing out the Fraser basin covers 90,000 square miles, said: "There is no reason why the banks of the Fraser could not become a second Port of London, with docks and wharf facilities as far inland as Mission City."

"One of the world's greatest ports is situated on the Thames, a much smaller river."

Howe Sound Land Sold for \$95 an Acre

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA — A Vancouver firm headed by Derek M. Gunderson has purchased almost 100 acres of Crown land adjacent to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway near Horse-shoe Bay for \$95 per acre, a reply tabled in the legislature shows.

The firm, Centennial Holdings Ltd., paid \$9,500 for 99.7 acres, Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston reported.

Gunderson is the son of Einar Gunderson, PGE executive vice-president and a director of the toll authority.

The question about the deal was asked by Oak Bay Liberal MLA P. A. Gibbs.

With Gunderson in Centennial Holdings, according to company office records here, are Richard E. W. Fairleigh, 1315 Broughton, Vancouver; George F. Caldough, 1026 Eyremount, West Vancouver; Patrick D. Ryan, 1450 West Georgia, Vancouver, and Herbert G. Stevenson, Prince George.

Socreds Woo CCF's Harding

VICTORIA — Ran Harding, CCF member of the legislature, for Kaslo-Slocan, is finding himself the object of growing affection from the Social Credit ranks of the legislature. Tuesday night, during the legislature's lone and heated debate over unemployment, he was praised by Premier Bennett, Attorney-General Robert Bonner and other Socreds as the only CCFer who spoke rationally on the subject.

He was told he would be welcome to join Socred ranks at any time.

He indicated with a smile that he wasn't interested.

On Thursday Social Credit MLA Don Smith, of Victoria, told Harding he was "head and shoulders above the rest of the opposition."

"They should follow his example and make a more stately and effective opposition," said Smith.

Again, Harding laughed at the Socreds and shook his head to signify he was still with the opposition.

Light Rate Defended

Staff Reporter
PGE freight rate increases legislature Wednesday by Attorney-General.

brotherhood rates for trainmen.

"PGE wage rates are those of the national lines and for the most part, the PGE is a feeder line either to Canadian or American lines," he said.

Estimated cost of the PGE in 1959 is \$500,000, Premier Bennett interjected.

FOOB ALTERNATIVE

Bonner said the PGE could keep its freight rates lower than national lines, but the only effect would be to give the provincial line a smaller share of "through rate charges."

The alternative would be "combination rates" which, he said, "would invariably be higher than a through rate."

"I don't think this result is wanted by shippers, government or opposition," he added.

Fri., Jan. 30, 1959

CAPITAL COLUMN

Adjectives, Yes; Hang the Details

By JAMES K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—Has debate in our Legislature sunk to an all-time low?

Speaker Hugh Shantz is worried about this. He has lectured MLAs on their unparliamentary adjectives.

Certainly, so far this session, debate hasn't been high. Perhaps never before have so many of your MLAs wasted so much time on platitudes and nonsense and long-winded nothings.

If they shortened their speeches, like Fernie's Tom Uphill, they'd be far more effective.

★ ★ ★

But, as to those adjectives Mr. Speaker was talking about.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan, for instance, called Social Credit the smoothest, slickest and most unscrupulous political machine in the history of this province. This is intriguing, but why didn't Strachan give us some details?

Why does Strachan, if he knows, keep them to himself?

Public Works Minister S. N. F. Chant, instead of getting right down to talking about his department, fell all over himself dabbling in politics.

He called the CCF a motor with a distorted manifesto crankshaft, which it must be said, was pretty heavy going, and had little to do with public works.

★ ★ ★

Chant, not easily discouraged, went on about Liberal and Conservative motors, and Strachan called out: "Tell us who greased the wheels," a rhetorical question meant to intimate Social Credit had lots of money to throw around in the recent Rossland-Trail byelection.

Ah, campaign funds. The tantalizing smell of them. But nobody can ever prove anything.

Therefore, why talk about them.

Labor Minister Lyle Wicks dabbled in politics, too.

He said the Socred win in Rossland-Trail proved beyond a doubt that Social Credit is really popular in B.C.

CCF Tony Gargrave of Mackenzie said: "I wouldn't count on that" and CCF Gordon Dowling of Burnaby wanted to know how much the Socred vote dropped in Rossland-Trail compared to the last election. Wicks' only answer: The CCF wasn't doing so well, either.

★ ★ ★

Some MLAs think they

should have more money, now that Vancouver aldermen have voted themselves \$3,600 a year.

MLAs receive \$5,000 from the public purse and they're convinced they work harder, are more important and have more prestige than Vancouver aldermen.

However, Premier Bennett won't allow any more for your MLAs this session or next.

It's not that our elected representatives get too much in the way of pay. It's that there are so many of them.

As one looks down on your legislature, one keeps wondering why it's necessary for us to have 52 MLAs.

★ ★ ★

Chant is proud of the new government house, the exact cost of which nobody yet knows—probably \$2,000,000, which is going to make a lot of people mad.

Lieut.-Gov. Frank Ross has told MLAs they're going to be invited to a party there before anybody else, probably in April.

Chant's department reports: "The new structure consists of a four-storied reinforced concrete structure, clad with granite and Hadington Island stone on the north face, and stucco, with cedar siding in full panels on the less conspicuous exterior faces."

"A feature of the new design will be a nine-by-nine panel which houses the provincial crest, located on the exterior face of the south wall of the ballroom, and which will be illuminated at night by floodlights."

Labor Peace Up To Unions, Employers

Compulsion Out, Advisory Council Being Studied, Wicks Indicates

By HAL DORNAN
Sun staff reporter

VICTORIA—Labor Minister Lyle Wicks Thursday told the Legislature a prerequisite to industrial peace in B.C. is for management and labor both to re-examine their "positions and attitudes."

In his first major address of the session, Wicks gave no hint of any major change in B.C. labor legislation.

What he said in effect was that new legislation isn't the answer to the labor-management strife that rocked the province last year.

NO COMPULSION

Apart from that, he indicated two things: Compulsory arbitration won't be introduced.

Appointment of a Minister of Labor's Advisory Council, modelled on boards in Britain and Australia, is being considered.

Even that appointment, he hinted, will depend on a change in "attitudes" in B.C.'s labor management relations.

SIX NOMINEES

The council would include three nominees from labor and three from business, would meet quarterly "to study matters of public interest and concern in the field of labor-management relations."

He listed unemployment, employment trends, economic conditions, productivity, automation, labor relations, hours of work, as topics.

He said later such a council would in no way supplant the Labor Relations Board.

HAS MERIT, BUT...

"Such an advisory body seems to me to have considerable merit—but the experience in this province with advisory councils or boards has not always been a happy one."

"Many have been used as political sounding boards and therefore have not fulfilled the purpose for which they were set up. That is not the case in Australia."

"Whether it is possible now or at some time in the future to constitute a council patterned on Australia's, I don't know. It may be that there the persons selected are of such high calibre and so dedicated that they put their country or state first—not politics."

He said he believes such

people can be found in B.C. and invited them to come forward.

"Will the reply be a whisper or a shout," he asked.

In the corridor, asked if he was "flying another kite," Wicks replied, "Yes, but I think this is a pretty good one."

DEFENDS RECORD

Earlier, in defending the B.C. strike and lockout record, he said there were fewer work-stopping disputes under his department's jurisdiction during 1958 than the previous year, 29 compared with 35.

He said again that no free country has solved labor-management problems completely, whether they use labor courts, compulsory arbitration or other systems, and that B.C.'s record is no worse than the rest of Canada's.

Both sides have submitted briefs on what legislative action they consider necessary, he said.

MERIT ON BOTH SIDES

Management groups had presented logical arguments favoring compulsory arbitration, but labor had countered with equally logical arguments against.

"If we have reached the stage in our development when we are all prepared to put first things first, put principles above party, but principles and policies first, the advisory council might now prove beneficial to the people of B.C." Wicks said.

"If we can do that, I believe this problem of labor-management relations can be licked."

Peace Up To Employers

Out, Advisory Council, Wicks Indicates

AL DORNAN
staff reporter

Minister Lyle Wicks Thursday prerequisite to industrial peace in and labor both to re-examine attitudes."

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Cariboo on Move, But Needs Bridges

Under Spans Giving Out Under Heavy Traffic, MLA Tells House

VICTORIA (CP) — British Columbia's historic Cariboo, not long removed from the pack horse and the kerosene lamp, now is "on the move" from Clinton to Prince George.

B.C. CATTLE PROBE SET

VICTORIA (CP) — A Complete economic study of British Columbia's cattle ranching industry will be undertaken this spring, as Agriculture Minister Steacy announced Thursday.

He said that the study will be conducted as early as weather permits by the B.C. staff of the federal department of agriculture's economics division under the direction of E. D. Woodward of Vancouver. Last study was made almost 20 years ago.

William Speare, Social Credit MLA for Cariboo, told the legislature in the Throne Speech debate, Thursday, new roads are going into the land where gold-seekers trekked 60 and more years ago, new schools and hospitals are going up and new industries are moving in.

The old, abandoned town of Barkerville, once the centre of the Cariboo gold seekers, was already attracting tourists, and Cariboo people were thankful for government plans to make it a historic site.

DOESN'T END THERE

But, warned the 43-year-old member who operates a dude ranch and makes Quesnel his home, the government's job didn't end with "primary" development of the Cariboo.

There would be "secondary" problems and the government should give them serious consideration.

The country was threaded by great rivers that needed good bridges.

He mentioned particularly a bridge across the Fraser to serve the Chilcotin country and possible replacement of a suspension bridge across the Quesnel River near the town of the same name.

CUT OFF NORTH

If this bridge went out it could cut off the country to the north.

The Cariboo member said many old bridges were giving out under the weight and volume of new traffic.

The government, he suggested, might also take note of the fact that while forest stands were great in most areas of B.C., the Cariboo was suffering from over-cutting of trees.

In some sections there was only enough timber left for the next ten years.

Bond Costs Could be Job Aid—Wicks

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — The federal government missed a chance to solve unemployment in Canada, B.C. provincial Labor Minister Lyle Wicks claimed Thursday.

Criticizing the federal government's reconversion bond issue, Wicks said in the legislature the extra interest and carrying charges of the scheme could have been used to help unemployment.

"I estimate this amount to be \$90,000,000," he said.

"It could have easily been used to solve unemployment problems."

In its winter employment scheme, he said, Ottawa created \$41,500,000 worth of projects by contributing less than \$6,000,000 to labor costs. That amount created jobs for 7,500 men.

"The \$90,000,000 on the same basis would have created 112,500 jobs, and with secondary effects would have practically solved the unemployment problem in Canada," he said.

He called the reconversion issue "the most inflationary force Canada has been subjected to in years."

"The additional unwarranted cost to taxpayers is so high it can't be calculated," he said.

POW! POW! POW!

B.C. Nimrod Nailed Roast Of Jaloppy

VICTORIA — A B.C. hunter once shot his car three times in the belief it was an animal, J. Donald Smith (SC-Victoria) told the Legislature Thursday.

He said a brown blanket the hunter had previously placed over the hood of the car caused him to make his mistake.

Smith told this story seriously while urging a "better hunting safety program" in B.C.

He proposed that hunters should have to obtain a "learner's licence" and that licences of "idiot" hunters who kill or maim others should be suspended for life.

"We do it with drivers," said Smith. "Why can't we do it with hunters?"

"I would suggest," he added in the throne speech debate, "that when a hunter is involved in a shooting accident his right to carry a firearm be suspended for life."

"This, if nothing else, would serve as an example to others."

Long-Term Student Loans Promised UBC by Peterson

Continued From Page 1

"I have endeavored to discuss as fully as rules and traditions permit, all the important announcements in the speech from the throne that come under my jurisdiction."

Asked later why, in view of that statement, he hadn't mentioned public school grants, he said it was an oversight and he would deal with education finance in the budget debate.

It appeared, however, that the increased school grants hinted in the throne speech will be the result of normal increases in school enrollment, and not the result of a new deal for schools districts, as urged by the Union of B.C. Municipalities and other groups.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SPEECH

Highlights of Peterson's 90-minute report:

University assistance

When details of the increased university grants and the "completely new scheme" of student assistance are revealed, the government expects they will receive "the same generous public approval" already given plans to extend education assistance for mentally retarded children, Peterson said.

But he pointed out university grants under Social Credit have more than doubled in seven years, rising from \$1,900,000 in 1951-52 to \$4,334,000 in 1958-59.

Compared with provincial grants of \$149 per UBC student 10 years ago, the provincial government now pays \$460 per student. And where 10 years ago, student fees provided 60 per cent of the university budget, today, federal and provincial grants combined provide 70 per cent.

NO ONE MUST BE DENIED

"More important than the division of budget between student fees and government grants is the principle that no one with the necessary ability, who wants to undertake university studies, should be denied that opportunity because of lack of funds," the minister said.

"I told the House a year ago that I subscribed to that principle and since then I have tried to evolve a plan that would bring us closer to that goal, a goal that has not been realized by any other province.

"With assistance from my colleagues, particularly the attorney-general, we have formulated such a plan and I feel it will be heartily endorsed by all members of this House."

He added he does not support the view that university education should be absolutely free to the student.

New Loan Scheme For UBC Students

By HAL DORNAN
Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA—Increased University of British Columbia grants and "a completely new

scheme of financial assistance to students" were promised in the legislature Friday by Education Minister L. R. Peterson. Principle of the scheme will

be that "no one with the necessary ability should be denied university education because of lack of funds," he said.

"I have tried to evolve a plan that will bring us closer to that goal, a goal that hasn't been reached by any province in Canada.

PLAN "FORMULATED"

"We have formulated such a plan and I am confident it will be endorsed by every member of this House."

Details will be revealed during the budget debate, he said.

It is expected the scheme will combine scholarships and bursaries with long-term, low-interest loans to students whose academic records meet certain specifications.

Speaking in the throne speech debate, Peterson stressed three impending education improvements in government legislation.

MUM ON GRANTS

They were university assistance; "a major step forward" in educating mentally retarded children, and a survey to determine B.C.'s needs in the field of schools for advanced technical training.

He made no mention of increased public school grants or revision of the school-grant formula, though he concluded:

Please Turn to Page Two
See: "Long-Term"

'SAID YEARS AGO'

"That's what they said about public school education a few years ago," commented MLA John Squire (CCF—Alberni).

Peterson said the Socred government has increased loans and bursaries by over 300 per cent, and B.C. taxpayers now pay, including all forms of assistance, more per capita in university assistance than any other province.

But it is important that more scholarships be made available, he said. "Society must recognize academic achievement in order to attract the ablest students to university."

Mentally retarded:

The problem of providing education for mentally retarded children of school age was not recognized in B.C. until three years ago, Peterson said. (At that time per capita grants were introduced for children in schools operated by local chapters of the Association for Retarded Children).

As a result, 300 to 400 children per year have received training, Peterson said.

He commended the work of the association but added he had found some of the schools "not up to the standard we would like to see in this province."

VICTORIA TO RESCIND IRON, STEEL BOUNTIES

VICTORIA (CP)—A change of the mining law is to be put before the legislature by Mines Minister Kiernan.

The minister served notice on the legislature order paper Friday that he will introduce a motion to repeal the act which provides for bounties on the manufacture of pig iron and steel.

The bounty for pig iron runs up to \$3 a ton, while the bounty for steel runs up to \$1 a ton.

MLA Demands CPR Restore Daily Runs

Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA—Restoration of daily service on the Canadian Pacific Railway's Kettle Valley line was demanded in the Legislature Friday by Leo Nimsick, CCF MLA for Cranbrook.

He said reduction of the service to a twice-weekly basis last year was done under the guise of bombing threats but was really a "deliberate attempt by the CPR to get rid of its passenger service in the Kootenays."

"Its excuse," he said, "was bombs on the track but that wasn't the real reason. It seems to me that it's just as dangerous to run the train two days a week as it is on the days it isn't run."

Attorney-General Robert Bonner told the Legislature last year the service was reduced because of the threat of contact mines placed on the tracks by terrorists, who have often been suspected of being members of the Doukhobor Sons of Freedom sect.

MLA Scores Leniency for Gaglardi

By Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA—Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi was given preferential treatment when his driver's licence suspension was reduced to one from three months, Leo Nimsick, CCF MLA for Cranbrook, charged Friday.

"In my area," he told the Legislature, "if someone were caught for speeding three times they would have the book thrown at them."

"It would seem there are two laws in the land. It is hard to tell our young people to drive carefully if we aren't going to do it ourselves."

Nimsick also spoke against insurance company policies that "make young people up to 25 years of age pay almost double for car insurance rates." The majority of young people were good drivers, he said.

"Insurance companies shouldn't be given the right to decide who is to drive and who can't," Nimsick said. "You shouldn't be driving if you are a risk."

United Front On Columbia Power Urged

VICTORIA—All British Columbia political parties were asked by a Social Credit MLA Friday to band together and present a united front to ensure that B.C. gets adequate downstream benefits from Columbia River power development.

J. Allen Reid (S.C., Salmon Arm) said the prospect of hydro-electric development of the Columbia in B.C. "offers the greatest possibilities for development of B.C. in the next 100 years."

"We must get a proper deal," said Reid. (The Canadian and U.S. governments are currently negotiating over what B.C. should get as its share of extra power that is generated in the United States downstream from B.C. as a result of the proposed B.C. development.)

Reid's power statements were in opposition to claims by Leo Nimsick (CCF, Cranbrook) that the Social Credit government isn't properly handling development of B.C. power resources.

In fact, Nimsick told the House, the B.C. government is giving away power rights to Wenner-Gren interests.

Jobless Probe Will Open On Tuesday

VICTORIA—The house labor committee's inquiry into unemployment will open Tuesday with presentation of a report on the severity of the unemployment problem by provincial welfare director J. S. Sadler.

At its organizational meeting Friday the committee was told by Labor Minister Lyle Wicks that he would present an interim report on studies on unemployment by the B.C. Research Council.

Groups to be invited to appear before the committee are: International Woodworkers of America, Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-op; Shuswap-Okanagan Dairymen's Co-op; Consolidated Mining and Smelting; B.C. Electric, B.C. Telephone, Powell River Co., Aluminum Co. of Canada, B.C. Peace Council and MacMillan-Bloedel, and B.C. Federation of Labor.

In addition "all interested parties" are invited to make submissions.

Peterson Attacks Strachan, Laing

By Vancouver Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA—Education Minister L. R. Peterson Friday levelled accusations of irresponsibility at both CCF leader Robert Strachan and Liberal leader Arthur Laing.

He said Strachan puts his own political aspirations ahead of genuine concern with the province's education problems.

He accused Laing of making "irresponsible and false statements" on education finance merely to get his name and picture in the paper.

Peterson made his statements in the legislature.

His attack on Strachan was over a letter circulated to school boards by the opposition leader, asking for copies of their budgets.

Peterson said the letters had implied that he (Peterson) had refused to release the information.

He said he had written Strachan that the education department considered the budgets the property of school districts.

"IS THAT A THREAT?"

"He is merely trying to destroy the good relations between the department and school boards," Peterson told the Legislature. "In future I will be content to deal with him at arm length."

"Is that a threat that you're going to continue to refuse to give me information?" asked Strachan.

"The opposition leader knows his rights... he can get information in this house..." the minister replied.

"Once a year?" asked Strachan. "I'd suggest you be out of the house next time I speak because I'm going to tell the truth about this whole affair."

Peterson then turned his attack on Liberal leader Laing, over statements he made about the Richmond school district.

HAD TO BORROW

That school board had to borrow from the bank recently because the government hadn't sold Richmond's 1956-'57 school bonds (guaranteed by the government), Laing said.

Peterson read excerpts from a Richmond school board letter which said, in part, "the board views with distaste the interjection of its affairs into the political arena and disassociates itself, without qualification, from the reported statements made by Mr. Laing."

Socred Asks More City Aid

By ALEX YOUNG
Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA—A Social Credit MLA Friday called on the provincial government to give Vancouver more financial aid and more representation in the legislature.

Fred Sharp (Vancouver East) told the House in the throne speech debate that a new formula was required for grants to the city and that the city, with about a third of the population of British Columbia, needed House representation greater than its present 17 per cent.

Additional financial assistance was needed, he said, to meet school and road costs in the city.

He noted that the government pays only some 35 per cent in Vancouver school operating costs, while on a province-wide basis it pays 50 per cent.

"There is a need for a revised formula for sharing Vancouver school costs," Sharp told the government he supports.

He also said the government should back expansion of kindergarten facilities, should establish in the city a school for retarded children, place all vocational schools under one jurisdiction, including Vancouver's, and approve replacement of the old Moberly school annex at Fraser and Marine Drive.

Redistribution of legislature seats was needed to "give fullest democratic representation according to population," Mr. Sharp declared.

ROYAL 'SNUB' IRKS MLA

Sun Staff Reporter
VICTORIA—Royal visit planners have been slighting the people of the Kootenays, Leo Nimsick (CCF, Cranbrook) told the legislature Friday.

He said he had been displeased that the itinerary of Princess Margaret's visit last summer ignored the Kootenays and now was unhappy that the area was passed over in the itinerary for this summer's scheduled visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

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TO RESCIND EEL BOUNTIES

(CP)—A change of the mining before the legislature by Mines

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SATURDAY, JAN. 31, 1959

CAPITAL COLUMN

CCFers Deplore 'Bad Manners'

By JAMES K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — Social Credit cabinet ministers, according to CCFers, don't know anything about good manners.

Opposition leader Strachan considers it very rude of the premier not to have invited him on the PGE inaugural to the Peace River country last Autumn.

Strachan complains bitterly because the premier wouldn't see him at all last year. He's annoyed, too, because, he says, cabinet ministers, including the premier, won't answer his letters.

CCF Leo T. Nimsick of Cranbrook expresses annoyance because when the cabinet met in his riding he wasn't even so much as advised they were coming. Nimsick felt snubbed, despite the fact he suspects quite a bit of Sacred politicking when the cabinet trots around the province, holding meetings here and there, showing itself off, looking for votes, in Nimsick's considered opinion.

Nimsick has another complaint. He says that when he phones a cabinet minister in Victoria on public business (paying the phone bill himself) an account of the conversation is immediately rushed back to the biggest Sacred big-wig in Cranbrook. That's not good enough, Mr. Speaker. It's rude.

And, says this column, it's certainly strange, very odd indeed, and Nimsick must know whereof he speaks, because not a cabinet minister said him nay.

Education Minister Peterson made note of Strachan's complaint about cabinet ministers not answering opposition letters.

Well, Peterson had answered a Strachan letter, and what did Strachan do?

In Peterson's opinion, Strachan played politics with the Peterson answer.

This is an involved story, but intriguing.

Strachan wrote Peterson asking him for all the school budgets in the province.

Peterson told Strachan to write the school boards himself.

Then, according to Peterson, Strachan ran around saying the minister of edu-

cation wouldn't tell him a thing, that he wanted to hide public business.

As Peterson considered Strachan's manoeuvre, he worked himself into a bit of a frenzy, but a nice, controlled frenzy.

He pointed a stern finger at Strachan, and, hands on hips, he said in a cold and calculating way: "The leader of the opposition puts his own political aspirations first, and education second — many of the school boards resent attempts to bring their affairs into a political arena."

This set some CCFers to muttering how Mr. Peterson wouldn't be long in the house, certainly not after the next election, and Peterson's reply to this, in a dignified way, and there was no doubting his sincerity, was this: "What interests me most is not how long I'm going to be in this house, but what I do while I am here."

Nimsick made note of how Sacred this session are praising CCFer Ron Harding of Kaslo-Slocan. Nimsick said the government, having run out of cabinet material in its own ranks, is starting to woo Harding.

"We'll have all the cabinet posts next time," said Harding, matter-of-factly.

Peterson was provocative. He kept saying, in effect, "I've got some good stuff coming up, but I can't tell you about it yet."

When the full government program is unveiled, said Peterson, everyone will be happy, which is an overstatement, of course, because oppositionists are never quite really happy about anything the government does.

It was a treat when Peterson didn't keep referring to "your Social Credit government."

Cabinet ministers have this habit — "your Social Credit government."

Peterson just said "the government," and that's what it should be called, away from the hustings.

J A N

1959

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1959

New Welfare Branch In Revised B.C. Policy

Separate Health Plan Revealed In Throne Speech

Division of the department of health and welfare into two is the major forecast of the speech from the throne, delivered at the opening of the B.C. Legislature today by Lieutenant-Governor Frank McKenzie Ross.

A new Department of Health Services and Hospital Insurance will include administration of mental health services, now carried out by the provincial secretary's office.

The Welfare Branch will become a separate department.

The speech was read to the third session of the 25th legislature at 3 p.m., following entry of the lieutenant-governor.

The speech traditionally indicates the legislation which the government proposes to introduce in the session—expected to last eight weeks.

Also forecast in the throne speech:

- Construction of a new Victoria courthouse starts this year.
- Expansion of education and training for mentally retarded children.
- Legislation to increase grants to school districts to UBC and Victoria College.
- Legislation for establishment of a horse-racing commission for B.C.
- The government will recommend immediate sittings of the select standing committee on labor to study ways and means of decreasing unemployment.
- Provision of additional judges for the B.C. Supreme Court.
- Legislation for compulsory use of machinery and equipment, with compensation, for suppression of forest fires.
- Increased credit extensions to applicants under the Farmers' Land-clearing Assistance Act to help bona-fide farmers increase their holdings.
- Amendments to the Highways Act with respect to arbitration, and amendments to the Ferries Act regarding subsidies.
- Establishment and observance of Douglas Day, Nov. 19, to commemorate the founding of the first colonial mainland government at Fort Langley in 1858.

New Cabin

Separation of the welfare department expected to mean new minister to the pre-cabinet. It is also present Health Minister Eric Macdonald retain the health administration, with cabinet minister to welfare.

The proposal has been made repeatedly by the legislature.

There were no guarantees start would be made re-shuffling of responsibilities due to the fact, at the throne speech, the view of mental health is about to be taken American Psychiatric Association.

The news of a split on Victoria's new government has been long-awaited. The government already chased land opposite Church Cathedral and conducted surveys.

Attorney-General Bonner has suggested offices within his department concerned with justice administration, will be in the new building.

He has also noted for additional Supreme Justices due to delays in passage of the courts of various classes.

There was no elaboration of the proposal for education training of mental children. But on the speech said:

"An expanded loans, scholarships, salaries will be made. To facilitate the admission of higher standard students of senior standing, of UBC, Victoria College, and asked to authorize increased measure of assistance and ment."

The establishment of horse-racing would give B.C. control of the sport is held in Ontario.

The speech said, "The government is deeply concerned about unemployment. Calling for immediate action of the special committee speech added, 'It is that this committee all interested individuals groups.'"

New Cabinet Minister Expected

Separation of the health and welfare departments is expected to mean naming a new minister to the present 12-man cabinet. It is also expected present Health and Welfare Minister Eric Martin would retain the health services administration, with the new cabinet minister being named to welfare.

The proposal has been publicly made repeatedly in the past by the legislative's Opposition.

There were no guesses when a start would be made on the re-shuffling of responsibilities, due to the fact, also noted in the throne speech, that a survey of mental health services is about to be taken by the American Psychiatric Association.

The news of a start in 1959 on Victoria's new courthouse has been long-awaited. The government already has purchased land opposite Christ Church Cathedral and has conducted surveys.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner has suggested other offices within his department, concerned with justice administration, will be included in the new building.

He has also noted the need for additional Supreme Court Justices due to repeated delays in passage through the courts of various cases.

There was no elaboration on the proposal for education and training of mentally-retarded children. But on school grants, the speech said:

"An expanded system of loans, scholarships and bursaries will be made available. To facilitate the achievement of higher standards . . . by students of senior matriculation standing, of UBC and of Victoria College, you will be asked to authorize an increased measure of financial assistance and encouragement."

The establishment of a horse-racing commission would give B.C. an over-all control of the sport, such as is held in Ontario.

The speech said, "My government is deeply concerned . . . about unemployment." Calling for immediate sittings of the special committee, the speech added, "It is desirable that this committee meet with all interested individuals and groups."

The speech reviewed the province's centenary and noted continuation of the plan to restore Barkerville as an historic shrine and public park.

It noted completion of reports by five royal commissions which will be considered at this session—including the McPhee inquiry into the tree fruit industry, the Sloan inquiry into a dispute between the IWA and Forest Industrial Relations and the Goldenberg

Continued on Page 2

... THRONE SPEECH

Continued from Page 1
report on union management relations in the plumbing and electrical industries.

Also to be considered are

Credit Assistance for Farmers

On agriculture, the speech from the throne noted benefits are expected for B.C. livestock producers through the Federal Freight Assistance Policy, now applicable to shipments from the Peace River via the PGE.

Farmers generally would benefit from the proposed legislation to permit low initial payments and "substantial credit" on borrowings for land clearing.

"A consolidation of all legislation relating to dyking and draining" also will be submitted.

A new Wills Act is to be

presented as well as some amendments to other unnamed provincial statutes.

The new forest legislation indicated the government wishes to be in position to commandeer any equipment from private firms which may be necessary to prevent tragic forestry losses such as occurred last summer when estimated cost for provincial fire-fighting was over \$4,500,000.

"General development of energy sources continues to receive the closest attention of my government to be sure that the public interest is served . . ." the speech went on.

Mining Exploration Encouraged

An amendment will be proposed to mining legislation "to recognize scientific advancement in the field of exploration and to encourage exploration." Amendments to the Gas Act were also promised.

There will be same technical

changes suggested for the Municipal Act and "the government will expand the benefits of poliomyelitis immunization during the coming year." There will also be legislation concerning nursing homes and similar institutions.

A conference of trade and industry "will be convened in the late spring" and a second trade fair similar to the International Trade Fair held in Vancouver last year is planned for 1959, the speech said.

It concluded with the anticipation that Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip will honor my government and the people of British Columbia by being the first official guests at Government House" now nearing completion.

Six Private Bills Ready For Session

Six private bills are already scheduled for presentation during the legislative session which opened today.

One is a proposed amendment to the Victoria Civic Arena Act. It stipulates not more than two members of Victoria council may serve on the arena commission at any one time. It limits members to electors of the city, Oak Bay, Esquimalt or Saanich. It also states the city manager and city engineer shall be members without vote.

Other bills include amendments to the Vancouver city charter, incorporation of Northwest Baptist Theological College, amendments to incorporation of Granby Consolidated, incorporation of B.C. Chartered Secretaries, and amendment of Shaughnessy Building Restrictions Act.

Jan. 31 is deadline for receipt of petitions for private bills.

Special Tribute Paid to Sloan In Throne Speech

The B.C. government paid official tribute to the late Hon. Gordon Sloan in the Speech from the Throne delivered by Lieut.-Governor Frank Ross at the opening of the third session of the 25th legislature this afternoon.

The province, it was said, "has suffered a great loss in the untimely death of the Honorable Mr. Sloan on Jan. 14."

As an elected representative, as a minister of the crown, as chief justice of the court of appeal and as adviser to the government he had served with "distinction and integrity."

JANUARY 23, 1959

Bennett Dips Into 'Nest Egg'

Revenue Surplus
Lowest in Years

By PETE LOUDON
Times Legislative Reporter

The B.C. government dipped \$27,937,422 out of a surplus built up in former years to make its revenues meet its expenditures in the fiscal year ended last March.

One of the expenditures was \$21,104,422 placed in a supplementary sinking fund for debt reduction.

The transfer of funds from the revenue surplus account reduced that account to \$13,288,821—the lowest it has been in years. April 1, 1956, it stood at \$49,365,603.

The action of drawing on past surpluses to reduce debt was revealed Thursday when the public accounts were released to the press from the premier's office. The accounts were accompanied by a mimeographed press release.

The release claimed a current account revenue surplus of \$51,779,600 existed last March 31. However, after arriving at this "surplus" the current account listed additional expenditures which more than wiped it out.

The revenue side of the ledger also added in \$6,104,422 which was transferred from a suspense account—final settlement on the tax rental agreement of 1947.

MADE DIFFERENCE

The tacked-on expenditures which made all the difference included a loss of \$2,076,814 experienced on a sale of "investments."

Also included was expenditure for \$62,640,180 for what are described as "capital expenditure out of income"—roads, bridges and ferries, forest development, mining roads, park development, flood control, water investigations, power studies and buildings. The other expenditure was the transfer of \$21,104,422 to debt reduction.

Premier Bennett told a news conference the money taken from revenue surplus was used to expand employment.

"We did not have to borrow because we saved our money in the good years of 1953 and 1956," he said.

On the balance sheet of the accounts a jump was shown, however, in provincial borrowings for "contingent liabilities." These are agencies, such as toll bridges and highways and the PGE which are expected to liquidate their own debt. Hence these borrowings do not show as part of the provincial debt.

They increased in the last fiscal year from \$241,334,638 to \$385,163,986.

STRACHAN STARTS EARLY

Opposition Gun Fires

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan went to work on the government almost before the band and honor guard marched away from the opening of the House Thursday.

He asked that members receive copies of departmental reports as soon as possible. Over a dozen were tabled, but

some of these were not printed yet, and usually they are not available before estimates.

Last year, he said, in was a significant omission that the mental health services report was not tabled... "in fact was not presented until the last day."

Premier Bennett said the government would take note.

Legal Lights Cheer Start of Courthouse

Judges, lawyers and courthouse employees were jubilant today over the B.C. government's announcement that construction of Victoria's new courthouse opposite Christ Church Cathedral will start this year.

When Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross read this from the Throne Speech during Thursday's opening of the legislature, Liberal MLA George Gregory signified approval by thumping on his desk and shouting: "Three cheers!"

"This is excellent news," commented Judge J. B. Clearhue. "The amount of law business in the capital city has long outgrown the present facilities."

John G. McIntosh, vice-president of Victoria Bar Association, said the new courthouse "is a matter for great jubilation, not only in Victoria, but all over British Columbia."

He pointed out that the Court of Appeals hears cases that originate in many parts of the province and there are at present no facilities for members of juries, witnesses and litigants.

"We are hopeful that the new courthouse will provide a special room where administrative tribunals and royal commissions can be held apart from formal court hearings."

"There is also a desperate need for extra accommodation for the Land Registry Office. At present many legal documents have to be stored in a warehouse."

Government surveys are now proceeding on the site of the new courthouse.

A spokesman for the public works department said specifications and requirements are now being examined.

PGE PROFITS DECREASE BY MORE THAN MILLION

Pacific Great Eastern Railway profits went west during the fiscal year ended December, 1957.

The report of the year's operation, contained in public accounts tabled in the Legislature Thursday, showed a drop in operating profits from \$1,304,728 to \$15,600.

There has been no full financial report tabled since extension of the PGE to the Peace River area last fall. The extension is expected to boost incomes.

Operating revenues for the year reported came to \$8,867,502, which was reduced about \$33,000 from the year previous. Operating expenses climbed about \$500,000 and revenues generally were down about the same amount.

50 IN RED; NINE IN BLACK

Ferries Lose \$860,617

Only nine of British Columbia's 59 government-controlled ferries are revenue-producing and only three of these showed a profit in the fiscal year ending last March.

These were the Ladner ferry (\$26,532), the Kelowna ferry, now replaced by a bridge (\$9,641) and the Kootenay Lakes ferry (\$20,992).

Total expenditure for ferries was \$1,581,082. The overall loss to ferry operation was \$860,617.

The ferry operations were outlined in the annual report of the department of highways, tabled in the Legislature on Thursday.

MEMBERS' SPEECHES START; STRACHAN TO SPEAK MONDAY

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan will open debate on the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature Monday, probably at 3 p.m.

Between that time and the budget presentation, expected about Feb. 6, most members will speak on any and all subjects. There will be as many as four speeches each day.

Newest member of the B.C. Legislature, Donald L. Brothers (S.C. Rossland-Trail), was to make his maiden speech today—the reply to the Speech from the Throne.

GAME REPORT

More Prowl

Cougars are on the prowl on Vancouver Island. B.C. Interior accorded fish and game branch.

Annual report of department of recreation and conservation was made public Thursday, tabled for consideration by legislature.

The report stated, heading "predator control," sightings of young cougars mounted.

It was also noted that Courtenay-Campbell area, 28 foxes were during 1958—263 in the province.

Total of 1,437 poisons were employed in the province of wolves to protect other parts of the province and 93,000 individuals were set out for rodent control.

The game department reported an increase in game. The number of game tags issued is expected to increase when all returns are in. No increase is expected in the number of accipiters increased number of hunters. Estimated game department revenue, \$50,000.

The department issued 12,000 questionnaires this year, 3,000 last year, to assist in the size of the "game harvest."

22.3%

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A shortage of school teachers in British Columbia during the year resulted in the teaching of the teaching held by teachers of the teaching. No teacher taken by 2.3. At the eleventh per cent of the proper quality.

Seperate Health Department Plan Wins General Approval

Throne Speech forecasts of new legislative and administrative changes met generally favorable reaction today.

Consolidation of the health branch, mental health services and hospital insurance into a separate health department, and formation of a separate welfare department, was hailed as a major step in improving both health and welfare services.

Dr. E. N. Boettcher, medical superintendent of St. Joseph's

Hospital, said the reorganization is "a sign of the times and a step forward" because it recognizes that mental health is one of the major illnesses of modern times.

Royal Jubilee Hospital administrator George Masters said the departmental shuffle is in "the better interest of all health services. It brightens the whole health picture."

Bring End to Confusion

Glen Hamilton, secretary of the Community Welfare Council of Greater Victoria and executive director of the Silver Threads Service, said the creation of a separate welfare department would end confusion in licensing procedures of nursing homes.

"Right now, for instance, two-thirds of the places—boarding homes—in Greater Victoria giving such care have only city trade licences," he said.

Owen Karn, Silver Threads' president, said his organization had pressed for uniform regulation of nursing and boarding homes for the aged "and we are delighted to learn that this may be translated into official action."

William Hooson, city welfare administrator, said the change "was long overdue." It will eliminate overlapping functions.

Labor Welcomes Inquiry

Victoria labor officials welcomed the government's intention to convene the standing committee on labor immediately for an inquiry into the unemployment problem.

"This will give labor a chance to get its ideas across to the public," said Victoria Labor Council president Robert Barrie. "If it's for the benefit of labor, we'll testify or do anything necessary to help," he said.

Ed Haw, VIC vice-president, said the inquiry "will guarantee that (a B.C. Federation of Labor delegation coming here Feb. 2) will be heard. It shows they (the provincial government) are at last starting to treat this unemployment problem seriously."

Lloyd Whalen, president of the Vancouver Labor Council, commented: "I'm pleased to hear the government is interested in the unemployment situation and willing to do something about it."

He said the government has had time to study ways and means . . . "What we need is some action."

Mrs. Win Gopel, executive director of the Association for Retarded Children, said this about proposed increased aid

for retarded children: "Wonderful . . ."

On appointing judges, John Farris, president of the Bar Association, said: "This is welcomed. The trial list is badly behind. The present judges are overworked . . . Judges are working harder than they should. They haven't enough time for reflection, and they should have."

On proposed mining legislation:

Tom Elliott, manager of the British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines, said the industry would welcome "any changes in the mining legislation that will encourage prospecting and exploration of British Columbia."

On commandeering fire fighting equipment, a logging executive said the industry is not in favor of this legislation. He said the reason is because operators provide equipment for protection of the forest they are working in, and to deprive them of this equipment leaves them defenceless.

"The machinery is there," he said, "to protect the ground the worker is operating in. If equipment is commandeered for a fire elsewhere, the operator ought to be relieved of his responsibility to protect it."

GAME REPORT FILED

More Cougars Prowl Island

Cougars are on the increase on Vancouver Island and the B.C. interior according to B.C. fish and game branch inspectors.

Annual report of department of recreation and conservation was made public Thursday and tabled for consideration of the legislature.

The report stated under the heading "predator control" that sightings of young cougars has mounted.

It was also noted that in the Courtenay-Campbell River area, 28 foxes were destroyed during 1958—263 throughout the province.

Total of 1,437 poison stations were employed in the killing of wolves to protect game in other parts of the province, and 93,000 individual baits were set out for rodent pests.

The game department said an increase in game law violations is expected to be apparent when all returns are in. No increase is expected in the number of accidents despite increased numbers of hunters. Estimated increase in game department revenues is \$50,000.

The department will issue 12,000 questionnaires to hunters this year, 3,000 more than last year, to assist in reckoning the size of the annual "game harvest."

Another section of the report states closure of lands to public shooting on the mainland is increasing at an "alarming rate." More noticeable than ever before are the large number of gun clubs with exclusive hunting rights on private farm lands.

"At the present rate, it will be but a short time before the average hunter will have to pay for the privilege of pheasant and duck hunting on most of the better farm lands of the Fraser River and Fraser River delta areas."

The department listed at least nine problems it thought were major in its operation. They were:

1. Pollution of sport fish areas.
2. Prevention of harm to sport fish.
3. The search for more game preserves.
4. Eradication of coarse fish—especially killer fish—and the erection of barriers for that purpose.
5. Predator control.
6. Game damage to fertile areas.
7. Beaver control.
8. Hunting accidents.
9. Public relations. This, says the department, "is the most necessary in any game management program."

22.3% IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

B.C. Teachers Lack Qualifications

A shortage of secondary school teachers in British Columbia during the last school year resulted in 22.3 per cent of the teaching posts being held by teachers without regular qualifications.

No teacher training had been taken by 2.3 per cent of these. At the elementary level, 3.1 per cent of the teachers lacked proper qualification.

This was reported in the annual report of public schools filed in the British Columbia Legislature Thursday by Education Minister Leslie Peterson. Balancing this situation, said the report, was the fact that 29.9 per cent of elementary school teachers and 29.6 per cent of secondary school teachers, had more qualifications than their position demanded.

The report also showed that there are almost as many adults going to school as their are children, in British Columbia today. There are 277,070 children and youths enrolled as compared to 222,331 persons registered in adult classes.

Total of 3,533 students were enrolled in correspondence courses.

Percentage of regular attend-

ance at day schools was 91.13 per cent.

At the beginning of the school year, there were 175 classes on shifts in British Columbia, but the number was reduced to 81 by June. "Several" classes were closed temporarily due to short-period lack of teachers. The shortage was described as "continuing" at the secondary level.

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NORMAN CRIBBENS IN THE LEGISLATURE

You've noticed how two champion boxers always shake hands before battering each other to pulp.

That is the way it was at the opening of the Legislature Thursday afternoon when Premier Bennett strode over to CCF Opposition Leader Robert Strachan and extended a friendly fist.

Lean, good-looking Mr. Strachan rose from his seat on the Opposition side of the House and grasped the premier's hand. Both smiled, but it could well have been the smile of the tiger in the Roman arena.

However, the premier made a handsome gesture—one I have never seen before in this chamber—and Mr. Strachan responded handsomely.

Tom Uphill, beginning his 39th year as a member of the Legislature, was up to his old tricks. The 84-year-old Labor MLA, elected in 1920, waltzed across the floor of the House and sat in the premier's chair.

But he retired to his own place on the Opposition side well before the premier entered the chamber, ahead of the lieutenant-governor.

"Premiers come and premiers go," Tom confided later. "I've had fun with them all. I could tell you tales of Premier McBride, Premier John Oliver, Premier Pattullo, Premier John Hart, Premier Johnson and . . ."

But that would take a whole newspaper to recount.

The 100-man color guard of the RCAF assembled at the steps of the Buildings was soaked to the skin long before Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross arrived.

The rain ran down their cheeks and into their tunics, but they stood stalwart until the ceremony was over.

And Mr. Ross, wearing a black cloak over his blue and red uniform, inspected not only the guard but the RCAF Band as well.

The Royal Canadian Artillery guns which fired the 15-gun salute were pointed toward the Black Ball Ferry Building, yet only smoke and noise issued from their black barrels.

Defying the wet outside, the ceremonies of the opening day followed the usual pattern—the lieutenant-governor in gold-braided uniform and cocked hat, the naval, military and air force officers splashed with red, blue and gold; the solemn voice of the chaplain intoning the prayers; the packed galleries and the fashionably dressed women in weird and wonderful hats occupying special seats on the floor.

To one person, at least, this panoply of tradition had a spice of novelty. Donald Brothers, the new Social Credit member for Rossland-Trail—who succeeded Robert Somers at the Dec. 15 election—found it thrilling.

"I loved every minute of it," he told me. "It was a great and inspiring occasion."

The procession into the chamber had that curious medieval atmosphere that seems so out of keeping with the spirit of a new country, yet may even be part of it—Mr. Speaker in his three-cornered hat; the Archbishop of British Columbia in his scarlet robes; the lieutenant-governor in his cocked hat and tight-fitting blue uniform; the aides in their brilliant dress and sheathed swords.

And then the sergeant-at-arms (what could be more medieval?) carrying the golden mace.

Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross read the marathon Speech from the Throne in a calm, dignified voice and only once, in spite of its great length, called for water.

Then, in spite of the solemnity of his address, he won a laugh from the fashionable audience. And that was when he said:

"The construction of a new courthouse in the capital city of this province will be commenced this year."

Not very funny, you might think, yet almost everyone from floor to galleries laughed.

Throughout this address Premier Bennett listened with a strained expression, as if he feared the lieutenant-governor might not make the most of the speech he had written. And his pride in every word spoken was evident.

On the opposite side of the House, dignified Mrs. Bennett listened intently and her daughter, Mrs. G. H. Tozer, tapped her dainty foot nervously.

'MOST TRAVELLED' TITLE TO GAGLARDI

A review of the Public Accounts, tabled in the B.C. Legislature Thursday, showed Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi to be "most-travelled" member of the cabinet.

Not counting costs of air travel in his department-rented plane, his travel costs in the past fiscal year reached \$4,269.

Mines Minister Kenneth Kiernan spent \$3,605, Labor Minister Wicks \$3,513. The premier spent \$3,502 and Attorney-General Bonner \$3,223.

College Hoping For New Building

Judge J. B. Clearhue, chairman of the Victoria College council, today said he was hopeful that the Throne Speech forecast of more grants to schools would give the college some needed buildings.

The government program partially revealed at the opening of the legislature Thursday noted that increased grants to Victoria College, University of B.C. and school districts would be proposed at this session.

"We are glad of any increase that may be made," said Judge Clearhue, "but we don't know exactly what it is that the government proposes. We have been asking for the construction of new buildings at the college and if that is what is intended, we will be very happy indeed."

Mrs. W. W. McGill, chairman of the Greater Victoria school board, commented: "I'm happy that the government is showing an increasing interest in schools and I will await the announcement of details with great interest."

Dean Geoffrey Andrew, deputy to the president of UBC, said: "I am very glad to hear of the increased aid."

SPEEDERS FACE BAN FROM SMALL LAKES

Use of power boats on small lakes may be curtailed, it was indicated in the annual report of the Department of Recreation and Conservation tabled Thursday by the minister, E. C. Westwood.

A review of the question is being conducted because, he noted, they are "apparently becoming a nuisance" to other lake users.

Between the strange hats worn by the women you could discern many familiar faces—Tom Irwin, the former Speaker of the Legislature, who won a seat in the Ottawa House of Commons and lost it; Senator Nancy Modjes; Conservative leader Deane Finlayson; Einar Gunderson; Social Credit organizer Noel Murphy; Lloyd Turner of Westcoast Transmission; Eric Charman of the Victoria Progressive Conservatives . . . and many others.

Perhaps the most significant remark in the Throne Speech was the announcement of legislation to increase grants to school districts, to the University of British Columbia and Victoria College.

While many received this announcement jubilantly, the question in the minds of the majority was: "How much?"

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\$2 MILLION HIGHER THAN '57

Sales Tax Revenue Up

British Columbia's 5 per cent sales tax brought in increased revenues in the fiscal year ending last March 31, despite fears they would be reduced by the recession.

Premier Bennett, in his dual role as finance minister, showed total income from this source to be \$87,244,382—an increase of \$2,111,183 over the previous fiscal period.

It was the largest single revenue item.

The largest single expenditure was \$49,945,187 for education—up \$4,059,514 from the previous year.

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Commission Suggests Increase In Commercial Vehicle Taxes

A \$10,000,000 boost in revenues from commercial vehicle owners through increased licence and fuel taxes was recommended to the B.C. government Thursday by a royal commission inquiring into road user charges.

The commission, headed by Dr. H. F. Angus, was established in April last year by the government. A. J. Bowerling, George Lindsay and W. F. Veitch were other members.

Terms of reference asked inquiry into the proportion which revenue from road users bears to provincial road costs, and the shades that the different classes of road users contribute.

The commission found that at present private vehicle owners contribute 33 per cent of road costs and commercial vehicles pay only 21 per cent.

The commission's recommendation was that private passenger car owners should contribute one-third, commercial vehicle owners should contribute one-third, and non-road users, one-third.

UP TO 1975

This would apply for the period up to 1975. For the

period 1960-61 aim should be to increase income from road users to 58.4 per cent of road costs, the commission stated, thus, "the maximum increase that should be contemplated for the near future is \$10,000,000."

Two proposals for legislation toward that end combined increases in licence fees, according to vehicle weight, with an increase of from 10 cents to 12 cents of the tax on one gallon of diesel fuel.

The commission also recommended establishment of a motor transport department to regulate and enforce rules governing road use by heavy vehicles and supervise safety.

WEIGHING STATIONS

Establishment of 27 new permanent weighing stations, bringing the B.C. total to 40, and an increase in personnel from 37 to 80, also were recommended. Personnel at

weighing stations should be uniformed and classed as special constables, the commission said. It estimated an additional annual cost of \$300,000 would be involved.

A further recommendation was for negotiation for reciprocal agreements with other provinces and American states covering commercial hauling.

\$1.7 MILLION MORE LAPPED UP IN YEAR

B.C. Gets 'High' on Liquor Profits

The British Columbia Liquor Control Board showed a net profit of \$26,838,507 during the fiscal year ended March 31 last year—an increase of \$1,789,877 over the year previous.

The balance sheet and profit and loss statement tabled with the public accounts in the

House, Thursday, showed public sales totalling \$66,832,135 and sales to licensed outlets of \$26,257,969. Gross profits on sales was \$30,982,656, which was reduced by merchandising expenses and administration cost.

Licence fees brought in an

additional \$394,200. A total of \$158,000 was collected in a 2c per gallon levy against beer parlors.

Law enforcement in connection with the beer, wine and liquor trade also is charged to the Liquor Control Board—\$100,521 for enforcement and

inspection, and \$125,589 for maintenance of prisoners.

A Busy Session

THE SPEECH FROM THE Throne is much longer than usual. It details, with satisfaction, events in British Columbia's centennial year, and forecasts legislation on several issues of significance as well as many of relative unimportance.

It does not indicate the course the Legislature will take. That will be up to the members.

On such matters of over-riding importance as a power policy for British Columbia it is silent. It neither discusses plans for the Columbia development nor for the Wenner-Gren proposals on the Peace. But if the speech does not touch upon this question of supreme concern to the province, we may be sure the Legislature will open it up.

The document preserves a more than discreet silence on provincial-federal negotiations. It is not clear from the speech what Mr. Bennett hopes to get from Mr. Diefenbaker, and even less clear whether he will get anything at all.

Inquiry only is forecast on unemployment, but the events of the day will doubtless bring the subject into full and open debate in the house. Similarly, while little is said about labor-management matters, they will not be ignored.

No direct assistance to hard-pressed municipalities is indicated, other than in increased grants to school districts. But here, again, that subject may be reserved for elaboration in the budget.

Among the definite and apparently constructive measures forecast is the plan for at least administrative rearrangement of the Department of Health and Welfare. It is to be hoped that this will expand services so seriously curtailed in such fields as mental health and

meet the very pressing needs of these times.

Good news to Victoria is the unqualified statement that "Construction of a new courthouse in the capital city of this province will be commenced this year."

British Columbia's two senior educational institutions — Victoria College and the University—will be assisted with increased grants, and students will be helped by an expanded system of loans, scholarships and bursaries.

Notice is given of a plan to strengthen British Columbia's forest fire-fighting force, presumably along lines indicated some time ago in these columns. New legislation is proposed for "the compulsory utilization, with compensation, of machinery and equipment suitable for the suppression of forest fires." This, it would seem, means the conscription of fire-fighting forces in being among outfits working in the woods—a service provided voluntarily in recent years by some of the larger companies.

Proposed "amendments to mining legislation . . . to recognize scientific advancement in the field of exploration and to encourage exploration," may mean elimination of some features of the present law which have curtailed activity in that field.

Recognition is also shown in the speech for the difficulties of farmers. Extended credit, with loans at low rates repayable over long periods, is calculated to help agricultural development particularly in central British Columbia and in the Peace River.

The detail outlined by His Honor, and the major issues not mentioned, promise a busy session but not one as quiet as Mr. Bennett may have indicated.



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NORMAN CRIBBENS IN THE LEGISLATURE

It's really too bad Liberal MLA George Gregory wasn't in the House Friday afternoon. For he missed the chance of retaliating to a suggestion he had joined the Social Credit Party.

The suggestion came from William Murray (SC-Prince Rupert) in the form of a book of Sacred membership tickets which he sent across the floor to Mr. Gregory's desk.

Voluble Mr. Murray recalled that George Gregory during the last session said that, if Public Works Minister W. N. Chant built a new courthouse in Victoria, he would be his campaign manager.

"We welcome the third member for Victoria to this side of the House," said Mr. Murray amid general laughter, "and I have pleasure in sending him these membership tickets to sell."

"He must be very happy to know that a start will be made on the new courthouse this year."

"He is!" smiled P. A. Gibbs, the only other Liberal member of the House.

But Mr. Gregory was away—appearing as counsel in a case at the old courthouse—and the Sacred tickets were laid on his desk in front of an empty chair.

No doubt he will reply later.

Mr. Murray is a capable and convincing speaker and rumor has it he will be made minister of welfare ere long.

It's expected the government will create a new portfolio now it has decided to separate the health and welfare departments hitherto presided over by Health Minister Eric Martin.

Such a division has been suggested repeatedly by the Opposition.

The first day of the Throne Speech debate, following Friday's opening session, was of the "tea and crumpet" variety with members behaving as politely as if they were chatting in Ye Olde Empress lounge across the way.

The only sign of acrimony came when Mr. Murray spoke of "wise and dynamic leadership" in the Social Credit government. This produced a mild chorus of jeers from the CCF benches—but the jeers were allowed to pass without comment.

However, when CCF Leader Robert Strachan adjourned the debate (indicating that he would be addressing the House Monday afternoon), Tony Gargrave (CCF-Mackenzie) shouted to the government benches:

"Keep your heads down!"

The newest member of the House—35-year-old Donald Brothers from Rossland-Trail—made a personable first appearance. His 20-minute maiden speech was largely straightforward party talk but it was clear and to the point.

He received a welcoming ovation from both sides of the House.

Two fashionably-dressed young women sat demurely behind the government benches and listened respectfully but non-committally. They were the premier's attractive dark-eyed daughter, Mrs. G. H. Tozer, and his daughter-in-law Mrs. W. R. Bennett.

Competing with them in the field of fashion were Mrs. Buda Brown (SC-Vancouver Centre) in sky-blue dress and Mrs. Lois Haggen (CCF-Grand Forks-Greenwood) in a charming beige costume.

The desks of both lady members were adorned with choice blooms—Mrs. Haggen's with pink carnations, Mrs. Brown's with red roses and chrysanthemums.

The life of a cabinet minister is a full one. Soon after the House rose Friday afternoon, Labor Minister Lyle Wicks flew to Haney to address a political meeting.

Strachan Bids For Province Phone Control

Provincial control of B.C. Telephone Company rates and services will be sought Monday in a motion by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

He will argue that the province should apply to the federal government for the jurisdiction now held by the federal board of transport commissioners in this regard.

Notice was filed of 32 questions to be asked by various government departments on matters such as mental health, unemployment, education workmen's compensation, and education, most of them by P. A. Gibbs (Lib., Oak Bay) and Mr. Strachan.

The House sits at 2 p.m. Monday.

Columbia Power Bid by New MLA

Development of Columbia River power and action to decrease freight rates were named as major requirements for advancement of the Rossland-Trail area by Donald L. Brothers, newest MLA, in his maiden speech in the legislature Friday.

His address was devoted mainly to a description of the economics of his riding, a defence of the government mental health program and a plea for labor-management peace.

The desk-thumping which preceded his speech was more enthusiastic than the hearing given him by members on both sides of the House. As is the case with most reply-to-the-throne speeches, at least 20 members, including four cabinet ministers continued reading or writing throughout. Mrs. Brothers, seated in the ladies' gallery, gave rapt attention.

W. H. Murray (SC-Prince Rupert) seconded the reply-to-the-throne speech. He asked attention of the highways de-

partment to his riding, calling for an improved hard top mix to meet weather conditions and safety fencing for dangerous riverside sections of road.

Mr. Murray spoke in support of the Native Brotherhood of B.C. in its struggle for equal rights for Indians, pointing out the effect of present liquor regulations.

He said this builds up a "resentment" inside the Indian which makes him lose respect for both the law and those enforcing it. He asked a royal commission be urged to the federal government to study the question.

Mr. Murray asked rescinding of the regulation which requires vodka sales to be only by the case or over a bar.

He also asked that a master wage agreement be designed for all hospitals in B.C. to eliminate regional problems. Certain hospitals now are faced with high wage structures which make operation within the BCHIS budget requirements difficult.

MORE LIQUOR LAPPED BUT PROFITS GO FLAT

For the first time since the end of the Second World War, British Columbia's liquor profits fell off during 1958.

Sales were up slightly during the six-month business ended Sept. 30, 1958, but both gross and net profits were down by comparison with the 1957 figures.

This is revealed in a report tabled by Attorney-General Robert Bonner in the Legislature.

Sales from March 31 to Sept. 30 last totalled \$46,900,000, up \$787,900 over the same period in 1957.

But gross profits for the six months last year were \$14,631,000 (down \$14,400), with net profit \$12,451,500 (down \$80,550).

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1959

Legal Muffler On Sommers In Legislature

Full, open discussion of the Sommers bribery-conspiracy case is still expected to be muffled in speeches by the Opposition at this session of the Legislature.

Former land and forests minister Robert Sommers was convicted in November of accepting bribes, and sentenced to five years. But he is appealing his case Feb. 16.

CCF Leader Robert Strachan said today he is of the opinion, based on parliamentary precedent, "we can't refer to charges or say he was guilty" because of the appeal.

CCF Hou On

By PETE LA

British Columbia today survived its first day of the session.

A motion for resolution of the government and the outcome of the bribery-conspiracy case made by Opposition leader Robert Strachan, a two-hour attack on the government.

It was supported by CCF members, the members, Labor members, Uphill of Fernie, Bryan (Ind., Northerner) who crossed the session over the case by Attorney General Bonner.

All 37 government members voted against the motion.

Mr. Strachan said after a live address which he

Bonner to

He said if the leader wanted to (Mr. Bonner's) the case, he should the legislature to attorney-general's "when I can repeat the same heat."

Mr. Strachan said he denied members of the legislature from discussing the case in newspapers.

He said it is a session in which there has been freedom of expression on the effects of the case on the government.

Mr. Bonner said Strachan had opposed debate this during speeches in the Parliament of the land-Trail by-election. Strachan pointed out that the attorney-general did not part in any fourings, although in his party in the stances.

Mr. Strachan said he was of the opinion that the appeal of the Sommers case "doesn't concern us."

Attorney-General

"But he was not tical to get in touch with his colleague and tell him to do. It was obvious that the attorney-general was involved since the case."

Mr. Sommers, he told the court he was following the advice of the attorney-general. He believed the attorney-general was acting on the advice of Disraeli, famous statesman, who said "your principles, sir, are your party."

Mr. Strachan said he was of the opinion that the attorney-general was dawdling before taking

CCF Fights House 'Gag' On Sommers

By PETE LOUDON, Times Legislative Reporter

British Columbia's Social Credit government Monday survived its first test of the current session when its ranks stood firm against a vote of non-confidence.

A motion for resignation of the government over handling and outcome of the Sommers bribery-conspiracy case was made by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan, climaxing a two-hour attack on the government.

It was supported by all 10 CCF members, the two Liberal members, Labor member Tom Uphill of Fernie and J. M. Bryan (Ind., North Vancouver) who crossed the floor last session over the handling of the case by Attorney-General Bonner.

All 37 government members voted against the motion.

Mr. Strachan submitted his motion after a lively and bitter address which brought the

premier to his feet to ask if the Opposition leader wanted an election this year.

Speaker Hugh Shantz ordered Mr. Strachan to avoid mention of "anything given in evidence or which may be presented as evidence," in the appeal next month of former lands and forests minister Robert Sommers.

Gordon Dowding (CCF, Burnaby), a lawyer, protested the ruling. He said it is not improper for the speech to refer to evidence given by the defendant.

"I have looked up all the precedents."

The attorney-general supported the ruling.

Bonner to Reply 'With Same Heat'

He said if the Opposition leader wanted to attack his (Mr. Bonner's) handling of the case, he should do it when the legislature considers the attorney-general's estimates, "when I can reply with the same heat."

Mr. Strachan said the ruling denied members of the legislature from discussing things "which have been in all the newspapers."

He said it is the fourth session in which there has not been freedom to discuss the effects of the case on the government.

Mr. Bonner said Mr. Strachan had opportunity to debate this during platform speeches in the recent Rossland-Trail bye-election but Mr. Strachan pointed out the attorney-general did not take part in any four-party meetings, although in the past it was his custom to represent his party in these circumstances.

Mr. Strachan said the appeal of the Sommers case "doesn't concern us here. . . ."

Attorney-General 'Deeply Involved'

"But he was not too sceptical to get in touch with his colleague and tell him what to do. It was obvious, he (the attorney-general) was deeply involved since the beginning."

Mr. Sommers, he said, had told the court he was acting on advice of the attorney-general. He believed the attorney-general was acting on the advice of Disraeli, famed British statesman, who said, "Damn your principles, stick to your party."

Mr. Strachan said the attorney-general dawdled for 707 days before taking action.

I am concerned to the damage done to the parliamentary institution . . . the damage to the people's interests by people who cling to office, who shout their innocence while striving to cover their guilt. For this reason, the government should resign."

"They are no longer worthy of the confidence of the people."

Before the uproar, the Opposition Leader had worked his way to the Sommers case by mention of the Dec. 15 bye-election at Rossland-Trail.

He had welcomed victorious Sacred candidate Don Brothers. From the election results he gathered it was no longer necessary to fool all the people, paraphrasing Lincoln, but only 30 per cent, the approximate percentage of the vote for the Sacred candidate.

"But neither in the press nor the throne speech, has anyone discussed what precipitated the Rossland-Trail bye-election." He recalled the attorney-general was "sceptical" of evidence presented in the Sommers case.

He said the CCF had asked "investigation" not prosecution or "persecution"—in reference to the delivery of a summons to Mr. Sommers at 1.30 a.m.

"They roast a man over a slow fire, push the knife slowly into his back—what he needed was protection from his friends."

Mr. Strachan related various items of evidence and commented on "a reference to Social Credit campaign funds by some of the witnesses."

It was at this point Mr. Shantz ruled further discussion

Continued on Page 2

'MECHANICS' GALORE—STRACHAN

Socreds Powered By Slick Machine

Social Credit campaigning now employs the "slickest, smoothest, most unscrupulous political machine this province has ever seen," Opposition Leader Robert Strachan told the B.C. legislature Monday.

He said he had never seen the number of surveyors as were working in Rossland-Trail during the December bye-election.

He suggested they were there to create an impression of major projects to come.

The CCF leader recalled the statement attributed to Robert Sommers, former cabinet minister now appealing a conviction for accepting bribes—"My conviction was the best thing that ever happened for Rossland-Trail . . . I never realized the way to get these things (projects) he had requested for his former riding was to go to jail."

PRESS BLUDGEONED

Mr. Strachan said the campaign was crowded with Social Credit advertising and public relations men, radio, television and slick publication advertis-

ing by Social Credit was very heavy.

He accused Premier Bennett of "bludgeoning the press into printing three pages of his nonsense." He gave as an example the premier's written statement that his party was elected by a large majority.

Mr. Strachan said this amounted to 45 per cent of the votes cast.

"Twelve words, one hyphen and two dashes, and he's already off the facts."

. . . CCF

Continued from Page 1

sion of evidence out of order.

Victoria Liberal George Gregory, who followed Mr. Strachan, said Sommers was "lying" when he said he had been guilty of no wrong doing in connection with the issuance of forest management licences.

"What has become of the long-established principle that a member of this House speak the truth?" asked Mr. Gregory.

"At a previous session we heard the then minister of lands and forests stand up and say he had been guilty of no wrong doing and it was nothing but a conspiracy. We now know he was lying."

REPUDIATE HIM

"Surely somebody, perhaps the Premier (Mr. Bennett), should now get up and repudiate the man."

At his trial, he continued, Sommers had testified that he told Premier Bennett and Einar Gunderson (former finance minister) that he had been receiving money from sources connected with the forest industry.

Then on the advice of the attorney-general he made immediate arrangements to pay the money back.

"What we should know is when did the attorney-general first become aware that Sommers was taking money from Gray?" Mr. Gregory asked.

The attorney-general was not in the house at the time.

Labor Focus on Wicks As New Laws Hinted

By PETE LOUDON
Times Legislative Reporter

Big question of the current B.C. legislative session: Will there be new labor legislation?—may be answered Thursday when Labor Minister Lyle Wicks is slated to speak in the Throne Speech debate.

Sources close to the government are speculating the weight of lobbying and the repeated presentation of briefs by industrial-commercial organizations within recent months, will have some effect.

Said one source today: "I have never seen so much intelligent public interest, nor has the government ever received so many briefs on the subject."

Big Delegation

Latest was presented Monday by a 17-man delegation from Vancouver Board of Trade. Recently representatives of the heavy construction industry made similar requests.

Suggestions call for unions to be registered under the Societies Act, which would make them easier to sue for damages in event a strike was declared illegal. They call for restrictions on picketing, abandonment of conciliation boards and closed shop agree-

ments, sympathy strikes, and a speed up in negotiation between disputing parties, as well as wider use of the government supervised secret ballot.

Most of the briefs have been in accord with labor groups in requesting the Labor Rela-

tions Board be returned to full-time status. Observers feel this is one of the safest and surest steps for the labor minister to recommend.

No one appears to expect startling changes in the act. Every government speaker from the premier down has rejected any consideration of all-out compulsory arbitration.

Using Courts More

It is felt the minister has been experimenting with current legislation and may at least be thinking about wider use of the courts in settling labor disputes. Twice in the past month, he has submitted disputes for a rule on legality.

This occurred when Black Ball ferry workers struck before Christmas and this month when Flavell Cedar employees walked out of the Fraser Valley plywood mill.

In each case the men went back to work before the matter came up in court—and the minister withdrew his application.

Decertification

Hanging over the heads of the strikers was the threat that if their actions were ruled illegal, a loss of certification and cancellation of existing agreements was possible.

The submission of the question of legality to the courts had never been done before and the withdrawal of the application when the men returned to work, was called "an abuse" of the courts by Mr. Justice A. M. Manson.

If the minister does indicate more restrictive labor legislation is on the books, excitement can be expected next week at the buildings. Monday and Tuesday, B.C. labor representatives will converge on Victoria for their annual labor lobby.

'Warlike' Trend Must End—MLA

Voluntary arbitration as a means of settling labor disputes was called for in the Legislature Monday by George Gregory, Liberal MLA for Victoria. In the debate of the Throne Speech Mr. Gregory said:

"These stoppages are a serious matter. If we lose the confidence of our trading customers we shall all suffer the consequences."

Mr. Gregory said the time has come for both labor and management to settle their disputes in a less warlike manner than in the past.

He said the Labor Relations Act should be changed so that a strike vote is a vote to go on strike.

"I do not advocate compulsory arbitration except in essential services," he added.

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STRACHAN FLAYS HANDLING OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Black 'Ran for His Life'

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan hacked at mental health administration Monday, using the government's own annual report as a cutting edge.

The tirade brought a red glow to the neck of Provincial Secretary Wesley Black, who administers mental health services. Premier Bennett turned his back on Mr. Strachan.

The blast had been expected since last spring, when the report was tabled on the last day of the 1958 session. Many members never received copies.

"He (Mr. Black) tabled it and ran for his life," said Mr. Strachan.

He said during the last session Mr. Black had denied every charge made against the administration of the department and had also denied there were widespread staff cuts.

"Remember your denial of staff cuts?" the Opposition leader asked Mr. Black.

Then he quoted the letter to all cabinet ministers which was revealed recently at the Shrum Royal Commission on Power. It stated the number of provincial employees was to be reduced by 5 per cent by April 1, 1958.

Mr. Strachan quoted from the report:

"... demands for admission to Woodlands School greatly exceed accommodation ... there are 300 still in the mental hospital awaiting transfer."

35% TURNOVER

"... the percentage of turnover for the entire staff was 35.6 per cent, giving some indication of the general staff unrest and dissatisfaction ..."

"... child guidance teams are not able to handle the volume of work referred to them, and it has not been possible to expand this service during the past few years ..."

"... in addition we had the misfortune to lose two specialists ... (they) could have been retained if salaries had been adequate ..."

"... toward the end of the year 16 trained social

workers available for employment were contacted and interviewed ... and the 13 staff vacancies existing could have been filled, if the salaries offered had more nearly equalled those prevailing in local agencies ..."

CURTAIL COVERAGE

"... this staff shortage has reduced the services the social service department is able to provide. It has been necessary to curtail the area of coverage, and in some areas there has been complete withdrawal of services ..."

Mr. Strachan went on to quote from the report concerning the social service department, "... it is now operating with approximately 47 per cent of the normal complement of staff."

He said the recent action of the minister in arranging a survey of mental health services by the American Psychiatric Association "... puts it under the rug for another 12 months."

CHALLENGE

"I challenge any member of the House to read this report and then stand up and brag about reduction of debt ... a stain on the reputation of the province, and all the debt reduction in the world can't make it clean. If I was a minister of the government I would resign in shame."

Later in the afternoon, Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston spoke in the Throne Speech debate.

He challenged anyone in the House to read the excerpts read by the Opposition Leader, in context.

He said the report merely showed a growing demand for the service.

"Any dedicated public servant can see a demand for a job over and above what he is doing at the present time."



NORMAN CRIBBENS IN THE LEGISLATURE

That relentless campaigner for new courthouses, Victoria's own George Gregory, was in a playful mood Monday afternoon. But, even when teasing the government and touching on delicate matters now before the courts, he was the very soul of courthouse decorum.

He was always good-humored and his vigorous thrusts at the government benches were artfully interlarded with such felicities as:

"The prime minister (Premier Bennett) and I know how to keep our tempers in this House; but there are always these hot-heads," with a vague gesture in the direction of the CCF benches.

Again:

"I was going to say something very nice about the prime minister, but if he keeps interrupting me I won't . . ."

This effectively silenced Premier Bennett while Mr. Gregory continued:

"I was going to suggest that when the prime minister goes to Ottawa, if he should run into that man who represents Victoria in the House of Commons (A. de B. McPhillips), he should punch him in the nose for me.

"I don't think a man who hasn't the courage to run for this House should criticize our prime minister as he has done. I say I was going to suggest this, but if the prime minister is rude to me . . ."

Leaping to the bait, Premier Bennett replied:

"I assure the third member for Victoria I will never be rude to him or any other member of this House."

★ ★ ★

The Liberal lawyer then had considerable fun at the expense of W. H. Murray (SC, Prince Rupert), who claimed that Mr. Gregory had promised to be campaign manager to Public Works Minister W. N. Chant if he built a new courthouse in Victoria.

As the government has promised the new courthouse will be started this year, Mr. Murray sent Mr. Gregory a book of Social Credit membership tickets to sell.

True to his promise, Mr. Gregory tried to sell these tickets but without much success. The only people willing to buy them were two youngsters and they hadn't got the money.

"They offered to buy on the instalment plan," Mr. Gregory said, "but I told them by the time they had bought their membership, the Social Credit party would be dead . . ."

"I fear I am going to have a tough time getting Mr. Chant elected."

"Unless," interrupted Mr. Chant, laughing, "you change your selling tactics."

★ ★ ★

CCF leader Robert Strachan, wearing a new kind of tartan tie, also indulged in a little droll humor between his stormy denunciations of government policy.

Extending a welcome to the newest member of the House—Social MLA Donald Brothers from Rossland-Trail—he said:

"I wish him what I wish every other government member of this House—a happy stay, a successful stay and a brief stay."

"Don't kid yourself!" retorted Health Minister Eric Martin.

★ ★ ★

The public galleries were packed Monday afternoon and they included men and women of all ages from high school youngsters to 77-year-old Herbert Murrell, who has watched B.C. governments in action for 17 years past.

A special guest on the floor of the House, sitting behind the government benches, was publicity commissioner George I. Warren.

★ ★ ★

In these early days of the session an air of gaiety lingers over the Chamber . . . Mrs. Buda Brown (SC, Vancouver Point Grey) laughing merrily behind her flower-banked desk, her brilliant blue bracelet winking in the lamp-light . . . Works Minister Chant displaying a bright new sports tie . . . Highways Minister P. A. Gagliardi bouncing in and out of the House and joking with everyone he meets.

The grimmer days lie ahead.

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'B.C. Hydro' Setup Urged As Gregory Lashes BCE

Establishment of a provincial government-owned agency to develop B.C.'s hydro resources was proposed in the legislature Monday by George Gregory, Victoria Liberal MLA.

The utility, he said, should generate all B.C. power in the most economical way and sell it to the B.C. Electric and B.C. Power Commission.

He suggested it be called "B.C. Hydro."

Earlier, Mr. Gregory attacked both the Wenner-Gren interests and the B.C. Electric, questioning their association in the development of B.C. resources.

"I wonder whether the B.C.

Electric might not have become a little too big for its own and the province's good," he said.

"If a corporation is to enjoy a monopoly it has an obligation not to make misleading statements and I suggest the B.C. Electric has made such statements.

"I hope sincerely that the financing arrangements of the Peace River Power Development Co. (supported by the Wenner-Gren interests) will be very carefully scrutinized."

Mr. Gregory said many constituents viewed the government's concessions to Wenner-Gren with much concern.

"I wouldn't be surprised if

these shares which cost Wenner-Gren 33 cents each and the B.C. Electric \$1 each do not cost the people about \$10 each."

In the early days of the war, he continued, Axel Wenner-Gren was receiving royalties on Bofors guns sold both to the Allies and to Germany and at the same time royalties on a book advocating peace.

"I state quite frankly that I don't like to see B.C. Electric associated with Wenner-Gren," Mr. Gregory said. "If anyone thinks Wenner-Gren is here for our good he is very much mistaken.

"If we are going to attract new industries to B.C. with low-cost electricity our rates may be too high for that purpose and we should then consider methods of producing cheaper power."

He urged the government to keep "a very wary eye" on Wenner-Gren and said it should obtain the very best engineering estimates as to the relative merits of the Peace River power and Columbia River power.

Earlier, Opposition Leader

Continued on Page 2

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Strachan dealt at length on the power controversy.

He charged the B.C. Power Commission "is being fattened up for the kill, when the time comes to turn it over to a private corporation."

"The answer is no," replied Premier Bennett.

"I've heard you say no before," said the CCF leader. "In the past no has meant yes when the chips were down."

Mr. Strachan said the premier is afraid to refer the whole power question to a committee of the House.

"He gave it to a royal commission with narrow terms of reference which almost ignored completely the allegations of the former general manager."

(H. Lee Briggs was fired after he publicly blasted the government on a refinancing arrangement he said the government was demanding.)

'PROVEN WRONG'

Mr. Strachan recalled the premier denied trying to juggle the debt of the power commission, but testimony by Dr. J. V. Fisher before the Shrum Commission "proved beyond a doubt that there was to be a switch in debt."

"You were wrong and you were proven wrong," he said to the premier.

"You're always wrong," replied the premier.

Mr. Strachan said evidence by Mr. Briggs and former commissioner H. H. Griffin showed there was a refinancing step.

"The premier says no, the evidence says yes. Everybody is out of step but the premier," said Mr. Strachan.

'NOT IN STRUCTURE'

The CCF leader recalled the premier said in an article in the Victoria Times that there was no change in debt, at the very time the Shrum commission was hearing evidence that there was.

"Not in structure," Premier Bennett replied.

"Don't talk double-talk," said Mr. Strachan. "Yes is no to you; black is white to you."

"You don't know anything about finance," said the premier.



NORMAN CRIBBENS IN THE LEGISLATURE

Spring came early to Victoria Tuesday. Dogs barked, worms turned, fish sported, mice scampered, rabbits scuttled in the bright sunshine. And, moving a few steps higher in the animal kingdom, the B.C. legislature was all busy and about.

There was CCF leader Robert Strachan calling on the government to resign. Tom Uphill, the oldest member of the House, pleading for a new bridge for Fernie. Mrs. Buda Brown (SC, Vancouver-Point Grey) asking for more financial aid for UBC students. Cedric Cox demanding recognition for Red China.

Mr. Uphill, after 39 years in the legislature, has developed a peculiar art of wheedling whatever government happens to be in power.

He said Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi had promised to build a bridge over the Elk River at Fernie. And (wearing a pious expression) Mr. Uphill was equally sure the minister would keep his promise.

To which Mr. Gaglardi, seated in the government benches, nodded vigorously.

Mr. Uphill went on to eulogize the place he has represented since 1920 as "a very small town at the foot of the Rockies with a very large cemetery."

And then, in one of his delightful dissertations, he said:

"In British Columbia there are bridges where there are no highways, and highways where there are no bridges."

Mr. Gaglardi laughed, Premier Bennett laughed. And so did everyone else, for there is something about Tom Uphill that defies solemnity. He is always the incredible urchin.

The galleries were crowded when Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston began his review of power developments in the province.

Alas, they were half empty before he had finished, for it takes a science-fiction writer to make this subject alluring to the public.

Yet no member of the cabinet is more respected than Ray Williston. Whatever people may say against the Social Credit government, you never hear a word against him. His integrity is unquestioned.

Twenty-five high school students from Campbell River had seats in the Speaker's Gallery and one of them—a girl, of course—wanted to know why there are only two women in a House of 52 members.

"It looks as if there is lots of room for women in politics," she said. "I think women are backward in British Columbia. They do so much more in other countries."

This is undeniable. Women are driving trains in Russia and lady priests seem to be springing up all over the world. Furthermore, women Members of Parliament seem to be on the increase in Britain.

The usually serious CCF member for Burnaby, staid dignified Cedric Cox, coined a new tourist slogan by describing Garibaldi Park as "the Switzerland of Canada."

"If we develop our resources as the people of Switzerland have done, we shall have one of the greatest tourist attractions in the world," Mr. Cox said.

Premier Bennett is as optimistic as he is irrepressible.

At the first night sitting of the current session, he predicted the Social Credit government will be in power in B.C. for another 50 years.

This is not the first time he has said this. At one of his press conferences last summer, Mr. Bennett suggested both he and the party might live another 50 years.

"With the present advances in medical science, no one knows but what I might still be leading the party in 2008," he grinned.

Parking Plan to Go Before Legislature

Victoria Social Credit MLA J. Donald Smith will carry his fight against Victoria's downtown parking scheme to the legislature when he speaks in the Throne Speech debate on Thursday.

He said today, he will propose amendment to the Municipal Act to prohibit presentation of money by-laws without 90 days' public notice in advance. Time required at present is 30 days.

He said Victoria's by-law was "rushed through" last December.

Commenting on support of his crusade by a local ratepayers' organization, he

said while they had once hoped to get 5,000 names they now expect to get 10,000.

He added his investigations show that the city is wrong in claiming the plan will provide space for 350 more cars downtown. Actually, he says, the figure is 131.

"This is a farce," he added. Cost would be \$7,000 per car instead of \$1,000 a car—the generally accepted estimate for such projects.

He cautioned ratepayers against investing \$1 of tax money in the venture, let alone \$1,750,000, which he says the scheme will cost with interest included.

Grey Cup Fever Left Buda Cold

If adults heave mattresses out of hotel-room windows during football game celebrations, how can the youth of B.C. be expected to accept moral standards and discipline, Mrs. Buda H. Brown (SC, Vancouver-Point Grey) asked in the legislature Tuesday.

"How did the older people act at Grey Cup time—the throwing of mattresses out of windows, almost permanently injuring a lady . . . may be we should do a little soul searching, and place some of the blame (for juvenile delinquency) exactly where it belongs."

Mrs. Brown, speaking in the Throne Speech debate, showed a concern for youth through most of her speech.

She welcomed news of more provincial bursaries for UBC students and proposed a plan for assistance to sincere college students in financial trouble.

At the same time, she called for a greater measure of discipline in schools and more organized sports in schools.

Mrs. Brown called for camps and speed restrictions against "morons"—those people who use speed boats just for the kicks.

Red China Recognition Urged Here

Canadian recognition of Red China as a first step in developing friendly relations with that country, was urged today in a brief brought to the Legislative Buildings by a delegation representing the B.C. Peace Council.

The delegation, led by Lawrence Gardner of Vancouver, arranged to present their brief to caucuses of the various parties. There was no formal meeting with the cabinet scheduled.

The brief said friendly Canadian relations with Communist China "would contribute greatly to the strengthening of world peace."

"Trade and normal relations with China are preferable and essential as compared to the devastating effects of nuclear warfare, which would destroy civilization as we know it."

B.C. would benefit most from China, the brief said, and urged the legislative assembly "to add its voice to the many that have already been raised in demanding immediate recognition of the People's Republic of China."

Job Gov

By PETE LOU
Times Legislative

The problem of B. jobless was referred to a three-and-a-half-hour battle on the floor of the House.

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Jobless Fight Rocks House; Gov't Accused of Trickery

By PETE LOUDON

Times Legislative Reporter

The problem of B.C.'s 68,000 jobless was referred to a legislative committee Tuesday after a three-and-a-half-hour night battle on the floor of the House.

The standing committee on labor, which spent two months on the question of unemployment last year, is not expected to meet for at least a week.

CCF, Liberal and independent members in the House forced a night sitting on an unscheduled debate.

They said the out-of-work situation is so serious, it should be investigated immediately, not in committee, but on the floor of the House.

They charged a similar committee last session brought forward recommendations which never were endorsed by the government.

They called for guidance by the premier and cabinet now.

They challenged the government to provide aid to municipalities, as the federal government has done, so a widespread, job-making works program could begin.

Nineteen members engaged in the fight which ended 40 minutes short of midnight. Each side charged the other with using labor as a political football.

Jibes, sarcasm, accusations and withdrawals sounded to the beat of the speaker's gavel.

Premier Bennett, Attorney-General Bonner, Opposition Leader Robert Strachan and

Highways Minister Gagliardi held forth in speech and cross-fire.

There was a lengthy dispute within a dispute, over parliamentary procedure.

A ruling by the speaker Hugh Shantz was challenged, and a recess ordered while parliamentary procedure was examined and members argued in the corridors.

There was a thoughtful calm while Randolph Harding (CCF, Kaslo-Slocan) pleaded that the problem was bigger than politics, the parties should unite in meeting this emergency.

Back to Fray

But when he finished, the legislators revived their inter-party battle.

For people in his riding "it is the worst year since the 30s."

Arthur Turner (CCF, Vancouver East) set the jobless total at 68,000.

The battle began late in the afternoon when Labor Minister Lyle Wicks introduced a motion for establishment of the standing committee on labor. He did not enter into the ensuing discussions, although he was the subject of scathing criticism from CCF members.

Mr. Turner immediately moved an amendment that the unemployment question be debated on the floor. He said a similar committee last year delayed the question two months, then its report was referred to the B.C. Research Council and never heard of again.

Sitting Recessed

John Squire (CCF-Alberni) was speaking in the same vein when the Speaker recessed the sitting until 8 p.m. CCF members believed he would be able to continue at that time.

At 8 p.m., Premier Bennett paused outside the legislative chamber and told the attorney-general to be prepared to start his speech.

Mr. Bonner's response was "Are you kidding?"

In the House, the premier explained house rules in effect separated the evening session from the afternoon session, and as the Throne Speech replies had been adjourned to the next sitting, this was it. But Mr. Bonner could speak briefly, then adjourn the Throne Speech debate, and the question of committee or legislative debate on unemployment could again be discussed.

This action placed the government in position of being magnanimous and permitting the job question to come up.

"I'm asking the premier to be intellectually honest," said Mr. Strachan, and was immediately ordered to withdraw the remark. He withdrew and said instead, "I'm asking the premier to stop his mental convolutions."

32-11 Vote

The battle over procedure waged on until George Gregory (Lib.-Victoria) challenged the premier's proposal, which now was accepted by the Speaker. There was a division, and for the second time this session, the Social Credit members stood as one. The vote, 32 to 11.

Speaker Shantz declared a recess to confirm his ruling.

When the House again was seated, Mr. Turner called to the premier: "I didn't know you believed in trickery, what are you afraid of—you're certainly helping the unemployed for sure."

The attorney-general spoke briefly, then adjourned the Throne Speech debate.

Mr. Squire again spoke to the amendment that unemployment be probed in the House.

Job-Makers

He called on the premier to make money available for job-making projects. Tony Gargrave (CCF, Mackenzie), Mr. Harding, George Gregory (Lib., Victoria), Gordon Dowling (CCF, Burnaby), Mr. Strachan, Leo Nimsick (CCF, Cranbrook), and Mr. Turner, each supported this view.

Premier Bennett, Highways Minister Gagliardi, N. G. Massey (SC, Delta), J. D. Tisdalle (SC, Saanich), W. G.

Speare (SC, Cariboo), F. M. Sharp (SC, Vancouver East), Bert Price (SC, Vancouver-Burrard), Dan Campbell (SC, Comox) and Herbert Bruch (SC, Esquimalt), all loudly opposed the amendment.

The opposition said free enterprise won't risk capital to provide jobs, the government must take the lead. The worst lay-offs lie ahead. There must be a lead from the cabinet. Unemployment will climb 9 per cent this year.

Politics First

They charged the government is concerned more with cutting staff 5 per cent to cut debt and achieve a politically advantageous position, than it is with unemployment.

The Social Credit members said labor leaders favored committee action, last year's committee worked well, the government is interested in job-making through expanding the PGE and the B.C. Power Commission.

Highways Minister P. A. Gagliardi blamed the CCF for politicking with the job question. He said his department alone had poured \$110,000,000 "into the bloodstream of the province"—proof of the government's concern to make jobs.

Mr. Strachan told him, the minister should have been in Harbor Lights Shelter at Vancouver last week, where he would have met a plumber who used to work in the buildings and was laid off.

He hoped the minister would appear before the committee to justify departmental staff cuts. And he hoped the premier would appear before the committee to explain \$40,000,000 in supplementary debt reduction, while the municipalities were asking for assistance.

'Saw It Coming'

Premier Bennett said: "We were the government which saw this (recession) coming, and asked the federal government to participate 50 per cent in social assistance."

He said B.C. pays the highest in Canada "yet the leader of the CCF tries to sneer at everything. No wonder he can't win a by-election."

"Why would we reduce the debt? If we didn't reduce the net debt, he said, the government could not have sold its bonds, expanded the PGE and the B.C. Power Commission, bought the Lions Gate Bridge and ordered new ferries . . ."

"That's been a good speech for six years," said Mr. Strachan.

"I want to tell you, the people listen to it, and they vote for it," replied the premier.

Arthur Turner (CCF, Vancouver East) ended the debate. The amendment was defeated 34-2 and the motion was carried unanimously after Mr. Turner explained, with the amendment lost, his party would give full support to committee investigation.

n to Go slature

said while they had once hoped to get 5,000 names they now expect to get 10,000.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1959

Compulsory Insurance For Cars Advocated

The British Columbia government was urged to enter the auto insurance business by Cedric Cox, CCF member for Burnaby, speaking in the Legislature Tuesday.

Mr. Cox said the government should amend the Motor Vehicles Act to make it mandatory that a car owner, before receiving new licence plates, must produce public liability insurance.

"That has been done successfully in Saskatchewan," he declared, "and it should be done here."

Speaking in the Throne Speech debate, Mr. Cox also called on the federal government in Ottawa to recognize Red China.

"We, being nearest to China would be the first to benefit from trade with Red China," he said. "We should put a stop to these dictatorial companies in the United States forbidding us to export to China."

"The Chinese are human beings and need our help as much as we need theirs . . ."

The CCF member called for a reduction of the expenditures for war. He recalled that when war was declared in 1939 huge sums of money became available overnight and men and women were conscripted and fed and clothed to save "our way of life."

"But is our way of life worth saving if we are going to be faced with wars and heavy unemployment every few years. Surely we would do better to spend money for peace and the good of humanity."

Mr. Cox commended the B.C. government for setting up a welfare department separate from the health department, as indicated in the Throne Speech. But he urged the need for a liaison officer to act between the various sections of the two departments to "track down relative problems."

Referring to a speech by Victoria Liberal M.L.A. George Gregory, in which he called for an end to work stoppages, Mr. Cox said:

"I wish the honorable member were as concerned about the unemployment situation as he is about strikes and lock-outs."

B.C. KNOW

Colu Peace Po Project Defende

Lands and Forests Ray Williston Tuesday pressed "sincere do any positive action taken by the federal government toward freeing Columbia River for development.

The minister talked most one and a half the Throne Speech reiterating his stand Peace River must cedence in the over development scheme

He said the Columbia tied up in negotiation U.S. on downstream and the vision of po the Fraser system by a necessary three engineering studies.

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Columbia Action Doubted

Peace Power Project Defended

Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston Tuesday expressed "sincere doubt" that any positive action has been taken by the federal government toward freeing the Columbia River for hydro development.

The minister talked for almost one and a half hours in the Throne Speech debate, reiterating his stand that the Peace River must have precedence in the over-all power development scheme.

He said the Columbia is still tied up in negotiations with the U.S. on downstream benefits, and the vision of power from the Fraser system is blocked by a necessary three years of engineering studies.

JUST NOT ENOUGH

"Even if it were economic, it would not be sufficient to meet the expanding need," he said of the Fraser.

The minister referred to a Victoria Times story of Jan. 20 which quoted federal Resources Minister Hamilton: "Talks are going on now between Canada and the United States on co-operative development of the Columbia . . . it would be inappropriate to make further comment."

"If this is so," said Mr. Williston, "We have no idea as to what has been proposed as a basis for negotiation, nor who is charged with specific responsibility for carrying out the talks. We sincerely doubt any positive action has been taken . . . surely it is inconceivable that a satisfactory settlement of the problem relating to this major water resource could be finalized between Canada and the United States, without taking into account the views of the province responsible . . ."



RAY WILLISTON
... just the facts.

CHALLENGE HURLED

Mr. Williston recalled that Progressive Conservative Leader Deane Finlayson had asked why B.C. had not accepted a federal proposal to assist in speeding Columbia development.

"I said the federal government hadn't made proposals for Columbia River development," the minister continued.

CCF voices called out: "Have you contacted Ottawa?"

"On numerous occasions," replied the minister.

"Then file the correspondence," said Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

Mr. Williston's speech contained a wealth of data on B.C.'s power potential and power need, his expressed aim being to provide detractors with full facts and put an end to uninformed and irresponsible statements.

He could see an average annual increase in provincial power demands of 9.6 per cent, each year until 1975, and an annual need of 4.7 per cent thereafter. In 1958 provincial consumption was 11.7 billion kilowatt hours, more than three times the power use of 10 years ago.

CRITICAL PERIOD

By 1975 the power need will have reached 50 billion kilowatt hours. Most critical period will be between 1962 and 1967, he said.

Undeveloped rivers provide a potential of 78 billion, not counting the rivers of the far north, the Columbia 21.5 plus 23 (billions) returnable from the U.S. in downstream benefits, the Peace 22 billion, the Fraser 7 billion (without damage to fish) and the Homathko 6 billion.

"It is mandatory that a major river development be harnessed to supply provincial power needs by 1975. If not, costly thermal units would be required.

Delving into the background of international agreements for developing power in rivers crossing the border, Mr. Williston mentioned the establishment of an international joint commission in 1944.

by Williston

IMPOSSIBLE TO WIN

He indicated U.S. authorities have been unwilling to make any agreements because "we came to the conclusion that our friends south of the border were sure we were desperate for power, and that in the near future we would have to develop the Columbia, agreement or no agreement."

He felt if there was such development the case for return of benefits later would be almost impossible to win.

This brought a need for an alternative source of power. But at the same time, the government of B.C. set up studies of the Columbia and to date has spent \$400,000 on this project.

The firm of Crippen-Wright was engaged, "and only in recent days have they presented their findings to the controller of water rights."

The minister felt the report will be helpful in developing a unified position between the governments of B.C. and Canada in further negotiations with the U.S.

"In any event there is no use sowing the seeds of conflict in Canada by taking up an established position in British Columbia prior to the presentation of the international board of engineers to the joint commission next March."

Going ahead with the Peace River development "is important to British Columbia for many reasons."

NORTH NEEDS IT

There is no hydro development in the northland, which would hasten development, afford protection to the forests from fires, create jobs and "challenge the free enterprise concept."

Mr. Williston joked: "I would not be surprised if the residents did not plead for secession if some present attitudes did not change."

The Peace development will forestall the need to develop the Columbia without beneficial agreements with the U.S. It is the only power source available from B.C. rivers in time to meet B.C.'s critical needs expected in 1965. Engineering is less complex than on the Columbia or the Fraser. Transmission specialists say Peace power can be brought cheaply to the lower mainland, and gradually it will all be used in the north as development increases.

Then he explained his reasons for not advocating the Peace be developed as a public power project, "apart from the government philosophy which states there should be both public and private power."

"It has been stated the Columbia will be developed as a public power river" and it will require huge sums to finance

and the B.C. Power Commission is still expanding.

"Those not charged with responsibility loosely talk about the ability of governments to assemble huge sums of money for practically any purpose."

He indicated the province was fortunate to have private investment for the development.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1959

Mand B' Must Pay Full School Tax

Firm Should Be Forced To Aid Alberni, Says MLA

The B.C. Government was asked in the Legislature Wednesday to "force" MacMillan & Bloedel timber company to pay full school taxes on all of its property in the Alberni.

John Squire, CCF member for Alberni, said these taxes should be paid despite an exemption granted to the company 13 years ago.

Speaking in the Throne Speech debate, Mr. Squire said the cities of Alberni and Port Alberni were losing thousands of dollars because of this exemption.

"It is not very comforting to our people when they read in the newspapers that the school treasury is empty; then learn that a big lumber firm has won an appeal on the schools tax issue.

"This company has a moral responsibility to pay these school taxes. They should go now to the city council in Alberni and tell the council they are prepared to accept their responsibilities and pay these taxes imposed by the provincial government."

Last week in the B.C. Court of Appeal MacMillan & Bloedel won an appeal against demand by the city for school taxes on its land at Port Alberni that

could have cost the company an additional \$250,000 per year.

The company agreed to fixed assessments of \$100,000 for land and \$700,000 for improvements when it entered a contract with the city in 1946 that will expire in February, 1965.

Assessment now is \$27,000,000. Additional taxation was sought by the city under the Assessment Equalization Act of 1957, which states that lands and improvements should be assessed at their actual value.

Information obtained from MacMillan and Bloedel is that the company has already sent the Port Alberni council a letter in which it has undertaken to pay the school taxation on the full assessment for the years 1958 and 1959. This amounts to \$404,399 for 1958 and will approximate \$420,000 for 1959.

(This means if the city wishes to take the case to the Supreme Court of Canada any judgment by that court will

not go into effect until the 1960 taxation year.

In the meantime the company has also guaranteed to pay the city's court costs for both the court of appeal and supreme court cases.)

Mr. Squire added that he was not criticizing the company over its administration in the Alberni Valley nor on its labor relations. But he would suggest that the company's directors were "too far from the Alberni Valley."

He said the company employed men and women whose children were receiving their education in School District 70.

"By virtue of a very sharp pencil and the accumulation of very brilliant minds, they have systematically shifted their own tax load of social responsibility onto the treasury of Alberni and Port Alberni," Mr. Squire declared.

"Where is the balance to come from—the city, the provincial government or the company?" Mr. Squire asked.

Conference Asked on 'Rights' Bill

Oak Bay Liberal MLA P. A. Gibbs will ask the B.C. Legislature to arrange a federal-provincial conference to discuss necessary changes in provincial legislation to give a nation bill of rights full effect.

The federal government has introduced a measure to preserve human rights and the provinces would require parallel legislation, the member said in a motion filed today.

There is no way of knowing when the motion might come before the Legislature.

Mr. Gibbs said their are several phases of a national bill of rights which may step into provincial rights—especially in the field of labor.

"There should be some coordination of all our law to accord with what the federal house brings down." He suggested the proposed national conference could be attended by premiers and attorneys-general.

He felt a further important feature is freedom of the press, which could vary in some provinces.

Mr. Bonner on Trial

BECAUSE AN APPEAL IS pending, members of the Legislature may not offer comment on the Sommers' case. It is not proposed here to discuss the merits of a case now before the court. But no legal barrier impedes discussion of the action, or lack of action, by the attorney-general on matters prior to the criminal trial.

Opposition members in the House have served due notice to that effect. They have again questioned the fitness of the incumbent to carry on the duties entrusted to him. They have every right to raise that question and to emphasize the manner in which dilatory action, long delay and an unnecessary blanket of secrecy were used to obscure matters on which the people were entitled to immediate information.

Such action has unquestionably shaken public faith in the Government. The most favorable construction that can be placed on the handling of Mr. Sturdy's original "body of evidence" is that the attorney-general was incompetent.

The public memory is not so short that it has forgotten the pleas for a speedy judicial inquiry into the issues raised by Mr. Sturdy. Had those pleas brought the proper

response the administration would not now be under the cloud which early evasiveness and lack of frankness have created.

Events have disclosed the errors committed by the attorney-general. All humans, of course, are subject to error. In this instance, however, stubborn refusal to recognize mistakes for so long a period casts serious doubts on the capacity of Mr. Bonner to do his job.

Nor is the attorney-general alone involved in this criticism. Why did Mr. Bennett permit his lieutenant to pursue such a course—or did he encourage it? In what position are other members in the Government benches placed by their supine acceptance—with one exception—of the dictates of their superiors?

The premier has said on many occasions that members think for themselves. What kind of thought process has been defined here? Is it any different from that of the flock which follows automatically when the bell wether leads the way?

What public confidence can be placed in an administration stigmatized by a refusal to give prompt and due attention to the public interest for as long as Mr. Bonner and Mr. Bennett declined to act?

Bridge Blast Apology Due, Strachan Told

CCF Leader Robert Strachan was asked in the Legislature Wednesday to apologize to Highways Minister P. A. Gagliardi for an "untimely outburst" following the collapse of the Second Narrows bridge in Vancouver.

Alex Matthew (SC-Vancouver Centre) said just after this "unspeakable tragedy" Mr. Strachan came out in the press blaming the highway minister for it.

"He was playing politics," Mr. Matthew said, "and it was a most untimely outburst. I call on him to apologize to the minister for this indiscretion."

There were cries of "shame" from some of the government benches but Mr. Strachan was not in the House at the time. He was notified of Mr. Matthew's request later by Arthur Turner (CCF-Vancouver East).

Mr. Matthew also lashed out at the CCF for questioning government members' election campaign expenses.

"I have my own personal accounts to show what I have to pay out for campaign expenses," he said.

Trade

Cabinet To Ma

Plans to move government to the event of war are by the provincial committee, Attorney Robert Bonner said.

The scheme is a national plan involving relations between Ottawa and all provincial ties. It is though government institutions Fraser Valley or would be chosen in this province.

MLA URG

'Car

The B.C. government asked Wednesday bonding of all used as a public protection "crooked dealers."

A. S. Matthew (Centre) told the "It's about time raised the used out of the gutter. He said Vancouver Business Bureau

Trade Minister Optimistic on B.C. Economy

Conference Asked on Rights' Bill

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An optimistic forecast for the economy of British Columbia was presented in the B.C. legislature Wednesday by Attorney-General Robert Bonner.

Speaking entirely in his capacity as minister of industrial development, trade and industry, he promised he would discuss the attorney-

general's department during the budget debate.

This would permit questioning and he felt opposition members might have questions regarding the Sons of Freedom, for instance.

His grin indicated he expected other questions also—but he did not mention his handling of the Sommers case.

His speech was preceded by a warning from Speaker Hugh Shantz that the heated debate Tuesday had brought comment from the floor in language something less than parliamentary. The attorney-

general's remarks contained no insults.

He presented figures on unemployment which differed from those supplied by the CCF Tuesday. He said there were 47,000 seeking work in B.C. in December. Arthur Turner (CCF-Vancouver East) had placed the total at 68,000.

EMPLOYMENT UP

Mr. Bonner said, "on the brighter side" there were 15,000 more people employed in B.C. than a year previously.

"During 1958, the best months saw more than 5 per cent of our labor force unemployed, and 10.5 per cent during our worst period." The national jobless total in December was 440,000 — highest in postwar years, 7.2 per cent of the working force.

In the United States in December 6.3 per cent of the work force was unemployed

while the figure in Britain was only 2 per cent. "Clearly we have something to learn from them."

The minister said he felt time was overdue for reconvening of a dominion-provincial conference held in 1957 on the employment question. But at the federal level at this time "There are no such plans."

Speaking on freight rates the attorney-general said there was no inconsistency in the British Columbia government first opposing a rate boost and then declaring the boost in effect on the provincially-owned Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

KEPT 'IN BLACK'

"Doubtless the PGE would be criticized and the government too if it failed to keep its operation in the black," or if it did not pay national railway brotherhood rates to its employees. He added that on the PGE, 95 per cent of any rate increase is beyond the control

of the railway and is decided by national railways or changes in American rates.

Mr. Bonner quoted from his recently issued summary of business activities in his submission of encouraging industrial expansion.

EXPRESS CONFIDENCE

"Since 1955, the investment for capital purposes in British Columbia has not been below the \$1,000,000,000—a sizeable expression of confidence in the people of British Columbia and the resources at their disposal."

He felt major forestry operations would invest a little more in 1959 than last year and housing is expected to remain at the current boom level.

"The prospects for resource-based industries appear very favorable from the vantage point of the first quarter of 1959. Already the recent development of our petroleum and gas resources has provided a

strong impetus for capital projects . . . for 1959, surveys of my department show that investment levels should significantly exceed those of 1958, especially in the petroleum field."

Cabinet Would Flee To Mainland in War

Plans to move the seat of government to the mainland in event of war are being studied by the provincial civil defence committee, Attorney-General Robert Bonner said Wednesday.

The scheme is part of a national plan involving discussions between Ottawa officials and all provincial CD authorities. It is thought likely some government institution in the Fraser Valley or the interior would be chosen for a relocation in this province.

Establishment of a provisional, skeleton government on the mainland would eliminate possible difficulties in Island-mainland communication if war occurred.

MLA URGES BONDING

'Car Crooks' Hit

The B.C. government was asked Wednesday to require bonding of all used car dealers as a public protection against "crooked dealers."

A. S. Matthew (Vancouver Centre) told the Legislature: "It's about time the province raised the used car business out of the gutter."

He said Vancouver Better Business Bureaus and police

estimate 10 per cent of dealers in that city are dishonest. He proposed a bond of \$10,000 as is required in Alberta.

Mental Health Report Demanded

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan Wednesday renewed his request for an early submission to the Legislature of the 1958 mental health services report.

At closing of the House he asked Provincial Secretary W. E. Black when the report could be expected and was told, "it is in the hands of the Queen's printer."

"Isn't it filed and then printed?" asked Gordon Dowding (CCF-Burnaby). Mr. Black said no.

"You did last year," several CCFers replied.

Murray Heads Labor Team In Legislature

W. H. Murray (SC-Prince Rupert) today was named chairman of the Legislative select standing committee on labor.

Two Greater Victoria members, George Gregory (Lib-Victoria) and Herbert Bruch (SC-Esquimalt) serve on the committee along with 12 others, including the minister of labor Lyle Wicks.

Mr. Murray said a further organizational meeting will be held Friday morning when it will be decided who will be called before the committee in investigation of the problem of unemployment.

The committee is not expected to begin business sessions before next Wednesday.

Other standing committees meeting for organizational purposes Friday morning are Municipal Matters, Mining and Railways, Welfare and Education, Standing Orders and Private Bills and Public Accounts and Printing.

THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 1959



NORMAN CRIBBENS IN THE LEGISLATURE

If there is a Mr. Pickwith in the house it could be Alex Matthew, the deputy speaker and second member for Vancouver Centre.

Jolly rotund Mr. Matthew fairly brims over with Pickwickian benevolence and his mellifluous voice is a tonic for jangled nerves.

When he rose in the Throne Speech debate and began his address with "Mr. Spea-kerr!" on a rising intonation, it sounded as if he were calling on Mr. Speaker Hugh Shantz to come out of some underground air raid shelter.

Mr. Matthew dwelt on the 200th anniversary of the birth of Rabbe Burns, the Scottish bard, and said he had noticed that CCF leader Rabbe Strachan was to propose a toast to the Immortal Memory next Saturday.

"It was last Saturday," corrected Mr. Strachan.

"Ah well," said Mr. Matthew, peering over his Pickwickian spectacles, "it's all the same. I was going to remind the honorable leader of the Opposition of the Burns philosophy that the individual is the greatest thing in God's creation . . .

"And that," he added, "is our philosophy in the Social Credit party."

★ ★ ★

In honor of the recent Rabbe Burns' anniversary, Mr. Matthew told the 999th story exemplifying Scottish thrift.

He told of a Scot who had trouble with his chest and had an X-ray taken.

"I can't afford to give you anything for Christmas," he told his wife. "But I'm going to give you a copy of this X-ray to show you my heart is in the right place."

★ ★ ★

In reminiscent mood Mr. Pickwick Matthew mentioned that this was the seventh occasion on which he had taken part in a Throne Speech debate.

Then, still beaming on the house, he said:

"It has been a most happy association."

Mr. Pickwick, you'll remember, spoke almost the same words when dissolving the Pickwick Club more than 100 years ago. But then, as Charles Dickens tells us, he filled his glass with a trembling hand and drained it.

★ ★ ★

John Squire, the outspoken CCF member for Alberni, was a little miffed to notice that when he talked about workmen's compensation Labor Minister Lyle Wicks was not in his place in the cabinet benches.

"He never seems to be around when I have something to say," Mr. Squire said.

He also regretted that there was no mention of workmen's compensation in the Throne Speech.

Mr. Squire remarked that the Albernis, in terms of what they produce, should be the richest area in B.C.

"But when measured in terms of recreational facilities and other services, we fall far behind other communities," he said.

★ ★ ★

Capt. Fred Higgins, who has been keeper of the golden gate outside the legislative chamber for 11 years past, is retiring at the end of this week.

His place will be taken by ex-Squadron Leader Bartley Philp, a pioneer aviator in the First World War.

"I am leaving with many regrets," Capt. Higgins told me. "It has been a pleasant association, but frankly I find the job tiring, with so many night sittings, and my limbs are not as well as they were."

Mr. Philp confessed that his friends have been calling him "Saint Peter" since he agreed to look after the golden gate.

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MLA 'Impertinent' To City Taxpayers Scurrah Charges

Victoria MLA J. Donald Smith today was charged with "impertinence" to the city's taxpayers by Mayor Percy Scurrah.

Mr. Smith, a defeated alderman, told the legislature Thursday he will ask Municipal Affairs Minister Wesley Black to order a re-submission of the \$1,000,000 off-street parking bylaw passed by ratepayers last month if city council doesn't do it first as he has demanded.

Mr. Smith recently opened a well-advertised campaign demanding that the mayor debate the merits of the parking problem with him on a public platform.

The former alderman has asked city council to scrap its plans for developing parking facilities and turn the scheme over to a group of private businessmen. The city should expropriate land for the private development if necessary and guarantee repayment of the private borrowings if the venture should fail, he has said.

"I will not go out on a public platform and discuss a decision by the city's taxpayers," the mayor replied today. "That would be an impertinence on my part."

"Mr. Smith had the same opportunity as everyone else to voice his objections to the plan before the vote."

IN HAWAII

"If he was away at the time, it's an impertinence on his part to think that the voters can't make a decision without him here," the mayor said.

(Mr. Smith said he was away from the city on real estate business in Vancouver and on vacation in Hawaii, for most of the time between Oct. 28 when the downtown improvement plan was recommended and Dec. 11 when ratepayers approved it.)

The mayor said that although it would be improper for him to debate publicly, "anyone at all is free to phone or visit city hall and obtain any information whatsoever about the plan."

AVAILABLE TO ALL

"It's public property and is available to anyone."

He pointed out that Greater Victoria motorists will pay off the \$1,000,000 View Street development through parking meter increases.

Mr. Smith, claiming interest charges on the 20-year debentures will total \$750,000, told the legislators:

"I am trying to get the council to present the bylaw

again. If it does not, I shall ask the municipal affairs minister to order the council to put the question to another vote."

Mr. Black said today he was not aware of the backbencher's ultimatum to city council.

(The bylaw was approved by his department in the normal manner.)

Asked if he would order city council to re-submit the bylaw, Mr. Black said:

"I haven't looked into it."

WON'T BE WOODED

'Love That Boy' Chorus For Harding

A plea for unity of political parties in the B.C. Legislature by Randolph Harding (CCF, Kaslo-Slocan) didn't bring immediate action on unemployment as he requested Tuesday, but it brought words of praise from the government later.

First the premier and then the attorney-general praised him. Then on Thursday, J. Donald Smith (SC-Victoria), Works Minister W. N. Chant (SC-Victoria) and Herbert Bruch (SC-Esquimalt) joined his fan club.

"He has something on the ball . . . he makes it a more stately legislature," they said.

CCF friends patted him on the back, but rather suspiciously—until he told the government group: "I'm not joining Social Credit."

HE'S GOT FRIENDS

Why Did Waldo Ride Deadhead?

The CCF members in the House asked Thursday why Victoria insurance salesman Waldo Skillings had a free ride on the inaugural run of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, and not the leader of the Opposition?

The question, never answered, came up during the Throne Speech debate speech of Public Works Minister W. N. Chant.

Mr. Chant praised the ministers who had faith in the PGE and saw it through to completion of steel to the Peace River.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said he wasn't invited.

Health and Welfare Minister Eric Martin replied: "You didn't earn it."

"I suppose you did. How did Waldo Skillings earn it? Tell us about the guest list," chimed in several voices from the Opposition side of the House.

Mr. Skillings is a close friend of Premier Bennett.

Clinic Urged for Parents Of B.C. Retarded Children

Establishment of a seminar for the guidance of parents of mentally retarded children was urged in the Legislature Thursday by Mrs. Lois Haggen, CCF member for Grand Forks-Greenwood.

It should be designed, she said, to provide lectures, group counselling and demonstrations to assist parents in the care and management of retarded children.

"The situation is an unnatural one and parents cannot be expected to know how to cope with it in its entirety."

Such help, Mrs. Haggen said, was particularly needed in rural areas.

The CCF member also plead-

ed for help for students wishing to carry on their studies at the University of British Columbia.

"Many have said that any increase in fees would mean they would have to give up their university training. We should give a clear lead in the field of education."

"I strained my ears during the Throne Speech to hear something about junior colleges in other places besides Vernon, and, being in a rural constituency, I am convinced that many boys and girls are denied higher education because they cannot cope with all that is involved in getting to UBC or Victoria College."

Welfare Head Called By Labor Committee

Provincial welfare director J. S. Sadler will be invited to appear before the legislature's standing committee on labor to report on severity of current unemployment.

He will report specifically on the number of known unemployed who are no longer entitled to unemployment insurance benefits.

The committee, which met this morning, also will invite

representations by urban community chests.

Labor Minister Lyle Wicks told the committee he would present an interim report on studies on unemployment by B.C. Research Council. The report of the 1958 standing committee was referred to the council previously.

B.C. Federation of Labor lobby Monday will be asked to attend the Tuesday committee session.



NORMAN CRIBBENS IN THE LEGISLATURE

It might have been a slip but it sounded very much like an innuendo.

Victoria MLA J. Donald Smith opened his contribution to the Throne Speech debate by saying: "As a member for the City of Victoria, the oldest inhabited community of our province..."

Mr. Smith hastily changed the word to *inhabited* but, since he was pleading for the relief of tax-ridden home owners who cannot afford to arrest the deterioration of their homes, the first adverb could be the more appropriate to his meaning.

When he wasn't fighting for old-home owners and old age pensioners, or berating careless hunters who mistake human beings for deer, Mr. Smith appeared in a benevolent mood.

He expressed great admiration for the Opposition members since they had such a tough job to do. Said Mr. Smith: "It is tough because we have such good government in this province that it is hard to pick holes in it."

Then he tossed an unexpected bouquet in the direction of the CCF benches by saying that both sides of the House could take lessons in debate from Randolph Harding, the youthful-looking CCF member for Kaslo-Slocan.

Mrs. Lois Haggen, the gracious CCF member for Grand Forks-Greenwood, has an unmistakably academic air. She speaks slowly and with faultless precision so that you cannot quite escape the impression of a history teacher addressing her class.

Fortunately she is never interrupted. If she were, I feel sure the offender would be rebuked with one of those "Have you nearly finished?" expressions.

History is one of her pet concerns and her plea that the B.C. Archives and Museum should be housed in a separate fireproof building received respectful attention from the House.

In her lighter moments Mrs. Haggen reveals a coy sense of humor. She thanked the government for providing adjustable "goose-neck" microphones so that she and the other lady members of the House (Mrs. Buda Brown) did not have to lean over their desks when speaking.

"The fact that these goose-necks were borrowed from piggery lamps does not make us any the less grateful," she said.

Mrs. Haggen then had fun at the expense of her immediate neighbor, bald-headed Leo Nimsick from Cranbrook, who had a bowl of pussywillows on his desk.

"They match his hair and they suit his demure nature. The bouquet is small because he does not need much adornment."

In a lively review of his department's work, Labor Minister Lyle Wicks recalled that he was once employed as first-aid man in a factory.

For that reason he was the more aware of the terrible cost of accidents in human suffering and anguish as well as in dollars and cents.

He spoke enthusiastically of the success of the Centennial Safety Awards Campaign.

The second night sitting of the session produced some lively exchanges between Herbert Bruch, the willowy Social Credit member for Esquimalt, and the CCF opposition benches.

Mr. Bruch repeatedly needed the Opposition for what he called "destructive, uninspired criticism."

"There is far too much character assassination in this House and not enough constructive thinking," he declared.

Students from five high schools in Vancouver sat in the public galleries and listened attentively to the speeches. They are here as part of an "education in democracy" campaign.

Stanley Roach, the good-humored Socred member for North Peace River, is as enthusiastic as ever about the extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway into the mighty Peace River country.

"Four grain elevators have been built in my constituency," he said in a corridor chat, "and applications for four more are pending. Our farmers are saving thousands of dollars through being able to ship their grain direct to Vancouver."

WON'T GIVE EXACT DATE

'Near Future' Courthouse Start-Chant

Public Works Minister W. N. Chant Thursday declined to tell the legislature exactly when Victoria's new courthouse will be started.

The question was put by George Gregory (Liberal, Victoria).

"In the near future," was Mr. Chant's only reply.

The courthouse was promised in the Throne Speech.

But he hinted of other good things to come:

"I envisage for Victoria, a university, a museum, and also, somehow, an auditorium."

Without expanding on this, he added:

"But as minister, I must consider the building needs of the

whole province, and there is a great urgency for new buildings:

The minister mixed metaphors in a denunciation of opposition parties who should get off "the wrecking gang" after blaming the ship of state with disaster when all that happened was "a sparkplug misfired". (This was taken as a reference to the downfall of former cabinet minister Robert Sommers, now appealing sentence on bribery charges.)

Socred Motor Hitting on All 12

The motor is hitting now on all 12 cylinders. (There are 12 cabinet ministers.)

No motors could replace this engine. CCF needs piston rings and has a distorted manifesto crankshaft. Liberals have loose bearings, brass-lined shells and a built-in knock. The Conservative model has loose and tight parts and all three alternatives have frost-cracked heads.

Mr. Chant answered a question submitted by P. A. Gibbs (Lib., Oak Bay) regarding a sign on the Kelowna Court House.

"Yes, the building has a neon sign. We are proud of our buildings and wish to draw attention to them..."

He reiterated his contention that a marriage between the CCF and Liberals "would surprise no one." He gave as an authority the Dec. 27 article in Financial Post by Times editor Bruce Hutchison.

The minister quoted from the article, "Mr. Knowles said the new CCF is designed to destroy and replace the Liberals... they will be ground out between extremes of right and left. Mr. Pearson (national Liberal leader Lester Pearson) will be more tempted to move in the CCF direction, and so, later on, will Mr. Diefenbaker."

Mr. Chant credited Mr. Hutchison with steering a true course in this case, but added, "he doesn't know what he's talking about when he gets into the monetary system."

The minister waved a copy of Thursday's Times to emphasize another point. The headline, he said, claimed a major victory for Canada in

obtaining U.S. agreement that this country is entitled to downstream benefits if the Columbia hydro is developed.

"They wouldn't give B.C. credit for forcing their hand. B.C. is the one who fought for it," he stated.

He felt the pending Peace River development, abetted by the B.C. government, was responsible for the U.S. change of heart, rather than negotiations by Ottawa.

His address ended with a discourse on the theory that unemployment would not exist if the country would solve its distribution problems.

Red Blam

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FRIDAY, JAN. 30, 1959

ACT 'DATE

Future' house -Chant

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distribution problems.

Plea Made for Owners Of Old Victoria Homes

Victoria is faced with a grave
problem in the deterioration of
its older homes, Victoria MLA
J. Donald Smith told the legis-
lature Thursday.

"Most of these were once
were once impressive, fine old

buildings, but over the past 40
to 60 years they have deteri-
orated—and that deterioration
is being compounded year by
year."

Mr. Smith said the "plague"
on Victoria's older homes was
lack of repair due to the finan-
cial inability of their owners
to repair them.

"The owners of these proper-
ties have a darned hard time
making ends meet, what with
taxes, utilities, fuel and the
like. They have an even

harder task in scraping up
enough money to pay for
much-needed improvements—
new roofing and siding, fences,
paint and general repairs."

PENALIZED

Mr. Smith said many owners
told him that, when they did
find the money to improve
their homes, the taxes were
raised.

"In short, they feel they are
better off leaving their prop-
erty as it is rather than invit-
ing higher taxes.

"This policy affects the en-
tire community property value
adversely, because if one good
property is sandwiched in be-
tween two poor properties,
then the market value of the
good property is greatly de-
preciated.

"If this problem isn't faced,
and faced soon, it will become
disastrous and perhaps even
outright insoluble."

WOULD PROVIDE JOBS

Mr. Smith urged the stand-
ing committee on labor (now
discussing unemployment) to
consider that large-scale re-
pairs to older properties in
Victoria and throughout B.C.
would bolster the use of build-
ing materials and labor in the
next few years.

He said the city of Milwaukee
and the state of New York had
enacted legislation foregoing
tax increases on rehabilitated
property to the extent of the
improvement.

"I believe this legislature
should adopt similar legisla-
tion, granting our municipali-
ties the right to enact bylaws
that would say to the owners
of older properties:

"If you take out improve-
ment permits at any time dur-
ing the next two years, we
shall grant you tax exemption
for a period of, say, five years
on the amount of improve-
ment."

Reduced Social Services Blamed on B.C. Debt Slash

Decreased social services in
B.C. are "the direct result of
Premier Bennett's obsession
with creating what he calls a
debt-free province," Mrs. Lois
Haggen (CCF-Grand Forks-
Greenwood) told the Legisla-
ture Thursday.

Speaking in the Throne
Speech debate, the lady mem-
ber said:

"I cannot calmly contem-
plate what the result of this
policy will be if it continues
for another year or two."

She said the late Premier
Sir Richard McBride took over
a debt-ridden province and in
two years, with the assistance
of his finance minister,
brought about the second sur-
plus in B.C. since Confeder-
ation and in five years wrote
off the whole bonded in-
debtedness.

In another five years the
province was in the unique
position of being able to write
a cheque for the entire bonded
indebtedness of the province.

But the great Premier Mc-
Bride is not best remembered
for that.

"I don't think it is good that
debt reduction should be accel-
erated with the object of its
coinciding with a probable
election. I do not think it is
good when it is done at the ex-
pense of human welfare.

Mrs. Haggen pleaded for
continuation of the restoration
of Barkerville as "one of the
province's greatest tourist
assets" and for the establish-
ment of a sanctuary for wild
animals in memory of the late
Ernest Winch, for many years
CCF member for Burnaby.

Mrs. Haggen further sug-
gested extension of the pro-
vincial archives.

She urged that the archives
should be a showplace in the
capital city which would in-
terpret to visitors the history
of the province.

Mrs. Haggen said there is
still available space for the
building of such a showplace
in the vicinity of the Legisla-
tive Buildings. The present
quarters had become crowded,
cluttered and antiquated and
could no longer be considered
a place of safe-keeping.

BRUCH CHARGES:

CCF Comforting Ottawa Tories

The responsibility for unem-
ployment in Canada must be
placed "squarely on the shoul-
ders" of the federal govern-
ment in Ottawa, Herbert
Bruch (SC-Esquimalt) told the
legislature Thursday night.

He said the CCF opposition
"comforted" the federal gov-
ernment by telling them they
could "pass the buck" on to
provincial and municipal gov-
ernments.

Mr. Bruch told the opposi-
tion members they should be
grateful to the B.C. Social
Credit government.

"If it were not for Premier
Bennett's far-sighted policies
you would see soup kitchens
up and down this province to-
day."

FOUR SETS

The Esquimalt member then
attacked the opposition for
saying that the B.C. govern-
ment kept two sets of books.
"We have never denied that,

he said. "We have one book
for contingent liabilities and
another for direct debt. In
Saskatchewan they have four
sets of books."

Mr. Bruch said the Saskat-
chewan CCF government was
afraid of listing its contingent
liabilities. It called them pub-
lic utility debt."

The CCF opposition, he add-
ed, had nothing constructive to
offer.

ALTERNATIVE?

"They didn't like our solu-
tion of the Black Ball ferry
strike because we invoked the
Civil Defence Act. But they
still don't know what to do as
an alternative."

Mr. Bruch said RCMP per-
sonnel should not have the re-
sponsibility of collecting dog
licence fees.

"They have more important
things to do. I suggest the
SPCA should be given this re-
sponsibility, as was done in
Esquimalt."

Almost 85 per cent of 1-
135,000 Christmas trees cut in
East Kootenay area were
shipped to the United States,
Lands and Forests Minister
Ray Williston reported Thurs-
day.

He was answering a question
placed on the order paper by
Leo Nimsick (CCF, Cran-
brook). He said 1.6 per cent
of the Christmas trees cut were
shipped to British Columbia
points, 13.8 per cent to Prairie
points and the balance to the
United States.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1959

WICKS ASKS WORKERS, EMPLOYERS

Advisory Labor Council Suggested by Minister

If B.C. labor and management support a plan for joint representation on a Labor Minister's Advisory Council as a step toward industrial peace, Labor Minister Lyle Wicks is ready to augment the scheme, he indicated Thursday.

"Let's see whether the reply is a whisper or a shout," he told reporters following his address in the Throne Speech debate of the B.C. Legislature.

Also in interview, the minister said such a council would not be a replacement of the Labor Relations Board.

He expressed the possibility of setting up an advisory council which would be a six-man board, with equal representation of labor and from the business world.

The idea has been tried in both Australia and England and is "one that seems to me to carry considerable merit."

In Australia the council



HON. LYLE WICKS
... offers change

meets on a quarterly basis to study ... "matters of public interest and concern in the field of labor management relations." Unemployment is a major field of study.

Employment trends, economic conditions, productivity, automation and labor relations

were other matters such a council would undertake to study.

"The experience in this province of advisory councils or boards unfortunately has not always been a happy one ... some boards have been used as political sounding boards ..." the minister added.

DEPENDS ON PERSONS

He did not know whether labor and management here would show sufficient responsibility to make such a board work—but they have worked elsewhere. The minister felt it would depend on the persons elected to serve being "Of such high calibre and so dedicated that they are prepared to put their country or their state first." In this connection he mentioned with regret the passing of the late Hon. Gordon Sloan, whom he felt was a model citizen.

Appointments to the board would be by the minister, he felt, and not be mixed with politics.

"... Can democracy find capable men and women who will put principles before politics, policies before party?" Mr. Wicks asked.

"... I believe they are among us in large numbers. But will they make known in a strong, clear voice their deepest convictions ... will their reply be a whisper or a shout?"

This was the only indication in Mr. Wicks' speech that he contemplated any change in B.C.'s labor regulations or set-up.

OTTAWA BLAMED

Also on non-provincial matters, he blamed the federal government for Canada's woes—inflation and unemployment. He said last fall Ottawa refinanced \$6.4 billion in government bonds.

"What's the logic of adding millions of new interest charges to be tacked onto prices, of adding millions for sinking funds and debt retirement, to be tacked onto prices. All these additional costs passed into taxpayers mean higher taxes?"

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan asked, "Isn't that what Mr. Briggs was complaining about?" (Former B.C. Power Commission general manager H. Lee Briggs lost his job when he opposed refinancing of BCPC bonds which would have increased rates to BCPC customers, he felt.)

"I don't follow your point," answered Mr. Wicks.

Big \$ Prom

New legislation university students, the Throne Speech B.C. close to fulfillment of the principle for all with a financial standing.

This was the Education Minister Peterson, speaking in the House Friday. He said the principle "with the necessary studies, should be do so without a financial standing his parents."

He added, "I would to evolve would bring us a goal—a goal that reached by any Canada. With the of my colleagues the attorney-general formulated such I feel will be heard by all ..."

The minister would he did not believe should be absent. "Every student should upon to make some in his career." shouldn't be afraid some money at some of his future he stated.

NOT ENOUGH Y

Mr. Peterson said provincial grants ties are considered in B.C. contribute do taxpayers in Canada.

"Nevertheless, not a large enough which students without putting for repayment." is a need also for arships.

Big Student Loan Plan Promised by Peterson

New legislation to assist university students, promised in the Throne Speech, will bring B.C. close to full implementation of the principle of universality for all with ability, despite financial standing.

This was the message of Education Minister Leslie Peterson, speaking in the House Friday. He referred to the principle "that everyone with the necessary ability, who wants to undertake university studies, should be at liberty to do so without regard to his financial standing, or that of his parents."

He added, "I have endeavored to evolve a plan that would bring us closer to that goal—a goal that has not been reached by any province in Canada. With the assistance of my colleagues, particularly the attorney-general, we have formulated such a plan, which I feel will be heartily endorsed by all . . ."

The minister went on to say he did not believe university should be absolutely free. "Every student should be called upon to make some investment in his career." A student shouldn't be afraid to borrow some money and mortgage some of his future earnings, he stated.

NOT ENOUGH YET

Mr. Peterson said when all provincial grants to universities are considered, taxpayers in B.C. contribute more than do taxpayers in other parts of Canada.

"Nevertheless, there is still not a large enough fund from which students can borrow without putting up security for repayment." He felt there is a need also for more scholarships.

The minister disclosed that a survey will be conducted in B.C. to determine requirements for technical specialists in order that technician training courses could be widened.

The survey will be carried out by a technical specialist and an assistant sent from Ottawa, at no cost to B.C.

Mr. Peterson said that although B.C. had an excellent vocational and trades training program and university program for the professions, there was a category between the two which should be further investigated—the technicians.

"By way of example, there are engineering technicians, electronics technicians and dental technicians.

"These technicians receive less than a full university training, but an engineering technician, for example, would have enough engineering theory and mathematics to aid an engineer . . . With the

assistance of a technician, the engineer is relieved of routine or repetitive tasks, such as drafting, running chemical analyses, or computing from mathematical tables."

PETERSON RAPS LAING, TOO

Strachan in 'Disgrace'

Education Minister Leslie Peterson feuded with leaders of the CCF and Liberal parties in the legislature Friday. He told Opposition Leader Robert Strachan he would "deal with him at arm's length" from now on. Any inquiries from him, he can request on the order paper.

The minister then charged Liberal Leader Arthur Laing with untruths in a speech Mr. Laing gave at Oak Bay last month.

Mr. Laing's statements were "irresponsible and false," the minister said.

The blow-up with Mr. Strachan followed a speech by the Opposition leader Monday. Mr. Strachan said he had asked, for information on school board budgets and the minister said the budgets belonged to the school boards, and he should write them for the answers.

NO CO-OPERATION

Mr. Strachan said he did so but the education minister also wrote all the boards and indicated his unwillingness to co-operate.

Mr. Peterson replied that in

fact he had furnished Mr. Strachan with names and addresses of proper contacts in each school district. Mr. Strachan had told the school boards, said the minister, that he had been refused co-operation of the education department.

This was putting politics ahead of education, said Mr. Peterson. Mr. Strachan would be dealt with at arm's length.

"Is that a threat?" asked Mr. Strachan . . . "Are you refusing to give me information?"

"He knows his right to ask me questions here on the order paper," said the minister.

"Once a year," replied Mr. Strachan.

COULDN'T INTERRUPT

The education minister then turned to Mr. Laing, who doesn't have a seat in the House and couldn't interrupt.

Mr. Laing said Jan. 14 that the B.C. government had refused to approve a \$2,600,000 school building by-law in Richmond, that Richmond bonds from a previous building program were still unsold, and that the school district should

borrow \$450,000 from a bank and make minor additions to school it had now.

Mr. Peterson produced a letter from Richmond School Board stating it had never been impeded in the slightest by lack of funds, the department of education had co-operated in every instance, and the board "views with distaste the interjection of its affairs into the political arena, and disassociates itself, without qualification, from the reported statements of Mr. Laing."

Free Enterprise 'Makes Jobless'

Only Cure Is Different System
CCF Member Tells Legislature

The only cure for unemployment is "genuine democratic self-government superseding the present unregulated free enterprise and competition," Leo Nimsick, CCF member for Cranbrook, told the legislature Friday.

"Very soon," he added, "we shall have to choose between these systems, and the present system of making profits precludes any possibility of solving the problem. The law of supply and demand regulates business and men's lives as well."

Mr. Nimsick said the B.C. Social Credit government claimed to have done more for unemployment than any other province.

"But even with all the capital expenditures this government has made, we still have 68,000 unemployed. These things are just palliatives . . . doling out unemployment insurance is like trying to cure smallpox by treating each pimple."

The CCF member recalled that during the "hungry 30s," people thought prosperity was just around the corner, "but it was a long, long corner."

"Why should the individual have to worry about where his living is to come from if he is contributing his share to society?"

Mr. Nimsick regretted that "large shares in our province" should be given to Swedish industrialist Axel Wenner-Gren and oil king Frank McMahon without even taxing their capital gains.

"Yet when the worker asks for a nickel raise he is accused of increasing the cost of living."

Mr. Nimsick said he was "very proud" of Victoria Liberal member George Gregory when he suggested a hydro commission for B.C.

"But what is the B.C. Power Commission but a hydro commission?" he asked.

"It is a very weak-sister one," replied Mr. Gregory from the Liberal side of the House.

Mr. Nimsick: "It is still a commission."

He insisted that B.C. could not have "a half and half arrangement" whereby private enterprise competed with publicly-owned power.



NORMAN CRIBBENS IN THE LEGISLATURE

British Columbia's 52 legislators from far and wide are resting this weekend after the first week of the Throne Speech debate, and a pregnant silence dwells over the stately chamber where so many battles have yet to be fought.

So far, 16 members have spoken in the debate and the rest will be heard before next Friday when Premier Bennett brings down his anxiously-awaited budget.

The session up to now has been as quiet as the premier predicted, but there is little likelihood it will continue so. The CCF is in fighting mood over unemployment in B.C. and the two Liberals will have lots more to say about Wenner-Gren and the Peace River power project.

Most members think highly of the suggestion from Victoria MLA J. Donald Smith that tax relief should be given to owners of old homes in the city who wish to spend money improving them.

Mr. Smith said many such owners are afraid to improve their properties for fear of inviting higher taxes. He recommended tax exemptions to the extent of the improvements made.

"This is the most sensible proposition we have heard this session," commented a CCF member. "I hope the government will act upon it."

Wearing a bright red tie and matching carnation, Mr. Nimsick was in lively form as he twitted the government with being short of cabinet ministers.

He hinted that the many compliments showered on CCF member Randolph Harding by government members were intended to lure him over to the Social Credit ranks. "Are you so short of cabinet material?" asked Mr. Nimsick.

Mr. Harding supplied the answer. "We will have all the cabinet posts at the next election," he said.

My own impression is that government members are flattering Mr. Harding in a deliberate effort to discredit CCF leader Robert Strachan; and Mr. Harding is a much less formidable opponent. He is so quiet and reasonable that he might almost be called Liberal (with a small L).

When Education Minister Leslie Peterson stated that everyone who really wants university training should have the opportunity to get it, CCF member Tony Gargrave from Mackenzie remarked:

"I haven't had mine yet."

Mr. Gargrave has taken two years of the arts course at the University of British Columbia and is now studying for law.

"We wish him good fortune in his university career," Mr. Peterson said, "and we hope he will graduate in due time."

J A N

1959

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1959

SALES TAX REVENUE SOARS TO RECORD

\$87,244,382

*More Than \$2,000,000
Higher Than 1957*

Biggest single revenue producer for the provincial government during the last fiscal year was the five per cent social security sales tax which soared to a new record of \$87,244,382, more than \$2,000,000 higher than in 1957.

Motor fuel and fuel oil taxes realized \$27,475,237.36, property taxes \$6,463,390.95, and motor vehicle licences and permits brought in \$14,685,519.08, according to Public Accounts released yesterday in the legislature.

\$90,000,000 RECORD

On the expenditure side a new \$90,000,000 record was set by the building and maintenance of highways, roads, bridges, ferries, docks and wharves.

Although centennial celebrations had hardly gotten under way by the end of the last fiscal year, March 31, 1958, \$1,793,160.33 had already been expended on centennial celebrations.

GRANTS-IN-AID

Services and grants-in-aid for hospitals cost the government \$38,214,433.63 and operation of mental hospitals another \$12,625,947.30.

Parks, beaches and recreation area development cost \$2,358,472.84. Police protection cost \$1,512,799.32, and law enforcement another \$1,449,567.46. Correction of juvenile delinquents cost \$2,062,380.92 and of other offenders \$6,028,716.95.

AID TO AGED

The provincial government spent \$15,047,543.12 on aid to the aged and \$8,806,032.49 on social assistance. Child welfare cost \$2,295,737.40.

Some \$43,000,000, an increase of nearly \$4,000,000 over 1957, was paid in grants, aids and services for schools operated by local authorities and another \$6,689,278 to universities, colleges and normal schools.

DEBT RETIREMENT

The government spent \$30,332,000 on debt retirement and \$11,020,303 on grants in aid of local government. Subsidy paid to the Toll Highways and Bridges Authority was \$1,457,184, compared to \$632,727 in 1957.

Total gross expenditure was \$51,302,764.34 and gross revenue was \$322,434,348, with money from the current account, revenue surplus account and capital account being used to make up the balance.



First Indian Page Boy

First Indian page on floor of the House is 13-year-old Johnny Joe, 15 Cooper Road. He is talking over duties with deputy provincial secretary Laurie Wallace. Johnny is a member of Songhees band, attends St. Louis College.

Needed for Advance Study

Strachan Asks for Reports

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan took an unscheduled part in yesterday's formal opening of the Legislature when he rose to ask that members be provided with departmental reports as soon as possible.

In the normal course of events the reports, although they were tabled yesterday, would not be available to

MLAs until department estimates are discussed. Some of the reports are not yet printed.

Mr. Strachan said MLAs should have the reports to study before the various departments come up for discussion.

He also said it was "a significant omission that the mental health services report was not tabled. It was also missing on the first day last

year and in fact was not presented until the last day."

Premier Bennett said he would take notice of the request.

Portfolio for Bruch?

Shuffle to Split Health Branch

By ALEC MERRIMAN

A reorganization of the provincial department of health and welfare and mental health services was called for in the Speech from the Throne read by Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross at yesterday's legislature opening.

The move, first predicted in The Daily Colonist Jan. 1, calls for a new department of health services and hospital insurance to combine services now rendered by mental health services under the provincial secretary with the health branch and hospital insurance service now under the health and welfare department.

The welfare branch will now become a separate department.

NEW MINISTER

It can be assumed that this will call for a new cabinet minister, with Eric Martin continuing as health branch and hospital insurance minister and the new minister directing the new welfare department.

Thought to be a possible candidate for the new minister's post is Herbert Bruch (S.C. Esquimalt), who is the Social Credit caucus leader, convention chairman and sparkplug of political campaigns for the Socreds.

The throne speech said definitely that a start will be made this year on Victoria's new courthouse. The Colonist said Jan. 1 that the long-awaited \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 courthouse would be started in October as a winter work program, but completion will not be until 1960.

Yesterday's throne speech, which was actually written by Premier Bennett and outlines

Continued on Page 3

Courthouse News Draws a Chortle

First laugh of this year's sitting of the Legislature came yesterday, when, during the reading of the Throne Speech, Lieutenant-Governor Ross said a start will definitely be made this year on Victoria's courthouse.

CCF MLA Tony Gargrave and Liberal members Archie Gibbs and George Gregory chortled. They have been needling the government for several years about a new courthouse for Victoria.

* * *

Enrolment in B.C. schools increased during the year ending last June from 260,069 to 277,070. Education Minister Leslie Peterson said yesterday in his annual report tabled in the Legislature.

Some 47,000 adults attended various schools including 36,611 at night schools.

* * *

British pronunciation of the word "lieutenant" as "leftenant" led to some confusion in the mind of Leonard Tisdalle, young son of Saanich MLA John Tisdalle, at the house opening yesterday.

When Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross appeared the youngster observed to his mother: "So that's the left-hand governor. Do they ever have a right-hand one?"

* * *

Donald Brothers, newly-elected Social Credit member for Rossland-Trail, isn't sitting in his predecessor's seat in the legislature. Robert Sommers' seat in the house has been taken over by Irvine Corbett (S.C. Yale). Mr. Brothers has been seated in the overflow section of the Social Credit, back benches.

One New Building Every Five Weeks

During the last three years a new major public building has been completed by the provincial government at the rate of one every five weeks, Lieutenant Governor Frank Ross said in his Speech from the Throne yesterday.

Reorganization to Split Health, Welfare Branches

Continued from Page 1

his government program, would indicate a light session as Premier Bennett predicts, but opposition members have other ideas and have already been noticed boning up on the McPhee Tree Fruits Report, the Sommers case and Wenner-Gren development.

But the surprising part of the speech was that no mention was made of labor legislation, and for months now Premier Bennett has been devoting major portions of his speeches to the fact the B.C. government will not be pushed around by labor or management. At least half a dozen organizations have presented briefs to cabinet asking for labor legislation changes.

DEEPLY CONCERNED

But the Throne Speech did say the government is deeply concerned with unemployment and that despite an accelerated program and a huge and unprecedented expenditure of public funds on government buildings, works, highways, bridges, park development and other programs, the unemployment problem remains serious.

It said the government will recommend that the select standing committee on labor be reconvened immediately for the purpose of studying the problem.

The Throne Speech said "it is desirable that this committee meet with all interested individuals and groups—labor, employers and others—and conduct an inquiry into the ways and means of improving the situation."

Out of these meetings new labor legislation may be developed and new proposals to alleviate unemployment.

Legislation will be introduced to expand provisions for the education and training of mentally retarded children.

INCREASED GRANTS

Authorization will be asked for increased grants to school districts as well as to the University of British Columbia and Victoria College.

An expanded system of loans, scholarships, and bursaries will be made available to facilitate achievement of higher standards of education by students of senior matriculation standing at Victoria College and UBC.

Still not yet recovered from last year's disastrous forest fires, which cost the govern-

ment \$4,000,000 in fire-fighting costs and industry another \$1,000,000, it is intended to submit new legislation respecting compulsory utilization, with compensation, of machinery and equipment suitable for forest fire suppression.

Legislation will be introduced to create Douglas Day, first celebrated last year on Nov. 19, as an annual day of observance.

Other Throne Speech highlights:

1. Legislation will be introduced to establish a horse racing commission.

2. Provision will be made for additional B.C. supreme court judges. Attorney-General Bonner had earlier said he will ask for two more judges, raising the total from 12 to 14.

3. A new Wills Act, of interest to every citizen of B.C., will be introduced.

4. It is proposed to increase substantially the amount of credit that may be extended under the Farmers' Land Clearance Assistance Act and to lengthen considerably the period of repayment.

5. A consolidation of legislation relating to dyking and drainage will be submitted.

6. Needs of the province for advanced technical training programs are now being surveyed.

7. The Ferries Act will be brought to the floor of the House to discuss subsidies.

8. The Forest Act will be brought in line with other legislation.

9. Amendments of mining legislation will be proposed to recognize scientific advances in the field of exploration and to encourage exploration.

10. Benefits of poliomyelitis immunization will be expanded during this year.

Power Chief Takes Seat In Hot Spot

B.C. Power Commission chairman T. H. Crosby was seated in a hot spot at yesterday's opening of the Legislature. On his right was Einar Gunderson, a director of the Peace River Power Development Company. On his left was William Mearns, a vice-president of the B.C. Electric, and behind him was Bernard Gore, chief representative of Wenner-Gren interests here.

Openin



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Opening of Legislature

Handful of Spectators

Steady Rain Soaks

Ceremony

to Split Branches

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C. Power Commission rman T. H. Crosby was ed in a hot spot at yester- s opening of the Legisla- On his right was Einar derson, a director of the e River Power Develop- t Company. On his left William Mearns, a vice- dent of the B.C. Electric, behind him was Bernard , chief representative of ner-Gren interests here.

Only a handful of specta- tors, a few seagulls and the military braved a steady rain which marred outdoor cere- monies accompanying open- ing of the third session of British Columbia's 25th Legis- lature.

The seagulls left soonest— at the booming sound of the first round of a 15-gun salute.

The spectators stayed a few minutes longer, until Lieuten- ant-Governor Frank Ross en- tered the legislature buildings, on his way to read the Throne Speech.

The color guard of 100 RCAF men, plus band and officers, stayed on to the bitter end. So did the detachment of the 5th Medium Battery, RCA, which fired the ceremonial salute.

When the lieutenant-gov-

ernor arrived for the official opening of the House the RCAF color was paraded for the first time at a legislature opening.

The color party carried the Queen's color of the RCAF as well as the air force color.

These colors are kept at 5 Air Division Headquarters, Vancouver, and are only used for ceremonial occasions.

The lieutenant-governor took the salute standing on the rainswept steps of the main entrance to the legislature.

Less than 100 yards away six- pounders slammed off the 15- gun salute. Thick acrid smoke drifted over the scene.

The colors, and most of the few spectators who turned out, were considerably wilted by the rain when Lieutenant-Governor Ross arrived, wearing a cloak over his court dress.

Ignoring the rain, the lieu- tenant-governor inspected the full guard and then went over to salute and speak to the band.

The crowd, estimated at well under 200, stood huddled under umbrellas and raincoats. It dispersed rapidly as soon as the official party entered the buildings.

To keep warm at their post, while ceremonies went on in- side the chamber, the guard of honor marked time on the spot and the band played cheer- ful music. The rain never let up.

At one time during the long wait there was a ripple of laughter down the ranks as a boy on a delivery bike pedaled down the front rank and cut loose with an admiring whistle.

Then—one final salute and the official cars with motor- cycle escorts pulled away.

Flt. Lt. Allan Robinson of North Vancouver, personnel administration officer at Comox, was guard commander, with FO Robert Burnie, a guard officer.

The Queen's color officer was Flt. Lt. Hugh Hamilton, and the RCAF color officer was FO Raymond Chapman.

Capt. T. G. Dalzell, coman- ded the 5th Medium Battery.

Speech from Throne

Pomp and Dignity Opening Keynote

Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross took 30 minutes to read the Speech from the Throne at the opening yester- day of the third session of the 25th Legislature.

His Honor entered the legis- lative chamber with all the traditional pomp and cere- mony that goes with the House opening. His aide-de- camps, marching in pairs and including Brig. John Adam, Lt.-Cmdr. J. C. Davie, Wing Cmdr. J. D. D. Campbell and RCMP Inspector T. A. Horn, entered the hushed chamber first, followed in single file by Government House secre- tary Cmdr. Garfield Dixon and sergeant-at-arms Denzil Ashby carrying the mace. His Honor mounted the dais as his aides stepped to each side.

SAME DIGNITY

Then he read the Throne Speech and left the chamber with the same dignity.

There were close to 600 per- sons in the legislative chamber to see the official opening.

Before the lieutenant- governor entered, Donald L. Brothers, recently elected Socred member for Rossland- Trail, was introduced to the legislative assembly and took his seat in the House as MLAs from both sides of the floor thumped their desks.

RANG THREE TIMES

Then the division bell rang three times to signal the lieutenant-governor was ap- proaching.

After he left, the House got down to some minor business before adjourning until 3 p.m. today.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner, Works Minister W. N. Chant, I. F. Corbett (SC, Yale), opposition leader Robert Strachan, and Archie Gibbs



His 40th Session

Dean of the legislature, 84- year-old Thomas Uphill, Fernie MLA, started his 40th session of the legislature yester- day with a little clowning before the lieutenant-gov- ernor arrived for official opening ceremonies. The in- dependent labor member sat down in the premier's chair, trying it out for size as he has been doing at House openings for years.

Premier Enters Alone

Premier Bennett made his grand entrance into the legis- lative assembly alone yester- day. He appeared slightly nervous as he walked down the aisle, smiling, and stopped only to shake hands with Mrs. Lois Haggen (CCF, Grand Forks), one of the two women members.

Mrs. Haggen had a vase of flowers placed on her desk, but the other woman member Mrs. Buda Brown (SC, Van- couver-Point Grey) didn't even have a desk. She sat in the second row of chairs.

Except for the front row, desks usually used by MLAs had been removed so more chairs could be used for guests.

(Lib., Oak Bay), were named to a committee to name select standing committees.

Alex Matthew (SC, Van- couver Centre) was elected deputy speaker.

Attorney-General Bonner in- troduced Bill No. 1, "An Act to amend the Interpretation Act."

About 15 annual reports were tabled.

\$142,729,384

Millions More Borrowed

An increase of \$143,729, 348.40 in contingent liabilities (government guaranteed bor- rowings) was noted in Public Accounts brought down by Premier Bennett at the Legis- lature yesterday.

They increased from \$241, 334,638.58 in 1957 to \$385,163, 986.98 in 1958.

MORE THAN \$100,000,000

The previous year contin- gent liabilities increased by more than \$100,000,000.

Didn't Have to Borrow

\$25,860,000 for Jobs

Premier Bennett said yesterday the provincial government used up \$25,860,000 of revenue surplus to expand employment during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1958, "but we did not have to borrow because we saved our money in the good years of 1953 and 1956."

In presenting the Public Accounts to the Legislature yesterday he said the value of provincial assets in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1958,

were recorded at \$648,829,000, or an amount \$40,721,000 greater than for the preceding year.

He said liabilities amounted to \$432,244,000 and the excess over liabilities increased by \$66,831,000 during the fiscal year.

Revenue collections amounted to \$277,324,400 and current services charged to income included \$11,221,600 for debt charges, \$180,248,400 for general public service, and

\$34,074,800 for Hospital Insurance Service, leaving a current account revenue surplus of \$51,779,600.

Expenditures for capital projects such as roads, bridges, ferries, forest development and mining roads, park development, etc., amounted to \$62,640,200 and supplementary debt redemption appropriations amounted to \$21,104,400 for a grand total of \$83,744,600.

Cash to meet these costs was derived from \$51,779,600 from revenue surplus which accrued during the fiscal year,

\$6,104,400 from transfer to current income of final settlement by the federal government under the 1947 tax rental agreement, and \$25,860,600 from revenue surpluses of former years.

Had Money, Says Bennett

Health Shuffle Wins Approval

The B.C. government's health department shuffle "gives recognition to the fact mental illness is one of our major health problems today," a city hospital director said last night.

Dr. E. N. Boettcher, medical superintendent of St. Joseph's Hospital, was commenting on the Throne Speech announcement that mental health services will no longer be under the provincial secretary.

Mental health, along with hospital insurance service and the health branch, will form one department. Welfare branch will form another.

"The whole move is a sign of the times and a step forward," he said.

"Provincial welfare has been growing rapidly and has become too big a task to be handled in a department which is already handling other services," he said.

"It's a good idea," said George Masters, Royal Jubilee Hospital administrator.

"The mental health department is so large it should be under its own commissioner."

He said the reorganization is in the "better interest of all the health services."

"It brightens the whole health picture."

Gaglardi Travels Cost Most

B.C.'s cabinet ministers spent \$31,388.61 in travelling expenses, the Public Accounts, released yesterday, disclosed.

Highways Minister Gaglardi retained the distinction of being the cabinet's most travelled minister. He spent \$4,269.77 and costs of his air travel could be added to this total when highways department accounts are considered later in the session.

Mines Minister Kenneth Kiernan was second with \$3,605.92 in travelling expenses, and Labor Minister Wicks, along with his second portfolio of railways minister, was next biggest spender at \$3,513.69, just nosing out Premier Bennett, who spent \$3,502.86 in travelling. Attorney-General and Trade Minister Robert Bonner spent \$3,223.26.

B.C. May Curb Power Boats

British Columbia may soon take steps to curtail use of motor boats on small lakes, Recreation Minister Earle Westwood indicated in his annual report tabled in the Legislature yesterday.

"Motor boat use on certain small lakes is apparently becoming a nuisance to other users," he said. "A review of all aspects of this situation is being undertaken and it is anticipated that some of the problems can be solved by amendment of existing federal statutes which would permit the province to regulate motor boat use under special circumstances."

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Hit Truckers Harder Road Probe Urges

Commercial truckers should pay a greater share of road costs, a commission of inquiry into road-user charges said yesterday in a report tabled in the legislature.

The commission, headed by Dr. H. F. Angus, said that private non-commercial passenger vehicles should pay one-third of road costs, commercial vehicles should pay one-third, and non-users should pay one-third.

It recommended much higher overweight fees for commercial vehicles and basing of licence fees on gross weight instead of net weight.

TWO-CENT BOOST

It also recommended an increase to 12 cents, from 10 cents a gallon, for diesel fuels.

The report said 27 more permanent weighing stations should be established and personnel increased to 80, from 37, at an increase in cost of \$300,000.

The report also calls for establishment of a central agency or department of motor transport to protect the highways against destructive use, to enforce revenue laws affecting commercial vehicles, to make and administer safety regulations and to conduct continuing research into problems of equitable taxation.

Progress, with Caution

IN spite of its prolixity in seven typescript pages and some 3,600 words, the Speech read by His Honor at the opening of the B.C. Legislature contained a guarded outline of the program of the Social Credit administration for the coming fiscal year. In the light of the economic conditions of the times, the decision seems to be to go ahead with caution on pressing matters, and in some part to await the developments of the year before undertaking extensive commitments in any direction.

Thus, the Department of Health and Welfare, too large now for proper administration, is to be split in two, with the possible addition of one cabinet minister.

Additional provincial grants are to be given to B.C. school districts, to Victoria College, and to the University of British Columbia. Victoria City is promised its new courthouse, on the cabinet's honor, with construction unequivocally to start this year. The government will name a standing committee of the House to deal with unemployment.

Applying more generally throughout the province, additional judges are to be named to the Supreme Court, as urged by both bench and bar. Land clearing is to be facilitated

in connection with settlement farms. Logging machinery may be co-opted to fight forest fires in emergencies. The administration proposes the creation of a horse-racing commission. "Douglas Day" is to be established on Nov. 19 annually, as the last step of the highly successful Centennial Year.

There is no hint in the Speech of altered taxation, nor of any crucial change in the present forms of revenue collection. An important paragraph pledges extension of education and training for mentally retarded children, a move that has long been popularly urged. For the rest, the administration's pronouncement indulged in what amounts to a stage by stage recital of the unusual events of the Centennial Year. It notes, with pleasure, that Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip will be the first official guests to be received at the new Government House after it is completed this year.

After three years of deferred action, and many on and off the cuff promises, it will be a pleasure to Victoria citizens to read the reference to the courthouse. It states, and we quote: "Construction of a new courthouse in the capital city of this Province will be commenced this year." That is for the record.

\$2,000,000 More Spent By Drinkers in B.C.

British Columbians drank \$2,000,000 more liquor last year than they did in 1957.

Sale of liquor in B.C. for fiscal year ending March 31, 1958, brought \$26,838,507.41 to the province's consolidated revenue fund, public accounts showed yesterday.

It was up nearly \$2,000,000 from 1957 when revenue was \$25,048,630.26.

Gross liquor sales to the public amounted to \$66,832,135.95 and to licensees, \$26,257,969.48, for a total of \$93,090,105.43.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1959

Legislature Roundup

Eat Crow, Gregory Told

One Vase For Thursday?

Mrs. Buda Brown (SC, Vancouver-Point Grey) had two vases of flowers on her desk when the legislature sat yesterday, probably to make up for the flowers she didn't have for the House opening Thursday.

Mrs. Lois Haggen (CCF, Grand Forks-Greenwood), who had a vase of flowers on her desk for the opening, had another vase of flowers on her desk yesterday.

They are the only women MLAs.

Victoria Liberal MLA George Gregory was called upon to eat crow at yesterday's sitting of the legislature, but he wasn't there to do it.

W. H. Murray (SC, Prince Rupert) reminded the House that Mr. Gregory had said during the last session that he would be campaign manager for Works Minister Chant if he builds a Victoria courthouse.

Thursday's Throne Speech said the courthouse would be started this year and the Prince Rupert member, in his speech seconding the reply to the Throne Speech, reached into his pocket and pulled out a book of membership tickets in the Social Credit League.

A page boy took them over and placed them on the desk of Mr. Gregory so he could start his job as campaign manager.

But the butt of the joke was absent.

W. H. Murray, the Social Credit MLA for Prince Rupert, told the legislature that Attorney-General Bonner's explanation why vodka is not sold by the bottle in B.C. liquor stores is "not realistic."

"I believe vodka was described as an odorless and insidious drink and because of these characteristics it was not deemed wise to offer it for sale by the bottle," he said.

"Such a ruling, apart from its universal unpopularity, is entirely contradictory and inconsistent with the practice of selling it by the case to those who can afford it and by the glass in private clubs," he said.

There were 184 miles of highway constructed or reconstructed last year, of which 63 miles was Trans-Canada Highway, the department of highways report shows.

Sixty-two bridges were completed and work was in progress on 30 more, 16 on the Trans-Canada Highway.

Gross expenditure on the Trans-Canada Highway in B.C. was \$26,409,187, with the federal government sharing 50-50 in a large part of the total.

The highway department spent \$36,420 on aircraft repairs and expenses down \$14,000 from the previous year.

Victoria Social Credit MLA Donald Smith indicated that when he speaks to the Throne Speech in the House, Thursday, he will ask the government to enter on a share-the-cost agreement with the B.C. Electric and other transportation companies to provide free bus passes for all old-age pensioners in British Columbia.

A master wage agreement covering all job classifications in the smaller hospitals of the province was urged by William Murray (SC, Prince Rupert).

Meetings of a joint committee of municipal and provincial government officials, to study a complete revision of provincial-municipal financing, have been postponed, Provincial Secretary Wesley Black said.

Mr. Black, chairman of the

committee and municipal affairs minister, said meetings may be held toward the end of the session.

It became obvious yesterday that the controversial B.C. Power Commission financing arrangements, disclosed in November by H. Lee Briggs, who was later fired as commission general manager, will become a lively part of the current spring sitting of the legislature.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan took the offensive when he placed on the order paper a series of questions about power commission financing.

One point the CCF leader queries is the alleged brokerage fees paid for loans taken up by government agencies or trust funds.

Oak Bay Liberal MLA Archie Gibbs, the opposition

financial expert of the House, asked a number of questions on PGE Railway borrowings and financing, the Government Liquor Act and forest management licences.

There were 36 questions placed on the order paper yesterday, most of them by Social Credit members.

JANUARY 24, 1959

Joint Commision Asked

'Out-of-Date' Indian Act Amendment Requested

The B.C. government was urged yesterday to ask the federal government to amend the Indian Act and establish a joint federal-provincial commission to study the intricate problems of the native Indians of B.C.

W. H. Murray (S.C.-Prince Rupert) told the legislature that the existing Indian Act, insofar as West Coast Indians were concerned is "entirely out of date."

"Our Indians have advanced socially and in every other way at a rate exceeding that of Indians of the prairie provinces and of Eastern Canada," he said. "We cannot stand idly

by and countenance the enforcement of an Act which, insofar as our Indian people are concerned, is entirely medieval, if not obsolete."

Object of the Indians is to eliminate discrimination.

He said liquor restrictions put on Indians can "only lead to a feeling of discrimination and of second class citizenship."

"It is quite in order for me to drink with a native friend during the hours that licenced premises are open, but if I dared have a drink with him before or after these hours, I would be guilty of an offence," he said.

He pointed out an Indian could buy liquor by the glass in cocktail bars or public houses, but could not buy liquor in the liquor stores or a bottle of beer in a public house.

Such a situation leads to excessive drinking during the last hour of sale before closing time, because he knows full well that he can't obtain another drink until the licenced premises open again, Mr. Murray said.

He said the situation builds up a "violent resentment against this type of law and against those whose unpleasant duty it is to enforce the law."

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 1959

Peaceful Session Highly Unlikely

It seems likely that CCF Opposition Leader Robert Strachan will upset Premier Bennett's prediction of a quiet session when he takes the floor of the legislature tomorrow.

The 45-year-old Glasgow-born Scot is not expected to pull any punches.

He already has served notice he intends to attack government policy in power, labor, financing and other matters.

He is expected to call for provincial control of B.C.

Telephone Company rates and services.

Mr. Strachan may also have something to say about the case of former Sacred lands and forests minister Robert Sommers, sentenced to five years for bribery and conspiracy.

Sommers is appealing but his appeal won't reach the courts until next month.

Mr. Strachan will lead off the opposition in the throne speech debate in which speakers have unlimited leeway on the subjects they may cover.

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To Consolidate B.C. Needs

New Power Colossus Urged by Gregory

Formation of a new government-owned utility to generate all British Columbia power needs was urged in the legislature yesterday by George Gregory (Lib.-Victoria).

He suggested it be called B.C. Hydro and that it should develop the province's hydro resources in the most economical way and then sell the power to the B.C. Electric and the B.C. Power Commission.

SLOAN PRECEDENT

He said the new company could start with development of the Columbia and the Peace River and asked that the very best men be hired as leaders of the company. "And we should be willing to pay them," he said, and referred to precedent having been set by the \$50,000 forestry adviser job filled by the late Hon. Gordon Sloan.

Mr. Gregory said he was not hitting at the B.C. power commissioners. "I think they have done their best, but you can't expect the very best from men who have already done their life's work," he said.

RATES TOO HIGH

He said that part of the trouble British Columbia has experienced in attracting industry is that "our power rates are too high." He thought under his B.C. Hydro plan and with the best engineers available power costs could be reduced.

Speaking in the Throne Speech debate, Mr. Gregory ranged over a number of subjects and touched on some points of the Sommers case, although he said he would reserve most of his comments until discussion on the attorney-general's department estimates when the attorney-general would be able to reply.

TWO QUESTIONS

He said there were two questions he wished the attorney-general to be ready to answer.

One was to tell who informed former lands and forests minister Robert Sommers of the charges made by Charles Eversfield and David Sturdy in Mr. Bonner's office. The second was to tell when the attorney-general first became aware that Sommers had been taking money from Gray.

Mr. Gregory said only three people knew of the declaration made in Mr. Bonner's office by Charles Eversfield.

RATHER OBVIOUS

"It is rather obvious who told," he said. "So we have written into evidence of a civil case something given to the attorney-general, which got

into the hands of a colleague who used it to try to get money."

Mr. Gregory referred to the time Robert Sommers rose in the House and said he had done nothing wrong.

"What has become of the long-established principle in the House that members speak just the truth and we all believe?" asked Mr. Gregory.

"I can think of no one better than the prime minister (Bennett) to repudiate the man," Mr. Gregory challenged.

PREMIER SILENT

But Premier Bennett said nothing. He turned his chair around so his back was facing Mr. Gregory as he had done through most of his speech.

"Unless he repudiates him we can no longer accept the fact that only the truth is spoken in this House," Mr. Gregory again challenged and the premier carried on with a conversation with Highways Minister Gagliardi.

At one point in his speech Mr. Gregory said he would like the premier during his trip to Ottawa to look up the Victoria MP there and "punch him in the nose for me." But Mr. Gregory didn't get a chance to outline his reasons.

NEVER BE RUDE

"I would never be rude to him or any other member," Premier Bennett said.

Mr. Gregory said "the time has come for both labor and management to settle their disputes in a less warlike manner than in the past."

He said the Labor Relations Act should be changed so a strike vote is a vote to go on strike. "I do not advocate compulsory arbitration except in essential services," he said.

IS IT TOO BIG?

Mr. Gregory struck out at the connection of the B.C. Electric with Wenner-Gren interests. "I can't help wondering if the B.C. Electric has not gotten too big for its own good and the public good," he said.

He said he wouldn't be surprised if shares in the Peace River Power Development Company, which cost Wenner-Gren 33 cents and the B.C. Electric \$1, cost the general public \$10 when they are put on the general market.

"Anyone who thinks Wenner-Gren is here for our good is thoroughly mistaken," he said.

Gregory Tries

Can't Sell Cards

Victoria Liberal MLA George Gregory told the legislature yesterday he had been trying to sell membership tickets to the Social Credit League all weekend, but had found no takers.

At Friday's sitting, William Murray (S.C. Prince Rupert) recalled that Mr. Gregory had offered to be Works Minister Chant's campaign manager when Victoria gets its new courthouse. In the Throne Speech Thursday, a start on the courthouse was promised this year. Mr. Murray sent a book of Social Credit membership cards over to Mr. Gregory's desk.

OUT AND STUMP

"My recollection was that I said I would get out and stump for him when the courthouse was built," Mr. Gregory said yesterday.

"You are backing away fast," Mr. Chant retorted.

"We are in a pickle and we haven't got a Hansard," Mr. Gregory replied with a smile. "But no one has ever accused me of being a welcher."

Mr. Gregory said he started trying to sell cards on Saturday. "I am telling you, Mr. Chant, you and I are going to have a tough time to get you elected," he said. "We are going to have an uphill battle."

"Unless you change your attitude," laughed Mr. Chant.

(Full account of Mr. Gregory's speech on Page 13.)

Power Topic Today

Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston will outline the power policies and plans of the Social Credit government when he continues his speech in the Throne Speech debate in the legislature today.

Yesterday, Mr. Williston delivered the first part of his speech, largely a rebuttal of the scathing attack delivered on the government earlier by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

Mr. Williston said not one of Mr. Strachan's claims that the B.C. Power Commission was being "fatted for the kill" to be taken over by the B.C. Electric or Wenner-Gren interests could be substantiated.

When the full story of the power commission becomes known, he said, it will be anything but the story Mr. Strachan was trying to put over.

Referring to Mr. Strachan's criticism of a 17 per cent increase in freight rates on the government-owned PGE railway, Mr. Williston said it must follow the national railways in freight matters because it has to meet the same wage scales.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1959

SOLID SOCREB BLOC BEATS CCF RESIGNATION DEMAND



OPPOSITION LEADER
STRACHAN

'... promises, promises'

Strachan Flays Bennett Policy

By ALEC MERRIMAN

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan (CCF-Cowichan-Newcastle) yesterday delivered a lengthy denunciation of Social Credit government policy and attitude which at times had Premier Bennett and other cabinet ministers squirming in their seats.

At the end of his hard-hitting speech, Mr. Strachan called for a vote, asking for the resignation of the government and charging the government with mishandling the Sommers bribery-conspiracy charges.

MOTION DEFEATED

The non-confidence motion was defeated, 37-14. Liberals, CCF and the two independents voted together.

Strongest attack came on the mental health branch, but the CCF leader's speech ran the gamut through the imposition on the lieutenant-governor to ask him to read such a lengthy Throne Speech, the government's taking over of the Black Ball ferries under the Civil Defence Act, PGE freight rates, school budgets, power policies and power financing and the Sommers case.

BENNETT UNHAPPY

Several times Premier Bennett snapped back denials, questions and dares at the Opposition leader. The premier's face alternately was red, and all smiles. Part of the time the premier turned his back on Mr. Strachan and talked to Highways Minister Gagliardi. After 1½ hours of listening to the speech the premier left the House, obviously unhappy at the unrelenting attacks.

At one point, it looked like the premier might be goaded into an election this year, although he has repeatedly said there won't be an election.

CHANGE FORECAST

After hitting hard at the power commission refinancing controversy Mr. Strachan said: "One of these days there is going to be a change and there will be a government which believes in proper development of natural resources."

He mentioned the close results of the Trail byelection. "You are pretty scared right now, Mr. Premier," he taunted. "Are you asking for one," the premier shouted.

"Yes. You wouldn't dare," said Mr. Strachan.

FATTENED FOR KILL

Mr. Strachan charged the B.C. Power Commission was being "fatted for the kill" and that the "action of this government has brought the power commission to its knees. It has put the power commission in a position where it is fair game for the B.C. Electric and the Wenner-Gren interests."

He said the government should resign because its handling of the Sommers case has "made our province the laughing stock of Canada. It is no longer worthy of the confidence of the people."

But the government members were unshaken by the Opposition leader's words and stuck solidly together when the division bells sounded. If any government member had in mind crossing the floor of the House at this session the

Continued on Page 2

Mental Health Policy Flayed

Strachan Hits Out

Continued from Page 1

call for division was his opportunity to do so. And not one government member even absented himself from the floor of the House.

SLICK, SMOOTH

Mr. Strachan charged the Social Credit party "which came in with such pretensions, is now one of the slickest, smoothest political machines this province has ever had . . . promises, promises everywhere . . . we now have the same type of machine operating within the Sacred party as we condemned in the old-line parties."

He pointed out the 367 majority by which the Socreds won the Rossland-Trail by-election was a long way down from the 2,000 it won by in 1956.

"It seems now you don't even have to fool the majority of the people — just 30 per cent," Mr. Strachan said.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Strachan ran into trouble from Speaker Hugh Shantz when he attempted to discuss the Sommers case.

"You are not allowed to discuss anything given in evidence or which may be given in evidence at a retrial," Mr. Speaker said.

Gordon Dowding (CCF—Burnaby) jumped to his feet to protest the Speaker's ruling and Attorney-General Robert Bonner jumped up to agree with the Speaker.

"I suggest the speaker (Strachan) speak to this subject during discussion of my estimates when I may reply to him with the same heat with which he is addressing me," Mr. Bonner said.

"Are you not even going to allow a quote from a newspaper. This is the fourth session we have not been allowed to freely discuss this matter," Mr. Strachan said.

SPEAKER ADAMANT

The Speaker held fast to his ruling, but Mr. Strachan continued his attack on the attorney-general.

"Evidence at the trial showed how deeply the government was involved . . . there was mention in evidence of Social Credit party campaign funds and the like," Mr. Strachan charged. The Speaker then intervened.

Mr. Strachan charged the government "stalled and dawdled for 707 days before it

brought the matter out in the open by laying criminal charges.

"We of the CCF asked for an inquiry. We charged no one . . . we didn't ask for persecution either . . . serving a man a summons at 1.30 in the morning."

Of Sommers he charged the government with "roasting a man over a low fire . . . twisting a knife in his back . . . what he needed was protection from his friends."

"It is obvious the attorney-general has been deeply involved in this since the beginning. Just how deeply we didn't know until Mr. Sommers, himself, told the court he had been acting on the advice of the attorney-general," Mr. Strachan said.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mr. Strachan took a hard-hitting smash at the government's action in the field of mental health.

He said Provincial Secretary Wesley Black had, on the last days of the session last year, filed a report on mental health which showed cuts had been made in mental health services staffs . . . cuts which the minister had denied throughout the session.

Mr. Strachan quoted from the report and said the Provincial Secretary, in "deliberately" keeping it from the House was guilty of "manipulation of parliamentary procedure for political purposes." It was "a monstrous display of irresponsibility and shameful neglect," he said.

RAN FOR LIFE

"He tabled it on the last day of the House and then ran for his life," he said. The CCF leader looked at Mr. Black and said: "Had I been in your place, I would have tabled the report and ran, too."

"It is unfortunate a few dollars should stand in the way of greater progress . . . I challenge any member in this House to read the report and then brag about debt reduction . . . Don't brag to me about debt reduction when these conditions exist . . . I would resign in shame, especially if I had joked about the situation."

Mr. Strachan quoted at length from the report of Dr. A. H. Gee, who was director of mental health services when the report was tabled last session.

The report told of a 35.6 per

cent staff turnover and of general staff unrest and dissatisfaction. It said "the teams are not able to handle the volume of work referred to them." It said staff vacancies could have been filled if the salaries offered had more nearly equalled those prevailing in local agencies.

Mr. Strachan said there was no need for the American Psychiatric Association to make an investigation (the association is scheduled to start an inquiry soon on government request) because the mental services report tells exactly what is needed.

NOT INVITED

The Opposition leader said he wanted to put it on record that he did not get an invitation to go on the inaugural run of the PGE Railway "despite the statements made by high-priced public relations officials."

He criticized the government for increasing PGE freight rates after it had waged a fight to have no increase in national railway freight rates.

He got into an argument with Education Minister Leslie Peterson when he said he had not been able to get copies of school budgets from him.

HALF TRUTH

"The minister refused to make this information available to me," Mr. Strachan said.

"That's a half truth," Mr. Peterson retorted.

"The fact is I haven't got it," Mr. Strachan replied.

Mr. Strachan said he then wrote to all school boards and that Mr. Peterson got hold of the letter and wrote the school boards saying he didn't refuse him.

"That is false," Mr. Peterson replied.

"Will you let me have them," Mr. Strachan shot back. "He doesn't want the people of B.C. to correlate and gather the information," he said.

On power, Mr. Strachan said it was "time the B.C. Electric lost an election in this province." He said it looked like the power commission was being "fattened up for the kill, so that when the time comes it can be turned over to a private company."

"The answer is no," interjected the premier.

Continued on Page 2

Bitter MLAs Plead In Vain for Debate

Opposition members of the legislature were thwarted last night in a long, strong and bitter attempt to have unemployment problems debated immediately on the floor of the House rather than by the select standing committee on labor.

For more than three hours CCF and Liberal members pleaded, begged and threatened the government members to let the legislative assembly as a whole debate unemployment.

FILIBUSTER

Member after member on both sides of the House rose to speak. It was almost a filibuster.

"Problems like this transcend all political parties. As far as I am concerned when unemployment is before this House there is only one party—the people's party," Randolph Harding (CCF—Kaslo-Slocan) argued.

AMENDMENT LOST

A CCF amendment to have the House as a whole discuss unemployment was defeated late last night by 34 to 12. Still later, at 11.25 p.m., the original motion to have the committee on labor meet to discuss employment was passed unanimously.

Government members, led by Premier Bennett, did their best to stop debate on the unemployment subject and then Attorney-General Bonner paved the way for it to continue.

HOW IT STARTED

The subject arose when, after the Throne Speech adjournment, Labor Minister Wicks moved a resolution to have the select standing committee on labor convene to hear submissions from interested parties on measures to promote employment and to report its findings to the House.

SPEAKER INTERVENES

John Squire (CCF, Alberni) rose to speak to the question and said: "If this government is serious let it indicate to the committee how much money it is prepared to spend." He started to propose an amendment.

The time was 6 p.m. and Speaker Hugh Shantz interrupted and said: "The House is recessed until 8 p.m."

FIREWORKS START

The fireworks really started as the House reconvened at 8 when Premier Bennett said it was an adjournment and the House would have to go with the Throne Speech debate. The unemployment question couldn't come up.

"I am asking the premier to be intellectually honest," Robert Strachan, opposition leader, shouted across the floor at the premier.

"Shame, shame," came the cries from the government benches.

WITHDRAW DEMAND

"Withdraw," the premier demanded.

"If you think it is an inference, I will certainly withdraw it," Mr. Strachan said under pressure.

The Speaker then ruled the Throne Speech debate should continue.

Opposition members argued a recess had been called and the unemployment debate should continue. George Gregory (Lib-Victoria) challenged the Speaker's ruling, but lost when division were called.

BONNER'S MOVE

Attorney-General Bonner then rose to deliver his speech in the Throne Speech debate. He spoke for a few minutes on what he intended to say the next day and then moved to adjourn until the sitting of the House today.

Mr. Strachan jumped to his feet and asked about the labor debate. "I am anxious to have it clarified. How do we extract it out of limbo?" he asked.

RECESSED

The House was recessed for 15 minutes while the Speaker studied his former ruling.

He returned and said he would support his regular ruling because when he recessed the House at 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. he in effect brought it into another sitting. If he had recessed it until anytime before 8 p.m., the debate on unemployment could have continued.

"I now call on the member from Alberni to resume the interrupted debate," he said.

Mr. Squire then moved an amendment to Mr. Wick's motion that instead of the unemployment situation being referred to the select standing committee on labor it be referred to the House as a committee.

HOW MUCH AVAILABLE?

"What point is there in this committee if we have no idea how much money is available," he said.

Herbert Bruch (SC—Esquimalt) said he opposed the amendment because the committee would be able to hear reports from many groups and organizations interested in the unemployment problems and with ideas to help solve it. "If we were to go to the House we would be refusing these people the right to be heard," he said.

LACK OF COURTESY

Tony Gargrave (CCF—MacKenzie) started off by attacking the premier.

"I think the premier has tried to intimidate the Opposition," he said. "Frankly I am fed up with the lack of courtesy from the premier. That is the way I feel. This House can't function without that courtesy."

He said he "would have hoped the government would have come to this House with a plan to combat unemployment."

"Here we are one full year after throwing the same resolution to the same committee which is going to bring the same group of businessmen before it that it heard last year," Mr. Harding said.

WHOLE DAY ASKED

He said the unemployment situation "is far more serious than we realize." He suggested the legislature set aside a day to discuss it and then go into the labor committee and get down to brass tacks to pull this province out of the tailspin it has gone into.

Attorney-General Bonner said unemployment could be discussed by any member in the Throne Speech debate and, in fact, he intends to refer to it today.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1959

EMPLOYMENT ON VAST SCALE RESULT OF B.C. DEBT SLASH

Bennett Defends Policies In First Night Sitting

Premier Bennett said Tuesday night that the debt-reduction policy of his Social Credit government has created employment on a vast scale.

Rising in a debate on unemployment as the legislature engaged in its first night sitting of the new session, the premier mentioned the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, the B.C. Power Commission works, the purchase of the Lion's Gate bridge and the huge Deas Island tunnel project, and declared:

"We wouldn't have been able to take on these projects, to give this employment if we hadn't reduced our net debt."

ARM-SWINGING

The premier, in good voice and arm-swinging mood, was answering CCF opposition criticisms that his government actually created unemployment by cutting governmental staff.

He said the opposition knew nothing about economics, about the creation of employment.

If the government had "played politics like other political parties, we would let the debt soar." But his government was "planning for 20 years from now because, as I have said before, we are going to be the government of this province for the next 50 years."

Labor for Wenner-Gren In North, Says MLA

Hugh Shirreff (SC-Skeena) told opposition members in the legislature yesterday that if they keep on opposing the Wenner-Gren development of the Peace

River, the 10 Social Credit members of the northern interior "will be here for a long time."

"You claim to represent labor. You don't represent labor where I come from

because labor there wants this development," he told the CCF members.

"We do not take kindly to this . . . talk down . . . and talk against this great development," he said.

Williston Says:

Top Power Policy Affecting B.C. Must Be Resolved

The time for a specific declaration of top power policy for British Columbia is fast approaching, lands and forests minister Ray Williston told the legislature yesterday.

But, he said, the next step in B.C.'s power development will not come until agreement has been reached on the Columbia River or a decision has been reached on the Peace River.

In his outline of the power requirements of B.C., Mr. Williston said:

1. The Peace River is fairly simple in execution when compared to the Fraser or Columbia Rivers.

2. Within one month specific sites will be chosen for detailed engineering work on the Peace.

3. Transmission of power from the Peace to Lower Mainland is a real challenge to free enterprise, but transmission specialists with international reputations say it can be done.

4. Users of large quantities of low-cost electricity will be given time to establish in the north.

5. No single project has united the residents of the northern area more than the

prospect of Peace River power with the resultant industrial activity which will naturally follow.

6. Perhaps nothing is more difficult than to convince the people living in southern British Columbia that fair-minded encouragement rather than condemnation should be given those who exercise vision, backed by a faith which they are willing to support with dollars, for Peace River development.

7. The province will be in a critical power position in six or seven years.

8. The province, because of the Peace, is in a much stronger bargaining position now, but the need for electricity in B.C. could, before the Peace, have forced development of the Columbia on the best downstream benefit terms the province could negotiate under emergency circumstances.

9. At present there is no hydro development of any significance throughout the entire north-central region.

Job Producing Need

10. There is a growing need for developments which will create jobs, and in an atomic age decentralization of production is essential.

11. Three years of detailed engineering work are still required before it will be definitely known whether the Fraser River power and flood control development proposed by the Fraser River Board can actually be constructed.

12. The federal government has never made any proposal for a development on the Columbia River.

13. Report of the International Joint Commission on the Columbia River has apparently been submitted to the federal government, but not to British Columbia.

14. The very fine liaison on the Columbia problem, which had been established on the technical level with British Columbia and the federal authorities, became ineffective when the Conservatives took power.

15. B.C.'s own Crippen-Wright report has been received, but there is no use sowing seeds of conflict in Canada by taking up an established position in British Columbia prior to the presentation of the report of the International Board of Engi-

neers to the International Joint Commission next March.

Mr. Williston said the provincial government had initiated a study of future power needs for this province which showed that an annual average increase in the use of electrical energy in the order of 9.6 per cent can be expected until 1975. After that the annual compounded increase will be not less than 4.7 per cent.

The whole provincial use of electricity at the end of 1958 was about 11,700,000,000 kilowatt hours—more than three times the consumption in 1948.

Demands on Vancouver Island and mainland systems are expected to increase beyond presently planned projects in a very short time, Mr. Williston said.

He said plants now under construction in B.C. should provide an additional 4,200,000,000 kilowatt hours of energy by the end of 1961, bringing total available to 16,000,000,000 kilowatt hours annually.

This, Mr. Williston said, is not expected to satisfy demands at that time—likely to exceed 18,000,000,000 kilowatt hours in 1961.

By 1975 requirements will have risen to 50,000,000,000 kilowatt hours annually, Mr. Williston predicted.

'Many Disturbing Problems' in Economy --- Bonner

Job Conference

Overdue

Attorney-General Robert Bonner said yesterday that a federal-provincial conference on unemployment and the national economy is overdue.

He said national conditions could not be improved, other than by accident, if the 10 provincial governments and the federal government pursue individual and possibly divergent policies.

Mr. Bonner, who spoke in the Throne Speech debate in the legislature yesterday, mainly in his capacity as trade minister, indicated that British Columbia and Canada will have to follow the lead of the United States in solving unemployment problems.

BEST CUSTOMER

"Our dependence upon foreign matters cannot be over-emphasized," he said. "The United States remains by far our best customer."

"In addition to corrective measures which we can employ within the nation or in this province, we must look to the commercial health of the United States. Their current experience, therefore, is worth our experience."

CONFIDENCE, PROBLEMS

"We begin 1959 with great confidence for the future, but with many disturbing problems apparent in our general economy," Mr. Bonner said.

During 1958, he said, the best months saw more than five per cent of our labor force unemployed and 10.5 per cent unemployed during the worst months.

BRIGHTER SIDE

He said conditions improved in December when national figures disclosed 47,000 without jobs and seeking work in British Columbia and, "on the brighter side, we had employed in total 15,000 more than for the same period last year."

Mr. Bonner said the national total for mid-December was 440,000 a post-war record representing 7.2 per cent of the labor force.

LARGE INCREASE

In December, American unemployment increased by 300,000 to a total of 4,100,000, representing 6.3 per cent of the labor force.

But he noted that the U.S. was pulling itself out of the recession with 64,000,000 now employed as against 62,000,000 at the worst of the recession.

Mr. Bonner said it is foreseeable the United States will end its fiscal year with a \$12,000,000,000 deficit and that the

Canadian government is running a deficit in recent months of \$100,000,000 a month.

ALREADY ALARMED

He said both countries could learn something from the United Kingdom, which is already alarmed over unemployment totalling 500,000 people or two per cent of the labor force.

Mr. Bonner answered charges made earlier by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan concerning the 17-per-cent freight rate increase

which followed the same increase imposed by the national railways.

He said PGE wage rates are the same paid on the national lines.

LESSER SHARE

For the most part, he said, the PGE is a feeder line to Canadian or American lines and if the freight rates were lower, the PGE would receive a lesser share of the "through rates" on national lines.

He said the rate increase only hits five per cent of the

principal PGE users, because 95 per cent would be under the through rates levy.

NATIONAL PROBLEM

Mr. Bonner expressed concern over the national freight rate problem and said that since a 21-per-cent increase in 1948 brought the dollar rate to \$1.21, successive increases have jumped the dollar rate to \$2.57.

On industrial expansion, he said annual investment in British Columbia has been \$1,000,000,000 "which is a siz-

able expression of confidence."

"A remarkable upsurge in residential and institutional investment was accompanied by a gratifying boost in capital expansion of transportation and utility companies," he said.

He said another international trade fair is planned in Vancouver in 1961 and that the first industrial and trade conference, sponsored by the department of trade and commerce, will be held in Vancouver in May.

Appeals
Switch
Urged

A strong plea for an independent tribunal to hear appeals of Workmen's Compensation Board decisions was made in the provincial legislature yesterday by John Squire (CCF-Alberni).

He said that now a person appealing a compensation board decision has to appeal to the same people who originally made the decision.

Adjectives
Improper

Speaker of the legislature Hugh Shantz yesterday warned MLAs to watch their adjectives during speeches.

He said adjectives used by both sides of the House had not been exactly in accordance with proper parliamentary procedure.

Name-calling started early this session.

Bad Manners

PRESUMABLY it would be a tame session of the Legislature if no voices were raised in emphasis, if no passion were aroused, if there were no give and take of honest and robust debate. A touch of verbal dynamism gives strength and force to discussion, particularly when members are moved by the sincerity of their convictions. Noise and rudeness apparently for its own sake is a different matter, however.

MLAs are elected to legislate for the good of the province as a whole. Theoretically then they should approach their task with a large measure of even temper, with respect for the gravity of the problems involved, with some indication of maturity of both judgment and manners. In practice one would sometimes doubt if these considerations loom very large.

Members quite obviously turn up primed to do battle. This is what is called the party game, and it seems inevitable to our political system. The opposition is bent on discrediting the government on every point, great and small, while for its part the government is bent equally on scoring off its opponents. No other existing

organization of mankind would approach its duties in this frame of mind, but happily enough the system works.

It would work much better however if there were less personal insult and invective handled around. In the Ottawa house the same kind of rude conduct is often to be noticed, but that adds no grace to the James Bay scene. Grown men even if of differing political persuasions should be able to meet and argue their points of view without behaving—as sometimes they do—like spoiled children. Some of the remarks exchanged, and the general attitude of disrespect for opposing views and opinions, are in fact most depressing when set against the importance of the matters involved.

Possibly this adds to the "liveliness" of the session and no doubt it entertains the gallery spectators, but it is a queer way for adults to undertake what after all are grave responsibilities. It would be refreshing if there were more reasoned and serious discussion and less bad-mannered quibbling and offensive phrase. Sometimes a little more ordinary courtesy would enhance the dignity of the Legislature.

cing Need

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Thousands at Stake

Make Timber Firm Pay Up Alberni Member Urges B.C.

John Squire (CCF-Alberni) called on the provincial government, Wednesday, to force a big timber company to pay taxes on its property in Al-

berni, if the company doesn't voluntarily pay up.

The company is MacMillan and Bloedel Ltd., with whom the City of Alberni entered an agreement in 1946 to assess company property \$800,000 a year for 20 years. The Legislature endorsed the city's action.

But now, Mr. Squire told the legislature the city is being forced under the provincial Equalization of Assessment Act to collect 12 mills on the company's property, now valued at more than \$31,000,000.

LOSE THOUSANDS

The Alberni school district stood to lose thousands in revenue unless action was taken. Justice could be done, Mr. Squire said, either by the company voluntarily offering to "pay taxes on the full assessment or by the government taking action."

He felt the company had a deep moral responsibility. But the legislature too had been party to the original agreement then later had changed the assessment laws.

SHARP PENCIL

"This company by virtue of a very sharp pencil and an accumulation of very brilliant minds have systematically shifted their own tax load and social responsibilities onto the treasuries of Alberni and Port Alberni," Mr. Squire charged.

He said Port Alberni was only asking for school taxes, based on a minimum 12-mill rate on fully assessed value of lands and improvements, but had made no claim on \$250,000 to \$300,000 in general taxes.

SUPREME COURT

The fixed assessment agreement will probably be tested before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Last week the Appeal Court in Victoria upheld the company's argument against the B.C. Supreme Court decision of Mr. Justice Arthur Lord who, on Oct. 14, 1958, decided in favor of the city in the case involving some \$5,000,000.

Reasons for the Appeal Court's decision have not yet been released.

PERSONAL OPINION

Mayor Loran Jordan, of Port Alberni said it was his personal opinion that the city should go "all the way and file an appeal in the Supreme Court of Canada."

The dispute involves the right of the city to collect school taxes on property covered by the fixed assessment agreement. The corporation contends that the province's Equalization of Assessment Act had abrogated the agreement in so far as it concerns the levy for school purposes. Mr. Justice Lord supported the city's contention when M. and B. took the matter to court.

AGREED TO PAY

Before appealing the judge's decision, the company agreed to pay some \$300,000, the entire amount in dispute for 1958. The company also agreed to pay an amount equal to the school taxes in 1959, which would be collectable if the fixed assessment agreement had not been in effect. It further agreed to pay all the city's legal costs in the Appeal Court and Supreme Court if the case were taken to Ottawa.

The fixed assessment agreement expires in 1965. It involves property on which the company has since built its multi-million dollar pulp and paper mill.

Friendship Flowering?

Attorney-General Bonner was wearing a boutonniere when he delivered his speech in the legislature yesterday and he told the members it was a gift from Victoria Liberal MLA George Gregory.

Mr. Gregory has been a consistent opponent of Mr. Bonner, especially in connection with the Sommers case.

"It appears the possibility exists in which we may bury the hatchet other than in each other's head," Mr. Bonner quipped.

Industry in Gutter, Says MLA

B.C. Should Bond Used Car Dealers

A Vancouver MLA told the legislature yesterday it was time "the used car industry was raised out of the gutter."

Alex Matthew (SC-Vancouver Centre) said it could be done if the government would act to bond used car dealers like it does real estate dealers. This would protect the public against unscrupulous operators.

He said many Vancouver citizens were being victimized by used car dealers. The Better Business Bureau there had

found that 10 per cent of the used car dealers were "dishonest." Another 20 per cent were "just on the verge of respectability." One judge had described dealers brought before him as "cold-blooded" and deceitful.

Mr. Matthew, speaking in the throne speech debate, said he agreed with the judge.

Alberta required a \$10,000 bond from used car dealers, Mr. Matthew said. It was time British Columbia raised "the used car industry out of the gutter."

Pay Up B.C.

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Chant Looks Ahead

Varsity, Hall For City

Public Works Minister Chant told the legislature last night that he envisages an auditorium for Victoria in the "not far distant future," but he didn't say if it would be built with provincial government aid.

He also forecast a university and a museum in Victoria in the future.

"An auditorium could bring a great deal of revenue to Victoria through entertainments and conventions," he said.

Socreds Claim Credit

Credit for yesterday's news that the U.S. has given tacit agreement to downstream benefits on the Columbia was given yesterday by Works Minister Chant to Premier Bennett and Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston.

(See Page 2)

"It is a major victory for B.C.," he said. "It is indisputable evidence of what we are accomplishing. Canada will benefit, but B.C. fought for it."

Socreds claim proposals for development of Peace River gave bargaining strength for Columbia River downstream benefits.

Smith to Ask B.C. Intervention If Parking Vote Plea Ignored

J. Donald Smith, Victoria Social Credit MLA and former Victoria alderman, said in the provincial legislature yesterday that if Victoria city council does not re-submit to the

electors its \$1,000,000 off-street parking bylaw he will ask the minister of municipal affairs to intervene.

He said the scheme will cost \$750,000 in interest charges.

He said he is trying to get

council to present the bylaw again, but if it doesn't he will ask the municipal affairs minister to order it to put the question to another vote.

(See other Smith stories on Pages 2 and 7.)

Alberni

Socred Backs CCFer

A Victoria Social Credit MLA, J. Donald Smith, last night put his support behind CCFer John Squire in his plea for help to Alberni and Port Alberni in their predicament of having a fixed assessment of \$800,000 on \$32,000,000 worth of MacMillan & Bloedel properties in those cities.

"I believe all municipalities should assist Port Alberni in taking this to the Supreme Court of Canada for a decision," he said.

"Victoria," he said, "has many fixed assessments—the grain elevator, the Empress Hotel. Why the city fathers have not pursued this, I don't know, but there is a pursuit of home-owners for taxes."

"If this Port Alberni case does go to the Supreme Court of Canada and the company wins the case, then we should have legislation to protect, not only Port Alberni, but all cities and municipalities."

Cause of Blight, Says Smith

Tax Relief Urged On Older Homes

Tax concessions for owners of older-type homes who seek to make improvements were urged in the provincial legislature yesterday by J. Donald Smith (SC-Victoria).

He said that Victoria, especially, is faced "with the very great and pressing problem in regard to the deterioration of our older homes."

"Most of these were once impressive and fine old buildings, but over the past 40 to 60 years, they have deteriorated—that deterioration being compounded year by year."

He said the plague on older houses today is lack of repair and there is a financial in-

ability on the part of owners to repair them.

"In order to clear our slums and blighted areas and to improve our communities, we must eliminate the causes of slums and blight."

"The owners of these properties have a hard time making ends meet—what with taxes, utilities, fuels and the like," he said. "They have a harder time scraping up money for improvements."

But when they do improve their older houses "along comes the assessor and much higher taxes on top of everything else."

He said owners feel they are much better off leaving their property "as is," rather than inviting higher taxes.

He asked the legislature to give the right to municipalities to enact bylaws that "would say to owners of these properties, 'if you take out improvement permits at any time during the next two years, then we shall grant you tax exemption for a period of, say, five years on the amount of improvement.'"

Little Man Squeezed Out—Bruch

Orchards Big Enough

Herbert Bruch (SC—Esquimalt) rose in the legislature last night to criticize the recent royal commission report on B.C.'s tree-fruit industry.

He said the report turned in by Dean E. D. MacPhee recommending bigger fruit holdings and bigger loans to fruit farmers, was "not a satisfactory solution."

In fact, he saw it as another step in the trend by which "the little fellow is being squeezed out." It smacked of socialism.

He doubted if orchards should be bigger—10 acres or more as recommended in the

report. Bigger loans weren't the solution either.

Small holdings presented the present-day worker on a fixed income the best opportunity to supplement that income. If operations kept getting bigger and bigger "we eventually will have one of those Russian and Chinese operations."

Mr. Bruch said he could not see subsidization for the fruit farmer unless the government was prepared to subsidize

every other type of operation. If the fruit farmer got it, others would scream for it.

Woman MLA Charges:

'Obsession' Hits Social Services

Mrs. Lois Hagen (CCF, Grand Forks Greenwood) told the legislature yesterday that decreased social services in B.C. are the "direct result of Premier Bennett's obsession with creating what he calls a debt-free province."

Speaking in the Throne Speech debate, the lady member said she could not calmly contemplate what the results of this policy would be if it continued for another year or two.

The late Sir Richard McBride took over a debt-ridden province more than 40 years ago and in two years had ended its indebtedness. But he was not best remembered for that.

GOOD IN PRINCIPLE

"Debt reduction is good in principle and all governments believe in it by making provision for normal debt retirement," she said. "But I don't think it is good that debt reduction should be accelerated with the object of its coinciding with a probable election."

"I do not think it is good when it is done at the expense of human welfare..."

Mrs. Hagen welcomed the government's proposal to expand facilities for the education and training of mentally retarded children. But she said the government should go a step further and establish a "seminar for parents of mentally retarded children, designed to meet the various problems encountered by parents in the care and man-

agement of the retarded child."

The seminar could establish a program of lectures, group counselling and demonstration sessions by professionally-trained and experienced leaders.

She believed there "must be parents in rural areas who need help with their problems and who are finding a considerable physical and emotional burden."

"This aid to the parents should be carried out along with any contemplated program for the children."

In the Legislature

Waldo, Cows, Docks, Fumes

Works Minister W. N. Chant referred to Opposition Leader Robert Strachan's complaint of not getting an invitation to the inaugural PCE trip.

"He didn't earn it," quipped Health Minister Eric Martin from across the floor.

"How did Waldo Skillings earn it?" snapped back Mr. Strachan.

Mr. Skillings was a guest on the trip and is a close friend of Premier Bennett.

Public Works Minister Chant suggested that exhaust fumes from trucks and buses could cause cancer.

He said no heavy vehicle should be allowed to operate on B.C. highways unless its exhaust pipe was eight feet from the ground.

He said trucks and buses with exhaust pipes coming from beneath were almost nauseating to drivers behind them.

Herbert Bruch (SC-Esquimalt) last night asked for a change in the pound law to make owners of cows and other animals responsible for keeping their animals at home.

"It is ridiculous that people have to build fences to keep out one or two cows in the Esquimalt district," he said.

He also asked that the B.C. Government Travel Bureau, now on Superior Street, be moved to where it would be handy to tourists.

Labor Minister Wicks envisaged a great dock and wharfing area along the Fraser River up to Mission City.

"There is no reason why the banks of the Fraser could not become the second city of London with docks and wharf facilities as far inland as Mission City, 35 to 40 miles upstream, or even farther."

Randolph Harding, the likable CCFer representing Kaslo-Slocan, is rapidly becoming the legislature's "golden-haired boy."

Tuesday night he won compliments from both Premier Bennett and Attorney-General Bonner, and the approval of public gallery spectators, when he said he considered the unemployment situation above politics.

Yesterday he was heaped with praise by J. Donald Smith (SC, Victoria), Works Minister Chant (SC, Victoria) and Herbert Bruch (SC, Esquimalt).

"He has something on the ball," Mr. Chant said.

"He makes it a more stately legislature," said Mr. Smith.

"I am not joining your party," replied Mr. Harding, obviously embarrassed.

MLA Seeks Rights Bill Conference

A federal-provincial conference to prepare an outline of necessary changes in provincial legislation which would affect a national bill of rights, is being sought by Oak Bay Liberal MLA Archie Gibbs.

Mr. Gibbs said the bill of rights legislation now being considered in Ottawa could interfere with provincial rights, especially in the field of labor.

Cattle Study Set for B.C.

A complete economic study of British Columbia's cattle ranching industry will be undertaken this spring, just as early as weather conditions permit, Agriculture Minister Steacy announced Thursday.

He said the study will be conducted by the B.C. staff of the federal department of agriculture's economics division.

Provincial Buildings Galore

W. N. Chant told the legislature last night that since he has been minister of public works the government has built major buildings on an average of one every five weeks.

Ready Soon for Briefs

House Labor Group Sets Hearings Date

The legislative assembly's standing committee on labor is expected to start hearing briefs from interested groups by Wednesday.

W. H. Murray (SC-Prince

Rupert) was yesterday elected chairman of the labor committee, which will hold an organizational meeting today, to decide what groups and individuals should be invited to appear before it.

Cows, Fumes

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Advisory Board Hinted by Wicks

By ALEC MERRIMAN

Labor Minister Lyle Wicks delivered a 90-minute speech in the legislature yesterday, but what he didn't say was more important than what he did say.



LYLE WICKS
... whisper or shout?

He talked about Gen. Charles de Gaulle, NATO, municipal affairs, the Mission tree farm, centennial safety awards, the Second Narrows bridge collapse, Indians and labor relations.

But he said nothing about new labor legislation and nothing about giving full liquor rights to Indians, two things that had been expected from the labor minister. He advanced no plan for relieving unemployment.

Only thing that could be construed as even a hint of new labor legislation was an interest he expressed in establishment of a labor advisory council, similar to one in Australia.

But, he said, establishment of a labor advisory council in British Columbia depends on finding men of such high calibre and so dedicated they are

prepared to put their country or their state first.

Mr. Wicks said he believed there are such men and women. "I believe they are among us in large numbers, but will they make known in a strong clear voice their deepest convictions?"

His support for a labor advisory council appeared to be more "the flying of a kite" to get opinion from labor and management than a serious indication of impending labor legislation.

"Will the reply be a whisper or a shout?" he asked.

Mr. Wicks admitted his department looks upon existing labor problems with anxiety "and we have been called upon by many for action," but he threw the ball back to labor and management.

Federal Policies Lashed

Mr. Wicks lashed out hard at federal fiscal policies and praised the provincial government's debt reduction policies.

He said 1960 will see the end of B.C.'s net debt which will free \$20,000,000 a year formerly used to pay interest charges. He said that money will then be used for work-creating projects, to augment social services and other desirable benefits.

He said the total interest bill of the federal government this year will be about \$629,000,000.

"Ottawa seems bent on loading Canadians with debt—so much that every Canadian family will this year be required to pay approximately \$148 in taxes for interest and servicing charges.

"I'm sure if every family was billed each year for this amount, the practice of piling up debt would quickly stop."

On municipalities, Mr. Wicks said in 1943-44 government assistance to local areas amounted to \$3,500,000, but that in 1958-59 it "will amount to the astonishing sum of \$63,000,000."

He said that the provincial Indian Advisory Committee has now adopted a policy of rotating its membership, which will mean that periodically new faces will be added to the committee.

"In this way new and perhaps broader points of view will be obtained to guide the government on matters pertinent to this committee," he said.

He said "the government of

this province and the people are looking forward to the day when Indians, through increasing education, vocational training and other means, will be integrated into the life of the province in a much fuller degree than they are at present."

Re-examine Position, Attitudes

"Perhaps labor and management should take a very careful look at their method of operation and, even more pertinent, perhaps re-examine their own position and attitudes," he said.

He said many briefs had been presented with many employers and individuals recommending compulsory arbitration and labor saying it is unalterably opposed to compulsory arbitration.

He said the case was different in Britain where trade unionists protested a government plan to end compulsory arbitration in the form of industrial dispute courts.

"British Columbia is in the peculiar position of being out of step. Here we have free enterprisers advocating compulsory measures and labor supporting an opposite position to its brothers across the sea."

He said the Australian government's labor advisory council "seems to me to carry considerable merit."

He explained it consists of three nominees of labor and three from the business world under chairmanship of the minister of labor. It meets quarterly and studies matters of public interest and concern in the field of labor-management relations such as unemployment, employment trends, economic conditions, productivity, automation and labor relations.

Mr. Wicks said experience in province of advisory boards "unfortunately has not always been a happy one. Some boards have been used as political sounding boards and therefore have not fulfilled the purpose for which they were set up."

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In the Legislature

Long Faces Greet Night-Work News

There were long faces among MLAs in the legislative buildings yesterday when it was learned there will be at least three night sittings next week—Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

On top of that, committees are expected to get down to serious business and MLAs will be working close to 15-hour days.

Scheduled to speak Monday are Agriculture Minister Newton Steacy, New Westminster CCFer Rae Eddle and Soerds Dan Campbell of Comox, John Tisdalle of Saanich, Cyril Sheldford of Omineca, Donald Robinson of Lillooet and Harold Roche of North Peace River.

On Tuesday Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi will start off, with Gordon Dowding (CCF—Burnaby), Archie Gibbs (L—Oak Bay) and I. F. Corbett (SC—Yale) speaking in the afternoon. In the evening Bert Price (SC—Vancouver-Burrard), N. George Massey (SC—Delta) and Mel Bryan (Ind—North Vancouver) will speak.

Education Minister Leslie Peterson told the legislature yesterday he was annoyed with Opposition Leader Robert Strachan for sending letters to school boards saying the minister had refused him copies of school board budgets. "I told him we considered

them property of the school boards, but gave him names and addresses of school board secretaries," Mr. Peterson said.

"I can assure him I will be continuing to deal with him at arm's length, and from now on he can get what information he wants from the floor of the House."

"You are going to refuse me information," snapped Mr. Strachan.

CCF members were a little worried about the loyalties of Gordon Dowding (CCF—Burnaby) for a while yesterday.

Education Minister Peterson, rapping Opposition Leader Strachan for his comments about not being able to get information from the education department, said he had always encouraged opposition members to ask for whatever information they wished.

"I've been there," said Mr. Dowding from across the floor. "And you had a good reception?" Mr. Peterson asked.

"Darn right," said Mr. Dowding.

"Whose side are you on?" asked several CCF members.

"The way we try to cure unemployment is like trying to cure smallpox . . . by treating each pimple," said Leo Nimsick (CCF—Cranbrook).

"We must do something to find a permanent solution. It is no use hiding our heads in the sand any longer."

He said there are a lot of unemployed people who should be attending college, but if they do they can't collect unemployment insurance.

Answer to a question by Oak Bay Liberal MLA Archie Gibbs has disclosed that a Vancouver firm headed by Derek M. Gunderson has purchased almost 100 acres of Crown land adjacent to the PGE near Whytecliffe, for \$95 an acre.

Derek Gunderson is son of Einar Gunderson, PGE executive vice-president, a director of the Highways and Toll Bridges Authority and a close associate of Premier Bennett.

Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston said the sale was advertised and there were two bids.

High Premium Injustice To Youths

It's "rank discrimination" to make youths up to 25 years of age pay higher car insurance rates, Leo Nimsick (CCF-Cranbrook) told the legislature yesterday.

"If a person doesn't drive properly, take away his driver's licence," he said. But many of these boys are good drivers, responsible men and married men with families—I don't think it is right."

"It is definitely wrong to let the insurance companies decide," he added. "If you are a risk, you shouldn't be driving."

Mr. Nimsick took a sidelong swipe at Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi.

THROW THE BOOK

"Our own cabinet minister has been convicted for speeding three times," he said. "If someone in my area were caught three times, they would throw the book at him."

"It's two laws. For a minister of the cabinet, three times is too many. It is going to be pretty hard to tell young people of our province that 'speed kills' if we are going to do it ourselves."

Mr. Nimsick also criticized

the law whereby a jail sentence is mandatory for a person convicted for the second time for impaired driving.

"There should be a cutoff period. If a person goes two years or some particular time without an accident, I don't think a jail sentence should be mandatory."

CCF-Type Socialism Criticized

The CCF brand of socialism was sharply criticized in the legislature yesterday by J. A. Reid (SC—Salmon Arm).

A pointer to the way things were going, he said, was the fact that the CCF government of Saskatchewan now was "appealing" to private enterprise to get it out of a hole.

On the question of power, he urged all parties to join in a united front to ensure that B.C. got "a proper deal" on downstream benefits on the proposed Columbia River power development.

Strachan Bi

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Just Call Me Spang Bang

Eric Gault, of Cawston, B.C., in the southern Okanagan, has applied to change his name to Spang Bang.

His application appeared this week in the B.C. Gazette.

Loans to Students Easier to Obtain In New B.C. Plan

Education Minister Leslie Peterson told the legislature yesterday that a completely new scheme of financial assistance to university students will be presented in the form of new legislation.

He indicated part of the scheme would include setting up a fund from which students could borrow without putting up security for repayment.

He also said that during the course of budget debate a plan of increased grants to universities will be disclosed. Mr. Peterson didn't say whether Victoria College would be included in the increased grants, but the Throne Speech specifically mentioned the College.

CAREER INVESTMENT

"I am not one of those who subscribes to the view university education should be absolutely free to the student," Mr. Peterson said. "I believe that every student should be called upon to make some investment in his future career."

It is not fair, he said, to call upon the taxpayer, many of whom have not had the advantages of a higher education, to pay the entire cost of educating his fellow man in university.

ASSISTANCE ROCKETS

He said that during the Social Credit term of office the amount of financial assistance made available from tax revenue to students by way of loans and bursaries has increased by well over 300 per cent.

Taxpayers in British Columbia, he said, are contributing more money through the provincial government to the university than taxpayers in any other province.

ATTRACT ABLEST

More scholarships should be made available and academic achievement must be recognized by society to the end that the university will attract the ablest young people.

Mr. Peterson said there is still not a large enough fund from which students can borrow without putting up security for repayment.

MORE IMPORTANT

He said that "more important than the division of the budget between student fees and government grants is the principle that everyone with the necessary ability, who wants to undertake university studies, should be at liberty to do so without regard to his financial standing or that of his parents."

University of British Columbia will receive a grant of \$4,334,000 this year, the education minister disclosed.

He said legislation will be introduced this session to expand the provisions for the education and training of mentally retarded children.

Provision for per capita grants on behalf of children being trained in schools operated by local chapters of the Association for Retarded Children of B.C. were introduced in

1956 by the Social Credit government.

"As a result 300 to 400 children per year are receiving the benefit of this training," he said.

STEP FORWARD

"Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to say that the day has now arrived when we take another step forward in the education of the mentally retarded child."

Mr. Peterson said an impartial and objective survey to determine requirements for advanced technical training in British Columbia will be made soon by a technical specialist and assistant from Ottawa, who are being made available by the federal government at no cost to the province.

ASCERTAIN NEED

He said the survey will ascertain the need in the field of trained personnel who rank between skilled trades level and the professional level.

"We frequently hear that there is a shortage in Canada of professional engineers, but the view now is being expressed that the real problem in this country is not a shortage of engineers, but a misuse of engineers, and that the cure for this difficulty is to provide more technicians," he said.

Mr. Peterson said that in the 1958-59 fiscal year \$225,000 will be spent to provide financial help for students undertaking vocational training other than in high schools.

Strachan Bids for Job

Gregory Fails In Socred Sales

Works Minister W. N. Chant told the legislature Thursday that Liberal George Gregory had failed as his campaign manager.

He offered the job to Opposition Leader Robert Strachan, who said he is "willing to stand up any time to describe the Social Credit party."

Mr. Chant apparently didn't like the tone of the word "describe."

"He apparently is not willing and I doubt if I would accept him after the Trail by-election," the minister said.

The by-play started when George Gregory last weekend undertook to sell Social Credit League membership tickets for Mr. Chant to fulfill a

promise he would be Mr. Chant's campaign manager if he built a courthouse in Victoria.

Mr. Gregory didn't sell one ticket. He claimed it wasn't his salesmanship, but rather the product that caused him to fail as campaign manager.