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Friday, January 22, 1965

Throne speech Mini-medicare slated for low income groups

Bank bill is vague

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government hinted it is planning a new approach to the controversial question of its entry into the banking field.

But the hint was so broad that there is no way of knowing yet whether the government is going farther into the field than it planned, or withdrawing from the impasse it has reached on the bank of B.C.

In the Speech from the Throne was: "An amendment to the Revenue Act in connection with the investment by my government in the shares of chartered banks will be placed before you."

PLURAL NOTICED

The key word in this is the plural "banks."

Last year the Revenue Act was changed to permit government investment in "a bank" with its head office in B.C.

But that bank has been rejected by the Senate banking committee, and there is only a slim chance that the full Senate may reverse that decision.

Now, however, Premier Bennett is broadening his approach and it has been made clear that this is a highly significant change.

Two interpretations were being discussed.

COULD BUY IN

First, there were suggestions that instead of limiting aims to the Bank of B.C., Bennett will attempt to buy control of another bank which has or may get a federal charter.

The logical one in this case would be the proposed Laurentide bank. Its charter is stalled in the House of Commons, but there is little doubt that Bennett could have the blockade by Creditiste Leader Real Caouette removed if he wished.

Laurentide President Peter Paul Saunders said he knows of no government move to

seek control of his bank.

The second suggestion is that the new move is purely a political one, designed to strengthen Bennett's stand in case of changes in the Federal Bank Act this year.

He has said that no provincial government should be forbidden to hold bank shares. Now he will pass a law providing for such investment.

CONTROVERSIAL

If the federal government amends the Bank Act to stop government participation, this would produce a major federal-provincial row. It would provide Bennett with a federal election issue.

Doctors cautious

By PADDY SHERMAN

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A voluntary and restricted medicare plan for those who cannot afford present medical coverage premiums will be introduced by the government this year. It will be operated through private insurance plans.

The Speech from the Throne Thursday said new legislation will "provide for government contributions toward the cost of medical insurance services for citizens whose incomes are at lower levels."

"Such assistance would be granted in connection with approved medical plans and would be on a voluntary basis."

The speech was read by Lt.-Gov. George Pearkes on behalf of the government.

DETAILS LATER

Premier Bennett said later that details of the plan would have to wait until the budget. But he said the plan is aimed at those who are not on social assistance, yet have incomes too low to afford the full cost of medical insurance.

He said it would cost the government many millions of dollars and would cover more than tens of thousands of people."

The new plan is considered likely to be similar to the Alberta plan. Under this, the government sets out the range of benefits that must be provided by the participating private plans, and limits the premiums that may be charged.

That plan has been favorably received by doctors there. By the middle of last year, about one third of the 425,000 eligible for coverage had applied for it.

LOW INCOME

Those eligible in Alberta must have had taxable income of less than \$500 in the previous year. The government pays up to half of annual premiums that range up to \$158.

Announcement of the medicare plan came without warning. In recent statements, Bennett had reaffirmed his government's intention of participating in a national health plan, saying B.C. wanted a

plan that went considerably beyond Alberta's scheme.

For years he has rejected opposition demands to bring in medicare. He has always replied that it could be done properly only on a national scale.

GUARDED OPTIMISM

But the speech from the throne said action is being taken "since it now appears that the government of Canada is not prepared to put such a plan into effect at the present time."

The B.C. medical association expressed guarded optimism on the plan to launch partial medicare.

Dr. E. C. McCoy, executive director of the BCMA, said, "We haven't seen the exact details, but this appears to be a logical way to provide care for people who need help. It allows for a step-by-step provision for medicare."

Dr. McCoy said the association held previous talks with Premier Bennett about such a general program, thus nobody was greatly surprised by the announcement.

"Particularly in view of

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most other province's having or planning programs," he added.

RE-ORGANIZATION

A major reorganization of the forestry department, and of pollution control agencies was also predicted in the speech.

B.C. is now divided into five forest districts for administration purposes. A new one is to be formed, possibly based on Williams Lake, and taking in much of the Cariboo, including areas now controlled by Prince George, Prince Rupert and Kamloops district.

This is expected to mean more staff and a much-increased budget for the department.

One reason for the change is the pressure put on the field management by rapid expansion of the pulp industry.

CONTROL CHANGED

The pollution control act will be changed, and it is expected that water pollution will now be entirely handled by the Water Rights Department, and not the Municipal Affairs Department.

Changes are expected in the Pollution Control Board, and it will have extra staff to enable more thorough policing of pollution regulations.

The Speech from the Throne also promised "major" spending to expand the apprenticeship training program, more money for school districts and higher educations, and changes to the Public Schools Act. None of these was defined.

PGE EXTENSION

The speech said that in the forthcoming year, more than 400,000 will attend public

schools, more than 20,000 will enroll in universities and colleges, and 90,000 adults will continue their education.

Surveys have been completed for a 23-mile extension of the PGE from Kennedy Station, north of Prince George, to the south arm of the Peace Reservoir. It will service two pulp mills.

The speech indicated a busy session with a lot of legislation to be introduced. Included will be changes in the Companies Act "to further the position of shareholders," in the Credit Union Act, and the Succession Duty Act "which will provide additional exemptions."

RATE REDUCTION

But there was no mention of more financial help for hard-pressed municipalities, nor was there any mention of new expropriation laws which had been expected to follow the royal commission report of J. V. Clyne, former B.C. Supreme Court justice.

The speech forecast further reductions in electricity rates this year by the crown-owned B.C. Hydro.

The Regional Park Authorities Act promised by Recreation Minister Kiernan will be introduced. Its purpose, the speech said, will be to help alleviate the pressure on areas readily available for outdoor recreation.

There was no mention of the proposed new parks act,

but it is understood this will be introduced.

The first step towards improved flood control on the Fraser River will also be taken. Legislation will provide for dyking areas to join in sharing the cost of improving the dykes, with Ottawa and B.C. paying most of the bills.

Probation services will be "augmented greatly," the speech forecast. The provincial government now employs 65 probation officers. And there were reports here that the number may be increased by 50 per cent.

There was also a promise of legislation preparing the way for setting up "model" communities in expanding areas of the province.

This will provide for such things as the new town planned for the pulp mill at Tahsis on Vancouver Island, and several new communities at the north end of Vancouver Island.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell has indicated that new townsites near pulp mill developments will be developed through close co-operation between his department and the pulp firms.

Program fails to impress leaders of other parties

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The government's legislative program aroused little enthusiasm among opposition spokesmen.

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault said it was "lack-lustre." He said the medicare plan showed that Premier Bennett had been dragged struggling into this arena.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said it was a tin-cup-for-a-means-test medicare.

"It is contrary to the report of the Hall commission on medicare," he said. "It is not the answer to the needs of the times. It will help only those who are prepared to go cap in

hand and beg from the government.

"It is opposed to my concept



Even pickets were there

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Three uninvited guests watched the inspection of the guard of honor at the Legislature opening—pickets representing the Canada Iron Workers Union No. 1.

They were protesting a labor relations board decision not to give the union certification at the Burnaby plant of the Klug Corporation.

of the dignity of man."

He said the bank proposals were too vague for comment.

Perrault said that if Bennett had presented the case more ably for the bank of B.C. at the Senate hearings, it would have been successful.

Now he expected the bank to be a major topic through the session.

Vancouver Mayor W. Rathie said he had no comment to make on the speech, except that it contained no sign of further aid to the municipalities.

However, he went on, he hadn't expected any sign, since the government had never conceded there was a problem.

Friday, January 22, 1965

Liquor bill per family \$28 month

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Liquor sales continue booming to new record highs in B.C. In the 18 months to last September, they totalled almost \$178 million.

This works out at an average of \$28 a month for the average family of four.

Figures filed in the Legislature showed that the liquor control board sold \$60.6 million worth of liquor in the six months ended last Sept. 30, and \$117.1 million in the year before that.

Net profit to the government out of the sales was \$49.1 million of which \$16.3 came in the six months to Sept. 30.

The figures indicate an LCB markup of roughly 45 per cent. In the six month period it made a gross profit of \$19.1 million on stock that cost \$41.5 million.

The problems of drinking grew, too. In all, there were 34,799 prosecutions for liquor offences. As a result, 11,957 people went to jail, and 13,169 paid fines totalling \$313,482.

More children forsaken

While society grows richer, it is also growing more anxious and confused—and shows this by the abandonment of more of its children.

Child Welfare Supt. Miss Mary King summed up social problems this way in her annual report.

A total of 3,073 children were taken under government care in the year ended last March 31—511 more than in the previous year.

The number of children born out of wedlock rose 18.5 per cent to 3,083.

School costs up sharply

Total education costs in B.C. rose \$20 million to a new record of \$177.5 million.

The number of pupils increased to 378,641 from 358,905 in 1963. The average cost per pupil was \$386.73.

Total spending by school districts was \$150.8 million. The government's outlay, which included part of the boards' total plus higher education costs, reached \$95.5 million.

Hospital bill totalled

B.C. hospital insurance service paid out more than \$185,000 a day last year for an annual total of \$68.3 million.

In all, 468,200 patients were treated under the government

hospitalization scheme. They stayed an average of 9.59 days in hospital.

The BCHIS annual report said that 95 per cent of patients in the hospitals were covered by the scheme.

Tourists up one third

The value of the tourist industry to B.C. rose more than 30 per cent in 1964 from the record \$150,485,000 in 1963.

The B.C. Travel Bureau estimated tourists from the U.S. and Canada spent \$183,

936,026 in the province last year. In 1960 the comparable figure was \$100,400,000.

The report said the province attracted 2,664,652 visitors from the U.S. and 1,580,680 from the provinces.

Fisheries report gains

B.C.'s commercial fisheries had a good year in 1964.

Recreation and conservation department figures showed increases in the value of both salmon and halibut landings.

The canned salmon pack in 1964 was 1,251,618 cases, 48,347 more than in 1963. Halibut landings were 25,600,000 pounds, worth \$6,143,000—up \$577,000 from 1963.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1965



Victoria comment

Who medicares?

By PADDY SHERMAN
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — What sort of fuel does the Speech from the Throne provide for firing up the temper of the Legislature over the next couple of months?

At first glance, the traditionally rather shapeless document provides quite a lot.

Undoubtedly Health Minister Martin has advanced to the No. 1 grade A target for the opposition as a result of the new mini-medicaid proposals.

No details are yet available of the government's plan except that the government will foot all or part of the bill for medical coverage for those too poor to pay their own premiums.

Presumably it will be along the lines of the plans in Ontario and Alberta.

If it is a copy of the Alberta system, opposition leader Strachan and his men will stir up a tempest.

They have already scornfully written off the Alberta plan as hopelessly inadequate, a shameful means test, and a misuse of public money to subsidize private profit-making schemes.

However, Premier Bennett is thoroughly aware of the nasty connotations of the means test. It's quite possible that when the plan comes in it will include some

new twists designed to remove the political kinks.

More fireworks can be expected because of something that isn't even mentioned in the 3,600-word speech: welfare. There's not even a passing reference. Presumably in the new "dynamic society" there is no need for expanding such things.

The premier will doubtless argue that his new programs will bring affluence for all, but that tack won't get him far with the opposition. They want more emphasis on rehabilitating those trapped in the pockets of poverty that persist in the affluent society.

Perhaps some opposition member will suggest that it's not so much the dynamic society he's after as the hydrodynamic society, in which the forces exerted by our water resources are being used to keep the Sacred ship of state afloat.

The big question mark, however, is still the Bank of British Columbia. The government's difficult, seeming impossible, position on this came in for an almost shy reference of 25 words that said nothing definite, but indicated a whole new approach by Premier Bennett.

If it means he will now try to buy control of an existing bank instead of trying to get a new federal charter, a whole new world of debate and argument opens up for the weeks ahead.

Socred appeals for city

Price wants
fairer share

By PADDY SHERMAN
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Social Credit whip Bert Price told the Legislature Friday there is a very serious doubt that Vancouver gets as much money from the provincial government as it is entitled to.

Price, member for Vancouver Burrard since 1952, was given the formal honor of opening the Throne Speech debate for the government. This is usually a eulogy of government policy.

Price praised Premier Bennett for 10 minutes, saying the fact that he becomes the longest-serving premier Feb. 15 indicates he is a great and trusted leader.

Then he criticized various aspects of government policy in blunt terms.

HITS HYDRO

He asked for more help for Vancouver; he roundly criticized B.C. Hydro and its bus fare increases; and he said the people want a better medicare plan than his government proposes.

The Burrard member said the Vancouver taxpayer is in "a peculiar bind" because the city has to provide many services used by people from outside areas which are growing faster than it is.

The present council, he said, was hamstrung because borrowings by previous councils were so big that 20 per cent of present income goes on debt.

The city could not be blamed for this, he said. But a piece of land assessed at \$2,000 in 1951 would cost \$114 a year in taxes, against \$305 in 1963.

BACKS CITY

"Can you blame the mayor and council for being very concerned about taxes, and suggesting the need for new sources of revenue?" Price said.

The MLA said that B.C. took about \$25 million in sales tax from Vancouver residents last year, yet paid the city grants of only \$2.6 million. It paid road grants of \$360,000, yet the city spent \$3.6 million on roads.

"This government has always been ready to co-operate with Vancouver, but there is a very serious question as to whether the city's share of revenue has remained in line with what the government takes out of the city.

"We are in a time of con-

stant change and adjustment, and I say to this government that Vancouver needs your help."

Price suggested that if it came to a choice on how to subsidize bus operations, the people who used electricity and gas were the proper people to do it.

He said it was bad judgment by Hydro to introduce the new high fare for school children during heavy snow, when they were forced to use the buses.

The price of gas for heating should be cut, he said.

The government whip said he favored a tunnel instead of another bridge at First Narrows, where driving conditions had passed the point of tolerance.

If a bridge were built, however, he urged a shoreline road to take cars downtown instead of new roads through Stanley Park. Even if such a road cost \$20 million more it would be worth it, he suggested.

Price said the people want and expect a comprehensive medicare scheme, although the partial one the government announced was a good start.

He said surveys might show B.C. could afford to go it alone even better than if it had to help other provinces share the cost in a national plan.

But when he said that the premium costs could be met by adjusting income tax, Premier Bennett cut in "no increase in taxes in B.C."

Opposition leader Strachan retorted: "You have already got them sky high."

Senate hit by Socred

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier Bennett applauded loudly Friday as James Chabot (S.C., Columbia) suggested the Senate must be changed or abolished.

Chabot said the Senate's banking committee dealt a harsh blow to B.C. when it rejected the plea for a charter for the Bank of B.C.

He wondered what would have happened if Quebec had asked for such a charter, and concluded that Prime Minister Pearson would have urged approval in the interest of national unity.

Chabot said Quebec's problems had been made worse by many politicians. But the greatest contribution to unity last year was B.C.'s \$100 million loan to Quebec.

"This proved to Quebec that they could depend on their rich sister provinces for help when in need."

Chabot, born and educated in Quebec, said: "If we are going to get any unity in this country of ours, it must come from the provinces, because we don't have any leadership in Ottawa."

Bigger tax slice drive?

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—First step in a campaign to demand more money for the city of Vancouver was made Friday by Liberal leader Ray Perrault.

He filed a question in the Legislature asking how much of the provincial sales and gasoline taxes is collected in Vancouver and on the north shore.

The answer, he hopes, will enable him to document a case that greater Vancouver does not get an adequate return on the provincial taxes it pays.

A total of 89 questions and three notices of motion was filed Friday.

Of the questions, 23 relate to details of welfare operations. Opposition members seek figures on the operation of government institutions, and want to know about payments to various individuals and companies.

Gaglardi case cost \$24,315

VICTORIA — The 1963 legislative committee hearing that cleared Highways Minister Gaglardi of charges of graft on a trans-Canada highway project cost the government \$24,315.

The figure was given in public account filed in the legislature Thursday.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1965

Tin cup tag tied to medicare plan

Strachan demands Jones' case action

The government's handling of the George E. P. Jones case was condemned in the Legislature Monday when Opposition Leader Strachan demanded immediate action from the government.

Strachan said that since Jones, suspended chairman of the purchasing commission, was acquitted Jan. 15 on two charges of accepting benefits from a car dealer, the government has said and done nothing.

"The government may have good reason for wanting to fire this man," he said. "I don't know. But if they do, then the government is failing in its duty when it does not communicate those reasons to the Legislature.

"They must do so. Anything else is trampling on the rights of the members of this House. Anything else is arrogant bureaucracy in full flight, and we will have none of it. We have had too much of it in this province."

Strachan said the government had three choices. It could reinstate Jones to his position; it could refer the whole affair to a committee of the Legislature, or it could frame a specific charge and call Jones before the bar of the House to answer it.

He went on: "Anything less would be another step in the destruction of the rights of the members of the Legislative Assembly, and another indication of the arrogant ruthlessness of this government, another trampling on the parliamentary process of the province."

The opposition leader pointed out that under the Purchasing Commission Act, there were to be three members of the commission. They were responsible not to the cabinet, but to the Legislature itself, and could be removed only by the cabinet after a petition from the Legislature.

Strachan said that every year except one since he was hired in 1956, Jones had received an increase in pay. In the 1964 estimates the salary was shown as \$10,680, plus something extra from a block vote for pay increases.

Regular raises of this sort indicated satisfaction with the work being done, he said.

On Jan. 15, Strachan continued, a judge dismissed the Jones charges without even

hearing a defence witness. After reading the acquittal headlines, Strachan commented: "If I may be facetious, the headlines should be 'Bonner bungles again'."

Strachan said the Purchasing Commission Act was drafted so that members would be free of political pressures in their work.

"How do we know that the government's reasons for wanting Jones removed are not political unless they tell us what the reason is?"

"How do we know he is not being railroaded because he refused to recommend that certain Social Credit heelers get certain contracts?"

"Or because he objected to heelers being given contracts?"

"They just can't sit there supine and silent while this situation exists."

The Liberals also made a move Monday arising from the Jones case.

Alan Macfarlane (Lib., Oak Bay) gave notice of an amendment to the Purchasing Commission Act. It would make members liable to prosecution under the Criminal Code while still retaining their status under which the cabinet itself could not fire them.

Lawyer Macfarlane said that while Judge Drake acquitted Jones on the facts, he also held he was not an official of the government under the code.

Macfarlane said members were willing to come under the closest scrutiny, and it should never be said that they needed special protection from prosecution.

There is no indication that his private member's bill will get governmental approval, but the government may bring in such a measure itself.

Robert Strachan as he neared the end of a three-hour speech.

He moved a motion of no confidence because the Throne Speech didn't indicate a comprehensive medicare plan available to everyone without a means test.

Strachan said the government's proposal to subsidize private plan costs for those who couldn't afford premiums was the sort of coverage rejected by the Hall royal commission as financially wasteful and contrary to the dignity of man.

LEAVES THE POOR

After nine years of talk, the government had produced a plan that protected the doctors and left the poor to look after themselves.

He said after Health Minister Martin had firmly committed his government to genuine medicare within a national scheme, the Social Credit convention last fall demanded partial medicare.

Strachan continued: "The tin cup plan announced in the Throne Speech makes it quite clear the minister no longer enjoys the confidence of his colleagues or of the Social Credit party."

"He has been beaten into submission and made to reverse his policies by the insurance agents and the doctors in the party."

Martin interjected that this was not true.

Strachan criticized "grossly misleading statements" made about the extent of medical coverage for those on social assistance.

About half of those on social assistance—about 30,000—do not have any medical coverage from the government, he said.

CALLED A HOAX

The opposition leader said the people of B.C. want nothing less than comprehensive medicare. He said the NDP would provide "at the very minimum" a plan including prescription drugs and ambulance services, without means tests or deterrent fees.

Strachan also denounced the government for indicating that real "chronic care" is near.

He went on: "There is probably no other field where this government has perpetrated a greater hoax on the people than that of chronic care. It even surpasses the debt-free myth."

The government has not built a single institution for looking after those who are chronically ill, with no hope of rehabilitation.

By PADDY SHERMAN
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The government's "tin cup medicare" proposals were opposed by the NDP and Liberals in the Legislature Monday, but their condemnation was rejected by 32 votes to 19.

The "tin cup" tag was applied by Opposition Leader

Bennett capitulation on bank worries opposition leader

Who will own the Bank of B.C. if a federal charter is eventually granted, and the government holds only five per cent of the shares?

Opposition Leader Strachan raised the question in the Legislature Monday.

He said he was "disturbed by Premier Bennett's continuous capitulation to the senators" in proposing decreases in the amount of stock B.C. would own.

It had shrunk from 25 per cent to perhaps less than five per cent.

In view of the decreasing provincial role, plus the fact that five private provisional directors had been appointed, he asked if the premier would

say if there was a trust agreement or document between the government and directors about the ownership of assets.

Bennett was out of the House when the Question was raised.

Gordon Gibson (Lib., North Vancouver) growled: "They won't get it, so don't worry."

Strachan said he still supported a big chartered bank for B.C., and would like to see it wholly owned by the government. The Laurentide bank application is "a small potatoes effort that could not possibly meet the needs of our province at this point in our history," he said.

Strachan said it was reprehensible that the non-elected Senate should decide what

matters would come before the elected House of Commons for decision.

But he could understand why some in the east were disturbed, he said.

"The actions of this government jeopardized the application for a bank charter . . . the premier's to blame, this government's to blame."

As an example of the pressures that people in the east were afraid a government in banking might apply, he cited the Red Star Petroleum Co., an offshoot of B.C. Hydro.

Red Star, he said, supplies all the gasoline and diesel fuel to contractors on the Peace River dam. They have to buy their fuel from Red Star, at up to 8.2 cents a gallon more than Red Star pays for it

Distribution of seats criticized by Perrault

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault said the present distribution of seats has given B.C. "one of the most undemocratic electoral systems on the continent."

The member for North Vancouver called for appointment of a "triumvirate" to study "electoral reorganization."

He suggested the committee include the chief justice, a leading educationist and the chief electoral officer of the

province. This, he said, would remove the issue from "the arena of politics."

Perrault said the present distribution of members in relation to the population of their constituencies means in some cases one vote in a sparsely-settled area is worth 38 votes in a populous area.

"The fear of loss of political power prevents the premier from making this kind of reform," said Perrault.



Distress area aid act considered just a joke

Farmers who have investigated the statute consider B.C.'s distress area assistance act "just a joke," Strachan told the Legislature.

He said the farmers have found anyone with a mortgage is disqualified from obtaining assistance and those without mortgages could get bank loans on better terms.

A survey of banks in the lower Fraser Valley, he said, indicated no farmers have applied for loans under the act since lands flooded by last

spring's freshet were declared distress areas.

The NDP leader decried the absence of any reference in the Throne Speech to measures designed "to maintain an adequate cash income for the farmer."

He also deplored the absence of any promise of the expropriation act recommended by the Clyne royal commission on expropriation. Strachan said farmers' lands can now be taken by the provincial government under 28 statutes.

Tuesday, January 26, 1965



Victoria comment

The game begins

By PADDY SHERMAN
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — With its traditional hollow laugh, the opposition has placed 89 questions on the Legislature's order paper, and the game of patience is under way.

The hollow laugh? It comes at this time of year when the Opposition reflects on the government's motto that it keeps the people informed.

The questions asked are, of course, not the bland, innocuous stuff the government would like to see. Each of them is fashioned, in its way, to be a political harpoon.

Since the government doesn't believe in helping Her Majesty's loyal opposition to prepare its ammunition, most of the questions will sit unanswered on the order paper for the next eight weeks.

Then by the time the opposition gets the figures, it will be too late to do anything with them for another year.

It wasn't always this way. When the government called its first session in 1953, the usual flood of questions poured in on opening day.

They were answered within the first two weeks. The motions on the order paper, which will also be put off this time until the session closes, were also dealt with in the first two weeks in 1953.

In those far-off days, tyro Premier W. A. C. Bennett was clearing the decks for an election he was hoping to force. He had nothing to worry about, since most questions would deal with the government he had defeated.

Most of this year's batch of questions are routine. They want figures on what

happened in various government departments last year. Most of the departmental reports tabled at the opening refer to the year ended last March, which is getting close to being history.

There's the hardy annual about the premier's committee for world relief. It began with a fanfare and a grant of \$50,000 — basically to cover up a political embarrassment. It held one meeting, and the public subscribed \$420.83.

Tony Gargrave (NDP, Mackenzie) wants to know whatever happened to all the window dressing.

Many figures are bandied about on the costs of medicare, the extent of present coverage for social welfare cases, and so on. To say the least, these figures are incomplete.

Opposition leader Strachan has a blockbuster on this. He wants payments from ALL government departments to ALL private physicians and surgeons in the last two years, with a breakdown into categories of service.

If that one is late being answered, it could well be because there's so much research.

Dave Barrett (NDP, Dewdney) asked some equally searching questions about the social welfare field, trying to sort out just how many of the poor already get medical services from the government.

One question shows that the opposition doesn't miss many tricks. During the 1963 Columbia by-election, the North Shore Citizen and its publisher Hal Straight ran a special edition with an editorial praising the government.

Now Strachan wants to know if the (presumably grateful) government has placed any advertising with Straight's paper since 1963.

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Wednesday, January 27, 1965

LEGISLATURE

Give cities gas take—Perrault

By
**PADDY
SHERMAN**
Victoria Bureau

No political pawn role for Jones

George E. P. Jones, suspended chairman of the B.C. government purchasing commission, says he fears his case may become a political football at the current session of the Legislature.

"I don't want to become a political pawn—all I want is to get back my job," Jones said in an interview Tuesday.

Opposition Leader Strachan had said in the legislature that the government's refusal to make a report on Jones' status is "trampling on Parliament."

The NDP leader said Jones, cleared Jan. 15 of charges of unlawfully accepting a benefit, should be reinstated or allowed to plead his case before a legislative committee or the Bar of the House.

Later, Premier Bennett filed the purchasing commission's annual report, prepared Jan. 20 by Jones who has gone to his office regularly despite his suspension.

Medicare offer told

The provincial government was ready last December to provide for comprehensive medicare plans in its upcoming budget, Attorney-General Bonner said Tuesday.

But Ottawa refused to go ahead because, since the Hall report on medicare, "They have been in various stages of shock."

Bonner produced a telegram Premier Bennett sent Dec. 2 to Prime Minister Pearson. It read in part: "If your government is ready to proceed in

partnership with a province or provinces on medical costs, I believe it would be wise to have the conference take place at the same time as ministers of finance conference Dec. 7, so we can include our share in provincial budget."

Bonner said the telegram was sent in reply to a letter from the prime minister Nov. 30. He said the prime minister could release his letter if he wished, but Bonner didn't read it.

The telegram was produced after Liberal leader Perrault challenged Bennett to produce any statement showing that Ottawa was dragging its feet on medicare, as suggested in the Throne Speech.

Bonner said that after this no Liberal should suggest that the Liberal government was rushing pell-mell into medicare.

Perrault had accused the B.C. government of being far behind most other provinces in provision of various sorts of hospital facilities, particularly those for treating patients with chronic illness.

Said the Liberal leader: "No wonder you have so much money in the treasury when you are so parsimonious in these services to people."

Not just bus loss

If the government forces municipalities to take over bus services, it should sell them the profitable natural gas business to offset the losses, Liberal leader Perrault proposed Tuesday.

Perrault told the Legislature he was sure municipalities didn't want the bus services, but there was "every indication" the government planned to get rid of them.

In that case, said Perrault: "I suggest that the municipalities consider establishing a municipal authority."

"The authority would buy the B.C. Hydro gas system at its book value, buy the transit system and the B.C. Hydro freight line system at cost."

MONEY-MAKER

"Then at least, such a municipal authority would have a

money-making operation as well as a deficit transit operation with most of its activities restricted to the Lower Mainland and Greater Victoria areas.

"If this is going to be the shape of things to come, why don't you sweeten the pot?"

The result of this scheme, the Liberal leader said, would be first-class transportation and cheaper gas.

And it would free B.C. Hydro from purely local concerns and let them develop hydro resources.

Perrault said Premier Bennett's "corny deception" before the Senate weakened the case for the Bank of B.C.

GUNDERSON'S ROLE

He told the Legislature that Bennett told the committee he did not know if Einar Gunderson, a provisional director of the bank, was a Social Credit member.

But, Perrault added, the senators knew Gunderson—"audits Social Credit party fund books and signs cheques. Gunderson has been festooned with honors by Social Credit."

Perrault suggested Gunderson is the "grey eminence" behind B.C. government finance and always has been.

The Liberal leader said he believes there should be a B.C. bank, but no government control.

HITS BENNETT

Perrault charged that Bennett says he is a Canadian first and British Columbian second—but then in effect proposed to abolish Canada.

Bennett, he said, is "like a man who embraces his friend and hugs him to death while protesting his undying loyalty and friendship."

Perrault was criticizing Bennett's demands for ever-increasing funds from Ottawa.

Bennett would strip Ottawa of its revenues while demanding a comprehensive national health plan. This would cost a lot, said Perrault, and the federal purse couldn't be "looted for the political aims and aspirations of any one province."

Yet while the premier made his "irresponsible, wild-eyed demands" from Ottawa, the municipalities were kept in a financial straitjacket, with ever more demands on their services.

He challenged Bennett to call a thorough study of federal-provincial-municipal relations.

Wednesday, January 27, 1965

Shelford tackles

auto insurance

By PADDY SHERMAN
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The soaring toll of the highways and the jump in auto insurance rates has shocked B.C. and should be investigated by a special committee of the Legislature, Cyril Shelford (S.C., Omineca) said Tuesday.

Shelford, a frequent rebel in Social Credit ranks, was the man who forced investigation by a royal commission of the price spread in gasoline prices throughout B.C.

The committee he proposes would hear organizations and individuals on the question of new highway safety measures, and how to reduce insurance rates.

"The insurance companies would have to justify this tremendous increase in rates, and the committee would be in the best position to judge as to what form of insurance is best, government or private."

He was loudly applauded on all sides of the house.

The insurance companies, Shelford continued, should be glad to put their case if they could justify their increase.

"It is our duty to investigate any case when there is an increase of 20 per cent over a year. We owe it to the people, who are being asked to pour \$1 million more into the insurance industry."

The Omineca member also suggested that his government should go more into the field of investment in future rather than into

taxation to obtain the money needed for such things as medicare.

He was praising the government's attempts to get into the banking business, which he said was a good way to make money.

Shelford violently condemned the Senate-banking committee's rejection of a B.C. application for a bank charter. This, he said, was the most narrow-minded approach ever taken in B.C. history, and shocked everyone.

Unless the Senate could be reformed to make it elective, he suggested it should be wiped out. "We need more senators like we need a hole in the head," he said.

The outspoken MLA, who has been chairman of the forestry committee in recent years, urged some pulp harvesting reforms on Lands and Forests Minister Williston.

Companies were being awarded rights to areas covering hundreds of miles, he said. The tendency was to first cut the wood within the surrounding area, then move out farther afield.

This means cutting an area bare for 10 years, and then leaving it for 90 years.

He urged Williston to insist that pulp harvesting licences contain clauses forcing a percentage of the cut in all areas covered by the licence.

Liberal split emphasized

The Liberal party split on development of B.C.'s water resources was emphasized in the Legislature Tuesday.

Liberal leader Perrault stressed that our rivers are a Canadian resource—not a continental resource. "They are not the property of the entire continent."

Americans are eyeing Canadian water, and making proposals to impound water in Canada for U.S. use, he said.

MP Jack Davis, parliamentary assistant to Prime Minister Pearson has publicly favored the Pearson plan, under which B.C. and Yukon water would be diverted to the Great

Lakes.

But Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing has rejected the idea. Perrault was supported Tuesday by Frank Calder (NDP, Atlin).

★

Pat on back for Price from council

A Sacred MLA got a pat on the back from city council Tuesday . . . and that's news.

Council, generally cool toward the provincial government because of its financial treatment of the city, unanimously thanked party whip Bert Price for his plea in the legislature last Friday for a better deal for Vancouver.

Thursday, January 28, 1965



Victoria comment

No dynamics

By PADDY SHERMAN
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Not a line of the witty speech by Dave Barrett, the NDP member for Dewdney, got into our news columns Wednesday morning. That's not news, you say?

But the interesting aspect of it is that his zero in the headline rating came just a few hours after he told the Legislature: "After sounding these warnings, I will go on to get no coverage for the rest of my speech."

He turned out to be a pretty fair prophet, but not for the reasons he suspected.

Barrett was talking about the evils of a centralized press — how all the papers protected "poor Prime Minister Pearson" and how the reporters weren't reporting much any more because "centralized ownership" was subtly and unconsciously influencing our writings.

Well, he's entitled to his opinion. I can only record that so far as my own experience is concerned, it's nonsense.

And as for the unanimity of defending "poor Mr. Pearson" — as one who has to read five papers a day, I'm often astonished, not to say horrified, at the different tacks assorted editorial writers can take on the same set of facts.

However, it wasn't this that tripped up Barrett. He simply was suffering from a complaint that's unusually prevalent this session.

Gordon Gibson said bluntly that there was no problem to getting space in the newspapers: all an MLA had to do was to say something.

So far, few MLAs are saying anything.

Opposition leader Strachan spoke for three hours and covered a lot of ground, but there was little new.

Liberal leader Perrault had voluminous notes but skipped through them in such jitterbug style that his points often got lost in the crush.

He produced one intriguing figure of speech. Ten strong provincial banks, he said, would be like "10 dissident rubies in a necklace."

Attorney-General Bonner took an unscripted hour for, in the main, urbane repartee and the odd morsel of news. Nobody was surprised at his Latinized version of the fact that instead of following the seasonal trend down, employment went up last fall.

As he put it, this was "contra-seasonal to the expectations normally associated with events in this province dictated largely by the weather . . ."

But we were surprised when this polished performer fell into the old "literally" trap. "We can literally lift this country up by its own bootstraps," he said.

Pretty dynamic bootstraps. Perhaps the only man with a pair like that was Archimedes, who was ready to move the earth if he could only find a place to stand.

Trade Minister Loffmark had no trouble finding a place to stand — that of every other minister. In his first ministerial speech he dealt with everybody's portfolio as well as his own — and in the process, like Barrett and the rest, produced nothing to show our "dynamic society" is taking root in the Legislature so far.

B.C. power to charter banks urged by MLA

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Social Credit backbencher proposed that provincial governments should be allowed to issue bank charters in the same way the federal government now does.

And, said Hunter Vogel (S.C., Delta), there should be not one bank of B.C. but 40.

(Other Legislature news P. 21)

Vogel said there was nothing radical or untried about his suggestion. Many banks in the U.S. have state as well as national charters.

The State of Washington has 27 separate banks with

national characters, and 68 with state charters, he said. Total number of branches in the state last year was 354.

The MLA said this was part of a deliberate policy to prevent "huge, monolithic, state-wide institutions." It gave full scope to the "self-regulating principle of competition," he said, and if it were adopted here, the existing banks would benefit most.

(Under the British North America Act, the federal Parliament now has exclusive jurisdiction over bank charters.)

Thursday, January 28, 1965

★
Taxes protested

SOAPY STORY

Vancouver women who want the government to wash out sales tax on soap and detergents lobbied MLAs of all parties.

Nine Greater Vancouver women, led by Mrs. Elaine Podovinnikoff said they felt the necessities for clean, hygienic living should not be taxed.

Their group, known as the Women Against High Prices Committee wanted tax exemptions to include students' clothing of all sizes, toothpaste and toilet items.

★

Municipal merger attacked as illegal

Creation of a new district municipality at Campbell River by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell was completely illegal, Legislature was told.

Alan Macfarlane (Lib., Oak Bay) said that even the new vote proposed for the region Feb. 6 is outside the terms of the law and should be stopped.

On Dec. 12 Campbell River village and five nearby areas voted on forming a new municipality. Macfarlane said there is no provision for this in the Municipal Act.

Neither is there provision for the new vote next month in North Campbell River and Quinsam, he added.

He also denounced the provincial government's attitude on the winter works program as "one of the classic examples of sheer hypocrisy I have ever heard in my life."

He said that in Oak Bay, there was not one able-bodied man on welfare, and the municipality could get no provincial grant for winter works project.

★

Cities' plea under fire

Vancouver's Mayor Rathie is crying for more provincial aid, but spent \$40,000 to renovate his office at city hall, says Waldo Skillings (S.C., Victoria).

In the new Victoria city hall, he went on, Mayor Richard Wilson has an office that makes Premier Bennett's look like "a janitor's office."

In Victoria, council found enough money to spend \$85 apiece on 20 committee room chairs.

Said Skillings: "They are spending that kind of money on the one hand, then saying the government is not giving them anything." No government ever treated municipalities or school boards better, he declared.

He also offered the Legislature "a scoop for the press": the next B.C. senator will be either Northern Affairs Minister Laing or author-news-paperman Bruce Hutchison.

★

Interior route sought

The giant slide on the Hope-Princeton highway shows the need for a new route to the interior via the Coquihalla Pass, William Hartley (NDP, Yale) suggested.

Hartley said the Coquihalla route would half the distance from Hope to Merritt, and

reduce the Vancouver-Kamloops trip by 70 miles. The route was also less hazardous, and had been used 50 years ago by the CPR railway.

Hartley also urged the government to consider taking over West Kootenay Power and Light Co., which is still privately operated.

Thursday, January 28, 1965

MLAs turn in passes — almost

Bus issue stirs debate

By PADDY SHERMAN
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C.'s 52 MLAs almost, repeat almost, decided to turn in their free B.C. Hydro bus passes Wednesday.

The members get these along with ferry, rail, and in some cases, coastal shipping, passes.

The move began when Alan MacFarlane (Lib., Oak Bay) said he never used his and would give it to a needy pensioner if Hydro would guarantee he wouldn't be prosecuted for transferring it.

Recreation Minister Klerman said: "I suggest we all hand our bus passes back. I have sent mine back."

There were sounds of "OK," "fine" and "I will" from various parts of the chamber.

Opposition leader Strachan protested mildly that he used his.

Macfarlane made the suggestion when he was proposing that bus services were a provincial responsibility and should remain so.

When the government bought B.C. Electric, he went on, Chief Justice Sherwood Lett cut \$18 million off the price because the purchase included a money-losing bus service.

If that money were invested in new diesel equipment, it would produce an efficient bus system, he said.

He also said that among the BCE assets the government took over was a "nest egg" of \$46 million set aside for future taxes.

If this were invested, it would produce interest of \$2.3 million a year that would subsidize the system, he said.

Premier Bennett interrupted: "Amazing. Your arithmetic is all wrong."

Williston most travelled man in government

VICTORIA — Lands and Forests Minister Williston was B.C.'s most-travelling cabinet minister for the first time in the year ended last March.

His travelling expenses totalled \$6,112. Right behind him was Attorney General Bonner at \$6,053. Premier Bennett was next in line with \$5,875, followed by Highways Minister Gaglardi at \$5,245.

New gasoline tax instead of licences?

B.C. cars and trucks should have "licence plates by the gallon" instead of annual licence fees, Dudley Little (S.C., Skeena) proposed Wednesday.

Each vehicle should have a permanent plate, he said, and licencing should be done by adding a small amount to the gasoline tax.

This would ensure that those who used the roads most paid the most, he said.

Friday, January 29, 1965

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Socred urges government look to chronic care policy

VICTORIA — A Social Credit MLA who is a hospital expert favors a complete overhaul of the government's chronic hospital care policy.

William Speare (Cariboo), former hospital administrator at Quesnel, and now an independent hospital consultant living in Saanich, said for too long the provincial government has postponed decisions just because it expects Ottawa will be making a decision eventually.

"I don't think federal lack of action should be used as a reason for indecision at the provincial level.

There is a lot to do at the provincial level before any federal plan is started, he said. B.C. should decide whether it

is going to build chronic hospitals or nursing homes itself, or let private organizations do the bulk of it. An adequate program might cost as much as \$50 million, he suggested. Meantime, B.C. should set up new standards, including proper space needs and equipment levels.

The present 75-bed limit on nursing homes should be changed to 100 beds, and the blanket rate of \$210 a month paid by the government for welfare cases in homes should be stopped.

Instead, a rate board should set individual rates according to the accommodation and services provided.

Nursing homes should be much more closely inspected, Speare continued, and the government must insist on

organized activity programs for inmates.

In addition, the government should pay up to 75 per cent of building costs and half the cost of furnishings of homes for the aged built by non-profit organizations instead of the present one-third of the capital cost.

Communities must be encouraged to take a larger role, he said.

The Cariboo member also urged an end to the present system under which student nurses in B.C. hospitals are paid from \$9 to 15 a month.

They should be paid on the same scale as X-ray and laboratory technicians, he said, instead of having to be subsidized by their families.

Embalmers lose out on closed shop bill

VICTORIA—A controversial private bill that would have turned the undertaking business into a closed shop died a sudden death in the legislature Thursday. (See other legislature news on Page 5).

Its end was triggered by a single shout of "no" from Opposition Leader Strachan.

Ernie LeCours (S.C., Delta) stood to make what he thought was a routine motion that house rules be suspended to permit the introduction of a petition for the bill.

The bill would have incorporated the Western Embalmers Association, and given it powers to regulate and police the undertaking business.

Strachan's refusal of consent temporarily blocked the bill. He said he did it because LeCours didn't mention beforehand that he was bringing in a controversial bill.

Outside the house, Strachan said he opposed it because the sponsors made it clear they wanted to eliminate Memorial Societies that provided cheap funerals.

As he was explaining this in a corridor, LeCours came up, exclaiming: "I was suckered into that deal. I don't support it, but I had expected it would be thrown out in committee discussion anyway."

LeCours said he was asked by the association if he would like to see the bill, and said he would, but wouldn't sponsor it if he didn't like it. He didn't like it, he said.

But meantime, the petition had been printed with his name as sponsor in the legislature, so he decided to introduce it and let it be dealt with by the private bills committee.

Low fares try urged

The government should gamble a few million dollars now on "very low bus fares" in the hope it will be the alternative to spending hundreds of millions on freeways, Arthur Turner (NDP, Vancouver East) has suggested in the Legislature Thursday.

He said very, very low fares" (but set no figure) would encourage people to leave their cars at home, and eliminate spaghetti-like edifices of freeways which are obsolete as soon as they are built.

He said one of the reasons Vancouver is not getting its fair share of provincial money is that its four cabinet ministers do not plead the city's case in the cabinet.

Turner hung a new label on the government's proposed medicare scheme — "mini-medicare for mendicants." He said one must be broke and a beggar to qualify for it.

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Friday, January 29, 1965

Pleas seen as 'hot air' by Victoria

By PADDY SHERMAN

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Any hope municipalities may have nursed about major changes in provincial aid were shot to pieces by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell Thursday night.

He told the legislature that: "the entire diatribe about municipal financing and this government is straight political hot air."

He based his statement mainly on a conference he attended last July of national mayors and reeves. At that conference, he said, B.C. delegates told a different story from the one they tell at home.

Not one of the B.C. municipal leaders, he said, would accept the formula for provincial-municipal financing in use in any other province of Canada.

"If you brought in any of the other formulas and added 10 per cent," Campbell continued, "the revenue of this province would be in even better shape than it is now."

The minister said that the annual report of his depart-

ment showed that last year, all the municipalities of B.C. had a total of \$17.4 million in revenue surplus.

Since 1951, he said, the municipal share of education had gone up 3.4 times. The provincial share was up 4.3 times.

And nowhere else in North America did municipalities finance so many capital projects, out of a reserves and surpluses, or have so many of their sewer and water projects self-liquidating.

Campbell denied suggestions that he acted illegally in ordering a vote on creating a new municipality around Campbell River.

Higher log price urged

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The recent high bid by contractor Ben Ginter for pulp rights in the Peace River indicates that B.C. should be getting very many more millions out of its forest resources, the Legislature was told Thursday night.

John Squire (NDP, Alberni) an International Woodworkers of America business agent, noted that Ginter had bid \$12

million more for timber than Cattermole Timber Co. over a 21-year period. (Cattermole has now matched that bid and won a licence).

Squire said: "If this is a legitimate offer, it means we should be getting many more millions to build vocational schools and hospitals and medical care plans we need."

Socreds learn from Harding of close shave

What is a Socred?

It's a Tory with the whiskers shaved off, according to Ran Harding (NDP, Kaslo-Slocan).

He told Social Credit members in the Legislature that their candidates admitted in the last campaign they were close to their Tory brothers.

"All your policies show your blue Tory underwear underneath," he said.

\$10 million school bonds sold in U.S.

VICTORIA — The U.S. money market has bought \$10 million worth of B.C. school districts capital financing authority debentures at a coupon rate of 4 1/2 per cent.

Sale of the 20-year bonds was announced by Premier Bennett Thursday.

The sale, at 4.7 per cent in U.S. funds, was handled by a syndicate including Halsey, Stuart and Co., Kuhn, Loeb and Co., the First Boston Corp., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith Inc., Allen and Co., W. E. Hutton and Co., James Richardson and Sons Inc.

Friday, January 29, 1965

Clear out trees now: Harding

VICTORIA — Columbia River reservoirs will be ringed with water-killed standing trees, and full of floating debris for years to come unless present plans are changed, Ran Harding (NDP, Kaslo-Slocan) charged Thursday.

He urged the Legislature to enforce full clearing of the reservoirs behind Mica, High Arrow and Duncan Lake dams before the reservoirs are filled up.

At present he said, regulations provide that only a small area near Duncan Dam will be cleared, and this can be done up to five years after flooding. The rest of the reservoir will be cleared as needed.

All the High Arrow reservoir will be cleared, he said, but there, too, it can be done up to five years after flooding.

When trees were left standing during the flooding of the Alcan reservoir in Tweedsmuir Park, Harding went on, the Social Credit government made strong protests. But now they were permitting the same thing themselves.

Harding also said he was very concerned about the compensation to people who must move to make way for the reservoirs.

He also demanded that the privately-owned West Kootenay Power and Light Co. be taken over by the government. The company was making so much money that it was embarrassing the Public Utilities Commission, which has to regulate its operations, Harding said.

It was actually talking of rate cuts, he said — and he urged that no rate reductions be allowed until all the rural areas had power.

Turner asks inquiry into blind charges

Province Victoria Bureau

Allegations of fraudulent collections on behalf of the blind and of dictatorship by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind should be probed by a legislative committee, Arthur Turner (NDP, Vancouver East) urged in the legislature.

Turner said Thursday that a flurry of charges and counter-charges began after the legislature passed Bill 22 last year. This set up a board to rule on soliciting for blind charities, but after the furore the government decided not to bring the act into operation.

Opponents of the bill said the CNIB exercised dictatorship in regard to jobs for blind people.

The CNIB denied this, Turner went on, and said the objections came from people who had improperly made thousands of dollars out of collections from the blind over the years.

But police records in Vancouver and other areas showed no cases of fraudulent collection for the blind.

In view of the fact that the charges had been widely publicized, Turner said, a house committee should be given power to investigate the whole situation thoroughly.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1965

PADDY SHERMAN

Secrecy prevails in caucus



VICTORIA — Each day when the legislature sits, the Social Credit MLAs gather in Room 211 for their caucus meeting.

Room 211 is isolated at the end of a long corridor. A guard sits at the start of the corridor, and the door of the caucus room is plastered with signs indicating it is private.

Private is hardly the word for it. Secret is the word, and the same word will do nicely for what goes on in there.

The caucus, of any party, is the time when back-benchers let their hair down, when the cracks in the public facade of unity are covered up—and when a premier occasionally uses his ace of trumps: The threat of resignation and an election if he is crossed.

There was a time when Premier Bennett used to tell the people about dark and devious goings on in the government caucus. After he left the Coalition Government in 1951 over its hospital insurance policy, he said that when the policy was first proposed in

caucus, only three members supported it.

But threats of resignation brought the rest into line, and eventually they all supported it. Said Bennett: "There was much bulldozing to put it through. That was when we saw democracy go out the window. We were seeing something very sinister right within our province."

There have been many allegations since that under his regime the caucus has meant little, and is ignored by the premier. Certainly he didn't tell it about his plans to take over B.C. Electric. And he rarely attends meetings.

This session, however, has produced some signs the caucus of backbenchers is taking itself more seriously, and wielding its authority.

Before the session opened, there was a loud and quite angry meeting that forced the government to reduce the bus fare increase for some pensioners on welfare.

Then the other day Hunter Vogel (S.C.—Delta) told the House a few things about the Inner Sanctum. "It is

well recognized by everybody here, though not well known outside, that what we have to say is said where it matters, in caucus.

"We do have a very great deal to say, and that's the reason why, when legislation comes to the floor, it is usually unanimous, having been thrashed out. There's a lot of disagreement in caucus, and that's where we thrash things out. This is a story that is very carefully never told.

"As a matter of fact, and I don't think this is a secret that shouldn't be revealed, the premier is seldom at caucus."

This brought derisive hoots from the opposition that the reason was simply that the premier had no use for it.

Vogel continued: "My experience is this. If a minister can't tell his story, and sell his story in caucus, it goes down the drain."

It all ties in with the growing conviction that on some issues there are more potential rebels in this government's ranks than there have been for some years.

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THURSDAY, JAN. 21, 1965

Bennett Launches Partial Medicare

Subsidy to Help Low-Paid Patients

By IAN MacALPINE and FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government today announced the first stage of a voluntary medicare scheme for B.C.'s low wage earners.

This was the highlight of the speech from the throne read at the opening of the annual legislature session.

The throne speech launched what Premier W. A. C. Bennett calls his dynamic society by also revealing:

A new scheme to allow the government to invest in chartered banks.

Major increases in grants to all levels of education. And greatly increased probation services.

'Ottawa Failed to Act'

The speech was read by yet have incomes too low for Lieutenant-Governor George Pearkes on behalf of the government. them to afford the full cost of medical insurance. Social assistance recipients now receive free medical care.

In a social reform program, Bennett said it would cover he said, the government will tens of thousands of B.C. bring in medicare legislation because Ottawa has failed to citizens and cost many millions of dollars. The budget, to do so. be brought down Feb. 5, will spell out details, he said.

The plan will be voluntary, a form of subsidy to existing private insurance schemes, and will cover residents at "lower levels" of income. The B.C. Medical Association, which has advocated coverage for low income groups, estimates the cost at about \$6 million for more than 100,000 residents.

No other details were given in the throne speech, but Bennett described it at a press conference as the first stage of comprehensive medicare. The plan may be patterned after similar medicare schemes in Alberta and Ontario, but Bennett refused to make any comparisons.

He said the limited medicare would be aimed at people who are not on social assistance,

New Tack on Banking

In Alberta the government pays \$72 toward the \$159 annual premium of a family of four with no taxable income. Premier Bennett's efforts to incorporate his proposed Bank of B.C. with government participation have so far failed in Ottawa.

Bennett said he greatly regrets that Ottawa has not moved on national medicare but he is continuing to press the federal government to act. As expected, he is now laying the groundwork for a different tack.

"In the meantime we are starting and this move is for His new approach will come in an amendment to the Revenue Act "in connection with the investment by my government in the shares of chartered banks."

Announcement of the medicare plan came without warning. In recent statements Bennett had reaffirmed his government's intention of participating in a national health plan, saying B.C. wanted a plan that went considerably beyond Alberta's scheme.

The throne speech, which outlines the government's pro-gram for the next year, also disclosed the new move to get into the banking business. This wording sparked speculation that Bennett is planning to buy into either existing national banks or two new chartered banks, proposed by Laurentide Finance, in Vancouver, and the Bank of Western Canada, in Winnipeg.

All Schools to Benefit

All schools in B.C. will benefit from increased education grants promised in the throne speech.

"You will be asked to increase grants to school districts; to authorize increased expenditures for higher education, for regional vocational schools, and for vocational additions to secondary schools, the legislature was told.

The MLAs were also told there will be unspecified amendments to the Public Schools Act, and provisions will be made for special training of handicapped students at Burnaby Vocational School.

A big increase in probation services will be made to protect society and to rehabilitate potential criminals, the speech promised.

The move follows a close examination of all aspects of the province's penal system.

Although there was no commitment of more financial aid to hard-pressed municipalities, the government announced it will bring in legislation to encourage development of model communities in new areas of the province.

And it will enter into agreements with several areas to speed up redevelopment projects.

This will include creation of a new community at Sparwood, at the eastern highway entrance to B.C., as a step toward rehabilitating the grimy coal mine towns of Natal and Michel.

The only hint of tax cuts came in a pledge to provide more exemptions from succession duties.

But there was an indication that a further reduction in light bills will be made this year by the crown-owned B.C. Hydro and Power Authority.

"Further reductions in rates can be expected," the throne speech said.

It said that three cuts made since 1962 have already saved power consumers more than \$13.2 million a year.

As forecast, there will be legislation permitting new regional parks authorities, amendments to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act, changes in the Land Act to allow agricultural use of forest lands, and amendments to the Mineral Act.

There was, however, no

mention of new expropriation laws expected to follow the royal commission report of former B.C. Supreme Court justice J. V. Clynne, now head of MacMillan, Bloedel and Powell River Ltd.

Administrative procedures will be established to enable a \$4.9 million dike improvement scheme in the Fraser Valley. This is considered the first stage of a recommended \$400 million flood control and power plan on the Fraser River system.

PROGRESS HAILED

The throne speech said the people of B.C. made unparalleled progress in 1964.

"And my government will continue to implement programs designed to encourage the development of a dynamic society for the material and cultural enrichment of all British Columbians," it said.

The mainstay of this society is Bennett's two-river power policy for development of the Peace and Columbia rivers, the speech said.

RAISE PROMISED

The throne speech also confirmed previous Bennett pledges including a raise for all civil servants; another bridge across First Narrows; and a 23-mile extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway from Kennedy, north of Prince George, to the southern tip of the lake to be created by the Portage Mountain Dam on the Peace River.

Other new legislation promised includes: Amendments to the Company and Credit Union acts to improve inspection provisions; creation of a new forest district to meet an unprecedented demand for timber by the boom in pulp mills; changes in the Pollution Control Act, and new mental health regulations in line with legislation approved last year.

FRIDAY, JAN. 22, 1965

'NOT VERY DYNAMIC'

Liberals, New Democrats Criticize Throne Speech

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA—Premier W. A. C. Bennett's dynamic society plans are too little and too late, according to Opposition leader Robert Strachan.

Strachan said Thursday there is little of significance in the throne speech which outlined government policy at the opening of the legislature here. "I thought they would take over the B.C. Telephone Co. I'm sorry they made no mention of that," he said.

"I'm sorry, too, there was no mention made of comprehensive government auto insurance to do something about the exorbitant rates the public is being gouged on."

TOO LITTLE, LATE

Strachan said the promise of bigger education grants is too little and too late.

He said the government could earlier have taken advantage of \$52 million worth of federal aid available for vocational education.

The result has been that young people who need training now are stagnated, he said.

Strachan declined to comment on the brief reference to bank legislation in the throne speech.

"We'll have to wait and see," he said.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said the throne speech generally was a lacklustre effort that didn't come close to Premier Bennett's announced plan for a dynamic society.

LARGELY OLD STUFF

"Thousands of British Columbians and certainly members of the legislature will be disappointed by today's throne speech," he said.

B.C. Pays Tenth Of Works Wages

VICTORIA — The B.C. government is paying less than one tenth of the payroll for municipal winter works this year, the legislature learned Thursday.

The total payroll at Jan. 5 was \$3,892,222, of which B.C. had contributed only \$802,072.

The municipalities had to shoulder \$3,620,500, and the federal government kicked in the lion's share of \$4,469,650.

He said the speech was largely a catalogue of events previously announced. "Frankly we (the five Liberal MLAs) were astonished that a speech given such extraordinary billing produced so much padding."

Perrault said he is disappointed the speech did not announce the setting up of an economic council, terming the omission a tremendous failing to secondary payroll industries.

He said he is disappointed

the government did not announce a redistribution of electoral seats or creation of the office of ombudsman to protect citizens from possible government abuse.

"While it held out hope of some progress in the area of medical care and hospital coverage, it was most decidedly a lacklustre effort, and it is certainly well short of the dynamic plan for a dynamic future promised by the premier a few days ago," Perrault said.

Nothing for City, Says Mayor Rathie

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—There was nothing special for Vancouver to cheer about in the B.C. government's program outlined to the legislature Thursday, according to Mayor Bill Rathie.

Rathie said the speech from the throne was generally interesting, but he had no specific comment to make.

"I don't think there was anything in it of particular news to the Vancouver area," he said.

PLEAS IGNORED

There was no reference in the speech to any government plans for boosting grants to municipalities and nothing to indicate Rathie's pleas for aid have been heard.

"I'm not surprised," Rathie said, "because the government hasn't admitted there is a problem."

Rathie said he doesn't intend to give up plans to maintain continuous city hall lobby during the legislative session.

He said he plans to visit Victoria at least once a week to discuss the city's needs with MLAs.

BRIDGE TALKS

Rathie said one of the top men on his list is Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi.

He wants to ask Gaglardi about plans for a new First Narrows bridge.

"We don't necessarily agree with their plans," Rathie said. He was referring to Premier W. A. C. Bennett's pledge to build a bridge if the municipalities will pay for approach roads.

"We don't know what roads are going to be involved," said Rathie.

Gaglardi Probe Cost \$24,315

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — It cost B.C. taxpayers \$24,315 to investigate Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi in 1963.

The figure was disclosed for the first time Thursday in the provincial government's public accounts—detailed record of spending—tabled in the legislature.

Gaglardi was cleared in the probe which lasted more than two months.

A royal commission probe of expropriation laws, completed last year by former judge J. V. Clyne, cost \$20,651.

Another royal commission, into workmen's compensation, has so far cost \$77,355.

A third one, investigating gasoline prices, which is also still under way, has cost \$18,272.

CEREMONIES PICKETED

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Three picketers joined the throng gathered outside the legislative buildings Thursday to watch ceremonies opening the annual session of the legislature.

Members of Canada Iron Workers Union No. 1, they paraded with placards near a guard of honor being inspected by Lieut. Gov. George Pearkes.

They said they were protesting labor relations board rejection of a bid for certification at the Klug Corp. plant in Burnaby and a \$150 initiation fee imposed on Peace and Columbia River project workers by U.S.-based unions.

'GREAT LEADER'

Tribute Paid to Churchill

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Tribute was paid to Sir Winston Churchill in the speech from the throne opening the legislature here Thursday.

The half-hour address read by Lieutenant-Governor George Pearkes to MLAs, members of the judiciary, churches, universities, and hundreds of other invited guests said:

"From time to time in the life of nations there emerges in moments of crisis a great leader who by virtue of his intelligence and strength of character is able to mobilize all the physical and spiritual resources of that nation and to bring it safely through."

"Such a man is the Right Honorable Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, KG, PC, OM, whose grave illness now causes universal concern."

"A great parliamentarian, he served without stint his sovereign, his nation, and his world. We today are the beneficiaries of his tenacity of purpose."

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DYNAMIC SOCIETY NOT ALL ROSES

Other Side of the Coin

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — All is not roses in Premier W. A. C. Bennett's dynamic society.

Materially, British Columbians never had it so good. Socially, things are in a bit of a mess — especially at home.

The other side of Bennett's bright coin was turned up Thursday by Mary M. King, the recently-retired superintendent of child welfare in B.C.

Her annual report was tabled in the legislature only minutes after B.C.'s dolled-up elite of more than 600 invited guests heard a glowing word picture of the new society Bennett says he is creating.

The plan for the dynamic society was outlined in the

throne speech which opened the session.

But Miss King's report had this to say:

"There is a contradiction in our society.

"On the one hand we have relative material affluence.

"And on the other, an increase in serious social ills such as divorce, desertion, temporary marital relationships, child abuse, delinquent behavior, a lowering of age and increase in the illegitimacy rate threatening family life and healthy childhood growth."

Never has B.C.'s society had so much knowledge, so many services and so much ability to combat its ills, said Miss King, who retired early from her government post at the end of last year to do social work in England.

"Yet never before has society felt so anxious, insecure and threatened."

She said B.C.'s social sickness could be partly caused by fear of self-destruction.

It could also be caused by the tensions of sudden economic and social change, she said.

A total of 6,542 children were in the care of the welfare department and three children's aid societies on March 31, 1964, she said.

This was an increase of 554 over the previous year.

Illegitimate births were up 482 to a new high of 3,083 for the year.

Cost of child welfare jumped \$620,000 to \$4,907,387.

She suggested a shift from palliative to preventive measures.

Teacher Shortage Critical, Education Department Says

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — There are not enough teachers to keep pace with B.C.'s education boom.

The annual report of the provincial education department says the 844 new teachers hired for public schools last year were not enough.

B.C. had 14,415 teachers for 378,641 children, says the report, filed in the legislature Thursday. Each child cost \$386.73 to educate.

Total spending on education during 1964 was \$177.5 million, of which the B.C. government contributed \$95.4 million.

The teacher shortage was described by the report as critical.

The teacher shortage is particularly serious in secondary schools, and there is no sign of any immediate relief, it said.

The department of trade and industry's report, also filed Thursday, said a member of the education department went to London last spring to interview prospective teachers.

Williston Leads Expense Accounts

VICTORIA — B.C. has a new champion of the expense account — Resources Minister Ray Williston.

Williston tops the list of cabinet ministers' expenses chalked up during the province's last financial year which ended March 31, 1964.

He spent \$6,112, much of it hopping back and forth between Victoria and Ottawa for Columbia Power negotiations.

Bankrolls Bigger for Booze, Bets

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — British Columbians are blowing more on booze and bangtails than ever before, government reports disclosed Thursday.

The latest report of the Liquor Control Board shows \$60,649,178 spent on liquor in the first six months of the 1964 fiscal year, which began last April 1.

This amounts to about \$10 a month for each of the one million or so adults in the province and is up \$2.8 million from the corresponding period of 1963.

The report of the racing commission says racegoers wagered \$19.8 million in 1964, a jump of \$1.8 million from the previous year.

Both reports were tabled in the legislature.

Drinkers downed \$117.1 million worth of liquor in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1964, and left a net profit of \$32.7 million.

The six-month sales in the current fiscal year left net profit of \$16.2 million.

Last year, 34,799 prosecutions were launched under the Government Liquor Act, including 28,910 drunk charges.

Almost 12,000 persons were jailed for liquor offences, and the fines totalled \$313,482.

FRIDAY, JAN. 22, 1965

Medicare Plan Cheered, Booed

By ARNIE MYERS
Sun Medical Reporter

Doctors and private medical-insurance officials cautiously applauded Premier Bennett's proposed medicare scheme Thursday.

Opposition party leaders and union spokesmen blasted it as inadequate.

"Tin-cup medicare," New Democratic leader Robert

Strachan called it, referring to the announcement that the plan will subsidize only those in low-income groups.

But the sketchy outlines of the scheme that emerged from the throne speech and from a Bennett press conference seemed to fit the template long advocated by the doctors.

SUBSIDY ONLY

The plan calls for insurance to be provided by existing health-insurance agencies, with government participation apparently limited to subsidizing premiums for those who cannot afford to pay the full cost themselves.

This is the plan now in use in Alberta, which seems to have been Bennett's model, and soon to be introduced in Ontario.

It is far removed from the compulsory, all-out medicare scheme proposed last year by the Hall royal commission on health services, and from the similar scheme now in effect in Saskatchewan.

'INSULT TO DIGNITY'

Premier Bennett described the plan as the first stage of comprehensive medicare. He said B.C. is continuing to press Ottawa for a national scheme, but in the meantime decided to help those who need help the most.

Strachan said the Bennett plan will involve a means test which would be an insult to human dignity.

"It means in B.C. there are two classes of citizens—those who can afford to pay all the traffic can bear and those who have to take cup in hand and beg from the provincial government," he said.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said the scheme appears to be a half-hearted one that falls far short of meeting B.C.'s need.

"This government is being dragged reluctantly, kicking and struggling, into the area of medical care coverage," he said.

He said the plan is aimed at getting maximum political effect at minimum cost.

DOCTORS CO-OPERATE

Dr. Peter Banks of Victoria, president of the B.C. Medical Association, pledged the co-operation of the medical profession in working out details of the scheme "so that it will be in the best interests of the people, of the doctors and of the government."

He said the premier's approach "seems to be a wise

one."

He estimated about 200,000 British Columbians cannot afford coverage now offered by insurance companies and voluntary insurance agencies.

TWO VIEWS

Two B.C. labor leaders attacked the Bennett plan, but for different reasons. One said Bennett should have launched a full Saskatchewan-style medicare plan for B.C.; the other contended only a national plan would work.

Officials of two organizations representing many of the people most intimately affected—the elderly—said they are pleased with the plan, but one feels it should have gone further.

These were the comments of some of the spokesmen surveyed by The Sun:

Dr. Frank Turnbull, president, Canadian Medical Association: "I think this plan fits in well with the philosophy of most of our doctors. My own view is that different kinds of plans should be developed in different areas so we can compare them and choose the best."

'GREY AREA'

"This 'grey area' (the group of citizens who cannot afford insurance and who are not covered by social assistance) has been our principal problem in the past. It's going to be difficult to work out the details, I'm sure of that."

"The plan will have to be made attractive enough (through sufficiently high subsidies) so that people will want to get on the bandwagon. Otherwise they'll just go along as they have, hoping not to get sick. This is one of the weaknesses of the Alberta plan."

Dr. J. F. McCreary, dean of medicine, University of B.C.: "This is certainly a step in the right direction. The premier has said it's just an intermediate step and I think we have to take it on faith that it's exactly that."

PRESSURES

"I doubt very much that the people of Canada are going to be satisfied with this degree of health coverage, so I think there will be pressures to extend this plan when the federal government comes into the picture."

Pat O'Neal, secretary-treasurer, B.C. Federation of Labor: "This has all the earmarks of the patchwork plans of Alberta and Ontario and I think this is very, very tragic."

MODEL PLAN

"It's most regrettable he (the premier) wouldn't introduce a plan similar to Sas-

katchewan's, which evidently is a model plan and was wholeheartedly endorsed by the Hall commission."

"I don't think the people of B.C. should accept any substitute for a full, comprehensive medical care plan. The premier should have gone ahead on his own. We need it, we can afford it, and we should have it."

"Premier Bennett's plan appears to be tailored to meet the prejudices of the B.C. Medical Association and not the needs of the people of the province."

NO SUBSTITUTE

"The B.C. Federation of Labor will never accept means test medicine as a substitute for comprehensive medical care."

Paddy Neale, secretary-treasurer, Vancouver and District Labor Council: "This is just an endeavor to stop a national medicare plan. If the provinces introduce piecemeal plans like this, it will hold back implementation of the Hall recommendations on a national scale."

"We feel the only practicable plan is a national one."

Joe Corsbie, executive director, CU and C Health Services Society (B.C.'s second-largest prepaid health plan): "We appreciate any move that will make coverage available to more people. This isn't going to do the job by any means; we welcome it but we feel there will still be those who won't be able to obtain coverage."

"Our board of directors feels there is a need for a comprehensive plan and the province could have gone ahead with one on its own."

Margaret Gulick, executive director, Medical Services Inc. (the doctor-owned insurance agency): "I think this is a wonderful thing. This is the only group of people in the province who haven't had coverage available to them."

Dr. E. C. McCoy, executive director, B.C. Medical Association: "This seems to be a logical step to provide medical care for people who need help. It allows for step-by-step provision and certainly this seems logical."

Vincent Yates, president, B.C. Old Age Pensioners' Organization (12,000 members): "We asked for some form of medicare in a brief to the cabinet Dec. 2. We're very pleased that this will help those who can't quite qualify for supplementary pensions."

G. L. Ingram, president, Federal Legislative Council, Elder Citizens' Associations (representing 100,000 members in a number of organizations):

FRIDAY, JAN. 22, 1965

"This is a step forward. We've finally broken the barrier but it's not too convincing so far. Our ultimate goal is full medical care for the elderly. The others can take care of themselves."

Health Minister Eric Martin:
"I can't talk about it."

FLIES HERE

Dr. Banks, president of the B.C. Medical Association, heard the plan outlined at the opening of the legislature, then flew to Vancouver to discuss it with directors of his association.

He said his association hopes to work closely with Victoria in evolving the details of the plan. "Our relationship with government should be that of experienced and expert advisers," he said.

Dr. Banks said an association survey in 1961 indicated about 11 per cent of B.C.'s population needed medical insurance but could not afford to buy it.

ELDERLY, SICK

He said many of these were elderly people or those with existing diseases, which insurance agencies have had difficulty in covering.

NDP leader Strachan said the Bennett scheme is a capitulation to the doctors.

But he declined to say, until he sees details in legislation to come later in the session, whether his party will vote against the plan.

Liberal leader Perrault also declined to make a final judgment on the plan until the legislation is presented.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23, 1965

City Needs More, MLA Tells Gov't

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A strong plea for more government aid to Vancouver was made in the legislature Friday by veteran Socred frontbencher Bert Price.

The MLA for Vancouver-Burrard, and government whip, said the city's financial problems are more urgent than those of any other B.C. municipality.

"The provincial government will have to give grave consideration to Vancouver's position because the city can help itself only to a limited degree," Price said.

And he declared:

"There is a serious question as to whether the city's share of provincial revenue has remained in line with what the government takes out of the city."

Price's speech opening the throne speech debate on the second day of the session echoed Mayor Rathie's call for more help from Victoria.

Price said the city occupies a unique position because its welfare and progress is related to and dependent on the rest of the province.

He said the city is called upon to pay for services used extensively by non-residents, particularly from neighboring municipalities.

But this is becoming difficult now because of the city's serious debt position, Price

said.

LIMITED POWER

He said this has hamstrung council in efforts to spend further money on public projects because the city's borrowing power is limited.

"It is easy to find fault with past councils for permitting this debt to creep up, but all expenditure was passed by public vote and you cannot blame councils for trying to give people what they vote for," he said.

Price said the result is that property owners are being forced to bear the brunt of additional civic spending because the city can tap only them for revenue.

"Can you blame the mayor and council for being very concerned over taxes on property, and suggesting the time has come for other means of raising revenue necessary for the city?" he asked.

MANY OUTSIDERS

Price did not say so, but he was obviously referring to Rathie's proposal for a city sales tax.

He said city taxpayers are in a peculiar bind because increasing numbers of non-resi-

dents are using their services.

He gave as examples Vancouver General Hospital, where he said 35 to 40 per cent of the beds are used by outside patients; the PNE, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Stanley Park, and Vancouver Vocational School, where 56 per cent of the students come from outside the city.

Price said the city pays between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the school's operating costs, while vocational schools elsewhere in the province have their total operating costs paid for by the government.

MORE TAX

Price said retail sales in Vancouver are continuing to rise, returning more sales tax to the province.

In 1963, Vancouver's 408,000 residents contributed \$25 million to provincial coffers from the five per cent tax but got back only \$2.6 million in per capita grants, he said.

He said these figures raise the question whether the city is getting its fair share of provincial revenue.

Price ended by telling Premier W. A. C. Bennett: "Vancouver needs your help."

A PERENNIAL

Hansard Request Renewed

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The Opposition has renewed a perennial request for a Hansard to record every word spoken in the provincial legislature.

There is at present no formal record of debates.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan has filed a motion asking the government to consider introducing Hansard, a printed record like that used in the House of Commons in Ottawa.

In past years the government either has refused the request or has promised to study it, but has never taken action.

Another motion, presented

by Premier W. A. C. Bennett, sets the stage for night sittings starting next Tuesday.

There are already 89 questions addressed to cabinet ministers filed on the legislature's order paper by Opposition members.

Biggest target is social welfare, with 23 questions, mostly from Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney), who wants full details on spending, staff and services.

Eight questions ask Health Minister Eric Martin to give more information on Woodlands School for retarded children.

A question from Strachan asks who gets free passes on government ferries.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault wants to know how many gallons of liquor the government sold last year.

Randolph Harding (NDP-Kaslo-Slocan) asks how much money Prince George contractor Ben Ginter has got from government contracts over the past year.

Gov't Paid \$68.3 Million

VICTORIA — The government paid \$185,000 a day last year to cover hospital costs of 468,200 patients.

The figures were made public in the annual report of B.C. Hospital Insurance Service, table din the legislature.

Payments for the year totalled \$68.3 million.

The report said the average length of stay in hospital was 9.59 days.

It also said that 3,855 bills were paid for B.C. residents treated in hospital in foreign countries.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23, 1965

No Hike in Taxes, Bennett Promises

'Medical Care for Low Earners Will Come Without Increase'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C.'s proposed new medicare plan for low income earners will not be financed through higher taxes, Premier W. A. C. Bennett told the legislature Friday.

He made the statement during a speech by Bert Price (SC Vancouver Burrard).

Price praised the government for bringing in the plan during his address opening the throne speech debate.

"The public will be most grateful to the government for this plan," he said.

He said British Columbians would welcome complete medicare, but they should first know how much it will cost and whether they can afford it.

"No increased taxes in B.C.," the premier interjected.

THRONE SPEECH

The medicare program was announced in the throne speech Thursday, but few details were given.

The speech said only that legislation will be introduced to provide for government contributions toward the cost of medical insurance services for citizens whose incomes are at lower levels.

are at lower levels.

It said the assistance would be granted in connection with approved medical plans and would be on a voluntary basis.

Price said it is now clear the public wants and expects medicare.

He said it had always been his opinion that this was a federal responsibility and that B.C. could not go it alone.

HELP OUT

Under a national scheme, the rich provinces would be expected to help out the poorer ones and this would place an additional burden on B.C., however, Price said.

"It might be that it would cost no more to go it alone and restrict coverage to residents of one year than it would with federal participation," he said.

He suggested the health department study costs to see if the province could introduce universal medicare on its own.

Price also commended the government for its perform-

ance over the past 12 years, and paid special tribute to Premier Bennett, who he called a trusted leader.

The MLA said he was pleased to learn the government would substantially increase its probation service in the coming year, and that steps were to be taken to get into the banking business.

PEOPLE WANT IT

Price said British Columbians are behind the government's plan for a Bank of British Columbia, which the Senate banking committee has turned down.

"That the Senate has taken on itself to tell the people what they can't have is a very serious thing," he said. "This is contrary to the principle of democracy."

Sacred MLAs led by Bennett thumped their desks when Price urged citizens to send telegrams to senators showing they are in favor of the bank.

Save Stanley Park, Says Bert Price

VICTORIA — A government MLA said Friday that Stanley Park should be saved at any cost when a new bridge is built across First Narrows.

The provincial government has hired a team of engineers to design the bridge, though there is no indication when construction will start.

Speaking in the legislature, Bert Price (SC-Vancouver Burrard) said authorities should not allow the bridge and approaches to ruin the park.

FORESHORE ROAD

He suggested the park could be skirted by building an approach highway along the fore-

shore.

"Cutting up of Stanley Park should be carefully studied," Price said. "There must be very good planning. A matter of an extra \$20 million should not be an important consideration."

Price also reiterated his stand that B.C. Hydro's bus system should not be dumped onto municipalities when current franchises end.

"I hope it will continue to be operated by Hydro because it has better managers," he said.

Price suggested introducing special low fares in a bid to pick up more young passengers.

MORE YOUNGSTERS

He said many youngsters who now walk to school could be induced to ride buses if fares were low, and Hydro could look on this extra money as gravy.

Hydro needs more passengers, he said.

Price called for lower gas rates and proposed reducing the fee for hooking up meters.

He said contractors hired to make meter connections can do the job for \$2 but consumers are charged \$5.

"This is something that I think should have a second look for sure," he said.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23, 1965

B.C. Plans Chronic Care Coverage

Socred Hints Extension Of Hospital Insurance

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A Social Credit member of the legislature hinted Friday that B.C. hospital insurance will be extended to cover chronic care cases this year.

Bert Price, member for Vancouver Burrard, said chronic coverage now seems near after years of public pleas for its inclusion in the insurance service.

DISCUSSIONS HELD

Price was commenting on an oblique reference to chronic care in the throne speech, read to the House Thursday.

The speech said B.C. and Ottawa discussed extensions of hospital insurance in 1964 and the province will continue to press for a final agreement.

"It is hoped that the provision of hospital insurance benefits to those receiving long-term continuing care will be undertaken during the present year," the speech said.

Presumably this would mean Ottawa and B.C. would share the cost.

COST \$11 A DAY

Price said the high charges of private hospitals providing long-term care are tragic.

"They are \$11 a day or more," he said.

BCHIS now pays only toward acute hospital care.

But patients who need a longer stay in hospital for a chronic ailment for which no swift treatment is available are forced to go into the high cost private hospitals, Price said.

This is extremely hard for young families forced to pay care for elderly parents," he said.

MLA Wants Revamping In Senate

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A Social Credit MLA, stung by rejection of Premier W. A. C. Bennett's proposed B.C. bank, has proposed that provincial governments be allowed to appoint half the Senate.

James Chabot (SC-Columbia) told the legislature Friday that Senate reform is long overdue.

Bennett himself led an anvil chorus of enthusiastic Socred desk-thumping approving Chabot's suggestion.

Chabot said it is disgraceful that provincial governments in B.C. and Alberta have no political representatives in the Senate, composed mainly of Liberals and Conservatives.

He said he wondered what would have happened if it had been Quebec, not B.C., that asked for incorporation of a chartered bank.

"Would the federal government have passed the word along in the interests of unity to pass the bill?" he asked.

Chabot said it is high time the Senate realized provincial governments exist.

"And it's time for some changes in the composition of the Senate."

"Are you against old age pensioners?" quipped Opposition leader Robert Strachan.

"In this sense I am," Chabot replied.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1965

Provincial, Civic Leaders Mourn Soldier, Statesman

British Columbia paid tribute Sunday to Sir Winston Churchill through provincial and civic leaders.

Lieutenant Governor George Pearkes said:

"With the rest of the world, British Columbians mourn the passing of this famous soldier and statesman.

"His greatness inspired not only the British people but men of many nations to rise to great heights of nobility. History will praise him as a remarkable politician and brilliant orator, a skilful writer and artist, and above all a gifted leader who guided his countrymen through crisis after crisis.

"We share with his family in their grief and offer our sincere sympathy and condolences."

PREMIER'S TRIBUTE

Premier W. A. C. Bennett: "He was the greatest government leader of all time and he put principles first no matter from where the criticism came.

"In most of his life he was criticized by almost every force within Britain but when an emergency came he became their prime minister.

"He saved the world, not only the Western world but China and Russia as well. We in B.C. and people everywhere will ever be indebted to him."

Liberal leader Ray Perrault: "Churchill was an adornment to the parliamentary system. His words and his works, his magnificent qualities of leadership and his capacity to inspire stand as a goal toward which all those in public life can only attempt to aspire."

New Democratic leader Robert Strachan:

"He proved himself time and again to be the right man in the right place at the right time. He has left a legacy to everyone that can act as an inspiration."

Conservative leader Davie Fulton:

"At the close of a life that was so completely identified

with the age in which he lived, it is not surprising that every one of us should feel a sense of real personal loss.

"Churchill made his visions of splendor and his ideals of a nobility of mankind seem the true goal and potential of even the humblest of his fellow men.

"His parting leaves us with a sense of sadness that our interpreter of true greatness has gone.

"And yet how infinitely richer we are for his presence among us."

'INSPIRING LEADERSHIP'

Vancouver Mayor Bill Rathie:

"Sir Winston's passing brings grief to us all. His qualities of statesmanship and bravery, his inspiring leadership and his magnificent oratory will remain in our memories and in our hearts forever.

"We have lost a great man and our sympathies go out to his family."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1965

Why Fire Jones? Strachan Demands

He Questions Gov't's Motive
In Not Reinstating Purchaser

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Opposition leader Robert Strachan questioned Monday the Social Credit government's motive for not reinstating purchasing commission chairman George E. P. Jones.

Strachan demanded an immediate explanation of why the government has not reinstated Jones despite his acquittal in court of charges that he accepted favors from a car dealer.

The cabinet suspended Jones pending the outcome of the court case, but has made no effort to give his job back since he was acquitted Jan. 15.

Strachan said in the legislature that the result of the trial could be described as "Bonner Bungles Again."

ANGRY SILENCE

Premier W. A. C. Bennett and Attorney-General Robert Bonner sat in angry silence when Strachan unleashed his attack on their handling of the Jones case.

In acquitting Jones, the court ruled he was responsible only to the legislature.

Strachan wanted to know why the government has not told MLAs what it wants to do about Jones.

"The government may have a good reason for wanting to fire this man," he said, "but if it does, the government is failing in its duty when it doesn't communicate its reasons to the legislature."

"Anything else is trampling

on the rights of the House."

PRESSURE CHECKED

Strachan said the purchasing commission was set up by the legislature in such a way as to prevent political pressure.

"How do we know the government's reasons for wanting Jones removed are not political?" he asked.

"How do we know he is not being railroaded because he refused to recommend certain Social Credit heelers get certain contracts?"

"Or because he objected to Social Credit heelers getting contracts?"

THREE CHOICES

Strachan said the government has three choices and it must make one of them immediately.

Reinstate Jones; refer the whole case to a committee of MLAs, or call Jones before the legislature and confront him with a specific charge.

"Anything less is another step in the destruction of the rights of the members of this legislature—another indication of the arrogant ruthlessness of the government," said Strachan.

Strachan said Jones was

hired in 1956 at a salary of \$7,800 a year.

He received a raise every subsequent year except 1961.

His salary as listed in the most recent public accounts is \$10,680.

"Regular raises to any employee indicate satisfaction with the work being done," said Strachan.

NO WITNESSES

He noted Jones was acquitted without the defence having to call a single witness.

He said the story was told in headlines reading "Jones Cleared of Wrongdoing."

"Being facetious for a moment, the headlines should have read 'Bonner Bungles Again'."

An angry Bennett made his one comment on the whole speech: "I thought you said you were being facetious."

Strachan said the purchasing commission is composed by law of three members.

With Jones suspended, is the commission's work being handled by the other two? he asked.

Is Jones getting paid? If not, why not?

"Is the government deliberately flouting the will of the legislature?"

"I suggest to you it is."

Flood Relief Act 'Joke'

VICTORIA (CP)—Farmers who have investigated the statute consider B.C.'s Distress Area Assistance Act just a joke, Opposition leader Robert Strachan told the legislature Monday.

Strachan said the farmers have found anyone with a mortgage is disqualified from obtaining assistance and those without mortgages could get bank loans on better terms.

He said a survey of banks in the Lower Fraser Valley indicated no farmers have applied for loans under the act since lands flooded by last spring's freshet were declared distress areas.

The NDP leader decried the absence of any reference in the throne speech to measures designed to maintain an adequate cash income for the farmer.

BRIDGE PLAN CHALLENGED

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government should foot the entire bill for a new First Narrows bridge and its approach roads, Liberal leader Ray Perrault told the legislature Monday.

The government has announced it will pay for the bridge but the approaches will be left up to municipalities.

Perrault, of North Vancouver, said in the throne speech debate that the government paid for the Kelowna floating bridge and its approaches in Premier Bennett's riding and for the Overlander bridge and approaches at Kamloops in Highway Minister Phil Gaglardi's riding.

JONES GETS NO MENTION

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The 1964 report of the B.C. purchasing commission was tabled Monday in the legislature.

It contained no reference to the suspension of commission chairman George E. P. Jones or to his acquittal on charges of accepting benefits from a city auto dealer.

The report said the commission spent \$38.8 million during the year filling 52,855 orders for government departments.

Redraw Ridings, B.C. Told

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Liberal leader Ray Perrault called Monday for establishment of a three-man commission to redraw the boundaries of provincial constituencies.

Current distribution of seats in the B.C. legislature, he said, gives the province one of the most undemocratic electoral systems on the continent.

Perrault suggested a commission composed of the chief justice of the province, a leading educator and the chief electoral officer, to take redistribution out of the political arena.

Redistribution has been avoided in the past, the Liberal leader said, because Premier W. A. C. Bennett fears that correcting the situation would result in a loss of political power for the Socred party.

"Whether some members of this legislature find the facts distasteful or not, the fact is that the majority of the members here were elected in 1963 by ridings whose voters represent only 10 per cent of B.C.'s population," he said.

In the province's 26 least-populous ridings, members were elected by a total of 80,000 voters in 1963, Perrault said.

In the same election, in the one riding of Vancouver-Point Grey, more than 87,000 votes were cast.

"Before this session is over, legislation should be introduced to establish the machinery for redistribution of electoral ridings to give British Columbia some semblance of electoral democracy," he said.

IF AND WHEN—

Who'll Own Bank? Asks Strachan

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — New Democratic Party opposition leader Robert Strachan wants to know who will own the Bank of British Columbia, if and when it gets a federal charter.

He asked Premier W. A. C. Bennett Monday to tell the legislature if any type of trust agreement or other document has been drawn up between the government and the bank's five provisional directors to say who will own the assets.

Strachan said this information is vital in view of the government's decreasing role in the venture, because the application is in the names of five private citizens.

"They won't get it anyway, so don't worry," Gordon Gibson (L.-North Vancouver) interjected.

Strachan said the 25 per cent interest the legislature has allowed the government to acquire in the bank is little enough. It should have been 100 per cent, he said.

Now Bennett has told Canadian senators his government will buy only five to 10 per cent of the shares, said Strachan.

"I am disturbed at the premier's capitulation to the Senate, because I think it is reprehensible that a non-elective body in this country should decide what matters are going to come before the elected members of the House of Commons for their decision," he said.

'DEAR COMRADE'

Perrault Got NDP Dun Letter

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. Liberal leader Ray Perrault got a surprise from B.C. New Democratic leader Robert Strachan last year.

It was a letter from Strachan to "Dear Comrade" asking for funds to help keep the NDP provincial office open.

Recalling the incident in the legislature Monday, Perrault said the letter showed the NDP leader has confidence in the Liberals.

"I like you," replied Strachan, who said he got a contribution from a Socred minister. The minister was not named.

Later other NDP officials identified the Socred as Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell.

They said Campbell donated \$1 when he overheard Strachan mention his party needed funds to keep the headquarters open.

Strachan Talks Up Subsidized Buses

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—B.C. Hydro should subsidize bus service from its Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island power profits, Opposition leader Robert Strachan said Monday.

Strachan attacked the Jan. 1 bus fare increases in the legislature.

Fares rose from 15 cents to 20 cents cash.

"Actions of this kind give a bad name to publicly-owned social enterprise," he said.

Strachan said it would be unfair for all Hydro Power customers to pay for Lower Mainland buses.

But Hydro makes enough extra money on power sales in Greater Vancouver and Vic-

toria to subsidize buses directly from revenue, he said.

Strachan also attacked the government decision last week to grant an extra \$1 a month to pensioners on supplementary assistance to help pay for their bus fares.

"They all need the dollar for living expenses and a whole lot more," he said.

Strachan said pensioners should get free bus passes, as they do in Calgary and Edmonton.

TUESDAY, JAN. 26, 1965

James K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — Social Creditor J. R. Chabot of Columbia delivered a fine legislative speech, all about the great need for more Canadian unity.

This made a great hit with Premier Bennett, who took to thumping his desk and looking starry-eyed at young Mr. Chabot as he spoke, telling us what a wonderful land we live in if only we'd become more unified.



NESBITT

Our premier makes a great to-do about Canadian unity, saying he's Canada first and British Columbia second.

But when it suits his own purpose he's the other way round.

Yes, said Mr. Chabot, encouraged by his chief, we all need to be greater Canadians, and we here in British Columbia must work more in brotherly love with other Canadians, even those in Quebec.

And then he threw in his own little plug for disunity. Almost sneeringly, he referred to "the red Pearson flag," thereby making a lot of Canadians mad. To call the official Maple Leaf flag of Canada "the red Pearson flag" is to insult it.

I've not much opinion one way or the other on the flag, but it appears it's being eagerly accepted by many people. Even here, said to be the natural home of the Union Jack and the Red Ensign, it's amazing the number of Maple Leaf flags already flying.

Officially, in this capital, we're to have four official flags, the Maple Leaf, the Union Jack, the Red Ensign and the British Columbia sunburst; in addition the Stars and Stripes will fly in front of many stores, so that American visitors may be enticed to spend their nice fat American dollars.

So many flags, of course, add up to one fact, and it is this: we really have no flag at all. So many flags merely increase the divisions among us.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27, 1965

Japan Tour Set for Half Of Cabinet

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Half of the B.C. cabinet will embark on a trade and goodwill mission to Japan this year, Trade and Industry Minister Ralph Loffmark told the legislature Tuesday.

The delegation, to be headed by Premier W. A. C. Bennett, will tour Japan from May 23 to June 6.

Loffmark said the group will include himself, Resources Minister Ray Williston, Mines Minister Donald Brothers, Recreation and Conservation Minister Ken Kiernan, Attorney-General Robert Bonner and deputy provincial secretary L. J. Wallace.

The mission is a follow-up to a smaller B.C. mission to Japan last year which included Loffmark and Agriculture Minister Frank Richter.

Loffmark, in his first speech to the legislature as a cabinet minister, said B.C. draws its life blood from international trade.

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'Keep Our Water,' Says Perrault

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Liberal leader Ray Perrault says Canada must hold on to its water resources no matter how thirsty the United States becomes.

Perrault told the legislature Tuesday night that some Americans are already eyeing Canada's water supplies and referring to them as "continental water resources."

"If the political parties in this province have the public interest in mind, and I think they have, they will be united in the view that our water resources are Canadian resources. They are not continental resources," he said.

The Liberal leader's stand on the issue is opposite to that

held by some federal Liberals, notably Jack Davis, MP for Coast Capilano.

Davis, parliamentary assistant to Prime Minister Lester Pearson, says he is in favor of the Parsons plan which proposes exporting Canadian water into the parched U.S. south.

Perrault made it clear that Canadian water, and B.C. water in particular, is not the property of the entire continent.

"The way in which we manage our water in the next generation may well determine more than any other resource factor our future for generations to come," he said.

Barrett Attacks Control of Papers

By FRANK RUTTER

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Dave Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) attacked common ownership of four of five major B.C. metropolitan newspapers when he spoke to the legislature Tuesday.

He said the four newspapers have made the present federal government their darling.

"They write nice things about Prime Minister Lester Pearson, but attack opposition Leader John Diefenbaker like some kind of animal," he said. "This does a disservice to the Canadian people."

If certain things happened under New Democratic or Social Credit governments there would be headlines six inches high dripping with blood, Barrett said.

STAFF 'CONTROLLED'

Barrett said what concerns him is the control the newspapers have over staff.

"After all, if there are four newspapers owned by someone, even if you step from newspaper to newspaper, you're serving the same master."

"This does influence subtly and unconsciously the material these people produce."

Barrett said the traditions of fearless reporting are being diminished by central ownership.

He did not identify the newspapers, the reporters or the incidents to which he referred.

"After sounding these warnings I will go on to get no coverage for the rest of my speech," he said.

"They'll cover it if you say anything," boomed Gordon Gibson (Liberal—North Vancouver.)

BLACK ATTACKED

Barrett went on to attack the government for having the worst social welfare minister in B.C. history — Welfare Minister Wesley Black.

"You only care for the material things and you have neglected people and needs over and over again," he said.

He said the government is losing one third of its field welfare staff every year. There were 66 resignations last year.

This means there is a complete new staff every three years.

Good welfare services can only be maintained with a stable staff, Barrett said.

He also criticized the B.C. Ferry Authority for making employees work a 12-hour day. He said this could be dangerous. If there was an accident because of fatigue, the government would be to blame.

BY MLAs

Abolition Of Senate Suggested

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Abolition of the Senate was suggested Tuesday by spokesmen from two parties in the legislature.

Socred MLA Cyril Shelford, of Omineca, called the Senate a welfare scheme for faithful Liberal and Conservative Party followers.

Said New Democrat Frank Calder, of Atlin: "This is one body of our democratic system we can well do without."

Shelford disagreed with Attorney-General Robert Bonner's earlier plea for more B.C. representatives in the Senate.

"Under the present set-up we need more senators like we need a hole in the head," he said.

Shelford said the Senate should be abolished unless it is completely reformed to allow election of its members.

He termed Senate rejection of the Bank of B.C. the most narrow-minded action in Canadian history.

Shelford said governments should be allowed to invest their money instead of imposing new taxes.

B.C. Bank Bid Called 'Deception'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Liberal leader Ray Perrault Tuesday accused Premier W. A. C. Bennett of corny deception in claiming his proposed bank has no political ties.

Perrault said a key figure behind the bank is Einar M. Gunderson, one of five provisional directors.

He told the legislature that Gunderson is the grey eminence behind Social Credit government finance policy and always has been.

Perrault said Bennett told the Senate banking committee in Ottawa that he didn't know if Gunderson was a Social Credit party member.

"It's this kind of corny deception on the part of the premier in Ottawa that weakened the B.C. case before the Senate hearings," he said.

"The senators knew that Gunderson was a former Socred cabinet minister, is a director of B.C. Hydro and of the PGE railway," Perrault said.

"They know he audits Social Credit Party fund books and signs cheques. Gunderson has been festooned with honors by Social Credit."

Perrault said the Liberal party believes that there should be a B.C. bank, but the government should not be allowed to control it.

James K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—Campaign funds! Ah, the mystery and the secrecy of campaign funds!

The very mention of them conjures up pictures of sinister-looking people, in darkened hotel rooms, handing over bags of loot to the representatives of political parties.

Yes, bags of cash. For cheques are never supposed to be written for fear they might be traced and then all the financial and political hanky-panky that is said to go on would be exposed for all the world to see, and there could be scandals the public would love.

Where DO campaign funds, those big fat sums a government needs to fight a successful election come from? Alas, we'll never know. We may only suspect.

A party in power always has fatter campaign funds than parties out of power. Governments, too, are always more hush-hush about their campaign funds than are the opposition parties, which are apt to put on innocent looks of outrage, pretending they would never be mysterious and secretive if they were in power.

Oppositionists always let on governments are wicked and will do anything, even steal, to perpetuate themselves in power. Oppositionists are always very pure.

This week Opposition Leader Robert Strachan, in his best oratorical style, sniffed around and poked here and there and looked into cupboards. From what he saw and smelled, he was mighty suspicious about the \$292,000 Social Credit spent getting itself re-elected in 1963.

Strachan went on and on hinting darkly that this Social Credit government of one W.A.C. Bennett is up to something — giving special privileges to certain people. Otherwise where would it get that kind of money, he asked.

The premier, mostly pretending not to listen to what to him was a mad Strachan tirade, sat blandly, talking with his fellow cabinet ministers. Now and then he heckled the leader of the opposition a bit, but Mr. S. roared so loudly none could hear what the premier was saying so he subsided entirely.

The premier does not want too great an uproar about campaign funds. And one thing is sure: there'll be no royal commission into the source of campaign funds in this province. Oh, if only there was, what fun we'd have.

It's a strange thing but it is looked upon as dirty work if somebody gives a handout to the political party of his choice. There's a feeling abroad that if you should do this you are looking for favors. This is not necessarily so. If you believe in your



NESBITT

party, you most certainly should support it financially.

Strachan, keen student that he is, lives in hope that one of these fine days he'll smoke out the premier about the sources of Social Credit campaign funds.

He actually thinks that some day the premier will let something slip. Oh, yeah? I don't think he will; it's impossible to smoke out the premier on anything he doesn't want to be smoked out on, let alone anything as touchy and hush-hush as campaign funds.

There'll be no leaks about campaign funds from the Social Credit side of the House. Social Crediters never mention campaign funds; to them such funds do not exist, and that's all there is to it. Ignore campaign funds, and there aren't any. It's as simple as that.

Unable to find out where Sacred campaign funds come from, Strachan satisfied himself by saying the government keeps two sets of books, and is now being run by the old Coalition machines of Liberals and Conservatives. That's the way it is, said Strachan.

This caused Liberal leader Ray Perrault to raise his eyebrows and prick up his ears. But he said nothing, only made a note. Liberal funds going into Social Credit coffers? Perrault will see that doesn't happen; any Liberal money around he wants, and needs, for his own Liberal causes.

The annual mention of campaign funds this year really didn't get off the ground, caused hardly a ripple. The Strachan balloon soon burst.

Fraser Fish 'Worth Less Than Power'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A cabinet minister told the legislature Tuesday night that the Fraser River could produce more wealth from power than from salmon.

But Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark, who brought up the touchy fish-versus-hydro issue, said the government has no plans to harness the river at the expense of the fishing industry.

The Fraser is one of the Pacific Coast's greatest salmon-spawning rivers.

Its importance as a fish producer has for years frustrated plans for dams.

Now, however, federal and provincial experts have recommended a \$1400 million hydro and flood control scheme on the river's upper reaches, where they claim fish losses would be minimal.

Loffmark said one fish on the Fraser would be worth \$200 in power.

"You could retire all the fishermen in B.C. on incomes from power on the Fraser," he said. "But we're not going to do that."

"You wouldn't be flying a kite?" suggested Leo Nimsick (NDP-Cranbrook).

"Something fishy about this," said Liberal leader Ray Perrault.

"You nearly got gaffed," New Democratic Opposition leader Robert Strachan told the minister.

Loffmark Says Boom Threatened

VICTORIA (CP) — Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark told the legislature Tuesday there are some clouds threatening B.C.'s economy.

Loffmark referred particularly to what he called a crazy, crazy freight rate system and free trade impediments placed on the economy by the federal government.

He said freight rates on goods shipped out of B.C. are often two or three times the rates for the same goods shipped westbound.

The minister also criticized internal restrictions on trade and inducements made by some provinces to attract industries.

He cited the case of a firm that had been planning to locate in B.C. that went instead to Nova Scotia when offered a three-year tax holiday, accelerated depreciation on machinery and plant, a \$250,000 subsidy and a \$500,000 low-interest mortgage.

"That's a real bundle, isn't it," he observed.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27, 1965

Auto Insurance Probe Demanded

Socred Wants Companies To Justify Higher Rates

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Social Credit MLA Cyril Shelford has urged a special inquiry into increases in B.C. automobile insurance rates.

Shelford, the man who took on the oil companies in his crusade for equalized gasoline prices, shifted his aim to the insurance companies in the legislature Tuesday.

He said auto insurance is being boosted an average of 20 per cent in B.C. this year.

"I don't think we can allow this to go by unchallenged," he said.

Shelford proposed a special legislature committee to investigate insurance costs and traffic safety.

GOV'T INSURANCE?

"The insurance companies would have to justify their tremendous increases," he said. "The committee would judge which form of insurance is best—whether government or private."

A spokesman for insurance companies said the industry would welcome any investigation into the high rate of automobile accidents, which he said is primarily responsible for

the large increase in insurance rates.

Shelford said the inquiry should begin immediately.

"We owe it to the people of the province who are being asked to pour millions of dollars into the insurance industry."

Shelford said the insurance companies should not object to the probe if they feel their rates are justified.

WIDE CRITICISM

But they are now being criticized in all parts of the country, he said.

Shelford's campaign against the oil companies resulted last year in appointment of a royal commission into gas prices.

His insurance pitch was echoed in the legislature by Frank Calder (NDP-Atlin).

Calder said public concern is so great that the government has a duty to investigate the possibility of provincial public insurance.

Ken Malthouse, manager of

All-Canada Insurance Federation, said the provincial government can be assured of the full support of the insurance industry if there is an investigation.

ACCIDENTS SOAR

"Like the B.C. Safety Council and the Motor Vehicle Branch, we are at a complete loss to explain the sharp rise in accidents during the past year," he said.

"But the fact remains that accidents have soared by an alarming 29 per cent and have resulted in a rash of insurance claims. It must be remembered, too, that other costs are continually rising.

"The continuing increases in wages are reflected in higher costs of claims for auto repairs, medical treatment and lost income due to injury.

New Timber Rules Asked

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — New restrictions on timber cutting by pulp mill operators were advocated in the legislature Tuesday by Socred MLA Cyril Shelford.

He said companies are given pulp harvesting licences covering hundreds of miles, but cut all timber from one small area, leaving it bare for perhaps 90 years, before moving farther afield.

Shelford suggested that licences specify a certain percentage of timber must be cut throughout the licensed area. He said this might encourage companies to seek smaller pulp licence areas.

'MAKE READY FOR FLOODS'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The B.C. government should set up a network of emergency disaster squads to tackle floods and slides, an MLA proposed Tuesday.

Frank Calder (NDP-Atlin) said action should be taken now because heavy snow this winter will pose a serious flood threat in many parts of the province in the spring.

Calder said governments in the past have sometimes been unable to meet disasters with proper aid.

BOUNDARY STUDY ASKED

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Redistribution may be painful to the politicians but it is urgently needed in B.C., says Dewdney New Democratic MLA Dave Barrett.

He told the legislature Tuesday the government should appoint an independent advisory committee to reapportion seats in the House.

"All of us suffer some kind of political paranoia when someone is playing around with our polls," he said.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27, 1965

Perrault Tees Off On Bennett, Gov't

Liberal Raps Health Coverage,
Inadequate Municipalities' Aid

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Liberal leader Ray Perrault threw verbal punches Tuesday at the government, and Premier W. A. C. Bennett in particular, as the throne speech debate entered its third day.

He accused Bennett of strangling Confederation, putting municipalities in a financial straitjacket, and falling down on health coverage to citizens.

And at the end of a 90-minute speech he declared:

"Despite our hopes that Thursday's (throne speech) statement of government policy would be of major importance, dramatic in concept, and forward-looking, we have been disappointed."

CHARGES GREED

Perrault's speech ranged mainly over federal-provincial-municipal relations.

He said the premier is at the same time being stingy with municipalities and greedy in his demands on Ottawa.

If his demands for return of tax fields were met, federal income would be cut in half, Perrault said.

There wouldn't be enough money to finance and administer the post office, public works, external affairs and northern affairs, he said.

The Liberal leader said that Bennett talks about strengthening Confederation but that

his actions seek to break it up.

"The premier is like a man who embraces his friend and hugs him to death while protesting his undying loyalty and friendship," he said.

Perrault also scored Bennett for not giving recognition to help that Ottawa gives B.C.

He noted the federal government pays 40 per cent of the cost of government ferries, 75 per cent of vocational school construction costs, and half of agriculture rehabilitation projects.

NEW SYSTEM URGED

The Liberal leader described Bennett's treatment of municipalities as shabby and shocking.

He said the system of rigid per capita grants to communities has been unrealistic since it was introduced in 1955.

"There must be a new system of grants to provide a sufficient degree of equalization so that all municipalities can provide good uniform standards of local services with roughly similar tax burdens," Perrault said.

"The premier can't have it

both ways. He can't have a fiscal cake festooned with dollar bills from Ottawa while on the other hand he continues to shove crumbs at the municipalities," he said.

Perrault also said that if the government-owned B.C. Hydro Authority is going to dump transit operations on Greater Vancouver and Victoria municipalities, it should also let the cities take over Hydro's local gas system.

'SWEETEN THE POT'

"I know the municipalities don't want the franchises, but if this is the shape of things to come why not sweeten the pot and make it profitable for the municipalities?" he said.

He suggested a municipal authority could be set up to buy the buses, the gas system, and Hydro's freight line at book value, thereby combining the money-losing transit system with profitable ventures.

Perrault criticized the government for lack of spending on vocational training for the disabled, and for present coverage of hospital insurance.

He said all other provinces provide hospital coverage for citizens away for up to a year, but B.C. extends this protection only for three months.

Bennett Sought Medicare for All

Telegram to Pearson Reveals
B.C. Urged Action for 1965

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett Tuesday rebuffed opposition criticism with a surprise statement that his government had been prepared to launch comprehensive medicare this year.

Money to finance the plan would have been included in the budget due to be brought down Feb. 5 if the federal government had been ready to go ahead with a national plan, he said.

The disclosure, prompted by Liberal attacks on the government's proposed partial plan for low income earners, came when Bennett produced a telegram sent to Prime Minister Lester Pearson Dec. 2.

It said: "Re your letter Nov. 30, if you government is ready to proceed in partnership with

province or provinces on medical costs I believe it would be wise to have the conference take place at the same time as the ministers of finance conference Dec. 7 so that we can include our share in our provincial budget.

BENNETT CHALLENGED

"If not, unless the federal government have other important proposals to present to provinces, would suggest the next premiers' conference be held in the new year but not before your government is ready to make new proposals."

Bennett left the House to get the telegram after Liberal

leader Ray Perrault took exception to government claims that Ottawa is dragging its feet in bringing in a national health plan, and challenged Bennett to show this is the case.

When he returned with the wire he tried to interrupt Perrault's speech to read it, but was forced down by opposition members who told the premier to observe House rules.

FULL PLAN PROPOSED

Bennett later handed the telegram to Attorney-General Robert Bonner, who joined in the throne speech debate after Perrault.

Bonner read the wire after explaining it would not be a breach of confidence. He said Pearson may now be ready to disclose contents of his Nov. 30 letter to Bennett.

Bennett told The Sun later that full medicare would have been introduced this year if Ottawa had been ready to proceed.

THURSDAY, JAN. 28, 1965

PERMANENT PLATES BACKED BY SOCRED

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A government MLA spoke out Wednesday in favor of permanent vehicle licence plates paid for through a higher gasoline tax.

Dudley Little (SC—Skeena) said the system proposed by retired motor vehicles superintendent George Lindsay last month would end existing discrimination and save the province millions of dollars.

Little told the legislature that discrimination exists because some vehicle owners who are required to pay a flat licence fee are forbidden use of provincial highways during the spring breakup.

Take Over Transit, Liberal Tells Gov't

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The B.C. government must take over bus services, an MLA said Wednesday in the legislature.

Oak Bay Liberal Alan Macfarlane challenged the government to announce its intentions on the fate of transit.

"There can only be one announcement—that it fulfills its responsibility and takes it over," he said.

Municipal franchise agreements with B.C. Hydro and Power Authority expire between 1966 and 1969 in Greater Vancouver and Victoria, and the municipalities fear the buses will be dumped in their laps, said Macfarlane.

"Social justice and simple justice demand immediate action be taken."

Macfarlane also charged that Hydro has allowed the bus fleet to become rundown.

This would make it even worse to unload the buses on municipalities.

Macfarlane said the government was allowed an \$18 million deduction on the takeover price of B.C. Electric because the buses operated at a deficit.

It would be only fair to use an equal amount of money to modernize the bus systems, he said.

He also said the government got a \$46 million nest-egg—a cash reserve fund—when it acquired BCE.

If this had been invested at five per cent, the annual re-

turn of \$2.5 million would have been enough to subsidize transit, he said.

Macfarlane also pressed for changes in death-duty laws.

He said there should be a single estate act for all Canada, instead of separate federal and provincial laws with differing provisions, resulting in double taxation.

\$7 MILLION MORE ASKED

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi says the federal government should contribute at least another \$7 million for the Stewart - Cassiar road project.

He said Ottawa has already put up \$7 million, but should double the amount so it pays half the cost, which is estimated at close to \$30 million.

THURSDAY, JAN. 28, 1965

Merritt-to-Hope Highway Proposed

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — A new highway to link Vancouver with the Interior was proposed Wednesday by an opposition MLA.

Need for such a link was shown by the slide on the Hope-Princeton Highway three weeks ago, William Hartley (NDP-Yale) told the legislature.

The highway he advocated would run from Merritt to Hope and would be less hazardous than the Hope-Princeton or Fraser Canyon routes, he said.

It would follow a Canadian Pacific Railway line through the Coquihalla Pass and cut 70 miles off the present route between Kamloops and Vancouver.

Hartley said that the Trans-Canada Highway was also closed by a snow slide before the Hope-Princeton could be

reopened. This left to Canadian route to the Interior.

Hartley said a logging company now uses the Coquihalla road. If it was improved and made public it would mean a big saving for motorists and would boost the tourist trade.

He said the project should be included in this year's highway budget.

Hartley also advocated a government takeover of the West Kootenay Power and Light Co., one of the few private power companies still operating in B.C.

Give Back Bus Passes? MLAs Pass

VICTORIA — Members of the legislature passed up a chance Wednesday to turn in their bus passes and pay like ordinary people.

The opportunity arose when Alan Macfarlane, (Liberal-Oak Bay,) suggested B.C. Hydro systems in Vancouver and Victoria areas should provide off-peak-period passes to old-age pensioners.

"If B.C. Hydro can afford to give MLA's bus passes, they should be able to give them to old-age pensioners as well," he suggested.

Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan interrupted: "I suggest we all hand our bus passes back. I have sent mine back."

There were shouts of "I will," "Fine," and "Okay," from the benches.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan smiled and said: "I use mine."

But apart from the talking, there was no further action.

SAYS SOCRED:

Thousands Spent for Mayors

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — While municipal leaders are crying for more help from the provincial government they are lavishing money on themselves, the legislature was told Wednesday.

Waldo Skillings (SC-Victoria) said Vancouver Mayor William Rathie had no difficulty finding \$40,000 to renovate his city hall office.

And the Victoria council was able to find enough money to furnish a committee room with 20 chairs that cost \$85 apiece.

Skillings said MLAs should walk uptown to see Victoria's new city hall, which he described as one of the finest in the province.

"The mayor has an office that makes the premier's office in the Parliament Buildings look like a janitor's closet," he said.

"They are spending that kind of money on the one hand, then saying the government is not giving them anything."

Skillings, rebutting opposition statements that the government is giving municipalities shabby treatment, said no government has ever treated the municipalities better.

This applies to school boards, too, said Skillings, a former alderman and trustee.

SKILLINGS SAYS:

Redistricting Will Help Socreds

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Social Credit government will reform electoral ridings in B.C. and when it does the government will win more seats, Waldo Skillings (SC-Victoria) said Wednesday.

Skillings told the legislature the government would pick up more seats on the Lower Mainland and in the Victoria area.

The MLA was replying to Liberal criticism that present electoral districts are unfair and that the Socreds won a majority in the legislature from rural ridings.

Skillings said the Liberals and Conservatives who were in power in B.C. for 50 years were responsible for setting up pocket boroughs, or safe party seats.

Since coming to office the Socreds added four seats to the House, three of them in cities and one in the Peace River area, he said.

"Don't ever think Social Credit got its majority from rural ridings," said Skillings.

The MLA said he is in favor of redistribution, and would like to see growing Saanich get another seat in the legislature.

"I have no doubt that redistribution will take place, and when it does it will be a true distribution where people are properly represented and no pockets like the Liberals and Conservatives set up," he said.

Provincial Okay For Banks Urged

Delta Socred Says 2 U.S. States
Possess Right to Grant Charters

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Provincial governments should be allowed to grant bank charters, a Social Credit MLA said Wednesday in the legislature.

Then B.C. could establish not only one bank of British Columbia but 40 of them, said Hunter Vogel, of Delta.

"This is not a radical idea, a new idea, or one that has not been tried in other places," he said in the throne speech debate.

"In California, groups may apply for a national charter or a state charter," he said. "Failing to get one, they can apply for the other."

IN WASHINGTON ALSO

Vogel said such a system also exists in Washington, where there are 27 nationally-chartered banks and 68 with state charters, having a total of 354 branches.

Vogel said national and state charters are permitted in the U.S. to prevent creation of huge, monolithic institutions.

As a result, the banks become self-regulating and more competitive, he said.

Vogel said the greatest benefits of the system, if adopted in Canada, would be derived by existing chartered banks.

'B.C. SHOULD PUSH'

But he said B.C. should continue its efforts to get the Bank of B.C. proposed by Premier W. A. C. Bennett because it would be instrumental in encouraging secondary industry.

He said such banks are important to Western Canada because a North American common market can be expected in the future.

"They are smug in the East. They have good markets and secondary industry," said Vogel. "We've got to tell our story to the Prairie provinces that are paying a high price for a protected economy."

He said the legislature should set up a committee to enquire into the whole matter of banking.

"I would think that from this could come some interesting and new ideas which should be the subject of further discussions at the next federal-provincial conference," he said.

Amalgamation Called Illegal

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell acted illegally when he forced amalgamation on part of the Campbell River district, a Liberal MLA charged Wednesday.

Alan Macfarlane, of Oak Bay, told the legislature the source of his information was Campbell's own deputy minister, J. Everett Brown.

Macfarlane said Campbell created a new district municipality of Campbell River last year because he thought the move would be popular.

VOTE ORDERED

Campbell ordered a vote Dec. 12 on amalgamation of the village of Campbell River, Willow Point, Oyster River, Quinsam and North Campbell River.

Only the village voted 60 per cent in favor of the move, while part of Willow Point approved by 50 per cent.

Macfarlane said Campbell decided on his own five days later to amalgamate the two areas and to call a new vote Feb. 6 in Quinsam and North Campbell River.

Macfarlane said Campbell acted illegally by calling the Dec. 12 vote, and compounded the offence by ordering the merger.

PROPER PROCEDURE

He said the Municipal Act clearly lays down the proper procedure. This includes getting written consent from at least three-fifths of residents of

any area to be included in a municipality and a two-thirds vote of approval from residents of the existing municipality.

Macfarlane said he based his contentions on talks with the deputy minister and residents who protested Campbell's action.

"As a result, I have concluded the government has ridden roughshod over the rights of the people of Campbell River."

Laing Hinted For Senate

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Social Credit MLA predicted in the legislature Wednesday that a B.C. vacancy in the Senate will be filled either by Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing or Bruce Hutchison, editorial director of The Sun.

Waldo Skillings, of Victoria, said Prime Minister Lester Pearson will announce the appointment within a couple of months.

Hutchison later said: "Mr. Skillings must have his little jokes. He's just pulling the legislature's leg as usual. I haven't been offered a senatorship, and never aspired to it. The story is nonsense. It's just typical, vintage Waldo."

FRIDAY, JAN. 29, 1965

James K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — Health minister Eric Martin gets very cross when he reads how Premier Bennett was supposed to have entered the Legislature Aug. 2, 1952.

The story goes that the premier marched his new cabinet, two by two, up the curving driveway in front of the buildings and into their offices while civil servants stood nervously peering from their windows at the strange sight.

"That is not so," snaps history-conscious Mr. Martin. "We strolled and straggled. We looked like the retreat from Moscow. And there was not a person looking out any window. I looked up and couldn't see a face.

"If the civil servants were nervous, so were we. Only the premier and Tilly (Mrs. Rolston) had the faintest idea of what it was all about. Some of us were so green we didn't know what our pay would be, if any. I repeat and repeat and repeat, we were not marched up two by two. I hate damnable lies."

I advised Mr. Martin to watch his blood pressure, and he roared at me: "There are too many damnable lies being bandied about, all over the place. Damnable lies, and a man's helpless."

Mr. Speaker William Murray will soon have to rule some of the nasty legislative remarks unparliamentary. So far the language this session has been a bit rough, but in a quiet way. It's only when the nasty names are shouted that Mr. Speaker frowns and bangs.

Waldo Skillings of Victoria, one of the premier's favorite bridge partners and white-haired boys, and a crystal-ball gazer of note, said that just about all Opposition leader Strachan talks is claptrap (according to the Oxford dictionary claptrap is a "trick, device or language, designed to catch applause").

However, Mr. Strachan didn't appear to care what Mr. Skillings said about him; he just sat back like a statesman, and called quietly to Mr. Skillings "Shovel-mouth, shovel-mouth."

Now, I ask you, is this parliamentary? What is a shovel-mouth, anyway? A shovel is something that handles dirt.

It would not be a session of our legislature without mention of Einar Gunderson, who, oppositionists have convinced themselves, runs this province from a darkened basement somewhere, giving orders to the premier who obeys, bowing low his knee before his one-time finance minister.

Gunderson was called this session, by Liberal leader Ray Perrault, a grey eminence, a mysterious man festooned with honors from the Bennett government, one who gets anything he wants from this government.

Oppositionists are so suspicious they are sure the premier will do nothing unless he gets the go-ahead from Mr. G.

Can you imagine our premier quaking and shak-

ing and cringing and taking orders?

Oppositionists let on they do, but on the other hand they're constantly calling the premier a dictator. Ah, politics! What would we do without you?

Mr. Skillings says the premier's office is like a janitor's office compared with the mayor's office in Victoria's fancy new City Hall.

For a moment I feared he would recommend new Legislative Buildings, so his adored chief could have a gold-plated suite in which to dream his dreams and give the orders that set his wheels going full speed ahead.

Fortunately, our premier is modest when it comes to his surroundings. He likes comfort, but not grandeur. He does not want an official residence in Victoria; the entertaining he'd have to do would drive him wild. And he doesn't want a new office, thank you, and thank goodness.

Besides, his office is not what Mr. Skillings called it. It can hold 60 people if need be. It has a lush rug, rich satin drapes, an expensive desk, a battery of telephones, bells and buzzers, a curtained alcove with a couch, so the premier can have a snooze when legislative talk gets too boring.

It has windows looking out over green lawns and placid harbor waters, and there are green hills in the distance.

No, Mr. Skillings, your chief is quite satisfied with his office; he gives thanks daily he's able to occupy it, and that's what he intends to go on doing as long as the voters let him.

'Four Ministers Not Helping City'

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The four cabinet ministers from Vancouver are not pleading the city's cause at the provincial level, an MLA charged in the legislature Thursday.

The statement by Arthur Turner (NDP-Vancouver East) brought a quick denial from Premier W. A. C. Bennett.

"That's not true," said the premier, rising from his chair. Turner said he has long brought Vancouver's problems to the attention of the legislature, but didn't get the recognition. MLA Bert Price did when he brought up the subject a few days ago.

Price pleaded for more financial aid for Vancouver,

and his request brought official commendation from city council.

Turner said all MLAs representing Vancouver should get together to discuss the city's financial woes.

Political beliefs should not bar a common meeting, he said.

The MLA said one argument given for not having such a meeting with city officials is that the four ministers back the city's case in cabinet. But he said this is not so.

The ministers are Les Peterson, of education and labor; Robert Bonner, the attorney-general; Eric Martin, of health; and Ralph Loff, mark, of trade and industry.

Albernis Merger Rated Top Event

VICTORIA — The outstanding event in B.C. last year, as far as the municipal affairs department is concerned, was the vote for amalgamation of Alberni and Port Alberni.

"This was a remarkable piece of municipal statesmanship," said Dan Campbell, minister of municipal affairs.

He told the legislature Thursday that people in both communities cast aside selfish thoughts and worked for their common good.

"These people showed the way for other municipalities," he said.

\$10 MILLION IN BONDS SOLD

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—B.C. has sold \$10 million worth of school bonds to a U.S.-Canadian syndicate, Premier W. A. C. Bennett announced Thursday.

The 20-year bonds, which will bear interest of 4% per cent, were marketed for school districts by the B.C. school district capital financing authority, a government agency.

The buying syndicate was composed of Halsey, Stuart and Co. Inc.; Kuhn, Loeb and Co. Inc.; First Boston Corp.; Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith Inc.; Allen and Co.; W. E. Hutton and Co. and James Richardson and Sons.

BONNER SAYS:

Night Clubs Should Use Local Acts

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Vancouver night clubs aren't using enough local talent, says Attorney-General Robert Bonner.

He said in an interview here there are plenty of good local performers to fill several new cabarets.

"The percentage of local talent in the two real night clubs is fractional," Bonner said.

"I know some people have been saying it costs too much to bring in acts from the U.S. It is no answer to say it is too expensive to hire talent.

"People seeking to introduce a variety of night life of the type which should be expected in a city like Vancouver should seek out local performers and artists whose identity must be known to them."

Bonner said there are plenty of Vancouver singers, dancers and specialty acts just waiting for an opportunity.

At present all they can turn to is the CBC, or to a lesser extent the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, said Bonner.

He said he is sure cabarets applying for liquor licences with local entertainment would be acceptable.

Chronic Care Plan Urged by Socred

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A \$50 million comprehensive chronic care program for B.C. was urged Thursday by a Social Credit MLA.

William Speare (Cariboo), deputy Speaker of the legislature, said B.C. should not stall chronic care with the excuse that Ottawa is not doing anything.

Speare is a hospital consultant in private life.

He said his proposed \$50 million program would provide 10,000 beds for long-term care.

75 PER CENT

He said the provincial government should pay up to 75 per cent of construction costs. At present the government will pay only one-third for non-profit nursing home construction.

Speare was referring in the legislature to a section of the throne speech in which the government said only that it hoped there would be an extension of its hospital service to cover long-term care.

Other provinces are pushing ahead on their own, and B.C. should start a proper program now, Speare said.

Speare said higher government grants would encourage community development of non-profit nursing homes.

RATES CRITICIZED

Several MLA's earlier this session have criticized profit-making private hospitals for high rates.

Speare said higher government to change licensing regulations.

He said there should be closer inspection of private hospitals and licensing should be based upon high qualifications.

He called for a provincial rate board to establish fees.

He also suggested the government increase the present maximum of 75 beds allowed in private hospitals to 100.

Socred Takes Verbal Pokes

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Socred MLA took a verbal poke Thursday at two of his cabinet ministers.

Stan Carnell (South Peace) told Forests Minister Ray Williston he should only allow local companies to develop timber resources.

Then Carnell turned on Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark for saying B.C. should not use tax incentives to attract new industry.

Carnell said Loffmark should take a look at the Bahamas where there is a development boom because there are no income or corporation taxes.



WILLIAM SPEARE
... "start now"

Emergency Squad, Air Strips Urged

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Special facilities to cope with emergencies were urged Thursday by members of two parties in the legislature.

Stan Carnell (SC - South Peace) urged the government to build a network of emergency air strips across the province.

John Squire (NDP-Alberni) proposed setting up a small, highly-trained mobile disaster squad.

Squire said the need for such a team became evident when the tidal wave struck the twin Alberni cities last March.

The team should be trained in leadership, and equipped with mobile living quarters, hospital and kitchen services.

Carnell said the cost of his proposed network of airstrips would be repaid by the first life saved in providing a touchdown spot for an aircraft in trouble.

The lands department should appoint a man to select sites for strips, which would take about five years to build, he said.

Whisky Galore

GLASGOW (Reuters)—The Scotch Whisky Association says shipments to the U.S. in 1964 totalled 18.1 million gallons, compared with 16.6 million in 1963.

SHACK TOWN DEMISE SEEN

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The government will introduce legislation to transform shack towns into model municipalities, Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell said Thursday.

He told the legislature there will be about seven new communities, one of which will be at Gold River, site of a proposed pulp mill on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

"The government wants to avoid company towns," he said. He described company towns as an awful society of bunkhouses.

Reservoir Clearing 'Inadequate'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An MLA says he is bitterly disappointed at the lack of reservoir clearing stipulated for Columbia Treaty projects.

"We have ample evidence from one end of B.C. to the other of the eyecore which man's destruction of nature has created in this manner," Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan) told the legislature.

He said the provincial water controller's regulations for clearing the Arrow Lake and Duncan Lake reservoirs on the Columbia are inadequate.

Partial clearing of timber within a five-year period is stipulated for only about 10 per cent of the new lakes to be created by Arrow and Duncan Dams, Harding said.

Other clearing will only be necessary as required to meet recreational needs, he said.

This is not good enough, Harding said.

"There will be a belt of water-killed trees stretching across the lakes for years and years to come."

Harding said clearing should begin immediately throughout the reservoirs and all debris should be burned.

Sun Man Heads Press Gallery

VICTORIA (CP) Ian MacAlpine of the Vancouver Sun Thursday was elected president of the legislative press gallery for 1965-66.

He succeeds Frank Rutter of The Sun, formerly of the Victoria Times.

The gallery's annual meeting also elected John Mika of the Victoria Times as vice-president and re-elected Andy Stephen of CHEK-TV, Victoria, as secretary-treasurer.

The positions become effective at the end of the current legislature session.

Bennett's Office Likened to Closet

By IAN MACALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — There are two kinds of offices: showplaces and work places.

And, says Premier W. A. C. Bennett, the first are occupied by mayors, and the latter by people like himself.

The distinction was first drawn Wednesday in the legislature by Victoria Socred MLA Waldo Skillings.

He said Victoria Mayor R. B. Wilson's new city hall office here makes Bennett's office in the legislative buildings look like a janitor's closet.

Skillings mentioned, too, that Mayor William Rathie blew \$40,000 fixing up his city hall quarters.

A quick tour Thursday showed Skillings was at least partly right.

Mayor Wilson's office is a pretty impressive place, by any standard, with walls paneled in eastern walnut, a seven-foot executive desk to match, a wall-to-wall blue-green carpet, and French doors opening onto a patio overlooking Centennial Square.

But city officials say the spread is not as lavish as it

appears, just the pleasing result of judicious use of quality materials that weren't available when the premier's office was opened in 1898.

How much it cost, no one seems to know. It is all part of a newly-opened \$275,000 wing.

The premier's office, by comparison, is old and cluttered, with steam pipes running up the walls.

There are new gold drapes covering the high, narrow windows and venetian blinds, a patterned rug covering most of the hardwood floor, scores of curios about, and a very old table desk from which Bennett administers our affairs.

Though not luxurious in the modern sense, the premier's office does display a staid elegance, and it is homey and comfortable.

The comparison doesn't bother Bennett in the least.

"It's a matter of where you place the value," he says.

And he points to C. D. Howe, who he says was the most important man in Canada during the last war.

"His office was like a freight shed — but that's where the work was being done," Bennett said.

Two MLAs Call for Full Medicare

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Two New Democrats Thursday attacked Premier Bennett's proposed new mini-medicare plan for low income earners.

Randolph Harding (Kaslo-Slocan) called it a patchwork scheme that won't meet the need.

Arthur Turner (Vancouver East) said it is so small it won't make any difference.

Few details are known about the plan to be introduced later in the session, except that the government will make contributions to existing medical plans on behalf of low income recipients, and that it will be voluntary.

Harding told the legislature that only a comprehensive medicare program for all citizens, providing all the health care medical science can offer, is acceptable.

He said such a program would be costly, but that money should not stand in the way of giving the best medical care available.

Turner said people are no longer asking for complete medicare, they are demanding it.

Campbell Crushes Municipal Pleas

Demands for Government Aid Called Political Hot Air

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell crushed municipal pleas for more government aid Thursday when he described them as political hot air.

B.C. municipalities are better off than any others in North America, Campbell told the legislature.

But the only time B.C. municipal leaders will admit this is when they are away from home, he declared.

There was no specific mention of new aid to municipalities in the throne speech which outlined government policy at the beginning of the session on Jan. 26.

NO GOODIES

Any hopes the government would spring surprise goodies in the budget next week were shattered by Campbell's speech — his first as cabinet minister.

"The entire diatribe about municipal finances and this government is straight political hot air," he said.

Campbell said he has observed municipal leaders from B.C. at conventions outside the province. It was only then that they told the true story of

how well the Social Credit government treats them, he said.

Campbell said the acid test is that no responsible municipal leader from B.C. has ever asked the government to adopt the type of cost-sharing formulas used in other provinces.

REVENUE HIGHER

The minister said you could take the cost-sharing formula of any other province and add, for example, 10 per cent to it, and revenue for B.C. municipalities would still be higher.

Campbell said B.C. municipalities last year ended with a total revenue surplus of over \$17 million.

Since 1951, he said, the municipal share of education costs has increased 3.4 times, but the government share has jumped 4.3 times.

"Nowhere else in North America are municipalities able to finance capital projects to the extent of those in B.C. from reserve funds and surpluses," he said.

Blind Appeals Probe Urged By MLA

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature was urged Thursday to set up a special committee to probe allegations of phoney money appeals for the blind.

Arthur Turner (NDP-Vancouver East) called for the inquiry to see if there is any truth to charges that money is being collected fraudulently in the name of the blind.

He said the committee should also investigate complaints that the Canadian National Institute for the Blind acts dictatorially in placing blind persons in jobs.

Turner said the charges arose last year after the legislature passed Bill 22, an act which would have set up a board to police collections for the blind.

The board was not set up, however, and the government decided to bring the matter up for review sometime during this session.

FRIDAY, JAN. 29, 1965

'Gov't Missing Out On Timber Deals'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A recent pulp mill deal showed that the government should be collecting millions of dollars more in timber revenue than it is, the legislature was told Thursday.

John Squire (NDP-Alberni) said the application of construction millionaire Ben Ginter for a pulp harvesting licence in northern B.C. indicates stumpage rates are too low.

Squire said Ginter bid \$12 million above the upset price for pulp rights in an agreement to pay a \$1.50 bonus bid on each 100 cubic feet of timber cut.

Cattermole Timber, which eventually won the licence by matching Ginter's bid, had at first offered to pay only the upset price of \$340,051.

"If this (Ginter's bid) was a legitimate offer, as the public believes, how many more millions of dollars should we be getting to build vocational schools, hospitals, medicare and all the things we need" Squire said.

"This House is going to need an explanation how Ben Ginter can offer \$12 million more if it was the same type of timber Cattermole was going to buy," he said.

"The Ginter-Cattermole bidding indicates that previous rates for other companies have been grossly underestimated," Squire said.

Squire said the method of setting stumpage rates needs a complete overhaul and if the government set realistic prices B.C. would be the richest province in Canada.

B.C. Socreds Really Tory, Says Harding

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. Socreds are really Tories with their whiskers shaved off, Ran Harding (NDP Kaslo-Slocan) said Thursday.

He told government MLAs in the legislature there isn't a true Social Crediter among them.

"All your policies show your blue Tory underwear underneath," he said.

Harding was expressing disappointment with contents of the throne speech, which he said had failed to give a blueprint for solving the province's problems.

"I thought it was a pretty poor start for the dynamic society which you professed to be starting off in the year 1965," he told the government.

Harding said there is a great need now for basic planning, but this was disregarded in the throne speech.

"I know you so-called free enterprisers say it shouldn't come from government, but you bring in policies to kill free enterprise," he said.

The MLA said the government's timber policy has forced small logging operators out of business.

"There isn't one true Social Crediter sitting on that side of the House," said Harding. "You're basically Tories with your whiskers shaved off."

Embalmers' Bill Buried in House

LeCours Says He Was 'Suckered' Into Sponsoring the Legislation

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A hole was dug Thursday for a private, power-seeking bill sought by the Western Embalmers' Association and the bill was put to rest in the legislature.

The bill sought to make embalming necessary, give the profession the right to police itself, and put the association in control of memorial associations that provide cheap funerals.

Ernie LeCours, Social Credit-Delta, said later he had been suckered into sponsoring the bill, was happy it was defeated, and had no intention of trying to reintroduce it.

The bill was buried when LeCours rose with a motion to suspend House rules to receive a petition for the bill.

It needed unanimous consent, and was rejected when Opposition leader Robert Strachan said no.

Strachan said the petitioners hadn't sought traditional consent of the opposition for the unanimous consent they needed.

LeCours later told Strachan outside the House: "I was suckered into that deal. I don't support it, but I had expected it would be thrown out in committee discussion anyway."

The Delta member said he

had been approached and said he would sponsor the bill if he approved it.

LeCours said he did not like the bill but in the meantime it had been printed with his name on it.

The bill could be brought into the House again, but it is unlikely.

'Air Force' Stands Idle

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An air force that never had a red alert cost the taxpayers of B.C. \$203,754 just to be on standby all last summer, Forest Minister Ray Williston disclosed Thursday.

The government paid the money to Skyway Air Services Ltd., of Langley under a contract for a fleet of water bombers that could douse forest fires. But there weren't any bad fires.

Fighting all of the forest fires in the province last summer cost the government only \$121,600, Williston said.

FRIDAY, JAN. 29, 1965

Campbell, Macfarlane Clash Over Island Merger Issue

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Macfarlane and the Campbell fought a new clan war in the legislature Thursday.

It was all about the creation of a new municipality.

And it sparked the first real dust-up of the House this year.

Speaker William Murray had to intervene with banging gavel to break it up.

It began when Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell said he acted on the authority of the ballot box when he ordered amalgamation of the village of Campbell River and Willow Point improvement district.

Alan Macfarlane (L. — Oak Bay) earlier charged Campbell

had acted illegally and outside the Municipal Act by ordering the merger.

Campbell admitted that there was a peculiar situation not covered by the Act.

But he said there had been full disclosure of the facts to the people of the area before they voted on a merger on Dec. 12.

Campbell accused Macfarlane of motives that were 100 per cent political.

He said his ballot box authority was a vote of 1,441 for amalgamation and 711 against — an over-all majority in all areas polled of 66 per cent.

He plucked out just two regions and merged them, he

said because they had voted 79 per cent in favor.

Macfarlane repeated his charge: "There was nothing in the act to authorize what you did."

As the two tangled in an exchange of charges and denials amid a chorus of

barracking from other MLAs, the Speaker demanded order.

Murray said he would tolerate no more interruptions.

Harry McKay (L.—Ferne) ended the clash when he told Campbell: "I wasn't worried about it until I heard you explain it."

Alberni Strike 'Taught Lessons'

White, Blue Collar Workers Closer Together, Says MLA

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The costly Alberni office workers strike last year taught important lessons to labor and management, an MLA who was involved said Thursday.

John Squire (NDP-Alberni), an official of the International Woodworkers of America, said the dispute, finally settled by Premier W. A. C. Bennett, developed closer ties between white and blue collar workers.

"We have discovered also that in a multi-union industry there must develop more co-operative bargaining as against unilateral negotiations, and I do not suggest that this is labor's problem alone," he said.

He said it also showed that union security provisions in an agreement should be decided by the workers in the unit involved by majority decision.

Speaking in the throne speech debate, Squire also assailed car insurance companies for charging exorbitant rates, claiming that 47 per cent of those fees go directly into someone's pocket.

He also urged the provincial government to solve the serious air pollution problem in the Alberni Valley.

Squire said medical studies show the area has the highest rate of respiratory diseases in Canada, five times higher than that of any other B.C. community.

He said steps must be taken to force installation of anti-pollution devices on industries.

Kootenay Power Takeover Asked

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An opposition MLA urged the government Thursday to take over West Kootenay Power and Light Co., a subsidiary of the giant Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co.

Ran Harding (NDP-Kaslo-Slocan) said the last major private utility in B.C. is holding up effective power

planning and distribution in the province.

Though the company's rates are low, it is waxing fat on profits that have reached the point where they are embarrassing the public utilities commission, Harding said.

The MLA said the utility is making money because it is neglecting power service in uneconomic areas of its franchise region.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1965

Medical Subsidy Plan Set For B.C. Low Income Group

Throne Speech Stresses Parks, Health, Schools

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

A government program for subsidizing the lower income group's private medical insurance premiums was forecast today in the speech from the Throne as the B.C. legislature opened its 1965 session.

Lieutenant-Governor George Pearkes took about half an hour to read the 3,250-word speech to the glittering opening day assembly in a ceremony that followed a bright, cheery and gusty morning.

Shorter than last year's speech but recording more hydro and forestry progress during the past year, the speech concentrated on programs aimed at human progress in the fields of health, education, probation, parks and pollution.

It also contained a one-sentence promise to amend last year's controversial bank investment legislation which could turn into the "sleepet" of the session if it produces a new flanking movement in the government's battle with the Senate over the Bank of B.C. charter application.

The speech—which is actually written by the premier for the vice-regal representative to read—noted that the B.C. cabinet for years had advocated a national health plan.

Since it now appears the federal government is not prepared to put such a plan into effect at the present time, the legislature was told:

"My government will ask you to consider legislation to provide for government contributions toward the cost of medical insurance services for citizens whose incomes are at lower levels.

Plan Has Voluntary Basis

"Such assistance would be granted in connection with approved medical plans and would be on a voluntary basis."

Premier Bennett declined to tell reporters what the cut-off income level would be for receiving the government help or how many persons would be covered.

However, he said the subsidization program would cost the treasury "many millions of dollars" and will assist "way more than tens of thousands of people."

He also said that he sincerely regrets lack of progress in a national medicare plan and that the B.C. move is designed as an interim step "to help the people who need it most—those in the first group just above" social welfare recipients who already have free medical benefits.

He said that while "we don't intend to wait" for establishment of a national plan, he hoped one would come into existence.

In general outline as revealed by the throne speech, the medical insurance assistance scheme appears similar to one in operation in Alberta and another proposed in Ontario but Premier Bennett refused to draw any comparisons.

Details Secret About Banks

The premier's ready — although necessarily general — elaboration of the medical insurance references contrasted sharply with a teasing mysteriousness when reporters asked for more information about the bank investment sentence.

It read: "An amendment to the Revenue Act in connection with the investment by my government in the shares of chartered banks will be placed before you."

He gave up only two bits of information, each of which could be indicators that the premier plans a "two-bank" policy as a repeat tactic of his famous "two-river" policy which finally broke the impasse in his drive for Ottawa permission to sell downstream benefits of the Columbia River scheme to the U.S.

One of these bits was his answer — delivered with a grin — "it may go beyond that," when asked if the amendment would merely formalize his earlier undertaking to reduce the controversial 25 per cent government investment limit in the proposed Bank of B.C. to 10 per cent.

This was the chief stumbling block in the Senate banking committee which finally recommended that the B.C. application for a charter be denied. That

recommendation still needs ratification by the full Senate.

The other "bit" was Mr. Bennett's pointed reference to the plural "banks" used in the 1965 speech — in sharp contrast to the singular used in the controversial legislation last year.

This immediately raised the questions whether the government might be toying with the idea of trying a desperate 11th-hour flanking movement involving some sort of connection with the proposed Vancouver-based but much smaller Laurentide Bank.

(Creditiste leader Real Caouette—a personal friend of Premier Bennett—has already drawn a connection between the Bank of B.C., Laurentide and Winnipeg-based Bank of Western Canada charter applications. He has warned the House of Commons he will oppose the other charters if the Bank of B.C. is turned down.)

Much of the Throne Speech was devoted to lengthy and glowing reviews of the province's booming economy in 1964 highlighted by massive steps forward in hydro-electric programs, pulp mill plants, highways and the ferry fleet.

"In every aspect of their endeavors our people made un-

(continued)

paralleled progress during 1964 and my government will continue to implement programs designed to encourage the development of a dynamic society for the material and cultural enrichment of all British Columbians," it said.

The speech said power rate reductions in the past three years, since B.C. Electric was taken over by the government, have resulted in consumer savings of \$13.2 millions annually, and added:

"Further reductions in rates can be expected."

As a result of a rapid growth in the forest industries, the province's five forest district boundaries will be redrawn to create a sixth district.

Activities under the Pollution Control Act have increased substantially during the past year, especially in protecting water

resources and "amendments will be proposed during this session." The amendments are expected to produce a much tougher attitude towards industrial pollution.

Major strides in the educational field — particularly the technical and vocational aspects — were forecast.

"In order to ensure that the demands and challenges of a rapidly developing industrial economy may successfully be met, my government is giving priority to the provision of technical and vocational training opportunities for our citizens," the speech said.

These measures will include a "greatly expanded" apprenticeship program; construction of four more regional vocational schools (announced previously) including one at Victoria; and enlargement of the B.C. Institute of Technology in Burnaby so it can double its enrolment.

Grant Increase for Schools

"You will be asked to increase grants to school districts; to authorize increased expenditures for higher education, for regional vocational schools, and for vocational additions to secondary schools."

(However, this reference did not indicate whether these increases would be the annual raises to keep pace with larger school enrolments or whether it would be something more.)

The speech also said there would be amendments to the Public Schools Acts "including those sections pertaining to district and regional colleges," as well as amendments to the Vocational Schools Assistance Act.

Striking into new territory, the government's plans this session include asking the legislature for "measures to facilitate the creation of model communities in newly-developing areas of B.C." and give them local government status. This appears aimed at avoiding the development of "shack towns" typical in booming areas.

Back into the health field, the speech recounted considerable discussions between the province and Ottawa for conclusion

of an agreement to extend hospitalization benefits.

"It is hoped that the provision of hospital insurance benefits to those receiving long-term continuing care will be undertaken during the present year," it added.

Rapid growth of metropolitan areas has put heavy pressure on recreational facilities so "legislation to authorize the establishment of Regional Park Authorities will therefore be placed before you."

Last of the major announcements in the speech was the aim of enlarging the provincial probation service.

"During the year my government has studied closely all aspects of probation procedures, mindful of the necessity to both protect society as a whole and to restore to useful citizenship the greatest possible number of persons who might otherwise be charges upon the penal institutions of this province," it said.

"Accordingly, you will be asked at this session to augment greatly the Probation Service."

Farmers Lease Crown Lands

Cryptic references also were made to amendments to: the Mineral Act; add exemptions to the Succession Duties Act; Petroleum and Natural Gas Act; Land Act—aimed at permitting farmers to lease certain crown timber lands for farming; the Companies Act, and the Credit Union Act's inspection provisions.

Among announcements confirming developments indicated previously were: plans to build a 23-mile spur line from the Pacific Great Eastern's Kennedy Station to the edge of the huge lake to be created by the Portage Mountain Dam;

legislation to relocate the Michel and Natal mining communities at Sparwood, under the urban renewal program.

The speech said maximum utilization of the forests will be required to support the tremendous development in this field — pointing out three pulp mills are under construction, six are planned and 12 more feasibility studies are in progress.

A major gap in the speech was lack of any reference to amendments to the provincial Parks Act which is expected to be broadened this year to permit logging and mining developments in certain circumstances.

THURSDAY, JAN. 21, 1965

Throne Speech Highlights

Government subsidization of private medical insurance plan premiums for lower income groups.

Anticipation that hospitalization insurance will be extended by federal-provincial agreement to cover chronically ill.

"Major expenditures" for expansion of vocational and technical training.

Increases in grants to school districts, universities, regional vocational schools and vocational additions to high schools.

Further reductions in B.C. Hydro power rates.

Creation of a new forest district.

Amendment of the Pollution Control Act.

Amendment of last year's controversial legislation to authorize government investment in chartered banks.

Legislation to permit establishment of Regional Park boards.

Measures to help create "model communities" in booming areas.

Legislation "to augment greatly" the provincial probation service.

The Session Ahead

BITISH COLUMBIA'S BOOM-
ing economy is reflected in
the opening speech of the current
legislature, supporting the seman-
tics of Mr. Bennett's "dynamic
society."

Developments last year, devel-
opments to come and provincial
government efforts to encourage
them are indicated in this formal
document.

The speech does not, of course,
spell out the details of legislation,
nor define the limits. Neither does
it disclose the government's inten-
tions in the proposed amendment
to the Revenue Act. On the latter
point the speech merely notes that
the change relates to investment by
the government "in the shares of
chartered banks."

This rouses speculation. The
act's original intent was to author-
ize government investment up to
\$100 millions in "a chartered bank"
—the Bank of British Columbia for
which the government has so far
been unable to obtain a charter.
Conceivably the coming amendment
may chart a new route toward the
objective of establishing a stronger
capital market in this province.

Of major importance in the
speech—and gratifying to the pub-
lic — is announcement of govern-
ment plans to establish some form
of assistance within existing medi-
cal insurance plans for those of
modest income. This would be an
interim measure pending federal
action on medicare.

At present free medical care is
given to those on the welfare rolls.
Apparently the government intends
to help others not in such reduced
circumstances, but still pinched by
the cost of doctors' bills.

Broad support should be forth-
coming for the provincial efforts to
extend hospital insurance coverage
to those receiving long-term con-
tinuing care — an arrangement in
which British Columbia is trying to

enlist federal co-operation. Particu-
larly for Victoria, with its dispro-
portionate percentage of older resi-
dents who require continuing treat-
ment, this will be a welcome move.

The meaning of sections in the
speech concerning higher payments
for education remains to be clari-
fied. "You will be asked to increase
grants to school districts; to au-
thorize increased expenditures for
higher education, for regional vo-
cational schools and for vocational
additions to secondary schools," the
document states.

Obviously more funds will have
to be furnished simply to meet the
needs of a larger student population
from beginners' class to graduate
study. More money is required, also,
to support the vocational courses
already implemented and now ex-
panding.

Are the larger grants the nor-
mal increase required for these
purposes? Or do they represent a
more generous attitude to educa-
tion? The universities have made
known their requirements, for in-
stance. How far are they to be
met?

Wide interest will be taken in
plans to establish Regional Park
Authorities. If these are bodies
with broad jurisdiction over parks,
free from political influence and
protected against the commercial
and special interest pressures con-
tinually directed at the parks, they
could serve a useful purpose.

These are questions which the
budget and respective bills should
answer.

There are some, however, which
are not even raised in the speech.
It does not mention the abrasive
issue of urban transportation. Nor
does it indicate directly any meas-
ures which may be taken to assist
the municipalities in their serious
financial difficulties.

These are points that will inevi-
tably be raised in the legislature.

4% ON ISLAND GET SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Approximately 4 per cent of
the 291,000 persons on Vancou-
ver Island and adjacent islands
received social welfare assist-
ance in the fiscal year ending
last March 31.

The social welfare depart-

ment's report, tabled in the leg-
islature Thursday, said the case-
load in this region rose by 230
to a total of 11,380 during the
1963-64 fiscal year.

Handling the caseload were 38
social workers, an increase of
two, located in seven offices.

The recipients included 2,732
in Victoria, 991 in Saanich and
1,664 in the rest of Greater
Victoria.

Profits Low In Printing

The annual report of the
Queen's Printer, tabled in the
legislature Thursday, showed
gross sales of \$1,735,162 last year
but a profit of only \$40,343.

The government printing office
gave refunds of \$975 and re-
ported expenses of \$144,764.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1965

'The Quiet One' House Answer Man

By JIM HUME

Most people didn't notice E. K. DeBeck when the legislature opened Thursday afternoon.

There was no reason why they should, though he entered the assembly chamber robed in black along with other members of the official party.

At 82 — Ned DeBeck's 82nd birthday is on March 7 — and after 17 years as clerk to the legislative assembly a man doesn't crave the limelight.

Through the official opening ceremonies Mr. DeBeck sat quietly to one side. Today he was sitting just as quietly at a table in the centre of the legislative chamber.

His unobtrusive contemplation of the legislative scene might leave the impression that he is just another body filling a vacant seat. It would be a wrong impression and one vastly underestimating the importance and ability of a veteran barrister.

Mr. DeBeck came to Victoria 27 years ago after many years in law in Vancouver. He is the expert on protocol, the man cabinet ministers and rookie MLAs turn to when they need advice.

He is the man who keeps tabs on bills, orders of the day and the hundred and one other pieces of important paper that cross his table when the legislative assembly is in session.

At 82 is he thinking of retiring?

Not really. "I think I'll keep on going as long as I'm able to function," he says. And adds: "And for as long as they want me."

He made the statement just before dousing his ever-present pipe and taking his place in the procession to open the second session of the 27th Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.



In Our HOUSE

By Arthur Mayse

Legislature this afternoon got down to business in a creaky sort of way, with the first two speeches of a session which the optimists believe may have run its course by mid-March.

But the Ides of March are distant still, and much can happen before the hardy wallflowers bloom in their beds outside our handsome grey seat of provincial government.

It will begin to happen on Monday, when the leader of



Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition takes aim at government plans as announced in the throne speech, and lets fly with a load of nuts, bolts, broken glass and stray door-knobs.

But Fighting Bob Strachan, his first gasp of outrage over Premier Bennett's Alberta-aping medicare scheme delivered, is still charging his blunderbuss. Today, veteran Price and sophomore Chabot have the Legislative chamber's magenta-carpeted floor.

Mr. Price moves acceptance of Thursday's throne speech. Mr. Chabot seconds his motion. Nothing, of course, would surprise these government-side legislators more than an unimpeded vote . . . although what a deal of time and oratory this would save!

But replies to the throne are still part of our parliamentary tradition, so round and round we will go for many a day to come.

Back now to the opening, which in spite of all its pomp and circumstance struck me, this year, as being in minor key.

The ladies' hats were more subdued and less succulent. Lieut.-Gov. Pearkes carried out his vice-regal duties splendidly as always; but the speech in his hands was no thunderer.

A certain opulence we have come to expect from author

Bennett was lacking, and the prizes in the verbal cracker-jack are unlikely to evoke squeals of delight.

As a speech to the dynamic society, I found it curiously short on dynamism.

From it, we may assume that a workmanlike and reasonably sensible budget is in the offing; the sort to be expected of a leader whose next election campaign is still comfortably over the horizon.

★ ★ ★

On opening day, the crowd is half the fun.

Down on the floor of the Legislature, where invited guests filed in to take their places according to a predetermined seating plan, parliament's war veteran attendants were busy enough.

But upstairs, the guardians of the public galleries were required to combine diplomacy with vigilance, firmness, and a touch of the magician.

How to find a seat for a woman out from Scotland who, even in the Old Country, had heard that a British Columbia Legislature opening was a gey fine show?

"Wait here a bit," said the attendant, "and we'll see."

Somehow he squeezed the lady in . . . and a fine tale she will take home with her!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1965

'Tin Cup Medicare' Hit As Surrender to Medics

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

The throne speech forecast of subsidized medical insurance premiums for the poor was sharply criticized by opposition party leaders and a labor spokesman Thursday.

It received a cautious approval from a doctors' spokesman.

NDP leader Robert Strachan called the proposed measure "tin cup medicare" that violates all the tenets of the Hall royal commission on medicare.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said Premier Bennett "is dipping his toes into medicare but he obviously is reluctant to consider the kind of plan now being studied by the Canadian Parliament."

B.C. Federation of Labor president E. T. Staley said labor will be "greatly disappointed by the indication in the speech that there will be something less than a full medicare program initiated in the province."

"British Columbia has abundant resources to support a full medicare program and anything less is an injustice to the people."

Dr. Peter Banks, president of the 2,000-member B.C. Medical Society, said the principle of the plan to subsidize private insurance premiums for lower income groups on a voluntary basis appears "sound and sensible."

"We doctors must now make available all our knowledge to iron out the details in the spirit of give and take for the benefit of all the people in the province," he said.

"We doctors must now make available all our knowledge to iron out the details in the spirit of give and take for the benefit of all the people in the province," he said.

'CLOSE THE GAP'

"This plan would appear to close the gap of need and as such I think it is a very worthwhile and courageous move."

Mr. Strachan said it appeared that the government plan would have to involve a means test—"in other words you will have to take a tin cup and beg for this."

"This in essence is 'tin cup' or 'means test' medicare and

to my mind is a complete capitulation to the doctors and insurance companies.

SUBSIDIZED

"The taxpayers will have to subsidize a plan that will be controlled by the insurance companies and doctors."

Mr. Strachan said such subsidization plans were examined by the Hall royal commission and found to be administratively burdensome, wasteful and "contrary to the dignity of man."

Mr. Strachan said the plan undoubtedly would help people but only on condition that "they go cup in hand and beg for it." He said his party would have to see the specific legislation proposed before it could decide how to vote on the issue.

Dr. Banks said that the speech made no mention of a means test "but it did say it would be for those who need help and I'm quite certain that this can be done without Mr. Strachan's objections carrying any weight."

'LACKLUSTRE'

In other comments on the speech, Mr. Perrault said it "was a lacklustre effort considering it was billed as the unveiling of the 'dynamic society'."

"The premier is going to have to put more dynamite into his programs than this if he is to convince anyone they are dynamic."

He said the speech was largely a catalogue of events already well known.

Mr. Perrault said the announcement of a concerted effort to improve vocational and technical training programs was the only "gratifying" news because it took heed of Liberal party appeals for a bigger effort in this field during the past three sessions.

CATCH UP

Mr. Staley said the labor movement would welcome the vocational references in the speech.

"We have felt that for too many years technical training was not given sufficient notice in this province and this may help us to catch up in this field," he said.

Mr. Strachan, who opens his formal critique of the speech Monday in the legislature, said he was intrigued by the plural reference to legislation permitting investment in chartered banks.

"But what that means we will just have to wait to see," he said, declining speculation.

He said he was sorry to see nothing mentioned of a B.C. Telephone Company takeover; establishment of a government car insurance plan; or reduction in taxes on cars.

Mr. Strachan had praise for only one point in the speech, the promise that the government would ask legislation to "greatly augment" the probation service.

"This is badly needed. I only hope it means what it says. We've been told this before and

Library to Move For More Space

FISHERIES REPORT GOOD YEAR

British Columbia's commercial fisheries had a good year in 1964.

Figures in the annual report of the Recreation and Conservation Department, tabled in the Legislature Thursday, showed increases in the value of both salmon and halibut landings.

The canned salmon pack in 1964 was 1,251,618 cases; 48,347 more than in 1963. Northern waters produced the best fishing for Chums and Sockeye since 1950.

Halibut landings at British Columbia ports in 1964 were 25,600,000 pounds, worth \$6,143,000—up \$377,000 from 1963.

British Columbia fish packers processed 343,276 48-pound cases of Sockeye salmon compared with 157,747 in 1963, when the industry was hit by a strike. However, the pack of Pink salmon slipped to 463,968 from 757,087.

After 30 years in cramped quarters in the basement of the Parliament Buildings, the provincial library commission will move its books and staff into new quarters soon.

The commission's annual report tabled in the legislature Thursday said the move will include the administrative personnel, the "open shelf" library of some 150,000 volumes and the travelling library service.

The whole operation will be moved into the second floor of the Mc and Mc building, at Government and Johnson by February 15.

It will occupy 16,000 square feet of floor space—four times its present accommodation.

SELECT BOOKS

In recent months, the commission has had to restrict the number of persons permitted to select books personally from the stacks because of the crowding problem.

The "open shelf" serves unorganized areas without local library facilities and most of its book loans are by mail but several thousand of its patrons live within driving range of the headquarters here.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1965

Black Clouds Rolled Overhead as Government Plans Unveiled

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

The weather may have been a symbolic portent at the opening ceremony Thursday of the second session of the 27th legislative assembly of B.C.



Mika

It was sunny and breezy before the politicians and leading citizens gathered for the annual ritual. But the atmosphere changed to stormy as black clouds rolled overhead and began dropping rain just before the reading of the speech from the throne—forecasting some of the government's coming programs.

Nevertheless, Lieutenant-Governor George Pearkes—personifying the ship of state—went about his duties cheerfully and his traditional uniform gleamed through the murky atmosphere. And after the ceremony—after Mr. Pearkes had weathered the tricky syntax of a political document—the sun came out again.

Many observers think that's how the session will go too when it begins in earnest today with speeches by Bert Price (SC—Vancouver-Burrard) and James P. Chabot (SC—Columbia), moving and seconding the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

With all indications of a heavy session, any minor squalls are likely to develop into full-scale storms and many a layman will recall Mr. Pearkes' stoical and dignified example while the political thunder rolls on and on.

There were touching moments as well as pomp and circumstance during the opening.

Special guests were six men who 50 years ago were in the guard of honor at the opening of the 1915 legislative session. Survivors of the 30th Battalion,

they were Richard Prowse, Harry McDonald, E. T. Redford, Sid Howridge, Fred Dawson and Frank Whitford.

And high tribute was paid to another old warrior in the throne speech itself:

"From time to time in the life of nations there emerges a great leader who by virtue of his intelligence and strength of character is able to mobilize the physical and spiritual resources of that nation and bring it safely through."

"Such a man is Sir Winston Churchill, whose grave illness now causes universal concern."

"A great parliamentarian, he served without stint his sovereign, his nation and his world. We today are the beneficiaries of his tenacity of purpose."

Scores of persons braved the weather to watch the vice-regal party arrive at the buildings for the 3 p.m. opening.

A 15-gun salute boomed out as the four howitzers of the 5th (B.C.) Independent Medium Artillery Battery, Royal Regiment of the Canadian Artillery, signalled the arrival of the lieutenant-governor's motorcade.

The 34-piece band of the Queen's Own Rifles broke out in the Royal Salute and later played martial airs as the lieutenant-governor inspected the ranks of the 100-man honor guard provided by the QOR's First Battalion.

Greeted by Premier W. A. C. Bennett, his executive assistant William Budd and deputy provincial secretary L. J. Wallace, Mr. Pearkes entered the building accompanied by his four uniformed aides de camp.

In the assembly chamber, some 600 persons crowded the floor—where MLAs, state dignitaries and leading citizens were mingled—and the galleries to watch the ritual.

Judicial and academic robes,

women's hats, a bouquet of flowers on the desk of Lois Haggan—only woman MLA—glowed in multi-colored splendor under the brilliant lights set up for television cameras.

Mr. Pearkes read the speech slowly and evenly from the ornately-carved speaker's dais and left as he entered—preceded by the large gold-flashing mace borne by sergeant-at-arms Denzil G. Ashby and followed by his retinue.

The house made a symbolic opening of its business by giving first reading to a traditional bill, numerous government reports were tabled and the decks cleared for the throne speech debate and selection of committee members before the assembly adjourned.

More than 3,000 persons shook hands with the cabinet members before drinking tea in the Empress Hotel's ballroom as guests of Premier and Mrs. Bennett.

A state ball at Government House closed the day's events.

Per Pupil Cost Hits \$386.73

Sending Johnny to public school in B.C. last year cost \$386.73.

The figure, representing the average per-pupil cost of education last year, was shown in the annual report of the superintendent of education tabled in the legislature Thursday by Education Minister Leslie Peterson.

The report also showed that the province's total bill for education in the 1963-64 school year jumped nearly \$20,000,000 to \$177,539,584 from \$157,614,783. In 1953-54 the figure was \$70,791,844.

The number of teachers in the public school system moved up to 14,415 from 13,571 in 1962-63 and 7,574 in 1953-54. But the school enrolment kept pace, rising to 378,641 last year from 358,905 the previous year and 210,174 ten years ago.

The provincial government's share of the total education bill climbed to \$95,497,375 from \$83,782,121 in 1962-63 and \$24,060,233 in 1953-54.

Provincial BCHIS Use Sets Mark

The British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service paid out \$63,406,118 to hospitals in the province in the government's 1963-64 fiscal year, as a record number of patients qualified for benefits under the plan.

The service's annual report,

tabled in the legislature Thursday, showed that the federal government reimbursed the province for \$33,687,396 of the expense.

A total of 468,200 patients entered hospitals last year under the universal plan, compared with 458,079 in 1963 and 203,269 in 1949, first year of the plan's operation.

During the 1963-64 fiscal year the government paid \$3,370,805 for hospital construction grants, compared with a budgeted \$5,700,000.

e' Hit Medics

Behind is a complete capitulation to the doctors and insurance companies.

IZED

taxpayers will have to see a plan that will be backed by the insurance companies and doctors."

Strachan said such action plans were examined by the Hall royal commission found to be administratively burdensome, wasteful, "contrary to the dignity of the office."

Strachan said the plan would help people on condition that "they in hand and beg for it." His party would have to pass specific legislation before it could decide to vote on the issue.

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LUSTRE'

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premier is going to have more dynamite into his hands than this if he is to see anyone they are dying."

aid the speech was largely a catalogue of events already known.

Perrault said the announcement of a concerted effort to improve vocational and technical training programs was highly "gratifying" news because it took heed of Liberal appeals for a bigger effort in this field during the past sessions.

UP

Staley said the labor movement would welcome the official references in the bill.

have felt that for too long years technical training had not given sufficient notice to the province and this may be used to catch up in this field," he said.

Strachan, who opens his criticism of the speech in the legislature, said he is intrigued by the pluralism to legislation permitting investment in chartered

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Strachan had praise for one point in the speech, promise that the government would ask legislation to "fully augment" the probate service.

is badly needed. I only mean what it says. I have been told this before and

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1965

Is Mercantile Other Bank In Either-Or Proposition?

By JOHN MIKA

Speculation increased today that Premier W. A. C. Bennett is developing a "two-bank" pincer move in his battle with the Senate.

But a spokesman for the suspected "other" bank denied a rumor that there is any move afoot to sell control to the B.C. government.

Some sources in the financial world think the cryptic reference in the throne speech to legislation for provincial investment in "chartered banks" may mean he will face the Senate with an "either-or" proposition.

The speculation, after touching on the proposed Laurentide Bank to be based in Vancouver, has shifted to the Mercantile Bank of Canada which now has its head office in Montreal.

Capitalized at a modest \$4,000,000, it is jointly owned by Rotterdamsche Bank of Rotterdam and the First National City Bank of New York.

Easy Outlay

If either one of them sold only half its interest to the B.C. government, it would involve only

\$1 million—an easy enough outlay to make while still fighting for a charter for Premier Bennett's brainchild, the \$100 million-capitalized Bank of B.C.

This would not give Premier Bennett control of the Mercantile because the government would be a junior partner in the bank. Such an arrangement also could be more acceptable to critics of the Bank of B.C. proposal in which the government's 25 or even 10 per cent interest would virtually control it.

Stewart B. Clifford, general manager of Mercantile, said "there is absolutely no truth to the rumor whatsoever" when asked if the B.C. government might be planning to take control.

"I think that covers it," he said in refusing to elaborate.

But his answer did not deal with purchase of a non-controlling interest in the bank and observers continued to speculate that the Mercantile might be involved in the government's plans—partly for lack of any other

clues to think about.

Here's how their reasoning goes:

If the Senate refused to give the Bank of B.C. a charter, then Premier Bennett—using his investment as a prod and the promise of the government's banking business as a lure—could persuade the Mercantile Bank to shift its headquarters to Vancouver.

So the Senate would be faced with a decision of either chartering the Bank of B.C. or seeing the premier take an already-chartered bank to B.C. behind its back.

Laurentide officials said they have had no discussions with the government about purchasing shares in its proposed bank.

Initial speculation that the premier planned to buy into Laurentide also were dampened by the fact that B.C. Power Corporation interests are behind it—his bitter enemies since he took the B.C. Electric away from them.

On the other hand, the premier is believed to have silent but steady friends in New York financial circles and his quiet trip to Europe may have included a meeting with Dutch bankers.

Visitors Jam Old Museum, Report Says

The provincial government has 160,000 reasons already for building the planned centennial museum-archives project and more are bound to come before it is officially opened.

That's how many persons visited the present cramped museum last year—an increase of 100 per cent in a single year, it was pointed out Thursday in the annual report of the recreation and conservation department.

The report, tabled in the legislature, said 82,311 persons visited the museum in 1963 in its present location in the east wing of the Legislative Build-

ings.

The tourist industry is increasing in importance at a rapid rate, the report indicated.

Some 4,245,332 tourists—foreign, Canadian and British Columbian combined—spent a total of \$183,936,026 last year, an increase of 20 per cent over 1963 spending estimates.

"The tourist industry, down in July due to inclement weather, extended into September and October to an extent never before attained," the report added.

Among other highlights reported in the document: nine new Class A parks added 4,391 acres to the B.C. parks system which now totals 6,394,944 acres; the Beautiful British Columbia magazine subscriptions rose from 37,000 to 44,000 and its circulation each issue broke the 90,000 mark; issue of hunting licences rose 3 per cent to 132,500 for residents and 7 per cent to 5,450 for non-residents.

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In Our HOUSE

By Arthur Mayse

Premier Bennett, a leader who enjoys a mystery when the answer is safe in his pocket, has done nothing to stem the cascade of speculation and rumor which his addition of one letter to one word has loosed in this great grey whispering gallery.

On Friday came yet another corridor suggestion of what the premier might have meant when he wrote "banks" rather than bank into his throne speech announcement of government plans.

Actually, this guess ran, Mr. Bennett meant bank in the singular. The plural reference was a mere ruse to throw curious opposition members and news- men off this most interesting scent.

Not so, the premier assured me after Friday's early ad- journment: banks, plural, he wrote, and banks he most cer-



tainly meant.

This with the smile he re- serves for the press when we haven't too deeply displeased him, and in the obvious good spirits that marked his after- noon.

So I went my way no wiser, but pondering a puzzler heard somewhere or other.

"What is a bank," this rid- dle runs, "when it is not an application for a bank?"

Well, unravel it if you can! All it suggests to me is that Mr. Bennett, no man to thun- der unavailingly on Ottawa's closed front door, has come to his objective—or a reasonable facsimile of the same—by an- other route.

★ ★ ★

During the 1953 session, the Columbia seat on the govern- ment side was emptied by the fatal illness of the member elected to occupy it. The year following brought James R. Chabot, another SC, to the House, and his first speech of the session did him credit.

His delivery is better this session than last—very clear and unhurried, and his con- cern for unity in Canada was refreshing after the stereo- typed Sacred Gloat with which Bert Price, Vancouver-Bur- rard, preceded it.

I have noted this trend to a rather self-conscious Cana- dianism elsewhere among our lawmakers.

When keen young NDP Dave Barrett of Dewdney rises to add his views to the debate on the speech from the throne, he, too, will have earnest words to say about the dangers inherent in a turning- away of the provinces from Ottawa.

Over his iced tea and my coffee, we sought to define the differences between Canadian and American, with no result worth passing on.

Canadian-born Mr. Barrett finished off his education with a master's degree from an American college, and spent nine years in the United States before coming home a trained and experienced social worker.

"I'm a Canadian," he sum- marized, "and intend to re- main one, even if I can't ex- plain the distinctions even to myself."

So far in this very young session, we have witnessed only the most tentative flexing of muscles as political oppon- ents measure each other across the double rows of desks.

Leaders Strachan and Per- rault of the official and minor oppositions have each tossed a quip at the government benches, but these were mere love-taps.

I expect, however, that the dove of peace will lose a tail-feather or two when Mr. Strachan gets his first innings on Monday.

Probable chief point at issue will be the government choice of a watered-down medicare plan over the much more sweeping recommendations of the Hall commission.

It will surprise me not at all, either, if Mr. Strachan urges a speedy provincializa- tion of B.C. Telephone Com- pany.

There's already talk that the House will sit next Thursday evening, a move which would win few cheers from mem- bers who prefer a toughening period of day sittings before adding a late shift to the work- load.

Bennett Heckles SC Whip

Social Credit whip Bert Price (Vancouver-Burrard) made a Freudian slip of the tongue as he wound up a 75-minute speech moving the throne speech re- ply Friday.

"I think I've spoken about long enough, Mr. Premier—I mean, Mr. Speaker," he cor- rected himself with a flush.

It may have been because Premier Bennett made more interjections into his speech than did the opposition.

The premier cut into Mr. Price's talk:

To correct his statement that B.C. pays 25 per cent of senior citizen housing projects — "it's one-third";

To answer his suggestion that taxes might be raised to pay for a full "medicare" plan— "No increases in taxes, no in- creases for B.C.";

To question his statement that public transit is subsidized in San Francisco—"who sub- sidizes it?"

Several other interjections were lost to listeners.

PROBE COST \$24,315

It cost \$24,315 to investigate Highways Minister P. A. Gag- lardi in 1963.

This was disclosed for the first time when the provincial government's public accounts were tabled in the legislature Thursday.

The minister was cleared in the investigation which lasted more than two months.

A royal commission looking into expropriation laws cost \$20,651.

Another commission investi- gating the workmen's compen- sation act has cost \$77,355 so far.

A third one, on gasoline prices, has cost \$18,272 thus far.

Record Reign Of Bennett In Spotlight

Both mover and seconder of the throne speech reply opened their speeches in the legislature Friday with references to Premier Bennett's Feb. 15 date with a new record.

Bert Price (SC—Vancouver-Burrard) said this will be an important session because it will mark the setting of a new record in office—breaking the 12-and-a-half-year leadership of Sir Richard McBride.

J. R. Chabot (SC—Columbia) said the date will see Mr. Ben- nett "become the longest-reign- ing premier in the history of our province."

His reference to a reign brought an ironical "that's right" from one of the opposi- tion members.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1965

SOCRED ASKS:

Better Deal On Medicare, Bus Subsidies

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

The provincial government Friday was urged by its own lead-off speaker in the throne speech debate to look beyond its present horizons on medicare and support of urban transit systems.

Bert Price (SC—Vancouver-Esplanade), Social Credit whip, made the points while moving the Address in Reply to the Throne Speech.

Mr. Price opened his speech with a list of statistics cataloguing major advances in highway construction, power development, hospital and school construction, provision of ferry services and social welfare measures since Social Credit took office in 1952.

Then he reverted to his often-noted independence in criticizing some government policies—with several pointed suggestions that the government should give a better revenue deal to Vancouver.

Reading from notes he said were prepared before the Throne Speech was read revealing the government plan to subsidize private insurance premiums for persons on low incomes, Mr. Price said there was no doubt

that the majority of British Columbians want a full medicare program.

HIGHER INCOME

"The doctors are no longer against medicare. In Saskatchewan they are accepting the (government) payments," which are providing them with a higher income than before, although "no doubt they are working harder."

He said the federal government should help pay for medi-

care here although it might be possible to finance a provincial plan by raising some taxes.

"I think the department of health services should advise the people where they stand on medicare," Mr. Price said, concluding his previously-written notes.

ATTACK PROBLEM

"Now it is a great pleasure to see we are about to attack this great problem," he said referring to the government plan.

Mr. Price said he wanted to see B.C. Hydro renew its transit franchises when they run out in year or two.

He said the Hydro authority would manage the bus system better than a group of diverse municipalities. Rapid transit facilities were needed in Vancouver but this would require heavy subsidization.

"I'm not happy about subsidies because they lead to inefficiency but there may be no alternative," he said.

He said the "most equitable" subsidy method would be to use B.C. Hydro power revenues to support the transit operation.

(This has been requested by the municipalities without success.)

GOVT OF ACTION

Earlier, Mr. Price said the Social Credit party had provided "a government of action not promises."

He said the government in

1952 recognized that progress in the province depended on development of a road system so it embarked on a program that has resulted in \$968 million being spent on highways since then.

"We are referred to as a blacktop government because it is everywhere—and what's more it's paid for," he said.

He said the government ferries has saved Vancouver Island and transformed it "into a land of opportunity without limit."

The ferries have carried more than 3.3 million passengers in a single year, he said.

Senior citizen housing for 4,434 persons has been built and 41 completely new hospitals have been constructed since 1952. In the past five years, \$68 million has been spent on university construction.

Massive hydro-electric projects are now underway promising an even greater surge of development for the province which would have been lost if Premier Bennett had not refused to ratify the first Columbia River treaty signed by former prime minister Diefenbaker and former U.S. president Eisenhower.

"Let's give full credit to our premier for standing up to the Canadian and U.S. governments and saying no deal until B.C. had a square deal," he said as his colleagues pounded their desks.

Desk-Thumping Approval Promoting Canadian Unity

Victoria city was given a desk-thumping ovation Friday by the B.C. legislature for contributing significantly to national unity in 1964.

The MLAs, led by Premier Bennett, pounded their desks in the traditional manner to show hearty agreement with sentiments expressed by J. R. Chabot (SC-Columbia) while he was seconding the throne speech reply.

Mr. Chabot said the November visit of the Quebec mayors at Victoria's invitation was one of the two significant unifying events in Canada last year.

"The city should be complimented for extending the invitation and for showing this group such fine hospitality in this

capital," he said.

Mr. Chabot cited B.C. government's loan of \$100 million to Quebec province as the other significant step towards national unity.

The bulk of his speech was a plea for more co-operation among Canadians to prevent a split. He criticized the federal government for failing to provide any unifying force and questioned whether "the red Pearson flag" would help.

He said the French-Canadians have passed from the "fear era to the confusion era" and it would be illogical for English-Canadians to assume the transition from former premier Maurice Duplessis' "goon squad" tactics and fear atmosphere

would be easy.

Mr. Chabot also added that one member of the provincial Liberal cabinet in Quebec was making statements more irresponsible than those by separatists.

He said the need for senate reform was "long overdue" and glaringly apparent when the banking committee turned down the province's application for a bank charter.

Mr. Chabot said the four maritime provinces, which have a combined population roughly equal to that of B.C., have 30 seats in the Senate, whereas B.C. has only six.

"All provinces should have the same number of senators," he said.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1965

FLAGS AT HALF MAST

Schools Plan Churchill Day

The B.C. legislature was to pay its respects to the memory of Sir Winston Churchill today and all schools in the province will be closed Friday after holding memorial exercises.

Flags came down to half mast over all government buildings in the province and will remain there until after the Saturday funeral for the famous British leader, Deputy Provincial Secretary L. J. Wallace said this morning.

A message of condolence on behalf of all the people of B.C. to Mrs. Churchill was to be read when the legislature convened during the afternoon, followed by personal tributes and a minute of silence when the entire house was to stand.

Education Minister L. R. Peterson announced that he has directed all school superintendents to arrange suitable memorial services in schools Friday morning.

The schools will be closed after the services for the rest of the day.

Mr. Peterson said Sir Winston was "one of the world's most brilliant statesmen and leaders in all history."

"At this time, it is very appropriate that the pupils in our schools review the events in the life of this famous figure so that they may appreciate his stature and be inspired by his noble example."

SCHOOLS CLOSED

"Following the memorial exercises, the schools will be closed and the pupils dismissed for the afternoon, as a mark of respect to the deceased statesman."

An international memorial service will be arranged in Victoria, Mr. Wallace said.

It will be held in Christ Church Cathedral at a date to be announced, probably Friday or Saturday.

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"Let's give full credit to our premier for standing up to the Canadian and U.S. governments and saying no deal until B.C. had a square deal," he said as his colleagues pounded their desks.

Social Ills Rampant In Dynamic Society

There is a social and material contradiction in society in B.C., says the annual report of the superintendent of child welfare.

"On the one hand we have relative material affluence," said Mary King, who retired recently to do social work in England.

"And on the other, an increase in serious social ills such as divorce, desertion, temporary marital relationships, child abuse, delinquent behavior, a lowering of age and increase in the illegitimacy rate threatening family life and healthy childhood growth."

Her annual report was tabled in the legislature Thursday.

Never has B.C.'s society had so much knowledge, so many services and so much ability to combat its ills, said Miss King.

The province's social sickness could be partly caused by fear of self-destruction, she said.

It could also be caused by the tensions of sudden economic and social change.

A total of 6,542 children were

in the care of the welfare department and B.C.'s three children's aid societies at last count March 31, she said.

This was an increase of 554 over the previous year.

Illegitimate births were up 482 to a new high of 3,083 for the year.

Cost of child welfare jumped \$620,000 to \$4.9 million.

She suggested society should shift from palliative to preventive measures.

Hansard Plea Warmed Up By Strachan

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan was scheduled to make a perennial suggestion in the legislature today—adoption of an official Hansard record of proceedings.

The government front benches also were to be bombarded with 89 questions from the opposition parties—82 from NDP members and seven from Liberals.

Most will have to await days or weeks for replies from the ministers concerned.

The questions range from drug addiction and probation statistics to various government expenditures on roads, education, health and advertising in weekly newspapers.

Approval Unity

would be easy.

Mr. Chabot also added that one member of the provincial Liberal cabinet in Quebec was making statements more irresponsible than those by separatists.

He said the need for senate reform was "long overdue" and glaringly apparent when the banking committee turned down the province's application for a bank charter.

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"All provinces should have the same number of senators," he said.



In Our HOUSE

By Arthur Mayse

This session may not develop into a typical Bennett earth-shaker, but because of two key figures on the floor of the House, you may rest assured that full many a government motion will be shaken till its teeth rattle.

This pair—although neither will thank me for an action so politically fantastic as pairing them—consists of the leaders of our official and lesser oppositions.



These are the perennial best men who may never become bridegrooms. Their function under the British parliamentary system which we follow in

broad outline is to provide checks and balances for the government in power.

Scanning the future under shaded hand, I see rather less chance of either becoming premier in the next few years than of gilded Captain Vancouver executing the Watasi upon the Legislative dome.

It is their pride and perhaps their fate that Opposition leader Robert Martin Strachan of the New Democratic Party and Liberal chief Raymond Joseph Perrault must play David against a Goliath so far proof against their stones.

On Monday, each of these champions was up and slinging—mostly at a fit-and-hearty premier, but often enough at each other.

★ ★ ★

Tributes to the last of the heroes delivered (outside legislature's flags hang limp at half mast in the drizzle) Bob Strachan rises from behind his NDP front row desk.

It is now 33 years since he left the Glasgow where he was born in 1913 to make his home in Canada. He has been a carpenter, and a provincial president of the Carpenters' Union.

As a family man with two sons and a daughter, he has worked with the PTA. His home is at Cedar just south of Nanaimo, his constituency the big, rugged workboot riding of Cowichan-Newcastle. The CCF sent him to the Legislature first in 1952, and CCF or NDP has returned him at each election thereafter.

I think more than any lawmaker in a House starred

with political strategists, Bob Strachan is master of the mellow approach and the flashing judo chop.

Observe him pause while lacing into the government for a "tin cup" medicare scheme not to his taste. Here he stands, hands lightly gripping coat lapels in a familiar gesture. He glares with what might pass for benevolence at Health Minister Eric Martin, sitting bland and rosy three prudent swords' lengths distant across the red carpet.

"I deplore," says he, "the kind of attack made recently by a Victoria doctor who stated in public that the minister was a 'nitwit'."

"I disagree with the language, but if it is a medical diagnosis, I mustn't interfere, because I believe that doctors must be left free to practice medicine to the best of their ability . . ."

So much for the froth. But the Strachan nickname of "Fighting Bob" was not gained in such mock-amiable ripostes.

Soon the NDP's slender, almost dapper chief is bringing arm over shoulder with finger pointed as if it were a knife to hurl, while he engages a trumpeting premier—also risen and finger-wagging—in verbal battle.

Time and experience have mellowed Robert Strachan, and he can wear white tie and tails with distinction at Government House. But the fight's still there, as will be amply demonstrated before an overwhelmingly heavy government majority pins down its legislation.

Jones Fears 'Political Pawn' Role

Suspended government purchasing commission chairman G. N. P. Jones today said he was afraid he may become a "political football" after his name was raised in the legislature Monday.

"I don't want to become a political pawn," he told The Times. "All I want is to get back to my job."

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan Monday said the government's refusal to make a report on Mr. Jones' status was "trampling of Parliament."

Mr. Jones—who was cleared of criminal charges of accepting a benefit—should be re-instated or his case should be sent to a legislative committee or, thirdly, he should be brought before the bar of the house, Mr. Strachan claimed.

Late, Premier Bennett filed the purchasing commission's annual report—prepared Jan. 20 by Mr. Jones who has gone to his office regularly despite his suspension.

The report was signed by Mr. Jones as a commissioner and also by A. E. Webb, deputy

minister of public works, and acting chairman R. G. McKee, deputy minister of forestry.

NO MENTION

It listed expenditures of \$38,834,618 for 52,855 purchase orders—an increase of 16.3 per cent from 1963—but made no mention of Mr. Jones' suspension.

Mr. Jones said this morning that he is in a financial squeeze because he has not been reinstated.

His salary has been withheld for four months—a loss of \$3,600 at a time when he has had to face "heavy" legal fees for the case that cleared him.

"I was arrested and tried and in view of the utter exoneration I think I should be treated accordingly," he said.

"I didn't ask for the court case and I'm not asking for a hearing before the House now. At no time have I spoken to any members of the Opposition about my case or to any members of the government side for that matter."

"It would be untruthful to say I'm not afraid of becoming a political football."

Mr. Strachan said unless the government clarified the situation, it will be taking "another step in the destruction of the rights of this legislature . . . another arrogant ruthlessness by this government."

While Social Credit members listened in stony silence, Mr. Strachan pointed out Mr. Jones could not be fired by the government but only by the legislature.

He said Mr. Jones, since his appointment was announced by Premier Bennett in 1956, had been given raises regularly indicating a satisfactory performance.

"The government may have good reasons for wanting to fire this man, but how can we know if he doesn't communicate any information to this house?" he asked.

He said the purchasing commission was set up to eliminate political pressure in government contract awards and unless the case was clarified "how do we know he (Jones) is not being railroaded . . . because he objected to Social Credit heelers getting contracts?"

'BONNER BUNGLES'

Mr. Strachan pointed out that Mr. Jones was found innocent of the crown's charges without having to call a single defence witness and solely on the crown's own evidence.

He said newspapers should have headlined the acquittal "Bonner Bungles Again."

Meanwhile, Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) gave notice of a private bill to amend the Purchasing Commission Act specifically making members liable to prosecution under the Criminal Code.

He declined any comment on the Jones judgment, which held in part that the commission chairman was not an official of the executive branch of the government and therefore not included in the Criminal Code provisions.

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Gov't Rejects Full Medicare In House Vote

By JOHN MIKA

Times Legislative Reporter
Social Credit members Monday defeated a New Democratic Party amendment proposing a full-scale 'medicare' program without a means test.

The 32-19 vote came after a slashing attack over a broad range of government policy by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

The Liberals supported the NDP amendment in the first division of the 1965 legislative session that went along straight party lines with every member voting.

Mr. Strachan spent almost three hours in a detailed and frequently vehement criticism of Thursday's throne speech.

His most concentrated fire was poured on the government's proposal to subsidize private medical insurance premiums for the poor and what he termed Premier Bennett's "capitulation" on the proposed Bank of B.C. by agreeing to reduce government investment from 25 to 10 or five per cent.

The medicare amendment moved by Mr. Strachan criticized the throne speech because it "gave no indication that this government intends to implement without delay the necessary legislation to provide a government-administered comprehensive medical care program in B.C. and available to every resident in the province without a means test."

AT CROSSROADS

Gordon Dowling (NDP-Burnaby) said the government had reached the "crossroads" in the drive for medicare and would identify its real intentions by the vote on the amendment.

Premier Bennett charged that the amendment showed the NDP "in its true colors" of ignoring the needs of people who need help.

"This again shows it is the Social Credit movement that thinks of the little people of this province and I look forward to this division," said the premier.

Mr. Strachan said that ever since 1956, when the provincial government outlined plans for a medicare program in B.C., "we have had nine years of talk nine years of yak-yak, but no action."

He said the Social Credit League's convention had tied the government's hands last fall by passing a resolution for partial rather than full medicare based on Alberta's plan.

"The tin cup plan announced in the throne speech makes it quite clear that (Health Minister Eric Martin) no longer enjoys the confidence of his colleagues or of the Social Credit party."

"He has been beaten into submission and made to reverse his policies by the insurance agents and the doctors in the party."

(Mr. Martin repeatedly called "not true.")

BAD RECORD

Mr. Strachan said the Liberal

party had a bad record with failure to implement medicare.

He said doctors and insurance companies have only one interest in medical insurance plans and that was "to keep financial control in their hands." Taxpayers' money would be used to prop up private plans.

He said even if some of the private plans were not approved for the subsidy, it would work to their financial advantage because they could make a profit on normal applicants "and then dump their 'poor risks' onto the government subsidized agencies."

Mr. Strachan also said that the social welfare department's report showed that 30,000 out of the 64,000 persons on social welfare in 1963-64 were not covered by free medical insurance.

"Are they going to be asked to spend part of their meagre social assistance to pay a portion of the premiums to some private plan?" he asked.

DRUGS IGNORED

He said the government plan "ignores completely the problem of the cost of prescribing drugs" and obviously is based on the Alberta plan "which has been a complete failure as far as patients are concerned and a complete success as far as the doctors and profit-making insurance companies are concerned."

"It is so expensive that up to the middle of last year only one-third of those eligible had applied for coverage — they can't afford it."

Turning to the Bank of B.C. charter application, he said he was disturbed by "the premier's continuous capitulation to the senators in proposing continuing decreases in the participation by this province in the proposed new bank."

PREFERS 100%

He said the 25 per cent investment authorized by the legislature last year was "little enough ownership by the province—I would personally prefer to see 100 per cent."

With the government informing the senate committee that this participation would be reduced to 10 or even five per cent, Mr. Strachan asked who would be the real owners of the bank?

He pointed out the charter, if granted, would go to five private persons named as directors — Einar M. Gunderson, Harold Elworthy, William Mearns, John Wallace and Fred Dietrich.

Mr. Strachan said Premier Bennett should say whether there is a trust agreement "which says to whom the assets of this particular charter, when it is received, will belong."

ANY PROTECTION?

"If there is such a document, does it provide any protection for the investment of the government in seeking this charter?"

Mr. Strachan suggested that if the province has only 5 per cent control "will the people of B.C. be satisfied with footing the bills for securing this bank charter . . . or is it proposed that the government be reimbursed" for the money it has spent making the charter application.

Declaring full support for establishment of a large chartered bank with heavy government participation, Mr. Strachan said

only the government's "ruthless" action in the past would be to blame if it is rejected through fears that "a Bank of B.C. might be used for political purposes."

Mr. Strachan pointed out that the throne speech spent 10 paragraphs extolling various operations of B.C. Hydro but "the premier forgot to include in the speech the fact that B.C. Hydro . . . made an application for a whopping increase in transit fares."

"I can't think how he could forget about it in view of the mail he must be receiving."

GOAL POSTS MOVED

He said the cabinet had "moved the goal posts" when it passed an order-in-council severely restricting the Public Utilities Commission's jurisdiction in deciding the bus fare application and this had hurt the image of a publicly-owned utility.

"I have a vested interest in protecting the good name of social ownership whether it is by the Social Credit government or not," he said.

He said the \$1 monthly raise given persons on old age supplementary allowances last week will create two classes of have progressed much further than it has in establishment of new industry if it had used government funds and powers to sponsor new developments.

"We should be embarking on development of a petro-chemical industry, a finished metals and plastic industry, tremendous expansion of food processing, production of electrical goods, the creation of great machine shops and all the great area of secondary steel industries," he said.

CREDIT TO BARRETT

He commended the government's intention to expand probation services but said the credit would have to go to David Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) who had badgered the government for improvements and had been fired as a civil servant for making the same suggestions.

He said recent car insurance premium increases—except in Saskatchewan for the stated reason that it had government insurance plan—proved there should be a government plan here.

"I suggest it is time the automobile owner in B.C. was given a little relief from this continual gouging that has been his lot in increasing amount in recent years."

'A JOKE'

Mr. Strachan said the Distressed Area Act had proved "a joke" in last year's Fraser Valley floods because farmers with mortgages could not qualify for assistance and those without could obtain private loans at lower rates than government loans.

He said after four years and spending of many thousands of dollars on a royal commission to study expropriation regulations, the government should take action rather than "mere tabling" of the report.

He said the government's winter works policy "was the usual one of passing the buck to the municipalities."

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He said men were first "stripped" of their savings and then their self-respect before they were given a winter works job.

B.C. had the second-lowest hospital construction record in Canada "and the only province we were ahead of (in 1964) was Prince Edward Island." He said there was not a single "chronic" hospital in the province.

House to Sit Tonight at 8

First night sitting of the Legislature will start at 8 o'clock tonight.

Lineup of speakers: Industry Minister Loffmark, David Barrett (NDP-Dewdney), Jacob Huhn (SC-North Peace River), and Waldo Skillings (SC-Victoria.)

'INJUSTICE'

Shouts, Charges On Vote Reform

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault Monday called for sweeping electoral reform in B.C. to end the "Huey Long system of injustice" used by Premier Bennett.

He contrasted "scandalous voting ratios as high as 38-1" between B.C. ridings with ratios of 2-1 in Louisiana, 6-1 in Kentucky and 5-1 in Georgia which have been notorious southern states for electoral imbalance.

"You know your future depends on perpetuating this kind of Huey Long system of injustice," he stormed with finger pointing at Premier Bennett.

The premier jumped up and began taunting Mr. Perrault to "talk about Quebec."

"You and your working alliance with (Creditiste Leader Real) Caouette — you and your secret meetings down there, I know about them," Mr. Perrault shouted as he and the premier slammed away at each other with a torrent of words and fingers punching the air.

"The next time the premier starts to trot around this province to say what his little movement has done, let him give thousands of our people the vote they do not have," Mr. Perrault said moments later, bringing retorts of: "You're against the

country — against the north!" from Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Perrault said the premier had used the "despicable tactic" of trying to incite urban and rural residents against each other.

He said that a majority of the house were elected in 1963 by ridings whose voters represent only 10 per cent of the population — the 26 smallest ridings have a combined total of 174,869 voters.

This was 7,000 fewer than the total number of voters in Point Grey riding alone, which has only three seats in the house.

Mr. Perrault said the present session should set up the machinery for redistribution on a regular basis every 10 years and also enlarge the 52-seat assembly if necessary.

He said a non-partisan three-man commission composed of the chief justice of B.C., a leading educator and the chief electoral officer of B.C. should be set up to study re-distribution.

He said a straight one-for-one voting equality would not be possible or desirable.

"Basing redistribution on population changes alone would not be the only criterion," Mr. Perrault said.

Electronic computers could be used to analyze a wide variety of factors, besides simple population densities, to determine boundaries of constituencies.

Some of these, he said, were distance from major centres, income and age structure of the population, and potential economic investment.

"I hope that the 1965 session will go down in the record book as the one where democracy was brought to the electoral system of this province.

"Every member over there (government benches) knows in his heart this is needed," Mr. Perrault said.

He also deplored the absence of any mention in the throne speech: that a Hansard record would be initiated in the Legislature; that a major effort would be launched to create jobs for youths coming out of the schools; or that the challenge of automation would be met soon.

Mr. Perrault — whose normal speaking time was cut short by a New Democratic Party debate on a medicare amendment — adjourned the debate shortly before the MLAs rose at 6 p.m. and he was to continue his speech today.

V.I. ROUNDUP

Delaying Tactics Charged on Road

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan (NDP—Cowichan-Newcastle) Monday night accused the provincial government of using delaying tactics on needed work in his constituency.

He said in the legislature the government decision to survey Cowichan Lake Road is just as much a delaying tactic as appointment of royal commissions.

Mr. Strachan said the government has waited 10 years to honor a promise of a new provincial building for Duncan but has only just purchased the property.

Works Minister Chant interrupted to say tenders for the

first phase of a six-storey tower court and adjoining provincial office building were called one week ago.

"You had better speak to Duncan city council about the delay," he added.

Mr. Strachan countered by saying no government action has been taken to ease flood threats in his riding and only recently has a go-ahead been received to construct a hospital in Duncan and Ladysmith after a wait of 10 to 12 years.



In Our HOUSE

By Arthur Mayse

The fourth round of the throne speech debate finds me with a slight ringing in my ears, result of listening to seven Tuesday contributions, each the length of a revival sermon but not all as lively.

Our damn-the-torpedos premier seems to be rushing the ship of state along at top speed; unless he relents, we expect another late night on Thursday.



Meanwhile, Sacred Waldo Skillings of Victoria led off today, picking up where his

party mate, Jacob F. Huhn for Peace River North, sat down at 11 p.m. on the third day of this whirligig debate.

On Tuesday, the government's medicare plan was hit and hit again from the opposition benches. Also, the Senate which last year turned thumbs down on the Bennett Bank of British Columbia came under cold Sacred and NDP scrutiny.

Simplest, and certainly most drastic proposal for dealing with the Grand Old Men of Ottawa, came from durable Frank Calder, NDP member for Atlin and hereditary chief of the Skeena River Nishkas.

Mr. Calder's recipe: whip the rug out from under 'em.

"This is one body of our democratic system we can well do without," he said. "If we can legislate for the operation and administration of our provincial affairs without the sanction of a Senate, so can the federal administration."

In a spirit of agreement not too common between factions in the House, Cyril Shelford, SC, Omineca, gave partial support to Mr. Calder's off-with-their-heads proposal.

His view, he told MLAs when he rose to speak for a riding to be covered only by a 1,500-mile swing, is that the Senate should be elected or abolished.

Most of the day, however, was given to less hellfire proposals. In fact, Speaker William Harvey Murray's gavel lay idle save for an evening

rap or two. So far in a session marred only by minor exchanges, we are chiefly reminded of the Legislature's referee when he paces in black gown and tricorne hat into his oaken cave at the head of the House.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner did let the switchblade peep from the velvet glove once, in an afternoon exchange with NDP David Barrett, Dewdney, over the B.C. probation service.

Otherwise, his contribution to debate flowed smoothly along, pleasant as always to the listener, but just a trifle short on sparkle.

Trade and Commerce Minister Ralph Loffmark, his 1964 portfolio still scarce-scarred, launched the evening sitting with a pitch for a hot-up trade with Japan, then moved on somewhat at random from forest products to agriculture to power.

"Each salmon running up the Fraser River is worth \$200 in unused power," declared Mr. Loffmark. "On the proceeds of that power, if we ignored the salmon, we could retire all the commercial fishermen in B.C. . . . not that we intend to do that!"

(When he is older in his ministry, Mr. Loffmark will know better than to scare the rizzard out of our commercial fishing industry—worth \$90 million a year—with such sinister illustrations. The fishermen are worried enough about power encroachment already.)

In fairness, though, Mr. Loffmark's speech made the best listening of the day, and his comparisons never fail to be graphic.

DIDN'T FOOL SENATORS

'Corny Deception' Grit Tells Premier

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said Tuesday the granting of a bank charter to Premier Bennett "would pose serious difficulties for the central bank."

He said he was not surprised that the premier had run into difficulties with the Senate Banking Committee when he made his charter bid in Ottawa.

Quoting from the Hansard record Mr. Perrault said the premier was asked if Einar Gunderson was a member of the Social Credit party.

"The premier's reply, and I quote," he said, "was: 'he may be a member of Social Credit but I have never seen his card.'"

'THEY KNEW'

"This is the kind of corny deception he sinks to," Mr. Gunderson was a Social Credit man. They knew he'd run for office on the Social Credit ticket and been defeated.

"How much confidence can the Senate have? They know, as we know, that Mr. Gunderson is the grey eminence of this government's financial policies so why don't we lay our cards on the table?"

"A bank of British Columbia is desirable, but not under the control of a government, whatever its politics."

The premier did not reply.

Speakers Taking Aim At Canadian Senate

The Senate already has emerged as the No. 1 target of criticism in the current session of the legislature.

Tuesday, a succession of speakers took substantial time out of their speeches to attack the Senate as an institution.

The reason underlying the antagonism each time is cited as the senate banking committee's decision to oppose the Bank of B.C. charter application because the provincial government would be a shareholder.

Frank Calder (NDP — Atlin) Tuesday night called for outright abolition of the Senate immediately.

He said that if there was no need for an upper house in the provinces there was no need for a senate at the federal level.

His remarks were widely applauded by the MLAs as were those of Cyril Shelford (SC — Omineca) who said the Senate should be retained only if it is drastically reformed to require election rather than appointment of its members.

NEEDS REFORM

Attorney-general Robert Bonner also criticized the Senate as an institution needing considerable reform. He contended that the provinces should have proportional representation in the Senate as they have in the Commons.

NDP Leader Robert Strachan, Social Credit whip Bert Price (Vancouver-Burrard) and James Chabot (SC — Columbia) are among other critics of the Senate so far in the throne speech debate.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1965

PERRAULT:

Why Eye Yukon With Poverty On Home Front?

By JIM HUME

Ray Perrault was reluctant, but he finally admitted that he supported Premier Bennett in at least one direction—the move to annex the Yukon.

It was the only kind comment he had for the government as he continued speaking in throne speech debate Tuesday.

And even at that he tinged his approval with sharp thrusts at government boasts that B.C. is a land of milk and honey.

"It isn't new to propose annexation of the Yukon," he said. "It was proposed by Pattullo years ago. With 25 per cent of the population of British Columbia living on the edge of poverty, the premier

waves a \$300,000,000 carrot in front of the people of the Yukon. Wouldn't it be better to spend some of that money here solving provincial problems?"

The outburst brought a cry of "are you against it?" from government backbenchers.

"No," snapped Mr. Perrault. "I'm not against it. I'm for it. I think it will come in time. But there are other things to be done first."

Switching his attack to the needs of municipalities, the Liberal leader said B.C. is constantly dispatching "hordes of experts and advisers to Ottawa every time a conference was called in order to plead B.C.'s case for a better deal."

'Shabby and Shocking Treatment'

He added: "While the premier screams to high heaven for a better deal from the federal government, his treatment of the municipalities is shabby and shocking."

Throughout the afternoon Mr. Perrault ran into trouble from government hecklers.

He tried to make the point that B.C. should have more factories manufacturing finished products rather than be content with exporting raw materials.

"Why do we export semi-raw products?" he asked.

"Why are there only one or two furniture factories in the province? Why don't we export the finished product?"

The quip came fast from a Social Credit member: "With no down payment?"

Mr. Perrault stormed on.

"This government radiates cosy confidence in the throne speech, but I notice that it makes no mention of the fact that right now in B.C. we have 30 to 35,000 unemployed," he said.

Switching briefly to the emphasis on education and the neglect of the unemployed, Mr. Perrault said that soon B.C. would have "the best educated line-up for unemployment benefits in the world."

Mr. Perrault condemned the government for increasing B.C. Hydro bus fares.

"Not only are B.C.'s power rates the highest in the country . . . the lower mainland and Greater Victoria has Canada's highest by far transit fares," he said.

Only the Profit-Makers Wanted

Mr. Perrault claimed that before bus fares were increased due consideration should have been given to the profits being made by other branches of the Hydro company.

"There are indications that you will get rid of the transit system because it is unprofitable," he cried. "Will you get rid of the gas system, too? No, you just like to take over the profitable things."

He said the government had in unwarranted fashion suggested that Ottawa was dragging its heels on a national medical plan.

"It is unfortunate that, despite the importance of the subject of medical care, a sly inference was made that in some fashion the federal government is delaying deliberately implementation of a national plan," he said.

Mr. Perrault finished his speech, as he began, with a flurry of criticism.

He wanted more action on hospital care for the chronically ill; odor control for pulp mills; acknowledgement that Ottawa paid 40 per cent towards the cost of the provincial ferry fleet and expansion of hospital insurance coverage.

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CAR ACCIDENTS STILL RISING—SHELFORD

Study Asked on Insurance Hike

A Social Credit MLA Tuesday called for a study of recent increases in automobile insurance premiums.

Cyril Shelford (SC—Omineca) also urged the provincial government to "hasten" towards comprehensive medicare once its medical insurance subsidies for the poor are in operation.

Mr. Shelford said the legislature's study of insurance premiums could help drive home to motorists the fact that rising accident rates result in higher premiums.

But he also said it would "give the insurance companies a chance to justify" the increases averaging 20 per cent.

He said there was considerable dissatisfaction with the insurance premium boosts "all over the country so if they are justified the insurance companies should welcome this chance to explain them."

Mr. Shelford warned that the accident rate is still rising despite the recent increases. He said another round of stiff premium boosts could be in the offing.

PITFALLS

On medicare, Mr. Shelford said he was sure the government wanted to see a comprehensive medicare program throughout Canada.

He said the subsidy program will at least help some people while progress is made towards full medicare.

"There are bound to be a lot of pitfalls in this (subsidy) scheme but I do think its a step in the right way."

"I think the pitfalls will be evident before long and maybe it will hasten the government into a comprehensive scheme, preferably on a national scale."

Mr. Shelford said one of the pitfalls in the government's plan likely will be that many persons who could qualify for the subsidy won't bother until they fall sick, when it might be too late.

He predicted there will be many administrative headaches such as those that accompanied the first year or two of B.C. hospital insurance when it involved premiums.

Freight Rates, Tariffs Hit by Trade Minister

With revenue from proposed power plants on the Fraser River the B.C. government could retire all the fishermen in the province.

"Not that we intend to do that," said Minister of Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce R. R. Loffmark in his maiden speech as a cabinet minister Tuesday night.

"I'm just saying that we would gain enough in revenues to be able to do that," he added.

Mr. Loffmark claimed that when the power potential of the river was considered and the revenues that could be obtained from its development "every salmon going up there now is worth \$200."

Using his time in the throne speech debate to outline the industrial situation in B.C., Mr. Loffmark said that until political action was taken on inequitable freight rates, secondary industry in the province could develop only slowly if at all.

"We have a crazy freight rate

system nobody understands," he said. "We can't get under way with secondary industry because freight going east often costs twice as much as freight coming west. How can we compete under those circumstances? It is time strong political action was taken."

Mr. Loffmark also called for more intensive studies to remove tariffs between the United States and Canada.

"We can export raw and semi-raw materials without trouble," he said. "But if we make an aluminum slab into a window or a piece of lumber into a door, up goes the tariff barrier. It must come down."

Mr. Loffmark ran into heavy heckling when he departed from industrial progress to take a swing at federal government politics.

He claimed that heavy subsidization by the federal government had resulted in the location of a heavy water plant on the eastern seaboard and said such subsidization was wrong.

"How much did you pay CMS (Consolidated Mining and Smelting) last year?" snapped Opposition Leader Robert Strachan. "You're subsidizing the CPR."

Mr. Loffmark switched to charges of patronage.

"When, in 1963, it was announced that I would seek election as a member of Social Credit, I was stopped by a leading member of the Liberal party in Vancouver," he said.

"The man said to me, 'I guess you never want to be a judge?' ..."

Before he could finish, Mr. Strachan had quipped "that was wrong."

More Roads Needed Says Peace MLA

J. F. Huhn, Social Credit MLA for North Peace River, wants more money spent on roads in his constituency.

In the throne speech debate Tuesday night, Mr. Huhn said he appreciated the ever-increasing grants for roads in the Peace.

"But," he added, "though the grants have been going up each year we are still not keeping up with industry."

Mr. Huhn also wants the government to start paving some of the existing roads.

"Roads are being paved in other areas of the province and I think it's time we got some blacktop in the Peace River district," he said.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1965

BONNER READS TELEGRAM

Medicare Offer Made To Ottawa Last Month

By JOHN MIKA

Times Legislative Reporter

British Columbia offered to join Ottawa in initiating a comprehensive medicare plan only last month, Attorney-General Robert Bonner told the legislature Tuesday.

He read from a telegram sent by Premier W. A. C. Bennett to Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, Dec. 2, which offered to discuss the question immediately.

He quoted from the telegram: "If your (federal) government ready to proceed in partnership with province or provinces on medical costs, I believe it would be wise to have the conference take place . . . Dec. 7 so that we can include our share in our provincial budget."

"If not, unless the federal government have other important proposals to present to the provinces, would suggest the next premiers' conference be held in the new year, but not before your government is ready to make new proposals."

Mr. Bonner said it would be up to Prime Minister Pearson to release his reply to the B.C. suggestion.

Mr. Bonner later said the "dynamic society" concept of

the throne speech was easily attainable in the undreamed-of affluence that can be obtained through breakthroughs in modern technology.

MEDICARE FOR ALL

He praised the national economic council's first report released recently, and said planning and organizing of resources development should be carried out to provide a 2.4 per cent annual increase in jobs and a 3.4 per cent annual increase in personal incomes projected by the report.

With that sort of growth "we can afford medicare for everyone," Mr. Bonner said.

He said several Senators—Liberal Senators Cross, Farris, and Roebuck specifically—did not share "the peculiar view" of Liberal MLAs who had opposed the Bank of B.C. application by the government.

'PHONEY' STATISTICS

Mr. Bonner also charged that Liberal Leader Ray Perrault used "phony" statistics in citing constituency distributions in the southern states as being better than those in B.C. because he omitted to mention Negroes—up to half the population—were denied the vote.

Mr. Perrault rose on a point of privilege to deny that he used phoney statistics.

Mr. Bonner said NDP Leader

Robert Strachan had apparently forgotten the CCF's efforts to delay a switch in government policy from selling crown mineral lands to leasing them.

He said the policy change was designed to keep control of resources—the very point Mr. Strachan had made Monday when he said mineral resources should be returned to the crown in cases such as the Britannia Beach mine shutdown.

Mr. Bonner also said that David Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) was not fired from the probation service for making suggestions as Mr. Strachan had charged Monday. He was fired for taking an "active part in a political campaign."

He said that Mr. Barrett had professional abilities in his field and after he had finished with politics the two might have a useful discussion.

"Are you offering me a job?" called Mr. Barrett.

General laughter broke out when Mr. Bonner said he had it in mind "to tell you where to go."

Barrett Blasts Press, Liberals Social Credit

The Social Credit party, Liberal party and British Columbia press came under severe—and sometimes amusing—fire from David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) in the legislature Tuesday night.

Mr. Barrett prompted several outbursts of laughter from both sides of the house when he attacked subsidies to large companies like the Canadian Pacific Railway and Consolidated Mining and Smelting.

He said the CPR "got \$8 million in social welfare from the federal government and the B.C. public accounts show that CM & S, a poverty-stricken company in the interior of this province, got \$114,000 in social welfare from this government."

At another point, urging redistribution of constituencies and a more systematic remuneration of voters, Mr. Barrett conceded it was a touchy problem because "politicians can be paranoid when you start playing around with their polls."

Another "serious problem is in the government ferry serv-

ice," Mr. Barrett said, decrying the 12-hour day, six-day week worked by some ferry crews.

CREW MEMBERS

He said the government would be branded with the blame if a ferry accident occurred due to fatigue of crew members.

"This is foolish and dangerous . . . and it is not fair to the wives and children of the employees either," he said.

Victoria Sacred J. Donald Smith joined with opposition members in applauding the remark.

Mr. Barrett claimed B.C.'s four major papers are under a common ownership and this had created a bad situation.

Pointing to the Liberal MLAs, he said "these papers make out this five-man group as the government, the opposition and the only group that utters anything of value in this house — they are the darlings of the press."

"The editorials are dripping

with things like poor Mr. Pearson, but they attack Mr. Diefenbaker as though he were some kind of animal."

Mr. Barrett said "headlines were brandished across this province which were calculated to inflame the people when this government had some troubles in the cabinet" but the same treatment was not being accorded to the federal Liberal cabinet troubles.

Mr. Barrett said that the four papers may not exercise direct control over newsstaff but the single ownership inevitably "does subtly, unconsciously influence the newsmen. I'm not attacking the journalist but their working conditions."

'NO COVERAGE'

"After sounding these warnings, I will go on . . . getting no coverage for the rest of my speech," he said as the house broke into laughter.

Mr. Barrett bitterly attacked Welfare Minister Wesley Black

as the "worst minister that this department has ever had in this province's history."

He said since 1961 some 920 children that could have found foster or adopted parents became wards of the government because there were insufficient social workers to make the placements.

He added that last year there were 66 resignations by social workers, a turnover of 30 per cent in one year.

The MLAs enjoy a medicare program paid for by the taxpayers and these same benefits should be extended to the people.

Mr. Barrett said there is a leadership vacuum in Ottawa that is endangering the unity of the nation and he urged the provincial government to stop acting "more separatist than Quebec."

He said he welcomed the \$100 million B.C. loan to Quebec achievement that would promote province as a "singular" achievement that would promote national unity.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1965

FOR FLOODS, SLIDES

Disaster Teams Urged by Calder

The provincial government should set up regional emergency boards ready to go into action whenever recurring floods and slides hit mountain valleys, Frank Calder (NDP -- Atlin) proposed in the legislature Tuesday.

He said that certain areas are subjected to these disasters repeatedly during years of heavy snowfall and people in the north and interior are apprehensive because of an exceptionally heavy amount of snow this winter.

"I would like to suggest . . . creating regional emergency boards in the recognized disaster areas and that the boards include local doctors, private airline services, search and res-

cue squads, civil defence and trained local personnel," he said.

SPECIAL FUND

"In addition, I would urge this government, in co-operation with the federal government, to set aside a special emergency fund to aid the flood or slide victims and their families."

Mr. Calder said that although he represented a northern unorganized area, he was concerned about the growing burden being piled onto municipal taxpayers.

Mr. Calder pointed out there never has been a royal commission on municipal financing during the Social Credit years in office despite growing unrest.

MAJOR REVIEW

He said if the government is not willing to establish a royal commission it should at least launch a full scale review of municipal financing through the legislature's standing committee on municipal affairs.

Such a review could investigate school financing, homeowner grant policies, provincial-municipal financial relationships and municipal-unorganized territory financial relationships.

"I would further suggest that the government provide a policy for a provincial-municipal financial review every 10 years until . . . an acceptable formula is reached," he said.

BREAKTHROUGH

Mr. Calder, the first of Indian descent to win a seat in the legislature, welcomed the throne speech's announcement that a community development program experiment will be tried in the Indian village of Port Simpson.

Here it could provide a breakthrough leading to a self-governing and independent community and if successful the results would be far-reaching.

"No doubt the Indians of this province will focus their attention on this project and I am hopeful too that the people of Port Simpson will participate wholeheartedly."

More Grants Requested For Route

Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi thinks the federal government should chip in another \$7,000,000 towards the cost of the Stewart-Cassiar road in northern B.C.

The Ottawa government has already contributed \$7,000,000 towards the cost of present construction matching the provincial government's contribution under the roads-to-resources plan.

"But," said Mr. Gaglardi following Tuesday night's late sitting of the house, "the road will cost close to \$30,000,000 to complete. The federal government should put up half of that."

At present provincial government work crews are brush clearing on the road site.

During the night session Trade Minister R. R. Loffmark said the road should come under the national roads program and not be left in the roads-to-resources category.

"It is quite a vital road that will link northern B.C. with the west coast, the Yukon and northern Alberta," he said. "It rates greater attention from Ottawa."

UNIVERSITY LAND

Macfarlane Asks Tax-Loss Grants

The provincial government should pay grants in lieu of taxes for university lands it owns, Alan Macfarlane (L.-Oak Bay) told the legislature Wednesday.

He pointed out that Oak Bay municipality will suffer a hardship in helping service the University of Victoria — which is attended by students from all parts of Vancouver Island and the mainland.

Mr. Macfarlane said he was sure that Oak Bay municipality soon would agree to give up its rights in an agreement with the university calling for construction of apartment buildings along one side of the campus.

But he said this would cut off the municipality's potential revenue from taxes to help offset its costs of servicing the campus and the government should provide some compensation to the taxpayers in the form of grants in lieu of taxes.

Mr. Macfarlane noted that every year for five years the government has agreed to a resolution urging consideration of establishing a Hansard record for the legislature.

"Surely . . . they should by now be able to make up their minds to introduce this system. If this government is going to be a government which keeps the people informed, there is no better way to do so than to provide the public with an opportunity of reading the exact words of members in this chamber."

NURSING HOMES

Mr. Macfarlane said the government had failed the elderly people of the province who had to live in expensive nursing homes.

"Double-talk from the minister of health won't help — something must be done and done soon to help these older people who can't avoid the terrific expense of \$300 to \$350 a month for living in a nursing home."

He also said the government should repeal its present Succession Duty Act which creates a double tax on estates of more than \$25,000.

Mr. Macfarlane raked Trade and Industry Minister Ralph Loffmark — who had opposed the separate provincial tax when a lecturer at the University of B.C. — "because now that he can do something besides lecture about it, nothing happens."

Mr. Macfarlane said only the federal government should collect death duties but it should

turn over 75 per cent "or even 100 per cent" to the province.

He said with most person's assets, including house, furniture, car and savings, now totalling more than \$25,000 the B.C. act "hurts the little people while still letting the wealthy slip through the net."

Mr. Macfarlane also sharply criticized Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell.

He said the minister had acted entirely outside the law when he ordered a vote on proposed amalgamation of Campbell River and its surrounding areas and then ordered a merger even though some of the districts did not favor it.

Mr. Macfarlane said Mr. Campbell's announced intention to call a second vote in part of the area is not authorized by the Municipal Act "and will be a violation of the rights of the people if it is held."

Whether or not Mr. Campbell had good motives, he had permitted expediency to overcome legality, argued the Oak Bay member.

Skillings Announces 'Scoop'

Waldo Skillings, Social Credit MLA for Victoria, gave the legislature his annual "scoop" Wednesday.

He said there's a fierce three-way contest going on for a vacant B.C. seat in the Senate among: Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing, Vancouver Sun editorial director Bruce Hutchison, and Liberal MLA Gordon Gibson.

Mr. Skillings claimed the unresolved contest was the main reason that Prime Minister Lester Pearson was having difficulty in making cabinet changes.

'ENOUGH MONEY . . .'

He told a chuckling house that Mr. Gibson would probably be ruled out fairly soon "because he has enough money" leaving the decision between Mr. Laing — "and the cabinet would certainly like to see him go" — and Mr. Hutchison.

Mr. Skillings recalled that last year his prediction that Stuart Keate would be made publisher of the Vancouver Sun proved true and he said "the announcement on this (senate appointment) will come out about the same time it took for Stu Keate to get his job" — within three months from now. Mr. Keate is former publisher of the Victoria Times.

Mr. Hutchison, questioned by the Times, brushed off the matter with the following comment:

"Mr. Skillings must have his little jokes. He's just pulling the Legislature's leg as usual."

"I haven't been offered a senatorship and never aspired to it. The story is nonsense. It's typical vintage Waldo."

Move to Eliminate Fiat Procedure

Alan Macfarlane (L.—Oak Bay) is sponsoring a private member's bill in the legislature which he says is aimed at "giving British Columbians first-class justice."

The bill, due for second reading, would abolish the present system requiring citizens to obtain prior government permission before they can sue the crown or government agencies such as B.C. Hydro.

Mr. Macfarlane, in an interview, said the requirement for a fiat from the attorney-general's department is an anachronism hanging over from the days "when the concept was that the Crown could do no wrong."

MOST PROVINCES

He said England dropped the fiat requirement in 1947 and two years later the federal government followed suit. Since then a majority of provinces have allowed citizens to sue the Crown at will.

"B.C. is one of the few still adhering to this antiquated system," Mr. Macfarlane said. "In 1963 and 1964 the provincial government agreed to consider abolition of the fiat procedure and I feel that we have had enough time to consider it now."

In Our HOUSE

By Arthur Mayse

Our lone lady member has begun to wonder whether the Vancouver citizens' group readying a testimonial dinner with which to celebrate Premier Bennett's longevity in office has omitted her from its invitation list of MLAs.

Although most of her male companions in the Legislature now have received their bids to the big mainland do, Mrs. Lois Haggen's mail has yet to include the expected token.



Like Queen Victoria whose statue dominates parliament's front lawn, the NDP member for Grand Forks-Greenwood is not amused.

True, it's a stag affair; but over here at the seat of provincial government, our Mrs. Haggen is accustomed to being treated like one of the boys—legislator first, and woman later.

Today, neatly coiffed and smartly feminine behind the yellow chrysanthemums on her House desk, she still hopes to make that Vancouver party!

★ ★ ★

Perched in Speaker's Gallery on Wednesday was a group of high schoolers from Nanaimo, one of the student

Car Testing Station Here Urged By MLA

Oak Bay MLA Alan Macfarlane said Wednesday a compulsory and permanent vehicle testing station should be set up by the provincial government in the present motor-vehicle branch building next to the Parliament Building.

Mr. Macfarlane said there has been a marked decline in the accident rate in Vancouver since that city set up a compulsory testing station.

groups which will be present most days of the session.

What they hoped to hear, being young and human, was a good loud brannigan, with cross-floor volleying of charge and counter-charge. But except for a few minor sputters, a truly amazing parliamentary decorum prevailed.

This, of course, is as it should be, and Liberal boss-logger Gordon Gibson, second of North Vancouver's gifts to the House, deserves praise for his refusal to accept the bait dangled by Victoria Sacred Waldo Skillings.

(But darn if I ever thought to see it happen).

Disappointed, I settled back to hear from Mr. Skillings an amiable gee-whiz roundup in the course of which members learned that this year's throne speech will go down in history "as a truly dynamic document."

'Dynamic,' by the way, seems to have established itself as the government catchword for the session—keeps popping up all over the place.

We learned from Mr. Skillings that members' accommodations in this quarried pile above the Inner Harbor causeway are woefully undynamic when contrasted with the aldermen's offices and chambers of our handsomely face-lifted city hall.

"In the city hall committee rooms," Mr. Skillings informed the House, "they have chairs that cost \$85 apiece."

★ ★ ★

In an afternoon which also saw Swiftsure skipper Hunter Vogel, SC for Delta; and sophomore Sacred William Hartley of Yale on their feet, Oak Bay Liberal Alan Macfarlane urged a provincial grant for his municipality in lieu of taxes it will lose if Oak Bay surrenders its right to fringe lands required by a seam-bursting University of Victoria.

Mr. Macfarlane, one of the assembly's most graceful and effective speakers, also fired first gun in the annual battle to obtain Hansard-type reportage for the House.

While such a move might reduce the daily flourishing of newspaper clippings in support of this or that argument, it would hardly protect newsmen from misquotation by lawmakers.

He said that more than liquor or speed, motor vehicle defects are the cause of accidents, particularly the bad ones. A study by a U.S. university showed that up to 50 per cent of the fatal traffic accidents were caused by mechanical defects.

Mr. Macfarlane said the motor vehicle branch would soon have to move out of its "present disgraceful quarters" and these could be used then for a testing station which should be operated by the provincial government.

He said the municipalities could not afford to operate a testing station and in any event highway safety should be a provincial concern.

Winter Works 'No Help' To Oak Bay

The provincial government's switch on winter works grants last fall resulted in not a single cent of assistance for such projects in Oak Bay this winter, Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) charged in the legislature Wednesday.

By changing the winter works program "into a welfare works program" the provincial government put the municipalities into an impossible position.

Mr. Macfarlane said there were many persons who needed jobs in this area but few who could qualify under the restricted provincial requirement.

"In the municipality of Oak Bay not one able-bodied man was on the welfare rolls and could be employed by the municipality in its winter works program and the situation was not much better in other municipalities," he said.

CHANGES DIDN'T HELP

Although the province eased its requirements slightly after a storm of protest "this did a little good in the other municipalities of this area but didn't do any good in Oak Bay."

"The result has been that in Oak Bay not one cent will be received from the provincial government for winter works but the federal government will continue to pay its 50 per cent share of the labor on the winter work program."

He said this was a serious crimp in the municipality's efforts to concentrate maintenance in the winter works program as a method of helping create employment in the slack season.

Mr. Macfarlane noted that Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell had asked Ottawa for a one-month extension of the federal assistance to B.C. municipalities because so many projects had been held up by heavy snowfalls this winter.

HYPOCRISY

"That's a classic case of sheer hypocrisy," he snapped. "It does little good to go crying on Ottawa's shoulder when this government was not prepared to help with one cent."

"I call on the government to stop frustrating the national winter works program by its narrow and restrictive welfare policy and to show the same co-operation to the municipalities as it expects to receive from the federal government," he said.

40 NEEDED, SAYS VOGEL

Banks, and Lots of Them

A Social Credit MLA told the legislature Wednesday it was time to review the British North America Act to give provinces the right to grant charters.

Hunter Vogel (SC-Delta) said British Columbia could use 40 banks and would have them if the federal government's executive control over banks were broken.

He said Canada should follow the United States example which permits hundreds of banks to obtain federal charters and hundreds more to obtain state charters.

'SACRED COW'

"The business of money-lending is not a sacred cow and it should not be an exception as far as competition is concerned," Mr. Vogel said.

He pointed out that Washington State has 27 nationally chartered banks and 69 separate banks with state charters.

"According to my arithmetic, we do not need just one Bank of British Columbia, we need 40 banks in this province," said Mr. Vogel.

PAY-AS-DRIVE

Dudley Little (SC-Skeena) supported a suggestion by George Lindsay, who retired January 1 as superintendent of motor vehicles, that vehicles have permanent licence plates and gasoline taxes be boosted to compensate for the lost government revenue.

"We still have discrimination where people are paying licences to operate vehicles and are

either being restricted or forbidden from using the roads during the spring breakup," he said.

The idea would save British Columbia millions of dollars which could be funnelled into highway maintenance, he argued. It would also relieve the tax burden on the small-car owner since "the person driving a large gas-eater would pay more".

Mr. Little suggested the measure should be referred to as "plates by the gallon".

Protection for Volunteer Acts Urged by Yale NDP Member

Persons who risk their lives as volunteer rescue workers during natural disasters should qualify for workmen's compensation, an opposition member suggested in the B.C. Legislature Wednesday.

William Hartley (NDP — Yale) said some 30 volunteers from Hope and Princeton helped provincial workers search for victims of the Jan. 9 landslide that blocked the Hope-Princeton Highway and took four lives.

"Had a further slide occurred there could have been another 30 widows in the communities," he said.

"I believe it is much better that we recognize our social responsibility to such community-minded citizens as the volunteer search and rescue groups before another tragedy happens."

ALTERNATE ROUTE

Mr. Hartley suggested compensation benefits be made available in the same way they are to civil defence workers.

Speaking during the throne

speech debate, the NDP member said the slide pointed up the need for an alternate route between the lower mainland and B.C.'s southern interior.

He said that more than 50 years ago the CPR recognized the Coquihalla pass as providing the shortest route to the coast, and suggested that an access road using the pass

be improved and turned into a provincial highway.

In his speech, Mr. Hartley called on the government to introduce a comprehensive medicare program and declared anything short of such a scheme would be a "shameful delusion, a sham and a pretense."

Copper Smelter Sparks Interest, No Firm Offers

There has been a great deal of interest and several feasibility studies made on establishing a copper smelter in B.C. but so far no concrete application has been made to the department of mines by the interested parties.

This answer was made Tuesday night by Mines Minister Donald Brothers in the legislature to a question put by Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin).

Mr. Brothers informed Leo Nimsick (NDP — Cranbrook), that no mineral claims were held in B.C. as of Jan. 15 by three companies associated with the late Axel Wenner-Gren.

The companies are Lundberg Explorations, Wenner-Gren Explorations Limited and Wenner-Gren British Columbia Development Company.

'PUC HANDS TIED'

Gov't Blamed For Fare Hike

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

Government manoeuvres were blamed for the bus fare boost and deterioration of the transit systems in a scathing attack Wednesday in the legislature.

Alan Macfarlane (L — Oak Bay) waded through persistent heckling by Premier W. A. C. Bennett and some cabinet ministers as he attacked the government's involvement from several directions.

Mr. Macfarlane said the "little people" the premier claimed to protect were "getting it in the neck" because of his insistence that fares go up.

He said that just as the government members denied full medicare to the people while enjoying it as MLAs, the government refused to give bus passes to pensioners while MLAs had them.

"If B.C. Hydro can be so generous as to give the members of this house free bus passes, they can do so for other people who can ill afford to pay fares," stormed Mr. Macfarlane, touching off a general hub-bub.

CATCALL CHORUS

Through a chorus of calls, Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan could be heard saying he had sent his pass back and "we all should"; Opposition leader Robert Strachan said he used his because he needed it; several members said they did not use theirs while others jeered.

Mr. Macfarlane, his finger frequently wagging at Premier Bennett who repeatedly jumped up to shout denials and to heckle, also charged:

- The cabinet made the Public Utilities Commission hearings into "a farce" by tying its hands so it could not allocate B.C. Hydro power profits to subsidize the buses;

- B.C. Hydro "is in fact making large profits on its overall operation";

- The government gained a benefit of \$46 million in the B.C. Electric takeover price and if this money had been invested it would have produced \$2.5 million in interest annually which would have eliminated the need for higher bus fares;

- Instead, the \$46 million "nest egg" and all power profits from Greater Victoria and Greater Vancouver are being spent in building roads and services in the Peace River country;

- The government is letting the buses run down so that the municipalities will have to pay the heavy modernization bills when the transit systems are dropped by B.C. Hydro

Mr. Macfarlane said one of the most ridiculous aspects was the Premier's claim that he had

nothing to do with B.C. Hydro and was not responsible for its actions.

'THEY DISAGREE'

"The people of Greater Victoria disagree with you and apparently you have quite a number of people over there (Sacred benches) who disagree with you on this bus situation," Mr. Macfarlane taunted the premier.

"I call on the government to do something and do it soon."

He maintained that under existing legislation the Cabinet is responsible for transit services and municipalities can provide franchise agreements only with the consent of the cabinet.

'TRIED TO DISTORT'

"That is what the premier has tried to distort. Repeatedly he says it is a matter for the municipalities. It is not. It is the lieutenant-governor-in-council that has final responsibility."

When hecklers challenged his legal opinion and said he should check with Attorney-general Robert Bonner, Mr. Macfarlane prompted a loud outburst of laughter with the quip:

"I wouldn't take the attorney-general's advice, not with his record."

"You know, some lawyers lose cases but not many lose them all."

'Oak Bay Secondary To Saanich'

Victoria Social Credit MLA Waldo Skillings Wednesday told the legislature he favors redistribution of provincial ridings if it abolishes the Oak Bay seat, which he said a Conservative government "carved out as a pocket borough."

He said Oak Bay voters should be returned to Victoria riding, which has three members, and Saanich should be given a second seat in the legislature to represent its growing population.

"I want to thank him for the advance notice that this government intends to gerrymander Oak Bay," cracked Liberal Alan Macfarlane, who holds the seat, when he followed Mr. Skillings in the Throne Speech debate.

THURS., JAN. 28, 1965

VERBAL UPPERCUT FOLLOWS

WALDO'S ROUNDHOUSE SWING

Sitting in City Hall Chairs Not All That Soft—Mayor

By AB KENT

Mayor R. B. Wilson today tossed a verbal uppercut at MLA Waldo Skillings after the Victoria member's "roundhouse swing at city hall" opulence delivered in the legislature Wednesday.

"Waldo should get his figures straight," the mayor said in reply to charges in throne speech debate Wednesday.

Mr. Skillings referred to extravagant offices and \$85 plush seats in the new city hall, disproving municipal contentions that the provincial government is niggardly with local aid.

The Social Credit member, a former school trustee and Victoria alderman, said "no government in the history of B.C. has treated the municipalities and the school boards better than this one."

"But to hear them talk at election time, they are always broke." Loudest complaints came from municipal leaders who had been unsuccessful Liberal candidates, he said.

Vancouver Mayor William Rathie was able to spend \$40,000 renovating his office, and fancy offices stand out at Victoria city hall, Mr. Skillings said.

"I want to give (Victoria) council full marks—they have an establishment there that ranks with any city hall in the province."

"But the mayor has an office that makes our premier's office look like a janitor's closet, and the city manager has a very distinguished office too."

"The aldermen each have offices surrounded by glass and you should see the committee rooms—the first committee rooms has chairs, I think about 20 of them, that cost \$85 apiece."

"Yet you'll hear some of them . . . who can find money for spending like that on one hand, complaining that the municipalities don't get enough grants from this government or the other," the MLA charged.

Mayor Wilson said the \$275,000 price tag on city hall covered the entire legislative wing, including the council chamber.

"The structure actually worked out at \$22 a square foot, which is the going rate for an office building."

"The renovation of the old city hall actually worked out at \$11 a square foot, which gave us modern office space at a very low figure."

"It is strange indeed to see a sitting member for the city of Victoria take a swing at city hall and what we are trying to do to improve our city," Mayor Wilson said.

"The remarks of the many

hundreds, even thousands, who have visited the new city hall and Centennial Victoria Square indicate the citizens approve of what we are trying to do to upgrade our city."

"I do hope Waldo is not going to disapprove of the truly magnificent new museum and archives planned by the provincial government for the parliamentary precinct, because this too will contribute substantially to the beautification and improvement of Victoria," the mayor said.

(Figures supplied by city hall place the number of chairs in council chamber and two committee rooms at 32, at a cost of \$160 each. They compare with similar executive chairs costing twice as much.)

Too Many Mishaps On Pat Bay Road, Says Macfarlane

The accident rate "is particularly grave" on Patricia Bay Highway, the B.C. legislature was told Wednesday.

Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay) said the government should replace the highway with a divided four-lane route.

"The accident rate on this highway has been extremely high in the last year and this was predicted by (Saanich MLA John Tisdalle), myself and other members who have spoken on this subject since 1960."

Mr. Macfarlane maintained that the accident rate was a direct result of the establishment of the Swartz Bay terminal, "and it is a sad and narrow thing when the provincial government creates the problem is not prepared to go in and solve the problem."



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In
Our
HOUSE

By Arthur Mayse

Except for a brisk evening exchange between Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell and Oak Bay Liberal Alan Macfarlane, our Thursday highlights were of a homely sort.

In fact, the chief interest in an afternoon so quiet one could almost hear a paperclip drop, centred on whether Sacred William Speare for Cariboo would lose his voice in mid-speech.



In spite of a sore throat, though, and with the help of a glass of water, Mr. Speare rasped gallantly to an end. The dark, quiet deputy speaker is one of the Legislature's best men, and I will quarrel with him only on his use of that weary, weaselly word, "dynamic."

Our press gallery dictionary explains dynamic as "pertaining to force in action," a definition which not only fails to describe the throne speech debate at its current stage, but to these ears has a less-than-democratic ring.

★ ★ ★

The Legislative Buildings' undynamic old elevator decided just before the Thursday 2 p.m. sitting to take a rest, which it did between floors with a woman visitor inside.

8 Committees Seek Leaders

Eight select standing committees of the legislature will meet briefly Tuesday morning to pick their chairmen.

Membership is the same as last year for the committees on: agriculture; social welfare and education; forestry and fisheries; municipal matters; standing orders and private bills; public accounts and printing; mining and railways; and labor.

Considerable persuasion was necessary before the elevator disgorged her, unruffled, and with the bon mot of the day on her lips.

"I felt," she said, "like a bird in a gilded cage!"

★ ★ ★

An after-dinner sitting which began at 8:30 p.m. and adjourned close to midnight gave two of the Legislature's most forceful speakers the floor.

One was Mr. Campbell with his proposal for "instant towns" to match the stridings of industry into B.C. wildlands.

The other, NDP John Squire for Alberni, urged government to prod big outfits operating in isolated areas into providing better access for their employees. He mentioned Gold River in particular.

Mr. Squire also felt that for the sake of workers' cars and their wives' carpets, action should be launched to muzzle the smoke-belching industrial chimneys that are dirtying Nainimo and his hometown of Alberni.

Winter's snow, he said, didn't keep its Christmas-card purity for long, but became just plain dirty.

★ ★ ★

Ten pages recruited from the top students at St. Louis College carry lawmakers' messages, working on a staggered schedule in squads of five. They don't serve evenings, and in case of illness or dropping marks among the 14- and 15-year-olds, three spares are on call.

Sergeant of pages Tim McCooly draws \$3.50 each workday, Corporal Pat Griffin, \$3.25, and the rankers, \$3.00 apiece.

Rules are strict. Pages, for instance, may never come between Mr. Speaker and the member who has the floor, and must sometimes circle the chamber by corridor from door to door to deliver a note.

By the time the session is a few days along, they have achieved the smart page-boy walk, and can identify each of the 52 legislators at a glance.

This year, their uniforms seem smarter, result of a change in juvenile styles. White socks last session, dark ones this.

New Power Takeover Urged by NDP MLA

Randolph Harding, NDP member for Kaslo-Slocan, wants the West Kootenay Light and Power Company brought under public ownership.

He told the legislature Thursday during the throne speech debate the company is "growing fat on profits while refusing to serve areas without electricity."

The power company serves the Kootenays, the Okanagan Valley and other smaller areas. It is a subsidiary of Canadian Mining and Smelting Company Ltd.

"When they are asked to go into areas which even today have no electric power, they say 'we won't go in, put your public power (B.C. Hydro) in there,'" he said. "That a private company can say this angers me."

Harding Plans Statement About Bennett

All may not be sweetness and light when Premier Bennett breaks the record as longest-reigning premier of B.C. next month.

Randolph Harding, NDP member for Kaslo-Slocan, said he would leave his comments on the record until the day it was broken.

"I have been in this house a good many years with my friend, the premier," he said. "On that occasion (the day the record is broken) I will not hesitate to rise and tell the house just what I think of him."

The cryptic comment remained unexplained.

It was one of many tilts made during Thursday afternoon.

Later Mr. Harding was to get his biggest laugh when he taunted government benches with: "There isn't a real Social Crediter among you. You're just Tories with your whiskers shaved off."

province," he said.

The comment brought an angry retort from Liberal Leader Ray Perrault: "The premier has never asked for it."

"Nonsense," shouted Mr. Bennett across the floor.

"You never applied for it and you know it," snapped Mr. Perrault with finger pointing at the premier.

Premier Bennett laughed. And Mr. Perrault finished lamely: "I checked today. You didn't apply properly."

Mr. Carnel had the last word. "If the premier hasn't applied as you say, and that's all that is needed to get it, I'm sure he'll put the application in first thing in the morning."

\$9 Million Debate Rolls On

Ottawa still owes British Columbia \$9,000,000 for the building of the PGE according to Stanley Carnel, Social Credit MLA for South Peace River.

He brought the matter up Thursday night in his contribution of the throne speech debate.

"That's their share of the cost of a new railway. They're committed to share the cost of new railway construction in any

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1965

MUNICIPALITIES SCOLDED

Distress Call 'Just Hot Air'

By JOHN MIKA

Times Legislative Reporter

The "acid test" has proved the B.C. government treated its municipalities better than any other province, Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell said Thursday night.

"The acid test is that no responsible municipal leader has asked the government to bring in the municipal-provincial cost sharing formula from any other province to this province," he told the legislature in his first speech as a minister.

Even if the "best formula from the other provinces were imported here "and we added 10 per cent to it, the consolidated revenue fund of this province would be in even better shape than it is now."

He said since 1951 proportion of municipal education costs had risen 3.4 times, the provincial government's proportion of education costs had risen 4.3 times.

The revenue surpluses of B.C. municipalities now total \$17.4 million and "nowhere else in North America" have so many civic projects been financed out of revenue surpluses and reserve funds or so many water and sewer bonds on a self-liquidating basis with provincial guarantees.

Mr. Campbell challenged the opposition members to advocate adoption of the municipal-provincial sharing arrangements here.

'HOT AIR'

"If you won't then there is only one conclusion—that the entire diatribe about municipal finances is just straight political hot air."

The municipal affairs minister tangled repeatedly with his chief critic Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) over the handling of the recent Campbell River-Willow Point merger.

Colleagues of each urged them

on and Speaker William Murray several times had to rap his gavel and also issued his first warning of the session: "I'm not going to much longer stand for all these interruptions to the proceedings of this house. I say that to all members."

Mr. Campbell started the row with a claim that Mr. Macfarlane Wednesday had "left the impression with this house that (1) deliberately set out to deceive" the people in the Campbell River area.

OUTSIDE LAW

Mr. Macfarlane rose on a point of order and said he left no such impression but had only pointed out that the minister's merger order was not authorized by the Municipal Act and therefore outside the law.

Both men flashed the same statements back and forth across the house as others added to the exchanges until the speaker broke it up.

Mr. Campbell then said that certain "peculiar situations" existed in the Campbell River area that were not covered by the "Municipal Act."

He said the same situation had occurred earlier in Squamish when the municipal officials asked him for an amalgamation that was not provided for in the Municipal Act.

He said he told them they could seek "the authority of the ballot box" and if the residents favored it, he would undertake to bring in validating legislation at this session.

ENTIRE AREA

"We took exactly the same procedure in Campbell River, with some exceptions," he said. "The authority of the ballot box was extended over the entire area of the proposed municipality."

Although the over-all vote was 66.96 per cent in favor of amal-

gamation, Mr. Campbell said he only amalgamated two of the five polling areas because he had previously promised that whatever the over-all result he would not merge any polling area that voted the proposal down.

Mr. Campbell said the "model town" legislation forecast in the throne speech would be designed to minimize provincial involvement so that "these communities can be carved out of the wilderness as planned, financed and controlled by the people who first come there to live."

'SHACK TOWNS'

"Company towns on the north end of Vancouver Island never did much more than create shack towns . . . where men lived in the awful society of the bunkhouse away from their wives and children."

He said there is an immediate potential of "seven instant towns," including one at Gold River on Vancouver Island.

"We want to create well-balanced communities with industrial tax base, a commercial tax base and a residential tax base" that could grow as permanent municipalities.

Mr. Campbell praised the "municipal statesmanship" of the voters in Alberni who approved a merger with Port Alberni even though it meant they would lose a tax reduction as a result.

He said simple good sense dictated the merger decision and the Albernis "showed the way to the rest of this province."

Mr. Campbell said the same issue existed in the Campbell River area as it did in the Albernis and he pointedly said "I want to take my hat off to the people of Port Alberni and Alberni."

BUS SUBSIDIES TEST URGED FOR PROVINCE

A bus fare subsidy experiment could lead to huge savings in freeway construction costs, the B.C. legislature was told Thursday.

Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East) said the provincial government should treat the major transit systems as an alternative to expensive freeway programs.

"We might as well spend some money in an experiment . . . before plunging into the expense of those multi-million-dollar freeways that apparently are obsolete as soon as they are built."

He said inter-urban freeways would not be needed if "bus fares were low enough to encourage people to leave their cars at home."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1965

Nursing Work-Learn Plan Gets Blast From Speare

Nursing students and nursing home residents should be given a better break, W. C. Speare (SC—Cariboo), told the legislature Thursday.

Mr. Speare, a hospital consultant, said schools of nursing should be administratively separate from hospitals so that students would not be required to work while learning.

He said a serious shortage of registered nurses could be eased this way because it would take only two years instead of three to train them.

Mr. Speare said hospitals were wrong to pay student nurses only \$9 to \$15 a month and require them to work during their training.

"Payment to the students should be as high as it is to

students in other fields that work in the hospitals," he said.

Present regulations limiting nursing homes to a maximum of 75 beds should be raised to 100 beds.

LARGER UNIT

He said this would give operators a larger economic unit to finance more professional help and better facilities.

In addition, inspection and licensing regulations should be more strict to protect the interests of nursing home residents, he said.

"An absolute must . . . should be a properly organized activities program for these people, there should be life in these homes," he said.

Mr. Speare said students and

others should be encouraged to visit nursing homes to help entertain the residents "by reading to them and other things." He said nursing homes should have "women's auxiliaries as do the acute hospitals."

POWER RATES

Mr. Speare said people in his area questioned the validity of arguments that provincial power rates should subsidize transit fares in the main cities.

They also need cheap electricity.

If pensioners in the larger centres needed help to pay bus fares, this should be extended in the form of social welfare payments rather than forcing unsound business methods onto the B.C. Hydro, he said.

LAKE POLLUTION

'Langford Shows Control Needs'

Langford Lake was held up in the Legislature Thursday as a horrible example of the need for stronger pollution controls.

Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East), a former resident of this area, said he had heard reports that several dogs had died after drinking from Langford Lake.

He said pollution of Langford Lake is a tragedy because "it could be made into a nice resort, a very desirable place for the local people and for visitors."

"I hope the amendments we are promised in the throne speech will strengthen the (pollution) control board so they can move in regardless of the municipalities."

Mr. Turner also said it would not be worth living in the 'dynamic society,' "if we are going to be poisoned" by air or water pollution.

He said Premier Bennett's trip to see the senate banking committee reminded him of ancient battles.

LITTLE PLAN

"It reminded me of Napoleon's retreat from Moscow," he

said. "It was Bennett's retreat from Ottawa, picking up bits of bank investments and now we have this little medicare plan which I think should be called mini-medicare for the mendicants."

In order to qualify for the government's medical insurance premium subsidy "first you must be broke and then you must be a beggar."

Mr. Turner reversed the usual plea and asked the government to restrict the number of cabinet ministers chosen from his area.

He said Vancouver should have only one cabinet minister instead of four because their presence in the nine-member group from Vancouver prevented an all-party meeting of the MLAs so they could make a united front on Vancouver's behalf in the legislature.

"The ministers who sit for Vancouver seats do not plead the cause of Vancouver in cabinet as they should or would if they were backbenchers," he said, but Premier Bennett called back: "That's just not true."

PEARKES PRAISED BY CARIBOO MLA

An open-hearted "thank you" from the open rangeland of the Cariboo was delivered to Lieutenant-Governor George Pearkes in the legislature Thursday.

W. C. Speare (SC—Cariboo) said his constituents thought the lieutenant-governor and his wife were mighty fine folks.

"He has been in our area and in the north country several times this year and both he and his wife have endeared themselves in the hearts of our people and we would like to pay tribute to them," he said.

Friday, January 29, 1965

NDP MAINTAINS

Manufacturing Stress Needed

By JIM HUME

Canada should stop exporting raw material to foreign nations and get into the production business, says Randolph Harding, NDP MLA for Kaslo-Slocan.

Speaking in the throne speech debate Mr. Harding said he was not against exports.

"But I am very alarmed by the drainage of Canadian brain power to countries that take our raw material for manufacturing purposes," he said.

"We provide the raw materials, we provide the power, and then we provide the manpower too," he added.

Mr. Harding cited asbestos from Cassiar as a typical example of the government's lack of planning.

VAST MOUNTAIN

"We have a vast mountain of asbestos up there," he said. "We mine it, haul it to the coast,

transport it to Seattle from where it goes east to be fabricated. Why can't we do some of that fabrication here?"

Main target during Mr. Harding's one hour and 20 minute speech was rookie cabinet minister Ralph Loffmark, minister of industrial development.

"He gave a nice speech," Mr. Harding said of Mr. Loffmark's Tuesday night address in the debate. "But he didn't give us many basic things. What he did was go into every other minister's department and leave consternation in his wake."

FREIGHT RATES

"Talked a great deal about freight rates and the damage they do to B.C.'s secondary in-

dustries, but he gave us no solution to the problem."

Mr. Harding also sniped at Mr. Loffmark for a "dismal lack of planning" at the department of lands and forests "for forcing little logging operators out of business" and the medicare plan for being inadequate.

The bulk of Mr. Harding's speech was taken up with a plea for a sounder clearing policy in the preparatory work on dam sites at Duncan Lake and the Arrow Lakes in the Kootenays.

"The time to do the clearing is now," he said, "not when the reservoirs have been filled. The unsightly mess of water-killed trees and debris is to be our lot for many years."

Peace Would Welcome Mill

The South Peace River wants the latest pulp mill planned for Prince George.

Stanley Carnell (SC - South Peace River) told the Legislature Thursday night he did not believe resources should be taken from one area of the province and processed in another.

"If the timber resources of the Peace are going to be taken elsewhere for processing, I can assure you that the people are going to be asking questions," he told the House.

"I have never believed that the resources from one area should be alienated from that area and taken to other areas," he said. "And I don't believe it now."

Mr. Carnell pointed out that at recent public hearings at Prince George on the pulp mill questions 59 briefs and 520 letters

were presented protesting the establishment of the mill in the Prince George area.

"I can tell you this," Mr. Carnell added. "The people in the South Peace would welcome a mill. You won't get any protests from them."

Mr. Carnell wanted other things for his constituency, most important of which was a series of emergency aircraft landing strips throughout the north.

Mr. Carnell also called for a speeding up of plans to pave the Alaska Highway.

WEN-GREN ASSOCIATES HIKE MINE HOLDINGS

Three men closely associated with the late Axel Wenner-Gren in the Rocky Mountain Trench explorations have increased their mining claim holdings again this year.

This was revealed in answers to a question in the legislature by Leo Nimsick (NDP-Cranbrook).

Mines Minister Donald Brothers replied that claims are registered in the central records office of the department in the names of Totem Mining Company Limited, Metot Mining Company Limited and Julian Mining Company Limited.

(Directors and sole shareholders in the three companies are W. C. Mainwaring, White Rock; Bernard Gore of London, England, and K. Birger Strid of Stockholm.

(Similar questions in past legislatures produced the information that the companies held 134 claims in 1962, 182 claims in 1963 and 352 in 1964.)

Friday, January 29, 1965

VALLEY LEADS IN RESPIRATORY DISEASES

'Fighting Chance' Asked

By JIM HUME

The Alberni Valley has the highest incident of respiratory diseases in Canada, John Squire (NDP—Alberni) told the legislature Thursday night.

He wants an immediate start on a health study and the installation of corrective machinery at pulp mills to give his constituents a fighting chance in the battle for good health.

Speaking in throne speech debate Mr. Squire quoted his statistics from a report published by Dr. Donald Anderson, Vancouver.

"These days the Alberni Valley is black like a coal mining town," Mr. Squire said. "Even that nice white snow you see on Christmas cards is black."

LAYER OF GREASE

"You can't start the wind-

shield wipers on your car without smearing a layer of grease across the windshield; you can't walk into the house without tracking black, greasy footprints across the floor. In the Valley, everything is filthy."

Mr. Squire said he was aware that the federal government had recently made available a grant of \$12,500 for a study of similar problems.

It's a start," he said. "But it is not enough. The provincial government must also show responsibility in money and services. You can't expect 15,000 people to wait four years for a health study and possibly more years until corrective machinery is installed."

'OUR FRIEND BEN'

Mr. Squire blasted the government for permitting big

logging companies to take over the province and criticized methods used in long term timber sales where "our friend Ben Ginter can offer \$12,000,000" for a block of timber" (he wants explanations of the deal later in the session)

And he wants to know why the government permits some logging companies on the north end of the Island to impose such high toll fees on those using logging roads.

"They have the audacity to employ a man in there (at Gold River), have him working in the muck and sweat to log trees and build roads, then charge him \$90 when he gets a furniture truck to bring his family and furniture in," he said.

Mr. Squire was the last speaker of the day. The House adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Mortician Bill Buried Quickly

A petition by morticians was given a hasty burial Thursday in the legislative corridors — the "pottery field" for private bills.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan killed an attempt to have the house consider the petition for an act incorporating the Western Embalmers Association as a regulatory body over all undertaking concerns in B.C.

He denied it the unanimous consent required by parliamentary rules because there had been no prior notice of intention to introduce a bill.

Outside the legislature, Mr. Strachan told reporters this proposal had caused controversy last summer because it was believed to be an attempt to set up a licensing system that would ban non-profit memorial associations.

He said although he did not know what was actually in the bill the mover had not had the courtesy to outline it to the opposition before introducing it without notice so he voted against.

While Mr. Strachan was talking, the mover—E. A. LeCours (SC-Delta) came up and said he was happy with the outcome.

"I was suckered into that deal," Mr. LeCours said.

He said he was approached some time ago to introduce a bill and had said he would sponsor it if he agreed with it.

But he only saw the bill Wednesday when asked to sign it by the clerk of the legislature so it could be presented.

After reading it, he decided he did not want to sponsor it but finally consented because the documents already had been printed with his name on them.

"I had expected it would be thrown out in committee discussion anyway," Mr. LeCours said.

He added he had no intention of reviving the matter by a second attempt to introduce it.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1965

BOARD CONTROVERSY

CNIB Act Probe Asked

A legislative committee investigation should be launched into charges and counter-charges involving the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East) told the Legislature Thursday.

He referred to the controversy that followed legislation last year permitting the cabinet to appoint a three-member board which could veto any fund-raising on behalf of the blind.

A number of blind persons revealed a disturbing situation and the whole matter should be looked into by a legislative committee to clear the air.

charged that the measure would give the CNIB dictatorial powers over the blind but this was denied by the CNIB which counter-claimed that the criticism came from persons who had profited from collections for the blind, Mr. Turner recalled.

He said in view of the unrest and wave of protests, the cabinet never did implement the legislation and no board has been set up.

(Provincial Secretary W. D. Black told The Times the matter would be brought back to the House during this session.)

Mr. Turner said the unresolved charges and counter-charges had

B.C. Fish Catch \$43 Million

VANCOUVER (CP)—British Columbia fishermen landed \$48,300,000 worth of fish last year, the third highest value on record.

The department of fisheries said Thursday the figure compares with \$49,000,000 in 1952 and the massive \$52,300,000 in 1958.

Salmon landings were \$30,200,000 last year compared to \$30,600,000 in 1962 and \$37,100,000 in 1958, and the halibut fishery earned \$8,300,000, second only to the record of \$10,900,000 in 1962.

In a statement the department gave this breakdown of the salmon fishery:

Coho: 28,500,000 pounds landed worth \$9,250,000, both records; sockeye: 22,900,000 pounds worth \$8,250,000, slightly above the average for 1959-63; springs: 12,100,000 worth a record \$5,500,000; pinks: 36,500,000 worth \$4,000,000; chums: 23,900,000 worth \$3,100,000, the highest since 1958.

The department said the 33,900,000 pounds of halibut landed

is the fourth highest on record. But, at 56.7 per cent, it was the highest proportion of the total U.S.-Canada catch ever taken by Canadian fishermen. Of the total catch, 8,200,000 pounds were landed at U.S. ports by B.C. vessels.

Other fishery:

Herring 252,500 pounds, second highest landings on record, worth \$6,200,000; crab: worth a record \$700,000; shrimp: \$161,000, lowest since 1959; oyster: 153,000 gallons worth \$587,000; clams: 1,600,000 pounds worth \$59,000; abalone: 125,000 pounds worth \$20,000.

Grey cod: a record 12,000,000 worth \$722,000; lingcod 3,800,000 pounds worth \$384,000; sole: 6,000,000 pounds worth \$409,000; tuna: 2500,000 pounds worth \$40,000.



In Our HOUSE

By Arthur Mayse

All through the Legislative Assembly's work-week, the great man's picture looked out gravely from its place of honor in the rotunda, deep black curtains for background and a subdued light illuminating a face we will not forget.

Then, on Friday afternoon, British Columbia's legislature paid its final tribute to Sir Winston Churchill, the leader who steered the Mother of Parliament through its most valiant years.

Preparations were formal but brief.

With two members unavoidably absent, lawmakers met in the pillared Legislative Chamber at 2 p.m.

Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP, Grand Forks - Greenwood), moved that the throne speech debate be adjourned to the next sitting.

Premier Bennett: "So that we may attend the service at the Cathedral, I move the house rise and stand adjourned until 2 p.m. Monday."



Provincial Secretary Wesley Black rose to tell members that, since parking near Christ

Church Cathedral would be extremely difficult, arrangements had been made for bus transport.

The Premier: "Mr. Speaker, I move the house now adjourn."

Preceded by the sergeant-at-arms with the mace and followed by the legislature's three clerks, Speaker William Murray paced from the chamber.

Private members, ministers and premier, dark-suited and more silent than usual, filed into Speaker's corridor.

At 2:30, a bus waiting in front of the buildings carried them to the Cathedral, where a section of seats had been reserved.

Victoria MLA Waldo Skillings, in his capacity of Christ Church rector's warden, ushered his fellow-lawmakers to their pews.

In the lofty edifice visited by Sir Winston in 1929—a plaque records the event close to the stone he laid—they formed part of a congregation that packed the cathedral to its doors.

★ ★ ★

The service, shorter than most legislature speeches, proceeded through prayer and hymn and memorial address, under consecrated flags of an Empire which Churchill saved, and saw diminish to a Commonwealth.

Prayers by Catholic Bishop Remi J. De Roo and Anglican Archbishop Harold Sexton brought the service to its ecumenical close.

Premier Bennett returned to the Buildings by car. Most of the 49 other representatives of B.C. ridings from Atlin to Dewdney went back by bus to finish their work.

★ ★ ★

On Monday, since the world wags on in spite of all, Mrs. Haggen will resume the debate.

I expect she will bring attention to a 10,000-name woman's group petition urging tax reduction on clothing and household needs. A rod, too, may be in pickle for Vancouver organizers of a Feb. 17 dinner for the premier, to which she remains uninvited.

So much for this week, except to rescue Yale NDP William L. Hartley from the Sacred benches to which I carelessly wafted him on Thursday in this column.

For so sturdy a New Democrat as Bill Hartley, that was indeed a fate worse than death!

J A N

1 9 6 5

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1965

Throne Speech Surprise

B.C. ADDS 'S' TO BANK

VANCOUVER (CP)—Banking circles were surprised Thursday night by Premier Bennett's oblique reference to possible British Columbia government investment in chartered "banks."

But a guess by one highly-placed financial source is that the provincial government may plan to buy enough shares in the Mercantile Bank of Canada to obtain effective control, move the head office to Vancouver from Montreal and circumvent the Canadian Senate's aversion to provincial investment in a federally-chartered bank.

The "banks" reference was made in the Speech from the Throne read by Lieutenant-Governor George Pearkes at the opening of the B.C. legislature in Victoria Thursday.

AMENDMENT

It said there would be an amendment to the Provincial Revenue Act "in connection with the investment by my government in the shares of chartered banks."

In reply to a question on whether this was part of a promise that B.C. would not invest in more than 10 per cent of the shares of the proposed government-sponsored Bank of British Columbia, the premier said:

"It may go beyond that."

COUNTERMOVE

Some political observers see it as a countermove to a Senate committee's rejection of a charter for the B.C. bank, in which the government has been authorized by the provincial legislature to buy up to 25 per cent of the shares. The government later promised not to invest more than 10 per cent.

With probable major revisions forthcoming in the Federal Bank Act—and these could include restriction on provincial investment in federally-chartered banks—at least one financial source believes Mr. Bennett's eye could be on the Mercantile Bank.

ONLY OFFICES

Faced with stiff competition from the larger chartered banks of Canada, the Mercantile so far has offices only in Montreal—the head office—and Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver.

It is owned jointly by a Dutch group, Rotterdamsche Bank of Rotterdam, and First National City Bank of New York. Unlike most other chartered banks in Canada, its shares are not sold on stock exchanges here. It has a relatively small capitalization, \$4,000,000.

EFFECTIVE CONTROL

"All Bennett has to do is buy anywhere from five to 15 per cent of the shares and he's got effective control of a bank that already is chartered and set up," said the financial source.

"This would give him a bank. And I'm quite sure that even with a small but effective holding he could persuade Mercantile to move its head office here."

COULD BE MERGER

If the government did get a charter for the Bank of B.C. at a later date, there could be a merger.

Top B.C. officials of the Toronto-Dominion, Bank of Nova Scotia and Bank of Montreal were mystified by the reference in the throne speech.

'Banks' in Plural Puzzle to MLAs

By Legislative Reporter

Premier Bennett whetted the appetites of MLAs Thursday with the promise of more action on the question of chartered bank for B.C.

But he gave no clear indication of what his next move will be.

Last year the Revenue Act was changed to permit government investment in "a bank" with its head office in B.C.

SLIM CHANCE

But that bank has been rejected by the Senate's banking committee with only a slim chance that the full Senate may reverse that decision.

Now, however, Premier Bennett is broadening his approach and it has been made clear to reporters that this is a highly significant change.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said he would await further developments before commenting.

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault said it might mean the government is going to buy shares in one of the existing chartered banks.

CHARTER STALLED

It has been suggested in other quarters that this could involve the Laurentide Bank, whose charter is now stalled in the House of Commons.

However, Laurentide president Peter Paul Saunders said Thursday he knows of no government move to seek control of his bank.

'MISHANDLING'

Mr. Perrault, whose party opposed the bank last session, added he felt the B.C. bank charter would have been approved but for mishandling.

"Ottawa would have accepted the proposal if the case had been more ably handled and more skilfully prepared," he said.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1965

B.C. Wine Gains

Liquor Sales Establish New Record

Liquor sales continue to soar to record highs in British Columbia.

Figures filed in the legislature Thursday showed that the Liquor Control Board sold \$60,600,000 worth of liquor in the six months ended last Sept. 30.

The LCB sold \$117,100,000 worth in the year before that.

Net profit to the government out of the sales was \$49,100,000 of which \$16,300,000 came in the six months ending Sept. 30.

The sales of almost \$178,000,000 for the 18-month period work out at a figure of approximately

\$5 a month for every man, woman and child in B.C.

The figures also indicate an LCB markup of roughly 45 per cent. In the six month period it made a gross profit of \$19,100,000 on stock that cost \$41,500,000.

Fastest growing seller is B.C. wine. Its total sales jumped in the last year from \$4,200,000 to \$15,000,000 although the sales of imported wines declined.

In all, there were 34,799 prosecutions for liquor offences, with 11,957 people going to jail and 13,169 paying fines totalling \$313,482.

Hearing Cost \$24,315

From the great mass of reports filed in the house, these figures emerged:

● The 1963 legislative committee hearing, that cleared Highways Minister Gagliardi of charges in connection with the Trans-Canada Highway project, cost the government \$24,315.

● B.C. Hospital Insurance Service paid out \$68,300,000 to hospitals last year, according to the annual report.

A total of 468,200 patients were treated in hospitals during 1964. They stayed an average of 9.59 days.

The report said that approximately 95 per cent of all patients in the province's acute care rehabilitative hospitals were covered by BCHIS.

The remainder were primarily non-residents, workmen's compensation recipients, armed forces personnel and veterans with pensionable disabilities.

The growth of BCHIS was illustrated by comparisons between the daily payment of hospital accounts in 1949, which amounted to \$50,000, and daily payments of \$185,000 in 1964.

\$386.73 for Johnny

● Sending Johnny to public school in B.C. last year cost the taxpayer a neat \$386.73.

The figure was shown in the annual report of the superintendent of education, by Education Minister Peterson.

The report also showed that the province's total bill for education in the 1963-64 school year jumped nearly \$20,000,000, to \$177,539,584 from \$157,614,783. In 1953-54 the figure was \$70,791,841.

The number of teachers in the public school system moved up to 14,415 from 13,571 in 1962-63 and 7,574 in 1953-54. But the school enrolment kept pace, rising to 378,641 last year from 358,905 the previous year and 210,174 10 years ago.

The provincial government's share of the total education bill climbed to \$95,497,375 from

\$83,782,121 in 1962-63 and \$24,060,233 in 1953-54.

● Resources Minister Ray Williston was B.C.'s most-travelled cabinet minister for the first time in the year ended last March.

His travelling expenses totalled \$6,112. Right behind him was Attorney-General Robert Bonner at \$6,053.

Premier Bennett was next in line with \$5,875, followed by Highways Minister Gagliardi with \$5,245.

● The number of children in care of the superintendent of child welfare and three children's aid societies in B.C. climbed steeply last year.

There were 6,542 children in care throughout the province at March 31, 1964. This is an increase of 554 over end of the previous fiscal year.

More Children

During the year 1963-64 covered by the report there was an increase of 1,168 in the total number of children cared for and the gross maintenance cost was \$4,907,307—an increase of \$620,514.

● Up to Jan. 15 this year winter works projects in progress throughout B.C. had a total value of \$24,786,739.

The 330 projects employ 5,578 men and it is estimated will provide a total of 429,192 man-hours of work.

The payroll is shared between the federal government, which pays \$4,469,650, and the provincial government which contributes \$802,072, with the mun-

icipalities themselves kicking in the remaining \$3,620,500 of the wage bill.

During the past year, the report said, municipal assessments throughout the province have jumped from \$141,020,670 in 1963 to the current estimate of \$155,000,000.

But an increase in school taxes paid by municipal taxpayers over the period of \$4,000,000 has cut the growth in tax base to some \$10,000,000.

Borrowing by municipalities in the province totalled \$25,231,663 last year, the report said. The increase of some \$10,600,000 over 1963, reflects the introduction of the federal municipal development and loan fund.

Busy Year for Museum

● The annual report of the Queen's Printer showed gross sales of \$1,735,162 last year but a profit of only \$40,343.

● The provincial museum had a booming year for visitors in 1964.

Attendance at the museum jumped nearly 100 per cent, to 161,700 from 82,000 in 1963.

● The value of the tourist industry to British Columbia rose more than 30 per cent in 1964 from the record \$150,485,000 in 1963.

Tourists from the United States and Canada spent \$183,936,026 in the province last year. In 1960 the comparable figure was \$100,400,000.

The province attracted 2,664,652 visitors from the U.S. and 1,580,680 from provinces outside B.C.

● British Columbia's commercial fisheries had a good year in 1964.

Figures in the annual report of the recreation and conservation department showed increases in the value of both salmon and halibut landings.

The canned salmon pack in 1964 was 1,251,618 cases, 48,347 more than in 1963. Northern waters produced the best fishing for chums and sockeye since 1950.

Halibut landings at B.C. ports in 1964 were 25,600,000 pounds, worth \$6,143,000 — up \$577,000 from 1963.

Speech Lauds Sir Winston

Lt.-Gov. George Pearkes paid tribute to Sir Winston Churchill in the throne speech.

"From time to time in the life of nations there emerges a great leader who by virtue of his intelligence and strength of character is able to mobilize the physical and spiritual resources of that nation and bring it safely through.

"Such a man is Sir Winston Churchill, whose grave illness now causes universal concern. A great parliamentarian, he served without stint his sovereign, his nation, and his world. We today are the beneficiaries of his tenacity of purpose."

Alberta Scheme May Be Model

"We haven't seen the exact details but this (B.C.'s new medicare plan) appears to be a logical way to provide care for people who need help," Vancouver's Dr. E. C. McCoy, executive director of the B.C. Medical Association said. "It allows for a step-by-step provision for medicare."

It is believed the plan would be patterned after similar schemes in Alberta and Ontario.

And Here Comes 'Mini Medicare'

By IAN STREET
Colonist Legislative Reporter

Premier Bennett introduced a mini-medicare plan in the legislature Thursday which sparked immediate criticism from opposition leaders.

The premier declined to give further details before the budget comes down early in February, but he said it would assist tens of thousands of British Columbians and cost many millions of dollars.

Participation is to be voluntary, and the government will provide a subsidy toward the cost of private medical insurance coverage for citizens in the lower income brackets.

STILL FAR SHORT

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan, after the reading of the throne speech, termed it tin cup medicare and said it would help those who applied, but still falls far short of the desired comprehensive medical care plan for B.C.

He said some sort of means test will be required and that means those who wish to take advantage of the scheme will have to take a tin cup and apply to the government for a handout.

PRIVATE COMPANIES

Mr. Strachan said the government-subsidized medical insurance scheme would allow full control to remain in the hands of private companies which would be aided by taxpayers' money. He said:

"It is complete capitulation by this government to the demands of the doctors, and it is contrary to my concept of the dignity of the individual.

"I would remind Mr. Martin that he said during the last election that B.C. could afford comprehensive medicare without federal assistance."

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault said it is quite apparent the premier is being dragged kick-

ing and struggling and very reluctantly into the arena of medical care.

'LACKLUSTRE EFFORT'

He said the whole throne speech was a lacklustre effort, but it would be unfair to criticize unduly before the legislation is introduced in the House.

Premier Bennett told reporters after the throne speech the government subsidy is intended to cover the income level just above that of social assistance.

Social assistance recipients are issued medical cards which give them free coverage.

'FOR YEARS ADVOCATED'

Lieutenant-Governor George Pearke, in the throne speech, said:

"My government has for years strongly advocated the institution of a national health plan.

"Since it appears that the government of Canada is not prepared to put such a plan into effect at the present time, my government will ask you to consider legislation to provide for government contributions to the cost of medical insurance services for citizens whose incomes are at lower levels.

'PRINCIPLES SOUND'

"Such assistance would be granted in connection with approved medical-care plans and would be on a voluntary basis."

Dr. Peter Banks, president of the B.C. Medical Association, who was among invited guests at the opening, told reporters:

"Hearing it for the first time, the principles set down were sound.

'DUTY AS DOCTORS'

"It is our duty as the doctors of the province to co-operate in every way we can to seek the best interests of the people in forwarding the (proposed) plan."

Dr. Banks said the proposal contained in the throne speech has closed the gap of social need in the field of medical care in B.C., and added:

"Now we can get down and discuss something."

EXTEND HOSPITAL

The throne speech also said B.C. is continuing to press for agreement by Ottawa to extend hospital insurance coverage.

The fields in which this is thought likely to happen are chronic care and mental health.

The government, the speech indicated, hopes BCHIS benefits will be provided during the coming year for those receiving long-term care.

Speech At Glance

Here is the throne speech at a glance.

- Voluntary government subsidized medical care for people in lower income brackets.

- Long term continuing care to come under BCHIS this year.

- New bank legislation coming up.

- Metro parks authorities to be set up.

- Model towns to be created in newly developed areas like northern Vancouver Island and given local government.

- Salary increases, announced last month, coming up in budget for all civil servants.

- New museum and archives for Victoria as province's main centennial project is confirmed.

- Augmented probation service.

- Increased grants for all school districts.

- More money for higher education, for regional vocational schools, and for vocational additions to secondary schools.

- Greatly expanded apprenticeship training programs.

- Simon Fraser University to open Sept. 9.

- Excellent chance of continuing high level of employment through 1965.

- New pollution controls.

- Legislation for leasing statutory timber lands for agricultural use in some areas.

- Accelerated exploration and development of north B.C. oil and natural gas reserves.

- New forest district to be created in north of the province.

- Administrative body to be created for new Fraser River dyking system.

- Tenders to be called for two 45-foot diversion tunnels at Mica Creek damsite on the Columbia River.

- New highway contracts for northern Trans-Canada Highway and Yellowhead route.

Home Grant Now \$100

There was no reference to homeowner grants in Thursday's speech from the throne because the 1964 legislature approved an automatic increase this year from \$85 to \$100.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1965

'Not as Cold as Last Year'

Bleak Weather Fails To Spoil Pageantry

By GARY OAKES

It was cold, damp and miserable but it was history.

Dozens of shivering people were there to record it.

The traditional pageantry which unfolds outside the legislative buildings during the session opening, Thursday was held under threatening skies while a biting wind chilled spectators and participants alike.

A passing shower which threatened the proceedings fortunately cleared up about 15 minutes before Lieut.-Gov. Pearkes and his official party arrived.

But the shower did catch the 30 men of the 5th (B.C.) Independent Medium Artillery Battery (Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery).

TOOK SHELTER

Men of the 5th, headed by gun position officer Capt. A. E. Sherwin huddled under

obliging trees on the grounds before firing the 15-gun salute from four 105 mm. howitzers.

It was the ninth year in a row the salute has been fired by the 5th—oldest militia unit west of the Great Lakes.

About 2:15 p.m. the 34-member bugle band of the First Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada led a 100-man battalion honor guard down Government and on to the grounds.

The guard, commanded by sword-bearing Major John Hanley, formed up in two lines facing the legislative buildings and moments later the Lieutenant-Governor arrived.

AIDES-DE-CAMP

He was accompanied by aides-de-camp Lt.-Cmdr. D. A. Avery, Capt. P. Chaworth-Musters, Wing Cmdr. D. G. Stewart and RCMP Sub-Inspector D. J. Beiersdorfer, as well as secretary Gar Dixon.

The band, led by bugle ma-

jor Sgt. Fred Breurkens, broke into the Royal Salute and played the Duke of York while Lieut.-Gov. Pearkes inspected the honor guard.

GREETED BY PREMIER

The lieutenant-governor was then greeted by Premier Bennett, flanked by deputy provincial secretary L. J. Wallace and executive assistant William Budd, who escorted the vice-regal to the Executive Chamber.

Less than an hour later the party emerged from the main gate at the legislative buildings—the session had begun.

The band again played the Royal Salute and then marched off the grounds (at 140 paces a minute) to Maple Leaf Forever and Waltzing Matilda.

Mrs. Pearkes, Col. and Mrs. H. F. C. Elliot and Mrs. W. B. Holmes joined the official party in leaving the grounds.

Veteran soldiers agreed this year's pageantry was cold but "it wasn't as cold as last year."

Pickets Share House Spotlight

Three placard-bearing picketers turned up at the legislative grounds Thursday afternoon — moments before Lieut.-Governor Pearkes arrived to open the session.

Their sudden appearance sparked fears that an embarrassing incident might occur but the trio marched orderly and quietly, keeping away from pedestrians and vehicles.

The trio, members of the Canadian Ironworkers Union (Ind.), No. 1 from Vancouver, was objecting to a Labor Relations Board decision denying them a hearing.

RIVAL UNIONS

One of the men, Tom McGrath, the union's secretary, said the hearing centres around a dispute between his 200-member group and a rival union, Vancouver Local 97 of the International Ironworkers Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers.

Mr. McGrath said his union

claims Local 97 threatened a Vancouver firm with an illegal work stoppage unless they fired all employees belonging to the rival Canadian union.

The Canadian group was granted an injunction which is still on pending a court trial. In addition, Mr. McGrath's union is suing Local 97 for "damages caused by intimidation on various projects."

OPPORTUNE TIME

He and union members Neil North and John Allen paraded in front of the legislature until shortly after the sitting ended.

They picked an opportune time for publicizing their complaints as a horde of reporters, photographers and radio and television broadcasters were on hand for the opening ceremonies.

The secretary said the union will be back to picket the legislature again "sometime during the session."

Fri., Jan. 22, 1965

Even Desks Moved To Pack 'Sardines'

By JACK FRY

Politicians and invited guests from all parts of British Columbia were packed like sardines as the second session of the 27th legislative assembly received a formal and dignified start Thursday.

Thirty-one of the 51 members' desks were removed to make room for the hundreds of dignitaries who were crammed in with the politicians.

It was a quiet opening, devoid of any outward sign of antagonism between the majority Socred government and its New Democratic and Liberal sparring partners.

The last cabinet minister to take his seat was Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi who—unable to get through the crowd to his chair—had to pull his desk out of line with the others to get in.

Premier Bennett entered the chamber shortly before 3 p.m., with William Budd, his executive assistant.

Mr. Bennett flashed a broad smile as he strode down the

Dignitaries Jammed In Chamber

aisle to shake hands with Liberal Leader Ray Perrault, NDP MLA Lois Haggen—the only woman member—and NDP Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

Near Mrs. Haggen was a bright bouquet sent by the business and professional women of Victoria.

Mr. Strachan wore on his lapel a large sprig of heather, grown in Victoria.

Mr. Strachan scribbled on a note pad as the throne speech progressed, while Mr. Perrault sat quietly.

Premier Bennett leaned back in his chair, but no emotion showed on his face.

Only once was a comment on the proceedings heard in the press gallery above the speaker's dais. When Premier

Bennett was arranging the appointment of eight select standing committees, grey-haired Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East) quipped quietly from across the floor:

"And we hope they all meet (this year)."

A committee of Attorney-General Robert Bonner, Works Minister W. N. Chant, Esquimalt Socred MLA Herbert Bruch, NDP Leader Strachan and Liberal Leader Perrault was appointed to name members for the committees.

W. C. Spear (SC—Cariboo) was appointed deputy speaker.

Reception

B.C.'s Big Party

More than 3,000 guests worked through an almost equal number of sandwiches and dozens of gallons of tea and coffee at the government's reception Thursday afternoon.

The guests packed into the Empress Hotel for almost two hours to meet Premier Bennett, cabinet ministers and other MLAs and wives at B.C.'s biggest party.

PREMIER ARRIVES

Premier Bennett arrived shortly before 4 p.m. and stood with his wife greeting guests until almost 5:30 p.m. Lt.-Gov. Pearkes stayed only a few minutes and most of the guests and government members were gone by 5:45 p.m.

"It looked like a larger crowd than we've had before," a government spokesman suggested in estimating an overflow crowd of more than 3,000.

Proposals Lacklustre

Leaders of opposition parties traditionally don't think much of the Speech from the Throne and there were no surprises following Thursday's opening of the B.C. legislature.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said the program of legislation outlined by the government was "a little of everything and nothing much of anything."

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said it was a pretty "lacklustre effort" on the part of the government.

Fri., Jan. 22, 1965

Millions Slated To Finance Schools 'Boom'

More millions will be poured into schools, colleges and universities to keep pace with British Columbia's education explosion.

Lieutenant-Governor George Pearkes said in the Speech from the Throne Thursday afternoon that the government will continue to implement programs to enrich all British Columbians—materially and culturally.

The speech outlined legislation to encourage the dynamic society.

This year more people in the province will receive formal education than ever before.

There will be more than 400,000 children attending public schools, more than 20,000 in universities and colleges, and 90,000 adults in some form of continuing education.

To finance this education explosion, the legislature will be asked to:

- Increase grants to school districts.

- Authorize increased expenditure for higher education, for regional vocational schools and vocational additions to secondary schools.

APPRENTICE INCREASE

The legislature also will be asked to authorize major expenditures for greatly expanded apprenticeship training.

Mr. Pearkes said to meet the demands of a rapidly developing industrial economy, priority will be given to technical and vocational training.

Among four new regional vocational schools, previously announced, which the government hopes to construct under the accelerated program, is one for Greater Victoria.

The development of greater

skills among the labor force, the speech noted, has been accompanied by improved labor-management relations.

PROSPECTS EXCELLENT

More people worked full time in 1964 than ever before, and prospects for continuing high employment are excellent.

Mr. Pearkes said the twin foundations of the unparalleled progress last year were the massive hydro-electric programs on the Peace and Columbia rivers.

The Peace project is on schedule and the Duncan Lake dam on the Columbia is under construction while work is expected to begin this year on two diversion tunnels at Mica Creek.

MORE RATE CUT

Further reductions are promised in electricity rates, which have been cut on three previous occasions by a total of \$13,200,000 a year.

Legislation will be put before the House to beat flooding on the lower Fraser River.

The throne speech said it will permit better administrative procedures, which means probably a single Fraser Valley diking authority.

NEW DISTRICT

Unprecedented growth in the forest industry will result in creating a new forest district, probably in the Peace River district where a 32-mile extension of the PGE from Kennedy Lake is planned to serve new pulp mills and other forest industries.

The throne speech said there will be the Pollution Control Act Amendments, though it gave no hint if this will involve long provincial regulations governing air pollution.

The Lands Act will be amended to permit leasing some forest reserves for agricultural use.

And there will be changes in oil and gas legislation to spur development and exploration in northern B.C.

Major highway contracts will be carried out this year on the northern Trans-Canada Highway between Prince George and McBride and on the Yellowhead route between Kamloops and Tete Jaune Cache.

The probation service will be greatly augmented after a 12-month study by the government of present procedures.

The new legislation will be mindful of the necessity to protect society and to restore penal inmates to useful citizenship.

OTHER AMENDMENTS

The Succession Duty Act will be amended to provide additional exemption.

There also will be amendments to the accounting provisions under the Companies Act.

And the Credit Union Act will be changed to reflect improved inspection procedures.

Fri., Jan. 22, 1965

In Throne Speech

Island to Benefit

Parks Authorities, Model Towns Among Plans

New legislation for establishing a regional parks authority in Greater Victoria and creating new model towns on northern Vancouver Island will be introduced during this session.

Lieutenant-Governor George Pearkes in the throne speech at the opening of the second session of the 27th legislature Thursday said both pieces of

legislation will be province-wide in scope.

The speech said the heavier population concentration in metropolitan areas has resulted in continually growing pressure on areas readily accessible for outdoor recreation.

To meet the need for new parks serving metro areas such as Greater Victoria and the

Lower Mainland, the legislature will be asked to authorize regional parks authorities.

In recent months Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan has consulted municipal leaders several times about the need for greenbelt parklands on the Saanich Peninsula.

There was no mention of mini-

metro legislation in the throne speech, but it is expected this will come during the session in the form of amendments to the Municipal Act.

The speech did mention that the House will be asked to approve measures to facilitate creating model communities in the new-development areas of B.C.

The municipal affairs department has been working for more than a year with the developers of the new \$60,000,000 pulp mill at Gold River on the Island's west coast.

Part of this development will be a new town eight miles inland on the main east-west road. Other model towns are being

planned at Kelsey Bay and Port Hardy on northern Vancouver Island.

The new legislation also will permit these model towns to assume the responsibility of local government at an early date.

The throne speech also said the government will enter into agreements with several com-

munities for what it termed an accelerated redevelopment program.

It did not give any details except to cite previously announced plans to beautify the southeastern gateway to the province by shifting residents of Natal and Michel to new homes at Sparwood.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1965

'You Can Fool Some'

MLAs Sidestep Oratorical Lapses

Two government speakers found themselves flirting with embarrassment Friday while paying tribute to Premier Bennett. (See also Page 9.)

Bert Price (SC-Vancouver Burrard) said the fact that Mr. Bennett will become B.C.'s longest serving premier Feb. 15 proves this is a government of action rather than promises.

He began "you can fool some of the people some of the time" but was interrupted by shouts of "careful" from the opposition benches.

There was general laughter

on the floor of the House but Mr. Price kept going and said "But you can't fool them all of the time."

Mr. Price, moving acceptance of Thursday's Speech from the Throne, said this is a most important and historic session because it will see the breaking of Sir Richard McBride's record of 12 years, six months and 15 days in office.

James Chabot, the seconder of the government motion, got himself into difficulties for a moment by referring to Mr. Bennett as "B.C.'s longest-reigning premier."

Hydro Profits

Bus Aid Urged By Price

Bert Price (SC-Vancouver Burrard) said Friday he hopes B.C. Hydro will always operate the transit systems but suggested buses should continue to be subsidized out of power profits.

Mr. Price said he didn't like the idea of subsidies because they generally led to inefficient operations but in the case of transit there appeared to be no alternative.

MOST EQUITABLE

Taking the subsidy out of the profits from power sales, he said, means the largest number of people are reached on the most equitable basis.

He said Hydro should continue to operate buses, rather than a metro transit authority, because the crown corporation is a "better manager."

ABSOLUTE MINIMUM

Children's fares should be kept to an absolute minimum in order to encourage more young bus riders, Mr. Price said.

Whoever was responsible for introducing higher children's fares while there was 2½ feet of snow on the ground in Vancouver was guilty of poor judgment, he said.

Mr. Price said he was pleased students fares were cut shortly afterward and urged that they be kept at rockbottom to encourage more of these "extra passengers."

'B.C. Share Of Senate Not Fair'

All 10 provinces should have equal representation in the senate and provincial governments should have a say in appointment of senators, the legislature was told Friday.

James R. Chabot (SC-Columbia) said "the very harsh decision" taken by the Senate banking committee on B.C.'s application for a charter underlined the fact that changes in the senate are long overdue.

He did not think B.C.'s rights were being protected by Ottawa-appointed senators. B.C. had six seats and the maritime provinces 30.

"All provinces should have the same number of senators. And to protect the rights of the provinces half the senators should be appointed by the provincial governments."

If Quebec had presented a bill for a provincial bank would the word have been passed to the Senate, "for the sake of Canadian unity please pass the bill."

B.C. Loan Aid To Unity

British Columbia and its capital city of Victoria have both done more than anyone else to strengthen Canadian unity in recent months, James Chabot (SC-Columbia) said Friday.

"The greatest single move towards the unity of Canada was made by this Social Credit government. The \$100,000,000 loan to Quebec proved to them that there is no conspiracy against them on the part of English Canada," the Quebec-born member said while seconding the throne speech.

"The city of Victoria, too, should be complimented for extending the invitation to the mayors of Quebec and for the fine hospitality they showed our visitors," he said.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1965

Full-Scale Medicare

B.C. Better to Go It Alone?

B.C. may find it less expensive to "go it alone" on a program of comprehensive medicare rather than wait to join the proposed national scheme, Bert Price (S.C.-Vancouver Burrard) said Friday.

He suggested the government lose no time in making a complete survey of the costs involved and making its findings public.

Mr. Price, while moving Thursday's speech from the throne, told the House most people will welcome the proposed voluntary government-subsidized health insurance plan for the lower income group.

'THIS IS START'

"This is a start," he said. "However, no one will argue against the benefit of a plan for a universal health service if we could have it. The only question is how to pay the bill."

From his own research he has reached the conclusion that approximately two-thirds of B.C. residents are now covered by medical insurance.

He estimated the average cost at approximately \$45 a year for a single person and \$130 for families with the employer, in most cases, paying half the cost.

SUBSIDIZE HAVE-NOTS

Mr. Price said it now appears from latest Ottawa reports that a federal-provincial medicare plan is unlikely to be in operation before 1970.

In any event this would require that the "have provinces" such as B.C. heavily subsidize the "have-nots." The end result could be more expensive than if B.C. went into full medicare on its own.

"The Saskatchewan (medicare) plan costs \$23.52 per capita," said Mr. Price.

RESTRICT COVERAGE

"Although the cost in B.C. (for full medicare without federal participation) would be higher, I don't think it would be much higher."

Mr. Price said if B.C. decided to go it alone with full medicare it might have to restrict

coverage to residents of the province to keep the cost within bounds.

The biggest problem facing

the province would be that of combining all present premiums into an equitable form of taxation.

Premier Bennett interjected to say that there would be "no increase in taxes in British Columbia."

Order Paper

Hansard Time Again

The opposition will again propose that a Hansard be instituted to take down every word of debate in the B.C. legislature.

Opposition Leader R. M. Strachan filed notice of motion Friday that he will introduce the resolution at Monday's sitting of the House.

Similar motions have been brought forward by the opposition at recent sittings but all have been defeated by the government.

★ ★ ★

Premier Bennett will also submit a formal motion making it possible to conduct night sittings when the government thinks they are necessary.

Notices of 89 questions, to be asked by opposition members of cabinet ministers in the House, have already been filed.

Most of the questions deal with social welfare, and Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) will ask the bulk of them.

★ ★ ★

He is seeking information about conditions in Brannan Lake industrial school near Nanaimo and the Willingdon school for girls.

Other questions cover the broad range of provincial welfare services.

Mr. Strachan also wants to know who receives free passes on B.C. ferries.

The opposition leader will ask another question about the numbers turned away from vocational schools in the province because of the lack of trained staff and adequate facilities.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Lois Hagen (NDP-Grand Forks Greenwood) wants to know how many children are on the waiting list for Woodlands school for the retarded and how long some have been waiting.

Randolph Harding (NDP-Kaslo Slocan) is seeking information about highway contracts, and Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) wants answers to queries on the penal system.

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault wants cost of health services, including drugs for persons receiving social-assistance allowance.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 1965

What Means Test?

Political Hitch Now Facing Mini-Medicare

By IAN STREET

How is Mr. Bennett going to get around some of the obvious political drawbacks to his proposed mini-medicare?

The greatest of these drawbacks, of course, is the need for some kind of means test to determine the lower income group which is to be eligible for government subsidies.

Mr. Strachan, the leader of the opposition, immediately pounced upon this weakness and called the whole affair "tin cup medicare."

It would help a lot of people who are now unable to afford the premiums for private insurance schemes, Mr. Strachan said.

Then he added, with the kind of backhanded swipe that politicians become adept at using, that those who do apply for the subsidy will be stripped of their dignity as individuals.

There's another big drawback in paying subsidies on premiums for what the throne speech promised would be "approved" private health insurance plans.

This would mean that taxpayers' money will be poured into private companies which, presumably, would retain complete control over the coverage provided under their plans.

Mr. Bennett is fully aware of these matters and there is considerable speculation among members on both sides of the House as to what means will be employed to get around them.

There's no way of knowing what the details of the plan will be until the budget is brought down, probably Feb. 5.

But it looks as if this province is heading toward an Alberta-style medicare plan, which is what the delegates attending the recent Socred convention asked the government to do.

The Alberta Medical Plan was established in October, 1963, and provides a government subsidy on premiums for approved private insurance plans. To qualify, a person must have been resident in the province for 12 months of the preceding 24 months.

It uses federal income tax returns as the basis for establishing income level.

As of Oct. 1, 1963, those who had no taxable income, and met other requirements, qualified for a subsidy on premium costs of \$18 a year for a single person; \$42 for two persons; and \$72 for a family of three or more.

Alberta residents with a taxable income under \$500 got \$9, \$21 and \$36 a year respectively in the three categories.

Remember, though, this is only a contribution toward premium costs of the private plans.

Bert Price, the government whip, said in the House Friday that he did some research himself into medical insurance and though he wasn't able to gather information on all plans, came up with his estimates of the average cost of coverage.

In B.C. the annual cost of medical insurance through one of the existing private plans is about \$45 a year for a single person and \$130 per family, he said.

Supposing, for the sake of argument, B.C. adopted the same scale of subsidies as Alberta.

That would mean, if we used Mr. Price's figures, a single man who qualified for the plan would have to find about \$27 out of his own pocket to pay the full premium.

In the case of a family, the difference between subsidy and premium would be something like \$58—or a little more than \$1 a week.

Dr. Peter Banks, president of the B.C. Medical Association, said the mini-medicare plan promised to close the gap between those now covered by social assistance medical cards and those who can afford to pay premiums for private plans.

Mr. Price, in moving adoption of the throne speech, claimed that 80,000 on social assistance in the province now get free medical coverage, but this was immediately challenged by opposition members.

The NDP points to the government's own printed reports to back its contention that only half of the people on social assistance are covered by medical cards.

Questions on this issue have already been filed and in the next few weeks we'll hear a lot more about it.

The consensus seems to be: mini-medicare is a start, but it should not be regarded only as a stopgap.

Socreds Win Confidence Vote

Opposition MLAs Launch Their Medicare Attack

By IAN STREET
Colonist Legislative Reporter

The government easily won its first vote of confidence of the current session late Monday on a New Democratic motion deploing the failure to immediately implement full medicare.

The result of the division was 19 NDP and Liberal members voting for the motion and 32 Social Credit members voting against it.

Before the vote was taken there was a short, sharp debate which saw three New Democrats and Premier Bennett cross swords.

TWO-HOUR ATTACK

Opposition leader Robert Strachan, at the end of his two-hour attack on the throne speech, moved the non-confidence motion.

It called for an expression of regret by the members of the House that the government gave no indication in the throne speech that it intends to implement "without delay" comprehensive medicare.

This should be a government-administered comprehensive medical care program available to every resident of B.C. without a means test, said Mr. Strachan.

TRUE COLORS

At the end of the debate, which lasted some 20 minutes, Premier Bennett jumped up to charge that the NDP by taking this stand was showing its true colors.

"The NDP is for the million-

aires and big labor unions," the premier said. "It is opposed to measures designed to help the lower-income groups."

"Social Credit is for the little people of this province."

CLASS SYSTEM

Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) said the motion showed a lack of confidence "at least on this side of the House" in the government's handling of the medicare needs of the people of B.C.

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) said the government was bringing back a class system in the province.

John Squire (NDP-Alberni) also spoke briefly.

CAP IN HAND

Mr. Strachan said earlier the plan proposed in the throne speech "divides our so-called dynamic society into two classes—those who can afford what the traffic will bear and those that take cap in hand and beg . . ."

He noted that the late Pope John referred to medical care as a basic human right.

The proposal set out in the throne speech is obviously based on the Alberta medical plan, said Mr. Strachan.

COMPLETE FAILURE

"The Alberta plan has been a complete failure as far as the patients are concerned and a complete success as far as the doctors and profit-making insurance companies are concerned," he said.

Mr. Strachan added: "It is so expensive (in Alberta) that up to the middle of last year only one-third of those eligible had applied for coverage. They can't afford it."

For B.C., the richest province in Canada, to introduce a plan on the same basis would be "a disgrace," he said.

CONFIDENCE LOST

The tin cup plan announced in the throne speech makes it quite clear that the minister of health no longer enjoys the confidence of his colleagues, said Mr. Strachan.

Mr. Martin has been "beaten into submission by the insurance agents and doctors in the party."

Mr. Strachan also took the government to task for "grossly misleading statements" about

the numbers of those receiving social assistance allowance who get free medical coverage.

NO COVERAGE

The Opposition Leader told the House that, contrary to what Premier Bennett and other government spokesmen have said, in the fiscal year 1963-64 approximately 30,000 people received social assistance but got no medical coverage.

It was quite true at one time, Mr. Strachan said, that all those on social assistance received free medical coverage.

But he quoted from the Journals of the Legislature, 1961, an agreement between the present government and the doctors of the province excluding from medical coverage men and their families when the man could not show he had any permanent disability.

"These 30,000 people, including wives and children, may be crying for medical care, but they are denied it," said Mr. Strachan.

"I hope that before too long we shall know what the government's plans are for these unfortunate people under its proposed tin cup system."

"Are they now going to be asked to spend a part of their meagre social assistance to pay a portion of the premiums to some private plan?"

Report Omits Charges

The B.C. Purchasing Commission's 22nd annual report contains no references to charges against former commission chairman G. E. P. Jones.

Mr. Jones, who was cleared of the charges, was listed in the report as a commission member along with A. E. Webb, deputy minister of public works, and chairman R. G. McKee, deputy minister of forestry.

Premier Bennett tabled the report in the House Monday. It listed expenditures of \$38,834,618 for 52,855 purchase orders—16.3 per cent higher than last year.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1965

'Too Ruthless'

Bank Impasse Blamed On Bennett

By IAN STREET

Colonist Legislative Reporter

The Social Credit government has only itself to blame for the fact that the application for a bank of British Columbia is now stalled in the Senate, Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said Monday.

"The premier is to blame, this government is to blame," he charged.

Mr. Strachan gave an example of "the absolute ruthlessness of this government" which has given rise to fears in the Senate that there will be political interference in the proposed bank.

SUBSIDIARY FIRM

When the government took over the B.C. Electric in 1961 it also acquired a small subsidiary company, Red Star Petroleum.

This firm was "a creature of the old BCE" through which the public utility company had for many years been able to get gas and oil for its buses and trucks at a more reasonable

rate, said Mr. Strachan.

However, the B.C. Hydro, through co-chairman Dr. Gordon Shrum, has declared that all contractors on the Peace River damsite must buy gas and oil through Red Star.

HIGHER PRICE

The contractors must pay up to 8 cents more than Hydro for these products, said Mr. Strachan. He estimated that over the life of the contract this will mean an additional \$1,300,000 into Hydro coffers.

"This is why they are scared of this government in eastern Canada," said Mr. Strachan. "This is what hurt you. I'm sorry about it because I want to see a bank of B.C."

Mr. Strachan said he was disturbed by the premier's series of capitulations to Senate demands to reduce the original government participation of up to 25 per cent to something like five per cent.

The Opposition leader said he would like to see a 100 per cent government-owned bank in B.C.

"I want to restate my conviction that we must keep up the battle to obtain a charter for a bank of B.C. because we do need a large chartered bank established in this province."

He said NDP members in the Commons have been "absolutely right" in refusing to pass a charter for the proposed Laurentide bank because this could be used as an excuse for not granting a charter to the much larger B.C. bank.

The Laurentide bank, which is to have its headquarters in Vancouver, said Mr. Strachan, is a "small potatoes effort" which could not possibly meet the needs of this province at this point in its history.

Mr. Strachan said in view of the appointment, since last session, of five provincial directors of the proposed bank, and of the province's decreasing participation, he would like an assurance from Mr. Bennett.

He called on the premier to tell the legislature in the near future whether a trust agreement or other document has been drawn up between the five provisional directors and the government.

The document should show, said Mr. Strachan, "to whom the assets of this particular charter, when it is granted, will belong."

'No New Policies'

Strachan Hits Bennett's 'Blithe Talk'

Premier Bennett's boast about British Columbia's new "dynamic society" got a roasting in the legislature Monday from Opposition leader Robert Strachan.

Opening the throne speech debate for the Opposition, Mr. Strachan said the premier was "blithely talking about a new dynamic society" a few days before Welfare Minister Wesley Black brought down a report showing 64,000 B.C. residents on social assistance.

Another report, by Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell, had shown 10,000 of the 64,000 "were physically fit and available for employment."

DOWN THE DRAIN

Mr. Strachan said that if the figures were accepted "we are pouring millions of dollars of public money down the drain every year to keep these people

in idleness."

"It proves that this government has no plan for training, retraining or rehabilitation to restore these people as useful members of society."

Elsewhere in his three-hour speech the Opposition leader hit out at the Government's labor, education, mental health, winter works and hospital programs.

"One can search the speech from the throne in vain for any indication that bold, new policies to bring the benefits of automation to all our people are in the offing or even being considered by this government."

Mr. Strachan said the government is guilty of "gross negligence" in its vocational school construction program. A year ago the province had used only \$21,000,000 of \$72,000,000 available from Ottawa under a program that ends March 31, 1967.

"The whole field of education needs an overhaul in this province," he said. "We must put on a drive to provide enough teachers and to see that these teachers have proper certification."

FEWER THAN HALF

A survey had shown that in some rural areas fewer than half the teachers had minimal certification.

The Chant report on education had recommended reduction of the student-teacher ratio to 30-to-1 from 40-to-1, yet it now stood at 38-to-1 and the government wasn't proposing any further reduction.

CAR INSURANCE

He criticized the absence in the throne speech of any proposal for a government-operated car insurance plan.

"I suggest it is time the automobile owner in B.C. was given a little relief from the continual gouging that has been his lot in increasing amount in recent years."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1965

'Most Undemocratic'

Bennett Challenged: Get In Electoral Step

By GARY OAKES

Liberal leader Ray Perrault continued the throne speech debate Monday with an attack on the province's electoral system, which he termed one of the most undemocratic on the continent.

Mr. Perrault, who was just warming up when the House adjourned at 6 p.m., accused the government of tolerating and condoning scandalous voting ratios between small and large ridings while electoral reform is sweeping the rest of North America.

The North Vancouver member expressed the hope:

"This session will go down in the record book as the one where democracy was brought to the electoral system of this province, where the members of this House put the welfare of this province above mere partisan political aspirations, and corrected an abuse which has plagued this province far too long."

Mr. Perrault proposed the government introduce legislation setting up an immediate study of electoral reorganization.

He suggested establishing a triumvirate of B.C.'s chief jus-

tice, a leading educator and the province's chief electoral officer to conduct the study, adding:

"Only an intensive economic, academic, legal and social study would evolve a suitable pattern or formula for electoral reform measures."

In some areas of B.C., the Liberal leader charged, one rural vote equals 38 city votes.

ONLY 10 PER CENT

"The majority of the members here were elected in 1963 by ridings whose voters represent only 10 per cent of B.C.'s population," he added.

In his travels, Mr. Perrault said he noted:

"People in all parts of the province are disgusted with the failure of the government to initiate reform."

The Liberal leader said one man told him that asking the premier of the province to bring about electoral redistribution is like asking Toronto Maple Leaf Coach Punch Imlach to break up his lineup after they have won two or three Stanley Cups in a row.

FEARS POWER LOSS

Mr. Perrault said Premier Bennett fears redistribution would take away his political

power.

"The next time the premier of this province begins to lecture us about what his little movement has done, let him give thousands of our people the freedom they do not enjoy today."

The Liberal leader will conclude his address when the House reconvenes at 2 p.m. today.

Legislature flags at half mast

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Special Services Friday

Province and City Unite in Tribute

Members of the B.C. legislature paid tribute to the memory of Sir Winston Churchill Monday.

They observed a one-minute silence as the legislature convened at 2 p.m. and party leaders read out eulogies to the late British statesman.

Premier Bennett announced the legislature will adjourn Friday without conducting any business to enable members to attend a special 3 p.m. memorial service in Christ Church Cathedral to which church members and leaders of all faiths have been invited.

Schools Close

In addition, all public schools in the province will close Friday afternoon and flags on all government buildings will remain at half-mast until after Sir Winston's Saturday funeral.

In the House, Premier Bennett read out a telegram sent by the government to Lady Churchill expressing "profound sympathy" on behalf of all the people of British Columbia.

"... Your sorrow is shared by millions of people the world over," the telegram stated in praising Sir Winston for serving "without stint his sovereign, his nation and his world."

Always Better

Opposition Leader Strachan, in his tribute, said "those of us who were fortunate enough to be part of those years when Winston Churchill gave us his great leadership will always be better for it."

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault reminded the House that tributes of Sir Winston almost invariably referred to his great leadership qualities.

"At a time when the words politics and politicians don't mean what they should, when people are turning away from public service, we should remember that Sir Winston Churchill was a magnificent politician whose words and deeds will continue to inspire us all."

Appropriate

In announcing the Friday school closure, which will follow memorial services in each school, Education Minister Leslie Peterson said the death of Sir Winston "terminates the career of one of the world's most brilliant statesmen and leaders in all our history."

Mr. Peterson added: "It is very appropriate that the pupils in our schools should review the events of the life of this famous figure so that they may appreciate his stature and be inspired by his noble example."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1965

Perrault Tells Bennett

'Put a Few Goodies In the Transit Pot'

Liberal leader Ray Perrault suggested Tuesday that if Premier Bennett is going to dump the money-losing B.C. Hydro transit system into the laps of the municipalities he should give them a few goodies with it.

★ ★ ★
"I know the municipalities don't want the transit system but why don't you sweeten the

pot and give them a chance to put it on a profitable basis?" he asked Mr. Bennett during debate on the Throne Speech. Mr. Perrault proposed that when the franchises expire the government allow the municipalities to buy at book value a "profitable" B.C. Hydro gas system which serves the Lower Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland areas, the transit system

at cost and the B.C. Hydro freight line system at cost.

A municipal authority could be formed to control the three operations, balancing transit deficits with profit from the other two, said Mr. Perrault.

★ ★ ★
"But this government is simply not interested in getting out of anything that makes money," he said.

Atlin Watershed Suggested

Yukon Dam Hit

Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin) came out in opposition Tuesday to a proposal to build the giant rampart dam on the Yukon River and suggested that the Atlin watershed be used as a power source for Alaska, the Yukon and northwestern B.C.

★ ★ ★
Mr. Calder said damming the Yukon as proposed by Alaska might have disastrous effects on fish and game.

He also opposed any agreement which would give Alaska prior rights to the river's waters for hydroelectric use. B.C.'s rivers "should be considered one of the province's most valuable endowments and should not be surrendered to the United States."

★ ★ ★
In his speech the MLA also called for a study of municipal financing in B.C.; early completion of the Stewart-Cassiar road; creation of emergency

boards and a grants system to aid victims of floods in the province, and construction of a road between Juneau, Alaska, and Atlin.

★ ★ ★
Mr. Calder said the Stewart-Cassiar road "is the economic bridge, completion of which will be the key to the success of B.C.'s northwest industrial development, the backbone of the Alaska-B.C.-Yukon conference activities and the final link of the Pacific Coast Highway."

Reform or Abolish

MLAs Favor Senate's End

The Canadian senate should be eliminated when proposals are made for amendments to the British North America Act, says MLA Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin).

MLA Cyril Shelford (SC—Cmineco) said of the senate: "I'm sure by far the majority in my area would say that un-

less it is completely reformed it should be abolished altogether."

He said in the legislature Tuesday that if the provincial government could conduct its business without sanction of a senate, so could the federal government.

★ ★ ★
Mr. Calder also called for steps to be taken for a review of the municipal financing needs of the province and suggested that the government adopt a policy of reviewing the provincial-municipal financing structure every 10 years until an acceptable formula is reached.

For 1965-66 Budget

Plan for Medicare Sought Last Year

A B.C. proposal to have a federal-provincial medicare scheme in operation during the 1965-66 fiscal year was made public in the legislature Tuesday.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner read the text of a telegram in which Premier Bennett urged that a formula for sharing medicare costs be discussed at the meeting of finance ministers held in Ottawa last Dec. 7.

The wire, addressed to Prime Minister Pearson and dated Dec. 2, said this should be done "if your government is ready to proceed in partnership with provinces or province on medical costs."

UP TO PEARSON

It added that B.C. wanted the conference to take place at the time of the finance ministers meeting "so that we can include our share (of medicare costs) in the provincial budget."

Mr. Bonner said it would be up to Mr. Pearson to release his letters in connection with the exchange.

The throne speech referred to the fact B.C. had for many years strongly advocated a national health plan but added that it appeared Ottawa wasn't prepared to put such a plan into effect at present.

B.C. PROPOSAL

As a result the government brought in its proposed mini-medicare program which would pay subsidies on premiums of private health insurance plans for people in lower income groups.

In the throne speech debate Tuesday Liberal leader Ray Perrault objected to the inference that the federal government wasn't interested in a national medicare plan.

Mr. Bonner said he wanted to disabuse the house of any notion, which it may have received from Mr. Perrault, that the national Liberal government was "rushing pell mell" into medicare.

'STATES OF SHOCK'

"Since the Hall report was brought in the federal government has been in various states of shock," Mr. Bonner said.

The attorney-general also sharply criticized Mr. Perrault for "a series of phoney statistics" used to bolster the Liberal case for redistribution of voting in B.C.

The fact that Mr. Perrault quoted figures from several southern U.S. states where up to one half of those entitled to vote under the constitution were not on the voters' list detracted from "an otherwise useful suggestion," said Mr. Bonner.

He ignored shouts from the Liberal benches of "do this

first" while claiming that B.C. would not be content until there was proportional representation in the Senate.

This was a basic objection raised by B.C. during recent conferences leading to the agreement to bring British North America to Ottawa.

But Mr. Bonner said there was no holdup on the constitution "because we disagreed with one principle."

By Shelford

Insurance Probe Sought

A legislative committee inquiry into soaring automobile insurance rates and the rising highway accident toll was proposed Tuesday by Cyril Shelford (SC-Omineca).

He told the legislature that a committee could hear representatives of all interested parties and individuals who wish to put forward highway safety measures and cut insurance rates.

"The insurance companies would have to justify the tremendous increase in rates, which we are told will be 20 per cent this year, and the committee would be in a good position to judge what form of insurance is best—private or government," he said.

NO WORRIES

Insurance companies should welcome the chance to present their case, said Mr. Shelford, because if they are supplying the best insurance at a fair rate they have nothing to worry about.

He called for immediate setting up a house committee on insurance and highway safety and reminded members that among the lower income groups more money spent on insurance means less money for food and clothing "for thousands of children."

Three Homes Enough

Premier Bennett frowned Tuesday on a proposal that an official residence for B.C. premiers be established in Victoria and named Bennett House.

He opposed the Vancouver Jaycee proposal.

"I have three homes now," the premier said. "One is in Kelowna. I have a weekend home on Salt Spring Island. I rent an apartment here. And I don't get the homeowner's grant on any of them."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1965

Perrault

Left with 'Crumbs'

By JACK FRY

Premier Bennett is fighting an economic battle on two fronts and losing on both of them. B.C. Liberal leader Ray Perrault told the legislature Tuesday.

At the national level, Premier Bennett attempted to strip the federal government of its source of revenue by demanding a greater return of tax money to B.C. and at the same time weakened his case for a more realistic cost-sharing scheme for road building by offering to build a \$300,000,000 highway for people of the Yukon.

MONEY WITHHELD

While pleading for more money from the federal government, he withholds money from B.C. municipalities which have their financial backs against the ropes, Mr. Perrault said during the third day of the Throne Speech debate.

"You go up in the Yukon and dangle \$300,000,000 in front of them; look after our own prov-

ince before you do it," he told the premier.

Challenging Premier Bennett's "pet" theories on provincial-municipal relations, the Liberal leader told the House that the premier "can't have it both ways."

FISCAL CAKE

"He can't have a fiscal cake festooned with dollar bills from Ottawa while he shoves a few crumbs at the municipalities,"

Mr. Perrault said B.C. stands alone among the provinces in failing to undertake "a re-study of the responsibilities of local and provincial authorities and a fair and equitable division of tax powers and taxation revenues."

Mr. Perrault said there must be "reasonable" local property tax levies, that school tax must be removed from land and that a more flexible system of provincial grant must be found to enable municipalities to cope with their responsibilities.

The municipal tax problem should be studied by a royal commission on taxation, said

Mr. Perrault. He offered three possible solutions to the problem:

- The present system could be continued, with increased provincial grants and perhaps more federal participation, "but it seems inevitable there still would be a relentless squeeze in the property tax for education."

- Federal and provincial governments could assume the burden of school costs. The present school administrative structure would be retained but would become dependent upon the provincial rather than municipal government.

- Municipal governments could be left with the financing and provision of buildings and capital equipment, in keeping with their natural function of organizing the use of space and facilities in their jurisdiction.

Bank Non-Party?

'Corny Deception' Laid to Bennett

When it comes to "corny deception" Premier Bennett is hard to beat, Liberal leader Ray Perrault told the house Tuesday.

Mr. Perrault quoted from the official record of Senate banking committee hearings at which the premier gave testimony last July.

'NOT TRUE'

"In case somebody says (the provisional directors) are members of the Social Credit party I will state here that is not true," Mr. Bennett was quoted as saying.

The premier was quoted as saying further that if Einar Gunderson, former finance minister of this government and vice-president of the PGE, was a party member "I have never seen his card."

"Mr. Gunderson is a former director of the Bank of Com-

merce," the premier's testimony continued.

'NON-PARTISAN'

"When I chose him to be finance minister in 1952 and went into his office the only picture I saw there was one of the great statesmen of Canada, Mr. St. Laurent.

"I told him that he did not have to turn that picture over in order to serve the province of British Columbia because our government would be a strictly non-partisan government.

"I can go on down the list. So far as the other provisional directors are concerned, none of them are Social Creditors."

GREATLY UPSET

Mr. Perrault said the premier was obviously upset that anyone should suggest Mr. Gunderson was in any way involved with

Social Credit.

But this "ridiculous deception" did nothing at all to convince the senators that this was indeed going to be a non-political bank, he added.

"Mr. Gunderson has been festooned with honors by Social Credit," said Mr. Perrault. "He is probably a very able man. But he is the grey eminence of Social Credit and always has been."

The Liberal leader said his party stands for a Bank of B.C. but does not believe it would be in the public interest to have such a bank under the control and direction of a provincial government "regardless of political stripe."

For the NDP to support the "ultimate banking nightmare" of 10 strong provincial banks, said Mr. Perrault, means the socialist party has given up all hope of forming a national government in Canada.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1965



—Ian McKinn

Mayor's office makes Premier Bennett's look like a 'janitor's closet'



Committee room
chairs: \$85 each

'Affluent Cities' Still Cry Blues

By IAN STREET
Colonist Legislative Reporter

The appointments of Victoria's new city hall legislative wing were held up in the House Wednesday as a symbol of the affluence of B.C. municipalities.

Waldo Skillings (SC—Victoria) said the office of Mayor Wilson in the new wing, completed last

fall at a cost of some \$275,000, makes Premier Bennett's office by comparison look like a janitor's closet.

The city manager also has a distinguished office, said Mr. Skillings, and he told MLAs "you should see the committee room where they have 20 chairs costing \$85 apiece."

Every alderman, the city member said, has his or her own office surrounded by glass.

With this evidence and that of Vancouver's Mayor Rathie, who spent \$40,000 of taxpayers' money on re-decorating his office, it's hard to reconcile reports that municipalities are broke, said Mr. Skillings.

Mr. Skillings said with per capita grants, assistance for arterial highways, and the home-owner grants "no government in the history of B.C. has treated school board and municipalities better than this one."

Today's Speakers

Second night sitting of the current legislative session will be at 8 p.m. today. Speakers starting at 2 p.m. with Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo Slocan), include William Speare (SC—Cariboo), Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East), Dan Campbell (SC—Coquitlam), John Squire (NDP—Alberni).

"Yet you hear some of them, especially those who ran unsuccessfully for office for the Liberals, complain—while spending money like this—that municipalities are not getting enough provincial grants," he said.

Race for Senate

'Scoop' Skillings After Another

Waldo Skillings (SC-Victoria) Wednesday offered his annual "scoop" to the press from the floor of the legislature.

He reminded MLAs that last year he predicted J. Stuart Keate would vacate the post of publisher of Victoria's afternoon

paper to become the publisher of the Vancouver Sun.

Some time later this did come to pass.

This year, said Mr. Skillings, he was going to predict a two-way fight for a vacant B.C. senate seat between noted author and journalist Bruce Hutchison and Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing.

The competition between the pair is holding up Prime Minister Pearson's attempts to shuffle his cabinet, said Mr. Skillings.

★ ★ ★

Winter Work 'Hindered By Socreds'

Oak Bay received not one cent from the provincial government for its current winter works program because the municipality didn't have a single able-bodied man on welfare, Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) told the House Wednesday.

B.C.'s "narrow and restrictive" welfare policies actually are frustrating winter works, he said.

For some years Oak Bay had done 75 per cent of its maintenance work in the winter.

It was continuing to do so to the best of its ability, with the federal government paying 50 per cent of labor costs, and B.C. paying nothing.

He termed Mr. Laing's career as minister of northern affairs "a complete fiasco" and said other members of the Pearson cabinet were trying to get him shifted to the Senate.

"But there is a fly in the ointment," said Mr. Skillings. "One of the members of the fourth estate, Bruce Hutchison, has his foot in the door."

Mr. Skillings said it may take a few months to resolve the claims of the two main contenders.

★ ★ ★

He said the Liberal member for North Vancouver, Gordon Gibson, who had been talked of as a senate candidate, no longer was in the running.

"He doesn't need the pension," said Mr. Skillings.

Riding Proposal

He'd Give Oak Bay To Growing Saanich

Waldo Skillings (SC-Victoria) proposed in the House Wednesday that the 12,000 voters in Oak Bay become part of the Saanich provincial riding.

He suggested that the present Oak Bay seat be given to Saanich, which is growing rapidly and could use another member.

★ ★ ★

Mr. Skillings said the Oak Bay riding was "carved out" of what was part of the Victoria riding by former Coalition finance minister Herbert Anscomb.

It illustrated what the speaker termed "gerrymandering of pocket seats" by successive administrations over 50 years prior to Social Credit.

★ ★ ★

Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay), who followed the Victoria member's speech in the House Wednesday, said he believed the voters of Oak Bay were too intelligent to pay attention to Mr. Skillings' proposal.

Many seats throughout the province would doubtless "change hands," said Mr. Macfarlane, if the public was supplied with a verbatim account of proceedings in the legislature through a Hansard report.

MLA Declares:

B.C. Needs 40 Banks

B.C. needs not one but 40 banks of its own and could have them by granting provincial charters, Hunter Vogel (SC-Delta) told the legislature Wednesday.

"Why should a bank charter not be granted by a province?" he said. "This system is not new, radical or untried. It is working very well in the U.S."

ANTI-COMBINE

Mr. Vogel said the U.S. system is designed to prevent huge monolithic nationwide institutions and "any semblance of combines or semi-monopolies."

Canada is making a serious mistake, Mr. Vogel said, by not applying the self-regulating principle of competition to the banking business.

NOT SACRED COW

"The business of money-lending is not a sacred cow," he said, "and it should not be an exception as far as competition is concerned."

He said that the state of Washington, not too different from B.C. in population and economic factors, has 27 nationally chartered banks and 69 separate banks under state charter.

NOT JUST ONE

"According to my arithmetic, we do not need just one Bank of B.C., we need 40 banks in this province," said Mr. Vogel.

"Everyone would benefit, the existing banks most of all, probably to the astonishment of some of our senators."

SOME CONCERN

Waldo Skillings said the single sentence referring to chartered banks in last Thursday's throne speech has been causing some concern among members of the province's banking fraternity.

At the state ball following the opening of the legislature, he said, several bankers spoke to him about which existing bank the government was likely to buy into.

NOT TO WORRY

"They wanted to know what was the smallest bank," said Mr. Skillings. "I told them not to worry about the smallest bank. We are going to start with the biggest bank."

Reference in the throne speech to new legislation coming up that will permit the government to buy shares in chartered banks has led to speculation that it will purchase control of an existing bank to get around the present impasse.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1965

Medicare Issue

Attitude 'Sick' MLA Charges

By GARY OAKES

Yale MLA W. L. Hartley Wednesday accused the government of taking a "very sick attitude" toward the welfare of little people.

Speaking in the throne speech debate, the NDP member called on the government to introduce a comprehensive medicare program.

Anything short of this was "nothing more than a shameful delusion, a sham and a pretense."

PROMISE LASHED

Mr. Hartley lashed out at the government's promise to contribute toward "approved" medical schemes, suggesting it was a "pooled-risk plan to bail out the private profit health insurance companies."

He wondered if the doctor-sponsored Medical Services Association "is in cahoots" with Health Minister Eric Martin in

planning such a pool.

"The members of MSA and similar non-profit plans have a right to know if this is going on," Mr. Hartley said.

LITTLE PEOPLE

"If it is, then it is a betrayal of the people of this province."

The Yale member said the medicare issue, "if nothing more, indicates the sick society—the very sick attitude that this provincial government takes towards the welfare of little people."

Mr. Hartley also suggested the government establish a "relocation and rehabilitation fund" to aid workers displaced by closure of industries such as Britannia Beach copper mine.

TAKEOVER URGED

In addition, he called for government takeover of the West Kootenay Power Company to "extend a more complete grid

system and electric service to serve the people of this province."

Mr. Hartley said the company has refused to extend rural service despite earnings so high "it is rumored the Public Utilities Commission is considering ordering a rate reduction."

Mr. Hartley also urged that volunteer rescue workers be allowed to qualify for workmen's compensation.

He referred particularly to the workers involved in the Jan. 9 slide which blocked the Hope-Princeton highway.

Compensation benefits should be made available in the same way they were to civil defence workers.

He said the Hope slide had pointed out the need for an alternate route between the Lower Mainland and B.C.'s southern interior.

MLA Urges Grants

Grants in lieu of taxes to Saanich and Oak Bay for University of Victoria lands were proposed in the House Wednesday by Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay).

He predicted that Oak Bay council will agree to the university request for the municipality to give up its rights to a strip of land that partially surrounds the Gordon Head campus.

The land was to have been used for apartments providing revenue to the municipality for a number of years before reverting to UVic.

"I have no doubt that most people favor giving up right to this land for the broader and better use of it by the new university," said Mr. Macfarlane.

TAKEN LEAD

Oak Bay has taken a lead in support of the university, he added, but the time has come for the provincial government to recognize local taxpayers deserve some financial relief.

This can best be done through grants in lieu of taxes which the municipalities already receive on provincial buildings and which Ottawa pays on federal installations.

Permanent Plates Put Before House

Proposals for permanent licence plates and government automobile insurance were brought up in the legislature Wednesday.

The permanent licence proposal, originally suggested by former superintendent of motor vehicles, George Lindsay, was supported by Dudley Little (SC-Skeena).

Mr. Lindsay had suggested gasoline taxes be boosted to compensate for the lost government revenue in licence-plate sales.

The idea would save B.C. millions of dollars which could be funnelled into highway maintenance, Mr. Little maintained.

It would also relieve the tax burden on the small-car owner since "the person driving a large gas-eater would pay more."

The Skeena member suggested the measure be referred to as "plates by the gallon."

Yale MLA W. L. Hartley suggested government car insur-

ance to combat rising rates.

He said he had polled people as they left the motor vehicles branch after purchasing 1965 licence plates.

"I asked them how they would like next year to have their car insurance included with their licence plates through a government agency."

"I can now report to you that 100 per cent of the people who were asked agreed that a move like this is not only worthwhile but long overdue."

Freeway Advocated

Construction of a Patricia Bay freeway replacing the present highway to the Swartz Bay ferry terminal was advocated in the House Wednesday.

Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) said a divided highway on this heavily travelled route is inevitable and the provincial government, whose ferries are responsible for a growing volume of highway traffic, should lose no time in building one.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1965

Campbell River Move Flayed

Merger 'Illegal Expediency'

By IAN STREET

Colonist Legislative Reporter

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell was charged in the House Wednesday with "riding roughshod" over the people of the Campbell River area in creating a new district municipality last month.

Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay) said the vote held in Campbell River village and four surrounding areas last Dec. 12 was of the minister's own creation and was not authorized by the Municipal Act.

The legislature should put a halt to a second vote, which the minister proposes to hold Feb. 6 in North Campbell River and Quinsam, because it was a further violation of the people's rights, said Mr. Macfarlane.

"I strongly protest the action of this government in acting outside the law," the Liberal member said, "in ignoring the rights of people under the laws as they exist, and in the placing of expediency over and above the

law and the people's rights."

Mr. Macfarlane said the minister's objectives in seeking to create the new district municipality might have been good, but the law was not in the minister's hands.

"The law has been ignored," said Mr. Macfarlane. "The rights of the people have been ignored, all in the name of expediency."

He said the minister thought creation of a district municipality in the Campbell River area would be a good thing and came to the conclusion this would also be a popular thing with certain residents of the area.

Despite the fact Mr. Campbell had no authority to do so in the Municipal Act, a vote on the question of amalgamation was held Dec. 12, and within five days he had "illegally" incorporated the new municipality by letters patent.

The new municipality consisted of the village of Campbell River and part of the Willow Point water district. Oyster River was excluded, but Mr.

Campbell didn't give up hope for the ultimate inclusion of North Campbell River and Quinsam.

So a second vote was scheduled for early next month to give the residents of the latter two districts another chance to express their views.

Mr. Macfarlane predicted the minister would shortly come before the legislature "in the name of expediency" to ask for validating legislation to make legal what was illegal at the time it was done.

"Expediency is no excuse for acting outside the law," said Mr. Macfarlane. "If it were then no one in our society would know, from day to day, what rights they had or what lay in store for them."

The Liberal member warned the House that the Campbell River affair was "only the first step" and, if the lack of respect for the law was condoned, other violations of people's rights would follow.

They All Talked About It

By IAN STREET

B.C.'s 32 MLAs talked about turning in their free B.C. Hydro bus passes Wednesday but they didn't get around to actually doing anything about it.

Alan Macfarlane (L, Oak Bay) started the ball rolling when he said he never used his, and would give it to a needy pensioner if Hydro would guarantee he wouldn't be prosecuted for transferring it.

Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan said: "I suggest we all hand our bus passes back. I have sent mine back."

MILD PROTEST

There were sounds of "I will," "fine," and "okay" from both sides of the House, but no signs

of action.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan mildly protested that he used his.

MLAs get free rail, bus, ferry, and in some cases coastal shipping passes as well.

STUDY URGED

Mr. Macfarlane said the government should immediately agree to sit down with municipal representatives to make a study of the transit question. But he made it clear that the responsibility for operating buses is a provincial one.

He told the House that when the government took over B.C. Electric in 1961 there was a "nest-egg" of \$46,000,000 accumulated from BCE profits to meet

future needs.

This sum, said Mr. Macfarlane, if invested at five per cent, would produce \$2,300,000 a year, enough to handsomely subsidize transit operations here and on the Lower Mainland.

PRICE REDUCTION

He also claimed there was an \$18,000,000 reduction in the purchase price paid by the government to offset the transit system losses.

"Not one cent of this has been invested in the transit system," said Mr. Macfarlane.

Premier Bennett jumped up to interject: "That is completely false."

Mr. Macfarlane said this \$18,000,000 could be used to completely modernize Hydro's transit fleet and make it more efficient.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1965

Relief Hopes Dimmed

CIVIC POVERTY IS 'HOT AIR'

By IAN STREET

Colonist Legislative
Reporter

Hopes of further provincial government assistance to municipalities in the coming year diminished sharply in the legislature Thursday night.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell said the reeves and mayors know that B.C. municipalities are better treated than those elsewhere in Canada.

DIFFERENT VIEW

And when they are outside the province's borders they admit this fact, Mr. Campbell said, though at home most tend to take a very different and rather narrow political view.

Mr. Campbell told the House that "the whole diatribe" against the provincial government's aid-to-municipalities pro-



Campbell

gram was what he termed "straight political hot air."

He said nobody on the opposition benches was willing to accept his challenge to produce cost-sharing formulas from other provinces, which if adopted here, would provide greater assistance to B.C. municipalities.

He then proceeded to outline to the opposition what he called "the political facts of life" with regard to municipal financing.

Mr. Campbell said any cost-sharing formula for municipalities in existence elsewhere in Canada could be adopted here and 10 per cent added and the provincial treasury would still pay out less than it did now.

BETTER OFF

B.C. mayors and reeves attending a national convention in Regina last summer dropped their "narrow political" views when faced with the problems of the rest of Canada.

He said B.C. municipalities were better off for these reasons:

- Total revenue surpluses of B.C. municipalities last year amounted to \$17,400,000.

- During a period when B.C. municipalities' share of school taxes increased 3.4 times the provincial government's contribution to education costs rose 4.3 fold.

- Nowhere else in North America did so many municipalities have so many sewer and water projects on a self-liquidating basis and with provincial-guaranteed loans to boot.

- Nowhere else in North America were municipalities able to finance so many capital projects out of reserve and surplus funds.

No Business In House

No business will be conducted by the legislature today.

The House will open at 2 p.m. and go into Orders of the Day, after which it will be adjourned in time for members to attend the memorial service for the late Sir Winston Churchill in Christ Church Cathedral at 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1965

Banter Merely Prelude To Fireworks to Come

By IAN STREET

There's a friendly air to most of the back chat and banter heard in the House these days.

These after all are only the warmup exercises before the contest begins in earnest.

Every now and then spectators in the gallery crane their necks as Premier Bennett and Opposition leader Strachan jump to their feet and with fingers wagging in admonishment try to shout each other down.

There is no legislation of any import before the House, and the budget which will give the opposition something to sink its teeth into, is still several days away.

So the government members content themselves with extolling the virtues of Social Credit and this government, and the opposition tries to muster some sort of attack.

There is a good deal of laughter and jeering, not all of it good-natured, from both sides of the House.

The oratory, if it can be called that, frequently resorts to flowery phrases and hyperbole to hide its lack of incisiveness.



Mr. Strachan took the prize last week by charging that the government's handling of the Jones case was "arrogant bureaucracy in full flight."

Some astounding pieces of gossip were passed on to the honorable members.

Waldo Skillings tried to make it two in a row when he predicted that Bruce Hutchison was in the running for a Senate seat. Last session he told the House Stuart Keate would become publisher of the Vancouver Sun.

Alan Macfarlane retorted that the Sun would soon be running a column of "Waldo's Whispers."

But all wasn't jocular fun. The same Mr. Macfarlane was discussing a legal point in the course of his speech Wednesday when somebody suggested he

CAPITAL REPORT

consult the attorney-general, Mr. Bonner.

"I don't want his advice," snapped Mr. Macfarlane. "There are lawyers who lose a few cases; but not many who lose all their cases."

The Liberal from Oak Bay sparked the only row on the floor of the House in the present session by charging that Mr. Campbell had acted outside his authority as minister of municipal affairs in creating a new district municipality at Campbell River.

Mr. Macfarlane adopted a step-fatherly air that got under the new minister's skin. He said Mr. Campbell was probably acting with the best of intentions, but what he did was illegal, so he had to be rapped over the knuckles.

Mr. Campbell, in a fiery speech, admitted there was

nothing in the Municipal Act at present to cover the rapidly changing needs of some communities, but said he had acted under the higher "authority of the ballot box."

The opposition has been strangely subdued in its attacks to date. Perhaps this government has been in power so long that everyone, on both sides of the House, feels like an actor in a successful stage production? I don't know.

Some of the best lines of the week were spoken by Randolph Harding, the NDP member from Kaslo-Slocan, who tweaked the government's tail by calling Socreds "Tories with their whiskers shaved off."

Most frequent target of government members was "the little group over in the corner," the Liberals. Several times at each sitting there were references to federal policies which hurt B.C. and to the scandals now rocking Ottawa.

"Your house is crumbling," Premier Bennett told the Liberals. Harry McKay, a quick-witted young lawyer from Fernie, shot back: "At least it's well furnished."

The quip was topped outside the House when someone said: "Yes, French provincial."

J A N

1 9 6 5

Fri., Jan. 22, 1965

SOCRED PLANS UNCLEAR

Medicare program like Alberta's?

First hints are vague

VICTORIA — The throne speech delivered Thursday in British Columbia's legislature proposed legislation covering more than a dozen major areas but left in its wake vexing areas of confusion in the two most vital of these.

The speech committed the government to subsidized medical insurance coverage for "low-income groups" and to amending the Revenue Act regarding government investment in the shares of chartered banks.

The use of the plural "banks" promoted speculation in financial circles in view of government sponsorship of the Bank of B.C.

"MAY GO BEYOND"

One such speculation involved possible purchase of the Mercantile Bank of Canada from its Dutch and U.S. owners and the subsequent removal of its headquarters to Vancouver. Thus the Senate's opposition to provincial investment in a new chartered bank would be circumvented.

Asked whether the throne speech reference was merely implementation of a promise to reduce the government's proposed investment in the Bank of B.C. to 10 per cent of capitalization, Premier Bennett replied:

"It may go beyond that." There was no further explanation.

VOLUNTARY BASIS

Similarly the medical care insurance plan, major surprise of the 3,250 word throne speech, left many unanswered questions.

It purports to "provide for government contributions toward the cost of medical insurance services for citizens whose incomes are at lower levels."

"Such assistance would be granted in connection with approved medical plans and would be on a voluntary basis."

Left unexplained was the method to be used to determine the income brackets in which the subsidy would be provided and, also, how it would be administered.

LIKE ALBERTA'S?

As the fourth Canadian province committed to some form of government-sponsored medical care insurance, B.C. may adopt a program similar to Alberta's. (Saskatchewan has compulsory participation and Ontario's proposed

plan follows along the same line as Alberta's).

The Alberta plan sets out a wide range of benefits which "approved" private insurance carriers must provide. It also sets out maximum premiums that may be charged by private carriers and ensures that no individual is denied medical care insurance.

"ONLY A STOP-GAP"

Premier Bennett declined to compare the B.C. program with the Alberta scheme but emphasized that it would be only a stop-gap measure until Ottawa comes through with a national plan.

He said introduction of the program will not affect B.C.'s support for the idea of a national health plan.

"Decision to go ahead with the limited plan was taken because it now appears that the Government of Canada is not prepared to put such a plan into effect at the present time," he said.

Mr. Bennett "greatly regretted" the federal government had not gone ahead with the national health plan "after its long-standing commitments."

He said the new provincial plan will cost "many millions of dollars" and will cover "more than tens of thousands" of B.C. residents.

Throne Speech flayed

By DORY THACKER

VICTORIA — Premier Bennett's "full speed ahead" program for B.C.'s 1965 legislative session was criticized by opposition leaders today as lacking more than it offers.

Apart from the limited medicare feature, which they called inadequate, both NDP leader Bob Strachan and Liberal leader Ray Perrault said the Speech from the Throne failed to list most of the things that should be done.

"Most of the stuff it contained is too little and too late," Strachan commented.

\$52 MILLION

"They're moving now to bring in vocational schools," he added.

"We've had \$52 million in Ottawa waiting for us to ask for it. And while the demand has been great, while thousands of kids eager to learn trades have been refused admission to existing training schools, our government hasn't bothered to ask for the money."

Strachan said he's sorry the speech made no mention of a compulsory automobile insurance scheme that would "do something about the extortionate rates the people of B.C. are being gouged for."

NOT LUXURY

"I'm sorry, too, there was no reduction in the taxes on a number of items, such as automobiles, because the car is no longer a luxury and yet the car users are being gouged high, wide and handsome today."

Of the government's intention to "greatly augment" the penal probation service, Strachan said he hopes it means what it says.

"If it does, it will be a big help. But they've talked this way before, so we must wait until we see the legislation itself, and then to see how they interpret it."

DISAPPOINTMENT

He added, however, that "if they do a good job on probation services it will mean a lot to a lot of people."

Perrault said his party's feeling toward the Speech

from the Throne is one of disappointment.

"The premier let it be known he would unveil his concept of a dynamic society," Perrault said.

"There wasn't very much dynamic in the speech. Outside of cataloging a list of events, many of which are already well-known, there wasn't much to it."

One bright spot, Perrault said, was the decision to bring down new towns legislation of the sort proposed by the Liberals a year ago.

ORDERLY GROWTH

It's needed to bring some kind of orderly growth in the economic centres now being developed throughout the province, he said.

(Perrault referred to a section which said the government will enter agreements with several communities for an accelerated program of development. It will co-operate with councils of Sparwood and Natal to create a new community at Sparwood and rehabilitate Natal and Michel on the Southern Trans-Canada Highway.)

Similarly, Perrault commended the government's intention to beef up diking and flood control on the Fraser River.

But he noted that "most of the goodies the premier is promising these days is in reality just taking advantage of very generous federal legislation to do these things."

LITTLE COST

"His limited medicare scheme, his dollar increase for certain classes of indigents, and his reduction in the bus fare increases for students — all are measures designed for the maximum political impact at the least possible cost to the treasury."

"Their value in many ways will be chiefly in the area of public relations and politics," Perrault said.

Bennett's announcement that he will act to improve the ferry system "means he plans to take full advantage of the federal government's 40 per cent subsidy for building ships," he added.

The intention to extend vocational training means he's going to take advantage, at last, of the federal Liberal government's subsidies of 75 per cent of the capital costs and 50 per cent of the operating costs of trade training facilities.

ECONOMIC COUNCIL

"I'm glad," Perrault said, "to see the premier demonstrate he's willing to at least accept some of the aid which is being offered by Ottawa these days."

The Liberals, Perrault

said, are disappointed the speech contained no reference to an economic council which "everyone realizes is badly needed in B.C."

"We're also disappointed there was no reference to the secondary payroll industries, which are going to be very necessary if we're to provide enough jobs in B.C."

Nor were there any reforms mentioned in the area of the department of justice, Perrault said.

NO OMBUDSMAN

"No provision apparently will be made to give citizens the right to sue the government."

"Apparently, also, the premier intends to do nothing about appointing an ombudsman or instituting a public defenders system."

"Nor," Perrault added, "does he seem to intend to do anything about redistribution, although the Social Credit federal party has endorsed fully redistribution under judicial auspices."

Perrault said that omission means Bennett plans to "totally ignore the fact we have in B.C. voting ratios in some ridings of 38 to 1."

Throne Speech Highlights

- Government - subsidized medical insurance coverage for low-income groups, operated through "approved medical plans";
- Measure to facilitate development of new model communities in newly developing areas;
- Changes in the Succession Duties Act to provide unspecified additional exemptions;
- Amendment of the Revenue Act regarding government investment "in the shares of chartered banks";
- Changes in the Pollution Control Act;
- Changes in the Land Act to permit rental of crown timberlands for agricultural use;
- Unspecified changes in the Mineral Act and in the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act tabled at the last session;

Friday, January 22, 1965

Experts in dark on medicare's workings

By NOEL SWANN
Times Medical Writer

B.C. government's proposed new medicare plan for low income groups received a mixed reception in medical and insurance circles yesterday.

But this was mainly because few people understood exactly how the plan is supposed to operate.

Most medical men presume the scheme is to be operated through "approved medical plans" such as MSI and MSA.

But several insurance company executives believe it will be run on the same basis as the Alberta plan in which people below a specific income level insure through private companies and have part of their premium subsidized by the government.

NO CLARIFICATION

And the Speech from the Throne in which the medicare announcement was made, did little to clarify the point. Nor was the provincial health department able to throw light on the matter since the scheme has not yet been discussed on a departmental basis, according to Deputy Health Minister Dr. J. A. Taylor.

The throne speech mentions operating the scheme through "approved medical plans" and also through "private insurance schemes" — and this is where the confusion arises.

Several officials were also unsure of who would be

covered under the scheme. The Throne Speech merely said the proposed plan would involve government contributions toward the cost of medical insurance for citizens whose incomes are at lower levels.

Later Premier Bennett said it would be aimed at people who are not on social assistance, yet have incomes too low for them to afford the full cost of medical insurance.

(Most people on social allowance — apart from employable persons drawing welfare — get free medical attention through a joint

government-medical association scheme.)

Because of this several officials expressed doubt that the plan would cover many people.

Bennett said "more than tens of thousands" would benefit from the plan.

But as one official put it: "Virtually everyone on social assistance is already covered, and this includes the majority of those drawing old age, disabled and blind allowances as well."

"Unless the income level for those who are to participate in the scheme is set fairly high — say, anyone earning below \$2,500 a year — I don't see how many people can benefit."

- Increased educational grants and amendments to the Public Schools Act and the Vocational Schools Assistance Act;

- A new 23-mile extension of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway from Kennedy to the Peace River basin;

- A bill authorizing establishment of regional park authorities;

- Changes in accounting provisions of the Companies Act "to further the position of shareholders" and amendments to the Credit Unions Act tightening inspection procedures;

- "Further reductions" in B.C. Hydro power rates;

- Creation of a new forest district in the province.

Museum attracts twice as many

The provincial museum in Victoria had a booming year for visitors in 1964.

The annual report of the recreation and conservation department, tabled in the legislature, said attendance at the museum jumped nearly 100 per cent during the year, to 161,700 from 82,000 in 1963.

Throne Speech highlights

Government - subsidized medical, insurance coverage for low-income groups, operated through approved medical plans;

Measure to facilitate development of new communities in developing areas; changes in the Succession Duties Act to provide unspecified additional exemptions; amendment of the Land Use Act regarding investment shares of charters;

changes in the Pollution Control Act; changes in the Land Use Act to permit rental of timberlands for agricultural use;

specified changes in the Mineral Act and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Act tabled at session;

'Tin cup medicare' — Strachan

By DORY THACKER

VICTORIA — "Tin cup medicare" is the way Opposition Leader Bob Strachan describes Premier Bennett's proposal to subsidize medical insurance for low income families.

"Certainly it will help those who apply for it," the New Democratic Party leader said in an interview following Thursday's speech from the Throne

which opened the B.C. legislature.

"But the indication is that there will be a means test (to determine income status) and it will be on a voluntary basis," Strachan said.

"But you'll have to apply. You'll have to take your tin cup and go up for a hand-out from the government. It's a far cry from a comprehensive medicare plan."

Moreover, he noted, the premier's plan is contrary to every recommendation of the Hall royal commission on medicare.

"The commissioners specifically warned against this type of medicare," he said.

"The huge number of people who will require means testing will impose a formidable task in terms of organizing administra-

tive machinery, extra costs which we can't afford, and a method of examining the individual which, in the opinion of many, is contrary to the dignity of man."

Further, Strachan said, the Bennett scheme could be a capitulation to the doctors and the private insurance companies.

"They will retain complete financial control of rates, fees and services,"

Strachan said, "aided by the taxpayers' money."

"Certainly it means continuation of some of the doctor-controlled schemes that now charge exorbitant premiums."

"And it means," he added, "that in B.C. we're going to have two classes of citizen — those who can afford to pay all the traffic will bear, and those who have to take their caps in hand and beg from the government."

\$387 for one year at school

Sending Johnny to public school in B.C. last year cost \$386.73.

The figure, representing the average per-pupil cost of education last year, was shown in the annual report of the superintendent of education tabled in the legislature by Education Minister Leslie Peterson.

The report also showed that the province's total bill for education in the 1963-64 school year jumped by nearly \$20 million to \$177,539,584. In 1953-54 the figure was \$70,791,844.

The number of teachers in the public school system increased to 14,415 from 13,570 in 1962-63 and 7,574 in 1953-54. School enrolment rose to 378,641 last year from 358,905 the previous year and 210,174 10 years ago.

The provincial government's share of the total education bill climbed to \$95,497,375.

Almost 6,000 men on winter works

Winter works projects under way in B.C. on Jan. 15 had a total value of \$24,786,739.

The figure was contained in the 1964 report of the municipal affairs department tabled in the legislature.

The 330 projects employed 5,578 men and will provide an estimated 429,192 man-hours of work.

The federal government pays \$4,469,650, the provincial government \$802,072 and the municipalities \$3,620,500.

The report said that during the last year municipal assessments rose to an estimated \$155 million from the 1963 figure of \$141,020,670.

Guzzlers boost provincial income
The Liquor Control Board of B.C. made an operating profit of \$16,254,623 in the first half of the current fiscal year. The figure was included in a balance sheet tabled in the legislature. Sales for the six-month period ending Sept. 30 totalled \$60,649,178.

Borrowing by municipalities in the province totalled \$25,231,663 in 1964, the report said. An increase of some \$10 million from 1963.

Tourist income up 30 per cent

The value of the tourist industry to B.C. rose more than 30 per cent in 1964 from the record \$50,485,000 in 1963.

A report from the B.C. Travel Bureau tabled in the legislature estimated tourists from the U.S. and Canada spent \$183,936,026 in the province last year.

In 1960 the comparable figure was \$100,400,000.

The report said the province attracted 2,664,652 visitors from the U.S. and 1,580,680 from provinces outside B.C.

Hospital plan benefits at record

The B.C. Hospital Insurance Service paid out \$63,406,118 to hospitals in the province in the government's 1963-64 fiscal year, as a record number of pa-

tients qualified for benefits under the plan.

The service's annual report, tabled in the legislature, showed the federal government re-imbursed the province for \$33,687,396 of the expense.

A total of 468,200 patients entered hospitals last year under the universal plan, compared with 458,079 in 1963 and 203,269 in 1949, first year of the plan's operation.

Tribute paid to Sir Winston

Tribute was paid to Sir Winston Churchill in the throne speech.

The speech, described the British statesman as "a great leader who by virtue of his intelligence and strength of character is able to mobilize the physical and spiritual resources of that nation and bring it safely through."

It said Sir Winston's grave illness "now causes universal concern."

"A great parliamentarian, he served without stint his sovereign, his nation

and his world. We today are the beneficiaries of his tenacity of purpose."

The "banks" reference was made in the Speech from the Throne read by Lieutenant - Governor George Pearkes at the opening of the B.C. legislature in Victoria Thursday.

It said there would be an amendment to the Provincial Revenue Act "in connection with the investment by my government in the shares of chartered banks."

NO EXPLANATION

The premier would not expand on this later to reporters.

In reply to a question on whether this was part of a promise that B.C. would not invest in more than 10 per cent of the shares of the proposed government-sponsored Bank of British Columbia he said:

"It may go beyond that."

Some political observers see it as a countermove to a Senate committee's rejection of a charter for the B.C. bank.

With probably major revision forthcoming in the Federal Bank Act — and these could include restriction on provincial investment in federally-chartered banks — at least one financial source believes Mr. Bennett's eye could be on the Mercantile Bank.

Faced with stiff competition from the larger chartered banks of Canada, the Mercantile so far has offices only in Montreal — the head office — and Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver.

OWNED JOINTLY

It is owned jointly by a Dutch group, Rotterdamsche Bank of Rotterdam, and First National City Bank of New York. Unlike most other chartered banks in Canada, its shares are not sold on stock exchanges here. It has a relatively small capitalization, \$4 million.

"All Bennett has to do is buy anywhere from five to 15 per cent of the shares and he's got effective control of a bank that already is chartered and set up," said the financial source.

'Bank' baffles bankers

Bennett out to buy one?

Banking circles were surprised Thursday night by Premier W. A. C. Bennett's oblique reference to possible British Columbia government investment in chartered banks.

But a guess by one highly-placed financial source is that the provincial government may plan to buy enough shares in the Mercantile Bank of Canada to obtain effective control, move the head office to Vancouver from Montreal and circumvent the Canadian Senate's aversion to provincial investment in a federally-chartered bank.

No tax hike set, Bennett reveals

VICTORIA (CP) — Premier Bennett has let it be known he plans no new taxes to meet the cost of a limited medical insurance plan heralded in Thursday's Throne Speech opening the 1965 session of the B.C. Legislature.

The premier's assurance came in the form of an interjection in the House Friday as Bert Price (SC — Vancouver-Burrard) spoke to his motion on the address in reply to the Throne Speech.

Price said he favors a comprehensive medicare program and feels his opinion is shared by most government members although he had no idea what type of plan the government has in mind.

"There is no doubt the people will welcome medicare," he said. "The only question is: 'can we afford it?'"

He said the scheme should be paid for "through an equitable system of taxation."

"The public should be told what it will be paying and what the cost will be."

At this point the premier interjected with a smile that there would be "no increase in taxes in British Columbia."

He said the government plans legislation to provide for government contributions "toward the cost of medical insurance services for citizens whose incomes are at lower levels."

"Such assistance would be granted in connection with approved medical

plans and would be on a voluntary basis."

Bennett has said the plan will cost many millions of dollars and cover those whose incomes are insufficient for them to pay the full premiums of private medical insurance plans.

There has been no indication of when the B.C. plan will go into operation, and the premier has declared the province still wants to join a national health plan if and when one is produced.

Price also called for reduction of B.C. Hydro's electric and natural gas rates and criticized the Authority \$5 reconnection charge.

Price said the recent increase in Hydro's transit fares for children in Vancouver and Victoria was poorly timed.

When the higher rates went in Jan. 1, "there was 2 1/2 feet of snow in Vancouver."

He suggested many children normally might be able to walk to school but hadn't the proper clothing

to walk through snow and slush.

Price said traffic congestion on the First Narrows bridge between Vancouver and the North Shore could best be relieved by a tunnel into Vancouver's False Creek area, but pleaded against any new highway incursions in Stanley Park.

Praising the promise in the Throne Speech of improved probation services in the province, Price said sending young first offenders to industrial schools seldom helps them.

However, the government should make sure "senior" men and women are picked as probation officers — "a poor probation officer is worse than no probation officers."

He also welcomed the promise of increased salaries for civil servants in B.C. and made a plea for government action to reduce the cost of chronic care to individuals.

Price's motion was seconded by James Chabot (SC — Columbia).

'Little empires' worry

By DORY THACKER
VICTORIA — A review of professional associations in B.C. will be called for Monday in the Legislature.

Leo Nimsick, New Democrat MLA from Cranbrook, will ask the government to establish a committee to review acts, rules and regulations covering professional societies.

"Every year," Nimsick told The Times, "we get more groups of people who specialize in certain professions asking for legislation to give them the right to determine their own future."

He referred to medical, accountant, real estate and similar groups which police themselves, set their own codes of standards and ethics, and limit their membership in any of several ways

under the laws of the province.

"When they come for this legislation," Nimsick said, "it's always on the plea that they want to protect the public."

"But in reality they build little empires in which they become a law unto themselves."

Nimsick said he isn't suggesting there's anything wrong, but he thinks the Legislature should review the statutes and make sure their intent is being lived up to.

"I can't help feeling," he said, "that there's a danger — what with these groups setting prices, fees and standards, such privileges might ultimately work to the detriment instead of the benefit, of the general public."

He said the laws give these groups immunity from "the competitive law of supply and demand" because they keep out competition.

Nimsick's motion — identical with one he placed last year but which was ignored and never brought to the floor by the government — would have a committee:

1. Ascertain the powers and duties contained in the laws;
2. Consider whether the exercise of powers and the discharge of duties by professional societies is being carried out in the public interest;
3. Make recommendations to the House regarding continuance of such laws.

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Saturday, January 23, 1965

NDP, Grits put barrage of questions to Bennett

VICTORIA — It's going to be a case of something new, something old, as B.C.'s legislators swing into the first business sitting of the 1965 session Monday.

Opposition members served notice yesterday they will ask cabinet ministers at least 89 questions, each with several parts.

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault placed seven questions on the order paper and all the rest were placed by New Democrats.

Some are new, but many of them are old hat — questions asked, but not answered by, the government in former years, or questions designed to bring records up to date.

LOADED

Some of them are obviously asked to embarrass the government, and several of the most innocent-looking queries are loaded with dynamite.

NDP Leader Bob Strachan wants to know how many people tried to enrol in vocational training schools in 1963 and 1964 and how many of them were accepted.

The question aims to find out if there is justification for the often-heard claim that B.C. has failed to take up much of the federal money available for build-

ing and running trade schools.

"We are informed a great many young people who want to learn trades can't get into a school because they're all full," an NDP spokesman said.

Mr. Strachan also wants to know how much has been paid to private doctors by government agencies such as welfare, workmen's compensation and tuberculosis cases. Only the figures for welfare have been made public so far.

Vancouver East MLA Arthur Turner will ask whether Interior Tire Consultants received any money from the highways department since last February.

REMINDER

This will remind the government of tire consultant L. Cassidy, an elder in Highways Minister Gagliardi's Kamloops church. Formerly he owned a business from which the government bought its tires, and after selling the company was paid \$8,000 a year for two years running to advise the department on tire purchases.

Cranbrook MLA Leo Nimsick will remind the government of its 1956 mineral rights grants to the Wenner-Gren interests and

inquire how the four mining companies subsequently formed are doing these days.

NDP welfare expert Dave Barrett will ask how many, if any, social welfare recipients have been retrained since 1960. He will refer to Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell's boast that 10,000 welfare recipients were capable of being retrained.

WHAT SHARE?

Ray Perrault plans to ask what percentage of the gasoline and sales taxes last year was collected in Vancouver and what percentage on the North Shore.

Tuesday, January 26, 1965

Thursday, January 28, 1965

Wednesday, January 27, 1965

DON WILSON

Legislative garden



This is the time of year when the political crocuses show their shy little faces in the legislative garden — or is it violets? In any event, the tranquility of a Victorian garden doesn't last very long . . . there's Strachan the Snap-Dragon, and Perrault the Petunia (in the Cabbage Patch) striving mightily to spoil the picture of peace and progress which Bennett the Beanstalk climber has painted.

It must be a frustrating job, this painting of pretty political pictures, only to have some nasty-minded character come along and muck up the job with unhappy facts. For example, the Throne Speech advised that B.C. Hydro power rates would again be reduced. This part of the picture was obscured before it hit the canvas by the thumping transit-fare increases imposed by the same B.C. Hydro on Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island bus riders. Medicare comes to B.C., another pretty picture — but Snap-Dragon Strachan up and spoiled it by dubbing it "tin-cup" medicare, which, in effect, it well may be.

But perhaps the worst blot on the screen was provided by Welfare Minister Black, the day before the issuance of the Throne Speech, when he came up with the weirdest of all solutions to

the plight of old-age pensioners of limited means, caught in the bight by the heavily increased transit fares. "In view of the increased transit costs," said Mr. Black, "those old age pensioners in receipt of supplementary allowances will receive one dollar per month extra." Big deal. In effect, it means that our senior citizens will get the equivalent of five free bus rides a month.

Then there is the blot on the escutcheon provided by Health Minister Martin, who attempted to disavow any responsibility for, or interest in, the acute ambulance problem which has arisen on the Lower Mainland in particular, but applies generally throughout the Province . . . Mr. Martin's first reaction to the deliberations of the inter-municipal ambulance committee was arrogant, to say the least. He did back down a bit in a television interview, once he discovered his toes were caught in his teeth.

Then there was the peculiar shading given the pretty picture by Socred MLA Bert Price, who rather startled his colleagues when he seconded the Throne Speech with some down-to-earth remarks about the inadequate deal the city of Vancouver is receiving from the provincial coffers. This only a week after his leader had been quoted as say-

ing Vancouver should take care of the old-age pensioners' bus-fare increase out of its "ill-gotten gains."

Speaking of ill-gotten gains, how do you like the latest six month report on the operations of our Liquor Control Board. We have just got to be the biggest boozers in Canada. Whether or not, the fact remains Vancouver consumers have supplied the lion's share of LCB profits. Then there's the matter of the 13 cents a gallon provincial tax on gasoline.

Again, Vancouver and its environs cough up the better part of that whopping chunk of provincial revenue.

Mind you, we can't fairly ignore the fact that Premier Bennett has some great achievements to his credit, but let not that fact obscure the greater one; the picture he paints is far from as pretty as it looks on first glance. Ask the old age pensioners of limited means, who want, and are entitled to, special off rush-hour bus passes. The Calgary Transit system can do it. What's wrong with us?

Car insurance probe proposed

VICTORIA (CP)—Members on opposite sides of the B.C. Legislature attacked recent increases in car insurance rates Tuesday and called for an inquiry into whether a government insurance plan should be introduced.

Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin) said the government should investigate reasons for the rate increases "and at the same time make a thorough study of government-sponsored auto insurance."

Cyril Shelford (SC—Omineca) said the matter should be placed before a committee of the Legislature.

"The insurance com-

panies should welcome this chance to present their case," he said, "because they are getting criticism from people all over the country."

If they were supplying the best insurance at a fair rate they had nothing to fear from the inquiry, he suggested.

Both members spoke during the Throne Speech debate.

'Bank a winner —let's try it'

VICTORIA — Have you ever seen a bank lose money?

Cyril Shelford, the maverick Social Credit MLA for Omineca in north-central B.C. asked the question Tuesday in the Legislature and answered it himself.

"I never have — and this province can well use the money the bank of B.C. would make if it's allowed to operate."

Dam plan hit

VICTORIA (CP) — Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin) came out in opposition Tuesday to a proposal by Alaska to build the giant Rampart dam on the Yukon River and suggested the Atlin watershed be used as a power source for Alaska, the Yukon and northwestern B.C.

Wednesday, January 27, 1965

B.C. BOOM 'THREATENED'

Ottawa's fault, Loffmark claims

VICTORIA (CP)—
Industry Minister
Ralph Loffmark said
Tuesday there are
clouds on British Co-
lumbia's boom hori-
zon and blamed them
on the federal govern-
ment and other
provinces.

Speaking during the
Legislature Throne Speech
debate, Mr. Loffmark
blamed the misty economic
horizon on a "crazy, crazy
freight rate system" and
"free trade impediments"
placed on the economy by
federal governments.

WIDE VARIANCE

He said freight rates on
goods shipped out of B.C.
are often two or three times
those for goods shipped
into the province.

He criticized what he
termed "internal restric-
tions on trade" and induce-
ments made by some
provinces to attract in-
dustry — including tax
holidays and accelerated
depreciation.

Elsewhere in his speech
he said an announcement
could be expected shortly
regarding three coal de-
posits "which compare
favorably with the largest
deposits in the world."

TAX PROBE

Earlier in the day's sit-
ting, Liberal leader Ray
Perrault challenged the
government to set up a
royal commission inquiry
into financial relations be-
tween all levels of govern-
ment.

Bennett given bus challenge

By DORY THACKER

VICTORIA — Liberal leader Ray Perrault challenged Premier Bennett Tuesday to make it profitable for Greater Vancouver to operate a bus system by throwing in the money-making natural gas and freight line franchises.

If the government is determined to unload B.C. Hydro's unprofitable transit system on to the municipalities, Perrault said, the municipalities should be otherwise compensated.

HIGHEST RATES

This government, he said, had seen fit to take over the B.C. Electric, and in spite of public ownership "we now have the highest power rates in Canada."

Now as a result of government action, the Hydro has given us the highest bus fares in Canada, he said, and this is in spite of the fact that Hydro also owns, as a result of the B.C. Electric takeover, "a very profitable natural gas business and a profitable rail freight business."

DUMP BUSES

But the government, Perrault said, does not believe the gas users should subsidize the bus riders, and therefore wants to dump the bus system on the backs of the municipalities it serves.

"On the basis of government economics," he added, "a transit authority could be able to provide first class transportation if the municipalities which owned it also had the lush profits from the gas and freight businesses to draw from."

Premier says health plea made to Ottawa

VICTORIA (CP) — Premier Bennett has made public a telegram he sent Prime Minister Pearson Dec. 2 seeking implementation of a national health plan in time for B.C.'s share of the cost to be included in the province's 1965-66 budget.

The premier produced the telegram in the Legislature

Tuesday in response to a challenge by Liberal leader Ray Perrault to prove a contention of the Throne Speech that Ottawa is dragging its feet on the subject of a medicare plan.

Mr. Perrault said the government's allegation was "sheer humbug."

The telegram, read to the House by Attorney-General

Robert Bonner, suggested a federal-provincial conference last December on financial matters be expanded to include talks on the health plan.

It said talks at that time might permit B.C. to "include our share in our provincial budget."

The premier said in that wire that if Ottawa wasn't prepared for the December talks or had no major new proposals, "the next premier's conference (should) be held in the New Year but not before your government is ready to make new proposals."

The premier said outside the House that he has not yet received a reply from Mr. Pearson and that the December conference didn't touch on medicare.

The Perrault challenge came during the Throne Speech debate. The Liberal leader said that while the premier and his cabinet "give lip service to the idea of co-operative federalism, they continue to play fast and loose with the truth where certain matters pertaining to the federal government are concerned."

Mr. Perrault said provincial Liberals will withhold judgment on a limited medicare scheme for B.C. promised in the Throne Speech "until we see it in bill form."

Ferry staff hours hit in House

VICTORIA (CP) — A New Democrat member of the B.C. Legislature said Tuesday night the provincial government has been foolish, backward and absurd in requiring some B.C. Ferry Authority employees to work 12 hours a day six days a week.

"If there is ever an accident caused by fatigue . . . the blame would fall on this government for allowing it to happen," said David Barrett (NDP — Dewdney) during the Throne Speech debate.

Cries of "shame" from Liberal leader Ray Perrault greeted a remark by Mr. Barrett that "the federal government happens to be the darling of most newspapers in this country. Their editorials were 'dripping with sentiment for poor Mr. Pearson.'"

Four of B.C.'s five metropolitan dailies were controlled by the same company, he told the House. "All we've asked, Mr. Speaker, is that they just come out and admit it."

(The Times is a publicly-owned, independent Vancouver newspaper.)

He said he was concerned over the control this type of newspaper can have over its working staff, and how the newspaper's political leanings could influence the material its journalists produced.

Thursday, January 28, 1965

SOCRED BACKS LINDSAY PLAN

MLA asks 'licence-by-gallon'

Times Staff Writer

VICTORIA — A Social Credit MLA's call for a boost in the gasoline tax and elimination of the motor vehicle licence plate levy isn't likely to get far.

Dudley Little, MLA for Skeena, made the proposal in the legislature Wednesday.

He said introduction of a permanent licence plate system, coupled with a gas tax increase to offset the loss of licence revenue, would make the people who use the roads the most pay the most.

NICKEL EXTRA

Attorney-General Robert Bonner said afterward his department has figured gasoline and diesel fuel

taxes would have to be raised about a nickel a gallon to break even.

This would put the gas price in B.C. out of line with that in neighboring provinces and states, he said.

It would hurt the tourist industry if visitors had to pay a nickel more for gasoline, he added.

UNDER MANDATE

"Moreover," Bonner said, "this government is under a mandate not to increase taxes. That's what we went to the people with in 1963—that we could continue to meet requirements at existing tax rates."

Little said the idea is not his, and he merely was endorsing a proposal made

by recently retired superintendent of motor vehicles George Lindsay.

Use of a permanent plate, Little said, would save the government millions of dollars now spent to make plates, re-register and keep track of them every year.

DISCRIMINATION

He claimed there is much discrimination in the present licensing system, under which truck lines, he said, run 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and pay the same fees as loggers, miners and others who use the roads only seasonally and generally in daylight.

But Opposition MLAs suggest Little has more in mind than meets the eye.

A couple of years ago, a

Liberal spokesman recalled, Little claimed the truck logger was paying the highest licence plate rates in the province when he could use the roads only 40 hours a week, and only about a quarter of the year.

"Under this new plan, Little would have the loggers getting their plates for nothing, and paying fuel tax only when in operation.

LOGGER RIDING

"It's significant Little's riding contains a large number of truck loggers," the spokesman said.

Little also suggested Bonner's commercial transport department study the feasibility of negotiating an extension of this "plates-by-the-gallon" system all across Canada.

B.C. smelter fine but. .

VICTORIA (CP) — The idea of building a copper smelter in B.C. has won a lot of consideration but no concrete applications, Mines Minister Donald Brothers said Tuesday night.

Brothers said in a written reply to a question on the legislature order paper that there have been several feasibility surveys but that the interested parties haven't yet made applications to his department for necessary permits.

The question had been asked by Frank Calder (NDP — Atlin).

In another written reply, Brothers told

Leo Nimsick (NDP — Cranbrook) no mineral claims were held in B.C. as of Jan. 15 by any of three companies associated with the late Swedish industrialist Axel Wenner-Gren.

The companies are Lundberg Explorations, Wenner-Gren Explorations Ltd. and Wenner-Gren British Columbia Development Co.

He also told Nimsick \$283,266 was spent in the current fiscal year on the Stewart-Cassiar road, including \$153,868 received from the federal government.

BANK RIGHTS FOR PROVINCES URGED

VICTORIA (CP) — A government backbencher in the B.C. legislature said Wednesday provinces should be given authority to grant bank charters.

Hunter Vogel (SC—Delta), speaking during the Throne Speech debate, said Ottawa should give the provinces chartering rights similar to those held by American states.

The resultant new banks would provide a broader economic base for industry, he argued.

Benefits sought for volunteers

VICTORIA (CP) — Persons who risk their lives as volunteer rescue workers during natural disasters should qualify for workmen's compensation, an opposition member suggested in the B.C. legislature Wednesday.

William Hartley (NDP — Yale) said some 30 volunteers from Hope and Princeton helped provincial workers search for victims on the Jan. 9 landslide that blocked the Hope-Princeton highway and took four lives.

Medicare 'plot' seen

By DORY THACKER
Times Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The New Democratic Party MLA for Yale charged Wednesday that MSA is "in cahoots" with Health Minister Martin in the government's proposed subsidized medicare plan.

W. L. Hartley said in the legislature it seems the scheme is to set up a pooled risk plan to bail out the private profit health insurance companies.

"If this is so," he said, "the members of MSA and similar non-profit plans have a right to know about it."

NEGOTIATING

Two years ago MSA was negotiating with the private insurance companies, the doctor-sponsored MSI and other private plans to set up a pooled risk plan.

Known as United Medical Insurers, all poor risks and those who couldn't afford to pay full premiums to get coverage would have been thrown into it.

The idea was to get a government subsidy similar to that proposed by the Social Credit government in the throne speech.

GOT TIP-OFF

The NDP got a tip-off and a copy of the constitution of United Medical Insurers, and took the subject on to the floor of the house.

The party was later blamed by the doctors for its defeat.

The NDP reply was the same as its present criticism of the new Socred scheme — that it would merely subsidize private plans of profit-making insurance companies.

New road claim 'pack of hooley'

Times Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Highways Minister Gaglardi termed "a pack of hooley" a New Democratic MLA's claim that an alternative road is needed between the interior and the coast.

Yale MLA William Hartley told the legislature an access logging road through the Coquihalla area from Merritt to Hope could be built into a through highway.

He claimed it would cut by half the distance from Merritt to Hope and reduce by 70 miles the distance between Kamloops and Vancouver.

"That would be the costliest road to build and maintain in all Canada," Gaglardi said.

Hartley said an alternative route to the Fraser Canyon and the Hope-Princeton is badly needed because of the frequency with which slides cut the present roads.

In the two weeks that the Hope-Princeton road was closed by the big slide, he said, there were periods when the Trans-Canada highway through the canyon was closed as well.

"Thus there was no Canadian route open between the lower mainland and the interior," Hartley said.

This claim also drew Gaglardi's wrath.

"That's so much hooley," he said.

"Any slide that took place in the Fraser Canyon during that period was miniature. You can't call a one-hour shutdown a closure. We kept that road open the whole time," he said.

MLAs return passes—almost

VICTORIA (CP) — Members of the B.C. Legislature almost got around Wednesday to sending back their transit passes to B.C. Hydro and Power Authority.

The matter arose when Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay) suggested Hydro's transit systems in the Vancouver and Victoria areas should provide passes to old-age pensioners for use in off-peak hours.

Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan interrupted: "I suggest we all hand our bus passes back. I have sent mine back."

There were shouts of "I will," "fine" and "okay" from the benches, and the voice of Opposition leader Strachan in smiling dissent ("I use mine") — but no

action was taken.

In his speech Macfarlane deplored recent transit fare increases by Hydro and declared the authority hasn't lived up to its franchise agreements in the two metropolitan areas.

When the government took over the B.C. Electric Company it gained a nest-egg of \$46 million that had been set aside from profits to meet future needs, he said, and the later judgment of Chief Justice Sherwood Lett on the takeover had allowed an \$18 million reduction in the BCE purchase price as compensation for the money-losing transit system.

Yet, he said, Hydro hadn't used any of the money to improve its bus fleet which has been allowed to run down and is continuing to run down.

Tuesday, January 26, 1965

STRACHAN DISTURBED

'Share in bank too small'

VICTORIA (CP) — Opposition leader Robert Strachan said Monday he is disturbed at Premier Bennett's "capitulation" to the senate in promising to limit his government's investment in share capital of the bank of B.C. to 10 per cent.

Strachan said the premier told the senate banking committee last fall the government's participation "may be less than 10 per cent and it may be less than five."

The NDP leader said the

25-per-cent investment originally proposed by the government "seemed little enough" and he would have preferred complete government ownership.

The people of this province supported the bank proposal because they believed the government should be in the banking business and should have some control of the Bank of British Columbia.

"But I doubt that they will be satisfied with a five-

or-10 per cent ownership by the province because the next question that would be raised in our minds with such a small ownership by the province is: who actually will own the proposed bank?"

Strachan called on the premier to tell the legislature whether any formal agreement exists between the government and the provisional directors of the bank on where control of the bank will lie.

At the Legislature

Grits joins NDP on medicare

VICTORIA (CP) — The official New Democrat opposition in the B.C. legislature won Liberal support Mon. for a non-confidence motion criticizing the Social Credit government's failure to promise a government-operated medical insurance plan.

The motion by opposition leader Robert Strachan was defeated in a formal division 32 to 19, government members uniting against the house's 14 New Democrats and five Liberals.

First non-confidence motion of the current session, the Strachan motion regretted that the throne speech last week gave no promise of a government-administered medical care program in B.C. available to every resident in the province without a means test.

Strachan entered the motion as an amendment to one approving the throne speech after he berated the government's proposed limited medical care plan as "tin-cup medicare."

The NDP leader said

Health Minister Eric Martin has promised medicare with "no qualifications" at every provincial election since 1956 but has qualified his promise on each occasion, after the votes were counted, as meaning 'medi-

care if and when a national plan is introduced."

He said Martin had referred to an NDP medicare program as "only 'limited' medicare."

"If ours was limited, what does he call the proposal in

the speech from the throne?"

Strachan suggested that the government's hands were "effectively tied" by a resolution at the last annual meeting of the B.C. Social Credit League which called for a study of Alberta's medical plan.

The tin-cup plan announced in the throne speech makes it quite clear that the minister of health no longer enjoys the confidence of his colleagues or of the Social Credit party," Strachan said.

B.C. vote reform needed-Perrault

VICTORIA (CP) — Liberal Leader Ray Perrault said Monday distribution of seats in the B.C. legislature has given the province "one of the most undemocratic electoral systems on the continent."

The member for North Vancouver called for appointment at the current session of the legislature of a triumvirate to study electoral reorganization of the province.

He suggested the committee include the chief justice, a leading educationist and the chief electoral officer of the province. This, he said, would remove the issue from "the arena of politics."

Mr. Perrault said the present distribution of members in relation to the population of their constituencies means in some cases that one vote in a sparsely-settled area is worth 38 votes in a populous area.

"The fear of loss of political power prevents the premier from making this kind of reform," said Mr. Perrault.

"Whether some members of this legislature find the facts distasteful or not, the fact is that the majority of the members here were elected in 1963 by ridings whose voters represent only 10 per cent of B.C.'s population."

Assistance Act 'just a joke'

VICTORIA (CP) — Farmers who have investigated the statute consider B.C.'s distress area assistance act "just a joke," opposition leader Robert Strachan told the legislature Monday.

Strachan said the farmers have found anyone with a mortgage is disqualified from obtaining assistance and those without mortgages could get bank loans on better terms.

Friday, January 29, 1965

- Thursday - one page back!

Socreds 'Tories without whiskers'

VICTORIA (CP) — Social Credit members of the B.C. Legislature heard themselves described Thursday as Conservatives with their "whiskers shaved off."

The portrayal was given by Randolph Harding (NDP-Kaslo-Slocan) in an aside during his contribution to the throne speech debate.

Harding had been criticizing the government for a lack of "basic planning" and for measures he said were killing free enterprise in the province.

He said government policies in the forest industry "have led to the little logger being forced out."

Works Minister W. N. Chant interrupted: "Do you understand socialism?"

Harding shot back: "Do you understand Social Credit?"

"Not one of you on that side of the house is basically a Douglas Social Creditor," the NDP member said. "You are all Tories with your whiskers shaved off."

"All your speeches and all your policies show your blue Tory underwear underneath."

In the speech Harding demanded B.C. introduce a comprehensive medicare program and go beyond its "first few tottering steps" toward a massive

retraining program for those who face joblessness from automation.

He also called for government expropriation of West Kootenay Power and Light Company, which had refused to extend services "while it is wallowing in surplus cash."

He said West Kootenay had refused to extend its lines into one part of his riding and as a result an "uneconomic" line had to be built by B.C. Hydro and Power Authority.

Harding described the firm's charges in the Slocan Valley as "a disgrace" and declared the time had come for all of B.C.

to be brought under a single power system.

The NDP member also sought faster clearing operations in the basins of lakes to be formed under the Columbia River Treaty, and government guarantees that persons displaced by the flooding "will not have to pay five cents out of their pockets."

William Speare (SC-Cariboo) said the time wasn't yet ripe for a comprehensive medicare plan and praised the throne speech's promise of a limited plan aimed at helping low-income groups pay the cost of private medical insurance.

'REALISTIC PRICE FOR TIMBER NEEDED'

VICTORIA (CP) — A recent agreement for timber licences in the Prince George area indicates the provincial government is losing millions of dollars in potential revenue, the B.C. Legislature was told.

John Squire (NDP-Alberni) said that under the agreement Cattermole Timber Company will pay \$2 million more than the "upset" bid, determined on the basis of government assessments, which is paid by most firms seeking such licences.

Squire, a member of the legislature's forestry committee, said that if the government set a "realistic" price for the timber "we would be the wealthiest province in the whole of Canada."

Friday, January 29, 1965

NONSENSE, SNORT MINISTERS

Cabinet links hamstringing city?

By DORY THACKER
Times Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A man who has fought long and hard for a better deal for Vancouver charged in the Legislature Thursday that the city's biggest trouble is that four of its nine MLAs are cabinet ministers.

"They are part of the establishment," said veteran NDP member Arthur Turner.

"They avoid meeting with city council to discuss Vancouver's needs and the council's point of view," he said.

"How can a cabinet minister, whose duty it is to form government policy, properly represent his constituency when its council's views may and often do differ from those of the government?" Mr. Turner asked.

He was referring to Mayor Bill Rathie's claim that Vancouver must have more sources of revenue, and his suggestion that the city's MLAs should be invited by parties to discuss the subject.

"I recall one meeting when two ministers appear-

ed," Mr. Turner said. "When we expressed opinions, we were accused of playing politics."

"Vancouver's problems are cold, hard concrete facts that can be discussed without playing politics. All of us who represent Vancouver are beyond this sort of thing," he added.

Three of Vancouver's four cabinet ministers disagreed strongly with Mr. Turner's view that they don't do much for the city they represent.

The fourth, Attorney-General Robert Bonner, snorted: "I'm not even going to comment on that sort of statement."

Education Minister Leslie Peterson said he considers "the aspirations of a member's constituency are more likely to be reflected in government decisions if he is a member of the cabinet."

"I don't think any constituency suffers because its MLA is a cabinet minister. That's balderdash."

Health Minister Eric Martin, asked if he worked as hard for Vancouver as its back-bench MLAs, said: "You bet we do."

"The city is well off having four ministers to represent it. Being in the cabinet, we can't speak out loud, but we certainly aren't backward in representing our city."

Differences of opinion concerning Vancouver are discussed in the privacy of cabinet meetings, said Industrial Development Minister Ralph Loffmark.

"Because these discussions are not made public does not mean Vancouver's interests are forgotten."

He said he proposed later in the session to present a detailed analysis of the financial assistance the city gets from the government.

VICTORIA (CP) — The provincial government should pay grants in lieu of taxes for university lands it owns, Alan Mac farlane (L—Oak Bay) told the Legislature.

Gov't plans asbestos probe

Times Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Industrial Development Minister Ralph Loffmark plans a thorough investigation into reasons why an asbestos fabricating producer in B.C. can't compete.

But Mr. Loffmark said

he doesn't agree with a proposal made in the Legislature by Ran Harding (NDP-Kaslo-Slocan) that the provincial government should establish such an industry.

"Harding's proposal is nothing more than a call

for state capitalism," he said.

"He doesn't take into account the need for an examination of reasons why private asbestos fabricators have failed to prosper as much as we might have hoped."

Mr. Loffmark said there are suppliers of asbestos pipe in B.C. who complain bitterly that adverse freight rates affect their ability to compete not only in the east

but also on the prairies and in B.C.

"A thorough investigation will be made," he promised, "to determine how B.C. producers can compete fairly and effectively."

Mr. Harding called on the government to bring in technicians from Belgium and elsewhere if need be to establish an asbestos plant.

"If necessary, we should set up an economic development fund to entice secondary industry into the province," he said.

Municipal aid hopes jarred

VICTORIA — Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell said Thursday night complaints about municipal financing in B.C. are nothing more than "political hot air."

Defending B.C. system of municipal grants in the Legislature, he said the province has a more generous formula than any other.

His statement scotched any hopes B.C. municipalities might hold for a more favorable system of grants.

"Nowhere else on this continent are the municipalities able to finance so many capital projects from ordinary revenues and surpluses," Mr. Campbell said.

In providing for instant model towns near new pulp mills, he said, the government "is not following patterns set elsewhere."

The government was determined to avoid "company towns," since they "never really become home to the people." The sustained-yield forest industry of upper Vancouver Island "never did much more than create shack towns."

A recently-announced plan to move the residents of the coal towns of Natal and Michel in southeastern B.C. to the new model townsite of Sparwood would require a three-way partnership among the province, Ottawa and municipalities.

Bill to limit undertakers quickly buried

VICTORIA (CP) — A petition aimed at curtailing the undertaking business in B.C. got a quick burial in the legislature Thursday.

The petition seeking a private bill to incorporate "Western Embalmers Association" went into limbo when Opposition Leader Strachan objected, denying it the unanimous consent needed to be considered by the house.

And after the sitting the bill's corpse was disowned by the sponsor, Ernie LeCours (SC-Delta) who said he hadn't wanted to present the bill and had no plans to re-introduce it.

Mr. Strachan told reporters he understood the bill would have had the effect of giving embalmers the power to control their industry, putting memorial societies out of business.

Limit stays on nursing homes

Times Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Health Minister Eric Martin said his department has no intention at this time of increasing the bed limit in private nursing homes.

"We raised it to 75 from 50 beds not long ago," he said in commenting on a suggestion by Bill Speare, (So-Cariboo) that the present maximum beds per unit limit is too small and should be increased to 100.

"Our chief concern," Martin said, "is that patients get the highest possible standard of facilities and service at rates they can afford."

The type of nursing homes being built today, he said, involve high cost capitalization, which in turn has to be reflected in the rates charged.

In addition, homes are

charged licences, are inspected for health and dietary standards, and proprietors are called into BCHIS seminars where they receive instructions on operating the homes.

"To keep quality high and costs as low as possible and costs as low as possible," Mr. Martin said. "We allow only 75 beds per unit and bansyndicates. No one can own more than two units."

He said these strict control measures are taken not only for the protection of the patients, but also for the owners.

"This 75-bed limit, however, is not a standfast maximum," the minister said. "We will review it constantly, and when the time comes that an increase appears safe for both patients and operators, we will increase it again."

'Low, low' bus fares transit key?

VICTORIA (Staff) — A plan to beef up metropolitan transit at rock-bottom riding rates was advocated Thursday by Arthur Turner (NDP — Vancouver East).

He told the Legislature this is the alternative to spending hundreds of millions of dollars on never-big-enough freeway systems.

"I notice these spaghetti-like structures being crowded into U.S. cities," Mr. Turner said.

"At the same time, car manufacturers are increasing production every year," he said.

"B.C. might well gamble a few dollars now to test out an alternative theory which has a lot of things going for it."

Mr. Turner suggested "very, very low" bus fares would encourage motorists to leave their cars at home.

Gov't insurance on cars backed

VICTORIA (Staff) — Arthur Turner, NDP member of the legislature for

Vancouver East, said Thursday government and auto insurance would save B.C. motorists millions of dollars annually.

Turner said he supports the suggestion earlier this week of Socred MLA Cyril Shelford (Omineca) for government auto insurance.

"It's the only way we can get auto insurance at cost," Turner said.

It wouldn't put the private insurance companies out of business as some claim, he said. But doing away with agent's commissions and a lot of service and litigation costs would force down rates.

It would bring auto insurance within easy reach of everybody and would make certain that everybody is insured," he said.

Saturday, January 30, 1965

SOME NURSES' AID

VICTORIA — Hospitals, doctors and nurses must make the first move if they want higher pay for student-nurses according to Health Minister Eric Martin.

He was commenting on a recommendation made in the Legislature by Bill Speare (SC-Cariboo) and a professional hospital consultant.

Speare said graduate courses for student-nurses should be reduced to two from the present three years and better financial assistance provided because many of them earned as little as nine dollars a month.

He said this would go a long way toward alleviating the nurse shortage.