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Throne speech praises past events, leaves future foggy

BOB MCCONNELL
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government opened the 1972 legislative session Thursday with a brief Throne Speech that gave no significant hint of its legislative program for the coming year.

The bulk of the 25-minute speech, read by Lt. Gov. John Nicholson at the opening ceremonies, was a history of last year's centennial celebrations and a review of the province's economic performance in 1971.

The Throne Speech is traditionally an outline of the action a government plans to take during the legislative session, but in recent years Premier Bennett has been cutting down the amount of information the speech contains.

The speech listed only nine bills that will be presented to the legislature, most of which have already been announced by cabinet ministers. They were:

- New family relations legislation.

- A new Water Resources Act, based on a draft bill presented to the legislature for discussion last year. The new act is expected to make a strong claim to provincial control of fresh water resources, some of which fall under federal jurisdiction.

- Amendments to the PGE Railway Act. These will change the name of the PGE to the British Columbia Railway Company and increase its capitalization to allow the government to put another \$50 million into the railway.

- Changes in the Public Schools Act. Bennett said these will include restrictions on the provincial share of school costs that were announced last fall by Education Minister Donald Brothers.

- A new Safety Engineering Services Act incorporating safety provisions of several existing pieces of legislation.

- Amendments to the Litter Act. Bennett indicated these will close off some of the loopholes that have allowed retailers to evade the requirement that they pay refunds on all soft drink and beer bottles and cans.

- Amendments to labor legislation. Neither Bennett nor Labor Minister James Chabot would say whether these would affect the controversial three-man Mediation Commission, which both unions and employers have denounced as useless.

- Amendments to the Regional Parks Act.

The speech said that reports by the B.C. Law Reform Commission covering expropriation and debtor-creditor relationships will be laid before the legislature for consideration.

New legislation in these areas had been expected, but Bennett would only say that such legislation may be introduced this session.

Although the speech reported that new company and securities legislation is under consideration, Bennett would not say whether it will be introduced this year.

Although employment grew rapidly in B.C. in 1971 and the number of jobless has dropped from last year's levels, the speech said, the rate of unemployment is still unacceptably high.

It said the legislature "will be asked to consider job creating measures" involving B.C. Hydro, the PGE, housing, forest and park development and "protection of the ecology."

Bennett told reporters that any details of new job creating programs would have to wait until they are presented to the legislature.

The speech promised \$50 million of new school facilities on top of the 677 new classrooms and 94 gymnasiums completed last year. In addition to 772 new hospital beds completed in 1971 a further 1,779 are under construction, it added.

"A greatly expanded program of new government building construction and building maintenance has been adopted," the speech said.

"New buildings are under construction at Creston, Prince George, Smithers and Nelson. Plans are proceeding for new buildings at Burns Lake, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Powell River, Trail, Victoria, and the B.C. Building in Vancouver."

Today's sitting of the legislature will hear speeches by Ernie LeCours (SC—Richmond) who will move the reply to the Throne Speech, and Willis Jefcoat (SC—Shuswap) who will second the motion.

NDP leader Dave Barrett and Liberal leader Pat McGeer will make their formal reply to the throne speech on Monday. Dr. Scott Wallace, the only Conservative MLA in the House, will speak later in the throne speech debate.

B.C. power needs

Reports won't be ready until after session ends

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The B.C. Energy Board will be unable to complete its study of the province's power needs for the next 15 years before the 1972 legislative session ends.

The report is expected to lay the groundwork for decisions on the next round of major power developments in B.C.

In its annual report to the legislature, the energy board said Thursday that all its basic research will be completed by the end of this month but the final report won't be ready until May. The legislative session should be over by early April.

The annual report said that special committees and hired consultants have now completed studies on the province's power requirements to 1990, the possible effects on fisheries of damming the Fraser River, and the impact of the Aswan Dam in Egypt on the Nile River delta and the fishery in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Another study of the flood control needs of the Lower Fraser Valley will be completed this month, the report said.

The energy board's study of power requirements was ordered by the provincial government in 1970. The board's annual report said the study will answer six major questions:

- The main transmission lines that should be built to connect up existing power plants in B.C.

- Additions that could be made to existing plants to increase their power output.

- Potential new hydro-electric plants that could be constructed.

- New plants that could be built to use "readily available sources of fossil fuels."

- Possible interchange arrangements to share the power supplies of Alberta and the State of Washington.

- "The form of organization required to ensure the operation of the electric plants and transmission facilities on a co-ordinated basis to provide the maximum benefits for the people of B.C."

Thursday's throne speech said the energy board study will "determine the best use of the province's energy resources to meet power demands to 1985," and added that B.C. Hydro will "meet its share of these new requirements by using sources which cause the least possible adverse affect on the environment."

"During 1971, more than 90 per cent of the electrical energy generated by the authority (Hydro) was from hydro-electric sources. It is important to note that these sources do not contribute to water or air pollution."

However, Premier Bennett cautioned reporters not to interpret this as an indication that the government intends to build a major dam on the Fraser River at Moran, near Lillooet.

In the past, Bennett has said repeatedly that he has no intention of building the Moran Dam unless it can be determined that the Fraser River salmon fishery will not be damaged.

Throne speech a bust, claims opposition

By ALAN WHITE
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W.A.C. Bennett's speech from the Throne was big on party boosterism but a bust so far as programs for the people are concerned, Opposition leader Dave Barrett said on Thursday.

He said after the speech was read by Lt.-Gov. John R. Nicholson that his New Democratic Party would have to "immediately propose positive programs to take the people of B.C. into their second century."

Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer also said his party would make its own version of the throne speech on Monday because the government speech was "a senile document" which had "nothing in it to criticize."

"It was more like the annual report of a small town club," said Barrett. "They were boosting tourism, praising themselves, preening their feathers, but not giving any hope for the future."

"It is the government's responsibility to outline what its plans are for the coming year," said Barrett. "But the government has such a big majority maybe they feel they have no responsibility."

The speech was a disappointment "considering that this is a historic occasion, that the province is entering into its second century."

McGeer said after hearing the speech:

"I just offered the people in our caucus 25 cents for anybody who can find anything in it worth mentioning — and I'm not going to have to pay off."

"We certainly can't debate that document. We'll have to bring in our own speech on Monday. It will have the legislative program of the Liberal Party for the people of British Columbia."

"We will be taking a new and strong position on energy developments," McGeer said. "And now is the time to be paying attention to the elderly, those on fixed incomes . . . the victims of a mismanaged economy."

Dr. G. Scott Wallace, new house leader of the Conservative Party and the former Social Credit MLA for Oak Bay, said the speech left him "disappointed but not surprised."

"The premier chooses to make the throne speech vague, he chooses not to give specific details but to speak in general terms. That would just give the other parties their opposition programs in advance."

Wallace said he was sorry the speech proposed no increase in aid to intermediate care patients in nursing homes and also had no mention of revisions to the Elections Act, as promised in earlier Throne Speeches.

However, Premier Bennett had indicated in a morning news conference that he "hoped" some changes to the act would be made this year. He gave no indication of what the changes would be.

Wallace, the only sitting member of the Conservative party, said he hopes to cover as many of the legislature's eight standing committees as possible.

He particularly wants to sit on committees dealing with university faculty tenure, social welfare, private bills and public accounts.

"I want to serve on the committee on tenure because I think the Bennett government has an anti-professional approach," Wallace said.

"I want to help the public to better understand what the situation at universities is. I hope it doesn't develop into a witch hunt."

There have been several disputes in the past year over granting tenure — or permanent status — to university faculty members. Dr. Bruce Partridge resigned last year as president of the University of Victoria after being involved in such a dispute.

House votes no Hansard

By BOB MCCONNELL
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — NDP leader Dave Barrett was rebuffed Thursday in his first attempt to obtain a more complete record of debate in the provincial legislature.

Barrett interrupted a routine motion at the opening of the legislature to propose an amendment that would recall the 1971 record of debate for consideration by a committee represented by all four parties in the legislature.

The NDP has claimed that Speaker William Murray edited the 1971 record to eliminate exchanges that cast government members in a poor light.

Barrett's amendment so proposed that the 1972 record be expanded to cover all debates in the House.

The existing record does not include the key debates on the government's spending estimates and detailed consideration of new legislation.

Murray ruled the amendment out of order and when Barrett challenged the ruling Murray was upheld by a vote of 37-17.

\$66 million net

LCB PROFITS UP

Canadian Press

VICTORIA — The B.C. Liquor Control Board reported Thursday a net profit of \$66,031,334 for the fiscal year ended last March 31 — an increase of \$4,506,220 over the previous year.

Total liquor sales throughout the province amounted to \$224,238,136 as against \$205,878,779 for the 1969-70 fiscal year.

The board's annual report was tabled on the opening day of the legislature.

Duty, excise and sales tax paid to the federal government amounted to \$13,916,306,

a jump of \$5,762,379 over the previous year. Sale of permits brought in \$62,808.75, an increase of \$3,422.25 over the 1969-70 fiscal year.

The board also reported that B.C. wine sales increased by \$3,256,154 for a record of \$17,881,251. B.C. beer, ale and stout sales increased to \$81,699,474 from \$75,181,023.

Ten new liquor stores were opened throughout the province and eight new premises with off-street parking were secured for old stores. Seven stores were converted to self-service stores, the board said.

Friday, January 21, 1972

Soggy opening, poor attendance

By ALAN WHITE
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The rains came and the spectators stayed away on Thursday for the opening of the 1972 session of the British Columbia legislature.

With the heaviest security measures in recent years in force for the opening and the reading of the Throne Speech, the public galleries were only about half full.

And almost a quarter of the 40 persons in the public seating appeared to be plain-clothes police officers.

A legislative official said that tickets for the public were on a first-come, first-served basis and not very many came.

Only about 75 persons stood in front of the buildings on the rain-soaked lawn awaiting

the arrival of Lt.-Gov. John R. Nicholson to read the Throne Speech.

Last year there were about 1,000 persons, many at the buildings for a demonstration organized by the B.C. Federation of Labor. Some of those got into the buildings and broke several windows and the doors into the gallery.

The memory of that, and a bomb threat telephoned on Wednesday to a Victoria newspaper, the city police and the RCMP made for tightened security for this year's opening.

The bomb threat came from a man who said he had a bottle of nitroglycerine and would throw it to the floor of the House from the public gallery if displeased with what the speech had to say about unemployment. The man identified himself only as "The Prince of Ponces."

All movement in the buildings was with passes or by special invitation.

More than a dozen city police officers ringed the front of the building and uniformed and plain-clothed RCMP and legislative security staff covered every corridor and stairway inside.

The Lieutenant-Governor arrived at 2.45 p.m. after the carillons in front of the provincial museum had played God Save the Queen. He reviewed a Canadian Forces honor guard of 100 men from CFB Esquimalt who had endured the rain for almost half an hour before his arrival. The rain switched erratically from a light drizzle to a heavy downpour several times.

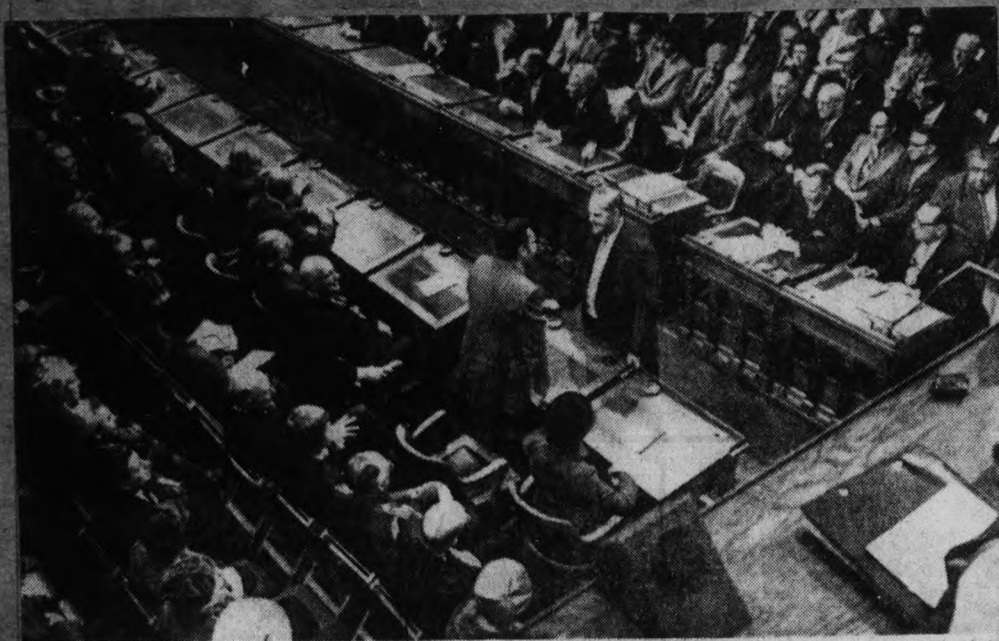
A group of seven women, representing the Status of

Women group of Victoria had waited outside on the lawns for an hour, and were joined by smaller groups of spectators to eventually total 75. The women carried a sign which read "The Eyes of the Women of B.C. are on you."

The group, said spokesman Kathleen Roff, wanted to remind MLAs that something should be done to equalize the position of women in the province.

The Lieutenant-Governor entered the buildings at 2.55 p.m., walking through the television lights which offset the greyness of the overcast outside.

The reading of the speech took about 25 minutes and Lieut.-Gov. Nicholson left to return to Government House at 3.25 p.m.



—Ian McKinn photo
Opposition Leader Dave Barrett, standing left, and Premier Bennett chat before legislature opens.

A Speech through a smoke screen . . .

In recent years, Premier Bennett has been putting less and less information into the Throne Speech—the formal document that marks the opening of each legislative session. If he plans to cut the information level below the low point he reached Thursday, he might as well cancel the ceremony altogether.

There may be a few people who are interested in knowing that there is going to be a new Safety Engineering Services Act, even if it is merely a consolidation of existing legislation. Some may find it fascinating that there will be amendments to the Litter Act, the Public Schools Act, the Regional Parks Act and to labor legislation. And, of course, everyone will be excited to learn that a bill will be introduced to change the name of the PGE to the British Columbia Railway Company.

But most of these proposals have already been announced by the government, and in more detail than the Throne Speech contained. As an indication of the dynamic new programs that Mr. Bennett is fond of promising with every second breath, the speech was as flat as a deflated balloon.

That doesn't mean the government has nothing to offer, of course. It will have around \$1.5 billion to spend in the coming year. It will have new programs and modifications of existing programs. In the course of a full session it will probably introduce around 70 bills, most of them far more significant than the handful mentioned in the speech.

The real importance of the Throne Speech is its role in the battle plan by which Mr. Bennett wages politics. He obviously has no intention of giving the Opposition

something to shoot at by making the speech a real list of the highlights of the government's legislative program. For the next two weeks of Throne Speech debate, Opposition and government MLAs will be firing in the dark, ignorant of the plans the premier has for the people he governs.

From Mr. Bennett's point of view, that is admirable strategy. From the point of view of the public, it is really a perversion of the political process.

Legislative debate is a precious commodity in British Columbia, crammed as it is into one short and exhausting session every year. By squandering two weeks of that time on a mandatory debate that will be far less significant than it should be, the premier is robbing the public of the performance it has a right to expect of its legislators.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1972

Speech a classic for non-information

By BOB McCONNELL
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Social Credit MLA Ernie LeCours, the first speaker in this year's legislative debate, got off an unintentionally good line on Friday.

"If it weren't for hope," he said, "we'd all be in despair."

At the time, LeCours was making his annual appeal for a provincial lottery, but he might just as well have been summing up the whole tedious process of getting this session started.

Friday's debate, in which LeCours and Willis Jefcoat (SC—Shuswap) moved and seconded the formal motion in reply to the throne speech, managed to be duller than the throne speech itself. It didn't seem possible, but it was.

LeCours makes lame humor and his own brand of economic theory into a stupefying mixture that left reporters vainly scratching to find something to write about that would at least alert the public to the fact that the legislature really was alive, even if not functioning.

Jefcoat managed to cap even that. For 20 droning minutes he covered the history of the Social Credit government, the province and the entire human race. In terms of news, it was a complete non-event.

However, the two backbenchers were simply following faithfully the lead of Premier Bennett the day before, when he gave the strong impression he really didn't care whether the session began or not.

It has already been reported that the throne speech—the formal opening document that traditionally includes the highlights of the legislative program for that session—broke all records for non-information. Consider, however, Bennett's responses at his press conference on Thursday morning, when reporters tried to get him to flush out the skeleton of the speech itself.

Will the government introduce the amendments to the Elections Act it promised for the last session but failed to deliver, Bennett was asked. "Yes", he replied.

Will they be introduced this session? "I hope so."

Will the new companies legislation the attorney-general's department has been working on be introduced this year? "Maybe."

How many bills will the government introduce this session? "There will be a number, but it that way?"

Will it be a high number? "Not a low number."

When asked whether amendments to the PGE Railway Act — one of the few specific pieces of legislation mentioned in the speech — would

place the B.C. Hydro railway under control of the PGE, Bennett replied that if that were done, it would take place by agreement, not legislation. Like the reporter who asked the question, Bennett was apparently unaware that the agreement had been announced months ago and is already in effect.

The press conference continued in that uncommunicative vein until it was finally suggested to Bennett that there was really little in the throne speech.

"Compare it with throne speeches elsewhere," Bennett snapped.

It was an unfortunate suggestion, because that kind of comparison is what is needed to show just how empty Thursday's throne speech really was. Although it was puffed up with the history of last year's Centennial celebrations and economic performance, it mentioned only nine insignificant pieces of legislation to be introduced.

Compare that with the last throne speech in Alberta, where that province's Social Credit government was opening what turned out to be the last session before it was voted out in favor of Peter Lougheed's Tories.

The Alberta speech listed 24 pieces of legislation — including all the major ones — and included comments outlining the effects of each bill. The speech also announced that the government was setting up a northern development commission, an energy resources conservation board and three new departments.

In Saskatchewan last year the Liberal government's throne speech also described 24 major bills. In Manitoba, those wicked socialists brought down a speech that outlined 34 pieces of legislation. They included a couple of small tax increases, an expansion of legal aid services, and a new integrated income security system — a move toward the kind of guaranteed annual income Bennett repeatedly proposes for Canada but says can't be introduced at the provincial level.

The opening speech doesn't make the session, of course, and it's possible that before this session is over Bennett will have produced at least as many answers and innovations as any government in Canada. However, the legislature is just going to have to sit around and hope for a while until he decides to let it and the public know what is going on.

Wages, prices controls urged

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Social Credit backbencher called on the provincial government Friday to take control of wages, salaries, prices and profits in B.C.

Ernie LeCours (SC-Richmond) the first government speaker in the 1972 legislative session, also said the government should raise the minimum wage in order to ensure that no one who is willing to work receives a poverty level income.

LeCours criticized the International Woodworkers of America for including a \$2 hourly wage increase in its tentative contract proposals for B.C.

"There are a lot of people in this province who would be happy to earn \$2 an hour rather

than get a \$2 raise," LeCours said.

"It may be true that people are worth \$7 or \$8 or \$150 an hour as some of our professional people get.

"It may be true that lawyers are worth \$1,000 an hour as some of them can charge and do. But all these amounts are too high in relation to what the people on the bottom receive."

LeCours said it is time that governments took as much authority over wages as unions have.

"Unions tell you what hours they are going to work, what their wages are going to be, what their fringe benefits are going to be, and what their holidays are going to be. They do everything but pay themselves."

Municipal photo records to be legal evidence

Canadian Press

VICTORIA — Photographic records made by municipalities, regional districts and other similar public bodies will be allowed to be submitted as evidence in court proceedings under legislation introduced in the legislature.

In a bill to amend the Evidence Act, the first bill of the session, municipalities, re-

gional districts, regional hospital districts, improvement districts and school districts are brought under the act's photographic records section.

Under existing provisions, only photographic records kept by the government, the Bank of Canada and land registry offices have been admissible.

B.C. gov't helpless on sniff—Peterson

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said Friday the government can do nothing more to help stop youngsters on the Power Mainland from sniffing nail polish remover and similar substances.

Peterson was commenting on a proposal by Ernie LeCours (SC-Richmond), who told the legislature the government should act immediately — either by order-in-council or legislation — to outlaw the sale to youngsters of substances that can be used as intoxicants.

"There have been many complaints of late in reference to the sniffing of glue and other materials by juveniles in the city of Vancouver," LeCours said.

"I would hope immediate steps would be taken — either by cabinet order today or Monday or an immediate bill

put before the legislature to make the sale of Cutex and other items children are sniffing illegal to persons under the age of 18."

"It's illegal to sell liquor to them. I don't see why it shouldn't be also illegal to sell these injurious substances which are just as dangerous as marijuana."

Peterson told reporters that the government has tried in the past to outlaw narcotics and hallucinogenic drugs, but the legislation was ruled invalid by the courts because the matter comes under federal jurisdiction.

He said police have been instructed to lay charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor against persons encouraging youngsters to sniff glue.

However, he indicated it may be difficult to get enough evidence to make such charges stick.

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Saturday, January 22, 1972

Mr. Bennett and the mysterious Nitro Nut

By PADDY SHERMAN
Editor of The Province

By the time the Throne Speech was over, one might almost be forgiven for wondering if it was Premier Bennett himself who telephoned police with the threat to toss a nitro-glycerine bomb onto the floor of the Legislature.

After all, he'd prepared the speech; he knew there was no way it would lift people out of their seats. It was a bomb, all right, but only in the slang sense of the word. How to add a little excitement...?

Nevertheless, it was a little eerie sitting there as the speech plodded on, wondering if the Nitro Nut, as the Victoria papers were calling him, was really a competent critic of such speeches.

He said he'd throw his bomb if he didn't like what the speech said. To do that, he'd presumably have to understand the significance of the information in it. Since no bomb came down from the galleries, one can only presume that the poor chap was as confused as the rest of us, and took the bomb home for a week or two while he pondered whether he liked it or not.

That could cause him more trouble. He'll get so confused and irritable as he seeks in vain for meaning that he might start eating the nitro. And it's poisonous sometimes, as some soldiers found out by chewing it the day before.

Funny things like that always seem to be happening in Victoria. Where else do you ever read about people getting poisoned by eating high explosives?

Meanwhile, the speech and the threat are over and the House is away on a couple of months of cantering around the edges of democracy. Mr. Bennett has contrived, as always, to avoid giving any clues on what the session will hold. Two tedious weeks from now we'll get a clue, when Mr. Bennett produces his budget. He's busily promoting it as something quite extraordinary, as well it might be

since he marks 20 years in office this year.

But anybody who has been exposed to much of this type of promotion doesn't hold his breath; he's been deflated too often.

A couple of things are obvious already, however. Two issues that are extremely important to the future of B.C. won't be fully or intelligently debated during the 10 or 12 weeks the House may be in session.

They are the question of how the future energy needs of B.C. are to be met, and the separate, but closely related, one of whether that natural gas line will or should be built to Vancouver Island.

Both the issues have been under study for best part of a year. But the decisions will be taken after the legislators have packed up and gone home for another year — or until the next vote is called.

B.C. Energy Board has finished all its basic research on the problem of providing power for the next 15 years, but its report won't be in before May.

Even when it is in, it won't deal with nuclear power plants — unless the board members decide to ignore Mr. Bennett and go beyond his terms of reference.

Is it better, in terms of the environment everybody seems to be worrying about, to flood a valley, burn coal or natural gas, or to use an atomic reactor to provide our future electricity?

In the United States, about 40 per cent of the new power plants being built are nuclear. In Russia, some 10 million kilowatts of nuclear capacity are committed.

The U.S. is getting into the new world of fast-breeder reactors, which produce more fuel than they consume. In this it sees the answer to clean, safe energy production into the next century.

Russia and Britain have already built such plants, and are racing to get them into production.

Should we be headed in that direction too, or should we be arbitrarily made to stick with present methods which either swallow up good land or else use non-renewable fuels?

One answer may be that since we are only talking about the next 15 years, we can't wait and take chances on new methods. But the state of the art now is certainly far enough advanced that one of the present Canadian reactors could be built on Vancouver Island.

Even discussion of this seems to be out of order so far as Mr. Bennett is concerned. He has never really explained why. Perhaps this session he'll tell us some of the reasons he had in mind.

If it turned out that a reactor was the logical answer for Vancouver Island, what would that do to problem No. 2 — building the gas pipeline? Without the demands of a power station, there probably wouldn't be a sufficiently attractive market to justify a line at this time.

However, that's another issue that we won't resolve when our legislators are sitting there looking for something to resolve. The Public Utilities Commission has got that in hand — safely, from Mr. Bennett's point of view because its hearings won't even be under way when the MLAs head home.

If past practice is a guide, we might see an attempt to dismiss the problems. Since they are already in hand outside the House, there may be little or no interest on the government's side in seeing the basic questions fully dealt with.

It would be a serious mistake if the government took that point of view. It should make a real effort to put out all the facts it can lay hands on for a thorough discussion.

Anything less would show almost as much contempt for the Legislature as our mysterious Nitro Nut seemed to have.

The profits of 'iniquity' ...

For all its desire to reduce the iniquity of drink the provincial government, through its Liquor Control Board, is not only opening more dens where it can thrive but reaping higher rewards in the bargain.

The LCB report tabled in the Legislature says 10 new stores were opened in 1970-71, seven others were converted to self-service and eight old stores were

replaced by new premises with off-street parking added.

The LCB's profits increased by \$4.5 million to just over \$66 million, a rise of 7.3 per cent in a year. B.C.'s population increases at an annual rate of 3.2 per cent. Increased prices helped raise the profits but it looks as if people are drinking more and the government is enjoying it more, at least financially.

The government also levies a 5 per cent sales tax on liquor sales,

thus swelling its income even further.

Rehabilitation Minister Gaglard says we'd all be a lot better off without liquor and the government wouldn't have to pay out so much in dealing with all the social misery it causes.

He may well be right. But it's hard to reconcile the zeal with which Premier Bennett attacks the "pushers" with the opening of new stores that help facilitate the trafficking.

Premier's word is 'cash'

VICTORIA COMMENT

By BOB McCONNELL

VICTORIA — Last year Premier Bennett announced that his government's four letter word for the 1971 legislative session would be "jobs." This year the problem of unemployment is still with us, and NDP leader Dave Barrett has taken over that particular word for his party.

That leaves the question of what the government's four letter word will be this year. Bennett hasn't spelled it out yet, but it seems obvious that it will be "cash."

The Throne Speech that opened this session didn't say much about jobs. In fact, there was only one sentence that could be taken as a promise of action.

"In order to help reduce the unemployment rate with which we are faced you will be asked to consider job creating measures involving the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority, the PGE Railway Company, housing, forest and park development, and protection of the ecology," the speech said.

That's the kind of throw away line that every government's Throne Speech normally contains. Usually it simply refers to regularly scheduled government programs, which are dressed up to look like new responses to immediate problems.

The only new response to unemployment that the government has come up with during the last year got short shrift in the speech. The job opportunities program was described in one quick sentence:

"A Job Opportunities Program in which my government has agreed to pay one-half the wage costs between November, 1971 and April 30, 1972, for those in receipt of social assistance for at least three months has provided both opportunity and incentive for many seeking employment."

The speech didn't say that the program had produced jobs, and for a very good reason — to all intents and purposes, it hasn't.

At last count 361 persons were employed under the job program. Another 100 or so who had been hired earlier had been laid off after the Christmas rush.

That's a pitiful percentage of the 7,800 welfare recipients who have applied for and received certificates of opportunity — less than five per cent. Some of the remaining 95 per cent may have gained "opportunity and incentive" from the program, but it is more likely they received only greater disappointment when they found that even with a 50 per cent wage subsidy nobody would hire them.

Almost in the first breath of this year's debate the Opposition began to criticize the job opportunities program, and they will likely continue to do so. Apart from the program's obvious futility, it is a tempting target because it is the brain child of Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell — a tough, abusive speaker who grinds the Opposition's

nose in their own mistakes at every opportunity.

But with the job opportunities program in disarray and the unemployment level in B.C. still high, is the government going to ride out this session without making any serious effort to provide more jobs in B.C.?

Actually, in political terms it could probably afford to do so. The number of jobs a government can provide directly, even if it spends tens of millions of dollars, is really very few. The best hope for lower unemployment is new economic growth of the kind that can be expected with some confidence in the coming year.

But Bennett has so much money to spend as a result of his past hoarding that it is becoming embarrassing, and that's where the Throne Speech reference to job-creating measures becomes significant.

In recent years Bennett has been reluctant to put tax money into the PGE and Hydro. He has been financing their expansion largely through funds he controls, but these are mainly pension funds rather than tax revenue.

This year just might be different. With the Opposition loudly criticizing the government for doing nothing about unemployment, it gives Bennett a golden opportunity to break the rules of the last few years and drop some of his



surplus tax revenues into the Crown corporations.

That way he could answer the Opposition with action at the same time that he is boosting his favorite charities — Hydro and the PGE. It's a chance he might just find too tempting to pass up.

Remember Gulliver?

Opposition leader Dave Barrett is reported to have said that the throne speech at the opening of the B.C. legislature was like the annual report of a small town club.

We expect Mr. Barrett to deny he ever said any such thing. What's the matter with small towns, or small town clubs? Is the report of a small town club likely to be much different from one of a big town club? Surely Mr. Barrett hasn't succumbed to the idea that sheer bigness, in towns or anything else, is a guarantee of superiority.

No doubt Premier Bennett will be ready to remind him that with three exceptions most British Columbians live in what might loosely be termed small towns. Not only do they live there but they vote there and have for 20 years returned "this little government" which, under Mr. Bennett, has directed the public affairs of B.C.

If Mr. Barrett hopes to become premier he shouldn't ignore the power of people who live in little towns. Look through the other end of the telescope, Dave.

Washington state contact urged by NDP

By BOB McCONNELL
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — There should be continuing formal contact between B.C. and Washington State for all problems common to the two areas, NDP leader Dave Barrett told the legislature Monday.

In the first Opposition speech to this year's legislative session, Barrett said his party's recent visit to the Washington legislature had convinced him of the need for such contacts.

As a first move, the provincial government should invite the government of Washington to hold the next hearing of its joint legislative committee on pollution control in B.C., Barrett suggested. He said representatives from the governments of Alaska and Oregon also could attend.

The NDP leader said Washington Governor Dan Evans had suggested to him that B.C. and Washington should try to develop compatible pollution control standards, and Barrett suggested discussion on this issue should begin immediately.

He also proposed:

- Legislators in B.C. and Washington should make a practice of signing statements of concern to both the American and Canadian governments on specific regional issues. Barrett said he is now drafting a statement on the Alaska pipeline that he will send to Washington for the signature of legislators there.
- Public opinion plebiscites should be held in both areas on current pollution issues.

- There should be "constant and methodical exchanges of research" between the two governments on all matters of common concern.

- There should be a regular exchange of government scientists and civil servants on a six-month or one-year basis.

Barrett also said B.C. government representatives should go to Ottawa and demand greater control over federal money spent on shared cost welfare programs in B.C.

In many cases, Barrett said, the provincial government would be wise to invest the money that would normally be spent on future welfare programs on job development programs such as low cost housing. Barrett argued that it makes more sense to spend the money now to create jobs than in the future to subsidize unemployment.

He said the government should ask Ottawa to allow B.C. residents to take future family allowance payments in a lump-sum advance that could be used as a down payment to buy a home.

He also urged the government to join municipalities in making provincial land available for municipal land banks as a means of keeping down the cost of residential building sites.

He said last week's Throne Speech "was a statement from a tired old government reviewing past glories as they saw them."

"When people start dwelling in the past exclusively they have no eye for the future," Barrett said.

He criticized the government for failing to control the Powder Mountain ski development in the Garibaldi area where the private developers involved have had to give up the development because they have run out of funds.

Barrett said the government had repeatedly ignored warnings from opposition MLAs and other interested parties that the development was heading for trouble.

Last week's announcement that substantial performance bonds will be required in future from anyone proposing a ski development on Crown land came far too late, he said.

"Bonds won't grow the trees back," Barrett said.

"We need a policy of comprehensive park development and the establishment of park reserves instead of calling the park branch in to take over the situation after the damage is done."

Despite the government's expressions of concern over the drug problem, Barrett said, there are no hospital beds available anywhere in B.C. to treat adolescents with drug problems.

Barrett said a mother from Surrey asked him recently to tell her where she could get help for her son — a 16-year-old heroin addict — and he could only suggest that she send him to England for treatment.

He said the government has spent \$652,000 on its job opportunities program so far and has only been able to produce 361 jobs for welfare applicants.

The program, he said, had been marked by squabbles between Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi and Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell, whom Barrett said were "picking over the bones of the unemployed" in their fight to succeed Premier Bennett as leader of the Social Credit party.

Power policies attacked

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Major changes are needed in the way the provincial government makes important power development decisions, Liberal leader Pat McGeer told the legislature Monday.

At present there is no set pattern for these decisions, McGeer said, and they often seem to result from the whim or prejudice of Premier Bennett.

McGeer said the role of the B.C. Energy Board should be made as broad as possible and the board should be required by law to make a complete report of economic, conservation and environmental factors before any major power development is decided on.

At the same time, a new standing committee of the legislature on energy matters should be created to hold full public hearings on all energy board reports, he said.

After that, the standing committee would report to the legislature, which would then make the decision on whether to go ahead with any new development.

He said the Social Credit government's preoccupation with hydroelectric power has resulted in the flooding of 650,000 acres of B.C. — equivalent to half the size of Prince Edward Island. Because of the lack of clearing of most reservoir areas before flooding, McGeer said, most of this area is an ecological slum.

"In their efforts to wring pennies out of the 'wasted water' they have laid waste our land and loaded us with one of the higher cost power systems in North America."

Although Premier Bennett now says he wants the needs of Vancouver Island considered before any more natural gas is shipped from B.C. to the U.S., McGeer said, in the past Bennett has consistently pushed for the export of B.C. gas.

McGeer also said the government should take a detailed look at nuclear power generation, which might be the best way to meet much of B.C.'s future power demand.

McGeer said it would be economic folly to build a major dam at Moran on the Fraser River — one of the proposals being considered by the B.C. Energy Board in its present study of B.C.'s power requirements to 1985.

McGeer said the legislature should urge the federal gov-

ernment to drop its plan to sell 38 acres of the former army base at Jericho Beach for private housing development.

The land was bought by Ottawa from the provincial government in 1947 for \$2,500 an acre, McGeer said.

"The federal government intends to sell 38 of those acres to private developers for a total price of \$3 million to \$4 million or approximately \$100,000 an acre — a speculative profit of roughly 4,000 per cent," McGeer said.

McGeer said the federal government should lease the 38 acres to Vancouver for \$1 a year for park development, or at least sell it back to the city for the original purchase price.

If a Liberal government had been writing last week's Throne Speech, McGeer said, it would have included a number of new proposals such as:

- A new ferry crossing from Iona Island to Nanaimo by way of Gabriola Island to eliminate the ferry congestion at Horseshoe Bay.

- An outright grant to Greater Vancouver to start a rapid transit system that would begin with a subway network in downtown Vancouver.

- A new university in the Okanagan and the establishment of a post-secondary education commission to recommend priorities for expansion of technical and vocational institutes, community colleges and universities.

- Complete reform of the rules of the legislature, radio and TV coverage of legislative debates and a complete daily record of debate.

Tuesday, January 25, 1972

First legislature visit gives Warren thoughts for reforms

By HEATHER ION

B.C. Conservative leader Derril Warren Monday called for more efficient allocation of debate in the legislature and more time for private members' bills.

Speaking to about 100 persons at a meeting of the University of B.C. Conservative Club, Warren outlined several ideas for legislative reform.

Warren said he spent four days in the legislature and was disappointed at what he saw.

"Debate on the throne speech will take two or three weeks of the two-month session and it's a waste of time," he said. This was because there was little substance in the document and because members didn't have to restrict themselves to its contents.

He said that more than the present three days at the end of the session should be allocated for private members' bills.

"As it is, debate on these bills lasts long into the night and the quality of discussion decreases as the hour gets later."

Warren called for an unedited Hansard, increased Opposition facilities, an ombudsman as well as an auditor general and the creation of standing committees.

Without an auditor general, he said, "we really don't know where the money is spent. The departmental estimates are presented in the House, but there is little time for debate."

Warren also suggested that government ministers have more face-to-face contacts with the people they represent.

"Each minister should travel to different areas of the province to meet with the voters and special interest groups."

He called for a strong conflict of interests act and truly independent regulatory agencies where needed.

He opposed the use of the mediation commission in labor disputes because he said he doesn't think that anyone can impose a solution on two parties.

But he stressed that government should protect the public interest.

He suggested that something like the Taft-Hartley Act with a cooling off period might be considered.

"We would like to see five or 10 year government programs in areas such as environmental preservation, resource development, Canadian ownership and taxation," Warren said.

In response to a question

from the audience about revitalizing the party, he said he'd been travelling throughout B.C. setting up constituency executives and trying to locate good candidates for the next election.

He said the Conservatives would run a full slate of candidates.

"But we're not going to run token candidates. If a good candidate is not available in a constituency "we won't run anyone."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1972

More hospitals —higher medical costs

By BOB McCONNELL
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The old ways die hard, and when they run up against the new realities the result is usually confusion. It is this conflict between the old and the new that is contributing to the apparent muddleheadedness of the government's effort to keep health costs down in B.C.

There is a traditional paragraph in the Social Credit government's throne speeches that praises its hospital building program for the previous year. This year, after Premier Bennett opened the purse for hospital and school construction, the figures are unusually high.

"The dynamic program undertaken by my government to provide for increased medical services and hospital care to our citizens continues," the speech said.

"Thirteen major hospital construction programs totalling 772 beds, were completed in 1971. At year end there were an additional 25 projects under construction designed to provide 1,799 beds."

Those sentences reflect the traditional political view of hospitals. They are looked upon as concrete evidence of good health care, desirable public works that provide employment and income for the communities in which they are built. Like schools, roads and government buildings, hospitals are viewed as something that can be thrown up before an election to convince the voters of the government's interest in their welfare.

Unfortunately, there's growing evidence that building large numbers of hospital beds has another effect — it adds heavily to the upward pressure on medical costs.

It's obvious that hospitals are expensive both to build and to operate — construction costs are roughly \$50,000 per bed and annual operating costs more than \$20,000 per bed.

But there are less obvious costs as well. Economists who have studied the problem say B.C.'s present combination of a relative abundance of hospital beds and a relative shortage of doctors will almost inevitably continue to drive medical costs upward.

In brief, the economists' argument is this: We are building extremely expensive hospitals with public money and turning them over to the doctors for their exclusive use. The more use a doctor makes of hospitals — at no cost to himself or his patient — the more money he can earn. Hospitals, the economists observe, are not merely

a place to make sick people well — they're also a means of making doctors wealthy.

If the economists are right, then the two major elements of the provincial government's medical policy are now riding off grandly in opposite directions. On one hand the government is building hospitals at an unprecedented rate, while on the other it is forcing the doctors to freeze or even cut their fee schedules in an effort to keep medical costs from rising so quickly.

The economists observe that doctors themselves are really a fairly inexpensive way of providing medical care. It costs about as much to train a doctor as it does to build one or two acute care hospital beds. The income of even the few very wealthy specialists is only equivalent to the annual operating costs of four or five hospital beds.

Health Minister Ralph Loffmark seems to be aware of these arguments and to accept their validity. But he also seems to feel that the only real alternative to the present situation is to put doctors on salary in government-owned community clinics.

At the moment two provinces are making serious moves in that direction — Manitoba and Quebec. Both are running into strong opposition from the doctors, who tend to see in even a few pilot projects the germ of a plot to make them all civil servants.

In Manitoba, at least, the government seems to be feeding their fears. A contract it has offered to one group of physicians already running a private clinic is a model of over-regimentation. The doctors complain that their income would be adequate under the proposed contract, but their working conditions would be intolerable.

There appears to be a wide area of middle ground between the two extremes of the Manitoba experiment and the present B.C. policy, but at the moment the government seems to be in no hurry to explore it. Loffmark would apparently prefer to wait until the issue of salaries and clinics had been fought to a conclusion in other areas.

Unfortunately, that likely won't mean an interim period of calm in B.C. Rather, it would indicate continuing and confusing conflict as the medical profession and the government clash over the inconsistencies in present health policies.

B.C. asks for federal sniff laws

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government has asked Ottawa to legislate against the easy distribution of intoxicants contained in nailpolish remover and other substances, Attorney General Leslie Peterson said Tuesday.

He told the legislature he sent a telegram to the federal government Monday asking that toxic solvents be placed under the Hazardous Products Act.

He also asked federal authorities to consider restricting the sale of such solvents to persons over 16 years of age.

Peterson said he had also telephoned the president of the company that manufactures Cutex nailpolish remover to ask him to consider placing some restrictions on its sale and adding substances to the remover that would create nausea when inhaled in any quantity.

Peterson said he was told the company is investigating the possibility of an additive, but has been unable to find a satisfactory substance.

SAME RULE FOR ALL

All drivers convicted of impaired driving will have their licences suspended automatically in future, Attorney-General Peterson told the legislature Tuesday.

The government will introduce legislation at this session to prevent any exceptions being made, he said.

Earlier this year the motor vehicles branch was following a policy of automatic licence suspensions for drinking drivers, but this was stopped after the policy was ruled illegal in a court decision.

For the last nine months, Peterson said, the courts have been more lenient on suspensions while at the same time there has been a 20 per cent increase in impaired driving convictions.

"This legislature will be called upon to serve notice to all that if they drink and drive, they can expect to lose their licences — and there will be no exceptions, no relaxation to permit driving during certain hours," Peterson said.

'Pinkos' chastized

'REMEMBER YOUR PLACE'

Province Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Attorney-General Leslie Peterson angrily told NDP leader Dave Barrett Tuesday to keep out of provincial affairs beyond B.C.'s borders.

Peterson departed from a prepared text in his speech to the legislature in which he was ridiculing the recent trip by the NDP caucus to Olympia, the Washington State capital.

"I would remind the leader of the Opposition that he was not elected to govern this province, and he should not meddle in affairs outside our borders," Peterson said. "I wouldn't want the people in

Washington to think this government is a pinko government."

Peterson said the NDP's journey was "an elaborate attempt to counteract the anti-U.S. image the party has in B.C."

Washington State legislators were apparently under the delusion that their NDP visitors were actually conservatives, Peterson said. He accused Barrett of failing to reveal the left-wing anti-Americanism that his party endorses.

Although the NDP has claimed there is no significant contact between the B.C. and Washington governments, Pe-

terson said, this isn't the case. He read a recent letter to Premier Bennett from Washington's Governor Dan Evans, in which Bennett was invited to be honorary co-chairman of the state's celebrations later this year to mark the 100th anniversary of the agreement that established the B.C.-Washington border.

Peterson praised the B.C. Automobile Insurance Board for its recent order to insurance companies to cut no-fault premiums from \$22 a year to \$15, but he warned that there will only be substantial reductions in car insurance rates if accidents and repair costs can be reduced.

B.C.-Ottawa meeting needed on city transit, says Socred

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A direct meeting between the federal and provincial governments in the near future is needed to work out a financial formula for the early introduction of rapid transit in Greater Vancouver, says Evan Wolfe SC—(Vancouver-Centre).

He told the legislature there is a danger that rapid transit in the area could be killed for the next 20 years if the Greater Vancouver Regional District accepts a recent report of its transportation committee.

Wolfe said the committee's report indicates that a regional bus system should be fully developed before any effort is made to provide rail rapid transit in the area.

That recommendation is in conflict with the Deluew Cather report commissioned by the regional district and the provincial government, which recommended in 1970 that a 24-mile rail transit system

costing \$300 million should be built for the Lower Mainland.

Although the provincial government offered to pay 37½ per cent of the cost if Ottawa would put up a similar amount, Wolfe said, there has been no commitment from the federal government.

Wolfe recommended that Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell make further efforts to arrange a meeting with federal Transport Minister Don Jamieson to discuss a formula for financing urban transportation in Greater Vancouver.

Wolfe also suggested that the conflict between the medical profession and Health Minister Ralph Loffmark over open heart surgery facilities in the Vancouver area could be resolved if the doctors were "more flexible" in allowing other surgeons to use the heart surgery facilities.

Wolfe said Loffmark promised a year ago that additional beds would be made available at Vancouver General Hospital for patients recuper-

ating from open heart surgery.

However, Dr. George Stefanik of New Westminster, whom the doctors would not allow to join the open heart team at VGH, began to lobby extensively with Loffmark and other MLAs.

"In other words, the matter of outside doctors having privilege at the Vancouver General became a real issue here, and I am afraid — as a result — the necessary renovations in the facilities at VGH have not gone ahead," Wolfe said.

Wolfe added that he welcomes Loffmark's recent announcement that renovations at VGH will proceed, increasing the operating capacity of the open heart ward.

"I can only say it has been a frustrating experience for me to be in the middle between two hardened positions — the position of the doctors and that of the minister — and to see so much delay as a result of this dispute," Wolfe added.

Wallace attacks political play-acting

By BOB MCCONNELL
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Dr. Scott Wallace made a strong plea for parliamentary reform Tuesday in his first speech as Progressive Conservative MLA.

Wallace told the legislature that its rules of procedure need to be changed to bring democracy back to government in B.C.

His speech contained few specific criticisms of government policies, and much of it was devoted to outlining the new Conservative Party platform. Wallace was elected as a Social Credit member in Oak Bay in 1969, but he left the party last summer and joined the Conservatives earlier this month.

Wallace said that most of the activity in the legislature is merely play-acting. "This chamber is a political theatre rather than a forum for democratic debate and decision."

"Much of the public display by members is a performance by actors on both sides of the House, simulating alarm, anger and outrage to win the attention of the public rather than to give or receive useful information."

"From the voters' point of view, all they can see is that their MLA, if he is a government member, always toes the government line, and if he is an Opposition member, always opposes the government but never manages to change anything."

Rather than treating every vote in the legislature as a test of the government's ability to stay in office, Wallace said, there should be more free votes, in which individual MLAs would not have to vote along party lines.

He suggested that legislative committees should be active throughout the year, rather than merely the three months in which the legislature is sitting. Special legislative committees should be appointed to deal with specific issues, such as the plan to ship Alaskan oil through the Strait of Georgia, as soon as they arise.

Wallace said a Conservative government would always seek out the opinion of individuals and groups in society before introducing legislation that would affect them.

He said his party would abandon the present system by which the government must give its approval before it can be sued, and instead allow anyone to take the government to court if investigation by some objective third party shows there is reasonable ground for court action.

"In the same vein, the Conservative Party would create the position of ombudsman to provide the individual with some recourse against the ever increasing and often misused powers of government and its agencies," Wallace said.

LACK OF DETAIL

The Conservatives would also introduce a complete and unedited record of debates in

the legislature, a daily question period, and an auditor-general with complete freedom to examine and comment upon the financial actions of the government and all its agencies.

Wallace criticized last week's throne speech for its lack of detail about the government's legislative program, but he welcomed the indications of government action on expropriation and on some elements of social reform.

Wallace said a Conservative government would introduce a number of specific programs in the areas of poverty, unemployment, and labor management relations:

- It would raise the minimum wage, provide hospital insurance coverage for all levels of hospital and nursing home care, remove school taxes from all homeowners over 65 and raise allowances to the disabled, the blind, the deserted and the handicapped.

- Financial aid for job retraining would be provided for anyone who becomes unemployed because the job for which he was originally trained is no longer needed.

JOB TRENDS

- Establish an employment research board of educators, employers and economists to study job trends and advise the government on new education and training programs that would meet future job requirements.

- Introduce industrial incentives by eliminating property taxes temporarily for new industries locating in specific areas.

- Expand existing senior citizens housing programs and encourage housing construction generally as a way of creating jobs.

- Establish a permanent management-labor council made up of employer and union representatives as well as economists and statisticians. The council would provide information and research for both employers and unions, and act in an advisory capacity in the early stages of negotiating new wage contracts.

- Provide legislation for a mandatory cooling off period for potential strikes, similar to the American Taft-Hartley Act. Wallace said a Tory government would only use this kind of compulsion where strikes clearly threatened the safety or well being of the public or the economy of the province.

- Protect the right of individuals not to organize and not to join a labor union.

Wallace said the provincial government has been shortsighted in refusing to examine nuclear power as a possible source of future electricity for B.C.

N-POWER

"I am not suggesting that nuclear power necessarily holds all the answers to B.C.'s

power needs, but I would suggest to pretend that such a source of power does not exist is tantamount to believing the world is flat," Wallace said.

"There are dangers inherent in the use of nuclear power and these have been well documented, but if nuclear power is not even to be considered how can its disadvantages be evaluated against the possibly far reaching and equally serious disadvantages of damming the Fraser River or any other rivers?"

B.C. raps Ottawa, but OKs oil drilling

Province 1

VICTORIA — Resources Minister Ray Williston protested Wednesday that Ottawa has given an oil company a licence for exploratory drilling off the coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

No such drilling should be permitted until technology is sufficiently reliable to rule out an ecological disaster, he said. That, he told the legislature, is the position of the B.C. government.

However, Mines Minister Frank Richter said in an interview later that the B.C. government has also granted a licence to a company for exploratory drilling off the Queen Charlottes.

Williston said Ottawa has given a licence to Petrocar Chemical Ltd. of Calgary, covering 1.4 million acres, mostly on the southeastern side of the islands. The rest is a small strip west of Banks Island off the north coast.

Granting of this licence, said Williston, shows that Liberals in Ottawa and B.C. have been "talking out of both sides of their mouths" about the question of the pollution dangers of offshore drilling.

The Liberals issue such a permit, he said, but oppose drilling in the Strait of Georgia and protest the planned shipment of Alaska oil by tanker down the B.C. coast to U.S. refineries.

Later, Williston said Ottawa did not let the province know about the licence, but the B.C. department of mines and petroleum resources found out after checking a rumor about the drilling.

Richter said outside the House that the province granted Union Oil Co. a licence three months ago to do exploratory oil drilling in Queen Charlottes.

Barrie Clark (L-North-Vancouver-Seymour) said Williston failed to tell the legislature that there are in existence many oil drilling permits, both federal and provincial.

Clark asked Williston why the provincial government has not revoked the oil drilling permits it granted in 1966.

"This issue I consider a red herring," he said.

Don't push N-power, McGeer told

Province News Services

VICTORIA—Resource Minister Ray Williston suggested Wednesday that, because of its potential hydro power sources, there is no reason for B.C. to move now into the "speculative" field of nuclear power.

Answering Liberal leader Pat McGeer, who told the legislature Monday that nuclear power is the most attractive for B.C. Williston declared:

"We have the largest source of hydroelectric power anywhere, and why anyone should urge us into the speculative field of nuclear power at this time I will never know."

Williston said the province has potential hydro power sources that can be developed without further flooding or "ecological destruction."

These sources can produce at least 3.5 million additional kilowatt hours of electricity, he said.

ECONOMIC FACTS

"For the next decade if anyone argues that hydro-electric power is not the best plan to follow then he simply hasn't considered the economic and ecological facts."

Williston cited an article in Business Week magazine that pointed out the unresolved problems that remain with nuclear power. He said hydro remains the ideal source of electricity.

Without further flooding, he said, B.C. could install a 500,000-kilowatt plant near Kemano, another similar plant near Nelson, two more one-million kilowatt plants on the Columbia River at Downey Creek and High Revelstoke and an 800,000-kilowatt plant at the Peace River power site.

SKAGIT QUESTION

Williston said McGeer is obsessed with "ecological disasters."

McGeer said the Kootenay Canal project is going to "deface" the beautiful West Kootenay River area.

Williston said the canal will not spoil the countryside because it will be hardly visible.

He said most of the canal project will be screened by a hedge of trees and that more than \$400,000 was spent to ensure there is no damage to the fish stocks in the area.

Williston also questioned McGeer's expressed concern with the proposed flooding of the Skagit Valley.

Williston quoted the International Joint Commission as saying that although there would be some ecological change if the flooding takes place, damage to the area "would not be significantly large."

New appeal by Barrett on Hansard

VICTORIA (CP) — Opposition leader Dave Barrett on Wednesday filed notice of a motion to have the written record of votes and proceedings of the legislature in 1971 withdrawn for correction.

The New Democratic Party leader asks the legislature to have the written account, or Hansard, corrected to correspond with the electronic tapes of last year's session.

The motion is the second attempt Barrett has made to have Hansard corrected. On opening day last week he asked that Hansard be withdrawn and corrected by an all-party committee. He was ruled out of order.

Barrett said his action stems from reports last fall that the Speaker's office deleted from the text several derogatory references to Premier Bennett.

Coast logging trails in technology — Williston

By BOB McCONNELL
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The giants of the coast forest industry are falling behind in the technological revolution that is taking place in B.C.'s woods, Resources Minister Ray Williston said Wednesday.

He told the legislature that government policies requiring complete utilization of almost all parts of every tree cut has created a need for new types of sawmills and pulpmills.

The fast growing Interior forest industry has made this transition with considerable success, Williston said, but the coastal industry has been far slower.

Williston said the coastal forest companies have been used to high-grading the forests — sending only the best wood to sawmills and using the rest for pulp.

Williston said it is the smaller, fast-growing companies that are building the new coastal sawmills, rather than the forest giants.

One reflection of this situation is the fact that the annual timber cut in the Interior is growing rapidly, while the cut in the coastal districts is dropping.

Williston warned that the B.C. pulp industry will continue to have excess capacity for some years to come.

Earlier predictions by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization that world demand for pulp and paper would rise dramatically in the 1970s have failed to materialize because of economic uncertainty in major western countries.

Last year 11 pulp mills shut down temporarily, removing 336,000 tons of potential pulp production. Other mills that didn't close were working to only 80 or 85 per cent of capacity.

At the same time, the world inventory of chemical pulp, which normally runs at a million tons, reached a record total of 2.3 million tons.

"It is evident, therefore, that 1972 is not going to be an easy year," Williston said.

"As a matter of fact the situation might even be a little worse because three new mills come on line in this province during the coming summer."

The fact that these mills will not be able to reach peak output for some months after start up will reduce their impact to some extent, he added.

Williston said the Interior forest industry has almost

completed its conversion to close-utilization sawmills, which can handle large volumes of logs even though a high proportion of each log will eventually be used for pulp rather than lumber.

In general, he said, mills that have been designed by local men using equipment made in B.C. have had a high success rate, while other mills have run into serious problems.

However, Williston said, the B.C. Interior has the largest group of efficient, close-utilization sawmills anywhere in the world.

The interior forest industry has faced added costs because sawmills have been built faster than pulp mills. This has produced a large surplus of wood chips in the area, much of which has had to be burned.

However, the situation will be brought into balance this summer when new pulp mills go into operation at Kamloops, Quesnel and Mackenzie.

The enormous capital costs associated with the expansion of the forest industry and the lack of immediate profits has given the industry a poor reputation among major Canadian and American investment dealers, Williston said.

However, most of the companies involved believe their investments are sound on a long-term basis and expansion will continue.

"In 1971, six wood processing plants of which I am aware had a combined operating loss of more than \$50 million," Williston said.

"In almost every case the firms concerned are not pessimistic considering the long term and are making changes in the operating plants involving further substantial capital expenditures."

Williston said that provincial tax policies have tied the government's direct return from the forest industry to its general profitability, and this has given the government a direct interest in making sure that the industry operates as efficiently as possible.

"The argument now is that if the wood cannot be handled in a profitable manner it should be directed to those operations that can do so and thus share with the people who own the resource a greater return of the revenue."

"It is obvious that a continuous loss position without adequate indication of actions taken toward change will not be allowed to continue."

A boost to the industry has been provided by the expan-

sion of the PGE railway into the north, Williston said.

"It is admitted that the service now rendered has only served to increase demand and the railway is still in some trouble meeting total need."

"However, the comparison of recent economic development adjacent to the PGE as compared to the CNR across north-central B.C. displays the direct result of beneficial policies far more vividly than I can do with words."

The area of B.C. served by the CNR can't develop its potential unless the PGE gains either running rights or full operation of the CN line from Prince George to Prince Rupert, he said.

Maidenhood is hard to bear

VICTORIA — Only in politics and pornographic novels can one expect to be a maiden twice in a single lifetime.

Dr. Scott Wallace is one of the few men to manage it in either medium.

This week Wallace made the second maiden speech of his brief career in the B.C. Legislature. He made the first in 1970, as the new Social Credit member for Oak Bay. This year he is the new Conservative MLA for the same riding.

Despite his return to political virginity, Wallace is a much more worldly man than he was when he breezed into the legislature two years ago. His first speech in 1970 sounded like the work of an idealistic young boy scout. This year he sounded far more like Robert Stanfield.

That was in large measure deliberate. Wallace is a far better speaker than his national leader, and he lacks Stanfield's elephantine patience. It's just that Wallace has decided that his best chance for political survival, let alone success, lies in keeping his head down.

To do this he is going to have to absorb a lot of shrapnel from all sides of the legislature. Politics aside, Wallace is not only a new boy but now an upstart as well, and the sophomore process of putting him in his place has already begun. The mechanisms are petty, but their cumulative effect is substantial.

When Wallace arrived at the legislative buildings last week, for example, to move into his office for the session he found that the government hadn't assigned him a secretary for the session—Something that was done automatically for other MLAs. When he asked for a secretary he got one — but he had to ask first.

Then there was the matter of seating during the legislature's opening ceremonies. The cabinet members ranged along the front row of their side of the house, with the back-benchers ranged immediately behind them. On the opposition side all the MLAs had front seats except Wallace, who was seated back on the folding chairs along with the other members of the public.

The permanent seating arrangement for the session isn't much better. Granted, there is a certain lack of room, with government majority slopping over onto the opposition side, but it would still have been possible to give Wallace a front-row desk. Instead he was put in the back row, surrounded by the Liberals and the NDP.

When it came time to allocate the speaking schedule for the two weeks of formal throne speech debate, Wallace got the gears again. The speaking arrangements are worked out by the whips, those members of each party delegated to keep tabs on the MLAs and work out matters of precedence in the house.

The whips decided that the first day of opposition debate would continue to be restricted to the two main opposition leaders — NDP leader Dave Barrett, followed by Liberal leader Pat McGeer. But on the second day the government refused to give up its first spot on the list. The NDP clung up its traditional second position. The third spot was allocated to another Socred and Wallace was finally allowed to speak fourth.

So far Wallace has taken all these minor slights with good grace not because he lacks temper, but mainly because to protest would reduce him to the level of pettiness displayed by his opponents. The odds are, however, that his good humor will be far more severely tested in the next 10 weeks.

By the standard of the past, the legislature has been pretty well mannered in the early going of this session and it's not surprising that Wallace's first speech was received with little reaction from the other MLAs. But as the weeks wear on and the issues become more specific, Wallace will spend some lonely minutes on the floor, surrounded by hecklers on all sides.

One reason for the silence with which he was heard Tuesday may have been the fact that there was little in his speech to excite even the most earnest heckler. Rather than attacking the government, Wallace spent his time in a straight forward exposition of his new party's platform. Even there he stuck to the motherhood issues of poverty, unemployment, labor relations and parliamentary reform.

The speech was interesting not because of the information it contained but as a political event. It was really an explanation of the kind of creature Wallace expects to be in this session.

He definitely plans to function as a party spokesman, using his seat in the legislature to get the Conservatives the kind of press coverage they have lacked for years. He will lay more stress on his party's program than on criticism of the government.

This is an eminently sensible approach. Wallace is not a man of wide experience, and would extend his wisdom into folly if he tried to become a universal critic of the highly complex functions of a modern government. Until his party organization can build up a reservoir of private expertise for Wallace to draw upon, a modest silence will often be his best policy.

Ironically, events have robbed him of the major opportunity that first brought him into provincial politics. He first ran for office because he knew a lot about medicine, and felt that his knowledge would be valuable to the government and the public. Now that he is in opposition, he could normally still be expected to be a potent critic of government health policies.

But the fact that the government is now at war with the doctors makes things rather awkward for him. The government's line has already been that Wallace is simply in politics to plead for the special interests of the doctors, and any comments he has to make about health matters will be loudly interpreted as special pleading on behalf of the medical profession.

There are still large areas of health policy that he can debate without getting into the specific dispute with the doctors, but he is obviously going to have to choose his words with consummate care. Even for a second-time maiden it's going to be a tough job.

Doubletalk on Moran?

Clarify dam stand, Bennett told

Province News Service

VICTORIA — The B.C. government was challenged by Opposition MLAs Wednesday to make a clear statement of its position on the question of building the suggested Moran power dam on the Fraser River.

Barrie Clark (L—North Vancouver-Seymour) demanded the government stop "concealing" its position. And Dennis Cocke (NDP—New Westminster) called on the government to go on record as opposed to the dam proposal.

Premier Bennett leaped to his feet during the noisy session of throne speech debate and said that he, speaking for the government, will declare that the government "has never advocated" the Moran dam.

Clark said this doesn't answer the question: Is the government opposed or not opposed to the building of such a dam?

He then challenged Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell, the first scheduled speaker today, to make a

statement on the government's position on the dam.

"Unless this statement is made the premier will have been shown up as using double words in answering the people of B.C.," Clark said.

The Moran Canyon area, about 25 miles from Lillooet, has been surveyed as the B.C. Energy Board investigates possible power sources in B.C. and some exploratory field work has been done.

Cocke suggested the government go on record as being opposed to damming the Fraser and that it promise the

people of B.C. that power production will be more carefully thought out in the future.

He said the government should immediately instruct B.C. Hydro to study alternative methods of power production. More research and study are necessary at this time into such things as geothermal power, he said.

Cocke said this form of creating energy from the heat of the earth is receiving more attention and the provincial government should show some leadership by studying its possibilities for B.C.

There were 300 deaths 'for the road' . . .

In 1971, 633 people were killed in traffic accidents in British Columbia, according to the motor vehicle branch. That rate is 13 per cent ahead of 1970.

It's not possible to say precisely how many fatal accidents involved alcohol because, among other things, the burden of proof makes it difficult to lay impaired charges in all instances where drink is a factor in some degree. But special studies across Canada and the U.S. in the last five years have produced estimates that 44 to 77 per cent of traffic deaths are related to alcohol.

Most traffic authorities, includ-

ing those in B.C., believe that at least half the traffic fatalities can be attributed to alcohol. That "one for the road" therefore is responsible for the deaths of over 300 people in B.C. last year. That's an equation that should shame us all.

In face of this mounting evidence that many British Columbians are not being sensible in their drinking habits, Attorney-General Leslie Peterson can do no other than make life tougher for them.

There has been a 20 per cent increase in impaired driving convictions in 1971 — a total of

13,309. But apparently that isn't enough.

Mr. Peterson's proposal to have the licences of convicted impaired drivers automatically suspended should be welcomed, whatever hardship it may cause for some. As he says, there should be no exceptions, no relaxation to permit driving during certain hours or to keep a job involving driving.

The burden of such hardship is lighter than the burden of responsibility for a death.

If hitting drunk drivers where it hurts helps to reduce the traffic tolls, automatic licence suspension will be amply justified.

B.C. sawmill has to import logs from U.S.

By MARK WILSON

A company operating a \$3 million sawmill at Ladysmith on Vancouver Island claims that in the past four months it has paid out \$500,000 buying small sizes of logs because logging companies on the B.C. coast are interested only in cutting big trees.

Herb Doman, 39, president of Doman Industries Ltd., said Thursday that the provincial government should penalize coastal logging companies for failing to harvest trees of small diameter.

The Doman company built its Ladysmith mill exclusively to handle small sizes of logs, but can meet only half the plant's needs from B.C. sources. The balance is having to be imported from U.S. suppliers.

Doman said U.S. companies in Washington State observe closer utilization standards; in other words, they do not discard trees of small girth.

TOWING

"Here we are buying small pieces from people on Puget Sound, towing them up here, converting them and still managing to sell the end result to importers on the U.S. east coast. Why can't we get the logs here?"

Doman disclosed his company's reliance on U.S. suppliers to keep its four-year-old Ladysmith mill working at full capacity while commenting on a speech made Wednesday by Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston.

The minister was critical of forestry practice on the coast, complaining that the move towards closer utilization has lagged.

The provincial government has laid down different close utilization standards for the coast and for the interior, to take account of different tree growth characteristics.

In the interior, the requirement is that trees with a diameter of 7.1 inches at breast height (3 ft. 6 in.) should be utilized to the point up the trunk where the taper has reduced to a diameter of four inches.

LESS STRINGENT

On the coast the standard is less stringent. The minimum diameter at breast height is 9.1 inches and tops under six inches in diameter can be discarded.

Doman's mill can accept material down to four inches in diameter — the interior standard.

Said Herb Doman: "We can get two-by-fours from it and good sound lumber it is, too."

The Doman mill has a capacity of 120 million board feet a year. After a year of

frustrating teething troubles there followed two years of gradually building up output until the mill hit the capacity figure in the fall of 1971.

At this point the local supply of small sizes of logs was outstripped and Doman had to go seeking supplementary timbers from the U.S.

Said Doman: "This has been the great disappointment for us — the reluctance of logging companies here to go after the smaller sizes. They either leave them untouched or burn them when taking out large trees."

SUCCESS

Despite the need to buy timber from the U.S., Doman claims that the Ladysmith operation is a success.

"People thought I had lost my marbles when they heard we were going to pioneer a close utilization mill on the coast, but there's a profit in it and we have made it."

The Doman company's sales last year from sawmilling, logging, retailing and trucking amounted to \$21 million, yielding a profit before taxes of \$3.3 million. Doman said that he could not break down the results to say what fraction was contributed by the sawmill.

The Doman logging interest is at Jervis Inlet and big trees cut there are swapped for small sizes to help feed the Ladysmith mill.

Doman said his company is willing to offer a long term contract, "on almost any terms they want," to a B.C. supplier of small sizes of tree trunks.

The complaint used to be that it wasn't worth cutting small sizes because there was no guaranteed market for them. Well we are offering a guarantee and where is the taker?"

LICENSES

Chief provincial forester Lorne Swannell said tree farm licenses let on the coast require the licensees to cut down to close utilization standards. But the Crown lands covered by tree farm licenses account for only 15 per cent of the annual coastal forest tree harvest.

Williston, in his speech to the provincial legislature Wednesday, said that outside of the larger portions of coastal forest covered by tree farm licenses there has been little done to observe the close utilization standard.

In 1971 some 75 per cent of the total tree harvest in the province was cut on a close utilization basis. But this high figure reflected the solid performance of operators in the interior.

As one measure of the modern high-productivity machinery installed in close utiliza-

tion interior sawmills, Williston contrasted the output rates for coastal and interior sawmill workers. On the coast a man will turn out between 1,000 and 1,400 board feet of rough, green lumber a day. In the interior a worker will produce between 2,500 and 3,500 board feet of dried-planed lumber in a single shift.

The Williston example is rather like comparing apples and oranges. Correcting for wood loss due to drying and planing gives the interior worker a 350 per cent productivity edge over his coastal counterpart.

DECLINE

Williston also said that the overall output of the coastal forestry industry declined by 15.3 million cubic feet in 1971 from the previous year's total of 1,018 million cubic feet.

Asked Thursday about Doman's failure to buy all the small timber it needs from coastal B.C. sources, Williston said that the position is to be corrected.

The minister explained that close utilization covers more than recovering lumber and chips from slender trees. It also calls for utilizing large trees blighted by rot or spoiled by cracks in the trunk.

He suggested that the trouble met with by Doman was due to that fact that it could not buy mixed lots of close utilization trees which included the latter type. This problem, he suggested, will be overcome when Doman completes a partnership venture at Ladysmith for a new mill capable of dealing with logs affected by rot or splits at the core.

MIXED BUNDLES

Doman, said Williston, will be able then to buy mixed bundles of logs to feed both the new mill and the four-year-old sawmill built to handle only small sizes of logs.

"The difficulty is that at present they only wanted selected small sizes," he said.

Williston mentioned that new sawmills to handle coastal timbers blighted with rot or with splits are being built or are planned at four other locations: Pemberton (Evans Products Co. Ltd.), Boston Bar (Hampton Lumber Co.), New Westminster (Pacific Pine Co. Ltd.) and Whonnock on the Fraser River (Whonnock Lumber Co. Ltd.).

Gordon Draeske, president of the Council of Forest Industries of B.C. said that he was surprised at Williston's statement that lumber yield on the coast has fallen.

There was an annual increase in the years 1967 through 1970. The figures given by the minister are news to me. I can only sug-

gest that if there has been a drop it was due to curtailment of the cutting season because of the weather."

DIFFERENT

Asked about the complaint by the minister that pursuit of close utilization standards is lagging on the coast, he answered: "It should be understood that conditions on the coast and in the interior are very different."

"In the interior, close utilization is a matter of using small sound trees. On the coast, it is a question of recovering broken material or trees with rot and doing it in rough terrain."

Draeske said that it is not a question of comparing interior goodies against coastal baddies. "Very often the companies operating in the two areas are one and the same. Examples are Weldwood of Canada, B.C. Forest Products, Canadian Forest Products and Crown Zellerbach," he said.

Dan-Dan the municipal man super-mayor act does his

By BOB McCONNELL
Province Ottawa Bureau

VICTORIA — The annual Dan Campbell show hit the boards again Thursday. As he does every year, the municipal affairs minister spent a noisy 90 minutes in the legislature, alternately picking up B.C.'s municipalities and knocking them down again.

He produced his usual set of figures showing that B.C. municipalities, no matter how much they may complain, are better off than any others in Canada. He also produced his usual rowdy attack on municipal governments, making it quite clear that while they may be elected to govern, they had better govern as he sees fit.

It is a fascinating and instructive performance, particularly since Campbell has to be reckoned one of the top candidates to succeed Premier Bennett when he finally drops the reins of power.

For years Campbell has been quietly building his political power base through a series of legislative changes that have made him a sort of super-mayor of B.C., a court of last resort for anyone dissatisfied with the decisions of a municipal or regional government. He is now in a position to change or veto a wide range of decisions that were formally under the control of municipal governments alone.

The line he has been developing over the last year or so is a simple one — municipal governments are too often ruled by bureaucrats who lack the wisdom of practical men like the municipal affairs minister. The main targets of his attack are municipal planners, whom he refers to in the same tones of scorn that Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi, one of the other leadership hopefuls, uses to describe social workers.

To Campbell these men are not merely planners, they are "way-out super-planners" and "airy-fairy dreamer planners" who seek to stifle progress by a maze of rules and regulations that get in the way of men of action. A few random selections from Thursday's speech makes the drift of his comments quite clear:

"It is the job of political people and not the job of bureaucrats to chart the course a municipality is going to follow. We need positive proposals and not a ring of negative bylaws."

"I get complaints every day from developers and individuals who are not able to meet some ridiculous regulation or some ridiculous zoning bylaw."

"Where the regional areas have not met the test of pub-

lic acceptance for their zoning bylaws I will not sign the bylaw."

"There is example after example of good housing proposals which bureaucratic planners, uninformed building inspectors and very foolish councils have turned down."

"I don't intend to let stupidity and lack of common sense" interfere with the government's policy of encouraging homeownership.

"Planners get in the way — they think they are planning for Forest Lawn cemetery instead of living people."

Campbell tends to reserve to himself the right to set his own tests of public acceptance for things like municipal and regional zoning bylaws, and his tests often appear to bear little relation to the democratic processes that are set out by law to gauge public feeling. On Thursday, for example, he trotted out two instances of what he feels is the stupidity of the junior governments and their employees.

He produced some sketches of a proposal by a group of people living in a "run down rental trailer park" in Coquitlam. As Campbell explained it, these people want to lay out a section of the municipality for a trailer subdivision, complete with landscaping, sidewalks, sewers, ornamental street lighting, a water system, recreational areas and a day care centre.

BLUNT ASSERTION

He gave no reason why the proposal has run into conflict with the municipal authorities — simply his blunt assertion that the proposal is a "one" and the municipality had better not get in the way of it.

Campbell also chose to heap scorn on the Capital Regional District in its efforts to draw up a zoning bylaw to control development of the Gulf Islands — a task assigned to them by Campbell himself.

The district has sent Gulf Island property owners a tabloid newspaper outlining three possible development routes for the islands, and asking for the landowners' reactions to each of the proposals. The only one that Campbell mentioned in the legislature happened to be based on a floating bridge scheme prepared for the highways department in 1986, when Gaglardi was still highways minister. When that plan became public last year, Highways Minister Wesley Black said the government was no longer interested in it.

Waving aloft a copy of the tabloid, Campbell demanded to know why the regional district didn't recognize the fact that the government had said the bridge proposal was not part of its policy.

AIRY - FAIRY

"These airy - fairy dreamer planners get all up in the air with these schemes and then present them to the public and get them alarmed," he fumed.

What Campbell chose to ignore was a sentence, prominently displayed in bold faced capitals, in the regional district's tabloid.

"It should be understood quite clearly that although the provincial government authorized the study on the road-bridge link there are no commitments at this time to construct such a link and that such construction is not under study," the tabloid said.

The publication made it abundantly clear that the proposal was presented simply as an example of what could happen if it was decided that all potential demand for transportation to the islands should be met. Campbell deliberately chose to ignore that vital aspect of the tabloid experiment — an effort to engage the public in planning decisions to an unprecedented degree.

The reason why he ignored it is quite clear — he is preparing a semantic position that will allow him to intervene in the development of the Gulf Islands zoning bylaw whenever he wishes.

That, after all, is one of the advantages of being super-mayor.

NDP car insurance bid fails

By BOB McCONNELL
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — With the support of Liberals and the lone Conservative MLA, the provincial government easily turned back an NDP bid to obtain government-owned-car insurance in B.C. Thursday.

In an occasionally angry debate that sent the legislature into its first late night sitting of the 1972 session, NDP members challenged the government to call an election on the auto insurance issue. They accused the Social Credit party of living off campaign funds supplied by the insurance industry.

William Hartley (NDP — Yale-Lillooet) said the government had failed to fulfill the promise it made in 1969 that compulsory no-fault insurance would cut insurance rates by 15 to 35 per cent.

Hartley also criticized the B.C. Auto Insurance Board, which ordered no-fault rates cut from \$22 to \$15 after a hearing in Victoria earlier this month.

He said board chairman Dr. J. F. K. English is "a dear old gent, but he's either misguided or wrongly instructed."

"The insurance board that is supposed to represent the people of B.C. invited the insurance companies to say why they shouldn't reduce their rates, but the public was not invited to say why the rates should be reduced," Hartley said.

"The board is obviously being instructed by the representatives of a government that got elected with campaign funds from the insurance companies."

Premier Bennett leaped to his feet and replied: "I want to make it very clear — this government did not receive funds from that industry."

However, Bennett did not reply when Hartley asked him to say that neither the government nor the Social Credit party has ever received campaign funds from the car insurance industry.

Hartley claimed that by the end of this year the insurance industry will have made \$20 million in excess profits on no-fault insurance, which was first introduced two years ago.

He said these profits, which would amount to \$20 for every car owner in B.C., should be returned to the public.

Although the rate-making group that dominates the auto insurance industry had announced that 1972 premiums would go up by 5.9 per cent, Hartley said, the cost of collision insurance on one of his cars — a 1967 Mercedes — has gone up from \$23 to \$38, a 65 per cent increase.

NDP leader Dave Barrett said a number of Social Credit MLAs and party members have pleaded with the govern-

ment for years to introduce its own auto insurance system. Barrett challenged the MLAs to support the NDP motion.

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver-Howe Sound) defended the insurance board, which he called "a group of responsible men fulfilling a responsible function in a responsible way."

He scoffed at Hartley's complaints about his insurance coverage, which Williams said was provided by a Saskatchewan-based company for exactly the same rates that Hartley would have paid in Saskatchewan under the government-owned insurance plan there.

"The issue at stake here is whether or not we want to say in this province that profit is a dirty word," Williams said.

"The up - the - garden - path variety of socialists in this province have been leading the people of B.C. astray on this issue year after year."

He said the government has been lax in regulating insurance companies and has failed to insist that its own laws are followed.

URGES RATE CUT

Williams suggested the high profits earned by the insurance companies in the first two years of no-fault coverage should be passed back by cutting the no-fault premiums to \$7.50 for the next two years.

Dr. Scott Wallace (PC—Oak Bay) also criticized the insurance industry's performance but refused to accept the idea of a state-owned insurance system.

"Because the present program is not effective and efficient and fair to the public doesn't mean that the only alternative is a plan owned and controlled solely by the government," Wallace said.

He suggested a new automobile insurance board should be appointed that would be more clearly free from government influence.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said the insurance board, which was appointed only a year ago, has not yet had a chance to "demonstrate to the public how they can deal with the very complicated and difficult problem of automobile insurance."

"NOT A PANACEA"

"One only has to look at the number of complaints about unemployment insurance, which is also run by a government agency, to know that government ownership isn't a panacea," Peterson said.

The NDP motion — actually a motion of non-confidence in the government — was defeated 39 to 13, with Liberal MLA Barrie Clark (North Vancouver-Seymour) breaking party ranks to vote with the NDP.

The motion to amend the Throne Speech was moved by Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin) who said the legislature should express its regrets that no mention was made in the Throne Speech of a government auto insurance plan, which would supply coverage at cost to the people of B.C.

Gas or N-power for the Island?

Political giants are battling over the atom in Victoria, and as often happens, more confusion than clarification is the immediate result.

We have Resources Minister Williston appearing to damn everything but hydro-electric energy, and Liberal leader McGeer praising everything but dams.

Mr. McGeer says, true, that his party doesn't demand a total moratorium on building dams. But he talks of Premier Bennett's prejudice for "these land-destroying hydro-electric projects", leaves the impression that nuclear energy is the best of all worlds, says that in future "we will prefer those sources of energy which are below the surface."

Mr. Williston retorts that "why anyone should urge us into the speculative field of nuclear power at this time I will never know."

In general, Mr. Williston has the better part of the argument. So long as B.C. can produce 3.5 million kilowatts of extra capacity by using water already stored behind dams, it is a source that will be hard to beat for any reason.

Such sites will not produce the ecological disasters Mr. McGeer fashionably fears. But that amount of power will be swallowed up within the next decade — and a decade is nothing in terms of planning power projects for a fast-growing province.

Nuclear plants are not nearly as speculative as Mr. Williston im-

plies. They are coming in routinely throughout North America, and must play a major role in our medium-term future. We hope the Energy Board has courage enough to deal with the subject in its report to the government.

But Vancouver Island has none of those ideal sites Mr. Williston talks about. It is running short of power. Mr. Bennett seems to have decided that its next power plant will be fuelled by natural gas, sent there by the highly-controversial pipeline across Georgia Strait.

Here there is a straight contest between non-hydro sources of electricity. Mr. Bennett seems to

have decided arbitrarily, on the basis of some largely-discredited fears about nuclear plants, that one should not even be considered. Or can Mr. Williston assure us that a thorough comparison of economic and other factors has been made?

The question of which single source of energy should shape B.C.'s future is still rather premature. But the specific question of nuclear versus natural-gas-fired electricity for Vancouver Island is a fair one and a critical one. It should be intelligently discussed in the Legislature now, before the decision goes by default.

Cemetery group's liabilities queried

Canadian Press

VICTORIA — Detailed questions on the liabilities of a group of cemeteries operated by Robert Hagel of Victoria have been placed on the order paper of the legislature.

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver—Howe Sound) has asked Premier Bennett for a year-by-year statement of total cemetery plot sales and trust fund deficiencies of the "Hagel group of cemetery companies."

The companies are Colwood Improvement Company Ltd., which operates Hatley Memorial Gardens at Colwood; Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens Ltd., which has cemeteries at Port Alberni and Cedar Valley near Nanaimo; and Greencrest Memorial Gardens Ltd. of Kelowna.

The Public Utilities Commission placed the companies under trusteeship in April 1970 because of shortages in ceme-

tary care funds required to be kept for perpetual upkeep of the cemeteries.

The shortages were described as amounting to \$42,000 in the PUC annual report for 1969 but the cemeteries have subsequently been granted a waiver of some payments to the trust funds.

The latest official figures on the sales and trust fund accounts of the cemeteries are contained in a file at the Victoria law courts.

They showed trust fund requirements of \$100,000 by mid-1958. No subsequent figures have been issued by the PUC which is the agency responsible for cemeteries.

The Hagel cemeteries failed to have their trust funds approved by the B.C. Supreme Court at the required five-year intervals during the 1960s.

Greene Park established near Rossland

VICTORIA (CP) — The provincial cabinet has established 451-acre Nancy Greene Park near Rossland.

Campsites, picnic sites and trails will be provided in the new Class A park which surrounds Nancy Greene Lake, near Highway 3.

Five mineral claims in the area are specifically excluded from the park.

In another cabinet order, 44 acres donated by the Alpine Club of Canada were added to 12,800-acre Mount Assiniboia Park near Banff on the B.C.-Alberta border.

Airy-fairy planning hit in Campbell warning

Canadian Press

VICTORIA — Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell warned B.C. municipalities Thursday to be wary of "airy, fair super planners" who are apt to destroy any chance for constructive growth in the province.

The issue the municipalities face, Campbell told the legislature, is not whether there shall be any growth, "but on whose terms and whose conditions," this growth will take place.

Campbell said that many municipalities in an effort to cope with rapid development in B.C. have surrounded themselves with professional planners, bureaucrats, and unnecessary rules and regulations which "do not meet the test of common sense."

One area where there is much impractical thinking, he said, is in the housing field, which Campbell said is one of the major problems facing municipalities in Canada.

Too often, he said, planners get in the way of good sound housing proposals and they "think they are planning for Forest Lawn Cemetery instead of for people."

"If we are going to have sensible control of our environment and cope with the challenge of growth... we

LEGISLATURE

must plan in terms of people."

The minister, in a statistical account of the state of B.C. municipalities, told the legislature that in 1970 the municipalities had a total of \$104.9 million in statutory reserves, operating reserves and surpluses, an increase of \$10.1 million over 1969.

Because of this rosy reserve picture, the minister suggested it was time the municipalities pooled their reserves and gave people a chance to buy bonds through the Municipal Finance Authority.

The MFA was set up in 1970 to finance sewer, water, pollution control and abatement facilities of municipalities and regional districts.

The minister gave no indication of the government's position on the Moran Dam in the Fraser River. Barrie Clark (Lib. — N. Vancouver-Seymour) had challenged the minister Wednesday to say "yes or no" to the proposed high-level dam.

Clark said failure of the minister to give the government's position on the matter

would be proof that Premier Bennett and the cabinet are being less than candid with the people of B.C. on the controversial issue.

Frank Calder (NDP — Atlin) expressed agreement with Campbell's intention to bring in legislation that would allow the Indians at Cape Mudge to pass a referendum with 60 per cent majority rather than 75 as is required now.

A referendum Jan. 17 by the Cape Mudge Indian band to become Canada's first Indian municipality failed by four votes, although 71.4 per cent of the band members were in favor.

Campbell announced in the legislature Thursday that he had a letter from Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chretien expressing his agreement with the 60 per cent requirement.

However, Campbell said, the federal minister suggested the matter be put to the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs to get the Indians' opinion.

Calder said the Nishga Indian band to which he belongs is also willing to become a municipality pending the outcome of the Cape Mudge case. Campbell has said the Cape Mudge band will hold another vote but no date has been set.

Pension off utilities commission: Macdonald

Canadian Press

VICTORIA — It is time the Public Utilities Commission in B.C. was abolished and replaced with an "aggressive, scrutinizing, independent body" which will protect the people of the province, Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said on Friday.

He told the legislature during the Throne Speech debate he was not attacking the three members of the commission personally "because all three, in their time, have contributed to the province."

However, there are too many examples of the commission's incompetence being covered "under a veil of secrecy" Macdonald said. Therefore "they should be pensioned off."

The commission comprises Dr. J. F. K. English, the 70-year-old chairman; Lyle Wicks, a long-defeated Social Credit minister, and Findlay McKinnon, a former deputy minister of forests.

Macdonald said the commission is too much under the control of Premier Bennett and out of the hands of the legislature.

He cited the "Hagel group of cemetery companies" and Victory Memorial Gardens near White Rock.

In both cases, he said, the commission, which is the agency responsible for cemeteries, had to take action because of shortages of cemetery care funds required by law to be kept for the perpetual upkeep of the cemeteries.

In the case of the Victory Memorial Gardens the funds had been "dipped into," and the commission was forced to put a \$250,000 mortgage on the cemetery. Macdonald said cemeteries cannot legally be mortgaged. "Apart from foreclosure difficulties, where do you serve the papers?"

He said there was no mention of trust fund shortages in the 1970 annual report.

In order to cover up the trouble, Macdonald said, a new company was formed and this company was granted a crematorium in the hope that the profits from that would gradually pay back the misplaced trust funds.

In the other case, the Hatley Memorial Gardens at Colwood, near Victoria, was placed under trusteeship in 1970, he said. Yet the owner, Robert Hagel of Victoria, was given the right to establish and operate a crematorium at Cedar Valley, near Nanaimo.

In both these cases, the commission covered up "burying its own mistakes in competence and awarding them

(the two companies) another crematorium to make it up."

Macdonald said the B.C. Securities Commission is another government body which in stocks of Kaiser Resources, the company taking coal from southeastern B.C. for shipment to Japan.

Because the stocks bought were not offered on the American stock market and because these American executives were privy to confidential information on the coal "shrouds itself in secrecy" and should be ordered by the attorney-general to give a report of its activities to the legislature.

The securities commission should be taking action in the recently reported case of insider trading being done by U.S. Kaiser Steel executives mining situation when they bought and sold the stocks. This was clearly a breach of the B.C. Securities Act, he said.

Therefore, there should be a public hearing and those found guilty should be subject to prosecution, Macdonald said.

MLA opposes Hydro's pipeline bid

Canadian Press

VICTORIA — A Social Credit MLA has told the legislature he opposes the application of B.C. Hydro to build a natural gas pipeline from the mainland to Vancouver Island.

Alex Fraser (SC — Cariboo) said Hydro, unlike the other five applicants, has no experience in building natural gas main transmission lines.

He said the Crown corporation would waste a lot of public funds because of its "lack of experience in this field."

The government would have to acquire large capital funds to finance the project if Hydro won its bid, he said. This would cut into the government's responsibilities of raising capital for other Hydro projects.

Fraser told the House, however, he was not opposed to Hydro being given a share of the distribution rights when natural gas comes to Vancouver Island.

"I realize that B.C. Hydro can make a reasonable profit on distribution, and it also helps them to negotiate a bet-

ter price with the supplies because of the heavier load factor they would have."

He suggested gas franchises for Vancouver Island be distributed on the same percentage basis that exists in the rest of the province. Thus, Hydro would get rights to 60 per cent of the gas distributed and private enterprise applicants would get the remainder.

Fraser also expressed concern at plans to build the Moran dam on the Fraser River, 20 miles north of Lillooet.

Socred shafts Skillings

B.C. snowmobile limits, rules proposed

Province News Services

VICTORIA — A director of snowmobiles, working under the B.C. department of recreation and conservation, was proposed in the legislature Friday.

Pat Jordan, minister without portfolio, said such a director is needed to establish definite park and recreational areas for snowmobilers to pursue their recreational pastime.

She said the director would work with the various associations and family clubs as well as the forest industry to work out safe, charted areas for snowmobiles.

More regulations could then be provided she said, to cut down on the disadvantages of the snowmobile such as the noise. Mandatory training programs could be worked out, Mrs. Jordan added.

"In short a recreational plan for family snowmobiling requires co-operation and regulations from not only the recreation department but also the department of commercial transport and the department of lands, forests and water resources."

The minister also attacked the federal government for its failure to prevent the importation of "cheap foods" from countries such as the U.S. where costs and labor are cheaper.

"The erosion of the domestic market is very serious," she said, "because without it the interior fruit industry cannot survive."

The time has come, Mrs. Jordan said, to push the "Buy B.C. policy" for unless more grown-in-B.C. produce is used, the B.C. growers are going to be out of business.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson was asked Friday to take a look at the firing of Brian Rudkin as president of Westco International Insurance Co. to ensure the man's civil liberties were not violated.

Rudkin, founder of the Vancouver company, announced Thursday he had been fired by Westco's parent company, Northland Insurance of St. Paul, Minn. for choosing not to raise the company's no-fault car insurance premiums.

"When a British Columbian is peremptorily dismissed for pledging better rates for B.C. there should be laws that he be given proper termination notice," Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) told the legislature.

The whole question of the man's civil liberties should be considered he said, "as well as the independence of this province."

Burt Campbell (SC—Revelstoke-Slocan) has called in the legislature for a close government scrutiny of Kaiser Steel interests in B.C.

Campbell said he wanted to see a full investigation of the reported irregularities in the "curious case of Kaiser Resources," recently reported in the Wall Street Journal in which \$3 million in shares of Kaiser Resources to Americans were involved.

The government should place the investigation in the hands of the standing committee of railways and mining, with order to look fully into the relationship between Kaiser Steel, KRI Investments (who handled the stock sale), and Kaiser Resources, the MLA said.

He suggested the committee should also study whether Crownest Industries, being 60 per cent foreign-owned, should be allowed to build the Kootenay Elk Railroad.

A Social Credit member of the legislature took Trade Minister Waldo Skillings to task for failing to open up new employment opportunities in northern B.C.

Don Marshall (SC—South Peace) said he was most disenchanted with the performance of a department which should be aggressive and full of promotional schemes but which under Skillings suffers from complete paralysis.

He said the adage that the north is the land of opportunity could become largely a myth unless the government opens up new jobs.

At present, he said, there are pockets of rapid development which suffer from higher-than-average unemployment, a high concentration of welfare recipients and many high school, vocational, and, in some cases, university graduates who cannot be absorbed in the mainstream of the community.

"Agriculture opened up the Peace and it is still its economy mainstay," Marshall said.

"Yet our department does nothing to stimulate production of new products nor does it contribute very much to production facilities, market development or sales contacts in the promotion of agricultural products."

Vancouver Island should strive to become a bicycle paradise, Frank Ney, Nanaimo's promotion-minded Social Credit member told the legislature.

"A bicycle path from Victoria to Campbell River would be a great feature for bringing thousands of cycling enthusiasts to the Island from all over North America, Ney said.

He cited Bermuda and Hawaii as examples of bicycle-oriented tourist areas.

"Bermuda has made money out of cyclists and we can do

it here," the Nanaimo MLA said.

"In Europe cycling paths have been the fashion for hundreds of years. If we are thinking in terms of a growing population we should be thinking of bicycle paths."

The government should also be thinking about adding another ferry on the Vancouver-Nanaimo run to help handle some of the tourists that would be encouraged to visit the Island by the "catalytic action" of Pacific Rim Park on in the Island's west coast, said.

New curbs planned on teachers' salaries

The provincial government has revealed new measures to control teachers' salaries in B.C., measures promptly blasted by the B.C. Teachers Federation as "rank discrimination."

Starting next year, any teachers' salary increases higher than a level set by the provincial cabinet will have to be approved by ratepayers in a special referendum.

This will apply regardless of whether the contracts are arrived at by negotiation between teachers and school boards or by the independent arbitration provided for in the Public Schools Act.

The new measures were disclosed Friday in amendments to the Public Schools Act introduced in the legislature by Education Minister Donald Brothers.

They go far beyond Brothers' announcement last fall that the government will not share with school boards the cost of any salary increases above 6.5 per cent for the 1972 contract year.

That announcement still allowed the boards to pay the salary increases without taxpayer approval if they could find room in their 1972 budget.

As promised earlier by Brothers, the Public Schools Act amendments also require school boards to obtain the taxpayers' approval for any 1972 budget that is more than eight per cent higher than the basic education cost set for the district by the provincial government. Until now, school boards have been able to exceed the basic education cost by 10 per cent without taxpayer approval.

When Brothers announced the change last fall, he said it would apply only to school districts with budgets of more than \$3 million a year. However, the legislation simply allows Brothers to exempt "small school boards" from the eight per cent restriction at his discretion.

The B.C. Teachers Federation president, Adam Robertson, described the new wage legislation as "rank discrimination" and said it makes a farce of the collective bargaining and arbitration process.

The new legislation also sets out new provisions for dismissal of school teachers.

It allows school boards to suspend teachers who are charged with a criminal offence or are accused of misconduct, neglect of duty, or refusal to obey an order of the board.

In the case of a teacher charged with a criminal offence, the board must decide within seven days of a court decision whether to re-instate him or dismiss him.

A teacher suspended because of misconduct has the right to an interview with his school board and local school superintendent within a week of his suspension. The board has another week after the in-

terview to decide whether to re-instate or fire the teacher.

Any teacher dismissed for misconduct or a criminal offence can appeal to a three-man board of reference appointed by the education minister.

Teachers who are considered incompetent can be fired on 30 days' notice. They will be able to appeal to a review commission appointed by Brothers.

The review commission will be limited to people employed by a school, college or university in B.C.

There will be no appeal from the decision of the review commission.

A legislative committee that examined the question of teacher tenure last year recommended that before a teacher could be fired for incompetence his performance would have to be judged in three separate reports by his principal, the school superintendent for his district, and a superintendent from another district. Brothers said that this recommendation, although not included in Friday's legislation will be specified in cabinet regulations.

Gasline plan payoff plot, House told

By BOB McCONNELL
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government has ignored B.C. Hydro and the public interest in order to repay its political debts to Westcoast Transmission Ltd. says Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East).

He told the legislature Friday that the government deliberately tried to shut Hydro out of the bidding for a natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island so Westcoast could make more money out of the deal.

While Resources Minister Ray Williston, one of Hydro's directors, has said the Crown corporation showed no interest in the pipeline until Premier Bennett called for bids last spring, Macdonald said Hydro had indicated three years ago that it wants to build the line.

The key to the deal, Macdonald said, was to have been Vancouver public relations man Dan Ekman, a former executive assistant to Premier Bennett, and Frank McMahon, the former head of Westcoast Transmission.

Macdonald read a summary of a hearing held by the National Energy Board in 1969 into an application by Westcoast to increase its gas sales to El Paso Natural Gas Ltd. of Texas, Westcoast's main customer.

The NEB report said Westcoast had indicated that natural gas could not be sold profitably on Vancouver Island until 1975, while Hydro had testified that a market for gas on the Island would develop in 1973 or 1974.

Hydro witnesses also told the NEB that Hydro rather than Westcoast would provide the gas pipeline to Vancouver Island.

(B.C. Hydro chairman Dr. Gordon Shrum confirmed Hydro postponed its pipeline plan because of the tight money situation in 1969 and 1970.

(It was in 1970 that Shrum began to promote the idea of a nuclear power station to supply future Vancouver Island electricity needs. Premier Bennett has said he will never approve nuclear power on the island because of pollution fears.)

When Bennett invited pipeline bids last spring he originally specified a route that would run from the Westcoast line at Williams Lake to Powell River and across the Strait of Georgia to Vancouver Island. Hydro subsequently submitted a proposal for a \$45 million pipeline from the Westcoast terminus at Hunt-

ington in the Fraser Valley across the Strait to southern Vancouver Island.

Last September the provincial cabinet indicated it favored a \$95 million bid from Malaspina Gas Pipeline Ltd. that followed the route originally specified by Bennett. Malaspina was organized by Ekman.

The cabinet originally said that only Malaspina could apply to the Public Utilities Commission for a permit to build the line, and other bidders — including Hydro — could only appear at the PUC hearings as objectors.

Late last fall the cabinet announced that all bidders, including Hydro, could appear before the PUC on an equal footing.

If Westcoast sold its gas to the new pipeline at Williams Lake, Macdonald said, it could charge any price it wanted for the gas. If it sold the gas at Huntington under the Hydro proposal, it would be governed by a National Energy Board ruling that any Canadian customer taking gas at Huntington must receive it for five per cent less than the price Westcoast charges to El Paso Natural Gas.

Macdonald said that the original terms of Bennett's invitation for pipeline bids were tailor-made for Malaspina and Westcoast.

"For 19 years this government has been like a mother to Westcoast, and that relationship still exists today," Macdonald said.

"Malaspina was just a front for Westcoast — it didn't have the kind of money or engineering to make that kind of proposal.

Macdonald described Ekman as "a bon vivant, and the premier's speech writer, voyageur and taster."

"It's true that Ekman could have been said to have good pipeline connections — he has been the pipeline between the industry and the premier's office for years," Macdonald said.

"Ekman has worked for both Bennett and McMahon two masters with but a single thought."

Macdonald accused Williston and Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan, another Hydro director, of deserting the chairman of Hydro and the people of B.C. to protect the owners of the private pipeline.

When Bennett first called for pipeline bids, he said, Williston and Kiernan didn't even see that the government specifications for the proposed line were sent to Hydro.

"You're trying to strip this deal away from Hydro and the scrutiny of the National Energy Board," Macdonald said.

The Public Utilities Commission, which is supposed to decide the issue as an independent body, is completely controlled by the government, Macdonald said.

"When Premier Bennett sneezes the PUC says gesundheit."

He said the cabinet's original order that only Malaspina should be heard as a prime proposer before the PUC contravenes the Public Utilities Act, which requires the commission to hear all applications for any utility franchise.

Macdonald said that Malaspina is now fading out of the picture as a result of the political outcry, but it has been replaced by Pacific Northern Gas Ltd., a Westcoast subsidiary that has now applied for the pipeline rights.

Westcoast, through its president Kelly Gibson, is now trying to throw cold water on Hydro's proposal by saying that Hydro's present contract with Westcoast only allows it to buy gas for distribution on the Lower Mainland, Macdonald said.

"Gibson has no right to make such a statement," Macdonald said.

Hydro has argued that by buying gas for Vancouver Island under its existing contract with Westcoast it would be able to use summer gas that is now wasted in the lower Mainland.

Macdonald said that Hydro chairman Dr. Shrum has "shown some independence in this matter and helped stave off the give-away that was about to take place."

In Vancouver, Shrum said the reason B.C. Hydro did not proceed with construction of a pipeline to Vancouver Island following its espousal at the December, 1969 hearings was because of lack of capital.

The line would cost between \$40 million and \$50 million, he said. Hydro's bid last year to the province said a line could be built for \$45 million.

"We were asked to cut back on all our capital projects in 1969 because the money markets were bad and interest rates very high. The gas division did propose the line to the executive management committee but the committee was not interested because of the capital involved.

"The matter wasn't reviewed because we never felt easy about raising the capital."

However, when Premier Bennett called for proposals for the line in 1971, interest rates were starting to turn down, Shrum said, and Hydro made its bid.

Currently, there are six applications, including B.C. Hydro's, before the Public Utilities commission to build the line to the island. Hearings are expected to start in mid-May.

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1972

MLAs will probe faculty tenure

By IAIN HUNTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The tenure of faculty members at B.C.'s three public universities will come under the scrutiny of the legislature this year.

The throne speech, read by Lt.-Gov. John Nicholson at the opening of the session here today, said the provincial government is referring the question of faculty tenure to the House standing committee on education and welfare.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett indicated in comments outside the House later that this may be only the first of a number of measures being considered by the government to increase its control over university affairs.

Other measures outlined in the throne speech for the coming session included:

- Proposed amendments to labor legislation, though Bennett would not say whether this included a major change in the controversial Mediation Commission Act;

- New legislation to govern the relationships between members of the family — and again Bennett would not indicate what is contemplated;

- Possible revised legislation on Indian court caseworker program;

- More measures to create jobs in the province, particularly in government departments;

- Possible revised legislation governing companies and securities, and examination of law reform commission reports on expropriation and debtor-creditor relationship laws;

- Measures to plug loopholes in the provincial Litter Act;

- Amendments to the Regional Park Act.

Bennett, talking to reporters after the house opening ceremonies, did not appear to be as proud as he usually is of the throne speech.

Asked to sum it up in one phrase, he remarked: "I never criticize the throne speech."

But he repeated his admonition to reporters to wait for the budget speech — which he will deliver as finance minister Feb. 4 for the major measures which will be dealt with this session.

It was also observed that there was nothing in the speech today which could be considered an election plan.

"Boy scout, be prepared," commented the premier.

The speech from the throne didn't elaborate on the government's intentions on the faculty tenure question.

"The select standing committee on social welfare and education will be asked to review the tenure of members of the faculties in the public universities," was all it said.

It was late last year, when tenure problems, particularly at Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria, made headlines, that the government began to show its concern.

Education Minister Donald Brothers has said that his department has been looking into the problem, and it is expected that the government's feeling will be expressed to the committee of MLAs.

Bennett, asked what his government wants to do about the tenure problem, said that at the moment it wants only "to let the sunlight in" by sending it to the committee.

He was asked to comment on the \$80,000 severance allowance given UVic president Dr. Bruce Partridge, which has been criticized publicly by Industrial Development Minister Waldo Skillings as excessive.

"The operation of the universities does not come under the government," Bennett said.

Asked if he was considering changing the relationships between the universities and government, which pays operating and capital grants to the institutions, the premier replied:

"Well, you notice the question of tenure is going before a legislative committee this year."

It would require an amendment of the Universities Act to allow the government to intervene in university operations, but Bennett would not say whether such legislation is anticipated this session.

The throne speech, heard by some 200 dignitaries and invited guests crowded on the floor of the legislative chamber and 70 members of the public in the galleries above, showed that the government is aware of possible labor-management problems this year.

It observed that 1971 was a relatively peaceful year.

"The absence of prolonged labor disputes suggests that the combined efforts of labor, management and my government avoided serious confrontation," the speech said.

It also congratulated labor and management for their cooperation in drafting new regulations in the field of accident prevention under the Workmen's Compensation Board.

But it also served notice that amendments to labor legislation will be introduced this session.

Bennett would not disclose what these are, and Labor Minister James Chabot, in an interview later, refused to state whether significant changes in the Mediation Act are contemplated.

But asked if there will be changes in legislation this year "besides changes to the Mediation Act," Chabot said, "Yes, there will."

Chabot, when he was still only a government backbencher at the beginning of the 1971 session, questioned the credibility of the commission under the chairmanship of John Parker and called for removal of provisions for fines and imprisonment of workers who don't return to their jobs when ordered to under the act.

However, major revisions affecting the compulsory aspects of the legislation are not expected this year in view of today's referral of the dispute between hospitals and their employees to the commission for binding arbitration.

Bennett told reporters later that his government still considers unemployment the major problem facing it this year.

The speech stated:

"In order to help reduce the unemployment rate with which we are faced you will be asked to consider job-creating measures involving the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Co., housing, forest and park development, and protection of the ecology."

The speech also stated that the continued high level of migration into B.C. affects the delicate balance between jobs and the numbers of people

seeking work and creates additional problems "for which solutions are being sought."

Although the speech said that pollution control is the government's prime thrust, it dealt only with past measures and forecast nothing new.

The only mention of the controversy surrounding construction of a natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island was that when this is completed it should spur further exploratory gas drilling in the northwestern part of the province.

The speech also said that a bill will be presented to change the name of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway to British Columbia Railway Co. as announced by Bennett last summer.

The premier said later, however, that there will be other legislation dealing with the PGE — likely another increase in the railway's share capital to finance expansion.

The speech also forecast amendments to the Public Schools Act, and Bennett said these have already been announced by Brothers.

Thur., Jan. 20, 1972



"Dash it all . . . if you had any appreciation for good theatre you would be shouting 'Author! Author!' too."

Allan FOTHERGILL

VICTORIA — THE nite, discernible point degenerates into a point came to the atmosphere of Victoria yesterday when a reg-



number of 57, any even the sinking of the Bis- mutically becomes a

The erecting of the put today's legislative the category of the Open. It has been lur for the past several y bolism of a parliame being subordinated shot from the techni at stage left. Today's the throne," a speech his own, read by a Queen who is not here be, is evidence enoug me or thee tried the on a doorstep before Burnaby we'd be arres of false pretences. Po has convenient hyp around the truth.

The socially-favored crowd their bottoms in

Allan FOTHERINGHAM

VICTORIA — THERE IS A DEFINITE, discernible point when an event degenerates into a non-event. Such a point came to the ship-in-a-bottle atmosphere of Victoria-by-the-ennui yesterday when a regiment or two of



CBC technicians began erecting a Mecano-set tower on the lawn of the legislative building. (We shall leave aside for the moment the academic point that whenever CBC technicians exceed a maximum number of 57, any event — including the sinking of the Bismarck — automatically becomes a non-event.)

The erecting of the tower officially put today's legislative opening into the category of the Bing Crosby Open. It has been lurching that way for the past several years, the symbolism of a parliament reconvening being subordinated to the mobile shot from the technicolor butterfly at stage left. Today's "speech from the throne," a speech which is not his own, read by a stand-in for a Queen who is not here and never will be, is evidence enough in itself. If me or thee tried the same gimmick on a doorstep before a housewife in Burnaby we'd be arrested on charges of false pretences. Politics however, has convenient hypocritical ways around the truth.

The socially-favored few who will crowd their bottoms into hard chairs

on the legislative floor have been coned into walk-on roles, minus the ACTRA minimum rate. Just as golf spectators have become not individuals or groups — but manipulated audiences, permitted to walk here and not there, for the millions of television voyeurs at home, so, unwittingly, have all these socialite dollies, done up in the latest mid-length fashion handed down from Women's Wear Daily. They are the captive spear carriers, as surely as the mob recruited from the sidewalks as the backdrop for Queen For A Day.

The lieutenant-governor and the premier, much as they may kid themselves, are as much camera-fodder as the beer-bellied patrons who stand at the 17th green in the Sunday afternoon golf bores on the telly. You will see them today, standing there on the legislative steps, pretending to gaze majestically off into the distance but in fact staring straight ahead at the sterile steel skeleton of the TV pedestal, mucking up the legislative lawn, blocking the view of poor old outraged Queen Victoria in statue and turning what was once a stately ritual into a mock-up, starring mannequins, for the boob tube. The media is not only the message. It is the master — as long as politicians go for the phoney stage dressing.

★
IF WE MIGHT BE SO GHASTLY as to go into this introverted matter further, there are intriguing entrails to be uncovered. The off-season, in racetrack parlance, is when the

touts take a breather. In Social Credit patois, it is when the touts blossom as the dawn. There has sprung, full-blown from the brow of radio operator Clare Copeland, something known as B.C. Radio News. Copeland is to Victoria radio what Muzak is to elevators. His CFAX station dispenses what is known in the trade as "candlelight and whine. Mr. Copeland has devised B.C. Radio News as a quick, efficient method of transferring to the boondocks the words of Olympian wisdom that spill from the lips of retired piano-movers who populate the Social Credit backbenches.

CFAX, to show how independent it is, recently hosted a press party where the star turn was done by that well-known Rent-a-Boswell, Ronald B. Worley, working his nubby little fingers to the bone autographing copies of his recent immortal work, convenient carloads of which had been purchased by CFAX. B.C. Radio News, to show how independent it is, has as its foreman one Tony Cox, a former Social Credit executive assistant in Alberta thrown into unemployment by the whim of fickle voters.

Now it is a well-known fact, sung in folklore, that those destined to enshrine the platitudes of politicians work best in slum conditions. The equipment that festoons the creaking antique known here as the press gallery was gathered at a \$1.49-day sale on the Ark. The Industrial Revolution reforms governing the working conditions of children in the mines are violated hourly as the ink-stained wretches attempt to hurl into round filing cabinets the helpful press releases pressed upon them by government flacks.

It is interesting, therefore, to discover that coincidentally with the founding of B.C. Radio News, the electronic journalists assigned to assess Social Credit's place in history find themselves in spanking new quarters. There has been a cosmetic rearrangement of MLA offices. The area last occupied by Liberal members has been turned into plush, plastic studios. There is a TV interview room, looking as if Richard Nixon is about to drop in at any moment. CFAX, overseer of B.C. Radio News, has a switchboard slightly less elaborate than that of Houston Control Centre.

Social Credit naturally loves B.C. Radio News. So far 16 stations have signed up. All those yawning, empty taperecorders sit waiting up in the tall grass where the yahoos grow. All must be satisfied. Any cabinet minister who is willing to announce his luncheon order of hamburger with chips is guaranteed time to get his gums into a microphone. Several have contracted early cases of lock-jaw because of over-use. All those press releases see the light of day.

It is, of course, Newspeak. The electronic jockeys, their beeping contraptions hanging from the elbow, are not given to introspection, let alone criticism or analysis. They are wholesalers of propaganda, vendors of whatever nonsense springs from the mouth of cabinet ministers caught on the way to the john. When the sweet new headquarters for B.C. Radio News was completed, deputy public works minister A. E. Webb wrote the electric press; ending with the hope that the new quarters would be helpful in disseminating "government news." Amen, brother, amen.

Throne speech rapped as 'small town, senile'

By IAIN HUNTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The speech from the throne at the opening of the B.C. legislature was like the annual report of a small town club, Opposition leader Dave Barrett charged Thursday.

"They (the government) were boosting tourism, praising themselves, preening their feathers, but not giving any hope for the future," he said in an interview after Lt. Gov. Jack Nicholson finished reading the speech.

The New Democratic Party leader said it is the government's duty to outline its plans for the coming year, but that the throne speech failed to do this.

"The government has such a big majority maybe they feel they have no responsibility," he said.

Barrett said his party will propose programs "to take the people of B.C. into their second century."

Liberal leader Pat McGeer called the speech a "senile document."

"I just offered the people in our caucus 25 cents for anybody who can find anything in it worth mentioning—and I'm not going to have to pay off," he said in an interview.

McGeer said that when he speaks in the house Monday he will outline a Liberal program more worthy of the people of the province.

"We will be taking a new and strong position on energy developments, and now is the time to be paying attention to the elderly, those on fixed incomes, who are the victims of a mismanaged economy," the Liberal leader added.

"This government hasn't done anything dynamic since they put the ferries in."

McGeer, a medical research scientist at the University of B.C., was asked to comment on the throne speech announcement that a legislative committee will review the tenure of faculty members at the three public universities.

"This is a matter which is legitimate for study, but there doesn't appear to be any legislation coming in," he remarked.

Asked if he is in favor of legislation on faculty tenure, he said there should not be any legislation without study first.

Dr. George Scott Wallace, the Oak Bay MLA who bolted the Social Credit party this summer to sit as a Conservative MLA, said Premier W. A. C. Bennett chooses to make the throne speech vague so that opposition MLAs cannot criticize it.

Wallace said he regrets there was no increase in intermediate hospital care facilities announced in the speech or any mention of long-promised revisions to the Elections Act.

However, Bennett said outside the house later that he hopes there will be changes in the act introduced this session. He would not elaborate.

Wallace said the referral of the question of faculty tenure at universities to a house committee is a good idea and added he would like to sit on the committee "because the Bennett government has an anti-professional approach."

Barrett challenges ruling he accepted

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition leader Dave Barrett's attempt to inject fire into Thursday's opening of the legislature was drowned in a flood of laughter.

When the government proposed the usual motion that sessional votes and proceedings be printed, the New Democratic Party leader popped up with an amendment calling for the 1971 record of debates to be withdrawn and rewritten.

He said the limited form of Hansard should be sent to an all-party committee for the revisions.

But Speaker William Murray ruled the amendment out of order because Hansard was not involved in the motion put forward by Provincial Secretary Wesley Black.

Barrett brought down the house with his reply.

"Mr. Speaker, I don't want to go into all the arguments here," he said. "I have no choice but to accept your ruling and I challenge it."

His challenge was lost 37 to 17.

Barrett said outside the house he knew his amendment was out of order.

"I wanted to register a protest by challenging the Speaker's ruling and let people know the government is in fact playing with the record," he said.

Otherwise, Thursday's opening was a quiet affair compared with the brawl that erupted outside on last year's opening day.

Where there were 2,000 demonstrators last year, a scant 80 spectators were on hand Thursday to watch Lt. Gov. John Nicholson's arrival to read the speech from the throne.

NDP WILL PURSUE CASE OF FRED QUILT

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The New Democratic Party served notice today it will pursue the controversial Fred Quilt case in the legislature.

A list of formal questions about the Williams Lake inquest into the death of the 55-year-old Chilcotin Indian were put on the sessional order paper by Yale-Lillooet MLA Bill Hartley.

Indian leaders have charged that Quilt died Nov. 30 after a Nov. 28 beating by RCMP.

They also claim that neither the selection of an all-white coroner's jury that returned a verdict of unnatural but acci-

dental death nor the inquest proceedings were properly balanced.

Hartley has asked Attorney-General Leslie Peterson to report officially how the coroner's jury was selected, why some witnesses of the RCMP incident were not called and who was responsible.

The MLA also wants to know whether only Indian witnesses at the inquest were asked if they knew the meaning of truth.

He asked if Peterson is "considering ordering an inquiry into the inquest and the circumstances surrounding the death of Fred Quilt."

More help for Indians outlined in Throne Speech

By JOHN MIKA
Special to The Sun

VICTORIA — More assistance for B.C. Indians undertaking self-help projects in and for those getting into trouble with the law when they come to town are among the government intentions indicated in the speech from the throne.

It forecast an early expansion of the federal-provincial Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act program aimed specifically at assisting Indians in remote and rural areas.

And it foreshadowed expansion of an experimental funding of John Howard Society Indian court caseworkers in Vancouver and Victoria into a government-run province-wide program.

The ARDA expansion is expected to boost provincial expenditures in that field from a

current level of about \$5 million annually to about \$7 million.

That would mean almost one-third of the total combined program of assistance to B.C. rural areas will be funnelled into reserves and special Indian projects.

Cost of ARDA projects are split equally among the federal government, provincial government and local groups.

In the past year, the program has been gradually expanding its assistance to Indians but the throne speech said a supplementary agreement now will be signed into ARDA by the two governments to provide special emphasis on work in remote areas.

Among recent projects benefitting under ARDA were the K'SAN project at Hazelton involving an Indian museum, cultural and crafts centre; an experimental multi-use pasture for logging, hay and recreation and several community pastures in reserves.

But several bigger projects under consideration would be helped by the supplementary agreement.

These include a \$2.5 million co-operative fish cannery at Port Simpson, a vegetable processing plant at Pemberton and a boat building yard at Bella Bella.

Irrigation projects on reserves near Kamloops and Merritt and larger community pastures in the Peace River, Prince George and Vanderhoop areas also are on the way this year.

The John Howard grants were split between Vancouver and Victoria branches and provided one Indian caseworker each for the two metro areas to help other Indians understand the court process when they become involved in it.

The John Howard representatives last year tried to per-

suaide the Union of B.C. Chiefs to take over the caseworker program but after internal studies were made by the Indian chiefs organization they hinted they would decline on the grounds their limited resources are needed in other social areas.

The chiefs also argued, apparently, that court counselling should be provided by government.

It is understood the cabinet has virtually agreed, awaiting only formal organization plans, for a service to be drawn up by the attorney-general's department for this year.

This would take over the metro operations started by the John Howard Society and add up to another four Indians as caseworkers in other regions of the province.

ENERGY STUDY NOT READIED

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The B.C. Energy Board's special report on the province's energy requirements to 1985 will not be revealed at this session, the legislature learned Thursday.

The board's annual report said the study it began in June, 1970, will not be wrapped up and delivered to the cabinet until May.

The annual report was filed after opening ceremonies of the current session which is expected to prorogue in late March or early April.

Bennett champion traveller

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett had the largest travel bill in the provincial government last year, and deputy travel industry minister Ron Worley beat all but four cabinet ministers in travel costs.

Public accounts for the 1970-71 fiscal year, tabled in the legislature opening day Thursday, disclosed that Bennett's travelling cost a total of \$9,146.

Second most-travelled minister was Resources Minister Ray Williston (\$6,929), followed by Health Minister Ralph Loffmark (\$6,536), Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gagliardi (\$6,495) and Agriculture Minister Cyril Shelford (\$6,305).

The deputy minister with the highest travel expenses during the fiscal year was Worley, with a total bill of \$5,936.

Last year's travelling champion, Trade and Industry Minister Waldo Skillings, was ninth in travel vouchers this year with \$4,647.

The three ministers without portfolio spent the following travelling during the fiscal year: Mrs. Isabel Dawson, \$3,999, Mrs. Grace McCarthy, \$3,989, and Mrs. Pat Jordan, \$3,764.

Last year Bennett spent exactly one dollar more in travel — \$9,147.

Mediation worked

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Provincial mediation officers were able to settle more than half the cases in which they were appointed during 1971.

This was disclosed in the B.C. Mediation Commission's annual report which was tabled Thursday in the legislature.

The report said mediation officers were appointed 249 times during the year, 77 times at the request of employers and 166 times at the request of unions.

Both sides requested officers on four occasions and twice officers were appointed by the labor minister.

The dispute affected 656 employers and 46,656 employees.

In 167 of the cases, agreement was reached, and in 58 of the cases no agreement

was reached, the report said.

Remainder of the disputes continued into this year or the mediation officers were withdrawn.

Allan FOTHERINGHAM

VICTORIA — THE REPRESENTATIVES of the Little People's Government strutted into the legislature Thursday, the TV klieg lights bouncing off their winter holiday tans. Dr. Howie McDiarmid has not been back



from Kuala Lumpur long enough for the Tofino rains to wash away his mahogany complexion. Mines Minister Richter and Mr. Bennett display the results of immersion in the delights of Palm Springs. Grace McCarthy advertises the charms of Hawaii. Education Minister Brothers displays a complexion from sunny parts of the kingdom unknown. The only hue to match the expensive tans of the people's representatives comes from the blood vessels of Dr. Scott Wallace when he is discovered, in the first vote of 1972, voting with the government he had fled on an issue upholding the Speaker's ruling on the curious case of the doctored Hansard.

Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has

attempted to liven up this theatrical turkey by moving that the laundered Hansard of last session — so carefully castrated by government direction that the scholar involved fled to the comparative sanity of Lester Maddox — be brought back for corrections. Dr. Wallace, labelled by Soecred backbenchers as "our Trojan horse," has decided to stick with his old government on the matter, creating the only stir of the day amidst the high-priced guests whose underwear is beginning to bind on the wooden chairs. His seat is placed so far back in outer left field that his boyish countenance is buried beneath the flowered bonnets of the matrons in the audience.

The new office provided him is so far distant that he may require an electrified golf cart to rush him in from the bullpen in time to make the division bells. Dr. Wallace, who is so far from the legislative chamber that he might have to have a Telex installed, stands with the obedient Soecred flock on the question of the Hansard recall. His burgeoning shade of facial red, when Liberal

and NDP members discover which way he is voting, would have cost a pack of holiday money if acquired by a Soecred minister.

★ THE MIND-GLAZING QUALITY of the Speech from the Throne indicates once again what an empty ritual this has become. Mr. Bennett has learned over the years not to give away his game plans in the opening speech designed for that purpose. The result is that the long-suffering lieutenant-governor is forced to read a speech that, among its highlights, puts the government square against forest fires, regretted the death of the King of Denmark, and lauded the idea of an open-pit mining school.

Mr. Bennett displays no sense of artistic arrangement, plunking his three bonnetted lady ministers at the far end of the salt, when a placement in the centre of his front bench could have done much to relieve the tedium of shiny blue serge. The fashion sweepstakes of the day settle into a tie between purple-clad Grace McCarthy, with a field of violets sweeping across her red curls, and Mrs. Garde Gardom, a stunning bolt of Easter yellow walking through the rent-a-suit converts to the Soecred cause. Although it must be admitted a close contender is Herb Capozzi in suede spats and a fright wig that looks interchangeable with the locks of Barrie Clark, the reconditioned teen-ager of the Liberal ranks.

Mr. Bruce Partridge is a quizzical figure in the purple robes of the University of Victoria when the throne speech hints that the government, never endowed with a surplus of high school graduation diplomas, intends to look into the tenure arrangements of those uppity university professors, who tend to write books critical of the evangelical cause. If you can't join 'em, fight 'em. Social Credit, recipient of the lowest common denominators, reaps the backlash. Ask not for whom the school bell tolls; it tolls for thee who offend the hotlines.

★ THE DAY IS COMPLETE WHEN the Honorable W. N. Chant, minister of public works, announces that the astonishing amount of attention spent on providing quarters, just outside the legislative door, for B.C. Radio News and other radio and TV outlets, is \$23,253. Social Credit has a convenient alternative if those nit-picking opposition parties insist on a Hansard that is not laundered to Social Credit tastes. They now have a convenient alternative for selected propaganda in B.C. Radio News. They can get it for you wholesale.

in a room slightly larger than their desks. Ebullient Soecred backbencher Herb Capozzi wandered into the NDP offices on Wednesday, eyed the carpet and the smart furnishings and boomed: "These offices are much too good for YOU people." To which New Westminster's Dennis Cocke replied, "What will you say next year when you're in them?" ... In the new office shuffle, public work's officials found space for Tory house leader Dr. Scott Wallace in an area that was once the staff coffee room in the attorney-general's department.

Jack Wasserman

CHAT OUT OF THE BAG — British Columbia's MLAs are in trouble with the federal income tax department over their "expense money." They have been informed that their income tax returns for the past two years have been examined and reassessed. Depending on their tax bracket, the reassessment can cost an MLA as much as \$5,000 in additional taxes. The inference is that the B.C. government was double-crossed by Ottawa as the result of opposing rulings by two different federal departments.

At issue is the way the MLAs are paid their basic \$10,000 a year. They are paid a \$5,000 indemnity and \$5,000 "non-taxable" expenses. Premier Bennett has told his own followers that the arrangement was approved by Ottawa, probably by the finance department. But the Department of National Revenue collectors have informed MLAs by letter that they have been reassessed because the arrangement doesn't agree with income tax legislation in effect at the time.

The Feds have ruled that the expense allowance is too large. They imply that it must not be more than a third of the total. In other words, the B.C. government should be paying MLAs \$6,700 a year salary and \$3,300 in expense allowance. The reassessment, which covers the period in which MLAs have been receiving the increased amount, calls for the MLAs to pay taxes on the entire \$5,000 expense allowance each year. For an MLA who hasn't kept his receipts and who is a successful business or professional man when he isn't in Victoria during the session, the tax rate on that \$10,000 of expense money could run as high as 50 per cent. If the MLAs can't

settle in a closed-door confrontation with the tax department, the matter will probably wind up in front of the Income Tax Appeal Board.

★ DAY OF THE HUNTER — Just before the formal opening of the legislature Thursday, Victoria newspapers and radio stations received telephoned threats from a man who said he would be in the gallery with a bomb which he'd drop if the Throne Speech didn't satisfy him on the unemployment question. Already twitchy over security arrangements because of last year's opening-day riot scene, the RCMP dutifully searched for a bomb and kept the public gallery under close scrutiny. No bomb turned up until Lieut.-Gov. Jack Nicholson began reading. The Speech from the Throne was the biggest bomb they have had around Victoria in years.

★ HITHER 'N YAWN — Backbench MLAs in all parties have now been given offices which they share with one other colleague, to replace the bullpens in which they were expected to function before. In fact Premier Bennett wanted to give his own followers office space, which meant displacing the official opposition. The opposition MLAs were moved into a refurbished area formerly occupied by a section of the attorney-general's department, which had been moved to the portion of the building once occupied by the provincial museum. Under the old arrangement, Soecred backbenchers worked out of their caucus room. The NDP had a small suite of offices with private offices for the leader and his deputy and the rest of the members trying to work in a common room. The Liberals had a private office for their leader, while the other four worked

James K. NESBITT

The rains beat down. Dozens of police fixed everyone with suspicious looks. Inside the legislative chamber it was all time-honored tradition, pomp, circumstance, and general fold-erol from out of the dark ages, in the view of some cynics, a complete waste of time and money.



NESBITT

In other words it was the 1972 legislative session opening, said to be big event in this capital though the public largely ignores it nowadays.

The invited, however, were there in fully glory, out to see and be seen and they provided a colorful show of humanity, none of them having to worry about from where the next meal is coming.

The chamber was made hideous by blinding TV lights which accentuated wrinkles, bags and jowls. Monstrous TV equipment was everywhere, making of our beautiful buildings a complete shambles.

I think the opening ceremony should be carried out in a theatre. If we're turning this hallowed ritual into a Hollywood production, why not? It would be more convenient and comfortable and much more dignified.

The way it is now it's a joke, guests blinking, MLAs grimacing into the cameras.

I always enjoy watching the premier's performance on opening day.

He marches in all by his lonesome, looking shy and modest, and then he flashes a big beam as he spots his beloved MLAs.

He walked up the Opposition side, as usual, pausing every few desks to shake hands.

Gordon Dowding merely glared at him, and so did Leo Nimsick until his chief, Mr. Barrett, saw to it that the premier shook the Nimsick hand. Mr. Nimsick didn't bother to rise, but Mr. Strachan did, most gallantly.

Mr. Dowding will continue to glare at the premier all session, not that the premier will care.

The premier thrives on Opposition glares. He figures that the more they glare at him the better he is doing for the public. They're just that jealous, that's all, and so they sneer and glare, declares the premier.

★

BEING A SUCKER FOR ladies' hats, I can report that the 1972 crop was bigger and better than ever.

I looked the field over and awarded the first prize to Mrs. Grace McCarthy. Look-

ing like a shepherdess, she was all in what I'm told is powder blue, even to her dainty little Cinderella shoes. Her hat had a floppy, curleque brim and the top was all flowers, and from it hung blue ribbons.

Mrs. Isabel Dawson, being a purposeful sort, was dressed in business fashion — she had a Robin Hood hat of green with shiny buckles. Mrs. Patricia Jordan had on a shiny black hat so big it hid her pretty face, more's the pity, but it did keep the rain off her.

Mrs. Agnes Kripps was in buttercup yellow, all over. Mrs. Eileen Dailly was in papal purple with brass buttons and a monk's black cowl.

Mayor Tom Campbell's hair was much admired, until Herbert Capozzi arrived and it was decided his hair-do was even more modish than the mayor's. Then there came into view Barrie Clark and it was said that perhaps his hair-do was the most elegant of all.

To keep the peace the judges ruled Campbell, Capozzi and Clark tied for top place in Tailor and Cutter. The rest of the males looked like farmers.

I admired Mrs. Campbell's umbrella — it has a big wreath of yellow daisies all around it and they somehow set off her red gumboots.

★

THE SPEECH FROM THE throne didn't tell us much. It was platitudinous in the extreme, but there has to be a speech from the throne. It has always been, therefore it must always be, even though it no longer means anything, if ever it did.

I wouldn't think those out of work will take much comfort from this passage: "The continued expansion of the economy is an encouraging sign, and the rate of job creation would be adequate under normal circumstances. However the continued high-level of migration into the province affects this delicate balance and creates additional problems for which solutions are being sought."

These fine words won't pay the grocery bills, will they?

Said the speech. "The financial position of B.C. municipalities is not excelled elsewhere in Canada."

Hearing this our mayors and aldermen, no doubt, will really make big salary grabs this year from out of the public purse.

I was glad to hear the government's going after "acceptable noise levels for motor vehicles," but I'm not very hopeful anything will be done.

Today the annual legislative talkfest gets under way and for the next two months we'll see and hear what's called democracy in action.

SOCRED MLA HAS 'MISGIVINGS'

Probe urged into Quilt case

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A government MLA urged Attorney-General Leslie Peterson Friday to conduct a thorough investigation into the Fred Quilt case.

"I have very strong misgivings about what happened in this case," Ernie LeCours (SC — Richmond) said in the legislature.

He was referring to the death at Williams Lake Nov. 30 of the 55-year-old Chilcotin Indian.

Indian leaders have charged that Quilt died two days after being beaten by the RCMP and have criticized an inquest Jan. 18 into the death by an all-white coroner's jury. The jury returned a verdict of unnatural but accidental death.

LeCours said he is suspicious of actions by "some police" in B.C. in dealing with the public.

"I'm very suspicious about what takes place at times and especially on dark roads at night," he stated.

"I want the attorney general to investigate this case very thoroughly and make sure justice is done."

Peterson outside the house refused to comment on the case because he hasn't yet

seen a transcript of the inquest conducted by Coroner S. S. Leith.

"I have checked twice today and it's not here yet," he said.

Bill Hartley (NDP — Yale-Lillooet) on Friday placed a series of questions on the order paper — directed to Peterson, about the Quilt case.

He asked how the coroner's jury was selected, whether any members were of native Indian origin, whether witnesses to "the incident" between Quilt and an RCMP representative were subpoenaed to the inquest and if some witnesses were asked if they knew the meaning of the word "truth."

LeCours also called on Peterson to take steps to deal with the problem of sniffing glue and nail-polish remover among juveniles in the province.

"I hope immediate steps will be taken through an order-in-council today, tomorrow or Monday at the latest or by a rapid-fire bill through this house to make the sale of Cutex and other items illegal to anyone under 18 or 19," he said.

He stated that such substances should be as illegal to

juveniles as liquor because they are injurious to human health.

Outside the house, Peterson observed that the government's attempt two years ago to legislate against glue-sniffing and other substances was declared to be outside the powers of the province by the courts.

He urged reporters to press the federal government for action on the question in view of the courts' decision.

Peterson noted that he has already given instructions to provincial prosecutors that if there is enough evidence in any case to prosecute a person for contributing to juvenile delinquency by selling

glue, the prosecutions should proceed.

He added that he has not heard whether any prosecutions are warranted so far.

Peterson indicated he will deal with the solvent-sniffing problem in the province when he speaks Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the mothers from McLean Park housing project in Vancouver who marched last week against the sale of nail-polish remover to youngsters are taking their fight on solvent-sniffing to city hall.

Spokesman for the group, Mrs. Bea Delorme, requested permission in a letter Friday for the mothers to be heard at Tuesday's city council meeting.

Looking backward

The phrase "we have much to be thankful for in B.C." in the peroration of the Speech from the Throne aptly summarizes the content of what is, traditionally, the government platform for the ensuing session of the provincial legislature.

No one expects startling revelations at this time — the component nuts and bolts of legislation and political manoeuvre are unwrapped later — but this year's speech, relatively short, dwells uncommonly on the past and foretells very little.

This backward glance at claimed accomplishments seems to have been designed to set the record in preparation for an appeal for a mandate for more of the same. It may also reflect the inability of an aged government to summon new ideas.

The speech conveyed suppressed satisfaction with the general state of the economy, yet it contained a clear warning that we mustn't be too optimistic while there is uncertainty on the international money market and while we are plagued with unemployment. B.C.'s labor force, it observed, is expanding at twice the rate of the population's growth.

It was encouraging that the government said it intends to create more jobs through its Crown agencies and in the field of environmental protection. Against this, however, must be reckoned the record of the job opportunities program, which at a cost of \$652,000 has produced no more than 300 or so jobs.

Part of the record-straightening process is a very strong plug for hydro-power sources, an apparent repudiation of the nuclear-fired ambitions of Dr. Gordon Shrum.

While there was promise of spending on new school facilities, there were harsh overtones, emphasized by Premier W. A. C. Bennett, suggesting increased government intervention in educational affairs. There is the danger that this sort of thing could further alienate the government from the professional community, raising anew the suspicion of an anti-intellectual bias.

Forecast labor legislation is likely to arouse controversy centring on the Mediation Commission. Yet it now seems hardly probable that a government which has just taken the unprecedented step of ordering the hospital dispute to binding arbitration before a strike has occurred will legislate a softer line; it is more likely to make the commission a tougher force in negotiations.

Over-all it is difficult to view the government, on this evidence, as an aggressive pacemaker to the polls. But the show has only just begun and Mr. Bennett has already signalled that the big stuff is to come some two weeks from now when he presents his budget.

James K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — A tall young man walked into the press gallery workroom on Friday.

He looked like the Charles Lindbergh of 40 years ago — built like a lath.

He turned out to be new B.C. Conservative leader Derril Warren.

I found him most pleasant, filled with enthusiasm and quite convinced that someday he'll be our premier, though he didn't say so.

After the next election, of course, he hopes he'll be able

the parking lots, like everybody else?

There should be no parking allowed in front of the buildings. Cars pollute the environment.

MLAs have polluted the legislative chamber with loud speakers and other such nonsense.

If they'd use their god-given voices properly they wouldn't need loud speakers.

★
THE SPEECHMAKING started Friday in the legislature.

The mover and seconder of the address in reply to the throne speech are supposed to give broad hints as to what's on the government's mind.

Ernest Lecours of Richmond wasn't on his feet long before he was indicating there might be a general election just around the corner.

"We're always ready," said Mr. LeCours, defiantly, and the premier beamed approval though remaining mysteriously silent.

So it is that this session will be one of election talk. The premier will be saying that if oppositionists get too obstreperous he'll take the big questions of the day to the highest court in the province — the people.

He'll not say when, however, in the legislature. If he did that he'd never get the session over. The legislative chamber would become the hustings. There's enough of the hustings about it as it is now.

Under our system we're in a constant election campaign. There is no surcease for elections. It's a very bad system.

Only three of our MLAs go back to the 1949 election — the premier, and NDP'ers Frank Calder of Atlin and Leo Nimsick of Kootenay.

Mr. Calder was out for some years, having been defeated by Social Credit, but then he defeated Social Credit and got back.

★
MR. BENNETT MISSED the 1949 session, because then he was nobody's nuthin'.

He had resigned his South Okanagan seat to run for the House of Commons only to be defeated.

Everybody but Mr. Bennett then said he was forever through. Ha! Ha! Ha!

Only these three, and five others can go back to the 1952 election — Philip Gaglardi, Kenneth Kiernan, Wesley Black, Cyril Shelford and Robert Strachan.

Turnover of MLAs can be heavy, the public often being fickle and completely unpredictable.



DERRIL WARREN
... confident Tory

to tack those magic initials MLA after his name. Our premier will do his best to see that doesn't happen.

Mr. Warren was here, I gather, to see if he could have his new recruit, Dr. G. Scott Wallace, recognized by Mr. Speaker as the house leader of the Tories.

Apparently Mr. Speaker has given a firm 'no.' Why he has reached this decision I know not. Is it because there's only one Conservative in the house? Or is it because Dr. Wallace was not elected as a Conservative but as a Social Crediter?

Mr. Warren paid a call on old Tory chief Herbert Anscomb, 80 next month. I admire such courtesy.

Twenty years ago at this time Mr. Anscomb, having been kicked out of the Coalition by Liberal Premier Byron Johnson, was leader of the opposition and heading for his political downfall, though he didn't then know it.

★
MLAs ARE NOW PARKING their cars on the curving driveways of the legislative buildings.

The result is an eyesore. Why can't MLAs walk from

Pay, price controls urged by Socred

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Social Credit backbencher called Friday for compulsory controls on wages, prices, profits and interest rates in Canada.

Ernie LeCours (SC—Richmond) when moving acceptance of the throne speech issued a challenge to the provincial government to take steps on its own to institute the compulsory controls as well as pressure the federal government to set up the controls on a national scale.

He charged that, under collective bargaining as carried out at present, big business and big labor unions "only get together to see how tightly they can tighten the screws on the poor collective public."

Neither labor nor manage-

ment pays attention to proposals by government for voluntary wage and price controls he said, and these must be made compulsory.

He proposed that minimum salaries in the \$1.50 to \$2 an hour range should be increased and higher salaries brought in "to end what I call slave wages for the six million working poor in Canada."

Minimum wages, he suggested, should be no lower than 60-per-cent of maximum salaries.

NDP leader Dave Barrett and Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer are scheduled to speak Monday. Both have served notice they will offer alternative programs to those contained in the throne speech.

LeCOURS' PLEA

Lottery favored

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Social Credit MLA Ernie LeCours pleaded with Premier W. A. C. Bennett Friday to allow lotteries in B.C. to give residents "four or eight weeks of hope."

The Richmond MLA proposed that lottery tickets should be sold through liquor stores and other government offices and the revenue be earmarked for special government projects.

LeCours said many people like to gamble, even though Bennett himself is against it, including those who are "robbed by manipulators on the stock market."

He added that he favors measures to stop people from "manipulating" the stock market and leaving the country with funds while causing suffering to small investors.

But this, he stressed, doesn't mean that taking risks by buying lottery tickets should be prohibited in the province.

LeCours said many people who lead hopeless lives in B.C. who would like the opportunity to spend \$2 to buy "four to eight weeks of hope that he'd be a big winner."

Several Socred MLAs applauded his suggestion.

Bennett laughed.

Impaired face crackdown

First conviction to bring suspension under new law

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Leslie Peterson announced in the legislature today that he will introduce legislation to provide mandatory suspension of driver's licences for persons convicted for the first time of impaired driving.

He indicated that there will be no provision for convicted impaired drivers to drive during certain hours or for business only from now on.

Peterson also announced that he will introduce legislation to close loop-holes in present laws which allow B.C. residents to take out-of-province licences to escape the compulsory insurance scheme, and to bring in increased penalties for persons presenting an invalid pink insurance slip.

The attorney-general said that the motor vehicle branch, which is in his department, has taken a firm approach to drivers convicted of driving after drinking.

He said all persons convicted were suspended from driving for 30 days on the first offence and longer for drivers with second or more offences.

However, Peterson recalled, the B.C. Appeal Court ruled early in 1971 that each case had to be handled separately and that suspensions could not be made automatic.

"The result has been that in the past nine months, drivers have not faced the former severe sanctions. They have received more lenient treatment from the courts which has allowed very many of them to continue driving."

Peterson said that last year there was a 20-per-cent increase in impaired driving convictions — for a total of 13,309 — which he attributed partly "to a feeling by many motorists that impaired driving is socially acceptable."

Peterson said it is necessary to deal "clearly and firmly" with the impaired driving problem this session.

"This legislature will be

called upon to serve notice to all that if they drink and drive, they can expect to lose their licences — and there will be no exception, no relaxation to permit driving during certain hours," he said.

"I know this will cause hardships, but we cannot overlook the hardships these drivers cause to other people."

Peterson reported that there was a one per cent decrease in the number of persons injured in automobile accidents from January to November in 1971 compared to the same period in 1970, and that recorded property damage was up six per cent to \$41 million during those months.

He also said that 633 people died on B.C. highways in 1971 — an increase of 13 per cent over the 1970 total of 559.

The attorney-general also recalled that there have been complaints about persons holding out-of-province drivers' licences driving B.C.-licensed cars without the need for insurance coverage.

"These persons are availing themselves of concessions in the Motor Vehicle Act which were placed there for the convenience of tourists."

"It has become apparent that many new residents, or

residents who can somehow acquire a driver's licence of another province, use this loophole to flout the compulsory insurance law of British Columbia."

Peterson told the House that legislation will be introduced this session to close the gap, although tourists driving vehicles not licensed in B.C. will still be protected.

The attorney-general also said that legislation will be introduced "to provide us with better means of dealing with the person who presents to the enforcement agencies a pink card for an insurance policy that has ceased to exist."

He said that provision will be made to bring persons to court to face charges for this "dishonest practice."

These two loopholes were brought to Peterson's attention by Agnes Kripps (S.C.-Vancouver-South). However, another complaint which Mrs. Kripps brought concerning the no-fault compulsory insurance scheme was not mentioned by Peterson today.

Mrs. Kripps urged the government to amend the regulations so that a person injured in a traffic accident may receive accident benefits even though he has got off the accident benefit list by returning to his job, which he later finds he cannot hold.

CORRECT RECORD

Barrett makes move

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition leader Dave Barrett served notice today that he will make a motion in the legislature next week to correct the printed record of last year's debates.

The motion, which appeared in today's order paper, reads: "That the 1971 record of debates be corrected to correspond with the electronic tapes of the proceedings."

An editor of the printed record disclosed last year that the office of Speaker William Murray had struck out of the report a number of derogatory references to Premier W. A. C. Bennett.

Barrett attempted on opening day of the house Thursday to amend the traditional motion to print the votes and proceedings of the session by adding that last year's record be corrected.

However, Murray ruled that the Opposition leader had to make the motion separately later in the session.

McGeer's 'program' listed

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Liberal leader Pat McGeer tried to tell Premier W. A. C. Bennett how to write a vital throne speech Monday — but the premier skipped the lesson by leaving his seat in the legislature.

Undeterred, McGeer promised he would present an alternate Liberal budget also after the premier presents his Feb. 4.

"This is what a Liberal

throne speech would sound like to begin the province's second century," McGeer said in announcing his alternate throne speech.

He said the 17-point program was a "dynamic Liberal program (which) would . . . get British Columbia moving again."

The alternate throne speech would announce:

A one-hour ferry service from Iona Island to Vancouver Island via Gabriola with reservations for cars at a nominal fee;

An outright grant to Greater Vancouver Regional District for a rapid transit system beginning with a subway network;

A start on the third Burrard Inlet crossing this year;

Construction of a university in the Okanagan and feasibility studies of other proposals including a medical school at the University of Victoria;

New legislation to systemize decision-making on power projects;

Redistribution of seats under a formalized procedure;

Fixed dates for elections;

Complete reform of legislative debating rules;

Broadcasting of debates, a daily Hansard and a daily oral question period;

Steps towards building a "science city" in B.C.;

Incentives to manufacturers and more trade missions abroad;

Creation of a department of the environment;

Readjustment of services and income for elderly, disabled and disadvantaged persons with property taxes abolished on homes of persons on fixed incomes;

Unrestricted public transportation passes for the elderly and handicapped;

Speed-up in chronic-care and home-care facilities.

'Lower Jericho price'

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The federal government's price on Jericho land should come tumbling down, Liberal leader Pat McGeer said Monday.

He asked the legislature to help blow that message loud and clear at Ottawa.

He said the defence department should lease all 110 acres of its property, not just 72 acres, to Vancouver for \$1 a year.

"If Ottawa is not prepared to lease the further 38 acres, now scheduled for private development, to the city for \$1 a year then the people of Vancouver should be allowed to buy it back at the price the provincial government originally sold it to Ottawa for," he said in the legislature.

That price is about \$2,500 an

acre and not the \$100,000 per acre sought by Ottawa.

McGeer said it was inexcusable that a transaction between two levels of government should produce such large profits and the extra 38 acres should be used for a public park rather than private development.

Because Jericho's excellent sandy beach is within 30-minutes driving time for half the population of B.C. "all the open space we can preserve near that beach will be precious," McGeer said.

"It is my hope the legislature will support the proposal I make that the area should not be sold off for a short-term economic gain but will be preserved as open space. I hope this view can be communicated to the federal government at an early date."

'2 SEEK YOUR JOB'

Barrett warns Bennett

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Opposition leader Dave Barrett warned Premier W. A. C. Bennett on Monday to watch his back because two ambitious cabinet ministers behind him are after his job.

Barrett charged in the legislature that the leadership fight between Municipal Affairs Minister, Dan Campbell and Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi involves the two "picking over the bones of the unemployed" in B.C.

"There is rampant ambition in the cabinet ranks behind you, Mr. Premier," Barrett warned. "Watch your back."

Bennett, Gaglardi and Campbell laughed off the warning. The two ministers sit behind the premier in the legislature.

Barrett read reports in The Sun of October and November last year in which Gaglardi and Campbell clashed over the administration of the government's employment program.

In October, Gaglardi dis-

closed to The Sun that he was trying to dissuade employers from hiring people off welfare through the job opportunities program headed by Campbell.

Gaglardi felt that long-lasting jobs should be created through his own Provincial Alliance of Businessmen program.

Campbell retorted that he, not Gaglardi was the minister who would decide the terms of reference of the job opportunities program under which the government pays 50 per cent of the salaries of former welfare recipients hired for newly-created jobs.

In November, Gaglardi publicly opposed the regionalization of social welfare, while Campbell maintained that regional districts could apply to

take over any function of local government.

On Monday, Barrett chided Campbell:

"He (Gaglardi) said regional districts should look after such things as water and sewer services — get that Mr. Minister? Look after the sewers."

Barrett said that the two ministers are fighting to replace Bennett when he retires "in about 1,000 years."

"They are picking over the bones of the unemployed — that's the leavings they get."

He also charged that Bennett, to prevent himself from being unseated by one of his own ministers, "keeps the boys at one another's throats."

Barrett accused Campbell of using taxpayers' money which should be allocated for welfare allowances to appear on open-line radio panels.

Most of the \$652,000 allocated for the job opportunities program so far has been used for advertisements for political gain, he charged.

Tues., Jan. 25, 1972

B.C.-U.S. pollution program urged on gov't by Barrett

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition leader Dave Barrett proposed in the legislature Monday that the B.C. government enter a joint program with Washington State and possibly Oregon and Alaska for pollution control in the Pacific Northwest.

Such a program, he said, should include hearings by a joint committee of legislators from B.C. and Washington, a public opinion plebiscite in both jurisdictions to pinpoint problems, joint environmental anti-pollution standards, and an exchange of research information and personnel between Victoria and Olympia.

Barrett said his recommendations were drawn up following a visit of the New Democratic Party caucus earlier this month to the State of Washington where the NDP MLA's met Washington State legislators.

The NDP leader told the house that a Washington State legislative committee on pollution which met in Olympia this month has expressed an interest in holding its next meeting in B.C. with B.C. representation on it.

It has been proposed that Oregon and Alaska be invited to participate, he said.

Barrett said he favors including Alaska and Oregon in the joint approach to Pacific Northwest pollution control.

He reported that he talked to both Democratic and Republican legislators about sending joint statements from Victoria and Olympia to the Canadian and U.S. federal governments protesting the proposal to ship oil from Alaska's North Slope by tanker down the coast of B.C. to a refinery at Cherry Point in Washington State.

He also stated that he and the American legislators discussed the possibility of circulating joint opinion plebiscites

among residents of B.C. and Washington State to assess public concern on specific pollution problems.

Barrett said the Washington's Gov. Dan Evans proposed that joint anti-pollution standards should be set up. The Opposition leader urged the provincial government to set up a task force to draft legislation in co-operation with Washington State to establish common standards.

He also suggested that there should be a "constant and methodical" exchange of pollution research between the two capitol and an exchange program for scientists and civil servants engaged in environmental control in B.C. and Washington State.

These exchanges, he said, could be for a period of six months or a year.

Outside the legislature later, Premier W. A. C. Bennett refused to comment on Barrett's proposals.

He would only advise reporters to wait for speeches by Attorney-General Les Peterson today and Resources Minister Ray Williston on Wednesday which he indicated would deal with pollution control.

Allan

FOTHERINGHAM

OF ALL THOSE POLITICAL

practitioners skilled in the art of defanging home-owned critics, Mr. Bennett has no peer. So Richmond Socred MLA Ernie LeCours was always a bit of an embarrassment, pointing out the government's hypocritical liquor views? So a session loomed with the nutty liquor ad ban a prime target? So who was that on his hind feet in the legislature Friday, given the government honor of opening the 1972 session by moving acceptance of the speech from the throne? None other than the blushing, defanged tiger, once-obstreperous Ernie. He was quickly into the script. . . . the premier has never lost his sense of modesty . . . for nine years I was one of the government's most severe critics . . . An NDP member: " . . . throw another marshmallow

LeCours dutifully heaped scorn on the lonely figure of Dr. Scott Wallace, sitting pale-faced across the chamber, calling him "a test-tube baby" who was "casting his seed on barren ground" — an interesting medical phenomenon if nothing else.

To further demonstrate his loyalty, LeCours launched into a description of "the leader of the federal Liberal Party more and more beginning to look like the man you wouldn't buy a used car from . . . The leader of the federal Conservative party is beginning to look like the man who bought

the car . . . The leader of the federal NDP looks like the man who came along and took off with the car." A dramatic pause, and then, "Only in Real Caouette do I see any hope for Canada . . ."

An NDP voice: " . . . he sold the car in the first place."

NDP's Bob Williams: " . . . and turned the speedometer back . . ."

All in all, it looks like another intellectual session from the Socreds.

★

IN MR. BENNETT'S NEW SEATING plan for the session, he has separated the back-row cheering-and-spitball crowd, Van. Centre's Herb Capozzi and Alberni's Dr. Howie McDiarmid. Capozzi has been moved up to the very last seat in the front bench. That puts him either one step closer to the cabinet, or right next to the door.

Wider record use urged by bill

VICTORIA (CP) — Photographic records made by municipalities, regional districts and other similar public bodies will be allowed to be submitted as evidence in court proceedings under legislation introduced in the legislature Thursday.

In a bill to amend the Evidence Act, the first bill of the session, municipalities, regional districts, regional hospital districts, improvement districts and school districts are brought under the act's photographic records section.

Under existing provisions, only photographic records kept by the government, the Bank of Canada and land registry offices have been admissible.

Barrett urges welfare control to create more homes, jobs

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Opposition leader Dave Barrett Monday urged Premier W.A.C. Bennett to bargain with Ottawa for control of welfare funds to help low-income residents of B.C. acquire their own homes and create more employment.

Speaking during the debate in the legislature in reply to the throne speech Barrett also said that the government has the power to introduce its own guaranteed annual income without waiting for the Federal Government to bring one in across Canada.

And he proposed that the provincial government co-operate with municipalities in B.C. to set up land banks for low-cost housing.

His proposals came at the end of a speech which among things attacked the Bennett government for "Mishandling" winter recreation developments on Crown Land.

Dubbing the government as "waste and welfare Social Credit," Barrett charged that \$134 million is spent on welfare a year because there are no new initiatives to provide jobs.

Noting that Bennett has repeatedly urged Ottawa to bring in a negative income tax proposal to provide a guaranteed annual income for Canadians, Barrett said that under the Canada Assistance Plan, B.C. can bring in its own guaranteed annual income plan, by



DAVE BARRETT
... favors land banks

raising the amount people are allowed to earn while receiving welfare.

Barrett said that waitresses, janitors, laborers and small farmers who earn up to \$300 a month "look on welfare recipients as being better off than they are" in many cases.

Bennett should bargain with Ottawa to set minimum standards of child-care and social allowances, he said, and commit his government to maintaining them.

Barrett said the province could make family allowances available 10 years in advance

in a lump sum so that they could be used as a downpayment on the construction of new homes.

"And this province in partnership with the municipalities should set up land banks so that the activities of one of the most rapacious industries in B.C.—the real estate industry—are not widened," he declared.

He said that provincial Crown land should be turned over to municipal housing authorities to be made available cheaply for low-cost housing.

Barrett reviewed events leading up to the cancellation of the Powder Mountain ski development near Whistler by private developers.

He noted that Resources Minister Ray Williston late in 1969 accused The Sun of spreading "snot" about the similarities between this development and that of Cypress Bowl, West Vancouver.

(The provincial government ruled unacceptable Bahamian interests who were backing the Cypress Bowl development after it ran into financial difficulties, and the area is now being developed by the provincial recreation department.

(Williston disclosed earlier this month that he has put a freeze on the Powder Mountain development because it has run into similar financial difficulties and has opened up the area for proposals from private interests who can sub-

mit plans before Dec. 23 this year.)

The announcement by the government that from now on it will demand that proposed private developers of Crown land for recreational purposes first post a bond will not put back the trees that have been cut down in Cypress Bowl and on Powder Mountain, Barrett said.

He noted that Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said last week that the government hasn't the power to legislate, according to the courts, against the use of glue and other substances used as "sniff" by young people.

"But this government has no policy or program for adolescents with drug problems," Barrett charged.

He stated that he had checked with hospitals in Kelowna, New Westminster, Prince George, Vancouver and Victoria and found no psychiatric beds are allocated for adolescents with drug problems.

He reported that he told one woman she should send her child to England for proper treatment because none is available here.

"That's irresponsible—you don't believe it yourself," Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell shouted.

"I challenge the minister to stand up outside this chamber and name any hospital in this province where there are beds available for the treatment of adolescents with drug problems," Barrett replied.

"Send 16-year-olds to England so they can get free drugs, that's your policy; free heroin for 16-year-olds," Campbell shouted.

Barrett recalled that Bennett had pledged last year that 25,000 new jobs would be created between October, 1970, and October, 1971, but said that there was only a gain of 6,000 jobs between December, 1970 and December, 1971.

Barrett also charged that the government is not collecting any royalties on copper or Kootenay coal being taken for export to Japan and the U.S.

He said the government should establish a pollution-free copper smelter and steel mill in the province to provide jobs.

McGeer snorts at A-G

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Liberal leader Pat McGeer suggested Monday that Attorney-General Leslie Peterson was thumbing his nose at a serious problem when he claimed he was "helpless against sniff" instead of outlawing it.

"I had hoped he might have shown the same aggressive dedication that he showed in going after topless dancers," McGeer said in the legislature.

Scoring Peterson's inaction, McGeer said six states in the U.S. had reduced the solvent sniffing problem by legislation, California, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island.

The B.C. government should order a legislative committee study of these measures for recommendation of legislative action this session, he said.

McGeer said the least that could be done would be extending the Liquor Act to out-

law the sale of solvent for sniffing and treating those intoxicated by the fumes as impaired.

He said it should not be difficult to prohibit the selling of "several bottles of nail polish remover and a couple of plastic bags" when it is obvious what they will be used for.

"Legislation alone can't solve this problem, but it would help," said McGeer.

He added the provincial government should launch an educational program to warn the public of the medical consequences of sniffing solvents.

And it also should embark on a program of providing recreational facilities so youths have something better to do, he said.

James K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—The B.C. Federation of Labor has decided not to send a delegation this session to meet with the provincial cabinet.

Instead, a federation brief, setting out organized labor's requests — some people call them demands — is being mailed to cabinet ministers and other MLAs.



NESBITT

This is sensible, though some labor people see it as a sign of worsening relationship between government and labor.

That is not necessarily so, as very often such delegations only cause irritation on both sides.

Such delegations cost a lot of money, and they take a lot of time that is mostly wasted.

It is much better for labor, and other groups, to put their ideas into writing, and let the cabinet read them.

However, there should be a formal, official reply to such briefs.

It's not good enough for cabinet ministers and MLAs to receive them, and not acknowledge them.

The premier rarely acknowledges anything, or so say most people who write to him. These people never know whether the premier receives their missives or not.

This is a disease that is spreading rapidly in B.C. You can write to some people, on quite legitimate business, and if your letter embarrasses them, they ignore it. You hear not a word.

This is very rude, and I am sorry to say it is a Canadian custom. It could be called the game of: "Send-the-fool-further."

I was horrified to read that a Washington State legislator said he had written to our premier about pollution, but that he did not receive a reply. He appeared quite astounded at such cavalier treatment from the No. 1 citizen in a so-called polite society.

★
Conservative Dr. G. Scott Wallace is not exactly warm in his welcome to national

Conservative leader Robert Stanfield.

I heard Wallace saying Stanfield shouldn't be poking his nose too much into B.C. Tory affairs. Stanfield can come here if he wants, said Wallace, but he shouldn't be thinking he can push B.C. Tories around — or words to that effect.

Whether Wallace likes it or not, Stanfield is the No. 1 Conservative in Canada.

He is now Wallace's chief. Wallace, a loner if ever there was one, doesn't yet appear to know that fact; if he does he is not accepting it.

Wallace cold-shouldered his Social Credit chief, Bennett, from the beginning.

Now Stanfield is getting the Wallace treatment of: "Mind your own business — I'll do what I want when I want."

I guess Wallace now agrees with what Bennett said some years ago: "Mr. Stanfield — your underwear's showing."

★

Premier's 'mania' for dams attacked

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Liberal leader Pat McGeer called Monday on the B.C. Energy Board and the legislature to rescue the public from what he said is Premier W. A. C. Bennett's mania for building hydro dams.

The province's energy policies are based on the political instincts of the premier rather than on logical judgment of the cheapest way to produce most power, he charged in a 90-minute speech in the legislature.

He said B.C. and Alberta natural gas being exported to Northwest U.S. cities could generate more than double the province's energy needs at rates lower than are now available in B.C.

McGeer said the premier's hydro policies have led to devastation, with 650,000 acres flooded and huge areas of shoreline and reservoirs turned into tree and root-choked swamps and marshes.

He charged it is Bennett's prejudice alone which halts serious consideration of nuclear and solar power plants, which he said could be more economical.

The energy board, the legislature and B.C. Hydro don't have control because of Bennett's unreasonable obsession with dams, McGeer told the house.

He said the Moran Dam proposal has become known to

the public, but little attention has been paid publicly to the \$100 million Kootenay Canal project under way, plans to dam the Iskut River in northern B.C. or Alcan plans to develop Kemano power project further.

McGeer suggested a system based on that in use in the United States for deciding on hydro projects.

The energy board, he said, should be required to gather all relevant data in a comprehensive report on any power proposal.

This report would go to a special legislative committee on energy, which would hold public hearings on the proposal and the board's report.

The committee's findings should then be taken before the legislature for action, McGeer told the MLAs.

He said the Liberals aren't completely opposed to hydro projects, but don't want to rely on them to the exclusion of alternatives.

"Our guiding principle must be that we cherish the surface of the land and if it comes to a choice we will prefer those sources of energy which are below the surface," he said.

Throughout his speech he maintained that thermal production with natural gas or nuclear energy is better than hydro power, and cheaper when cost of land loss is added to Hydro figures.

"Almost every facet of our life here in British Columbia in the past decade has been subservient to some dam policy or other," he said.

He held the provincial government took over B.C. Electric because the privately owned utility wouldn't make politics a major consideration in deciding its priorities.

"Since that time, decisions have been on the basis of the political prejudices and political institutions," he said. "Judgments should have been more intelligently arrived at. They should have been reached only after gathering extensive information and taking into full consideration the principles of cost, conservation and environmental factors."

McGeer said more than 223 million cubic feet of natural gas from B.C. and another 557 million cubic feet from Alberta is exported to the U.S. for various purposes.

Sixteen per cent is used to generate electricity.

"The amount of electricity which could be generated from this natural gas is absolutely fantastic," he said.

"The gas which is exported from British Columbia would generate 2.5 million kilowatts of electricity continuously. That exported from Alberta would generate five million kilowatts.

"This amounts to more than twice the total B.C. Hydro output of about three million kilowatts and it's five times what the Peace River dam is capable of generating.

"So you see, we are already exporting enough natural gas to the U.S. from Canada to serve British Columbia's elec-

tricity requirements more than twice over and over two-thirds of the gas is being used by our competitive rivals in the U.S. for industrial purposes and for the generation of electrical energy."

McGeer said figures from the Canadian Energy Board show the cost of generating electricity from gas varies from 2.7 to 4.2 mills per kilowatt hour excluding transmission, capital and depreciation costs.

"Electricity is retailed to consumers in the city of Seattle for about half the price of Vancouver's," he said.

"All of the West Coast cities which use Canadian natural gas to help generate electrical power — Spokane, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles — supply electricity to residential customers at an average cost equal to or lower than Vancouver's.

"It is intolerable that we should devastate our land with dams . . . while at the same time we export quantities of this gas at a rate far beyond our needs.

"The stand of the Liberal Party is that there should be no more indiscriminate devastation of the land.

"Sound principles of economics and engineering should apply to future energy choices but never again should the damage to the land be ignored in these considerations."

McGeer added that a gas-fired or nuclear-powered generating station on southern Vancouver Island would have saved the mainland considerable difficulty in recent days when weather conditions cut off power from Interior and other provincial areas causing a brown-out.

BILL TO URGE NOTICE TO BENEFICIARIES

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — New Democratic Party MLA Alex Macdonald served notice Monday that he will introduce a bill to require executors of wills to notify persons named in the wills within 30 days of the death of the testator.

"Increasingly, executors are failing to advise persons mentioned in the wills of deceased persons even in cases where beneficiaries have a legitimate right to question the executor's interpretation of the will," the member for Vancouver East said in an explanatory note.

Such notification should be added as one of the duties of trusteeship, the note said.

An amendment to the Administration Act, the bill would also require the executor to give copies of the wills to persons named in them.

Jack Wasserman

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK—The other day colleague **Allan Fotheringham** clobbered the CBC for assigning "more than 57 people" to televise the opening of the third session of the 29th Parliament of the Province of B.C.. In fact it was twice as bad as that even though Foth was less than half right. The heavy-handed CBC sent only 19 technicians and five production people to cover the opening of the legislature. For reasons which I am about to explain, is is doubtful if any of them should have been there.

The CBC, which rightly accepts the responsibility to provide the coverage-of-record of such non-events as royal visits, legislature openings and Flin Flon sled-dog races, was, in this most recent instance, used as a political handmaiden to perpetrate a telecast that should have been labelled a Free Time Political Broadcast on Behalf of the Social Credit Government of B.C.

This discovery, which may alienate colleagues in two different jobs, arises from my dual role as a Sun columnist and an Hourglass interviewer. I wear two hats — please! no cracks about one for each head — and I was in Victoria for the opening with both pen and microphone.

The experience was unnerving. In front of the camera I'm a broadcaster. Away from the lights-action stuff I'm a print freak. When you come right down to it, I'm a newspaperman. In both roles I was part of a neat political ploy designed to enhance the image of the government of the day.

It worked this way. At 9 a.m. on the day of the Throne Speech, accredited members of the media attended upon the Prime Minister of B.C. in his office (I was a bit late, but what can you expect from someone who usually goes to bed at 5 a.m.?)

The media people sat on neat rows of chairs ranged in front of the prime minister's desk. The prime minister himself

sat in his usual place. Another colleague, **Andy Stephen**, the legislative reporter for CHAN and the other CTV outlets in B.C., sat at the end of the prime minister's desk. In tones that any lieutenant-governor would be happy to emulate, he read the speech from the Throne.

Following Andy's excellent reading — his technique almost managed to obscure the lack of content—we are permitted to ask questions. The first query came from **Bob McConnell** of the morning sheet, who said, "That was a very good preamble, sir, but when do we hear the Throne Speech?" A titter ran through the house, as they say in the law books.

We asked questions and the prime minister referred us to the appropriate cabinet minister in most instances. As reporters, we're all in the same bind. Unless you have a pocketful of affidavits attesting where all the bodies are buried, any politician with a few smarts can handle the questioning. The prime minister of B.C. has smarts to burn, and he enjoys the exercise, which generally serves only to demonstrate who is boss. He is! When the prime minister has had his jollies we all line up and receive our printed copy of the Throne Speech from **Laurie Wallace**, the prime minister's affable and efficient deputy. We also sign a form that is both a receipt and an undertaking that not one word of the contents shall be released before 3:15 p.m., which is when **Lieut-Gov. Jack Nicholson** is expected to read the document if a riot doesn't delay proceedings. It is now 10 a.m.

For the next few hours we are free to line up our stories for the period following the opening session. If my own experience is any guide, I'm sure the other reporters are embarrassed by the situation in which they confront leaders of the opposition parties and arrange post-session interviews. The leaders are the peoples' representatives and they know we have heard the speech. Some may even be aware that we have copies in our pockets. When the session ends we will be waiting to ask questions about a document that we have had five

hours to study. They will have heard it once, and not have had time to read it. While the Throne Speech at this particular session was a simple document that didn't require much study, the principle was still wrong.

Meanwhile, back in the chamber, the TV cameras began to roll with the first entry of **Mr. Speaker, William Murray**. Mr. Speaker is in complete charge of all matters pertaining to the legislative chamber. He tells the TV producers where they may place their cameras and microphones. Because it is a rare privilege to be permitted inside the chamber with all this equipment, his orders are accepted. He even tells the prime minister when he can speak. In this place he is the boss.

Because Mr. Speaker is a businessman in private life I can only assume that his lack of technical knowledge creates a strange situation that might lead other less charitable columnists to wonder about flat-out political bias. It's probably inadvertent that the areas designated by Mr. Speaker for the TV cameras were such that only those people on the government side of the house could be shown full face. Opposition members were shown in profile or from the backs of their heads. The microphones were also located according to instructions issued by Mr. Speaker. The stand-up jobs — in the trade we call them the **Frank (I Did It My Way) Sinatra** mikes — were all in front of the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues. Any contribution offered by the opposition parties would have gone unheard, had it not been for the skills of those belittled CBC technicians who aimed their long directional mikes toward the opposition speakers. (The technicians rehearsed for this non-event by aiming side-line mikes at football huddles.)

That's what really happens at the opening of the legislature. I'm sorry about breaking the rules and telling all.

But I have the feeling that all of us in the media, both print and broadcast, inadvertently become part of an exercise to make the opposition look like patsies. As if **Premier Bennett** needed the help!

PETERSON SEEKS ACTION IN OTTAWA

Ban on 'sniff' products sale urged

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Attorney-General Les Peterson has urged the federal government to forbid the sale of toxic solvents found in nail-polish remover and other products to anyone under 16 years of age.

He disclosed in the legislature Tuesday that he sent a telegram to Ottawa Monday asking for the restriction under the Hazardous Products Act.

Peterson also told the legislature that he has started an investigation into means to cut down the incidence of young people sniffing glue, solvents and other substances by prosecuting vendors under the federal Juvenile Delinquents Act and by the possible removal of vendors' business licences.

Ernie LeCours (SC—Richmond) and Liberal leader Pat McGeer already this session have called on Peterson to take action against sniffing.

The attorney-general repeated in the house what he had told reporters earlier, that the courts have declared that the provincial government's efforts to legislate against the problem are outside its powers.

"It is not because of any lack of interest, or lack of desire on our part or a lack of concern about the problem — it is simply because of a lack of authority," he said.

McGeer's suggestion that B.C. should follow the lead of some states in the U.S. which have legislated against sniffing, Peterson said, ignores the differences between the American and Canadian systems.

He repeated that his department is considering charges of contributing to juvenile delinquency against persons selling nail-polish remover to juveniles "with the full knowledge of the use to which it will be put — that is, sniffing."

He said that the province can also exercise jurisdiction through licensing of businesses guilty of this practice.

He reported that his department has discussed with Vancouver city prosecutor Stewart McMorran the suggestion that licences of businesses selling nail-polish remover to minors be suspended.

In Vancouver, city council

threatened Tuesday to cancel the business licences of stores flagrantly selling intoxicating solvents to children, but decided it could not directly ban or restrict the sale of such items.

A motion ordering the licence inspector to warn stores which sell the solvents to children that they could lose their licence was passed after council heard a delegation of mothers from the McLean Park housing project.

Spokesman for the group, Mrs. Bea Delorme, said despite current publicity being given to the problem of solvent-sniffing, many stores are still selling the products to children.

She said the women wanted council to press for provincial legislation to ban the indiscriminate sale of solvents.

Also appearing to urge support for action against sniffing was Mrs. Helen Boyce, a member of the park board. She suggested appointment of 10 police officers specially trained to deal with youth problems.

After the delegations were heard, Ald. Hugh Bird introduced a motion calling for a bylaw to ban the sale of solvents to children.

However, a spokesman for the city solicitor's department told council that matters dealing with juvenile delinquency do not come under direct municipal control.

Council then adopted a second motion, brought in by Ald. Harry Rankin, calling for involvement of its licence inspector to fight the problem.

It also agreed to a request from Ald. Halford Wilson that a letter be sent to federal Justice Minister John Turner asking for legislation prohibiting the sale of solvents to children.

In the legislature, Peterson said he has talked on the telephone with the president of a company manufacturing nail polish remover.

He said the company is considering a voluntary restricted sale of the product, the addition of a substance to induce nausea when it is sniffed and a warning on the label against inhalation.

Peterson read to the house

the text of his telegram to Ottawa requesting regulation under the Hazardous Products Act. It said:

"The use by children of toxic solvents in nail-polish removers and other products sold commercially in the Vancouver area is creating a serious health problem.

"I hereby request that such solvents be included either under part one or two of the schedule to the Hazardous Products Act. I request that

additional consideration be given to restricting the sale of these toxic solvents to persons over the age of 16 years."

Later in the day's debate, Evan Wolfe (SC—Vancouver Centre) stated that if Peterson's suggestion is not followed by Ottawa, the federal government could use the excise tax to clamp down on companies selling such volumes of solvents that might suggest they are being sold for illegitimate uses.

NDP MLAs told to 'stop meddling'

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Attorney-General Les Peterson Tuesday angrily told members of the New Democratic party in the legislature to stop meddling in government affairs.

"Members of the opposition should realize that they were not elected to govern this province," he shouted at the NDP MLAs, "and should not meddle in affairs outside our borders."

He was criticizing the NDP caucus' visit to Olympia, Wash., earlier this month where the MLAs met with state legislators to discuss matters common to B.C. and Washington State.

Opposition leader Dave Barrett produced a program Monday of co-operation between the two jurisdictions on pollution control based on the Olympia meetings.

Peterson charged that the visit was "an elaborate attempt (by Barrett) to counteract the anti-American image of his party."

The attorney-general quoted from newspaper reports which indicated that many state legislators thought the NDP MLAs were Conservatives.

He recalled that one legislator was quoted as saying on emerging from a meeting with the Canadians: "They're all pinkos in there."

Peterson said the group should have been completely frank with the Americans and told them that several of the MLAs had signed the Watkins manifesto which stated in part that the major threat to the

survival of Canada today is U.S. control of the Canadian economy, and criticized U.S. militarism abroad and racism at home.

Peterson added that he was glad they didn't confess this "because they (the Americans) are our friends and we have excellent co-operation from them."

There is already co-operation between the state and the province on pollution control matters, he said. B.C. would be plunged into darkness because of the effect of the harsh weather on power supply from the Interior if it were not for Washington state power being made available.

He disclosed that Premier W. A. C. Bennett had accepted an invitation of Washington Gov. Dan Evans to be honorary co-chairman of a committee to preside over the centenary this year of the settlement of the San Juan boundary dispute which established the border between B.C. and Washington state.

After cautioning the NDP against trying to run the government while in opposition and meddling in relations with other jurisdictions, Peterson said that he doesn't want anyone to get the impression "that this government is a pinko government."

Bennett, asked outside the House if Peterson's speech means the government will not consider Barrett's proposals for a joint approach to pollution control in the Pacific Northwest, just walked away toward his office.

"Great co-operation, great co-operation," he muttered.

Wallace labels legislature as 'theatre for actors'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C.'s Conservative MLA denounced the legislature Tuesday as a theatre of play actors simulating alarm, anger and outrage for publicity.

Dr. George Scott Wallace, who bolted the Social Credit party and joined the Conservatives, angrily criticized the conduct of legislative business in the province and presented proposals for reform of both the house and government.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett left the chamber as Wallace began to speak and thus missed the fiery physician's attack on him as a "flat-earther" and his government MLAs as subservient followers of the party line.

Most MLAs, representing all parties, seemed to avoid listening to Wallace and had to be called to order twice by Speaker William Murray to stop their loud conversations.

Calling for more "free votes" in the legislature, instead of voting according to the "party line," the Oak Bay MLA charged that what goes on in the chamber "is mainly play acting."

"The chamber is a political theatre rather than a forum for democratic debate and decision," he said.

"Much of the public display by members is a performance by actors on both sides of the house, simulating alarm, anger, and out to win the attention of the public, rather than to give or receive useful information."

He said that debates on departmental estimates and bills move "drearly ahead to predetermined conclusions."

Soured government MLAs, he added, always toe the government line, while opposition members always oppose the government but never manage to change anything.

"With the use of free votes and the more effective involvement of the private members, a more honest and reliable picture of the opinions of all the legislators would be obtained by the public," Wallace said.



DR. SCOTT WALLACE
... urges "free votes"

Wallace said that a Conservative government would try to create a democratic style of government by:

Allowing legislative committees with all-party representation more freedom to carry out business;

Using cabinet orders-in-council passed in closed meetings only when necessary or for merely "housekeeping" measures;

And giving a realistic amount of time for consideration of bills introduced by individual MLAs.

He said his party favors use of a "totally accurate unedited Hansard 'record of debate,'" and the introduction of a period for MLAs to question ministers.

Wallace said the Conservatives would abolish the necessity for the government giving permission before anyone can sue it, and would create an ombudsman "to provide the individual with recourse against the ever-increasing and often misused powers of government and its agencies."

He also stated his party would create the office of auditor-general to investigate all financial actions of the government and Crown agencies.

Wallace criticized Bennett's

terms of reference for the B.C. energy board study on power needs of the province up to 1985 on the grounds that they prohibit the consideration of a nuclear power source.

"I would suggest that to pretend such a source of power does not exist is tantamount to believing that the world is flat," he declared.

(Although Hydro chairman Dr. Gordon Shrum has supported the use of nuclear power generation on Vancouver Island, Bennett has refused to consider it because of his fears of thermal and radiation pollution).

Other Conservative policies outlined by Wallace included:

A higher minimum wage;
Hospital insurance coverage and facilities for any level of care in a hospital or nursing home;

Removal of the education share of property taxation from all homeowners over 65;

Increased allowances for the disabled, the blind, the deserted and the handicapped;

No financial support for "able bodied young men and women who refuse jobs that are available in order to live close to nature."

Financial assistance for retraining of persons who are unemployed because of changes in the nature of the work for which they were trained;

A non-political employment research board to plan for job needs and skills;

Property taxation relief at all levels of government on a reducing scale for "the first few years" for new businesses and industries, with the province providing the lost revenue to municipalities;

A permanent management labor council with representatives from both management, labor, economists to advise on contract negotiations and legislation for cooling-off periods during which no strikes or lockouts would take place;

Binding arbitration to be ordered only by the legislature, and the disbandment of the mediation commission.

James K. NESBITT

VICTORIA—Everybody but Social Crediters says the 1972 speech from the throne has nothing in it, absolutely nothing.

Oppositionists in the legislature insists it's nothing but a great big bag of wind.

Socialist and Liberal leaders David Barrett and Patrick McGeer said this week this

session's throne speech is the very most barren in our history.

The premier, the father of the throne speech, heard them say this, but looked quite unimpressed.

He didn't even get mad. He was probably muttering to himself something like: "What can one expect from political pin heads."

It's true this year's speech didn't say anything, but that's nothing new. Messrs. Barrett and McGeer should not appear so surprised. They should know it was ever thus.

They, if they were premiers, wouldn't be telling anything either, for to tell nothing is time-honored practice among Canadian premiers, until they are good and ready to tell the public only what they want the public to know.

★
FOR INSTANCE, A VICTORIA Times headline in 1892 said: "The Legislature — a characteristic meaningless speech from the throne."

That 1892 speech had almost the very same words as the 1972 speech: "Although all our expectations may not have been fully realized, yet the past year has been one of general prosperity, and the outlook for the future is increasingly hopeful."

Change the names, and this from 1892 can be applied to 1972: "Referring to most points in Opposition Leader Robert Beaven's speech, Premier John Robson dismissed them with the statement that 'carp, carp, carp' is always the cry of the opposition."

Here are some other 1892 headlines: "Beaven says Robson twists Queen's English."

"Not much business transacted in house."

"An uninteresting sitting of house."

"Up roar in house."



"Opposition says budget tame production."

"Another dull day in the house."

"Late night sittings exhaust members."

"The premier thinks it no harm to let speculators get away with a bit of land."

"Tempest in a teapot over privileges, and points of order."

"Fierce attack upon leader of opposition by government members."

★
IN RECENT WEEKS Attorney-general Leslie Peterson has taken a terrific drubbing about his honors' list for B.C. lawyers — bestowing on a few of them the right to put the initials QC (Queen's Counsel) after their names.

Well, if it's any consolation to Mr. Peterson he's not the only B.C. A.G. in history to run into similar trouble.

In 1899, the Victoria Globe launched an attack on Premier-Attorney-General Joseph Martin:

"If there is one thing more than another to which Mr. Martin can successfully lay claim, it is a highly developed bump of self-assurance."

"Having lived here only a couple of years, and under conditions not unlike those of the Arabian nomads, without any practice of a lawyer worth speaking of — a mere tramp politician in fact — he has the effrontery to play favorites among the various counsel in this province."

"There are attorneys practising at the bar who are ignored who are fully the equal of any on the Martin list, and infinitely the superior of several of them including himself."

"The distinguished counsel who have been excluded will doubtless feel that it is no credit to receive a distinction from, nor any disgrace to be passed over by the Wrecker from Manitoba."

"A list ignoring so many prominent, hard-working, non-partisan counsel could only emanate from a man of the stamp and tendencies of Joe Martin."

"His list is as follows: Hon. D. M. Eberts, Hon. Joseph Martin, Charles Wilson, E. V. Bodwell, W. J. Taylor, E. P. Davis, A. H. McNeill."

"Well might some of these gentlemen say: 'Save us from our friend.'"

There is only way to abolish this fun-and-games nonsense, and that is to create no more QCs.

Nimsick charges 'class warfare'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — More concern for workers, welfare recipients and wildlife were demanded in the legislature Tuesday by Leo Nimsick (NDP—Kootenay).

He charged the Social Credit government was conducting "class warfare" on workers seeking higher wages to meet rising food bills and other costs of the good life, while leaving coupon-clippers free to improve their lot.

He added the government achieved budgetary surpluses partly by denying persons in need reasonable assistance but gave welfare subsidies to employers in the guise of job opportunity subsidies for wages paid.

And he said the government was indifferent to the starvation facing Kootenay game animals as a result of the Libby Dam flooding and other developments which would destroy their valley-bottom feeding habitats.

"You say the fault of inflation and all our troubles lies with the worker asking for higher wages," Nimsick accused the government. "Well, he's got to eat too."

He said the Socreds espouse guidelines to limit wage increases of teachers, nurses and others "but the coupon-clippers and business elite can increase their prices at will."

He said that many welfare programs were scandalous because they provided an income lower than the recognized poverty level.

Instead of giving senior citizens exemption from property taxes and passes on the ferries, the government handed out subsidies to employers to cover 50 per cent of the wage costs for temporary jobs to persons on welfare.

"This is how you get your

\$100 million surplus — by sweating it out of the poor people and you should be ashamed to hoard that surplus when these poor people need help," he said.

The government, also was unfeeling toward the game animals in the Kootenays because it has not drawn up any program for preserving important rangeland or providing winter feed.

He said the government is mesmerized by "one-shot resources like minerals and coal" in the region and forgets that game animals are a renewable resource that can be harvested indefinitely if proper management is followed.

"Either save the bottom-feeding lands or pay the farmers to grow hay and feed them as they do in Montana," said Nimsick. "These animals have to be fed or they'll die of starvation."

"You even take part of the sportsmen's fees to assist building your \$100 million surplus and yet you let the wildlife go down the drain."

He also said the government was permitting retired residents at Natal to be harassed and "worn down" into disposing of their homes at half their value as part of a provincial plan to replace the community with the new town of Sparwood.

Nimsick said the Socred caucus should set up a three-man committee to make its own evaluation of the homes and assure itself that current expropriation proceedings will not cause palpable injustice.

INCENTIVE AID

B.C. suffers, says Wolfe

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature was told Tuesday B.C. is getting "the short end of the stick" in connection with federal regional economic expansion programs.

Evan Wolfe (SC-Vancouver Centre) said recent statistics showed incentive grants to manufacturers starting new plants amounted to only 26 cents per capita in B.C. while they reached \$1.85 in Ontario and \$13.21 in Alberta.

Wolfe said only the Kootenays are permitted to benefit from the federal incentives program while it applies to all of the Atlantic provinces, most of Quebec, northern Ontario and most of the prairies.

"Considering the unemployment levels and the rate of population growth, a good case could be made for designating all of British Columbia with the exception of Greater Vancouver, Greater Victoria and the Okanagan," he added.

"We are simply getting the short end of the stick out here."

ALBION FERRY TOLLS TO GO

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government will remove the tolls on the Albion ferry running between Langley and Maple Ridge, Social Credit MLA George Mussallam disclosed Tuesday.

The Dewdney MLA said that Highways Minister Wesley Black told him a cabinet order in council will be passed Feb. 15 removing the tolls on the ferry which runs 24 hours a day.

Rates for the crossing are 50 cents for a car and driver and 10 cents per passenger. Commuter tickets provide a one-third discount.

Mussallam has appealed in the legislature for removal of the tolls.

PRICE, PAY CONTROLS

Bennett rebuffs Wolfe

By JOHN MIKA
Special to The Sun

VICTORIA — Evan Wolfe, Social Credit MLA for Vancouver Centre, received speedy responses to some proposals he made Tuesday during the throne speech debate.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett gave thumbs down to two of them and Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell vigorously applauded a third.

"Our province should go on record as favoring price and wage controls and should pressure the federal government to install these now," Wolfe said.

"The premier's not advocating that," shouted Bennett, jumping up. "Berger did — and he's a judge now, isn't he?"

(He was referring to Mr. Justice Tom Berger who fought the premier last election as leader of the New Democratic Party.)

Wolfe tried again with a proposal that hospital care charges be increased from \$1 per day to \$3 or \$5.

"No way," shouted Bennett, shaking his head emphatically.

The Premier remained silent when Wolfe urged development of the Moran Dam on the Fraser River although there were groans and hoots from opposition and some Socred MLAs.

Wolfe received general Socred applause, led by Campbell when he said the municipal affairs minister should introduce legislation to require municipalities to hold special hospital polls in civic elections as provincial electoral officers do.

He said that Vancouver city council's request for an amendment to the city charter this session providing for a mail ballot by voters in hospitals on election day "just is not good enough."

Wolfe met some heckling when he urged amendment of the Landlords and Tenants Act to restore a "distress" procedure for landlords whose tenants refuse to pay their rents.

Among his other proposals: An early start to the new First Narrows crossing and on the First Corridor, along Kingsway, of a rapid rail transit system for Greater

Vancouver at the same time: Amalgamation of Burnaby and Vancouver;

Establishment of a detoxification centre to serve an alcohol and drug addiction hospital in Vancouver;

Construction of the proposed B.C. building with the province co-operating fully with the Vancouver city planning department, provision of "maximum open space at ground level" and, after completion, grants in lieu of property taxes calculated on the same mill rate as those charged ratepayers;

More police for Vancouver, construction of a West End community centre and senior citizens' high-rise, and establishment of the proposed Britannia community services centre;

An efficiency study of the civil service to look for waste and duplication;

Increasing the home acquisition grant but restricting it to those passing a means test;

More co-operation and liaison between the provincial government and city hall, at both the staff and political levels.

On slippery slopes

That the provincial government has belatedly done the right thing in halting the Powder Mountain development fiasco is small consolation. The mischief has been done.

Predictably, there is no ski area open to the public there after more than three years of speculative promises. The only slalom is the one run by contractors and promoters. Another mountain has been scarred, timber hacked out; another gang of speculators has been and gone, another pot of money lost.

It is a sickeningly familiar situation. It was familiar two years ago in the shadow of Cypress Bowl. Yet in 1969 Resources Minister Ray Williston was assuring everyone that Powder Mountain was different because it lay completely within his own responsibility.

And how did he handle his responsibility? Despite the admitted financial difficulties of the promoters in 1969, despite warnings from the opposition parties, despite the anxiety of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and the western president of the Canadian Amateur Ski Association, Mr. Williston did nothing. He did not act when one of the companies involved went into receivership; nor when this newspaper, reviewing the evidence, called for a full and fair inquiry. Newspaper reports, Mr. Williston said, were "snot."

So now what? One bunch of speculators is out while the government lines up another. The rules have been hastily changed to require bonding, an improvised policy produced without legislative authority out of a civil servant's hat.

But has the government really learned from past snow jobs how to manage public resources for the public benefit? The obvious thing to do, to take over management of these resources itself, is emphatically rejected by Mr. Williston — "No, sir. No, sir. No, sir."

The next best thing is a firm and safe set of rules for development of such resources, backed up by the authority of the legislature. As usual, the government has only waved a piece of flannel.

By now, surely, British Columbians must be aware of the fundamental flaw in the philosophy of this government, a failure to secure the public interest. It hasn't changed in 20 years. And until it does it can be expected to blunder into more of the same mischief as was done on two mountains, at who-knows-what cost to the people of B.C.

Surgery bottleneck blamed on doctors

VICTORIA — Internal squabbling by doctors over hospital privileges has been a key part of the bottleneck in open heart surgery at Vancouver General Hospital, Evan Wolfe (SC-Vancouver Centre) claimed Tuesday in the legislature.

Wolfe said he had found it "a frustrating experience to be in the middle between two more or less hardened positions — that of the doctors and that of the minister."

He said he had been seeking action from Health Minister Ralph Loffmark since December, 1970, to make more post-operative care beds available for the open heart surgery program to increase the flow of patients.

Loffmark's recent announcement that renovations of Willow Chest Pavilion would be completed this June should improve the situation, said Wolfe.

"In the meantime, the matter of deciding which doctors are privileged to use these facilities has become an issue," he said.

He said the open heart surgery team at the hospital has refused to let New Westminster Dr. George Stefanik, who is trained in the technique, to participate in their program or use the \$250,000 operating theatre.

"In other words, the matter

of outside doctors having privileges at the Vancouver General became a real issue in this case and I am afraid—as a result — the necessary renovations in the facilities at the Willow pavilion have been delayed," said Wolfe.

(Dr. Stefanik has said he had discussed the issue with Loffmark in 1969, but not since.)

Wolfe said he sympathized with Loffmark's difficulties under the circumstances in trying to ensure that expensive equipment provided by the public is used for those needing it most.

"I would like to suggest to the heart specialists that they could enjoy a more harmonious relationship with the minister of health if they pursued a more flexible course in permitting other surgeons use of hospital facilities," added Wolfe.

"In my view they have been dogmatic and most uncomprising in their attitude."

Wolfe said a new advisory committee set up by Loffmark to help decide which doctors get privileges to use the open heart surgery unit could set guidelines.

"But if it is to go further than that and make what could be life and death decisions, it is essential that heart surgeons be well represented in its membership," he said.

Takeover studies set

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Redrafted laws on expropriation in B.C. will be studied by a committee of the legislature this session. Attorney-General Les Peterson announced Tuesday.

He said in the house that the provincial law reform commission's report on expropriation is now being printed and will be studied by his department and various other

departments and government agencies with expropriation powers.

While these studies are being made, Peterson said, the report will be laid before a special committee of the legislature which will have power to call witnesses and hear suggestions on a new expropriation statute or statutes.

"This report contains a number of recommendations which can form the basis of new uniform expropriation procedures in this province," he declared.

A number of departments and agencies such as the highways department and B.C. Hydro have expropriation powers.

Peterson indicated there are a number of "equitable remedies" in the report for the expropriation problem.

And he signified that the government wants the committee to recommend the one "which will be of greatest benefit to the land owner, and which will not unduly retard the development of the province or place an undue financial burden on the taxpayer."

He also elaborated a little on the throne speech promise of new legislation concerning matrimonial and family relationships.

He said that new rights will be proposed to ensure complete equality between husband and wife in responsibilities for "spouses, children and parents."

"We are also endeavoring to streamline family court practice, to provide an aggrieved spouse or child with easier access and faster relief through family courts," Peterson said.

Ottawa okays oil exploration on 2.7 million acres off B.C.

Williston raps permits to firm

Federal government officials said today that oil exploration permits covering an area of 2.7 million acres off the B.C. coast have been issued to a Calgary firm.

The disclosure followed a protest in the B.C. legislature by Resources Minister Ray Williston, who accused Ottawa of "talking out of both sides of the mouth" by agreeing to new exploration in Queen Charlotte Sound while "publicly agonizing" about offshore oil pollution.

Williston said the provincial mines department had learned within the last 10 days that a permit has been issued to Petrotar Development Ltd. although exploration permits were cancelled in Georgia Strait and misgivings have been expressed about proposed oil tanker shipments off the coast.

Williston told the house the provincial mines department had "dredged out of Ottawa" the information that Petrotar had got a lease for development of 1.4 million acres in Queen Charlotte Sound.

However, spokesman for the federal department of energy, mines and resources said today that granting of the permits was announced a month ago.

And, they said, additional permits were granted to the same Calgary firm later for exploration of a second block of 1.3 million acres in the same area, generally north-west and seaward of Vancouver Island.

Approval of the first permits was given Nov. 10 and announced routinely in the federal government's monthly Oil and Gas report, a publication one federal official said he assumes the B.C. government receives.

Granting of the additional permits Dec. 10 is to be recorded in the next issue of the Oil and Gas Report, due out within the next few days.

The permits allow Petrotar to lease the mineral rights of the acreage should commer-

the northern portion of Vancouver Island.

Exploratory drilling in Georgia Strait and the Strait of Juan de Fuca was banned by the federal government last year.

Richter said then that B.C. and not Ottawa would decide whether drilling or exploration in the straits would be allowed.

Speaking later in the debate Wednesday, Barrie Clark (L.—North Vancouver Seymour) asked the government why it had not revoked the permits it issued for oil exploration in the area in 1966.

"Last spring all permit holders there were advised by the minister (Davis) that no drilling permission would be given, but he (Williston) didn't tell us that," he said.

Clark added that if the provincial government was really upset about the danger of pollution because of the shipment of Alaska oil to Cherry Point in Washington state by supertanker it would have mentioned it in the throne speech last Thursday.

cial production be indicated, and give the company the right to drill exploratory wells.

Each such well must be approved beforehand by federal authorities.

"It's no secret," said Petrotar president George Rostoker in Calgary today.

He said the permits will allow his firm to do exploration work in the area within the next three years.

No drilling is planned at present. Initial work would be seismic exploration, with the results to be studied by company geologists as part of a wide-scale search for new oil sources.

In protesting the leases, Williston said the provincial government has stopped issuing offshore drilling licences "until the technology has been refined and we know more about the whole problem."

However Mines Minister Frank Richter told reporters later his department still issues such leases.

The most recent, Richter said, was awarded last fall to Union Oil Co. for exploration on the west side of the Queen Charlottes.

In a subsequent interview today, Williston admitted his government is as inconsistent as the federal government in the offshore exploration question.

He said there can be no consistency until Ottawa and

Victoria agree on preservation of water quality.

He also said he believes water quality can be safeguarded even with oil drilling.

The minister said he was only pointing out that the federal government was being inconsistent in "whip-sawing the Americans" on supertanker oil shipments from Alaska while continuing to grant exploration permits.

He also said Environment Minister Jack Davis' campaign for an underwater marine park in the Strait of Georgia has confused the issue.

Williston told the legislature the 1.4 million-acre lease covered a tract off the west side of Banks Island, on the mainland side of Hecate Strait, and another southeast of Moresby Island in the Queen Charlottes.

Federal officials said the two sets of permits totalling 2.7 million acres form an elongated block located from 10 to 50 miles seaward of a line from the southernmost tip of the Queen Charlotte Islands to



'BRING IN LEGISLATION'

Two MLAs want Peterson to act on sniff problem

By IAIN HUNTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A government backbencher and Liberal MLA joined forces in the legislature Wednesday to urge Attorney-General Les Peterson to try a little harder to combat the sniff-problem.

Bob Wenman (SC — Delta) said that the government should introduce legislation against glue and solvent sniffing even if it is later declared beyond provincial powers by the courts.

Barrie Clark (Lib. — North Vancouver-Seymour) told Peterson that the harmful substances could be regulated under the provincial Liquor Act as they have been in Alberta.

Peterson has said his hands are tied because the courts declared ultra vires his attempt to legislate against drugs two years ago, and he has called on the federal government to prohibit the sale of

the substances to anyone under 16 years of age.

Wenman said the government should ask primary distributors of glue, nail-polish remover and similar substances to have them sold in drug stores only.

He said drug companies should be asked to place them behind the counter and not sell them to juveniles.

He suggested a temporary signing system as is used for some prescriptions and garden sprays.

"Even if the law is unwor- kable, like the law we passed against LSD, at least we should try by passing it and then the public would know how we feel about this practice," he said.

He suggested that schools and parents should play a part in fighting sniff.

"The department of education should re-examine the excessive negative, depressing and cynical values too often taught in our schools through

its English and Social Studies curriculum," said Wenman, who is a teacher by profession.

"Parents should know where their children are and be made and held more responsible for the actions of their children. Perhaps the curfew we need is not on children but on parents."

Clark asked Peterson why, if he felt sniff was such a problem, he waited until Monday to send a telegram to Ottawa asking for federal restrictions on the sale of nail-polish remover and glue.

"And I haven't got an answer yet," the attorney-general interjected.

"Does that mean you don't know what to do until you get it?" Clark demanded.

He also demanded to know why the municipal affairs department hasn't drafted a bylaw to restrict the sale of glue and nail-polish remover and sent it to all municipalities urging its adoption.

Bennett denies Moran plan

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett was stung by MLA's from his own party and the opposition Wednesday into denying that his government has ever advocated building the Moran Dam on the Fraser River.

Leaping to his feet, Bennett waved his arms and shouted: "I want to say very clearly as leader of this government that this government has not advocated the building of the Moran Dam."

Also shouting, Robert Strachan (NDP — Cowichan-Malahat) leapt to his feet and waved newspaper clippings showing that Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan had supported the Moran Dam scheme last October.

(Kiernan said Oct. 1 in an interview with The Sun that he favors damming of the Fraser, more to control flooding in the lower Fraser Valley than to generate power).

The heated exchange came during a speech by Barrie Clark (Lib. — North Vancouver-Seymour) criticizing the government for not indicating in Thursday's throne speech that it is opposed to the Moran Dam proposed for near Lillooet.

Clark challenged the government's lead-off speaker today, Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell, to state in the house "that it is government policy not to build a dam at Moran on the Fraser River."

"If this statement is not made, then the Premier once

again is shown up that he uses double words with the people of British Columbia," the MLA declared.

"Oh, you've had it already," Bennett remonstrated.

Earlier in the day's debate, Dennis Cocke (NDP — New Westminster) called on the government to go on record as being opposed to damming the Fraser.

Bob Wenman (SC — Delta) observed that the Moran Dam is part of the current B.C. Energy Board study of B.C.'s power needs to 1985 and warned that such a dam would damage the fisheries industry and create a danger of downstream flooding in the event of earthquakes or man-made disasters.

Merilees calls for resignation of labor federation leaders

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Vancouver Burrard Social Credit MLA Harold Merilees has called for the resignation of B.C. Federation of Labor president George Johnston and secretary-treasurer Ray Haynes.

He invited the two men to resign in a letter he wrote Haynes Wednesday criticizing federation officers for mailing a brief to the provincial government instead of appearing before the cabinet in person.

"Such a brief would never have been written nor presented in such a fashion by

men of sincere intentions," said Merilees in his letter.

(The federation said it mailed its brief this year because Premier W. A. C. Bennett refused to meet its delegation last year and because the government ignores its requests.)

Haynes has indicated he wants to run for the New Democratic Party in the next provincial election in Merilees' riding.

The Social Credit MLA told Haynes it is long overdue for the federation "to make a sincere and honest endeavor to bring constructive and reasonable thinking and action to

bear" on labor problems facing the province this year.

He accused federation officers of continually demanding repeal of offending legislation or the resignation of cabinet ministers or civil servants, often without consulting the membership.

The government, he said, does its best to act as interpreter, adviser and mediator on the labor scene.

"Therefore, I suggest that you and your president, Mr. Johnston, resign and that the federation elect new and progressive leadership," Merilees wrote.

MLA SAYS 'BREAD STOLEN'

Tighter pension law urged

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A New Democratic Party MLA charged in the legislature Wednesday that a bread company used a pension plan to literally steal bread from the mouths of its employees.

He urged that the government provide legislation to ensure workers benefit from pensions to which they contribute.

Dennis Cocke (NDP — New Westminster) was criticizing the pension arrangements of McGavin Toastmaster Co., which has shut down its Vancouver operation.

In Vancouver today a spokesman for McGavin Toastmaster said Cocke is not stating the facts.

Tom Berto, vice-president, industrial relations for the company, said the pension plan involved is not a contributory scheme on the part of the employees.

The plan is funded entirely

by the company, Berto said.

Cocke told the legislature: "We are dealing with a situation where this employer used a badly set up pension plan to his advantage and literally stole from his employees."

"For many years the McGavin Toastmaster Co. put bread in our mouths. We paid them well for their product. In return they took bread out of the mouths of their own employees," Cocke stated.

He said it is a dubious honor for an employer to be able to see his pension plans designed in his favor, but that in this case the plan provided no vesting or paid-up benefits for persons terminated under the age of 55.

Cocke said that when the plant closed down about 48 men were left without pension benefits.

"Their chance of building a pension elsewhere is either reduced or wiped out on account of their age," he stated.

He charged that the employer is now using the money paid in by the former employees to pay its present share of pensions for employees or other bakeries in the "McGavin empire."

Berto said when the plan was started in 1960 employees were given full credit for all past service.

Employees meeting the requirements of the scheme can draw a reduced pension at age 55 and a full pension at 65, he said.

"We don't have any control of the money," Berto said. "It's trustee. We contribute in accordance with the terms

of the agreement and that's it."

About 10 persons picketed the McGavin Toastmaster head office at 2091 West Broadway today to protest the pension scheme.

They were led by Des Howe, 53, a driver-salesman for the company for 33 years until he found himself without a job when the Vancouver plant was closed last March.

Howe's wife, his mother-in-law, Mrs. Vera Kittson, his daughter, Mrs. Holly Guigueno, and her two-year-old daughter, Renee, joined him on the picket line.

Howe said about 35 of the 105 employees who were without work when the plant closed have been rehired and pensions have been paid to about 25 others who met the requirements.

"That left about 48 of us with a total of more than 800 years service to the company without a cent from the pension plan," Howe said.

"Legally the company appears to be in the right, but we feel we will do a service to other people if we point out how unfair this pension scheme is."

Howe was president of Teamsters Local 189 until early December when he split with the membership over job security and pension rights in contract negotiations with Lower Mainland Bakeries.

Howe stepped down as leader and on Jan. 1 Local 189 (the Bakery Salesmen's Union) merged with Teamsters Local 464 (the Milk Sales Drivers and Dairy Employees Union).

Plea for aged made

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Barrie Clark (Lib.—North Vancouver-Seymour) pleaded in the legislature Wednesday on behalf of elderly citizens on fixed incomes who, he said, were forgotten by the Social Credit government in the throne speech.

He stated that, even though some backbenchers on the government side of the house have asked for it, there is no indication that old age pensioners who own their own homes will be allowed to defer property taxes.

Clark read off a tax notice from the District of North Vancouver on a property owned by an elderly widow to show the hardship involved. The property, which was assessed at \$6,975 five years ago, is now assessed at \$15,823.

"What is the market value?" asked Premier W. A. C. Bennett.

"You don't understand," retorted Clark, "that 84-year-old lady is not interested in the market value — she wants to live there the rest of her years."

The Liberal MLA said Bennett, who is also minister of finance, should be interested in tax deferment for elderly citizens who own their own homes.

"It would stop us creating old age ghettos in the province and it would be cheaper than building a lot of old age homes," he said.

LETTERS QUOTED IN HOUSE

'Curb wheeler-dealers'—MLA

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — New Democratic Party MLA Dennis Cocke called on Attorney-General Les Peterson Wednesday to strengthen security laws which have made B.C. "a happy hunting ground for wheeler dealers."

The New Westminster MLA

produced documents in the legislature showing that a Vancouver lawyer was offering for sale to a U.S. investor in 1960 B.C. timber lands, B.C. oil leasehold properties and a B.C.-based insurance company.

The company, North-West Life Assurance Co., was part

of a controversy in 1970 when Peterson confirmed that his department blocked the sale of shares by the president and vice-president of NWL Financial Corporation Ltd., to Residential Resort Development Ltd.

One of the NWL directors at that time was Einar Gunder-

son, former Social Credit finance minister of B.C.

NWL owned 95 per cent of North-West Life Assurance of Canada.

The first was a letter from M. Donald Easton, suite 204-525 Seymour, Vancouver, to W. H. Walters of Seattle. It referred to 5,800 acres of Crown-granted timber lands in the Interior.

"If you know of anyone that may be interested in acquiring such a block of Crown granted lands, we would be interested in providing you with any necessary further information," Easton's letter said.

Another letter from the lawyer later that month (June 1960) asked Walters if he was still interested in oil properties in northern B.C.

And in September of 1960, Easton wrote Walters about North-West Life Assurance Co., incorporated by private act of the B.C. legislature in 1956.

"The present directors of the company are not experienced insurance people and we understand would very likely sell their interest in their shares for the amount actually paid up," Easton wrote.

1971 a near-record year for B.C. forest production

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Resources Minister Ray Williston told the legislature Wednesday that the forest industry did well in 1971 despite early indications of trouble and a softness in the pulp market.

He said that, after a slow start, stumpage adjustments to keep pace with the industry's production reached a rate "only exceeded once before, and that was during the runaway market situation of 1969."

"Officials now predict that by the end of the fiscal year revenues will exceed those collected last year by about 15 per cent."

Williston said stumpage receipts in the 1970 fiscal year were approximately \$85 million.

Annual production has been increasing steadily and "this year the scaled volume will be just short of two billion cubic feet for a record 64.5 million cubic feet more than was harvested in 1970."

He told the MLAs that an analysis of production shows surprising shifts with the coastal Prince Rupert district increasing its cut by less than 300,000 cubic feet while the southern coastal Vancouver district actually dropping its cut by 15.6 million cubic feet.

The jump in production took place in the Interior where the various forest districts raised their cut by 79.7 million cubic feet, mainly due to close utilization practices.

He said lumber production in B.C. rose 750 million board feet and plywood production rose a more modest 4.5 per cent from the previous year.

"But, in the face of world demand and market conditions, I am sure that many would not have realized that our production of both pulp and paper increased this past year — the former by 130,000 tons and the latter by 90,000 tons," he said.

DELTA MLA OBJECTS TO OUTFALLS

'Tired of being flushed upon'

VICTORIA — Delta MLA Bob Wenman told the legislature Wednesday his constituents are tired of having Vancouver toilets flushed over their heads.

At least, he pleaded with the government, give the sewage secondary treatment first.

The Social Credit backbencher said the year-by-year increase of domestic and industrial wastes being poured into the lower Fraser River is threatening the health of persons working along its banks and the survival of the salmon fishery.

Wenman said the low gradient in the river's lower reaches means that it is subject to tides in the Strait of Georgia.

This means waste material deposited by the Gilbert Road outfall on the South Arm could be carried upriver beyond the outfall of the proposed Annacis Island treatment plant.

"The effluent discharged from the outfall at Annacis Island sewage treatment plant on the same tide could reach Douglas Island at the entrance to Pitt River," he added.

The MLA stated that, at certain times of the year, the river's outflow volume at New Westminster is only slightly greater than that of the reverse flow volume, so that it could take up to two days for waste to clear the mouth of the river.

Wenman also said there are prolonged periods of slow moving or slack water near the proposed treatment plant site so that solid waste will tend to settle on the river bottom and along the banks.

The MLA acknowledged that a large number of small domestic effluent outfalls along many miles of the river provide an opportunity for some dilution.

But discharge from one huge outfall at Annacis Island will endanger human health and the salmon fishery, he said.

"For this reason it is imperative to move to secondary sewage treatment at Annacis Island now," he said.

"We don't mind being the garbage dump of Vancouver (Delta bog receives solid wastes from the Greater Vancouver area) but it gets a bit much when everyone flushes their toilets all over us as well," he added.

There goes the judge

The legislature has been fairly warned; Attorney-General Leslie Peterson deserves that much credit. It will be asked soon to take action that in the spirit if not the letter of the law will put it in contempt of court. It also will be asked to enable the government to undo with one hand an aspect of law reform that it is pretending to do with the other.

Mr. Peterson, in speaking during the throne speech debate, naturally didn't phrase his intentions in quite this manner. He said simply that "this legislature will be called upon to serve notice to all that if they drink and drive, they can expect to lose their licences, and there will be no exception . . ." What this seemingly right and righteous notification means, however, is hardly this simple.

The insidiousness of bureaucrats usurping powers and functions rightfully belonging to the courts is of concern across Canada. Curbing the tin-pot dictators who proliferate in so many government departments and agencies is one of the assignments of the B.C. law reform commission, appointed by — who else but? — Attorney-General Peterson.

Our A-G, however, has a soft spot for the corner-cutting of administrative justice. Particularly as dispensed by the motor vehicle branch, one of his own departments, and even more particularly in regards to its suspension of drivers' licences.

Mr. Peterson has no faith — or perhaps it is too much faith — in the ability of the courts to award licence suspensions that are fair and proper. The idea of each case being judged on its own merits seems abhorrent to his concept of law and order. What Mr. Peterson did like was the practice by the motor vehicle branch of automatically suspending the licences of errant drivers, regardless, or even in defiance, of court directives.

A year ago May, the courts at last got their own back. Such suspensions, it turned out, were illegal — or as Mr. Peterson puts it, "this policy ran into trouble" — and since that time drivers, to quote Mr. Peterson again, "have not faced the former severe sanctions."

The almost reflex response of the A-G at the time of the court ruling was that "it may be necessary for a legislative change to give legislative authority to provide for suspension in these cases," and he has proved as good as his word.

How he intends to get around the court ban on indiscriminate suspensions by the motor vehicle branch — the only kind, surely, that the branch is equipped to hand out — remains up his capacious sleeve. But there was never much doubt that the attorney-general could return the motor vehicle branch superintendent to his position of superiority over the courts if he put his mind to it.

For all who subscribe to what Mr. Peterson obviously considers a naive belief — that our courts can more justly deal with law-breakers than can civil servants — the one hope that he might be deterred is a slim one indeed. To expect a legislature dominated by Mr. Peterson's party to have an over-riding compunction against kangaroo courts may be, alas, a far larger naivety.

Williston praises forestry benefits

Special to The Sun
VICTORIA — Public forests by any other name wouldn't smell as sweet to Resources Minister Ray Williston.

Wednesday, while outlining considerable progress and some problems in the province's woods industry, he told the legislature:

PARK NAMED FOR NANCY

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The provincial government has created a 451-acre class "A" park around Nancy Greene Lake on Highway 3 near Rossland.

The park, containing 381 land acres and 70 water acres, will be called Nancy Greene Park after the Canadian skier, according to a cabinet order-in-council released Wednesday.

It will be developed to provide campsites, picnic areas and trails around the lake.

"I have heard some of our socialistic planners say that under their scheme of administration such a temporary situation as over-production (of pulp and paper) would not be allowed to develop.

"This may be true, for it is my personal belief that the deadening hand of socialism would not have brought the total benefits of the production and use of the natural resource in the first place."

A few minutes earlier, while describing how government policies were managing B.C.'s major industry to new heights, Williston also told MLAs:

"If I am not contradicted by someone from Russia, who would have to provide evidence that is not now available, I can state that British Columbia has the largest publicly - owned, sustained-yield managed forest in the world."

Liabilities queried

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — A Liberal MLA has asked in the legislature for detailed information on the liabilities of a group of cemeteries operated by a Victoria businessman.

Allan Williams (West Vancouver-Howe Sound) asked Premier W. A. C. Bennett, as finance minister, to provide a year-by-year statement of total plot sales and trust fund deficiencies of companies run by Robert Hagel of Victoria.

The companies named are Colwood Improvement Co. Ltd. which operates Hatley Memorial Gardens at Colwood; Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens Ltd., with cemeteries in Alberni and Cedar Valley near Nanaimo, and Greencrest Memorial Gardens Ltd. of Kelowna.

It was disclosed last year that the Public Utilities Commission placed the companies

under trusteeship in April of 1970 because of shortages in cemetery care funds required by statute to be kept for the perpetual upkeep of cemeteries.

Although the shortages amounted to \$42,000 in 1969 according to the PUC annual report of that year, the companies were subsequently granted a waiver of some trust fund payments.

NDP move beaten on car insurance

By IAIN HUNTER and
JOHN MIKA

VICTORIA — An attempt by the New Democratic Party to defeat the government over publicly-operated car insurance failed in the legislature Thursday.

A few Social Credit backbencher — Ernie LeCours of Richmond and Bert Price of Vancouver Burrard among them — stated they were not completely satisfied with the present high premium rates under the compulsory no-fault scheme.

But they voted with the government to defeat the non-confidence motion after Attorney-General Les Peterson announced that if it passed it would bring not government-operated car insurance, but a provincial election.

The motion was defeated in a standing vote of 39 to 13, Barrie Clark (L—North Vancouver-Seymour) voting with the NDP and George Scott Wallace (PC—Oak Bay) voting with the government.

When the results of the vote were announced, Opposition leader Dave Barrett shouted at Bennett:

"I challenge you, Mr. Premier, to go to the people on this tomorrow."

Bennett merely laughed.

The New Democrats declared that the government has told the Automobile Insurance Board to "go easy" on the insurance industry, and repeated their charge that the industry is providing campaign funds to the Social Credit party.

The board has ordered the industry to reduce its premiums for the compulsory package to \$15 from \$20-\$22, and warned it against increasing third party liability premiums to compensate.

The order was issued after the industry refused to voluntarily accept the board's recommendation to drop the no-fault premiums to \$14.

The Liberals and Wallace agreed that stronger government regulations of the industry are needed, but said it should be left in the hands of private carriers.

The Liberals also said the industry should pay back in reduced premiums the amount it took from the public by overcharging for two years.

The debate began when Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin) completed his turn in the main throne speech debate by filing an amendment to the government's reply to the throne speech.

The amendment expressed "regret" that the speech failed to announce a universal non-profit auto insurance scheme for B.C.

Main position

Calder's amendment is the traditional method of proposing non-confidence in the government, which would be expected to resign if it passed.

The main NDP position was

outlined by Calder's seconder William Hartley (NDP—Yale-Lillooet), who accused Social Credit of being subservient to the insurance industry because of campaign contributions.

"This little government was returned with its greatest majority ever at the last election and so it should have been, because no doubt it received the greatest amount of campaign funds ever from the auto insurance industry," he said.

"You're in the bag of the car insurance industry," he shouted. "You accepted their bribe, their campaign funds."

He said Social Credit backbenchers and Peterson would like to unleash the provincial Auto Insurance Board to strictly control the industry "but you can't because he who pays the piper calls the tune."

He said proof that the board was "told to go easy" was its invitation to industry representatives to appear at a hearing to show why their rates should not be lowered, while the public was not invited to give the other side.

Surplus claimed

At this, Premier W. A. C. Bennett jumped up and shouted: "I want to make it perfectly clear that this government did not receive funds from that industry."

Hartley snapped back a challenge that the premier categorically deny his "party" had received campaign funds from auto underwriters but Bennett remained seated and silent.

Hartley said the industry had realized a surplus of \$4 million over claims from its 1970 compulsory no-fault coverage premiums, almost \$7 million last year and likely \$4 million this year even after the board's decision to cut back the premiums to a \$15 maximum.

"So in three years the industry will have bilked or milked us for a total of \$14 million surplus and that works out to a \$20 bill from each car owner in this province. Mister attorney-general, what are you going to do about it?" he asked.

Hartley said the only two provinces which would not have auto insurance premium increases this year are Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which operate government plans, because "they haven't accepted the insurance company bribes."

Speaker William Murray said use of the word "bribes" was "highly improper" and ordered Hartley to withdraw it.

The NDP member said that government auto insurance had proved a double benefit in Saskatchewan because it not only brought lower premiums but also built up a \$60 million reserve which had been invested by the province in utility and other projects.

Costs 'hidden'

Hartley also argued that the B.C. government saved \$1 million annually by covering its fleet of 6,000 cars itself with an outlay of \$152,000 and not buying private insurance.

Gardom (L—Vancouver-Point Grey) said the plan by "our socialistic friends" might provide gross savings which looked good but when all the hidden costs of government insurance were added it was likely the public would suffer a net increase in cost of coverage.

Gardom said a variety of overlapping costs would wind up being met by taxation and argued provincial taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize car owners.

He contended the only public benefit of a government plan would be the saving of interest earnings on pre-paid policies.

Gardom also expressed amazement that the NDP members would entrust car insurance to the Social Credit government.

"This is a government that doesn't render itself to full account, a government that will not allow people to sue it — boy, are you people shortsighted," he said.

"This would be just one more open sesame for cabinet abuse in B.C."

Gardom criticized the NDP proposal for government-run auto insurance on the grounds that it would put about 50,000 persons — including secretaries, agents and salesmen — out of work.

He argued that insurance agents perform a great service in informing customers of the contents of their policies, yet carry the abuse levelled at the industry on their backs.

Motion backed

Gardom said he was not supporting Calder's motion because he believes in private carriers over public carriers, and that what is needed in B.C. today is not more but less government.

Bob Strachan (NDP — Cowichan-Malahat) said he supported the motion on the principle that monopolies such as the car insurance industry "don't belong in private hands."

"They all operate out of the same rate book sent to them by the centralized bureaucracy which manages the insurance industry in Canada," he charged.

He stated that under the point system of traffic demerits in B.C. the insurance industry "somehow gets hold of this information" in the driver's record, and imposes a surcharge on his insurance for such things as speeding offences, even though no accident has occurred.

"This is a fine levied by the insurance industry monopoly against the individual," he charged.

CONT'D
NEXT
PAGE

John Tisdalle (SC—Saanich and The Islands), the first government member to speak in the debate, said that the socialists in the House should also advocate public takeover of food stores since food is also a necessity of life.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the government should ensure that proper reporting to the government carried out by the insurance companies.

He noted that Westco Insurance Co. in one year reported a net loss of \$38,000 while claiming that it paid out \$330,000 in "general expenses and taxes."

"How does any company making a net loss have any taxes except the two per cent premium tax?"

He read from another insurance company's statement an entry "other income and expenditures."

This statement should have been returned to the company for a more detailed report, he said.

"These are Mexican jumping-bean figures which this government receives," Macdonald declared.

"And what about the other earnings — directors fees, hidden expenses, hidden commissions, kickbacks?" Macdonald demanded.

"And campaign funds," Hartley interjected.

Barrett challenged Bennett to "begin the purge . . . of all these underground socialists in the Social Credit party."

He said Socred MLAs Cyril Shelford, LeCours, Price, Agnes Kripps, Alex Fraser "and many others over there" had spoken in favor of government insurance in the past. Social Credit League conventions also had passed numerous resolutions favoring it.

"There's the backbenchers; meddling with government policy — of all the nerve," he shouted.

Barrett said "85 per cent of the people of this province want government car insurance . . . and the choice tonight is between the little people of British Columbia or the New York insurance interests."

'Not convinced'

Wallace, the sole Progressive Conservative MLA, said he would oppose the NDP amendment although "certainly the present auto insurance system isn't working."

He said the Conservative party was not convinced that a government scheme would be cheaper or more efficient "and there are other alternatives."

He said Conservatives are not opposed to government regulation but are not enamored of government ownership.

Wallace criticized the insurance board on several grounds.

"It is not clearly an independent board and there should be a system of selection giving a clearer indication of its independence from political bias," he said.

The insurance companies should be required to "repay the excess premiums collected in the past," Wallace said.

Attorney-General Peterson said praise for the Manitoba

government auto insurance plan was premature because it was only a few months old but even a cabinet minister there conceded that service has not improved.

"Just look at all the complaints now about unemployment insurance . . . and you can see that a government insurance program per se is not necessarily a panacea," he said.

Peterson also said the government was progressing while the NDP was standing still.

Peterson also contended the NDP amendment's content was irrelevant because it was only a device for attacking the government.

"If this motion passes it won't bring government auto insurance to British Columbia," he said.

"It will bring a provincial election, that's what it will bring."

Leo Nimsick (NDP—Kootenay) predicted that the Social Credit government will bring in government-operated auto insurance before the end of this session.

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver — Howe Sound) chastised Wallace for his criticism of the auto insurance board.

"If the terms of reference of the government sent to the board are inadequate you can't blame the board — you shouldn't criticize anyone in public life for carrying out his responsibilities," he said.

Drug critics assailed for 'politics'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell accused opposition MLAs in the legislature Thursday of riding on the backs of the poor drug users and glue sniffers for political purposes.

He said that he believes "drugs are a bad scene, period" and that the drug culture should not be supported from the public purse.

New Democratic and Liberal MLAs this session have criticized the provincial government for stating that it is up to Ottawa or the municipalities to deal with the problem of solvent sniffing, because the constitution doesn't allow the province to legislate in this field.

Campbell criticized federal and provincial agencies — he did not specify which ones — for saying that not enough is known about drugs to deal with them.

"Whatever the merits of a particular drug are, the problem is the culture which surrounds the drug," the minister declared.

"The culture shouldn't receive any encouragement from the public purse, period."

He said it is bad politics for members to use these social problems for political purposes "and the leader of the Opposition (Dave Barrett) is a past master at it."

Kootenay Canal pact agreed

By IAIN HUNTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The B.C. government, Cominco Ltd. and West Kootenay Power and Light Co. have reached agreement on construction and operation of the proposed 500,000-kilowatt Kootenay Canal hydro power plant, it was announced today.

Resources Minister Ray Williston announced the agreement which follows lengthy negotiations between the private companies and B.C. Hydro.

The project includes construction of the power plant on the Kootenay River near South Slokan, and building a three-mile-long diversion canal from the vicinity of the Corra Linn dam to South Slokan where the plant will be located.

The Kootenay Canal plant will be built and owned by Hydro, and managed under contract by Cominco and West Kootenay Power and Light.

The new power project is needed, Williston noted, because the Duncan Dam, built in 1967, and the nearly completed Libby Dam in Montana provide under the Columbia River Treaty a flow of regulated water on the Kootenay River.

Only half of this flow can be utilized for power purposes by the existing smaller dams in the area, the minister said.

He said U.S. authorities will co-operate with Canadian requirements on storage and water flow releases at the Libby Dam, and he observed that the extra waterflow available "provides a ready-made source of new power at low cost."

In the legislature this week, Williston said the Kootenay power project is one of many possible sources of future hydro electric power which can be developed without necessitating further flooding in the province.

He said today that apart from providing a valuable new power source, the Kootenay project will give more effective flood control on the Kootenay River and Pend D'Oreille River area in the U.S.

The minister added that when the project is completed the regulated outflow from Kootenay Lake will be divided between the Kootenay River and the new canal.

First power is scheduled to be generated from the plant in the fall of 1975.

Hydro ban urged in pipeline project

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. Hydro should not be allowed to build a natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island because its energies are needed in developing more electricity for the province, the legislature was told Thursday.

Alex Fraser (SC—Cariboo) said B.C. Hydro doesn't have the expertise to build a main gas line and shouldn't experiment in the field with public money when experienced firms are among the six applicants for the construction permit.

He added that huge capital financing requirements face the public utility in the immediate future for expanding electrical capacity and the borrowing requirements for a gas project would overload it.

However, Fraser said, B.C. Hydro should be assured of getting 60 per cent of the gas distribution business from the pipeline, maintaining its present position in the province in this field.

Fraser said he favors the proposed northern route for the gas line, running from Williams Lake through Powell River to the Island, because it would be 25-per-cent cheaper than the southern alternative and the ultimate beneficiary would be the consumer.

The Cariboo backbencher drew wide applause with an appeal to the cabinet to require municipalities to install secondary sewage treatment plants as a minimum requirement.

He said the cost difference between primary and secondary systems is negligible "but



ALEX FRASER
... gets applause

they do a much better job of treating wastes."

He strongly criticized the lack of notice given his constituents that Crown lands they use for pasture and other purposes may be withdrawn to form large ecological reserves.

"At the present time, citizens who have legal rights to Crown land affected have no way, except by accident, of finding out their area is going to be taken away from them," he said.

"I am all for preservation of the environment but when Crown land has already been committed for other purposes, such as cattle grazing and forestry production, I do not think it should be cancelled in favor of ecological reserves."

'Pot could revive farms'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Peace River Social Credit MLA said in the legislature Thursday that cultivation of marijuana would be a great way to get young people interested in agriculture again.

Don Marshall (SC — South Peace River) noted that the special committee on youth commissioned by the federal government recommended that anyone 18 years of age or older should be allowed to cultivate, harvest and sell marijuana.

"What a great way to get young people interested in agriculture again," said Marshall.

"This is a crop that would make a fantastic profit and we could smoke it and our troubles would melt away."

"It would also, by smoking it, put farmers in a frame of mind to stop throwing wheat and making rude noises at the prime minister."

Most of the members in the house took his remarks as being facetious, but some of them didn't appear to be too sure.

OVER McGAVIN PENSION CLAIM

Lawson condemns MLA, Barrett

A top labor leader today accused an NDP MLA of making a "shocking, untrue statement" in the legislature about a company pension plan.

B.C. Teamster head Senator Ed Lawson said he will demand that MLA Dennis Cocke (New Westminster) and NDP leader Dave Barrett correct statements made in the legislature about McGavin Toastmaster Co. and its treatment of employees.

Cocke said Wednesday in the throne speech debate: "We are dealing with a situation where this employer used a badly set up pension plan to his advantage and literally stole from his employees."

He said when the company closed its Vancouver operation about 48 men were left without pension benefits because the plan provided no vesting or paid-up benefits for persons terminated under the age of 55.

Cocke alleged the company is now using money paid in by former employees to pay its present share of pensions for employees of other bakeries.

The Teamsters' Union has certification at the company.

Lawson said employees did not contribute a five-cent piece to the company pension plan and therefore had no contributions to withdraw.

"Cocke says the company stole money from the plan and that is a shocking, untrue statement," Lawson added.

He said the pension money is in trust and the union is satisfied that every nickel is accounted for.

"Contrary to Cocke's charge that this is a bad company which has been stealing money from its employees, McGavin Toastmaster is one of the best, fairest companies with which we have ever done business," Lawson said.

He described company head

Alan McGavin as a man of integrity and said that in the shutdown of its Vancouver plant the company went beyond everything required in its union agreement.

Lawson said Cocke's attack on the company was vicious and will injure its reputation, thus causing harm to Teamster members selling its products from other plants.

He said he is sending a summary of facts to Cocke and Barrett with the demand they correct the legislature statements.

Lawson said employees at the Vancouver plant lost their jobs because of a bad decision to support an illegal strike.

Despite this support, he said, they were "rather well treated."

He said 20 of the employees laid off qualified for pensions under the company plan and 28 more who got work in another division of the company

have been given pension credit for their service with the Vancouver plant.

All employees were given a week's pay in lieu of notice and varying amounts of severance pay under terms of their collective agreement, Lawson said.

Referring to four former employees the company is suing for alleged libel, slander and nuisance and for wrongful picketing, Lawson listed their severance pay as:

Des Howe (former president of Teamsters' Local 189) \$4,284; Bertram Dookes \$3,742; Elmer Ragan \$4,231 and Ralph Crosby \$3,500.

Lawson said as president of the local from the time the pension plan was originally negotiated in 1960 until 1971, Howe was fully conversant with the provisions of it and had five sets of negotiations in which to correct any failings.

Minister attacks bylaws of 'airy-fairy planners'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Politicians not bureaucrats must chart the future course of B.C. communities, Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell declared Thursday.

He served notice in the legislature that he won't allow "airy-fairy dreamy planners" and employees of regional districts and municipalities to draw up restrictive senseless bylaws.

Campbell stated that he will not sign into effect local bylaws which bureaucrats have drawn up without the participation "of the people who have to live with them."

One example of the type of local bylaw "hedged around with regulations and negative red tape," he said, is an animals regulation which provides that no animal in the community shall have an offensive odor, make an offensive noise or any other nuisance.

Another example which the minister criticized was a regional plan for the Gulf Islands put out by the Capital Regional District, including as one of the options for future development of the islands a

system of freeways and bridges linking them to the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.

"These people should know that Gulf Island bridges are not part of public policy in this province," the minister declared.

"Do you think we'd put in a 10-acre (temporary subdivision) freeze on the islands in the expectation that we'd have 15 bridges over there?"

"These airy-fairy dreamy planners don't know what they are talking about," Campbell said.

He also criticized "bureaucrats" for opposing a plan developed by more than 200 persons living in a Coquitlam district trailer court to landscape and develop themselves a mobile home project including provision of lighting, sidewalks, sewers and water services.

He said there is provision in the Municipal Act for land use contracts to allow this type of development if the minister decides it is in the public interest.

Local government should read this section of the act, he cautioned.

"These planners that get in the way of progress... they think they are planning for Forest Lawn Cemetery, not for living people," he charged.

"It is the job of political people, not bureaucrats, to chart the way that the municipality is going to go.

"I serve notice now that, where these regional districts do not get voter acceptance in drawing up their bylaws, I will not sign them," Campbell declared.

During his speech, the minister produced the latest figures to support his traditional argument that B.C. municipalities are in a better financial situation than any other municipalities in Canada.

In 1970, he said, cities and districts collected 96 per cent of the taxes due, villages collected 95 per cent, and towns 94 per cent, the highest collection rate in any province.

Gross revenues of municipalities in 1970 totalled \$520 million, an increase of \$60 million over the previous year.

Of the \$152 million in this total representing school taxation, Campbell said, \$52 million is offset by the homeowner's grant on residential property, and 94 per cent of the remainder comes from taxes on commercial and industrial property.

PIGEON HAVEN PROPOSED BY NEY

By IAIN HUNTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Victoria's pigeons deserve a better fate than sterilization, Nanaimo MLA Frank Ney told the legislature Thursday.

He proposed that the birds which have become a nuisance in public places in the capital city should be taken to Vancouver Island's two ferry terminals to entertain the tourists.

"We advertise across North America 'follow the birds to Vancouver Island' and what happens when they get here? They are going to sterilize them — the pigeons, not the tourists," the Social Credit MLA declared.

Ney said that Victoria city council, which is considering a pigeon sterilization program, should realize that in St. Mark's Square in Venice and in other famous cities the birds have become tourist attractions.

He announced that the Nanaimo Pigeon Racing Association has offered to trap the Victoria pigeons and transport them to the Swartz Bay and Nanaimo ferry terminals where they would be well fed during the summer tourist season.

Ney also proposed a bicycle path should be built from Victoria to Campbell River to encourage people to come to the island without their cars.

Ney noted that of about 900 applicants to the University of B.C. law school last year, only 200 were accepted.

He proposed that the seven year law course at university be reduced to six and that the dropped year be spent by prospective lawyers in apprenticeship. This would allow the law school to take more students, Ney said.

He also called on the government to give a supplemental home owner grant to elderly persons "who are really in financial distress."

Chief B.C. coroner ordered to review Quilt evidence

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Les Peterson has ordered B.C. chief coroner Glen McDonald to review the evidence presented at the controversial Fred Quilt inquest in Williams Lake.

He disclosed his order in an interview after an Indian NDP MLA and the government MLA in whose riding Quilt died last Nov. 30, called for an investigation.

Indian residents of the area charged that a beating by members of the RCMP was the cause of Quilt's death.

Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin), a member of the Nishga tribal council, said a full inquiry into the case is necessary to answer one question: "Does Mafia justice toward Indians actually exist?"

Alex Fraser (SC—Cariboo) said doubts have been raised about the verdict of the coroner's jury in Williams Lake which said Quilt's death was unnatural but accidental.

He asked Peterson to order McDonald to review evidence taken at the inquest.

Peterson said he will forward the transcript of the inquest to McDonald as soon as he receives it.

He stated that the chief coroner can make any recommendation following his review of the evidence, including a request to reopen the case and make a further investigation.

Fraser said in the house that, as the MLA for Cariboo, he would request the minister to order the chief coroner for the province to review the inquest evidence and report to the attorney-general.

He told the attorney-general he was making the request because "some doubts have arisen following the coroner's jury verdict into the death of Frederick Quilt (and) these doubts must be cleared up immediately."

He also said that he had learned the Alexis Creek RCMP detachment has been informed by Douglas Hance, who has served as band manager and chief of the Anahim Lake reserve, that he was satisfied with the inquest report and did not consider it a whitewash.

Fraser told the legislature that, in his personal experience, "relations between the police and Indians in the Chilcotin have never been better."

"That's not saying much," snapped fellow Socred backbencher Ernie LeCours.

Calder had said that not only did the death of 55-year-old Quilt raise the question of Mafia justice but also the periodic stories "of brutality and injustice to Indians."

Indian organizations throughout Canada are going to ask both the federal and provincial governments for a full inquiry into the Quilt case, he said.

"I think one is needed, a full public inquiry," he said.

"I even heard yesterday there were many cases involved in the same area as the Quilt case."

Calder said the inquest should be treated the same as the public review of a coroner's hearing into a Maple Ridge traffic death involving an off-duty RCMP officer.

"This Quilt case should be reopened just as that case was reopened," he said.

Socred backbencher urges Kaiser probe

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Burt Campbell (SC—Revelstoke-Slocan) said Thursday the government should turn over "the curious case of Kaiser Resources" to a legislative committee and also reconsider its support for the proposed Kootenay and Elk Railway.

He was referring to recent disclosures that 30 top Kaiser officials at the Oakland head office secretly bought and sold Kaiser Resources shares through KRL Investments Ltd., an Ontario firm.

The shares were supposed to be reserved for Canadian investors.

The transactions are under study by the B.C. Securities Commission.

"The action was most definitely morally wrong and in direct violation of the intent that there be 25 per cent of its shares being made available only to Canadians," said Campbell.

"Because of its actions, Kaiser has thrown into serious question the company's right to further diversify its interests in this province."

Kaiser operates an open-pit coking coal mine which exports to Japanese steel mills

through Roberts Bank superport.

"The railways and mining committee should be asked to fully investigate the relationship between Kaiser Steel, KRL Investments and Kaiser Resources," said Campbell.

He added the committee should also consider taking a swipe at another cabinet favorite, the K & E Railway, which has had official provincial support in its fight with CP Rail for federal permission to build a line that would ship Kootenay coal through the U.S.

"It (the legislative committee) should be asked to make a recommendation to this house as to whether Crows Nest Industries should be permitted to continue with its stated desire of constructing the Kootenay and Elk Railway," said the backbencher.

He added that K and E is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Crows Nest "which in turn is reported to have a large part of its shares controlled by Kaiser Resources."

(K and E holds a provincial government certificate to build its spur but needs a federal border-crossing permit to connect with a U.S. line.)

MLA says Cariboo opposed to dam

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Social Credit MLA Alex Fraser publicly warned the cabinet Thursday his Cariboo constituents strongly opposes the Moran Dam proposal.

"The total population of the Cariboo riding are very much opposed to the construction of the Moran Dam and I agree with their opinions", he said in the legislature.

"I am sure if the British Columbia Energy Board recommends construction of the dam . . . the board will get very fast reaction from all citizens of the Cariboo."

The backbencher said construction of a 700-foot-high dam on the Fraser River 20 miles north of Lillooet would back up a reservoir 170 miles long, reaching almost to his home town of Quesnel.

He said it would cripple the salmon industry and fill up with sediment by trapping the present flow rate of 10 million tons carried downriver annually to be deposited in the Fraser delta.

"I have been contacted by hundreds of constituents in

the Cariboo by telephone, letter and in person," he said.

"I would say that almost 100 per cent of the citizens of Cariboo are very much opposed to the construction of this dam."

Fraser gave two reasons for having faith the dam would not be built.

"Our premier has stated that unless the problem of the fish can be resolved the Moran Dam will not be built. I know our premier is a man of his word so I am sure the dam will not be built because no solution to the fish problem has been resolved," he said.

He said the Fraser is a navigable river "and a permit would be required by the province from the federal government for the dam's construction."

He said the federal government has indicated it will not grant such a permit.

Exploration checks urged

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The MLA from the most remote riding in B.C. said Thursday the government should be keeping watch on the big companies exploring Crown land for minerals.

Frank Calder (NDP-Atlin) said in the legislature that it took stories by Sun assistant managing editor Bruce Larsen to "smarten up" the British Newfoundland Corp. Ltd.'s operations in his riding last summer.

There should have been government guidelines to do the job, he suggested.

"The government should not allow any company, no matter how big, to just roam freely over the country and do whatever it wants," Calder said.

"It (the government) should bring in guidelines and send representatives to see that the regulations are observed.

"And the public should know what's going on.

"If it hadn't been for the publicity last summer by Larsen of the Vancouver Sun about this company's operations, no one would have known what this company was doing up there. That publicity smartened the company up, but there should be guidelines."

Larsen revealed Brinco explorations work aimed at building a huge power dam on the Iskut-Stikine River system to supply energy for mineral refining.

James K. NESBITT

"THE THUNDER OF silence," an old press gallery colleague, the late Bruce A. McKelvie was given to saying, is the most potent weapon that can be used against one's adversaries.

The wise course to pursue is to pretend not to hear, or turn your back and walk away.

That's the technique used in the legislature by Premier Bennett against Dr. G. Scott Wallace, who fled SC ranks to become Conservative.

The premier scooted out the minute Dr. Wallace arose. Seeing the premier's coattails disappearing, Dr. Wallace mumbled something about Mr. Bennett having to go take a telephone call. If so, it was a mighty long call, for the premier didn't come back.

I couldn't tell whether Dr. Wallace felt snubbed or relieved.

On the surface, the premier's action appeared rude, but perhaps it was polite, because if the chief had stayed he might have felt compelled to give the one he considers errant a good, sound drubbing, and so steal the headlines away from him.

Perhaps the premier was just being kind, but in disguise.

★

IN CANADA WE'RE either singing "Yankees, we love you," or "Yankees, go home."

I am getting so sick and tired of this daily talk in Canada about the U.S. Why can't we just ignore Uncle Sam?

Our 1972 session is but a week old, but already we have had a spate of such "Yankee" tunes in the legislature.

I've often heard Opposition leader David Barrett and his socialist colleagues go after the premier for 'selling out' B.C.'s natural resources to the U.S.; doing anything, even to crippling British Columbia, for the almighty American dollar. That was Mr. Barrett's view.

This year, however, Mr. Barrett and his boys went to Olympia for a love-feast with Washington state MLAs.

Mr. Barrett says he did this because, as he sees it, the premier is cold to our dear and close neighbors, those wonderful people across the line. The premier, Mr. Barrett has decided, doesn't like those Damned Yankees.

This is not so, not at all, says Attorney-General Leslie Peterson; it's the other way around. It's Premier Bennett and the SCers who like the Yanks, and the NDPers who don't.

No, said Mr. Barrett, hearing the AG, it's not that way at all — it's he who embraces Washington, while the premier snubs a fine bunch of people who, in the Barrett opinion, are Canada's very best friends.

Mr. Peterson, to prove his point that our premier is well loved in Washington, read a letter from Washington's Gov.

Dan Evans inviting B.C.'s chief man to be co-chairman with him of a celebration marking the 100th anniversary of San Juan Island being ceded to the United States by the Emperor of Germany.

For 14 years previous to 1872 San Juan was occupied by British and American forces, though no shot was ever fired in what has become known as "the pig war."

There was much wringing of hands in British Columbia when beautiful San Juan, right on Victoria's eastern doorstep, was told to hoist the Stars and Stripes.

Perhaps premier and governor, when they get together, could arrange a little geographical shuffle — give Vancouver Island, south of the 49th parallel at Ladysmith, to the U.S.A. in exchange for San Juan.

This might make up for what Queen Victoria's son-in-law did to us a century ago.

Mr. Barrett, now that he loves Uncle Sam so much, might, in this case, give some encouragement to premier and governor.

Vote margin cut OK'd for Indians

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Federal Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chretien has agreed a 60-per-cent favorable vote among Indian bands in B.C. will be enough to receive municipal status.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell announced Thursday in the legislature that Chretien has approved the reduction.

The Cape Mudge Indian band voted by 71 per cent for municipal status earlier this month, but the vote failed because of a 75-per-cent requirement.

After the vote, Campbell said he would introduce legislation this session to lower the requirement and the band has asked to vote again shortly under the new regulation.

Campbell said that the federal government has agreed the new formula will apply to votes by other B.C. Indian bands seeking municipal status.

Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin), the only Indian MLA, told the legislature he supports a cut-back and said he was partly responsible for the 75-per-cent requirement.

He said that figure was arrived at during debate at an Indian meeting in 1967 which asked Campbell to introduce legislation for municipal status on reserves.

"There was quite a debate at the meeting. We considered 60 per cent then, even 50 per cent, but finally we thought it was better to have the high figure since this whole thing was so brand new," he said.

The following year, the legislation was added to the provincial statutes "and that was an historic occasion in itself but now it has been proven to us that 75 per cent was too high," said Calder.

"So I would support the Minister if he goes for 60 per cent. I hope that amendment comes this session so that Cape Mudge has a second chance to vote soon."

"I'm sure it will be favorable at the next vote and it won't be too long before other villages participate in this new program."

Calder said his own home village of Kincolith and other Nishga communities on the Nass River "are ready for municipal status too."

BY SOCRED

Skillings' department criticized

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA —A government backbencher from Social Credit's northern heartland bitterly attacked Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce Minister Waldo Skillings' department in the legislature Thursday.

Donald A. Marshall (South Peace River) said he was disenchanted with the department, "which now suffers badly from complete paralysis," instead of showing aggressive promotion of the province's economic well-being.

Marshall said the department had done nothing to spur the economy or reduce unemployment in his area despite frequent pleas.

Marshall said the government had done much to spur northern development by providing road and rail links and attracting resource companies.

"I caution our government, however, that we do not want to see the adage of this being the land of opportunity become largely a myth . . ."

"I am most disenchanted with our department of industrial development, trade and commerce."

Marshall said the problem will remain so long as there is no concentrated effort to push the basically agriculture economy which pioneered the Peace River region.

"Our department does nothing to stimulate production of new products nor does it contribute very much to production facilities, market development or sales contacts in the promotion of agricultural products . . ."

He said Agriculture Minister Cyril Sheldford had helped by bringing a Japanese trading mission to the Peace River district, resulting in new honey sales and considerable interest in small seed production, along with a major stimulus toward export of alfalfa cubes to the expanding Japanese market.

CONTEMPT CHARGED

'PUC members must go' -- MLA

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Two retired deputy ministers and a former Social Credit cabinet minister on the Public Utilities Commission should be pensioned off, an Opposition MLA said Friday.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) charged in the legislature that the commission is guilty of contempt of the house because of its "misleading, cover-up" reports on cemeteries, reports he said are designed to hide the PUC's incompetence.

"I don't attack the members of the commission as persons, but they should be pensioned off," Macdonald said. "These are long-retired Deputy civil servants and defeated Social Credit cabinet ministers."

"The PUC must go. It must be entirely reconstituted, and be made into an aggressive, independent, scrutinizing body."

The PUC is composed of chairman J. F. K. English, a retired deputy education minister, F. S. McKinnon, a retired deputy forests minister, and Lyle Wicks, former Social Credit labor minister.

Macdonald reviewed newspaper stories from last year describing the self-confessed difficulties the commission had in seeing that cemetery companies adhered to their statutory requirements.

The stories dealt with a group of companies run by Robert Hagel of Victoria.

The companies named were: Colwood Improvement Co. Ltd. which operates Hatley Memorial Gardens at Colwood; Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens Ltd. with cemeteries in Alberni and Cedar Valley near Nanaimo; and Greencrest Memorial Gardens Ltd. of Kelowna.

It was disclosed that the PUC placed the companies under trusteeship in April, 1970, because of shortages in cemetery-care funds required by statute to be kept for the perpetual upkeep of cemeteries.

The companies subsequently were granted a waiver of some trust fund payments. Last December, the PUC disclosed that the government had removed the requirement that cemetery trust fund accounts be approved regularly by the B.C. Supreme Court, giving the commission power to deny the public access to the accounts.

Macdonald referred to annual reports of the commission for the past few years to attack the record of the PUC on cemetery regulations.

"When it comes to major things we find that the legislature is being misled, Mr. Speaker," he declared.

Macdonald said the annual reports show nothing about

the transfer of ownership of major B.C. cemetery companies to U.S. corporations.

As a result of this "whole-sale American ownership," he said, the price of funerals, caskets and embalming has risen.

"It's getting so that all you can do nowadays is to will your body to a university — after all, they say everybody should go to college," he said.

He noted that the 1970 annual report of the PUC, for example, refers only to a "review of the care funds of Victoria Memorial Gardens."

"You wouldn't suspect from this that trust funds had been dipped into," he stated.

Macdonald also noted that the reports showed that when some of the Hagel companies got into difficulties, even though they had failed to file trust accounts with the courts, they were not prosecuted, but were allowed to acquire a crematorium, presumably to help them out of their financial difficulties.

"This kind of report is misleading, it's cover-up, it's designed to hide the incompetence of the PUC and is in contempt of this legislature," Macdonald charged.

During his speech, Macdonald accused Attorney-General Les Peterson of not making reports on his department to the legislature each year, as he is required to do under a statute passed in 1899.

"He's breaking the law," he declared.

The MLA also criticized secrecy surrounding proceedings of the B.C. Securities Commission which falls under Peterson's supervision, including the fact that the results of securities investigations are not made public.

Snowmobile boss urged by minister

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — B.C. needs a snowmobile czar, a cabinet minister said in the legislature Friday.

Minister-Without-Portfolio Pat Jordan, herself an enthusiast, said steps must be taken to remove grievances against snowmobilers by controlling abuses, or the mounting public backlash will remove the snowmobiles.

She said most of the 20,000 snowmobiles in the province are used for healthful family recreation but noise, fear of environmental damage, trespass and occasional irresponsible driving have aroused antagonism.

She said research and planning for setting aside special areas should be conducted by a director of snowmobiling working with the parks branch.

He should also be empowered to require the mandatory registration of the vehicles and training courses for users, she said.

Surrey hopes for deal on welfare

Sun Staff Reporter

SURREY — Mayor William Vander Zalm said Friday Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gagliardi may change the welfare administration cost-sharing formula for the municipality.

However, Vander Zalm said, Gagliardi was not explicit.

"He only said that something could possibly be done with the cost-sharing formula," Vander Zalm said.

"If we were to get an 85-15 formula, the same one as we have now for other welfare expenses, it would mean a saving of about \$200,000."

"Gagliardi also said he would get us the \$310,000 we are owed for cost sharing in 1970 and 1971," he said.

'STUDY RUDKIN FIRING,' MLA ASKS PETERSON

VICTORIA (CP) — Attorney-General Leslie Peterson was asked Friday to take a look at the firing of Brian Rudkin as president of Westco International Insurance Co. to ensure that his civil liberties were not violated.

Rudkin, founder of the Vancouver company, announced Thursday that he had been fired by Westco's parent company, Northland Insurance of St. Paul's, Minn., for choosing not to raise the company's no-fault car insurance premiums.

"When a British Columbian is preemptorily dismissed for pledging better rates for B.C. there should be laws that he be given proper termination notice," Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) told the legislature.

Pipeline payoff scheme alleged

By IAIN HUNTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government tried to prevent B.C. Hydro from building a natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island so that it could give the job to a private company hidden from federal government scrutiny, the legislature was told Friday.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) charged that the Public Utilities Commission broke its own act last year by considering for the project only the one applicant favored by Premier W. A. C. Bennett.

That company, Malaspina Natural Gas Pipeline Ltd., the MLA declared, was merely a front company for Westcoast Transmission Ltd. — the corporation which would supply the gas and which "holds many political IOUs" of the Social Credit government.

"When the premier sneezes, the Public Utilities Commission says *gesundheit*," Macdonald stated.

"These watchdogs," the MLA called scornfully, waving at Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan and Resources Minister Ray Williston, both Hydro directors. "These watchdogs were determined to get Hydro out of the way and give it (the contract) to a private company and keep it away from the scrutiny of the National Energy Board."

This way he stated, the government could ensure that the private company would pay any price the government chose for Westcoast's gas without the rates being controlled by the NEB.

Hydro's proposal was for a \$45 million pipeline from the Westcoast terminus at Huntington in the Fraser Valley across the Strait of Georgia to southern Vancouver Island.

Last September, the provincial government indicated it favored a \$95 million bid from Malaspina Gas Pipeline Ltd. that followed a route originally specified by Bennett — from the Westcoast line at Williams Lake to Powell River and across the Strait of Georgia.

Macdonald said that if Westcoast delivered its gas to the new pipeline at Williams Lake it could charge any price it wanted for the gas.

If it sold the gas at Huntington under the Hydro proposal it would be governed by a National Energy Board ruling that any Canadian customer taking gas at Huntington must receive it for five per cent less than the price Westcoast charges to El Paso Natural Gas.

Although Malaspina was selected by the cabinet as the company presenting Vancouver Island pipeline proposals which most closely followed the government's guidelines, Bennett declared at the height of last year's controversy that anyone could apply to the PUC for permission to build the line.

There now are six com-

panies interested in bidding for PUC permission — which is subject to cabinet approval — including Hydro which was directed by Bennett to apply. Hearings are expected to begin this spring.

As evidence to support his charge that the cabinet was trying to push Hydro aside in favor of private companies on the project, Macdonald cited conflicting statements by the Crown corporation itself and by Williston.

Williston has stated that Hydro never "woke up" to the possibility of building a natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island until private developers proposed to do the job at the invitation of the premier last April.

However, Macdonald reported, Hydro showed it had wakened up long ago when it appeared in 1969 at a National Energy Board hearing on an application by Westcoast to sell more gas to the U.S.

He quoted from the NEB annual report of that year a statement by Hydro officials that provision of natural gas to the Island should be feasible by 1973-74.

"Furthermore, Hydro also suggested it rather than Westcoast Transmission would provide the connection to Vancouver Island, Macdonald said amid shouts from NDP members.

"This must have been known by the directors (Williston and Kiernan) who are now deserting the (Hydro) chairman and the public of the province," the MLA declared.

(Hydro chairman Dr. Gordon Shrum confused and worried private bidders for the job at PUC pre-hearing meetings earlier this month by declaring that the Crown corporation didn't require PUC approval to build the line to Vancouver Island itself and that Hydro would distribute the gas on the Island no matter who built the line.

(However, a cabinet order two weeks ago places Hydro in the same position as other bidders for the job.)

Macdonald said that if Hydro built the line and distributed the gas to Island customers the public interest would be served since the rates would be set without profit to a private corporation.

He stated that under Hydro's contract with Westcoast, if the load increases because of the increased volume of gas going to the Island, the price Hydro pays to Westcoast goes down.

"And Westcoast doesn't like that," he said.

"Why did Premier Bennett come out with proposals tailor-made for Malaspina?" he demanded.

Macdonald charged that Westcoast "holds so many political IOUs of this government," recalling that during the 1969 election campaign the then Westcoast president, Frank McMahon, publicly warned that an NDP government would cost the province 10,000 jobs.

"For 19 years this government has been like a mother to Westcoast Transmission," he declared.

"And this Malaspina company was merely a front company — they didn't have the money or the engineers for this kind of thing," he added.

The Vancouver East MLA then noted that Dan Ekman, former executive assistant to Bennett, was associated with both Westcoast and Malaspina.

"And who was he? Bon vivant, court jester, the premier's speechwriter, voyageur, taster?" he suggested.

"You could say of Mr. Ekman that he had the pipeline connections (and) he was the pipeline between Westcoast and the premier.

"And then, how appropriate: 'Oh Danny Boy, the pipes the pipes are calling,'" Macdonald said, quoting a line from the song.

"Two masters, with but a single thought," he added.

Macdonald accused Williston of saying, in arguing with Shrum earlier this year, that Hydro would distribute the gas to Victoria and wherever the successful bidder for construction of the line doesn't want to distribute on the Island — "Hydro gets what's left."

"I never said it, I never said it, I deny it," Williston shouted at him.

(The minister had actually stated that he thought that the PUC would give distribution rights on the Island to whichever company it selected to build the line, but that Hydro had a commitment to distribute to Victoria.)

Crown-operated transit urged to 'save' Vancouver

By JOHN MIKA
Special to The Sun

VICTORIA — Langley MLA Hunter Vogel urged the government Friday to create a Crown-operated rapid transit authority to save B.C.'s heart from cardiac arrest by a massive car clot.

The Social Credit whip declared that the Province will suffer seriously if downtown Vancouver is strangled by expressway traffic. Therefore, he said, the government must take charge of the metro transit problem the way it handled another jam by setting up the B.C. Ferry Authority.

Although a low-key debater, Vogel occasionally serves as a cabinet balloon-tester in legislative debates — most notably as the backbencher who first proposed provincial action to create the Robert Banks superport.

He told MLAs from the Interior Friday that the government has as much responsibility for preserving Vancouver as a viable provincial centre as it had to develop the Interior by providing highways and railways.

"A Crown transit authority will cost a lot of money but it will be cheaper than freeways in dollars," Vogel said.

"And it will be a great deal cheaper in terms of preserving the cultural, financial and commercial heart of this

great province, which Vancouver is."

Vogel said a separate authority taking over the B.C. Hydro bus system and developing rapid transit would ensure that costs of metro transportation would at least be removed from Provincial electricity bills.

"And I don't think the buses should be dumped on the municipalities because we as a province cannot afford the cost of failure in this regard," Vogel said.

He warned that Vancouver City council "is being conned and hoodwinked" into a disastrous plan to build a third Burrard Inlet crossing and expressway which would only choke the city core with cars and send the city along the familiar route to urban decay which has befallen other centres on the continent.

"Vancouver is facing irreparable damage if any freeway

is built to the downtown core and nothing could be as costly for the province as the destruction of Vancouver," Vogel added.

Refusal to build the crossing, he said, undoubtedly would cause a crisis but that would only speed the logical solution — a provincial government decision to step in and provide rapid transit.

He said that parking lots with attractive rates surrounding the city core so auto commuters could park their cars and continue into the downtown area on a rapid transit system that was concentrated enough to be economic.

Vogel also urged the government to replace the 17-car Fort Langley-Albion ferry with a 35-car boat which he said will be needed after the 40-cent tolls come off Feb. 15.

B.C. teachers Pay-ceiling bill shocks

Forced to beg, says president

Education Minister Donald Brothers has destroyed teachers' bargaining rights and will make them go to the public as beggars for raises, B.C. Teachers' Federation president Adam Robertson said Friday.

Robertson said Brothers' plan to impose new salary increase limitations on teachers will mean he can no longer counsel teachers to take a conservative, co-operative approach to the provincial government.

"This is a very black day for us," he said after Brothers announced in the legislature that the government plans to set the annual salary increases.

Brothers said the only way teachers will be able to get more than the government-established raise will be through a vote of ratepayers in their school district.

And he said boards that give teachers more than 6.5 per cent this year will have to pay for it next year.

The Public Schools Act amendments go far beyond restrictions on salary increases announced by Brothers late last year.

Robertson said the amendments almost turn teachers into civil servants, without giving them any of the benefits of being civil servants.

He said he will advise teachers not to enter arbitration proceedings.

And he predicted that other professions — possibly doctors — will suffer the same fate.

Robertson said he received a telephone call from Brothers about 5:50 p.m. Friday, and the minister advised him of a couple of other amendments before saying: "This will make you hit the ceiling."

"Then he told me about this," said Robertson. "It did make me hit the ceiling. He was right."

Robertson said that if teachers don't want to go along with the government offer, they'll have to bargain with the local school board or go to arbitration.

"But even if an arbitration board orders more money, we have to go to the public as beggars before the money will be paid," he said. "We are put in a very awkward position, humiliated I think."

Robertson, a former school supervisor from the Interior, said he became BCTF president with a moderate no-confrontation approach.

"I am a soft-sell man," he said. "But I don't see how I can possibly hold the members down to a conservative, co-operative approach now."

Robertson said an executive meeting had been called for today to discuss the amendments, and he predicted there will be further discussion at a representative assembly meeting Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Brothers had announced the 6.5-per-cent ceiling after Vancouver teachers won an 8.9-per-cent raise, an increase the minister described as inflationary.

Subsequent arbitration awards in 35 school districts showed an average pay increase of 7.62 per cent compared with 7.67 per cent in 12 earlier negotiated settlements.

The minister stated in October that the 6.5 per cent ceiling would stand even if higher settlements were imposed by arbitration and that any salary increase above this level would have to be paid by local taxpayers.

He also indicated this regulation would be made retroactive.

However, the amendment to the Public Schools Act presented to the legislature Friday states:

"An agreement made or modified either by negotiation or by arbitration that provides for an increase in salary and bonus in excess of a percentage amount prescribed by the regulations shall not be final and binding upon the board or the teachers affected by the negotiation or arbitration unless the board has obtained the assent of the owner-electors, in the manner prescribed by the regulations, for the payment of the excess."

In an interview, Brothers said that any amount of salary increase granted by boards for the coming year in excess of 6.5 per cent will appear as a charge against the district's operating expenses for the year, and will be taken into consideration in calculating the following year's basic education program in that district.

Will boards pay next year for exceeding the 6.5-per-cent limit this year? he was asked.

"You bet they will," he stated.

The amendment shows that not only will the government not share in future salary increases in excess of a percentage to be set annually by cabinet, but school boards will not be able to exceed this percentage without first getting voter approval.

Brothers indicated in the interview that the raises which school boards will be able to give teachers will be tied to the provincial government's raises to its own civil servants.

(B.C. civil servants do not have bargaining rights, though teachers do).

"Say next year we only wanted to give our civil servants a five-per-cent increase, then we could change the regulations (for teachers' salaries)," he said, in explaining why no percentage figure was contained in Friday's legislation.

Also contained in the amendment introduced by Brothers was the previously announced reduction in the amount school boards may over-budget each year.

While all districts up until now have been able to exceed by 10 per cent, without ratepayer approval, their basic education program fixed by the government, this excess allowance is being dropped to eight per cent for all but districts with budgets of less than \$3 million which have special problems.

Another change in the amendment sets up a previously announced new system to regulate teacher tenure.

A three-man board of professional teachers, chosen by the government, the teachers and the trustees will hear cases of dismissal of teachers for incompetence.

There will be no appeal, not even to the cabinet, from this board's decisions.

For teachers charged with refusing to comply with orders of the school superintendents or with criminal offenses,

the amendment provides for an interview within a week by the district superintendent and the school board with an appeal to the courts.

Brothers said it will be up to the board whether teachers suspended in this way will continue to receive a salary.

Brothers said regulations to be passed by cabinet later will set out the steps necessary before teachers can be dismissed for incompetence.

These, including a provision for three separate reports on a teacher's performance, were recommended by a legislative committee last year.

A spokesman for the B.C. School Trustees Association said the significant matters in the new amendments are the changes in the finance formula and teachers' salary bargaining, and "the association is analysing these questions to assess their full implications."

"We can only restate our continuing opposition to the reduction in the allowable budget amount," he said.

"This year, the effect of the reduction is that, for the province as a whole, school boards will have to cut back on instructional obligations."

The spokesman said the changes in teachers' salary bargaining "immensely complicate the process of salary determination at a time when school boards have been pressing for changes to simplify the proceedings."

"We will have to study this matter further and refer to our membership before making a more definite statement."

Fight-to-finish strike threatened by teachers

By DAVE STOCKAND

There could be a fight-to-finish strike by school teachers in B.C. unless the Social Credit government backs away from plans to set teachers' salaries by "ministerial dictate."

This was the angry warning Saturday from B.C. Teachers Federation president Adam Robertson, whose 22,600-member organization represents all but a handful of teachers in the province.

"I anticipate there will be a demand for militant action on the part of the federation's members," he said.

"The ultimate action would be strike action."

In parallel reaction Saturday, B.C. School Trustees Association president Jack Smedley said that if it is the government's intention to reduce salary determination to a "complete shambles," it could not have chosen a more effective way of doing so.

"Apart from the utter confusion which this will cause at the local level, our main concern is that the government, on one hand, is giving school boards a whole new set of responsibilities and at the same time is drastically reducing their authority," Smedley said.

However, Brothers said today that he expects teachers to go along with the salary increase limitations, and he disclosed that he has agreed to meet Robertson Tuesday to discuss them.

The expressions of outrage followed introduction in the legislature Friday of amendments to the Public Schools Act — one of which would require ratepayer approval in a special referendum of any teacher salary increase higher than a level set by the provincial cabinet.

This bargaining limitation would start next year, and would apply regardless of whether contracts were arrived at by negotiations or by independent arbitration.

Also contained in the amendments introduced by Education Minister Donald Brothers was his previously-announced reduction in the amount school boards may over-budget each year.

This change requires ratepayer approval for any 1972 budget that is more than eight per cent higher than the basic education cost set for the district by the provincial government. Until now, school boards have been able to exceed the basic education cost by 10 per cent without ratepayer approval.

Brothers also announced boards that give teachers increases of more than 6.5 per cent this year will have to pay for them next year — excesses will appear as a charge against the district's operating expenses for the year and will be taken into consideration in calculating the following year's basic education program in that district.

Brothers had announced the

6.5-per-cent ceiling after Vancouver teachers won an 8.9-per-cent raise, an increase the minister described as inflationary.

Subsequent arbitration awards in 35 school districts showed an average pay increase of 7.62 per cent compared with 7.67 per cent in 12 earlier negotiated settlements.

In spite of the angry reaction from teachers, Brothers said he doesn't think they will go so far as to strike.

He said of Robertson's strike warning: "Oh, I think he probably made those remarks on the spur of the moment. I am sure the teachers will continue to co-operate with us."

At a Saturday press conference at federation headquarters, Robertson said he feels so strongly about the government's move he would risk jail if need be — "this is a matter of principle and the current president would be willing to do so."

Robertson said the proposed collective bargaining legislation is "completely unacceptable."

"We won't live with it," he said. "We reject wage control by ministerial dictate."

He also said: "We resent the fact the minister is attempting to deny us the right of local bargaining."

Table officers of the federation — four members of the executive — met Saturday to discuss the Brothers bombshell.

There will be an executive meeting Wednesday followed by meetings Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the federation's representative assembly.

The representative assembly is a body composed of 57 representatives chosen on a geographical basis throughout the province. It is the policy-making body between annual meetings of the general organization.

Anticipating demands for militancy, Robertson said action would start through the process of attempting to persuade the government, members of the opposition and the public "to consider this legislation very, very carefully."

"If the government pursues its policy . . . the teachers must reach a decision. The ultimate decision would be strike action."

Referring to last March 19, when 22,000 teachers staged a one-day strike in support of demands for better pensions for teachers already in retirement, Robertson said he does not doubt that the general membership would support vigorous, aggressive and militant action.

One of the steps in a progressing program of militancy — as required — would be working to rule.

Robertson said the refusal to live with the government's planned course of action means federation officers must be prepared to advise the membership to go on

strike and remain on strike "until the government takes positive action."

Earlier the federation president had said Brothers' plan to impose new salary increase limitations on teachers meant he could no longer counsel teachers to take a conservative, co-operative approach to the government.

He said he would advise teachers not to enter arbitration proceedings.

In a statement issued after meetings at school trustees headquarters, Smedley said the association has been asking the government for years to take a close look at the salary bargaining procedure and "the last two years have clearly shown that something needs to be done."

But he added: "We have made proposals for a restructuring of the bargaining process to simplify the procedure, defuse the antagonism generated at the local level by the annual confrontation, and produce a more consistent provincial pattern."

In an interview following the introduction of his amendments, Brothers indicated raises which school boards would be able to give teachers would be tied to the government's raises to its own civil servants.

Explaining why no percentage figure was contained in the legislation, he said: "Say next year we only wanted to give our civil servants a 4.5-per-cent increase, then we could change the regulations (for teachers' salaries)."

In reply, Robertson says teachers will not enter into a process which pretends to give teachers bargaining rights but which in fact sets salaries by ministerial dictate or decree.

JAN

1972

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1972

More Jobs Promised in Throne Speech

Major new job-creating measures will be placed before the 1972 session of the British Columbia Legislature, the government promised today in the opening speech.

The measures, designed to reduce higher than usual unemployment, will involve B.C. Hydro, the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, housing, forest and park development and the protection of ecology.

The third session of the 29th legislature was formally opened this afternoon with the reading of the 30-minute Speech from the Throne by Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson.

At a press conference, Premier Bennett agreed that the new job-creation scheme will be "extensive" but said details about its operation will be to await his budget speech scheduled for Friday, Feb. 4.

Bennett wouldn't comment on whether major government subsidies are planned as part of the program but indicated a big expansion of government activity in the fields could be expected.

Also promised in the opening speech were unspecified changes in labor legislation. Bennett and Labor Minister Jim Chabot wouldn't say whether these changes would affect the operation of the much-criticized B.C. Mediation Commission.

Other plans outlined in the speech, which was read to a gathering of several hundred invited guests and about 75 members of the public, were:

- A review of the tenure system of faculty members in the public universities by the legislative education committee.

- Changes in the Public Schools Act which Bennett indicated will formalize school finance formula restrictions announced last year by Education Minister Donald Brothers;

- Improved legislation on family relations, which have been under study by the B.C. Law Reform Commission;

- Amendments which Bennett said will "tighten up" the Litter Act which has been under fire for loopholes in provisions requiring return of soft drink containers.

- Consideration by the legislature, but not necessarily legislation, in the field of expropriation law and debtor-creditor relationships also under study by the law commission.

- Possible legislation on companies and securities law, under study by a special government committee.

- Amendments to the Regional Park Act.

The speech also noted a 14 per cent increase in B.C. Ferries routings in 1971 including an "astonishing" 80 per cent increase in Northern Vancouver Island ferry traffic made possible by expansion of the Island Princess.

The proposed natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island should spur exploratory drilling for natural gas in north-eastern B.C., the speech said.

An Indian court caseworker program, in addition to the current program operated through the John Howard Society, is under consideration by the government.

Although not mentioned in the opening speech, long-delayed revisions in the provincial Elections Act are "hoped" for this session, Bennett said.

He indicated no changes are planned in the controversial liquor and cigarette advertising bans introduced last year. The bans are currently under challenge in the courts.

The opening speech indicated the Water Resources Act, introduced last year but left for study by MLAs and the public, would be proceeded with this session to "assist" in water resources management. The bill stakes out a greatly expanded provincial claim to control of water resources.

A new Safety Engineering Services Act will be consolidated from the existing Gas Act, Electrical Energy Act and Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, the speech said.

The speech reiterated the government's position that B.C. Hydro will meet expanded power needs from "sources which cause the least possible adverse effect on the environment," a phrase generally taken to mean water power in Bennett's view.

The B.C.-Energy Board will complete its study of 15-year power needs in the province this year, the speech said. Bennett said he wasn't sure if it would be ready in time for tabling in the legislature.

As announced last year, the name of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway will be changed to the British Columbia Railway.

Bennett said he hopes negotiations between the federal and provincial governments will enable the provincial government-owned railway to link up with the federally-owned CNR to open up rail service from the B.C. north to Prince Rupert. He hoped a deal could be reached before the end of the session.

NOT NORMAL

On the question of unemployment, the speech noted that growth in the B.C. economy last year would have been adequate for job-creation "under normal circumstances."

"However, I beg to report that the continued high level of migration into the province affects this delicate balance and creates additional problems for which solutions are being sought."

The speech described the October, 1971, figure of 53,000 unemployed as a significant improvement over the 1970

figure of 69,000, or 5.7 per cent of the labor force compared with 7.9 per cent.

The speech attributed problems to generally unsettled economic conditions around the world and to "the fiscal policies of the federal government."

In the education field, \$50 million of "additional school facilities" were promised over and above last year's \$70 million for new classrooms and 94 gymnasiums.

A total of 772 new hospital beds were reported completed last year and an additional 1,779 are under construction, the speech said.

Friday's sitting of the legislature, scheduled for 2 p.m., will hear Ernie LeCours (S.C.-Richmond) moving the reply to the opening speech and Willis Jefecoat (S.C.-Shuswap) seconding the reply.

Opposition party leaders get their chance to speak Monday afternoon.

NITRO BOMB THREAT

An anonymous caller today told the Times he may throw a bottle of nitroglycerine onto the floor of the legislature during opening ceremonies.

The male voice said, "I am hoping to hear some good words about unemployment ... if not, I am taking down a little bottle of nitro and I may throw it on the floor."

Asked to identify himself, the man replied, "You could call me the prince of ponces."

Local RCMP detachments admit they have received similar calls in the last 24 hours.

RCMP Inspector H. A. Johnson said appropriate measures have been taken and ample security is in effect for the opening.

Opposition Flays 'Empty' Speech

Opposition party leaders quickly attacked the throne speech Thursday for what they termed a lack of direction for the province's future.

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett dismissed the speech as having "no substance at all," and Liberal Leader Pat McGeer called it a "senile document."

Their detailed comments on the speech will come Monday. Barrett said the public expected the government would say how B.C. will develop during the remainder of the century now that centennial year is over.

LACKS PURPOSE

"But there was no statement of purpose, no statement of philosophy as to the general direction this government wishes to go," Barrett said.

He added he was not impressed with the speech's promises to create jobs this year. Barrett pointed to the small success rate — 4.6 per cent of applicants — in the government's job opportunities program as evidence of failure to find work for the unemployed.

McGeer said he had offered 25c to anyone in his caucus who could find anything significant in the speech.

"And I'm not going to have to pay off," he said.

The Liberal leader said 1972 is a "pivotal year" for B.C., one in which people could have expected the government to chart a course for the rest of the century.

Instead, he said, the speech shows the government is just "limping" into the future. He promised to present a new program for British Columbians Monday.

"The speech had no philosophy, no program, it was just a senile document," McGeer said.

Progressive Conservative House Leader Scott Wallace said it was a "customary throne speech and he was not disturbed by its vagueness."

Wallace said he was disappointed not to find any mention of forthcoming changes in the provincial Elections Act, because changes had been promised for the last three years.

Premier Bennett indicated earlier Thursday the act would be changed this session.

JOBS PROMISED

In the speech the government promised major new job creating measures that will involve B.C. Hydro, the PGE, housing, forest and park development and the protection of ecology.

Also promised were unspecified changes in labor legislation, a review of the tenure system of faculty members at

universities, changes in the Public Schools Act, improved legislation on family relations, amendments to tighten up the Litter Act, possible legislation of companies and securities law and amendments to the Regional Park Act.

Commission Handles 249 Disputes

The B.C. Mediation Commission appointed mediation officers in 249 disputes involving 46,656 employees and 656 employers in 1971.

The figures are contained in the commission's annual report tabled in the legislature Thursday.

The officers assisted in the reaching of 177 agreements during the year. Requests for mediation assistance from trade unions totalled 166; from employers, 77; joint request, 4; ordered by the labor minister, 2.

The report noted that relatively few major collective agreements expired in 1971.

BENNETT TOPS TRAVELLING LIST

Premier Bennett topped the list of travel expenses for provincial cabinet ministers in the year ending March 31, 1971.

Bennett's \$9,146 in travel costs easily outdistanced the \$6,929 racked up by Resources Minister Ray Williston and the \$6,536 of Health Minister Ralph Loffmark, who finished second and third.

The previous year's most-travelled minister, Industrial Development Minister Waldo Skillings, was ninth this time with \$4,647.

Travel Industry Deputy Minister Ron Worley led all deputy ministers with \$5,936 in travel expenses.

QUILT QUESTIONS

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson has been asked a list of formal questions about the controversial death of Fred Quilt, and the inquest into the death at Williams Lake earlier this month.

Quilt, a 55-year-old Chilcotin Indian, died Dec. 30, two days after being arrested by RCMP.

Allegations of brutality against police were made but an inquest attached no blame in the death.

Questions filed on the legislative order paper today by Bill Hartley (NDP — Yale Lillooet) include the following:

Were there any jurors at the inquest of native Indian origin?

Were witnesses to the incident subpoenaed to the inquest and if not, why not?

Hartley also asks whether Peterson is considering ordering an inquiry into the inquest.

Report Set For May

The final report of the B.C. energy Board on provincial power requirements to 1965 will not be given to cabinet until May, the legislature learned Thursday.

Legislators had expressed hopes the report would be ready before the House adjourns in late March or early April. But the annual report of the board for 1971, tabled in the legislature Thursday, said the energy study will not be ready until May.

The board was commissioned to study provincial power requirements by cabinet order in June, 1970. Its annual report said advisory committee reports will be completed by the end of this month.

Records Allowed

Photographic records made by municipalities regional districts and other similar public bodies will be allowed to be submitted as evidence in cost proceedings, according to legislation introduced in the house Thursday.

In a bill to amend the Evidence Act, the first bill of the session, municipalities, regional districts, regional hospital districts, improvement districts and school districts are brought under the act's photographic records section.

Under existing provisions only photographic records kept by the government, the Bank of Canada and land registry offices have been admissible.

The Most ... Closed, Quiet And Policed

The most "closed" opening in the history of the legislature went off quietly Thursday afternoon with corridors full of policemen but some empty seats in the public galleries.

Even government employees had trouble getting into the main Legislative Building as tight security went into effect in the early afternoon.

A bomb threat which didn't materialize and the heavy rains were believed by officials to be responsible for the unusual sight of several empty seats in the public galleries.

In front of the building, a group of about 100 onlookers was outnumbered by the combined police, officialdom and ceremonial guard for the arrival of Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson.

★ ★ ★

Roped off from the ceremonies, the well-behaved little crowd was a marked contrast to the 2,000 strong which turned out last year to protest high unemployment.

At that time about 300 young persons invaded the inside of the legislature, smashing windows, ripping down at least one flat, and, in limited fighting in the public gallery, slightly injured a 59-year-old parliamentary attendant.

This year, no one, including little old ladies, filtered through the entrances, which were jammed with policemen. Only those privileged persons armed with a welter of credentials were allowed in.

"I'm very disappointed I couldn't get in," commented retired school teacher Jeri Dill of Pittsburgh.

She had jokingly asked one hefty policeman if she could trade garb with him so she could sneak in for a peek at the throne speech formalities.

There were no groups present protesting unemployment this year, which is only slightly lower than last year.

Only one protest group was in evidence and that was made up of a half-dozen smiling members of the Victoria Status of Women Action Group. They had the only protest sign — if you could call it that — and it said, "the eyes of the women of B.C. are you."

President Kathleen Ruff said they were there, representing a local membership of 60, to indicate that they want B.C. to implement the recommendations of the 1967 Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

"The Human Rights Act (in B.C.) seems impressive on paper," she said, but in reality "it has no teeth."

She said they planned to do no more than stand there, but added invitations had been sent out to the handful of women MLAs for a meeting in the near future.

The rest of the crowd appeared to be only idle onlookers, unless the "prince of the ponces" who had earlier in the day phoned police that he may bomb the opening was unobtrusively there.

When Premier Bennett appeared at the door with provincial secretary Lawrie Wallace to greet the arrival of Nicholson, one of the few young men in the crowd yelled: "He's going to be assassinated!"

The only time the police jumped, and the crowd muttered, was when the 21-gun salute started booming away.

One policeman was seen going automatically for his holster when the first blast sounded.

As the color guard marched away and the officials went inside, one note of discontent was heard from the quickly disappearing crowd: "I'm disappointed that he (the lieutenant-governor) didn't come in a carriage."

Inside the building there appeared to be a policeman at every corner and every stairway.

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One female employee on the cleaning staff complained that she was taking mud off her shoes in a room with a closed door when a policeman suddenly entered to ask what she was doing.

She said she could just as easily have been changing her clothes.

The formal silence in the legislature during the reading of the 30-minute opening speech by Nicholson ended when the customary opening day motions were placed before the house and MLAs began heckling each other.

The biggest laugh came when former Social Credit MLA Scott Wallace stood to vote with the government in upholding a ruling by Speaker William Murray which had been challenged by Opposition Leader Dave Barrett. It was the first formal vote of the new session.

Under the seating plan made public Thursday, Wallace, who is now a Progressive Conservative, will be seated in the back row of the opposition benches, between the New Democrats and the Liberals.

I WAS THERE SAYS 'BOMBER'

The man who threatened to throw a bottle of nitroglycerine onto the legislature floor at Thursday's opening ceremonies claims he attended the event.

The man who identifies himself as the "prince of ponces" phoned the Times at 11:23 a.m. today and said, "I was there."

He added that he really didn't like the name prince of ponces, but he made it upon the spur of the moment: "I was thinking of the backbenchers—what a bunch of political pimps they are."

The anonymous caller, who also placed calls to RCMP and city police Thursday, said he plans to attend the budget speech as well.

"I will be there on Feb. 4, and if I don't like what I hear I'll dissolve parliament, you can bet on that."

The man who said he was middle aged, ended the conversation by saying, "If you come into this world you should leave your mark."

A Few Crumbs for Ex-Wives

The B.C. government plans to scatter a few crumbs among ex-wives in this province, but gave no other indication in the opening day of its new legislative session that it feels a need to examine the status of women.

Recommendations by the federal commission on the subject were ignored.

The speech from the throne, opening the third session of the 29th Parliament Thursday, indicated that proposed legislation will mean easier access to the courts for both partners of a broken marriage.

Grace McCarthy, minister without portfolio, said Thursday the measure will give family courts authority in cus-

tody and access disputes by amending the Wives and Children's Maintenance Act.

She said that family courts at present can issue an order to change maintenance levels but have no power to set visiting privileges or decide on custody of children.

Mrs. McCarthy thinks this has led to "discrimination against some women."

As an example Mrs. McCarthy mentioned broken marriages that resulted in "a great deal of animosity."

"The husband agrees to pay maintenance and then the wife refuses to allow him visiting privileges with the children," she said. The husband discovers he will have to apply to the B.C. Supreme Court for visiting rights and

pays his wife back by cutting off maintenance.

"The wife usually can't afford to sue him to court," Mrs. McCarthy said.

OBSELETE

Kathleen Ruff, president of the Status of Women Action Group which demonstrated at the legislative buildings, said her organization was "sorry to see the government continue its obsolete tradition of not permitting women to participate in a democratic society."

"We are glad the government made a 'passing glance at the report, but we hoped for much more," Mrs. Ruff said.

"We were hoping for a genuine commitment from the

government to take some action to remedy the second-class status of women in our society."

Mrs. Ruff said her group had hoped for "action to amend the B.C. Human Rights Act to make it more effective instead of just a lot of platitudes."

She thinks the proposed amendments to the Wives and Children's Maintenance Act is a step in the right direction, but would prefer guaranteed maintenance for women who are deserted.

"At the worst time in her life a wife should not have to go through this horrendous nightmare of tracking down her husband to get maintenance through the courts," Mrs. Ruff said.

"This breaks up any hope of reconciliation and the children suffer most."

"The government should set up an implementation committee to implement the recommendations of the Status of Women Report," Mrs. Ruff said.

A Question of Questions

Most of Premier Bennett's Throne Speeches, with their self-congratulatory review of governmental achievements, sound like election-year statements, and the Speech read yesterday by Lieutenant-Governor Nicholson was no exception. Following the usual custom, it was heavy on the record of the past, sparse but tantalizing in its references to future intentions. And, of course, it is a good bet that the real meat — and perhaps the gravy — of the session will appear much later as the debates reveal the government's inner program. After so many years of Mr. Bennett's masterly leadership we have learned to expect the unexpected.

There are promising glimpses of things to come sprinkled throughout the Speech. What agonies of debate may be heralded in the simple comment that "you will be asked to consider amendments to labor legislation." What opportunities for a valuable advance may be hidden in the remark that last year's province-wide Conference on Libraries "confirmed our conviction that im-

proved library service and intellectual growth should parallel the economic progress of British Columbia." That could mean much — it could mean nothing. Completion of the study of the Energy Board "to determine the best use of the Province's energy resources to meet power demands up to 1985" could open up a vast panorama of development — or another section on the archive shelves. The promise of steps to set guidelines for pollution control in the mining, metallurgical, chemical and petroleum industries, provides another open-ended conjecture. Steps toward guidelines could be steps in the wilderness, or they could mean firm measures to safeguard the environment of the province.

There is mention of job-creating measures, establishment of permissible noise levels for automobiles, family relations legislation, new legislation covering companies and securities law, a review of tenure for university faculty members, psychiatric home-treatment, regional park amendments, and other provocative topics. Only

the course of the next few weeks will separate the damp squibs from the rockets.

Over the whole session, however, there hangs a topic which in many ways is of even more interest to the members than the legislation ahead. That is the big question: Will this be his last? — meaning, of course, when will Mr. Bennett decide to step aside and leave his crown up for grabs by his increasingly tense lieutenants. That is a question beside which the others seem pallid. The answer certainly isn't in the Throne Speech, nor is it likely to emerge from the session ahead. But the question is there, nevertheless, and sooner or later must make headlines.

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Profits Of Drink

Greater Victorians spent \$20.28 million on liquor in fiscal year 1970-71 and netted the provincial government \$5.68 million in profits.

These figures show a slight increase in liquor purchasing here over 1969-70 when gross sales reached \$19 million and net profits \$5.4 million.

The Liquor Control Board's annual report for fiscal year 1970-71 shows net profits for liquor sales across the province of \$66 million, up \$4.5 million from the previous year.

NEW HIGH

Gross sales last fiscal year reached a new high of \$224,238,136, up \$18.35 million.

Licence fees produced \$921,811, sundry other revenues produced \$399,990 and income from the social services tax was \$87,583.

The breakdown of over-all sales shows hard liquor pro-

duced \$114.1 million, B.C. and Commonwealth wines \$17.88 million, other imported wines \$6.26 million, and malt liquors \$82.76 million.

Profits at Greater Victoria liquor stores averaged between 25 per cent and 30 per cent with the greatest profit margin being shown at the Foul Bay outlet.

HIGHEST SALES

Largest dollar volume in the capital region came from the Government Street liquor store which sold \$5,978,157 in liquor between April 1, 1970 and March 31, 1971.

In terms of volume sales, the Government Street liquor store was the third largest in the province during 1971.

It was surpassed by two Vancouver stores: the central licensee store with a volume of \$7,780,097 and the Pender store which is number one listing a \$13,123,739 volume in 1971.

Barrett Hansard Attempt Fails

Opposition leader Dave Barrett failed Thursday in his first attempt to have 1971's Hansard recalled for corrections and institute new procedures for production of 1972's Hansard.

The legislature voted 37 to 17 to reject a move by Barrett to have Hansard prepared under the supervision of an all-party legislative committee responsible to the Speaker.

Barrett's move came as an amendment to a routine procedural motion. Speaker William Murray ruled the amendment out of order. Barrett challenged the ruling and lost the vote which saw Scott Wallace (PC-Oak Bay) side with the government.

Barrett told the House

1971's Hansard should be withdrawn for correction because of deletions which should not have taken place.

He also called for a new Hansard which includes records of debates of estimates and committee stages of bills. In an interview later, he said this was only the first time he would try to get a new Hansard system approved by the House.



BRIGHT BUTTONS and best manners were order of the day for page boys at opening of the legislative session Thursday. But speeches can be tiring and Pete Creasey took a bit of a break against pillar. Boys, above-average students at Reynolds

High School, carry messages for MLAs and undertake other chores. A dozen of them, including a sergeant and corporal, split chores, working afternoons alternate weeks. Apart from NCOs, it's a new group each year. (Bill Halkett photo.)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1972



The speech from the throne

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1972



The premier surrounded by his supporters



B.C. LOTTERY URGED TO GIVE PEOPLE HOPE

British Columbia needs a provincial lottery to give the average citizen reason to hope, Ernie LeCours (SC-Richmond) told the legislature Friday.

The Socred backbencher said \$2 lottery tickets should go on sale at "liquor stores and other government buildings" throughout B.C.

People gamble, he said, and there is no reason to expect they will stop. Average citizens, particularly low-income wage earners, aren't going to

get far in life and need something to hope for.

He indicated tourists also would like the idea.

"Let's give him a bit of hope at least half a dozen times a year. Let's give him something to look forward to because that's all he'll ever have. If it weren't for hope, we'd all be in despair."

LeCours' comments were not greeted with desk-thumping approval from the government benches.

Peterson Deflects Plea On Sniffing to Ottawa

The government was asked Friday to ban the sale of nail polish, glue and other sniff items to people under 18 years old; but Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said the problem rests with Ottawa.

Peterson's comments came outside the legislature after Ernie LeCours (SC-Richmond) had called during the throne speech debate for an immediate ban on sale of these substances to juveniles.

LeCours spoke first for the government and moved adoption of the speech. He called for an order-in-council by Monday at the latest invoking the ban.

The Socred backbencher said glue and nail polish sniffing is "just as injurious" as the use of marijuana and other illegal drugs.

TRIED ONCE

Peterson said later the province once had tried to declare glue a prohibited substance but found out it lacked authority to do so. He added he will say more about the problem next week in the House.

He suggested people tell their federal representatives to ban these things, but admitted he was looking into the possibility of charging retailers selling glue or polish with plastic bags with contributing to juvenile delinquency.

Peterson said he hadn't been told whether this could be done, but if it could he wasn't going to tell the public about it.

ENDS INTERVIEW

Under further questioning, Peterson broke off the interview and went into his office.

On other subjects, LeCours called for a redistribution of wealth through wage, price, profits and interest rate controls.

He said no one should be making more than 40 per cent less than anyone else. Redistributing wealth, he said, would eliminate poverty in Canada.

"Governments are afraid of redistributing wealth because they're afraid of being voted out of office," he said.

He also accused big unions, such as the International

Woodworkers of America, of demanding wage increases out of proportion in relation to wages in other industries.

LeCours said federal Social Credit leader Real Caouette is the only hope for Canada's future and regretted Scott Wallace (PC-Oak Bay) having quit the Socreds last year.

He noted the Conservatives had not been able to elect a member to the house since the early 1950s, so the Tory Wallace was nothing more than a "test tube baby."

"The good member from Oak Bay has cast his seed upon rather rocky ground," said LeCours.

Willis Jefcoat (SC-Shuswap) seconded the throne speech, speaking briefly from a prepared text recounting the past achievements of Social Credit in B.C.

Socred Asks Quilt Probe

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson was urged in the legislature Friday by Ernest LeCours (SC-Richmond), to conduct an investigation into the controversial death of Fred Quilt in Williams Lake late last month.

Quilt was a 55-year-old Chilcotin Indian who died Dec. 30 two days after being arrested by RCMP. Police brutality was alleged, but an inquest later attached no blame to the police.

Ernie LeCours (SC-Richmond) said in the throne

speech debate he has "very strong misgivings about what happened in this case."

His misgivings, he said, are based on his past experiences with "some members of police forces."

"I'm very suspicious of what takes place at night time sometimes and especially in what happens on dark roads at night."

Peterson said later he has tried twice to get a copy of the inquest without success. He did not indicate whether he would re-open the case.

Peterson also has been officially asked several questions about the inquest by Bill Hartley (NDP-Yale-Lillooet). Questions were placed on the legislative order paper Friday.

Wanted: Able Job Plan (Not Afraid to Work)

When Premier Bennett reveals promised job creating programs in the Budget Speech Feb. 4, he must do so with at least a small sense of guilt.

Unemployment, the major issue of last year's legislative session, remains Bennett's albatross in 1972. Statistics Canada figures for December show 64,000 persons out of work in British Columbia — or 6.9 per cent of the labor force.

It's an improvement over December 1970, when 70,000 persons were out of jobs, but little to cheer about. Of course, unemployment is not completely Bennett's problem, having been deliberately created by Ottawa as part of an anti-inflationary campaign.

But the premier is faced with the unenviable problem of being provincially accountable for a problem he did not directly create.

Unfortunately for him, the government's star jobs plan for welfare recipients is proving a failure. This is the job opportunities program which was announced last September.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell is in charge of it, and in the early days he predicted it would create 15,000 jobs.

Figures released last week show how wrong Campbell was. Only 361 persons are working because of the plan and about 100 were laid off after the Christmas rush ended.

Bennett used the throne speech partly to praise the successes of government actions, but he didn't have much to say about the job opportunities program when the speech was read last Thursday.

All the speech said was the plan has "provided both opportunity and incentive for many seeking employment."

It's hard to brag about 361 jobs. Cynics could say the job opportunities program is simply a design to get people off welfare and on to unemployment insurance where the federal government foots the bill.

This, because the rule requiring employers to hire welfare recipients for at least eight weeks, seems clearly designed to insure the newly hired will run to Ottawa's arms if they get quickly fired.

Eight weeks is the minimum time a person can work before becoming eligible for UIC benefits. But this is a side issue to the fact that 7,800 persons applied for the job opportunities program.

Those among them who genuinely wanted jobs must be starting to feel cheated after employer after employer has rejected their applications.

The frustration must be

doubly acute because under the plan the government undertakes to pay 50 per cent of their wages for six months. If you can't find work with a wage subsidy, what can you do?

Campbell hinted, at this problem last fall when he issued a statement calling on employers to treat job opportunity certificate holders with the same dignity as anyone else.

The minister didn't go into details, but it was clear he had received complaints of welfare recipients getting the bum's rush from employers who saw the certificate and figured the applicant was so unfit to work he needed a government subsidy to get a job.

It's hard to guess how many of the 7,800 certificate holders really wanted jobs when they applied for the program. In the face of Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi's crackdown on welfare eligibility requirements, many people may have asked for certificates from fear of being cut off welfare by their social workers.

No matter how you look at it, the certificate holders are getting a bad deal.

Another weakness of the program is it seems to generate jobs mainly in low paying service industries.

Service industry jobs are unstable and low paying. The people who have them fall into the category of the working poor. They make enough to get by without any promise of being able to do much better.

The best Bennett can do for the job opportunities program is to junk it as soon as possible in favor of other, more substantive projects requiring capital expenditure creating real jobs at good wages.

'They are wholesalers of propaganda, vendors of whatever nonsense rings from the mouths of cabinet ministers on the way to the john...'

By ALAN FOTHERINGHAM
The Sun

(From Victoria) — There is a definite, discernible point when an event degenerates into a non-event. Such a point came to the ship-in-a-bottle atmosphere of Victoria-by-the-sea Wednesday when a regiment or two of CBC technicians began erecting a Meccano-set tower on the lawn of the legislative building. (We shall leave aside for the moment the academic point that whenever CBC technicians exceed a maximum number of 57, any event — including the sinking of the Bismarck — automatically becomes a non-event.)

The erecting of the tower officially put Thursday's legislative opening into the category of the Bing Crosby Open. It has been lurching that way for the past several years, the symbolism of a parliament reconvening being subordinated to the mobile shot from the technicolor butterfly at stage left.

The "speech from the throne," a speech which is not his own, read by a stand-in for a Queen who is not here and never will be, is evidence enough in itself. If me or thee tried the same gimmick on a doorstep before a housewife in Burnaby we'd be arrested on charges of false pretences. Politics however, has convenient hypocritical ways around the truth.

The socially-favored few who crowded their bottoms into hard chairs on the legislative floor have been conned into walk-on roles, minus the ACTRA minimum rate. Just as golf spectators have become not individuals or groups — but manipulated audiences, permitted to walk here and not there, for the millions of television voyeurs at home, so, unwittingly, have all these socialite dollies, done up in the latest mid-length fashion handed down from Women's Wear Daily. They are the captive spear carriers, as surely as the mob recruited from the sidewalks as the backdrop for Queen For A Day.

The lieutenant-governor and the premier, much as they may kid themselves, are as much camera-fodder as the beer-bellied patrons who stand at the 17th green in the Sunday afternoon golf bores on the telly. You saw them, standing there on the legislative steps, pretending to gaze majestically off into the distance but in fact staring straight ahead at the sterile steel skeleton of the TV pedestal, mucking up the legislative lawn, blocking the view of poor old outraged Queen Victoria in statue and turning what was once a stately ritual into a mock up, starring mannequins, for the boob tube.

The media is not only the message. It is the master — as long as politicians go for the phoney stage dressing.

If we might be so ghastly as to go into this introverted matter further, there are intriguing entrails to be uncovered. The off-season, in racetrack parlance, is when the touts take a breather. In Social Credit patois, it is when the touts blossom as the dawn.

There has sprung, full-blown from the brow of radio operator Clare Copeland, something known as B.C. Radio News. Copeland is to Victoria radio what Muzak is to elevators. His CFAX station dispenses what is known in the trade as candlelight and whine.

Mr. Copeland has devised B.C. Radio News as a quick, efficient method of transferring to the hoondocks the words of Olympian wisdom that spill from the lips of retired piano-movers who populate the Social Credit backbenches.

CFAX, to show how independent it is, recently hosted a press party where the star turn was done by that well-known rent-a-Boswell, Ronald B. Worley, working his nubby little fingers to the bone autographing copies of his recent immortal work, convenient carloads of which had been purchased by CFAX.

B.C. Radio News, to show how independent it is, has as its foreman one Tony Cox, a former Social Credit executive assistant in Alberta thrown into unemployment by the whim of fickle voters.

Now it is a well-known fact, sung in folklore, that those destined to enshrine the platitudes of politicians work best in slum conditions. The equipment that festoons the creaking antique known here as the press gallery was gathered at a \$1.49-day sale on the Ark.

The Industrial Revolution reforms governing the working conditions of children in the mines are violated hourly as the ink-stained wretches attempt to hurl into round filing cabinets the helpful press releases pressed upon them by government flacks.

It is interesting, therefore, to discover that coincidentally with the founding of B.C. Radio News, the electronic journalists assigned to assess Social Credit's place in history find themselves in spanking new quarters.

There has been a cosmetic rearrangement of MLA offices. The area last occupied by Liberal members has been turned into plush, plastic studios. There is a TV interview room, looking as if Richard Nixon is about to drop in at any moment. CFAX, overseer

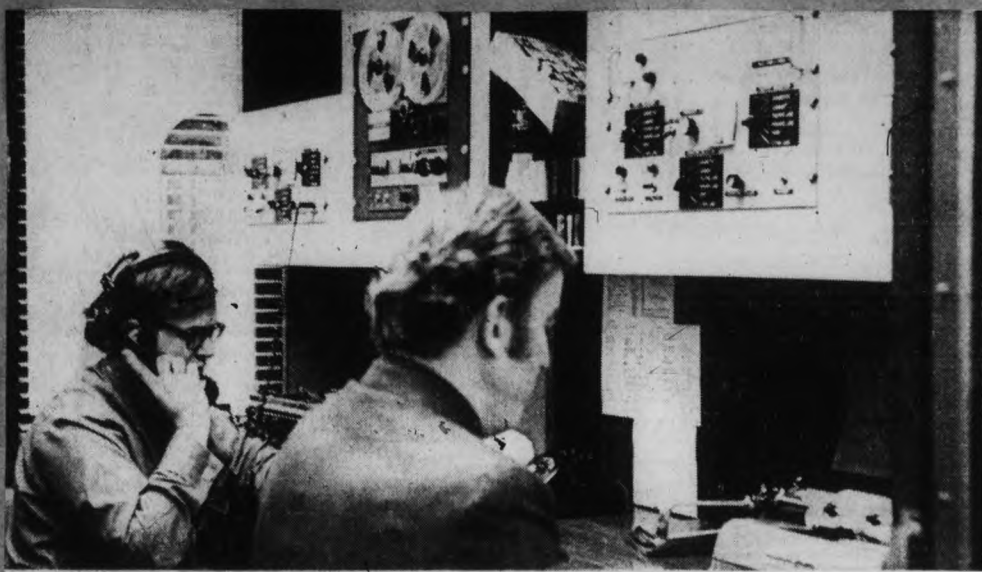
of B.C. Radio News, has a switchboard slightly less elaborate than that of Houston Control Centre.

Social Credit naturally loves B.C. Radio News. So far 16 stations have signed up. All those yawning, empty tape recorders sit waiting up in the tall grass where the vahoos grow. All must be satisfied.

Any cabinet minister who is willing to announce his luncheon order of hamburger with chips is guaranteed time to get his gums into a microphone. Several have contracted early cases of lockjaw because of over-use. All those press releases see the light of day.

It is, of course, Newspeak. The electronic jockeys, their beeping contraptions hanging from the elbow, are not given to introspection, let alone criticism or analysis. They are wholesalers of propaganda, vendors of whatever nonsense rings from the mouth of cabinet ministers caught on the way to the john.

When the sweet new headquarters for B.C. Radio News was completed, deputy public works minister A. E. Webb wrote the electric press, ending with the hope that the new quarters would be helpful in disseminating "government news." Amen, brother, amen.



B.C. Radio News — Slightly less elaborate than Houston

The Battle of Oak Bay

The next provincial election campaign in Oak Bay — and perhaps it has already started — should be one of high interest, high tempers and high finance. The presence of Dr. Scott Wallace as a Conservative member of the Legislature even though he was elected as a Social Credit candidate, and now the candidature of Mr. Melville Couvelier for the Liberal Party, promise a brisk contest. But it goes without saying that the Social Credit organization, which long smarted under Oak Bay's Liberal representation in the House, and has now lost through defection the member it had at long last succeeded in electing, will throw every resource into the battle.

The Oak Bay constituency has achieved somewhat the status of a key seat in provincial politics. After so many years as an inherently Conservative area, both large and small "c", its capture by Liberal Archie Gibbs in 1952 became a milestone in that party's

history. A succession of Liberal members from the constituency bolstered the corporal's guard which the party retained in the House, and sharpened the thorn-in-the-side which Premier Bennett suffered during each legislative session.

Dr. Wallace's victory in the 1969 election therefore became a first for the Social Credit machine and a jewel which Mr. Bennett — to quote him on a different occasion — could nail to the masthead. But the peppery physician, finding that he could not heal the party, decided that he could at least heal himself, and eventually announced his amputation from the government. More recently he emerged as a Conservative party supporter, and now is Tory House Leader and follower in a one-man opposition group.

How much of Dr. Wallace's win was due to his personal popularity as a critical maverick and energetic dissenter in many public

issues, particularly medical, and how much was the result of the Social Credit party's massive campaign on his behalf, will be seen only in the next election race. He may be expected to carry a considerable personal appeal plus the latent conservative strength of Oak Bay. The Social Credit candidate is still unknown, but it may be assumed that the party will not gamble on anyone holding less than top appeal.

In this situation — with the governing party needing victory merely for prestige and to teach a defector a lesson, and a lone candidate who apparently fell into the Conservative slot merely because it was convenient — Mr. Couvelier emerges as a preferable choice to represent the constituency for its own sake. In any case, his statements and policies between now and the next election should receive close attention. He could end the present position of Oak Bay as a political pawn, and restore it to full stature as a constituency.

Mr. Speaker Is Man in Middle of Top Heavy Act

By
WALTER MCKINNON
Times Staff

The tradition of speaker-in-an elected house of representatives is an ancient and honorable one, rooted in the very beginnings of the British democratic system.

It dates from 1377 when Sir Thomas Hungerford was appointed to preside over the British House of Commons.

It is an office of dignity and authority, one essential to the parliamentary system and demanding of its holder strict impartiality including complete withdrawal from the political arena.

In British Columbia since 1964 that position has been filled by William Murray, 55-year-old accountant, hotelier and politician. First elected as the Social Credit member at Prince Rupert in 1956, he has been returned to office consecutively.

His function as speaker is to regulate debate and enforce acceptable rules of conduct in the house. He decides points of order and makes necessary rulings.

Mr. Speaker, as he is formally addressed, is responsible for protocol and decorum in the legislature and is first and last the servant of the house.

Parliamentarians and historians since antiquity have been eloquent on the outstanding qualities required of Mr. Speaker.

But an unknown British newspaper editorialist more than a century ago may have offered the ideal summary when he wrote "The office does not demand rare qualities. It demands common qualities in a rare degree."

QUIET RESERVE

Murray may be such a man.

At first meeting, he does not appear outstanding. He creates an impression of quiet reserve almost approaching aloofness, an impression which lessens but doesn't entirely disappear in conversation.

He is an immaculate dresser and a firm speaker, low-keyed and presenting an appearance of competence.

Murray's apparent aloofness may be a result of his office as Mr. Speaker. It definitely isolates him to a degree from his fellow members of the legislature, the press corps and even his own party.

"I don't, for example, attend caucus; I don't as an other example go to conventions, Social Credit conventions," he said recently. "It's

a matter of following the traditions of the British speaker-ship ... they stayed away from political clubs, party caucuses, conventions and this sort of thing.

"I think it's proper that one should."

Murray admits, however, the traditional role of the speaker as non-participant in the politics of government is at times frustrating.

And in that admission he reveals the heart of a politician beating strong within the isolation of that speaker's detachment.

"You get frustrated," he says, "when matters are being discussed affecting your constituency. You feel that you want to get into the debate."

"But this is usually overcome by the very fact that you can bring a minister in and talk to him about it, or you can talk to another member about your point of view. Generally it works out all right, but at the moment you feel you can contribute something more than what's being said to something that's being dealt with by the house."

"This is the frustrating part. You have to get used to that."

Despite the frustrations, however, he says he is happy with his role. And the politician in him feels the non-participation of the office in no way detracts from his role as elected representative of the constituents of Prince Rupert.

In fact, he says, just the opposite may be true, "because of the rapport which exists between the ministry and the speaker's office, in that they'll come into the office at any time to answer questions about my constituency, to help me resolve problems respecting my constituency — and that goes from the prime minister right down."

"I think the results in my constituency, as well, indicate that we've more since I became speaker, in other words, than what we had before."

Would he consider leaving the speaker's chair for some more active role in government, such as a cabinet portfolio?

"I'm perfectly happy where I am and I haven't had any overtures recently asking me to become a member of the cabinet."

The reply seems to indicate there have been overtures in the past which for unknown reasons failed to develop. Would he accept a cabinet post now, if invited to do so?

DIFFICULT TIMES

"That's an iffy question and I don't like answering iffy questions," he says. "But I

could only consider it at the time, just what particular cabinet role, just what it would mean to me in terms of my own abilities ... and they are limited.

"I know what I can do and what I'm not able to do and I don't think I'd want to take on something I was not capable of doing. I'd have to weigh that at the time."

Murray's tenure as speaker has not been without difficult moments. And there have been suggestions outside the house his decisions haven't always carried the total impartiality demanded of the office.

At the end of the 1969 sitting, following the expulsion by Speaker Murray of Burnaby-Edmonds New Democratic MLA Gordon Dowding for a breach of parliamentary privilege, both opposition leaders outside the house accused him of bias toward the Social Credit government.

Robert Strachan, then leader of the NDP, was quoted by newspapers as saying "The speaker had no alternative but to follow the dictates of the government majority."

This shattered Mr. Speaker's customary aplomb, at least momentarily, and he broke his traditional silence in a rare press conference to tell reporters the remarks of the Opposition were "malicious, politically-oriented humbug."

Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGee had also been quoted as saying "I believe the speaker showed partiality in accepting that motion (to censure Dowding) instead of requiring notice or adjourning the matter to another day as indicated by the prescribed parliamentary authorities."

Murray admitted at the time he was extremely angry with the two opposition leaders and at the fact the comments were made outside the House, where they could not be made answerable.

According to Wilding and Laundy's Encyclopedia of Parliament, "So great is the prestige attaching to the office that an affront to the speaker is an affront to the House as a whole."

Murray today believes his decisions are impartial.

"All my decisions have been based on rules and the advice of clerks and the edition of May's (Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice) we're dealing with at the time, and the advice of speakers in the past through all the rulings we keep and refer to ..."

He also maintains he finds no difficulty in making rulings against his own party and Premier Bennett.

The effects of Murray's ruling to suspend Dowding did not end with the 1969 sitting of

the House.

It was directly responsible, at the start of the 1970 session, for a break in parliamentary tradition for the first time in the province's history in connection with election of the speaker.

FIRST BREAK

Traditionally the speaker is nominated by the government, seconded by the opposition and supported by all members, but in 1970 NDP leader Dave Barrett set a precedent by opposing Murray. It was a futile gesture, however, and he was returned by the Social Credit government which held 38 seats in the 55-seat house.

Murray says today this series of incidents has been all but forgotten.

"I don't think it was animosity, really. We'd just come through an election. There are always feelings among people involved in political life. This isn't the first time, nor will it be the last, that a speaker in either this jurisdiction or any other jurisdiction will be opposed."

Outside his role in government, Murray leads a relatively private life. He maintains his business interests in Prince Rupert and spends time there every month, but has permanent residence in Victoria.

He is a patron of the arts (one of his government functions is chairman of the British Columbia Cultural Fund) and is regularly seen at artistic events.

He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1916. He served in the Royal Canadian Navy from 1939 to 1945 overseas and received the Legion Medal of Merit in 1950.



—Photo by John McKay

B.C. House Speaker William Murray is happy with the job

Labor Mails Annual Brief

The B.C. Federation of Labor won't present its annual brief directly to the cabinet this year.

Instead, secretary Ray Haynes said today, the brief will be mailed to all members of the legislature.

He would not say why labor won't meet the cabinet. The reasons are to be given Tuesday when the brief is to be made public in Vancouver, he added.

Labor Minister James Chabot said he does not "attach any particular significance" to the federation's decision.

Strachan Runs Again

Robert Strachan (NDP — Cowichan-Malahat) today announced he will seek renomination as New Democratic Party candidate in his constituency for the next provincial election.

Strachan, a former provincial NDP leader, was first elected to the legislature in 1952. He has been re-elected six times.

Cowichan-Malahat's NDP constituency nominating convention takes place March 25.

He is Vancouver Island's only NDP MLA.

Use N-Power: Grits

Liberal Leader Pat McGeer opened his party's debate on the throne speech Monday by outlining a detailed program for "intelligent and democratic" decisions on provincial energy requirements.

McGeer said the terms of reference of the B.C. Energy Board should be set out in law and a select standing committee of the legislature should hold the public hearings on the board's reports before any energy decisions are made.

Final decisions, he said, should be made by the legislature, not by the cabinet or Premier Bennett.

He said Bennett's approach to energy decisions is always politically motivated and founded on "seat of the pants political intuition."

REVIEW POLICIES

He also called for a nuclear power generating station on Vancouver Island, a review of natural gas export policies and upgrading of environmental considerations to first priority in energy decisions.

McGeer noted the energy board's study of B.C.'s power requirements to 1985 is nearing completion but said it is wrong that the board cannot consider nuclear power.

Continuing hydroelectric power generation will ruin provincial valleys, he said. The government is wrong to suggest, as it did in the throne speech, that hydro dams do not cause pollution.

"The dam is an engineering marvel and the lake behind it is an ecological disaster, and that judgment will stand the test of time," he said.

Hydro dams built before and after Bennett came to power, he said, cover 650,000 acres in B.C. or half the acreage of Prince Edward Island.

"These are not just areas that we have put under water. They are areas, with the possible exception of the Arrow Lakes reservoir, which have been devastated or will be devastated."

Bennett's hydro policies also have given provincial residents "one of the higher-cost power systems in North America," McGeer said.

To emphasize the importance of energy policy for B.C., McGeer said British Columbians are the second highest consumers of electricity in the world on a per-capita basis, behind only Norwegians.

"We Liberals reject categorically both the method by which power decisions are at present made and the narrow political considerations upon which these decisions are based."

FRIENDS

An example, he said, was Bennett's decision to call for proposals last April for a natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island.

This decision, he said, was not made on a rational assessment of the cost of getting more power here and a scientific assessment of the best energy source of Island electricity.

"It seemed to have a lot to do with one of the premier's close friends and public relations advisers who has pipeline connections," he said.

McGeer also noted that the interim report of the energy board in February, 1971, did not include the necessary studies for a decision to bring gas to the Island for power.

"It was simply one more example — and a particularly flagrant one — of the constant political meddling in what should be sound and justifiable energy decisions. The confused and contradictory statements of various cabinet ministers subsequent to that April 30 press conference serves only to highlight that this was not a policy arrived at after careful cabinet study."

Ottawa would put up the capital cost of a nuclear reactor in B.C., said McGeer, and this would mean cheaper power to Vancouver Island than generation by natural gas.

Gas generation requires a pipeline and a generating plant. Estimated cost of the pipeline is \$100 million, though B.C. Hydro has a proposal in the range of \$50 million.

Contemporary research into nuclear generation has provided Canada with almost pollution-free reactors, said McGeer.

A nuclear power station on Vancouver Island also could guarantee emergency power to the mainland under conditions like the heavy snows now plaguing the interior, he added.

McGeer said he regretted the low value the government has given environmental problems caused by power development.

"The tragedy in Social Credit thinking over a generation has been a complete disregard for this principle. The Bennett Dam and Williston Lake are gigantic examples. Duncan Lake, Mica Lake and Libby Lake, these are further examples."

He outlined a 15-point program which the Liberals would have put in the speech had they been in power. Highlights included:

Construction of medical school facilities at the University of Victoria and a university in the Okanagan.

New legislation on energy matters.

A redistribution of electoral districts, television coverage of the legislature, a daily Hansard and question period of cabinet ministers.

Incentives to manufacturing industries.

Creation of a ministry of the environment.

Control Welfare: NDP

British Columbia should bargain with the federal government for more provincial control of social welfare capital to finance long-range job-creation programs, Opposition Leader Dave Barrett said Monday.

Barrett made the suggestion in the legislature during an attack on what he called the "disastrous policies" of the provincial government in the employment field.

He said provincial control of welfare money — such as family allowance payments — would enable B.C. to institute continuing job programs

By **BRUCE YEMEN**
Times Staff

rather than "silly little programs" such as the government's Job Opportunities Program.

PLAN, REPEATED

Family allowances could be paid in advance in the form of down payments on new houses, which would stimulate employment, Barrett said, repeating a proposal he made last year.

A minimum guaranteed-income plan could be set up in B.C. as well as minimum

standards in child care and social services, Barrett said.

Barrett said a "lazy, tired government" in B.C. had become accustomed to having large welfare rolls and unemployment lists and had lost its drive to solve the problems.

But the people on welfare aren't the only sufferers, he said.

"The working poor of B.C. carry the burden of the disastrous policies on their backs. They look on welfare recipients as people who might be better off than they are," Barrett said.

He said one symptom of an old government is the "cry-baby cabinet" that blames Ottawa for problems but doesn't seek to use or develop its powers to solve them.

Among the policies hurting the working people is the "giveaway" of B.C. natural resources, Barrett said, citing the absence of royalty payments on copper concentrates and coal shipped from the province.

"While hundreds line up for jobs, he (Premier Bennett) gives away the resources," Barrett charged. In 1970 the government got \$32 million from the mining industry but \$64 million from liquor sales, he said.

"You made more money from the profits of sin than on the profits of hard work," he said.

Barrett ridiculed the government's Job Opportunities Program, saying its record of finding jobs for 361 job-seekers falls far short of the 15,000 jobs mentioned at one stage by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell.

"This is the only place in North America where they hand out a certificate proving you're on welfare," Barrett said of the job opportunity certificates entitling welfare recipients to a 50 per cent wage subsidy.

Barrett also described rivalry between Campbell and Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi over job-creation programs as "picking over the bones of the unemployed."

Barrett noted the government's throne speech cited the October unemployment figure of 53,000 rather than the December total of 64,000 — "11,000 embarrassing more" unemployed."

'Gov't Ignores Us' So Briefs Mailed

The B.C. Federation of Labor is mailing its annual brief to all MLAs, instead of meeting personally with the cabinet, because its proposals have been ignored by the government, secretary Ray Haynes said today.

Haynes added that even at the meetings with the cabinet, there was no dialogue.

"In most cases they did not question us. They listened while we read it and then dismissed us," he said.

A covering letter with the brief to each MLA expresses willingness to meet to discuss items in the brief, he added.

Asked if the government has accepted any BCFL proposals, Haynes said "not that I can think of. Even on government car insurance, they have only gone half way. Half-way moves is the best that can be said."

Haynes said BCFL proposals for changes to the Mediation Commission Act, removal of injunctions from labor-management relations, having the Labor Relations Board give reasons for decisions, bargaining rights for civil servants, improved pensions for senior citizens, increased welfare allowances, guarantees of civil liberties and "decent" minimum wages are some of the areas ignored by the government.

Proposals in the health, education and environmental areas have also been ignored, he said.

He said the provincial government should grant the kind of rapport the Canadian Labor Congress has with the federal government.

"At least the federal government is interested enough to have dialogue," he said.

Correct Hansard — Barrett

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett today filed notice of a motion to have 1971's Hansard withdrawn for correction.

Barrett's motion asks the legislature to have Hansard corrected to correspond with the electronic tapes of last session's proceedings. This is the second time this session Barrett has tried to get Hansard corrected.

His motion is prompted by disclosures published in the Times last fall that the office of Speaker William Murray deleted several derogatory references to Premier Bennett from the text.

When Barrett moved to have Hansard withdrawn on opening day last Thursday, Murray ruled his motion out of order and said the opposition leader had to put the motion separately later in the session.

Legislative Curfew Defeated

The annual legislative debate on the length of night sittings ended quickly Monday with the government retaining the right to keep the house up all night if it chooses.

The Socials defeated a New Democratic Party motion which would have placed an 11 p.m. time limit on night sittings "unless otherwise ordered."

Leo Nimstick (NDP-Kootenay) told the legislature his party's motion would halt the "rag-tag" endings of many night debates by taking control of adjournment times away from Bennett.

The NDP motion lost by a vote of 35-17 with Scott Wallace (PC-Oak Bay) voting against the government for the first time this session.

Anti-Sniffing Law Urged

British Columbia can legislate against the sale of glue, nail polish and other intoxicating solvents, Liberal leader Pat McGeer said Monday.

In his reply to the throne speech, McGeer outlined a five-point program to combat solvent sniffing and denied a charge made last week by Attorney-General Leslie Peterson that control of these substances is a federal problem.

B.C. could outlaw the sale of solvents for purposes of sniffing, McGeer said, and could amend the Government Liquor Act to define intoxication as also being under the influence of solvent vapors.

"It's wrong and it's weak of you to suggest that laws can-

not be passed," McGeer told Peterson.

The attorney-general was asked last week by Ernie LeCours (SC-Richmond) to press for a cabinet order halting sale of solvents for sniffing purposes.

In addition to legislative changes, said McGeer, the government should turn the problem over to a legislative committee for hearings, introduce a public education program in B.C. schools on the danger of sniffing, and increase recreational facilities in disadvantaged areas to head off solvent abuse.

McGeer outlined the chemical constituents of the seven principal solvents and said all

have worse effects than alcohol.

Young people are sniffing glue and similar substances, he said, because they cannot buy alcohol and feel they have nothing better to do.

Glue sniffing creates a state similar to being drunk but can have several bad effects on the brain, liver, kidneys and the blood, he said.

He noted several American states and cities have regulated sniffing of solvents. Then McGeer recalled Peterson's recent campaign against topless dancing.

"I don't know how much comfort the mothers of British Columbia got from your drive against the topless dancers, but I do know many

mothers are extremely concerned over the problem of solvent sniffers."

Earlier, Opposition leader Dave Barrett tangled with Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell over the question of treatment facilities for young drug-users in B.C.

Barrett told the house he suggested to a Surrey woman with a heroin-addicted son that the best thing she could do, if she could afford it, is to send the boy to England for treatment.

Campbell said Barrett was "irresponsible" but Barrett challenged the minister to say where there are any drug treatment beds for children in B.C. general hospitals. There are none, Barrett said.

Pollution Mutual Concern

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett called for a major increase in co-operation on pollution control among governments of the Pacific Northwest Monday in the legislature.

Barrett called on the provincial government to hold joint legislative committee hearings on pollution with a Washington State legislative committee which would like to hold a B.C. hearing.

The states of Alaska and Oregon might also be invited to attend the hearing, Barrett said.

He also announced that a statement opposing the Alaska pipeline route and shipping of oil down B.C.'s coast will be sent by him to some senators in Olympia, Wash. It would then be circulated for signatures of elected legislators in both Washington and B.C.

TASK FORCE SOUGHT

Barrett said the state of Washington would be interested in conducting a study on the feasibility of joint plebiscites to determine public opinion on pollution issues.

He suggested a task force be established by B.C. environment authorities to work toward "companion legislation" on pollution control in both B.C. and Washington.

A "methodical" exchange of research between departments of the two governments should also be established and exchanges of civil servants for up to six months should be implemented to increase mutual knowledge of each other's operations, he said.

"We hope the provincial government will set aside political attitudes and follow up across the bridge we built," Barrett said of a visit last week by the NDP caucus to the Washington state capital.

No Leniency Allowed For Drinking Drivers

All persons convicted of impaired driving will lose their licences to drive at all times of the day in an amendment to be introduced in the legislature soon, Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said today.

Peterson told the legislature that the change will be made to end the leniency which has been used on impaired drivers as a result of a B.C. court of appeal decision last year.

The court ruled that each

suspension of drivers' licence had to be handled separately rather than under a blanket policy.

"This legislature will be called on to serve notice to all that if they drink and drive, they can expect to lose their licence — there will be no exceptions, no relaxation during certain hours," Peterson said.

"I know this will cause hardship, but we cannot overlook the hardship these drivers cause to other people."

Peterson said there was a 20-per-cent increase in impaired driving convictions last year to 13,309.

He said that a feeling among many motorists that drunk driving is "socially acceptable" may have been a cause of the increase. Number of fatalities in motor vehicle accidents increase 13 per cent to 633 last year, he said.

Peterson also announced a loophole in the law will be closed to prevent resident drivers from avoiding insurance laws by holding out-of-province driver licences. This will not affect tourists, he said.

Wallace Hits Priorities In Heart Doctor Fight

Conservative MLA Dr. Scott Wallace said today that placing as much importance on a hospital staffing dispute between Vancouver heart surgeons and government as on the critical needs of the heart patients is like "weighing a feather against a ton of lead."

He was asked to comment on remarks in the legislature Tuesday by Evan Wolfe (SC—Vancouver Centre) who blamed dogmatic and uncompromising attitudes of heart specialists in Vancouver

for the heavy backlog of patients awaiting open-heart surgery.

Wolfe suggested to heart specialists that they could enjoy "a much more harmonious relationship" with Health Minister Ralph Loffmark if they were more flexible in permitting other surgeons use of hospital facilities.

He cited the case of Dr. George Stefanik, a New Westminster surgeon "anxious" to use the facilities at Vancouver General Hospital, but "the

heart surgeons don't want him on their team."

Wolfe said the attitude of doctors at the hospital against outside doctors has become "a real issue." It resulted in blocking, at least temporarily, of adaptation of hospital beds in the provincial government's Willow Chest Pavilion as beds for the intensive care of patients after heart surgery.

Wallace said today he was taking no sides in the dispute between the surgeons and government on Stefanik's hospital privileges because he did not know the doctors involved or what negotiations went on.

"I'm just saying that the issue is so unimportant compared to the tremendous urgency in getting these (heart surgery) facilities expanded."

There are between 200 and 300 patients awaiting open heart surgery and "their lives are literally at stake from day to day," said Scott Wallace.

He said he is appalled at Loffmark's lack of insight into the problem.

"The minister is just not aware of the urgency of this situation. If he is aware, it is even more distressing to think he would choose to argue about the hospital privileges of a single doctor over the needs of 200 to 300 heart patients."

Notify Heirs Call

A bill requiring executors of wills to notify beneficiaries within 30 days of the death of the testator was introduced in the legislature Tuesday.

The bill was put before the House by Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) as an act to amend the Administration Act.

Macdonald's explanatory notes said executors are "increasingly and regrettably" failing to advise persons mentioned in wills "even in cases where beneficiaries have a legitimate right to question the executor's interpretation of the will."

The bill also would require executors to supply beneficiaries with copies of the will.

Equality Seen In the Family

A philosophy of complete equality between husbands and wives will be reflected in new family legislation to be introduced in the house shortly, Attorney-General Leslie Peterson told the legislature Tuesday.

Peterson said the provincial government has completed a review of existing family law relating to divorce, annulment, judicial separation, alimony, child maintenance and custody and property rights between spouses and children.

"In recent years there has been a growing agitation for complete equality between husband and wife, and this philosophy is reflected in the

rights which will be proposed," he said.

The government also intends to streamline family court procedures to provide for easier access to children by aggrieved spouses.

He indicated the legislation will set new responsibilities for spouses, children and parents. Similar legislation was introduced in 1971 but was withdrawn during the last days of the session.

That bill, an amendment to the Wives' and Children's Maintenance Act, made either spouse equally responsible for support of children. Though withdrawn, the bill attracted wide interest from all parties and is expected to do so again this year.

Surplus 'At Expense of Poor'

The provincial government should exempt senior citizens from property taxes, Leo Nimsick (NDP—Kootenay) told the legislature Tuesday.

Nimsick also proposed the government give free bus and ferry passes to senior citizens receiving the provincial welfare supplement as well as free fishing licences.

He called for increased public housing programs and a review of expropriation settlements for homes in Natal. The NDP whip also accused the government of creating huge budget surpluses at the expense of the poor.

Nimsick devoted most of his one-hour speech to discussing poverty in B.C. He said the minimum wage must immediately be increased to \$2 and called for major increases in welfare, workmen's compensation and pension benefits.

He predicted the government will bring in a budget surplus of \$100 million this year because of its tight policies toward assistance programs for the poor and elderly.

"You should be ashamed that you can come up with a budget surplus at the expense of these poor people," he said.

Under heckling from the government benches, Nimsick reminded them they are the ones who can afford winter vacations in Hawaii, not the poor.

He said the B.C. mediation commission members get \$40,000 a year and few complain, but people think it is outrageous for a laborer to earn between \$10,000 and \$14,000 a year.

Workingmen are under constant advertising pressure to buy into the good life, he said, and have a right to expect its pleasures.

He said it is wrong for the government to brag about the recent four-per-cent increase in benefits to widows whose husbands died in industrial accidents when the cost of living increased more than that in 1971.

Most of these women get less than \$150 a month, Nimsick said, and that's nothing to brag about.

Stop Meddling NDP Told

A New Democratic Party effort to promote relations with Washington State was ridiculed in the legislature Tuesday by Attorney-General Leslie Peterson.

The visit of the NDP caucus to Olympia two weeks ago was "an elaborate attempt to counteract the anti-American image of the party," Peterson said.

One U.S. legislator was quoted as saying the NDP group was "pinko," Peterson said. But if the U.S. legislators knew about some NDP members' signing of the radical Watkins manifesto, "I suggest that the color they would have used to describe the political spectrum of the NDP might have been considerably darker than pink."

The Watkins manifesto refers to Dr. Melville Watkins, a Queen's University economics professor who

heads the NDP's so-called "waffle" or radical group.

Peterson said relations between B.C. and Washington state are good and suggested to the NDP: "Please don't do us any more favors."

A Jan. 5, 1972, letter from Governor Dan Evans to Premier Bennett seeking his participation in plans to mark the 100th anniversary of the drawing of the boundaries in the San Juan Islands area was cited by Peterson as an example of good relations.

He said the provision of electric power to B.C. by Washington in the current power emergency in B.C. was another example.

He warned the NDP "not to meddle in affairs outside our borders," and said, "I wouldn't want our good friends to think the government of British Columbia is pinko."

Help Sought For Landlords

The Landlord and Tenant Act should be amended to give landlords greater protection against tenants who refuse to pay their rent, Even Wolfe (SC-Vancouver Centre) said Tuesday.

Wolfe told the legislature the use of "distress" seizures by landlords should be allowed again in such cases. They were banned by the 1970 act.

But landlords should also be

required to post a summary of the Landlord and Tenant Act in every suite to ensure tenants are aware of their rights, he said.

In other points, Wolfe called for municipalities to ensure that patients in hospitals get a chance to vote in municipal elections and suggested Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell consider making hospital polls mandatory.

The home acquisition grant should be paid on a needs basis instead of to all who apply and qualify, he said.

The \$1 per day hospital insurance charge should be increased to \$3 or \$5 a day, he said.

He also called for full speed ahead on plans for rail rapid transit in Greater Vancouver, for a second crossing of the First Narrows and for enlarged open heart surgery facilities.

More Study For Report

A Law Reform Commission report on expropriation will likely be referred to a legislative committee for further study, Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said Tuesday.

Crown agencies affected by recommendations of the report will also study it, he said.

The report, which hasn't been released and is being printed at the moment, contains recommendations which can form the basis of a new expropriation statute, Peterson said.

Sniffing Put To Ottawa

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson has asked the federal government to crack down on the sale of toxic solvents in nail polish remover and other products by using powers of its Hazardous Products Act.

Peterson told the legislature a federal cabinet order is all that is needed to include nail polish remover under the act, which provides power to restrict sales.

He said Ottawa should consider restricting sales to persons over 16 years of age.

Referring to pressure on the provincial government to take action in the field, Peterson said the courts have decided in the past that legislation on harmful substances was beyond provincial power.

Children in Vancouver have been buying nail polish remover for the purpose of sniffing.

Several steps are being considered by the province to combat the practice, Peterson said.

Charges of contributing to delinquency of juveniles might be laid against persons selling nail polish remover to juveniles "with the full knowledge of the use to which it will be put," Peterson said.

The attorney-general said he telephoned the president of the nail polish remover company about the problem and was told that research hasn't yet found a suitable way of putting a nausea-inducing ingredient into the substance to prevent sniffing.

Wallace Lists Priorities

By PETER McNELLY
Times Staff

Progressive Conservative MLA Scott Wallace of Oak Bay Tuesday called for higher social welfare payments, an end to the mediation commission, reform of legislative practices and a study of nuclear power development.

Premier Bennett walked out of the legislature as Wallace, a former Socred, gave his first speech in the house as a Tory.

Speaking to the throne speech, Wallace said it was so "vague and indefinite" as to make any in-depth appraisal "futile."

So he seized the occasion to outline Progressive Conservative Party policy for British Columbia.

PRIORITY

"The Conservative Party would regard as its first priority the urgent need to raise the standard of living of those on welfare, of those in the low income groups, of the elderly sick, the disabled and those on fixed incomes," Wallace said.

He noted the Senate report on poverty showed 90 per cent of welfare recipients are, for various reasons, incapable of working.

The report also shows 60 per cent of Canada's poor hold jobs. In addition to higher social assistance payments, a Conservative government would raise the minimum wage and remove education costs from property taxes of all homeowners over 65, Wallace said.

But he added that the Conservatives do not support giv-

ing welfare to people unwilling but able to work.

Wallace said a Tory government would replace the mediation commission with legislation similar to the United States Taft-Hartley Act which can be used to order workers back while retaining the right to strike if continuing bargaining fails.

This would provide a "cooling off period" for major labor disputes. Cash incentives should be given to unions negotiating settlements without striking, he said.

A Conservative government would also create a management-labor council to advise both parties and assist in bargaining if necessary. The legislature would have power to order binding settlements "only as a very last resort," said Wallace.

LEGISLATURE

"In the event that a final and binding solution to a dispute is required, we feel that such a decision should be imposed by the legislature and not by an administrative agency of government," he said.

Wallace was sharply critical of legislative practices.

"What goes on in this legislature is mainly play-acting. This chamber is a political theatre rather than a forum for democratic debate and decision. Much of the public display by members is a performance by actors on both sides of the house, simulating alarm, anger and outrage to win the attention of the pub-

lic, rather than to give or receive useful information."

The remedy is more free votes on less contentious bills to allow for more spontaneity and honesty of expression, he said. Major bills, the budget, and other similar items would not be subject to free votes.

Defeat on a minor issue does not mean the government must call an election, said Wallace as he was hooted by government members.

He said much public cynicism about the legislature comes from the "obvious fact that members vote blindly along party lines."

He also said legislative committees should sit all year and hold public hearings, and a Conservative government would appoint an ombudsman as part of a program to guarantee protection of individual rights.

His party's government also would create an auditor general "with complete freedom to explore and comment upon all financial actions of the government and its crown agencies."

NOT CERTAIN

Education should be geared to the concept of a changing labor force and retaining would become a permanent feature of the provincial school system, he said.

He said he is not certain nuclear power is best for B.C., but it must be considered before major decisions are made on provincial requirements to 1985.

Wallace said the B.C. Energy Board report, expected for release in May, is "only

half a report" because it does not include comments on feasibility of nuclear power.

"I would suggest that to pretend such a source of power does not exist is tantamount to believing the world is flat."

A Tory government also would create an employment research board to measure advance employment needs in B.C., he said.

He said if his constituents did not approve his quitting the Socreds last fall, they could vote him out of his seat at the next election.

Skagit Fears — Unfounded

Flooding the Skagit Valley would bring no significant changes there, Resources Minister Ray Williston said Wednesday.

Williston told the legislature the problem in the Skagit didn't start with him and he didn't intend to take the blame for signing the 1967 agreement which gave provincial consent for the flooding to proceed.

"I do not stand behind the Skagit situation, the matter was brought to me," the minister said.

He explained that under the 1942 international joint commission agreement between Canada and the United States, British Columbia was to be "indemnified for any direct injury" done the valley because of the flooding.

Signing the 1967 agreement, he indicated, was merely the provincial role in a play which had been written 25 years before.

He quoted the December, 1971, report of the IJC on the Skagit to say flooding would not bring major harm to the valley. Reading from the report, Williston said:

"The over-all impact of changes in the total environment is not significant."

The flooding issue arose when Seattle City Light and Power Company decided to seek the right to raise the level of Ross Dam in Washington to supply more electricity in the Seattle area.

Final decision must be made by the U.S. federal power commission.

Pension Bilking Scored by Cocke

Legislation to prevent companies from "bilking" employees out of their pension benefits was urged in the legislature Wednesday by Dennis Cocke (NDP — New Westminster.)

Cocke said the loss of pension benefits by at least 48 former employees of McGavin-Toastmaster Company Ltd. of Vancouver was a case where the employer "used a badly set-up pension plan to his advantage and literally stole from his employees."

The company closed a plant, laying off employees whose non-contributory pension plan specified that benefits would only be paid to persons over 55 years of age.

"The pension plan was a non-contributory negotiated plan. The employees accepted it as being a portion of their earnings," Cocke said.

A man aged 53, with 33 years service, was laid off without any benefits, Cocke said, citing one example.

"The same plan covers employees in Alberta and Saskatchewan but there at least employees have protection within the law," he said. "There, any employee with 10 years in the plan or who is age 45, gets full proportionate credit for his service."

Cocke, the NDP expert on pensions, said the provincial government should act to "fill in the cracks . . . Let no one else be bilked out of their pension."

He said the company was able to switch the accrued benefits of the laid-off employees to a pension plan in a related firm which means "the employer is going to get off cheap for a long time to come."

Tax Relief Plea Sounded Again

Liberal MLA Barrie Clark (North Vancouver-Seymour) Wednesday renewed his annual plea for property tax relief for the elderly.

In his reply to the throne speech, Clark told the legislature the provincial government should create a fund allowing elderly homeowners to charge their property taxes against it.

This would not require much money, said Clark, and the fund would continually be replenished by money coming in from deferred taxes realized on the sale of these homes after the owner died.

"It's cheaper than building old age homes; would enable the elderly to stay where they are and would stop old age ghettos," he said.

SIXTH YEAR

The Liberal member noted this is the sixth year he has advocated this scheme and now it is backed by the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

On other subjects, Clark suggested B.C. consider legislation similar to that in Great Britain which forbids advertising companies to accept government business if they also take political advertising.

BUDGETS TIGHT

Clark noted the provincial government paid \$774,000 to James Lovick Ltd. advertising during the 1970-71 fiscal year.

"It doesn't take much arithmetic to work out the commission on that," Clark said.

He said the worst feature of the throne speech was its absence of programs for the elderly, many of whom are spending up to \$600 monthly for nursing care because the government has not created chronic care facilities for them.

"I wonder if the members on that side appreciate how much a few dollars affects the budget of a senior citizen. The cost of hearing aid batteries can make the difference between a good or a bad dinner."

He said the government should provide free drugs to the elderly and give them free bus passes. Also needed are more elderly residential homes and government payments for artificial limbs.

Clark also said if the government was sincerely worried about oil pollution dangers from tanker shipments down our coast from Alaska, the throne speech would have expressed concern.

MLA Proposes Fund To Preserve Past

A new \$5 million fund should be set up to preserve examples of the architecture and life-styles of all the cultural heritages of B.C., Robert Wenman (SC — Delta) said Wednesday.

"It would be an irreplaceable loss and a source of regret to future generations if what remains of our inheritance were thoughtlessly allowed to

disappear," Wenman told the legislature.

The MLA also called for a guaranteed annual income for persons over 60 and to a \$10 annual increase in the provincial homeowner grant of \$170 for "senior citizens on fixed incomes."

He also called for legislation allowing such persons to defer property taxes.

Car Insurance

In recent years the British Columbia laws related to car insurance have been changed. These changes were supposed to lower the cost and improve the service to the car operators. Unfortunately, in most cases this has not been the case.

Anyone having problems related to car insurance is requested to write to me as car insurance spokesman for the New Democratic Party in the British Columbia Legislature. When writing please state the name of the insurance company involved, your policy number and the details of your problem.

I will do what I can to assist you, and do my utmost to see that a better system of supplying car insurance is developed in British Columbia. — Bill Hartley, MLA, (Yale-Lillooet).

Prime Wood Scarce

By PETER McNELLY
Times Staff

British Columbia's coastal forests are running out of prime timber, forcing a "voluntary" change in sawmill operations, Resources Minister Ray Williston told the legislature Wednesday.

Taking his turn in the throne speech debate, Williston indicated a new type of sawmill operation has emerged in B.C. to process timber bypassed by older companies such as MacMillan-Bloedel and B.C. Forest Products.

These are typified by relatively recent operations such as the Pacific Logging-Doman mill in Ladysmith and Northwood operation in Prince George, he said in an interview outside the house.

SHAPE FUTURE

The government's policy of close utilization of forests helped bring about these changes during the last decade, said the minister, and will continue to shape the future of forestry operations in the province.

He said the new breed of mills uses equipment capable of processing logs which are not completely suited for lumber. The old coastal mills cannot cut and chip logs for lumber and pulp because they were designed to handle only the best timber.

"Over the years this has worked well, but the stands of readily accessible, high grade timber are gradually declining and as we move northward and higher up the slopes of the mountains, new types of timber stands have to be cut. Such require a new type of plant for processing and new ways of handling and sorting the logs."

MANDATORY

Close utilization policies, said Williston in an interview later, will come to Vancouver Island and the mainland coast.

"We're making them mandatory in (public sustained yield) units in the interior and the same procedure will be followed on the coast. And that will be telescoped considerably by the fact that I spoke this afternoon. That was the intent of my speech."

But he refused to say that the government would force adoption of a close utilization policy on the coast.

Close utilization is a policy which requires both management and labor to care for the future of their jobs and rights to work Crown forest lands, he said.

This is because both parties know they have a stake in stable production levels.

"Up until the present time the introduction of the C.U. program on the coast has suffered from the 'chicken and the egg' problem. No one was willing to harvest the wood unless it could be sold to cover costs plus a fair profit."

But he added no mills had been developed which could cut lumber from wood which had a significant proportion of pulp material in it.

As the forest industry moves to more sawmill operations capable of cutting lumber from wood with high quantities of residual pulp material in it, routine forest operations will have to change.

"There is going to have to be more dry-land sorting in the forest with the segregated wood shipped by barge to specific plants which can process the material in a profitable manner."

New and recent interior B.C. mills, he said, working under close utilization are significantly more productive than older mills.

ABSORB COSTS

Williston said interior mills are producing between 2,500 and 3,500 board feet of dried-planned lumber per man per day compared with a coastal ratio of 1,000 and 1,400 board feet per man per day.

"This is one of the factors which has allowed interior operators to absorb higher freight costs," Williston said.

He said a "surprising percentage of structural lumber used in construction on the coast comes from interior mills."

Close utilization has shown that 3.4 times as much wood can be harvested as under the old intermediate utilization basis.

"I should not have to shout the economic impact of such a policy and yet there is great difficulty in having it adopted on the coast outside of the larger tree farm licences."

RECORD CUT

Before close utilization came into effect about 10 years ago on a voluntary basis, coast logging operations produced 80 per cent of B.C.'s total forestry output.

Williston said in 1971 a record cut of nearly two billion cubic feet of timber occurred, 64.5 million cu. ft. more than was harvested in 1970.

He said 72 per cent of the total provincial cut last year came from close utilization practices, nearly reversing the old figures.

"I must admit that the 72 per cent figure even surprised myself, I did not realize that progress had been so dramatic."

Though lumber production set a record during the last calendar year, he said, revenues from stumpage fees declined to \$60.9 million from \$65 million in the recession year of 1970.

The record year for stumpage fees was 1969 with \$89.5 million being collected. Williston said 1971 revenues declined because of delays in collections of fees and because of adjustments on the

basis of improved lumber prices delaying new rates for three months.

Despite these changes, he said, revenues during this fiscal year should exceed last fiscal year's by 15 per cent.

"If one were to stand back now and take an over-view of the central interior wood processing situation he would find the largest group of efficient, close-utilization sawmills to be found anywhere in the world today."

Williston added the provincial pulp and paper industry has seen continued new investment despite depressed world markets and a higher world inventory than at any time since the Second World War.

New pulp mills capable of receiving only chips require close co-ordination with sawmill operations, he said. This is another "revolutionary" move, he added.

The short-term outlook for pulp is bad, said Williston, but continuing investment in the industry suggests confidence in long-term profitability.

DEPRESS MARKET

World monetary instability and United States disenchantment with the Vietnam war have helped depress world pulp markets.

"On balance the net gain far outweighs the limited negative aspects that will prevail for a relatively short time."

During the last six years, he said eight new pulp mills costing more than \$600 million came into operation in B.C. and another \$200 million has been invested in pulp mills scheduled to begin operation in 1972.

Last year pulp production increased by about 130,000 tons and paper increased by 90,000 tons despite poor markets, Williston said. But high inventories indicate 1972 is not going to be an easy year in the industry.

NOT IMPRESSED

New Democratic Party forestry critic Bob Williams (Vancouver East) was not impressed with Williston's speech because he said it did not say that the government would force close utilization practices on the coastal industry.

He also said the government has not permitted enough competition for logging rights with the result that forestry revenues are lower than they should be.

"It was a good historical review like a schoolteacher would do, but he wasn't taking us anywhere," said Williams.

He said the public needs to know what the government intends to do in forestry during the next decade. If the interior forest industry is so much more productive than that on the coast, Williams said, Williston should have spoken out for higher wages for interior workers.

These people have fought bitter strikes in attempts to win parity with coast loggers, said Williams.

Ottawa Accused of Hypocrisy Over Granting Oil Leases

Resources Minister Ray Williston accused the federal government of hypocrisy in its position on oil pollution dangers to B.C. coastal waters.

Williston told the legislature Ottawa has given Petrostar Development Ltd. of Calgary petroleum exploration licences off Banks Island and in Queen Charlotte Sound.

Licences cover 1.4 million acres, he said. After noting previous federal opposition to exploration for oil in Georgia Strait and Esquimalt-Saanich MP David Anderson's crusade against tanker shipments in coastal waters, Williston said:

"I don't think you can talk out of both sides of your mouth before you've got the technology to guarantee this can be done safely."

Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Frank Richter said in a later interview B.C. still issues similar licences.

But he objected to Ottawa's "disregard" for provincial claims to offshore mineral rights.

"I feel that there has been a breakdown in communication and they have completely disregarded the position of the province under the British North America Act."

He said B.C. was not directly informed of Ottawa's action and found out only by checking out a rumor, but he said the province has not formally protested the federal move.

Later, Barrie Clark (L-North Vancouver-Seymour) said to explore off B.C. coastal waters there would be no drilling until an environmental study was completed.

"Why don't you ask the minister (of mines) why he hasn't revoked the permits he issued in 1966?" Clark said. said Williston failed to tell the whole story because he didn't say how many permits B.C. still has let out.

Clark added Williston failed to mention that the federal government last spring told oil companies holding permits

Glue Sniffing: 'DO Something'

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson got more abuse in the legislature Wednesday for provincial government inaction against the abuse of intoxicating solvents such as glue and nail polish.

During the throne speech debate, Barrie Clark (L-North Vancouver-Seymour) berated the attorney-general for saying control of solvents is a federal responsibility.

Clark noted that Alberta under the previous Social Credit government made it an offence to be under the influence of solvents in public.

Peterson's action on the problem so far has been to send a telegram to Ottawa expressing provincial concern and calling for control of toxic solvents under the federal Hazardous Products Act.

BYLAW URGED

Clark said the government in B.C. can do more, suggesting Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell draft a sample bylaw providing for rescinding of business licences to stores which sell solvents to juveniles for sniffing purposes.

He said the sample should be sent to all municipalities in the province with a recommendation they enact it.

"I don't care how you do it — federally, provincially, municipally — but do something, you're the attorney-general," said Clark as the Liberals, the New Democrats

and some Socreds thumped desks in approval.

Peterson said Ottawa has not even replied to his telegram. This led to jibes that he had to be told what to do by the federal government.

Clark's speech was the most recent of several opposition and government backbencher attempts this session to get provincial action against solvent sniffing.

SIGNING SYSTEM

Robert Wenman (SC-Delta) suggested a temporary signing system for nail polish remover purchases and said the substance should be placed only on shelves behind counters.

The provincial government should enact a Toxic Solvents Act to control the substance and hold it in readiness for use if "private enterprise and the professionals" fail to curb the use of toxic solvents by children.

Among other suggestions from Wenman to deal with the problem: "Parents should know where their children are and be made and held more responsible for the actions of their children. Perhaps the curfew we need is not on children but on parents."

"The department of education should examine the excessive negative, depressing and cynical values too often taught in our schools through its English and Social Studies curriculum," he said.

Power at a Price

Liberal Leader Pat. McGeer has come out strongly for nuclear power for British Columbia—particularly Vancouver Island—and long-term history almost inevitably will prove him right. Nuclear plants in Britain, Russia and the United States have already shown that large-scale power from this source is a practical fact of our age. "There are still problems of waste disposal which can form a very serious form of pollution, and these problems will become greater as the use of such power plants is extended. The hope is that the technical genius that has produced the plants can also find a remedy for the environmental problems which the plants create.

In advocating nuclear power, Dr. McGeer deplores the large acreage of British Columbia which has been put underwater by storage dams for hydro-electric projects. The inundation of 650,000 acres of this province by hydro dams is a serious consideration, against which Public Works Min-

ister Chant's reply that British Columbia has more than 250 million acres has more humor than relevance. The man-made lakes occupy valley acres, of which the province has relatively few. Mr. Chant's total includes a large number of acres which can be measured only perpendicularly. Beautiful and useful in their way, they are no substitute for the valley bottoms.

With nuclear power pollution must be included not only radioactive waste but also the temperature changes which hot water discharges from such plants will cause. This aspect was paramount in the protests which greeted a recent proposal to build a nuclear generator at Cowichan Bay. It was never satisfactorily shown that the temperature of the Bay would not be raised sufficiently to affect fish and plant life in this popular body of water.

The problems no doubt are surmountable. What is important is that irrefutable proofs be furnished

before irreversible development is carried out. Too often—and British Columbia's experience of hydro-electric development provides examples—the cost of technological progress has been offset by environmental changes which detract in large measure from its success. There must be a careful balance between what we do to the earth and what we obtain from it. Too often the latter factor has been the only one given consideration.

Resources Minister Williston, taking issue with Dr. McGeer, says there are hydro-electric sources in the province which, without further flooding or "ecological destruction", could be made to produce 3.5 million kilowatt hours of electricity. That, if correct, is good to know. It is also good to know that Mr. Williston, after whom one of the largest hydro-dam lakes in British Columbia is named, recognizes that "ecological destruction" can be a part of at least some hydro projects.

Boiler Act Changes Protested

Pickets will protest the new Safety Engineering Services Act proposed by the provincial government outside the Legislative Buildings Monday.

They will also picket the provincial boiler inspection office in Vancouver Friday, Bob Berger, chairman of the Engineers Joint Council, said today.

The government has not enacted the legislation in the house. The proposed act, mentioned in the government's throne speech last week, would incorporate safety provisions of several acts, primarily the boiler, gas and electrical inspection acts.

Berger, who works for the Service Employees International Union, said the new act has been "drawn up in complete secrecy" although engineers had been able to get some hints from "reliable sources."

The picketing plans were announced after a meeting in Vancouver of more than 200 engineers. It was called by the Engineers Joint Council which represents engineers in several organizations.

ANNOYED

Berger said the engineers are annoyed at "the arrogance of the government in totally ignoring the people directly concerned—engineers and industry."

He said it has been indicated the new act will spell out that operation by an engineer is not compulsory if the boiler is of less than 75 horsepower. Current limit is 50 horsepower.

Boilers of up to 75 horsepower, he said, "are the kind of heating boilers you'd find in schools and apartment blocks."

He said one boiler of below

50 horsepower exploded Jan. 15 in a Haney greenhouse, hurling a seven-foot square piece of iron three blocks away and sending tools, glass and metal flying.

"There were children in the area," he said. "It was a miracle nobody was killed . . . and that was under 50 horsepower, a low-pressure boiler. Now they're talking about exempting 75 horsepower."

EXEMPTIONS

Another hint, he said, indicates the new act will exempt boilers regardless of power in specific areas designated by a government inspector.

Berger also said engineers want to know why the government plans a new act when it was not sought either by engineers or by such employers as the forest and pulp industries or hospitals.

He said provisions of the Boiler Inspection Act cannot be lumped with those of the Gas Inspection Act and the Electrical Inspection act.

"The gas and electrical acts are primarily oriented toward the home. Our's (the Boiler Inspection Act) is primarily toward industry and office buildings. The three are not compatible."

Liquor Profits Help All — WAC

Premier Bennett said Wednesday he expects to see front page editorials in Victoria and Vancouver newspapers condemning alcohol in the wake of the LeDain commission report on the dangers of drinking.

This was the premier's first reaction when questioned about his views on the commission's finding that abuse of alcohol is Canada's "most widespread drug-dependence problem."

But he dodged an inquiry as to whether British Columbia would divert profits from sales of booze to rehabilitation of alcoholics in light of the commission's criticism of ex-

isting rehabilitation programs.

B.C. made \$66 million profit on liquor sales in the 1970-71 fiscal year.

Bennett said this money goes into the "rehabilitation of the people in all the different services we give."

The government only took over liquor sales because prohibition failed and to prevent bootlegging, said Bennett.

Earlier, Education Minister Donald Brothers, chairman of B.C.'s council on drugs, alcohol and tobacco, agreed alcohol is the number one problem but said drug abuse is the "spectacular problem of the day."

Park Named After Skier

The provincial cabinet has established a 451-acre Nancy Greene Park near Rossland.

Campsites, picnic sites and trails will be provided in the new class A park which surrounds Nancy Greene Lake, near Highway 3.

Five mineral claims in the area are specifically excluded from the park.

In another cabinet order, 44 acres donated by the Alpine Club of Canada were added to 12,800-acre Mount Assiniboia Park near Banff on the B.C.-Alberta border.

Nicholson 'Satisfactory'

Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson remained in satisfactory condition in Royal Jubilee Hospital today after he collapsed late Wednesday night during a dinner at Government House.

A hospital spokesman said Nicholson was being detained for observation. No explanation of the cause of his illness was available.

The dinner, the first of two the Nicholsons are giving during the current session of the legislature, was attended by about 65 guests including Premier Bennett, cabinet ministers and other prominent B.C. residents.

Shortly after 10 p.m., following the meal, the guests were standing and chatting in the drawing room when Nicholson collapsed in mid-conversation.

Guests were ushered out of the room by Government

House staff, and left immediately.

GIVEN OXYGEN

Nicholson was given oxygen during the journey to hospital by Garden City Ambulance.

An ambulance attendant said later the lieutenant-governor was conscious and in good spirits during the trip, and was able to stand up on arrival at the hospital.

After opening the legislature last Thursday and reading the throne speech, Nicholson was host at a state ball.

Nicholson, 70, was appointed lieutenant-governor July 2, 1968, several weeks after he resigned as labor minister in the Liberal government.

He entered the political field with his election to the House of Commons as a member for Vancouver Centre in 1962. He was re-elected in 1963 and 1965, and became forestry minister on

April 22, 1963, in the Pearson government.

He subsequently held appointments as postmaster-general, citizenship and immigration minister and labor minister.

Grit Asks Details On Cemetery Deals

Detailed questions on the liabilities of a group of cemeteries operated by Robert Hagel of Victoria have been placed on the legislative order paper. Allan Williams (L.—West Vancouver-Howe Sound) asks Premier Bennett for a year-by-year statement of total cemetery plot sales and trust fund deficiencies of the "Hagel group of cemetery companies."

The companies are Colwood Improvement Company Ltd., which operates Hatley Memorial Gardens at Colwood; Cedar Valley Memorial Gar-

dens Ltd., which has cemeteries at Alberni and Cedar Valley, near Nanaimo, and Greencrest Memorial Gardens Ltd. of Kelowna.

The Public Utilities Commission placed the companies under trusteeship in April, 1970 because of shortages in cemetery care funds required to be kept for perpetual upkeep of the cemeteries.

The shortages were described as amounting to \$42,000 in the PUC annual report for 1969 but the cemeteries have subsequently been granted a waiver of some

payments to the trust funds.

The latest official figures on the sales and trust fund accounts of the cemeteries are contained in a file at the Victoria law courts. They showed trust fund requirements of \$100,000 by mid-1958. No subsequent figures have been issued by the PUC which is the agency responsible for cemeteries.

The Hagel cemeteries failed to have their trust funds approved by the Supreme Court of B.C. at the required five-year intervals during the 1960s.

PROTECT THE LITTLE GUY — COCKE

Changes in the Companies Act are needed to end British Columbia's reputation as "home sweet home for the corporate rip-off artists," the legislature was told Wednesday.

Dennis Cocke (NDP—New Westminster) said a "law to protect the little guy" is required and extra staff must be given to the provincial Securities Commission.

Cocke said B.C.'s record as a "happy hunting ground for wheeler dealers" is illus-

trated by the complex history of manipulations surrounding North West Life Assurance Company.

He read from letters written in 1960 by a Vancouver lawyer advising a Seattle investor that the firm was available for purchase. Other letters by the lawyer to the same man offered crown-granted timber holdings and B.C. oil wells for sale as well.

Cocke said the company and others that

subsequently became linked to it showed "a long line of leeches and bloodsuckers" at work getting profits while thousands of B.C. shareholders were played for "suckers."

"In B.C. so far as I can see it is not criminal to break a voting trust," Cocke said. In addition, understaffing of the Securities Commission means some dubious forms of business activity are low on the priority list for investigations, he said.

Goaded Bennett Denies Pushing

Goaded by Barrie Clark (L—North Vancouver-Seymour) Premier Bennett denied his government has ever advocated building the Moran Dam on the Fraser River.

Clark had been ridiculing the government for not having put a clear policy statement on the dam into the throne speech.

"The least the throne speech could have said was yes or no to the Moran Dam," said Clark.

Bennett rose from his seat, pointed his finger at the opposition benches and shouted:

"I want to say very clearly, as leader of this government, that this government has not advocated the building of the Moran dam."

CHALLENGE

This was immediately challenged by Robert Strachan (NDP—Cowichan-Malahat) who said Recreation and Conservation Minister Ken Kiernan had supported the project last October.

Clark dismissed Bennett's answer as "double words" and pressed for a simple "yes or no" statement. When Bennett said nothing, Clark challenged Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell to clarify government policy when he speaks today.

Dennis Cocke (NDP—New Westminster) earlier had also called for the government to go on record as opposed to the damming of the Fraser.

He warned of danger to fisheries on the river and called for the government to instruct B.C. Hydro to study alternatives to water power.

Cocke said geo-thermal power — using heat from the earth's crust to generate steam power — should be given serious study by the government.

ENERGY

"The heat energy contained in the core of the earth is so great that if it were cooled one degree fahrenheit it would release enough energy to power all the world's existing power plants for 20 million years," Cocke said.

A few companies in the U.S. are studying the subject but governments lag far behind, Cocke said. He said the government should invite geo-thermal power expert Dr. Robert Rex of the University of California at Riverside to visit B.C. to give advice.

"We are on a geothermal belt that extends from Alaska through B.C., western U.S. and all the way down into Central and South America," Cocke said. "On this belt we have a real opportunity to use a resource to save a re-

Alcohol Treatment Supported

Those who try to help and rehabilitate alcoholics in Greater Victoria today supported the LeDain Commission's finding that more effective action by all levels of government is needed to combat alcoholism.

And they said the report confirms their stand that the number one problem in the nation is drinking and not dependency on narcotics.

Bill Ogston, an ex-alcoholic who heads the Pacific Drug Dependency Society, said his own statistics compiled during the three years he has been working in the field show that alcohol abuse accounts for "80 per cent-plus of all dependence problems we have."

Those alcoholics who also use drugs constitute the worst problem of all, he said, with barbiturate-alcohol proving the most serious combination, followed by amphetamine-alcohol.

HELPING SOME

Bridge House, the home for alcoholics and drug addicts operated by Ogston on Pandora, closed down earlier this month but he is still active in counselling and helping those in need.

Ogston criticized the provincial government for not doing more in the field of alcoholism treatment, adding that in this respect B.C. "is the least progressive of all provinces."

He said the \$66 million profit which the government made on liquor sales in 1970-71 should be used for this purpose.

"I know it's an ironical thing to suggest but it would do my heart good to see this. I can't think of a better use

for the money."

Premier Bennett told the legislature Wednesday the money already goes into the "rehabilitation of the people in all the different services we give."

Capt. Bruce Harcourt, of the Salvation Army's Harbor Light Centre on Yates, also said the provincial government should do more to counter a problem which is increasing at a "fantastic" rate.

Expressing doubt as to the adequacy of the government's \$25 million fund for drug, alcohol and tobacco rehabilitation, Harcourt said he has heard very little about the council's progress since it was set up a year ago.

APPLICATION READY

"I have application forms ready to apply for grants for certain things, but I just haven't heard what's happening on this," he added.

Harcourt said little or nothing is done to help women alcoholics, whose numbers are steadily growing, and he would like to see a special unit in Victoria similar to the one now being opened by the Vancouver Harbor Light with a woman counsellor from Toronto.

In Vancouver today E. D. McRae, executive director of the Alcoholism Foundation of B.C., said the foundation was "gratified" at the strong stand taken by the LeDain commission in highlighting the seriousness of the alcoholism problem across Canada.

A spokesman for the B.C. Medical Association declined to comment until the association has had an opportunity to study the full report.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1972

Legislation by Exhaustion

Once again NDP whip Leo Nimsick has failed in his efforts to have an 11 o'clock deadline fixed for night sittings of the Legislature — unless the house decides otherwise on a special occasion. The defeat of his annual motion, however, bears out charges of legislation by exhaustion when Premier Bennett keeps members sitting close to the limits of human energy.

The late sitting, continuing into early morning, has often been viewed as a form of disciplinary punishment inflicted on a House which has rebelled against Mr.

Bennett's efforts to force a decision. Use of that technique may be an effective form of curbing a filibuster. It can also be a means of forcing through legislation with members too jaded to give the matter before them the attention it deserves.

The vote on the most recent Nimsick amendment, 35 to 17 against, leaves the premier with authority to determine when the sitting will end and retains for him a weapon he has used on occasions to the detriment of tired members and, as Mr. Nimsick sees it, of the legislation involved. The case is valid.

School Spending Goes to Vote

By BRIAN BUTTERS
Times Staff

Greater Victoria school trustees decided Thursday night to go to the taxpayers for the operating funds they need for 1972.

How much they will need from taxpayers — right now the figure is a mere \$533, but it could run as high as \$400,000 — depends on Education Minister Donald Brothers and members of the legislature.

TWO CHOICES

The problem is that the board's provisional budget is about \$900,000 more than the funds it is likely to get. In order to make the funds and the provisional budget match, the board must either go to the taxpayers for more money or it must reduce the provisional budget.

In effect, they decided Thursday night to do both. Provisions of the Public Schools Act, as it at present stands, make it necessary for school boards to publish a bylaw — which usually ends up in a referendum — if they plan to spend more than 110 per cent of the basic education program, which is the basic amount the department of education deems spendable in that year.

Brothers has said repeatedly that he will introduce legislation this session which will cut down this limit to 108 per cent spending. At this figure the board is running about \$900,000 over its 1972 budget.

In order to get the referendum machinery in motion before the Feb. 1 deadline set in the Public Schools Act, the board decided on a stop-gap measure. A bylaw will be published — and a referendum likely held — which provides the board with \$533 more than the 110 per cent spending limit.

At the same time the trustees hope to cut out about \$400,000 from the provisional budget, bringing that budget down to the present allowable spending limit.

If Brothers does get his 108 per cent legislation through the house, the board will formulate another referendum which will ask taxpayers for the difference between 110 per cent of the basic education program and the new limit of 108 per cent. This amount would be slightly more than \$400,000.

GOOD NEWS

The \$100,000 not accounted for in the total of \$900,000 to be cut from the provisional budget was some of the good news the board received Thursday night — although it has yet to hear it officially from the department of education.

Board chairman Allan McKinnon said the government plans to pay 100 per cent of the employers' contributions to teachers' unemployment insurance.

The trustees' intent in passing a bylaw seeking just over the 110 per cent level is that

they will cut the provisional budget as much as possible below the 110 per cent level, thereby creating a surplus at the end of the year. How much the surplus would be depends on the amount they cut out.

The board had obtained a legal opinion from counsel John Wood that to hold a referendum asking for whatever funds it needs over 108 per cent would be unlawful, since 108 per cent is never mentioned in the Public Schools Act, only 110 per cent.

Another jam the board got itself out of Thursday night is a situation in which some B.C. school boards may find themselves shortly.

DRASTIC CUTS

There is a possibility that Brothers will impose the 108 per cent limit without pushing back the Feb. 1 deadline for referendums. Since some school boards have already submitted their final budgets at the present 110 per cent level and have not made provision for a referendum, if Brothers comes in with the 108 per cent level, they will have nowhere to turn for their operating funds. The result would be drastic cuts in programs in their school districts.

One aspect of the budget problems the Victoria board faces which disturbs McKinnon is that Brothers seems likely to get the credit for holding down taxes while the trustees will get the blame for cutting courses and special programs from the district's education system.

He said he has received letters from interested education groups asking that nothing be cut from district programs.

And yet, for the board to make the provisional budget meet even the 110 per cent level, let alone the 108 per cent level, numerous budgetary items will have to be chopped.

SWIM CLASSES

These could include the sex education program, use of special counsellors and special classes, swim and dental programs, part-time teachers and other features.

Trustee Dr. Philip Ney proposed the poll, saying it would give a more representative sampling of public opinion than a straight yes-no referendum vote. Various questions could be asked, he said, and taxpayers requested to list their educational priorities.

It was also decided to seek suggestions from the district's principals in ways to cut down spending in schools.

Campbell's Out Of Touch: Curtis

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell was accused today of "gross irresponsibility" after he cited a Gulf Islands planning brochure as an example of "airy-fairy dreamer" planning in the legislature Thursday.

The reaction came from Saanich Mayor Hugh Curtis, speaking as chairman of the Capital Regional District. The brochure was sent by the CRD to Gulf Islands residents as part of the preparation of a regional plan.

Campbell told the legislature: "It has been clearly suggested that building bridges across all those little islands is not part of public policy."

"Yet it (the brochure) has got a bridge across Active Pass, if you please, and a bridge and freeway across Portland Island."

"When these airy-fairy dreamer planners get up in the air with these schemes and then present them to the public, they destroy what they are trying to prove is a necessity."

ALL POSSIBILITIES

The publication outlines options for development of the islands, from park-like serenity to the extreme of full urban development through bridges and freeways. It makes clear that the bridge system isn't the policy of any government but is included to present all possible options.

Curtis replied today that Campbell's comments are "comparable to tearing off the two front pages of a newspaper and saying to someone: 'Here's everything that happened today.'"

"He's deliberately over-

looked the other options which are set out for the residents of the islands. And he has also chosen to ignore the fact that the possibility of a bridge system was raised by his own government, not by planners or regional district people."

"I think he walks into the house from time to time and loses all touch with reality." (It was disclosed in the Victoria Times last September that a secret \$80,000 study was commissioned in 1967 by then Highways Minister P. Gagliardi. The study by Tamco Engineering called for a road link with the mainland via the Gulf Islands. The study, however, is not government policy.)

Curtis accused Campbell of singling out a professional group "which in spite of its faults and tendency to perhaps place too much emphasis on the esthetic, is vital in a province of rapidly-growing communities."

"He then belittles himself and planners in referring to them in a derogatory way. All of us in local government, including planners, recognize that control must rest with the elected person."

Accord Reached On Power Plant

The provincial government has reached agreement with B.C. Hydro, Cominco Ltd. and West Kootenay Power and Light Company Ltd. to permit construction of a 500,000 kilowatt generating plant on the Kootenay River.

Resources Minister Ray Williston said today the project includes construction of a three mile diversion canal near the Corra Linn Dam to South Slokan where the hydro plant will be located.

The plant will be built by Hydro and managed under contract by Cominco and West Kootenay Power.

The project was among those listed Wednesday by Williston in the legislature as further hydro developments which can proceed without flooding more valleys.

He said today the canal project is possible this way because of prior construction of the Duncan Dam and the Libby Dam in Montana.

These provide a stable water flow on the Kootenay River, he said, which now is being only 50 per cent utilized for generation of electricity. First power from the canal plant will be generated in the fall of 1975 Williston said.

Legislative Inquiry Into Kaiser Urged

A Social Credit MLA Thursday called for a legislative committee investigation of insider trading in Kaiser Resources Ltd. stock by executives of the U.S. parent company, Kaiser Steel.

Burt Campbell (SC—Revelstoke-Slocan) said the committee should also study whether the company should retain its right to expand its operations in B.C.

Campbell told the legisla-

ture there is no doubt that it was "morally wrong" for executives of Kaiser Steel to buy shares in Kaiser Resources Ltd. stock which was limited to Canadian ownership.

The purchase was made by a "paper company" known as KRL Investments and some of the stock was subsequently sold for a \$10 per share profit prior to a plunge in the stock value.

"This stock transaction deal has all the appearances of an upper-class boiler-room operation being carried out by men in \$500 suits who stay in \$75-a-day hotel rooms," Campbell said.

He added Kaiser Resources Ltd., which ships Kootenay coal to Japan, is reported to have substantial shares in Crows Nest Industries Ltd., which seeks to build the Kootenay and Elk Railway to the U.S. border from Sparwood.

Socred Scores Hydro

B.C. Hydro shouldn't get the right to build a natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island, Alex Fraser (SC—Cariboo) said Thursday.

"If they were given the right to build the transmission line for gas to Vancouver Island they no doubt would waste a lot of public funds because of their lack of experience in this field," Fraser told the legislature.

Fraser also said he is "in favor of the northern route which would take gas from the Williams Lake distribution centre of Westcoast Transmission Ltd. through Powell River to Vancouver Island."

The MLA represents Williams Lake in the legislature.

Fraser also said he felt sure Premier Bennett would never allow construction of the 700-foot dam which would create

a 170-mile-long reservoir, mostly in his constituency.

Bennett promised the dam wouldn't be built unless the problem of protecting fisheries is solved, Fraser said, adding there seems little likelihood that problem can be solved.

"The total population of the Cariboo riding is very much opposed to the construction of the Moran Dam, Fraser said.

'NOTHING DONE'

Social Credit MLA Don Marshall (South Peace River) Thursday accused the department of industrial development, trade and commerce of doing nothing to stimulate manufacturing industry in British Columbia.

Marshall charged that the department, under the direction of Minister Waldo Skillings has not helped maintain high employment in rapid growth areas such as northern B.C.

"Our department does nothing to stimulate production of new products nor does it contribute very much to production facilities, market development or sales contracts in the promotion of agricultural products," Marshall said.

He added small businessmen receive "little encouragement, no substantial assistance and no advice" from the department.

Chretien Agrees

Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chretien will go along with B.C. plans to make it easier for Cape Mudge Indians to approve establishment of Canada's first Indian municipality.

A telegram from Chretien was read to the legislature by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell Thursday expressing Chretien's agreement with reduction of the percentage of votes needed to approve the move.

Campbell announced last week he will seek to have the percentage reduced to 60 per cent from 75 per cent. A referendum at the Quadra is-

land community failed by four votes when 71 per cent supported it.

B.C. Car Insurance Bid Fails

A New Democratic Party non-confidence motion calling for government operated automobile insurance was defeated in the legislature Thursday.

The motion — an amendment to the speech from the throne — was defeated 39 to 13 with only Barrie Clark (L — North Vancouver-Seymour) voting with the NDP.

Clark did not speak in the debate.

New Democrat speakers argued government insurance is favored by 85 per cent of British Columbians and necessary to reduce premium rates.

The government position put by Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said B.C.'s one-year-old automobile insurance board deserves a chance to prove itself capable of overseeing premiums.

PRICES UNFAIR

The Liberals who voted with the government supported free enterprise for the industry and favored continuing regulation by the board. Progressive Conservative spokesman Scott Wallace (Oak Bay) also favored free enterprise but said the board should do a better job.

Wallace said the "present system is not efficient and does not supply insurance at a fair price." He said the board should be politically independent.

The motion came at the conclusion of a speech by Frank Calder (NDP — Atlin) and was seconded by Bill Hartley (NDP — Yale-Lilloet).

Hartley, the NDP's insurance critic, accused the government of letting the industry get away with the high premiums because it had accepted campaign funds from them.

"You're in the bag of the car insurance industry. You accepted their bribe — you accepted their campaign funds," Hartley said.

He later withdrew the word "bribe" under the order of Speaker William Murray. The NDP member noted Peterson had promised between a 15 per cent and 35 per cent decrease in premiums in March 1969 before the provincial election later that year.

This decrease never came, he said. When the province brought in compulsory no-fault coverage on Jan. 1, 1970, said Hartley, the insurance companies did not begin charging for this until individual premiums became due later in the year.

The result was less premium income in 1970 for no-fault, yet the insurance companies only used up 41 per cent of these payments toward benefits, he said.

In 1971, when full premiums were collected for no-fault, the 185 car insurance businesses in B.C. had a premium surplus of \$7 million. The 1970 surplus was \$4 million, he said.

Now that the provincial automobile insurance board has ordered a rate decrease for no-fault from about \$20 to \$15, the industry still can count on a 1972 surplus of between \$3 million and \$4 million.

LOSS CLAIMED

The cumulative total of these surpluses, Hartley said, works out to \$20 in overcharges for each insured driver in B.C. Yet the industry said it was losing money on no-fault when it appeared before the board at hearings in Victoria earlier this month, he said.

Hartley noted his figures did not include profits on collision and liability coverage. The industry across Canada expects an over-all rate increase of 5.9 per cent this year in all provinces but Saskatchewan and Manitoba where it must compete with government-operated insurance.

"The people in British Columbia are being taxed by insurance rate increases so the industry can lower rates in Saskatchewan and Manitoba to compete with government rates."

Hartley said his own premium for collision had gone up 65 per cent this year, up to \$38 from \$23 in 1971. He later distributed a photo copy of the charges assessed him by the Co-operative Fire and Casualty Co., an insurance firm which he used to work for.

He also noted Saskatchewan has \$60 million in its insurance fund which is invested in the province for the benefit of all citizens there.

STRINGS PULLED

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett said the government should align itself with "grass-roots" sentiment favoring government insurance. He recalled that five Social MLAs have favored such a scheme in the past as well as several Social Credit League conventions.

"The party that started out as the great hope for the little people of British Columbia has just rolled over and let its strings be pulled by the insurance companies with head offices in New York," Barrett said.

He challenged Premier Bennett to call an election on the issue.

Peterson noted the opposition had raised the identical non-confidence motion in 1970 and reminded the house a vote with the NDP would not bring in government insurance.

It would force a provincial election if the government was defeated, he said, as MLAs from all parties pounded their desk and shouted "go-go-go-go."

WALLACE ATTACKED

Peterson said it was too early to say whether Manitoba's government insurance plan would work but service has not improved since the operation began.

Allan Williams (L-West Vancouver-Howe Sound) attacked Wallace for impugning the board's independence but said the government should order it to make the industry give rebates on excess no-fault premiums.

He noted Hartley's insurance company has its headquarters in Saskatchewan. Hartley had quipped to Wil-

liams that the NDP could bring in rates 50 per cent cheaper than those on his premiums.

Williams seized on Hartley's statement to say the rates he was paying were "precisely the same at the minimum rates of the government operated insurance scheme in Saskatchewan."

He said the real issue in the debate is "whether or not we are prepared to say that profit is a dirty word." Even socialist enterprises must make a profit, Williams said.

Garde Gardom (E.-Vancouver-Point Grey) led the debate for the Liberals opposing the NDP motion. He said government auto insurance might produce a gross saving but likely would lead to a net increase in charges because of "hidden taxes" to cover the administrative costs of setting up government agencies.

"If the government took over auto insurance, wouldn't it be the first step to taking over all other forms of insurance?" Gardom said, indicating 15,000 jobs would be lost in a government takeover.

REBATES SOUGHT

Gardom said the government should order the insurance companies to return the past overcharge on no-fault premiums by charging only \$7.50 for the coverage for the next two years.

Robert Strachan (NDP—Cowichan-Malahat) said the principle involved was a simple one — "monopolies don't belong in private hands."

John Tisdalle (SC—Saanich and the Islands) raised the question of whether food stores should also be taken over by the government because food was a necessity. He indicated he was opposed to the idea.

COMMISSION LOW

Dennis Cocke (NDP—New Westminster) denied Gardom's claim that thousands of jobs would be lost. Most general insurance agents would be glad to get rid of their car insurance business because it pays only four or five per cent commission, he said.

"It's the companies that want in," Cocke said.

Fired Westco Head Plans Low-Rate Firm

Fired auto insurance executive Brian Rudkin said today he would try to set up a new low-premium insurance company controlled in B.C. for B.C. drivers.

He admitted the difficulty of setting up such a company in Canada without outside financing, even though he is satisfied Canadian capital is capable of such investment.

Rudkin was dismissed as director and president of Vancouver-based Westco Insurance Co., which he founded in 1966, because of a refusal to raise no-fault insurance premiums from \$13 to \$18.

Westco had pledged to the B.C. government to keep rates low as long as the company was making a profit.

On Jan. 22 the B.C. Automobile Insurance Board ordered the maximum premium for no-fault insurance be reduced from \$21 or \$22 to \$15, effective March 1.

DISQUALIFIED

Rudkin said he was removed as director by the parent firm, Northland Insurance, of St. Paul, Minn., and this disqualified him as president. Westco joined Northland for financing purposes, Rudkin said.

Northland president Edward Hamm said "it's not quite true" the differences between Northland and Westco were over raising the rates. He would comment no further.

"It would be hard for me to speculate on what the differences are if they are not over rates," said Rudkin.

He said he had spent five days in New York discussing rates with Hamm last November, and another three hours over dinner recently on the same subject.

"His instructions to me were that I must raise the rates and I refused. The things he wanted me to do would have necessitated raising the rates," Rudkin added.

For example, he said Hamm wanted Westco to join the Montreal-based facility, an insurance industry arrangement for the coverage of high-risk drivers.

Westco recently pointed out in a prominent newspaper advertisement that good drivers subsidize through their insurance premiums the poor-risk driver who must also have coverage.

The company urged the public to support its campaign

for a B.C.-controlled insurance pool to replace the facility at a lower premium cost. Rudkin said "at least" 1,000 had returned coupons attached to the ad, which would be forwarded to the provincial government.

"I refused (to join the facility) for excellent reasons," Rudkin said. "One reason we have low rates is because I refused to join."

He said Northland wanted Westco to enter the Ontario auto insurance market, and that would have meant joining the facility.

RICH MARKET

"I suggested we enter California where the market is rich," Rudkin said. But Northland did not agree.

Rudkin said the newspaper advertisements, timed to follow the opening of the legislature, were to show how low-premium insurance is possible, controlled is B.C. instead of Montreal.

In 1971 Westco made a \$152,500 profit in addition to reserve funds, he said. The company insures about 20,000 B.C. drivers.

New president of Westco is Austin Chapman.

QUILT PROBE

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson announced Thursday B.C. chief coroner Dr. Glen MacDonald will review evidence taken at an inquest into the death of Fred Quilt at Williams Lake, Nov. 30, 1971.

Quilt, a 55-year-old Chilcotin Indian, died two days after being arrested by RCMP. Allegations of brutality were made, but a subsequent inquest attached no blame in the incident.

Peterson said he was acceding to the request by Alex Fraser (SC—Cariboo) for a review by the chief coroner of the inquest evidence.

Fraser said "doubts" about the adequacy of the inquest should be cleared up.

His request, in a late-night speech, followed demands by NDP MLAs who continued opposition pressure on Peterson to re-open the case.

BICYCLE PATH URGED FOR ISLAND

A bicycle path from Victoria to Campbell River would be a tremendous tourist attraction for Vancouver Island, Frank Ney (SC—Nanaimo) told the legislature Thursday.

"Bermuda has made money out of cyclists and we can do it here," he said. "In Europe, cycling paths have been the fashion for hundreds of years."

Teachers 'Won't Accept' New Pay Laws

The B.C. Teachers' Federation today said teachers will not accept Education Minister Donald Brothers' proposed legislation to allow property owners to reject negotiated or arbitrated teacher salary increases.

Brothers announced legislation in the house Friday which would amend the Public Schools Act to that effect.

BCTF president Adam Robertson said the federation "will not live with" the proposed legislation, calling it "a basic threat to the rights of all citizens in British Columbia."

MAY STRIKE

Robertson said there is a possibility teachers will strike over the issue, although the federation is planning meetings next week to discuss strategy.

He said the proposal "negates the authority of school boards and indicates political cowardice on the part of the government."

The bill introduced by Brothers would force a referendum on all teacher salary increases in excess of a limit to be set by the minister, regardless of whether the agreement was reached by negotiation or arbitration.

'DISCRIMINATION'

Robertson said the legislation does away with teachers' right to collective bargaining, replacing it with "wage controls at the dictate of the minister."

"He is isolating one segment of the population — teachers — and that amounts to nothing but rank discrimination," Robertson said.

He described a teachers' strike by teachers as the final weapon and said he wouldn't definitely predict it, but that there is a distinct possibility of a strike occurring.

Robertson said he had taken over the office of president of the BCTF with a policy of "positive co-operation" with the provincial government. "I am very disgusted with this change in attitude by the government," he said.

He said it is "just another attack on teachers" similar to the legislation introduced last year which opened the closed shop of the federation and allowed teachers to drop out of the organization if they wanted.

The chances for a referendum on teacher salary increases passing are poor, he said.

"We would have to go out and beg with this legislation," Robertson said. "And I refuse to go out and beg."

If the referendum is defeated, the agreement "shall not be considered final and binding upon the board and the teachers affected," the amendment says.

The move would tighten school cost controls over the above steps taken late last year by Brothers.

BUDGETS CUT

The bill includes formal imposition of the previously announced cut in allowable school board expenditures to 108 per cent of the previous year's basic program from the current 110 per cent.

That move, as promised by Brothers, will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1972.

The new teacher salary referendum section will be effective on proclamation of the bill, likely in late March, and therefore doesn't affect the recent round of teacher salary negotiations.

Brothers announced last year that teacher salary increases in excess of 6.5 per cent would be ruled non-shareable by the government and would have to be borne by local taxpayers without provincial help.

But school boards able to keep within the 108 per cent limit while paying more than 6.5 per cent to teachers would theoretically be able to avoid holding a referendum for excess expenditures.

Now, however, the salary agreements reached between school boards and teachers could be scuttled if referendums are necessary.

Brothers said Friday the current limit is 6.5 per cent but that can be amended by use of regulation-making power of the cabinet.

Another section of the amendments gives Brothers discretion over which school boards have to obey the 108 per cent rule.

He announced late last year that school boards with less than \$3 million expenditures will be eligible to continue operating at the old 110 per cent limit. The amendment makes no reference to school district size or expenditures, however.

Greater Victoria school board representatives had mixed reaction today to the proposed changes.

Board chairman Allan McKinnon said the idea of a referendum for teacher salary increases above a certain limit will "certainly change" negotiations in the coming year. He said it is likely the figure settled on for an increase would be the same as the limit the department of education sets.

If the issue of a teacher's raise went to referendum, the chances of it passing would be slim, he said.

He also said teachers will be very upset with the legislation.

One aspect of the proposal that bothers McKinnon is that there is no stipulation for anything other than across-the-board increases in salary.

"Over the years it's bound to lead to even greater disparities between the upper echelons and lower echelons of the teaching profession," he said. The legislation leaves the school board with no power to give larger raises to teachers on the bottom end of the pay scale and smaller raises to those on the upper end.

McKinnon views the teacher tenure aspect of the legislation as "no great change." He said it may be an attempt by Brothers to "get teachers to police themselves" in that the review board looking at dismissals must be composed of educators.

He said the proposal is nothing like the five-year renewable contract idea the Victoria board supports and which had the support of the B.C. School Trustees Association.

Regarding the limiting of district spending to 108 per cent of the basic education program, McKinnon said he doesn't understand why Brothers chose to put the limit in the manner he did. If it is decided to limit spending to 106 per cent of the basic education program next year, which is the limit presently existing in Alberta, Brothers will once again have to make boards comply "by statement rather than statute."

"I would have thought he would have realized how unworkable this system is," McKinnon said. To put the actual figure of 108 per cent into the Public Schools Act means the Act will have to be re-opened at another session of the legislature if the percentage figure is to be changed.

Victoria trustee Peter Bunn said he likes the idea of taxpayers being given a chance to express an opinion on the issue of teacher salary increases. He called it a "desirable involvement of the public."

Asked if the controls proposed for the government are too much of a restraint, Bunn said teachers have shown a "definite lack of responsibility" in salary bargaining over the last few years. "They've been close to pricing themselves out of business," he said.

"Government controls have to come in when there is this lack of responsibility. Either that or we will become educationally bankrupt."

NOT ENOUGH

On the teacher tenure legislation, Bunn said anything short of what he and the Victoria board have been pushing for "is just not good enough."

"Tenure is something which should be given only on the basis of ability," he said. The best method would be a five-year renewable contract system, he said.

Bunn also said the district is capable of keeping its educational programs within the 108 per cent limit proposed by Brothers. "provided senior administrators in the district don't sabotage our efforts."

He said there is still "an awful lot of slack to be taken up" and that the key to the coming year should be educational efficiency.

He said a good example of an inefficient item is the two-day retreat taken by district principals, which this year falls on Thursday and Friday, regular school days.

Snowmobile Chief Urged

The provincial government should create a director of snowmobiling "who should work with regional districts to chart safe snowmobiling areas," Minister Without Portfolio Pat Jordan told the legislature Friday.

A separate directorship is needed, she said, because this recreation enters jurisdictions under three cabinet portfolios — recreation and conservation, commercial transport and lands and forests.

Mrs. Jordan suggested several areas of B.C. be set aside as safe for snowmobiling.

In other remarks she said the federal government should give more financial aid to B.C. farmers and halt imports of cheaper foodstuffs which are threatening B.C. agriculture industry.

Price Control Fear 'Favored Westcoast'

A New Democrat MLA charged Friday that Premier Bennett favors the northern route for a Vancouver Island natural gas pipeline because it is beyond the reach of the National Energy Board's price-control powers.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the northern route — from Williams Lake through Powell River to the Island — would allow the supplier of the gas, Westcoast Transmission Ltd., to set its own prices.

Westcoast is the company "that holds so many political IOUs of the government," Macdonald said.

He also cited a National Energy Board report which showed B.C. Hydro in 1969 seeking the right to build the line in competition with Westcoast.

But he said Hydro's plan for a southern route from Huntingdon in the Lower Mainland would be within National Energy Board price controls because of terms imposed by the NEB on Westcoast's export contracts.

The price of gas delivered to Huntingdon by Westcoast for export to the U.S. must be five per cent higher than the price of gas sold to Canadian customers there, Macdonald said.

In addition, the more gas Hydro buys, the lower the price it pays from Westcoast and "Westcoast doesn't like that," he said.

Bennett's call last for proposals on the northern route was a deliberate effort to "put the hex on Hydro and strip it away from scrutiny by the NEB," Macdonald said.

Hydro wasn't even sent a copy of the specifications, he said.

He said the 1969 submissions to the NEB by both Hydro and Westcoast showed a "clear case of the public interest being served by B.C. Hydro being allowed to proceed."

Furthermore, he said, Hydro estimated gas sales on Vancouver Island would be feasible by 1973-74 but Westcoast told the NEB that it wasn't economic until 1975-76.

"For 19 years this government has been like a mother to Westcoast," Macdonald said, describing Malaspina Gas Pipelines Ltd. as a "front" for Westcoast formed by a man who had worked for both the company and for Premier Bennett.

Malaspina was organized by Dan Ekman, public relations man and one-time Bennett executive assistant. It was ini-

tially chosen by the government to make sole application for the pipeline job but later after controversy, the competition was thrown open to other companies, including the publicly-owned Hydro.

PIPES CALLING

Ridiculing Malaspina's experience in the pipeline field, Macdonald said: "Mr. Ekman had good pipeline connections — he was the pipeline between big business and the premier's office for years... It was natural for him to be interested — Oh Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling."

Macdonald described Bennett and former Westcoast chief Frank McMahon, former employers of Ekman, as "two masters with but a single thought."

The MLA praised Hydro chairman Gordon Shrum for "helping to stave off the giveaway that was taking place" and performing as "watchdog of the public interest."

Macdonald said Westcoast subsidiary, Pacific Northern Gas Ltd., is now the "leading horse" in the competition and warned that forthcoming Public Utilities Commission hearings on the issue will be a "charade and a farce."

Care for Aged McGeer Theme

Provincial Liberal Leader Pat McGeer does not want the people of Oak Bay to learn about Liberal policies from Victoria's daily newspapers.

Outlining a campaign program for Oak Bay Liberal candidate Mel Couveller, McGeer told the Oak Bay Lady Laurier Club Friday that members should knock on doors and tell the Oak Bay people about Liberal policy.

"We don't want them told by the Colonist and Times," he added.

"They sit in their expensive homes writing editorials and telling the people of Oak Bay what to do."

McGeer also stressed care for the elderly, saying that most government programs benefit the young and leave out the elderly and helpless.

"Someone has to bring these programs into some semblance of social justice. Power groups get big settlements and the cost is passed on to the elderly. No one does

anything to compensate them," he said.

Provincial government programs could be better adjusted for the elderly, according to McGeer.

"It is easily within the government's power to issue bus passes to the elderly and build chronic care hospitals," he said.

Oak Bay Social Credit MLA Scott Wallace was elected, McGeer said, because voters thought a government member would be able to make changes from within.

"Wallace pledged to change government policy on health care. We've been saying changes needed to be made for 15 years. We didn't just discover hospital problems this year."

McGeer said he originally entered politics nine years ago because he knew changes had to be made in the health field. "... and I knew they would never be made under a Sacred government."

Pension Off PUC Men Yet Again—Macdonald

The "pensioned-off members" of the Public Utilities Commission should be pensioned off again, Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East) said in the legislature Friday.

The PUC failed its public trust in the regulation of cemeteries, Macdonald charged.

"The Public Utilities Commission must go. It must be entirely reconstituted and made into an aggressive, independent, scrutinizing body and begin to protect the people of the province," he said.

Macdonald said he wasn't attacking the three PUC members personally, but the fact was that their annual reports to the legislature over the years failed to disclose serious problems with cemetery trust funds and this amounted to "contempt of the legislature."

'WAGES OF SIN'

The commission, consisting of Dr. J. F. K. English and Dr. F. S. MacKinnon, both retired deputy ministers, and former Social Credit minister Lyle Wicks, should be pensioned off, he said, adding they had already been pensioned off once to the PUC.

Macdonald said the PUC appears to have followed a policy of awarding profitable crematorium licences to cem-

eteries that had their trust funds "dipped into" in violation of the Cemeteries Act.

"They made the wages of sin the award of a crematorium," Macdonald said, noting that problems with trust funds at Victory Memorial Gardens in the Lower Mainland at the Colwood cemetery on the Sooke Road had both been followed by crematorium rights.

"When a lawyer dips into the trust funds it's either over the road or over the border," Macdonald said. But the PUC apparently did nothing when the cemeteries failed to have trust funds approved by the Supreme Court of B.C. as required by law, he said.

SECRECY ATTACKED

The Colwood cemetery, along with related firms at Alberni, Cedar Valley, and Kelowna, were placed under trusteeship by the PUC in April 1970 for shortages in cemetery maintenance funds. Victory Memorial Gardens was taken over by new owners last year following bankruptcy.

Macdonald attacked secrecy at the PUC and on the part of Attorney-General Leslie Peterson who he said has failed to obey the law and report annually to the legislature on the activities of his department.

The activities of the Securities Commission in particular are "clouded in secrecy" which Macdonald said "benefits nobody but an administration that wants to hide its incompetence."

Macdonald called on Peterson to look at the case of a B.C. insurance company executive fired this week by an American company in an apparent dispute over car insurance rates.

He said Brian Rudkin, president of Westco Insurance Company Ltd., was "peremptorily dismissed" and this affects civil liberties as well as the "independence of B.C."

The MLA said there should be laws guaranteeing proper notice of termination. He said he was discussing civil liberties, not insurance. During debate Thursday, Macdonald had criticized figures issued by Westco about its operations as "Mexican jumping bean figures" which no government should accept from any company.

Tenure Rules Introduced

A three-member review commission will have final authority in cases where public school teachers are fired for incompetence under new tenure rules made public Friday.

The rules are contained in amendments to the Public School Act introduced in the legislature by Education Minister Donald Brothers.

They allow no appeal from the review commissions, which must contain at least two practising professional educators one each appointed by the B.C. Teachers Federation and the B.C. School Trustees Association.

Chairmen of such commissions are to be appointed by Brothers and must have been

full-time educators within at least five years of the appointment.

Teachers fired as a result of criminal convictions, disobeying school board rules or neglect of duty will be able to appeal to three-man boards of reference and from there to the B.C. Court of Appeal.

PROCEDURES VARY

Brothers said the rules are similar to the proposals made by a legislative committee which studied teacher tenure last year.

He said the government decided to separate incompetence from other reasons for dismissal to provide different procedures in each case.

Teachers facing dismissal from incompetence must get 30 days notice of the school board's intent to issue a dismissal notice. Termination would take place at the end of a school term or earlier by agreement.

Before receiving the dismissal notice, the teacher has the right to be interviewed by the district school superintendent and the board, and to be represented at such a meeting by another teacher.

SUSPENSION ANY TIME

The new rules would allow suspension of teachers at any time for "misconduct, neglect of duty, refusal or neglect to obey a lawful order of the

board" or as a result of a criminal charge.

An interview with the superintendent and the board must take place within seven days and final decision on whether to dismiss or reinstate the teacher must come within another seven days.

Boards of reference to be set up on appeal of such dismissals must contain two members nominated by the teachers and trustee associations and a chairman from the Law Society of B.C., nominated by the Chief Justice of B.C. Appeals may be made to the courts.

School boards are given the option of whether to continue paying salaries to teachers under suspension.

Managing News For Fun And Politics

Dear Reporter: I am an MLA with several years of experience, a sincere speaking style and an IQ that runs into three figures. Yet I never get any decent newspaper coverage for my speeches in the legislature. What are you doing wrong?

Dear MLA: Yours is not an unusual complaint. Many MLAs wonder about the same thing. Oddly enough, many reporters also wonder about the standards they should apply to legislative speeches.

The first thing to remember is this: years of service, sincerity of speaking style and modest intelligence are not essential to getting newspaper coverage. A nice personality doesn't count, either.

Technique is what matters. Here are a few pointers:

1. Don't say exactly the same things you said the year before. After the sixth year hearing the same speech, reporters begin to sense something familiar about it.

2. However, if you're an opposition MLA and you are forced to say the same thing every year because the government never does anything about your complaints, then you must show imagination. If you said "national disgrace" last year, say "monumental arrogance" this year.

3. If you're a government MLA, don't expect coverage for saying nice things about the government. Try to find at least one area of government policy that might stand a little improvement, then develop the idea for at least 15 seconds to get Cabinet attention.

4. Don't attempt to mention too many subjects in the same

14-minute speech. Thirty-eight topics are probably too many.

5. Experiment by using a few facts, preferably ones that don't conflict with your opinions.

6. Read the occasional newspaper and talk to members of the public to find out what are the current issues. They might prove more interesting to the press than your latest moral or spiritual insight.

7. Stress the future. Even if you aren't worried about it, consider that journalists are professionally future-oriented. They want to know what might happen tomorrow even if totally baffled by what's happening today.

8. If all else fails, stand up in the legislature and accuse the media of conspiring to suppress your views. Reporters get so little reaction to what they write (or don't) that they will be entirely fascinated with your accusations and will report them in great detail, no matter how ridiculous they are.

9. Remember, however, that Rule 8 works only once. The second time you try it, you're simply saying the expected and getting ignored again.

10. There's only one way now — rush out onto Government Street and bite the first dog that comes along. Unless some other man bit a dog before you that day, you will probably get a few lines.

Then, rise triumphantly in the legislature to announce your resignation. I guarantee you that will be fully reported in this newspaper.

'Take Buses From Hydro'

The provincial government was urged Friday to divorce transportation from B.C. Hydro and create a Crown transit authority.

The suggestion came from Hunter Vogel (SC — Langley) who told the legislature such an agency should develop rapid transit in Vancouver.

Vogel said the automobile is strangling North American cities, but it is not as evident in B.C. because cities here are younger than those in eastern Canada.

No freeways should be built into Vancouver's downtown core, he said, and the proposed second crossing of the First Narrows should not proceed.

Vogel called on all environmentally concerned groups to do what they could to stop the growth of automobile usage in the Lower Mainland.

GOUZENKO, 'PINKOS' WORRY TISDALLE

Improved safety engineering on the Patricia Bay Highway was urged in the legislature Friday by John Tisdalle (SC — Saanich and the Islands.)

Tisdalle said an overpass at McTavish road and a "slow-down lane to the right" at Island View Road were needed to prevent serious dangers.

His brief remarks on the highway came during a rambling, often incomprehensible hour-long speech in which he also suggested the provincial government pay an adequate remuneration to Igor Gouzenko if the federal government won't. Gouzenko was a Soviet embassy cipher clerk who turned over a list of persons alleged to be spies to Canadian authorities more than 20 years ago. He has lived in secrecy ever since.

Tisdalle also attacked "pinkos" and recited a poem about a political opponent spreading "muck" around in his travels.

Tisdalle was warned by Speaker William Murray to get down to "serious" discussion of the throne speech and Barrie Clark (L — North Vancouver-Seymour) interjected: "I'm now in favor of editing the Hansard."

Engineers Protest With Pickets

Fifty pickets were outside the Parliament Buildings today protesting proposed changes in the law over boilers in buildings.

A busload of stationary engineers came from Vancouver this morning and were augmented by local engineers.

The government has announced a new Safety Engineering Services Act.

NO DETAILS

However, no details of the changes have been made public and a bill has not been presented to the legislature.

The proposed act was mentioned in the government's throne speech, where it was said the new act would incorporate safety provisions of several acts, primarily boiler, gas and electrical inspection.

The picketing, which was also staged last Friday outside the provincial boiler inspection office in Vancouver, was organized by the Engineers Joint Council, which

represents stationary engineers in several organizations.

Council chairman Bob Berger, an official of the Service Employees International Union, said the new act has been drawn up in "complete secrecy." Neither employers nor engineers were consulted, he said.

While the government has announced no details, Berger said it has been indicated that operation of a boiler by an engineer will not be compulsory if the boiler is of less than 75 horsepower. Current limit is 50 horsepower.

Berger said the engineers want to know why the government plans a new act when it

was not sought by them or by employers. He said provisions of the Boiler Inspection Act, Gas Inspection Act and Electrical Inspection Act cannot be lumped together because two are primarily oriented towards the home while the boiler act is primarily aimed at industry and office buildings.

Man's Home Is His Castle

The quote of the year has got to be Liberal Leader Pat McGee's reported complaint to an Oak Bay audience last Friday that Victoria Times folk "sit in their expensive homes writing editorials and telling the people of Oak Bay what to do."

It's hard to believe that even Pat would put foot so far into mouth as this statement implies. Times editorial writers, while rather gratified to hear their homes so described — even the one who lives in a rented room — were nevertheless astonished to find themselves arbitrarily ruled out of the right to an interest in Oak Bay provincial politics. The fact is that all three live in the Oak Bay electoral district — as inexpensively as possible — and have a voter's interest in what goes on there.

The only recent Times editorial

advice to the people of Oak Bay that comes to mind was a suggestion that Liberal candidate Mel Couveller might be a good man to watch between now and the next provincial election, with a thought to putting him into the Legislature — another expensive House — as a member of the Liberal contingent. (Sorry Pat, did we say something wrong?)

If Pat's purpose was really to advise Oak Bay Liberals that they shouldn't sit back and wait for newspapers to do their political campaigning for them, he was right on. So we bear no resentment. Actually, the thought of sitting around in our expensive homes writing editorials has a definite appeal. It just made us a little nervous that the property tax assessor — and even the business licence man — might find out about it.

J A N

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1972



— Colonist photo by Jim Ryan

CEREMONIAL DRAMA of B.C. Legislature opening is glimpsed through grillwork on revolving door used by MLAs for comings and goings during session. Traditional mace capped by crown is held by new sergeant-at-arms, A. M. Hutchinson, while throne speech is read. Mace is laid on stand in front

of House speaker's chair when speaker is in chair. Through gap between Hutchinson and mace can be seen Resources Minister Ray Williston and Premier Bennett. At extreme right is Attorney-General Leslie Peterson. Opposition members sit in front row of near side of House.

Opposition Rips 'Nothing' Speech

At Least It Was Brief

By IAN STREET

Colonist Legislature Reporter

Opposition party leaders were agreed on one thing after listening to the Speech from the Throne read in the Legislature Thursday — as a document charting government policy for the forthcoming session the speech isn't worth the paper it's printed on.

Liberal leader Patrick McGee said he had offered members of his caucus 25 cents for any reference in the speech which was worthy of an answer. They were still looking at press time, he added, but so far there had been no takers.

The speech contained no programs whatsoever for the benefit of either young or old in the province, McGee said, and consisted of a tedious recounting of trivia. As a result, it gives opposition members in the House "nothing to debate."

Social Credit hasn't done anything dynamic since it launched the B.C. Ferries operation well over a decade ago, said McGee. He promised to give what he called "the Liberal program of action" in his reply to the throne speech in the House Monday afternoon.

Opposition leader David Barrett said the speech was a disappointment and claimed the government has allowed a great opportunity to slide by when it could have stated "new directions" for the province.

He called the speech "surprisingly weak" and said it read more like "the year-end review of some social club here in Victoria" than a document which should set out the government's legislative program.

The only positive thing about it, Barrett said, was the fact that it was mercifully brief.

On the question of unemployment the NDP leader said the government can talk all it wishes about new job-creating measures but the record speaks for itself. The job opportunities program is a 95.4 per cent failure, he said, because it has placed only 4.6 per cent of applicants in jobs.

The more than \$600,000 spent to date on the program has mainly been on "advertising and ballyhoo," he added.

Barrett said the throne speech shows the philosophy of the government may be summed up this way: "Why spoil a good promise by doing something about it?"

Does it sound like an election year Speech from the Throne? He replied: "It doesn't sound like much of anything."

Progressive Conservative house leader Dr. Scott Wallace, MLA for Oak Bay, said the throne speech was customarily vague and poorly defined but added he regretted it had no reference to long awaited revisions of Elections Act. He also said it should have offered some hope to those who must pay mounting bills for nursing home care of the aged without any government assistance.

Bennett's \$9,146 Tops Spending For B.C. Travel

Premier Bennett topped the B.C. cabinet in 1971 in travel expenses.

The premier's \$9,146 was more than \$2,000 above the \$6,929 spent by resources Minister Ray Williston who finished the year in second place.

Trade Minister Waldo Skillings, who was the top finisher in 1970, dropped to ninth place in 1971, spending \$4,647.

Health Minister Ralph Loffmark was third, spending \$6,536; Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gagliardi ended up fourth in 1971 with expenses of \$6,495; and Agriculture Minister Cyril Shelford was fifth with \$6,305.

Among deputy ministers, the deputy travel minister, Ron Worley, spent the most — \$5,936 which was more than all the cabinet ministers except the top five.

Throne Theme: Jobs

New jobs in a variety of fields were pledged Thursday in the throne speech opening the 1972 B.C. legislative session.

Involved will be B.C. Hydro, Pacific Great Eastern Railway, housing, forest and park development, protection of the environment and \$50 million in school construction.

Other highlights:

- The whole question of tenure for university faculty members will be reviewed by a legislative committee.

- Amendments to the Public Schools Act and to the province's labor legislation will be presented. No details of the proposed changes were given.

Remote-Area Indians To Get Aid

The throne speech said Thursday the government is considering more Indian caseworkers for provincial courts in B.C.

They would be in addition to those already serving with the John Howard Society on Vancouver Island and in the lower mainland and the new program would be financed by the province's First Citizens Fund.

The speech also said under a new Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act agreement, which is expected to be signed shortly to cover the next five years, B.C. and Ottawa will provide special assistance to remote areas where more than two thirds of the people are of Indian ancestry.

- Promised changes in the Litter Act will attempt to plug some loopholes, which were not specified.

- Law Reform Commission reports covering expropriation and debtor-creditor relationships will be tabled in the house for study, possibly in committee.

- Indian court caseworkers are being considered and a new federal program is being studied which will provide special assistance to remote areas where more than two-thirds of the people are Indian.

- Last year all B.C. Ferries operations reported a 14 per cent overall increase in traffic. The increase on the northern Vancouver Island route was 80 per cent.

B.C. Measures

Wide Range Set To Create Jobs

By IAN STREET
Colonist Reporter

The provincial government has promised a wide range of new job-creating measures at the legislative session which opened Thursday, as well as new labor legislation.

The throne speech, read by Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson, gave only the vaguest indications of the government's legislative program during the session which will run until Easter.

It was a "state of the province" message, filled with a recounting of past doings, although Premier Bennett said later it contained clues of "new directions" for government policy. He refused to elaborate.

Among the most interesting hints in the speech, backed by Bennett's statement later that legislative committees would be busier than usual this session, was the announcement that university faculty members' tenure would be reviewed.

Also likely to get committee study, though the speech didn't say so, are a pair of reports by the B.C. Law Reform Commission dealing with expropriation and debtor-creditor relationships.

The speech simply said the reports would be tabled for consideration by the house during the session.

New legislation hinted at in the speech will include amendments to the Public Schools Act as well as unspecified changes in the province's labor legislation.

It also said, after blaming Ottawa and the "economic climate throughout the Western world" for the higher B.C. level of unemployment last year, new job-creating measures would be proposed.

No details were given but the programs would involve B.C. Hydro, Pacific Great Eastern railway, housing, forest and park development, and protection of the ecology.

Bennett said later the failure of the federal government to take corrective action in the field of employment was bad enough but Prime Minister Trudeau had gone further and actually created unemployment by his policies.

"We must be as constructive as possible," Bennett told reporters, "providing as many jobs as we can. People are flocking to B.C. anyway, and in the long run it will be a good thing."

The premier said other legislation would involve "tidying up" of the province's Litter Act, a fact mentioned in the speech, and in all likelihood revisions to the provincial Elections Act which wasn't, although it was referred to in the 1971 speech without any action following.

No time limit was attached to the committee study of university faculty members' tenure, Bennett said. He added: "We're letting the sunlight in — that's all."

Asked if the action was prompted in part by the \$80,000 severance pay to Dr. Bruce Partridge who resigned recently as president of the University of Victoria, Bennett avoided the question, saying simply the whole question of tenure in universities would be studied.

Education Minister Brothers about three months ago, in discussing the Partridge affair, gave a broad indication that the university tenure issue would be dealt with by the government at this session.



— Colonist photo by Ian McKain

BEFORE 1972 session of B.C. Legislature got down to first day of business Thursday, Premier Bennett moved along opposition benches for handshake, friendly chat with political foes. Here, Bennett and New Democratic Party leader Dave Barrett exchange greetings. Earlier, Bennett had particularly warm welcome for Cowichan-Malahat MLA Bob Strachan, former NDP leader.

B.C. Ferries' Business Increases 14 Per Cent

B.C. Ferries had an overall increase of 14 per cent in business last year, the speech from the throne reported Thursday. The biggest single jump was 80 per cent on the northern Vancouver Island run following a doubling of the capacity of the Mv. Island Princess.

WHY NO PAGE GIRLS?

In the hurry and scurry of the annual opening of the B.C. Legislature, not too many people take time to notice the little platoon of page boys.

One exception to this, however, is Eileen Dailly, MLA, Burnaby North.

The NDP's Mrs. Dailly has been pressing for the introduction of page girls to work with the boys and she wasn't too happy Thursday when she discovered it was still an all-male show.

She said she would also be interested in learning why the page boys always come from one high school — Reynolds Junior high.

Few Adults, Wet Children on Hand

Rain Beating Down Sharply Curtails Attendance

By DON COLLINS
Colonist Reporter

Along about 2 p.m. Thursday a small patch of pale yellow showed in the sky to the south and the rain that had been beating hard on Victoria for many hours eased noticeably.

"I'll be damned if he hasn't done it," said someone in a small knot of people gathered outside the Legislative Buildings.

As things turned out, the statement wasn't quite accurate.

Premier Bennett — beaming, faultlessly groomed man of the hour — had many accomplishments to his credit. But one of them wasn't the matter of turning off the rain for an opening of the B.C. Legislature.

It was coming down in miserable fashion again by the time Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson was inspecting the guard of honor and the 15-gun salute was rattling windows and creating havoc among the seagull population of the Inner Harbor.

And it showed no mercy for the premier when he ventured hatless onto the steps in front of the Buildings to greet the lieutenant-governor.

It was also probably responsible for the fact that only a small number of adults and a sprinkling of wet and unhappy looking children gathered in clusters on the grounds to witness some of the pomp that accompanies the opening of a new session.

Kathleen Ruff and her little group of seven weren't really there for the ceremony. They were more interested in getting their message across to some of the province's political figures.

That message, contained on a large placard, read: "The eyes of the women of B.C. are on you."

What it meant, said Mrs. Ruff, was simply that her Victoria group of the Status of Women's Rights (she is president) would be keeping the government under close watch during this session to see if anything at all is done about the needs of women. She said her group was also representing the Vancouver group.

"We have tried everything else to make our case," she said as she and the others huddled under an assortment of umbrellas.

"We've presented briefs and held study sessions and public meetings and we've had zero response from the B.C. Government."

One of the main goals is equal job opportunities and equal pay for women. The group maintains the B.C. labor department is one of the

prime offenders, using its own women employees "as cheap labor."

Zebulon Worthington may be somewhat typical of the people who will stand behind a rope barrier on a dirty, wet day to watch the guard of honor perform and the dignitaries arrive.

"I've been doing this since 1938 in Victoria and I think I've only missed one opening ceremony," the 76-year-old Worthington said.

Worthington, who lives at 950 Humboldt, was once an opening ceremony performer himself.

"I used to be in the honor guard for the opening of the Ontario legislature sessions," he said.

He said he is a veteran of 10 years in the British army and 20 in the Canadian army.

Jeri Dill, a retired school teacher from Pittsburgh, was there for one reason — she wanted to see Canadian politicians in action.

"I drove a 24-foot mobile home all the way up here for a bit of a visit and I did so want to see that parliament of yours in session in there," she said.

But the tightened security proved to be too much for her. No one could gain entry to the building without a special pass.

"I asked all the policeman and all the guards, but they all said no."

A large woman with a good sense of humor, she approached a security officer to make another tongue-in-cheek approach.

"I'm pretty big, so I said to him: 'Look, why don't the two of us change clothes and then I can get in?'"

The officer declined.

Later she approached a cabinet minister at a reception and she said he had promised to make arrangements for her to sit in the gallery today.

While people like Jeri Dill were standing in the rain, the 300 or so invited guests were making their way into the Buildings.

Vancouver's colorful Mayor Tom Campbell, target of verbal abuse during last year's angry demonstration, chose to slip in through a side door this time.

He did so probably without realizing that the only risk this time might have been a request from Jeri Dill for his clothes.

Keeping It Dark

ONCE UPON A TIME the stockholders were informed by the board of directors at the start of the annual meeting how their money was going to be used in the ensuing year. But not any more.

No longer is any indication given, let alone actual announcements of plans, in the opening speech of the British Columbia legislature.

As last year, the speech from the throne at the third session of the 29th Parliament was a "State of the Province" address in which Premier Bennett, through the lieutenant-governor, heaped praise on himself and his government for what it has been doing, but didn't give so much as a hint at what plans are in store.

If the people had hopes for some "dynamic action" on their behalf, they are going to have to await the word.

Some changes in legislation are promised in the speech, such as: "In order to help reduce the unemployment rate with which we are faced you will be asked to consider job-creating measures involving the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company, housing, forest and park development, and protection of the ecology."

But that is as far as it goes — merely a whetting of the appetite in a 5.7 per cent unemployment hunger for corrective measures.

The same can be said in another crucial area — the labor front. At a time when there could be more strife in union contract renewals than has been experienced in many years, some announcement might have been expected on either strengthening of the Mediation Act or the replacing of it with something more acceptable. But Mr. Bennett says only: "You will be asked to consider amendments to labor legislation during the session."

And so it goes:

"I am pleased to report that the Litter Act of 1970, which was the first in Canada, has materially reduced some facets of the litter problem. You will be asked to consider amendments to this act to clarify further this legislation."

Or this one: "The Regional Park Act is receiving ever-wider utilization by the regional districts, and certain desirable amendments will be placed before you."

Mr. Bennett no doubt is saving the news for the February 4 budget speech he will be reading himself as minister of finance. And although that is only two weeks away, there should be more of an assurance at the opening of the Legislative Assembly that the premier was not just talking when he said a few weeks ago this would be "the most important session ever."

Demonstrations, Uproar Missing

Nitro Nut Passes Up Legislature Opening

Whether he was one person, or two or three, the Nitro Nut didn't go through with his threat to blow up the opening of the new B.C. Legislature session Thursday afternoon.

And nobody else caused any trouble, either, in sharp contrast to last year's opening, when a large demonstration occurred outside and a virtual brawl raged in the galleries with two persons charged and later fined for causing a disturbance and assault.

Last year's shouts from the galleries for jobs were missing this time as the Legislature was as quiet as police and veteran observers could remember.

Most authorities agreed the main reason was the rain, which kept attendance well below normal. One policeman also gave credit to the lack of an organized labor demonstration, which was the base on which others built the 1971 trouble.

RCMP officials denied security was stepped up as a result of the Nitro Nut's activities but rumors persisted extra men were called in.

Victoria police got a phone call at 11:48 p.m. Wednesday from a man who said he was thinking of throwing a bottle of nitroglycerine onto the floor of the Legislature from the galleries if there wasn't something in the throne speech to ease unemployment.

A similar call was received at about 12:02 a.m. Thursday by radio station CKDA and then a third came at about 11:50 a.m. to the news desk of the Victoria Times.

The first two calls were said to have been made by a man whose voice sounded like that of a man in his 40s. The call to the Times provided no age clue but the man said he might be called "the prince of ponces," which wasn't explained.

Sources told the Colonist some RCMP men were notified Thursday morning to be at their posts early. The RCMP provided security inside the buildings while Victoria police had the job outside.

However, Vancouver Island RCMP Superintendent Jim Nelson said security was not changed as a result of the Nitro Nut's calls and added it had been "laid on" for weeks with Legislature officials.

Victoria police officials decided most of their day shift should start at 10 a.m., two hours later than usual, so the men would be available until 6 p.m. if needed. But most went home at 4 p.m. as usual.

Police estimated the crowd outside the buildings as only 50 or so. Two carried placards

for women's liberation and three young men came up to a sergeant to ask, "Where's the demonstration?"

The answer was: "You're it."

Barrett Motion Out of Order

By BARBARA McLINTOCK

Colonist Reporter

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett Thursday called for the 1971 Hansard of the B.C. Legislature to be withdrawn and corrected by the speaker with the help of an all-party committee.

Barrett's motion was ruled out of order by Speaker William Murray, but the NDP leader indicated outside the House that he intended to pursue the matter later in the session.

One result of the motion was that before the session was an hour old, Oak Bay member Dr. Scott Wallace had supported the Social Credit government in his first vote as a Progressive Conservative.

The vote was to uphold the speaker's ruling that the motion was out of order, which Barrett had challenged.

The question arose after Provincial Secretary Wesley Black moved that the votes and proceedings of the 1972 session be printed after being checked by the speaker.

Barrett moved that Black's motion be amended by adding that the 1971 Hansard be

withdrawn and corrected with the aid of an all-party committee and that the same committee help prepare the 1972 Hansard for publication.

Outside the house, Barrett said the reason he had made the motion was that the transcript of some debates last year had been altered and parts deleted before the Hansard was printed.

Several cases where this had happened had been found, some involving debates between himself and Premier Bennett in which "the premier had been shown in a negative light." The NDP had proof of these charges, he said.

Barrett also said it was "a disgrace" that the people of the province had been forced to wait until eight months after the 1971 session to read about it in Hansard, and maybe the committee he suggested would be able to speed things up a little.

Wallace emphasized outside the House that his vote had nothing to do with the question of Hansard itself, but only with the upholding of the speaker's ruling.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1972

'Up to Ottawa'—Peterson

Glue, Remover Ban Bid Rejected

Immediate provincial action to ban the sale of glue and nail polish removers to B.C. minors was urged in the legislature Friday by a Soerod backbencher.

Ernie LeCours (SC—Richmond) told the house that he believed the government should act "by Monday at the latest" to prohibit the sales of these potentially harmful substances to anyone under 19.

"It's illegal to sell liquor to minors," he said. "Why not place the same ban on the sale of these substances which can be just as injurious to young people?"

Outside the Legislature, Attorney-General Leslie Peterson quickly rejected LeCours' plea, noting the province tried to ban marijuana, LSD and other potentially harmful substances in the past but had the legislation ruled ultra vires by the courts.

"This is a federal matter," Peterson said. "It's up to Ottawa, not the provinces to ban such substances."

He repeated his earlier statement, however, that prosecutors had been instructed to see whether there was sufficient evidence to charge those selling glue and nail polish remover to minors with contributing to juvenile delinquency.

The attorney-general indicated he would have a further statement on the subject when he speaks in the Legislature next Tuesday.

LeCours also called on Peterson to investigate "very thoroughly" the circumstances of the recent death in the Cariboo of Fred Quilt who died from injuries two days after he was arrested by RCMP.

An inquest into the death of the 55-year-old Chilcotin Indian attached no blame to police but LeCours said his own past experience of "some members of police forces, and I say only some, has made me very suspicious of what takes place on dark roads at night."

"I would ask the attorney-general to investigate this matter very thoroughly to make sure that justice is done."

Peterson said later he is still awaiting a transcript of the inquest.

Moving adoption of the Thursday's throne speech, LeCours said he was in favor of government controls on wages, sales, prices and profits and interest rates as well.

"If we are to have social justice then let's have it," he said.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 1972

'Ridiculous' Throne Speech Makes
Debate 'Absolutely Meaningless'

People's Business Sidelined for Two Weeks

Here it is at last, the final irrefutable argument in favor of abandoning a throne speech debate in the legislature which has become absolutely meaningless, and getting down to the people's business.

The throne speech, as many people have had cause to recall since Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson delivered this one to the legislature on Thursday last, is traditionally a vague document. This one, however, was ridiculous.

The Sacred government has over the years turned what should be a blueprint for the coming session, no matter if its only a sketchy one, into a trap for the unwary — whether they happen to be in the opposition parties or in the press.

The idea of the game is simple: say as little as possible, hint at some new legislation, lure the critics into howls of protest about government inaction, then demolish all opposition with a legislative program that's pulled out of the hat once the budget has been brought down.

Good politics of the W. A. C. Bennett variety, perhaps; but it's busy government.

The really disturbing aspect of the whole affair is that over the years the public of British Columbia has become so inured to the premier's methods that most of us are prepared to accept what he dishes out with scarcely a murmur of protest.

The throne speech, in theory anyway, is supposed to provide the basis for a full two weeks of debate in the legislature taking us right up to budget day, which this year falls on Feb. 4.

★ ★ ★

What Thursday's effort really means is the legislature will be wasting the next two weeks. There's nothing to answer or even applaud in the throne speech so the members are going to be thrown back on their own resources, which heaven knows, in far too many cases are inadequate.

The inevitable result: two weeks of utter boredom, a waste of time that could be put to much better use.

Throne speeches have been pretty bad in recent years. Some argue that last year's was even worse than this one; I disagree because nothing could be worse than this one. One reporter suggested half of it, reviewing centennial events, had been written by L. J. Wallace, and the other half, consisting of warmed over statistics, by Trade Minister Waldo Skillings.

★ ★ ★

Bennett was given credit only for explanatory footnotes and these weren't very enlightening. He suggested, for instance, there would be some changes in provincial labor legislation but wouldn't elaborate, referring reporters to the minister responsible, James Chabot.

Chabot was equally uncommunicative. But the mere fact that the government chose that very day to make public the fact that it had invoked Section 18 of the Mediation Commission Act, which involves use of compulsory arbitration, in the hospital workers dispute, indicates it has no intention of divesting itself of these controversial powers.

The promised amendments to labor legislation could be something only relatively minor. So could the amendments to the Public Schools Act and some of the other new legislation vaguely hinted at in the throne speech. And there could be a whole new lot of very important legislation that nothing has been said about.

In the circumstances, members from both sides of the House can scarcely be faulted for refusing to base their speeches during the next two weeks on such a vaguely worded document. They've been burned in the past and they don't want a repeat. The only way out is to talk about nothing but their own constituency affairs.

A legislative session lasts anywhere from nine to 11 weeks. It just doesn't make sense to devote roughly one fifth of this time to a meaningless exercise.

If the government insists upon making the throne speech as vague as this it should allow the party leaders to state their case, in whatever terms they choose, and then get down to the budget and the real business of the session.

In the past years Premier Bennett has tried to defend his handling of the speech from the throne. This time he told reporters it represents some new directions for his government but wouldn't suggest where they might be found. Asked to sum it up he replied: "I never criticize the throne speech."

The remark drew laughter from the assembled newsmen but the only fair assumption is that Bennett is content to waste the time of the legislature. More than that he ensures the first two weeks of the session is wasted because he refuses to give the House anything in the way of the legislative program which could serve as the basis for intelligent debate.

His reasoning appears simple: this is two weeks less in which opposition MLAs can constructively criticize what the government stands for.

'Cry-Baby Cabinet' Scored

Barrett Would Build Ships

By IAN STREET
Colonist Legislature Reporter

B.C.'s "cry-baby cabinet" was attacked in the Legislature Monday by Opposition Leader Dave Barrett for its failure to demand more control over the spending of welfare funds under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Barrett, in his reply to last Thursday's throne speech, made no direct reference to Quebec's earlier demands for control over federal funds in the social service field but went on to outline a stand which would place B.C. and Quebec shoulder to shoulder against Ottawa.

The NDP leader was challenged by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell, who shouted "baloney" across the floor when Barrett said any province could introduce a guaranteed annual income scheme under the existing federal-provincial agreement.

Barrett argued, however, there was nothing in the present federal-provincial agreement to prevent a province raising the ceiling on allowable earnings to provide supplemental payments to the working poor who now suffer most in their struggle to keep house and family together.

He suggested B.C. demand that Ottawa establish minimum standards of service for child care and other social services then insist that the province be allowed to use federal funds "in other ways," provided these minimum care standards were met.

Some of this federal money, Barrett told the house, should be funnelled into the whole badly-served area of low cost housing in B.C. He suggested allowed against family allowances for the purpose of making a down payment on a home.

Other funds in the social service field, he added, should go into a land bank providing low-cost sites developed under municipal auspices on crown land. This would allow "the working poor" to buy or lease land for a house and break the grip of the "rapacious real estate industry."

Barrett said the present government had grown too lazy to meet the real needs of people and added that its "disastrous policies" had caused people like janitors and marginal farmers who are struggling to merely exist to focus their hostility on welfare recipients.

"This government is too used to people on welfare, too used to giving away the treasure of our natural resources," Barrett said. "Where's its nerve, where's the drive of the government that used to boast that it was dynamic?"

"All we have left is a cry-baby cabinet which, when faced with serious problems of drugs, unemployment and welfare simply throw up their hands and say, 'it's all Ottawa's fault.'"

B.C. must stand up to Ottawa in other ways as well, Barrett said, demanding re-establishment of a shipbuilding industry on the West Coast to carry Canadian exports to foreign countries.

At home, he said, the province must stop the giveaway of its natural resources and insist on a greater return for British Columbia both in the form of increased revenues and new job-creating measures like "a non-polluting copper smelter and a non-polluting steel mill."

"No one has given away as much of our natural resources treasure as the premier and the me-too minister of mines (Frank Richter)," Barrett told the house.

"There is no royalty on Kaiser coal or on copper while thousands of unemployed line up for jobs in this province. But the premier cares more about San Francisco and Tokyo."

The NDP leader said resource exploitation is "the Achilles heel of this government." He added: "It's been blunder, blunder, blunder, stumble, giveaway."

He attacked the provincial job opportunities program, saying the majority of the \$652,000 it has cost to date has been spent on advertising, and claiming this amounted to use of "welfare dollars for cheap political purposes." Barrett added: "We want jobs — not silly little programs."

In the field of unemployment generally, Barrett said, the government has provided only 6,000 of the 25,000 new jobs its boasted would be created in B.C. during the past year.

And he called for abolition of the mediation commission as a means of avoiding a confrontation with organized labor.

Four-Way Pollution Fight Urged

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett called in the Legislature Monday for a co-ordinated approach to pollution control in the Pacific Northwest involving not only B.C. and Washington but Alaska and Oregon as well.

He urged the provincial government to invite the Washington state committee which is studying pollution problems along the international boundary to hold its next hearings in B.C. And the NDP leader suggested if both B.C. and Washington were agreeable, their next closest neighbors to the north and south, respectively, should also be invited to participate.

Outside the Legislature, Premier Bennett refused to comment on Barrett's request and told reporters they should listen to what Attorney-General Leslie Peterson might have to say on the subject this afternoon, as well as to Resources Minister Ray Williston who is scheduled to speak Wednesday.

Earlier, in the House, Bennett denied claims that he had been sent a copy of the resolution, approved by the Washington state house of representatives in 1971, setting up the pollution study and requesting the co-operation among others of the B.C. government. The premier said: "I've had advice (from Washington authorities) they regret it wasn't mailed."

Barrett said he was aware the B.C. copy of the resolution hadn't been sent, as it should have been last year but added it had been put into the mail this year, presumably sometime since the NDP visit to Olympia Jan. 12-14. Bennett insisted, however, he had no knowledge of the document.

The NDP leader outlined several recommendations for better liaison of pollution fighters on a regional basis.

These included: a joint statement in opposition to the Alaska pipeline and oil tanker route through B.C. waters signed by Washington and B.C. legislators and sent to Ottawa and Washington, D.C.; public opinion plebiscites on both sides of the border on pollution questions, and setting up of a pollution task force to draft companion legislation on a regional basis.

Barrett also proposed a constant and methodical exchange of research information between various branches of state and provincial governments and an exchange of scientists and civil servants on a six-month or annual basis.

McGeer Criticizes Natural Gas 'Confusion'

N-Power Environment Savior — Liberals

BY GEORGE INGLIS

Colonist Reporter

A pitch for nuclear power as the environmental savior of the province was made by Liberal leader Patrick McGeer to the B.C. Legislature Monday.

In his hour-long reply to the throne speech, McGeer offered a 15-point version of how the Liberal party would have made its throne speech, including the introduction of new legislation on new energy developments and permanent terms of reference for the B.C. Energy Board.

Expanding on the energy program, McGeer criticized the government for its method of making power development decisions by "political prejudices and political intuitions of a few in cabinet."

With B.C. people using more power per capita "than any group of people except the Norwegians," he said, the government was making its decisions on power development without regard to "cost, conservation and environmental factors."

McGeer took the premier to task for his handling of the natural gas pipeline for Vancouver Island, a proposal which surprised both B.C. Hydro and the Public Utilities Commission, that "confused and bewildered regulatory body..."

McGeer said the energy board was not consulted in the proposal, nor was the cost of building a gas-fired thermopower plant, which would have to be considered and fitted into the cost of any supply for Islanders.

By contrast, he said, the federal government would build a nuclear power plant through Atomic Energy Commission at no outlay to the people, and would amortize the cost from revenue at the going rate of power.

McGeer criticized the cabinet for its disinterest in the environmental considerations of developing power.

Hydroelectric power sources favored by the Social Credit party may not pollute water or air, he said.

"But consider how these sources of electricity have devastated the land. Anyone who has visited a flooded area behind any of British Columbia's dams has come away with a feeling of eerie depression that lasts a lifetime."

In answer to his statement that 650,000 acres of land have been put under water by dams, Public Works Minister W. N. Chant said, "B.C. has over 250 million acres — put it in perspective."

McGeer said the Liberal party answer to power development would be to stiffen energy board powers and create a parliamentary standing

committee to report to the house for legislative decisions on power expansion.

The 17-point Liberal "throne speech" comprised:

- Modernize the B.C. Ferry system, one-hour crossing from Iona Island to Vancouver Island, via Gabriola.
- Create a rapid transit system for Greater Vancouver, similar to San Francisco, with an outright grant from the provincial government.
- Ensure a third Burrard Inlet crossing in 1972.
- Build a new university in the Okanagan Valley and study feasibility of a medical school at University of Victoria.
- Legislation for power development.
- Provincial electoral boundary redistribution.
- Provision for fixed election dates, except in unusual circumstances.
- Complete reform of house rules.
- Encouragement of radio and television coverage of debates, and a complete and unexpurgated written record of debate, available on a daily basis.
- Development of a Science City in B.C. and stepping up in encouragement of secondary industry.
- Offering of incentives to new industries.
- Create new labor legislation.
- Create ministry of environment.
- Protection for aged, elderly and disadvantaged.
- Better chronic care facilities.

Night Session Curfew Lost Again by NDP

New Democratic Party whip Leo Nimsick failed Monday in the annual attempt to have night sessions limited to 11 p.m., or at the discretion of the house.

Nimsick made an amendment to Premier Bennett's motion that sessions end at adjournment on the basis it would "bring reason to this legislative chamber, prevent rag-tag endings," and "doesn't leave it entirely in the hands of one person (Premier Bennett)."

His amendment failed 35-17, and Bennett's motion passed by a majority.

McGeer Flays Peterson Policy:

Glue-Sniffing Hazard Higher Than Alcohol

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson should go after glue-sniffing as hard as he went after topless dancers, Liberal leader Patrick McGeer told the Legislature Monday.

In his reply to the throne speech, McGeer criticized Peterson for having said he was helpless in going after glue-sniffers, saying, "I don't know how much comfort the mothers of B.C. got from your drive against topless dancers but I do know they are concerned over glue-sniffing."

He said juveniles, not permitted to drink, turned to solvents, "the only trouble is that solvents are much more dangerous than alcohol to physical health."

"The potential toxicity of the solvents which are inhaled is to the brain, the liver, the kidneys and the blood. There are medical reports of hallucinations and delusions from solvent-sniffing as more extreme manifestations of drunkenness and euphoria which is the purpose of sniffing in the first place."

He said legislation against glue-sniffing has been passed in many cities and states in the U.S., including California, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island.

Toxics listed as being used were plastic cements; model cements; household cements; fingernail polish remover; lacquer thinners; lighter fluids, and gasoline.

Solvents in the commercial materials, he said, were toluene, acetone, hexane, naptha, isopropyl alcohol, ketones, benzene, halogenated hydrocarbons and petroleum ether.

McGeer said education, stepped-up recreation programs and laws would all contribute to policing the problem.

Discussing the province's negotiations over flooding the Skagit River to benefit the

Seattle Light and Power Co., McGeer praised former lands and forests minister Robert Sommers, even though the "courts of the land found fault with the way the former minister handled his portfolio."

He said Sommers, accused of mismanagement of forest licences, had made a deal

obtaining treatment for her son, a 16-year-old heroin addict. He said he had advised the woman to send the boy to England.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell shouted: "That's terrible. You don't even believe that yourself."

Other Stories Page 13

which would have brought B.C. \$620,000 for raising the Ross Dam, instead of the \$35,000 the province had settled for.

McGeer said he would seek legislative support in the session for urging the federal government not to sell 38 acres of Jericho Beach property in Vancouver at about \$100,000 per acre to a private developer, a profit of about 4,000 per cent on its 25-year holding of the land.

He said the land, 140.6 acres, was sold by the province to the federal government in 1947 for \$351,500. Seventy-two of those acres had been leased to Vancouver in 1969 on the understanding the remaining 38 acres would be sold through Crown Assets Disposal Corp.

Earlier, NDP leader Dave Barrett challenged the government to provide proof that there were facilities in operation in any hospital in the province for treatment of young drug addicts.

Barrett said he was approached recently by a woman who asked his help in

Sniff-Agents Ban Sought

BY IAN SIKELI

Colonist Legislature Reporter

B.C. has asked Ottawa to use existing federal powers to prohibit the sale of nail polish removers and other products containing toxic solvents to anyone under 16, Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said Tuesday.

Peterson told the Legislature during the throne debate the federal government's Hazardous Products Act, which has already been used against glue sniffing, could "easily be invoked" again to curb sales of substances containing toxic solvents.

He read the house a telegram sent to Ottawa Monday which said: "The use by children of toxic solvents in nail polish removers and other products sold commercially in the Vancouver area is creating a serious health problem... I request... consideration by given to restricting the sale of these toxic solvents to persons over the age of 16 years."

If this was done, as B.C. suggests, under powers in the Hazardous Products Act the federal cabinet would pass regulations governing the importation, advertising and sale of the toxic solvents.

Peterson flatly rejected an earlier suggestion by Liberal leader Pat McGeer that the provincial Liquor Act could be amended to include glue and solvent sniffing in the intoxication section. He noted the courts ruled this matter lies in the federal jurisdiction.

But the attorney-general agreed with another McGeer suggestion that something might be achieved by a review of licensing of outlets which sell glue and solvent sniffing materials to children.

Peterson said he had recently talked on the telephone with one manufacturer of products containing toxic solvents and received indications that the industry wouldn't object to restricted sales or printed warnings on labels of the products in question.

"The president of this company said their laboratories are already working, trying to find an additive which when sniffed would bring on nausea. But so far they have had no success," he said.

The attorney-general then told the house the government will introduce legislation later in the session to bring back the mandatory suspension of any driver's licence following conviction for impaired driving.

The bill will restore procedures which the courts ruled nine months ago were invalid because they had been implemented administratively without the necessary supporting legislation.

During this period, Peterson told the house, generally more lenient treatment of drinking drivers by the courts which allowed "very many" offenders to continue driving has contributed to a 20 per cent increase in impaired driving

convictions. The 1971 total for these convictions was 13,309.

"Possibly part of this large percentage is due to a feeling on the part of many motorists that impaired driving is socially acceptable," Peterson said. "(Therefore) it is necessary to deal clearly and firmly with this problem."

"This Legislature will be called upon to serve notice to all that if they drink and drive they can expect to lose their licences and there will be no exceptions, no relaxation to permit driving during certain hours."

"I know this will cause hardships, but we cannot overlook the hardship these drivers cause to other people."

Among other legislation, the attorney-general said, will be a bill making it an offence to present any enforcement agency with an invalid pink card for an insurance policy.

Surplus Scored

Nimsick Attacks 'Social Inaction'

NDP member Leo Nimsick attacked the Social Credit party's "inaction on social and welfare legislation" in his throne speech debate Tuesday.

"You are sitting on a \$100 million surplus, made by sweating it out of poor people," the Kootenay legislator said.

Nimsick said the government sets guidelines and restrictions on wages, forgetting "the worker is in business for himself, just like the coupon-clipper and the elite — selling the only product he owns, his labor power."

He said the cabinet ministers, with "your \$40,000 a year... are amazed when a worker gets \$1,400 — why shouldn't he?"

Nimsick said the widow's allowance of \$146 per month made it "cheaper for a man to get killed than totally disabled," since he would get \$400 a month if disabled.

He criticized the government's action in threatening expropriation proceedings against people in the Natal-Michel area in the East Kootenays, offering them \$7,000 for homes which he said were more like \$16,000 in value.

He labelled the government's action a "war of attrition," and challenged the house to send a three-man committee to the area to assess the houses.

The government's action in offering employers 50 per cent of the wages for employees in newly-created jobs was sim-

ply "welfare to industry," he said.

As his remedies for increasing unemployment, Nimsick advocated increasing mothers' and widows' allowances to \$200 per month, increasing annual holidays and permitting persons to retire earlier.

For senior citizens, he advocated exemption from taxes on homes; free fishing licences, and free ferry rides.

Tory Policy Blueprinted

Wallace Speaks Out, Bennett Walks Out

Dr. Scott Wallace set out to present some Tory "alternatives" to the Legislature Tuesday but made his biggest impact when he called the house a stage "mainly for play-acting."

When he rose to speak for the first time after bolting Sacred ranks to become Progressive Conservative house leader, giving that party its first representation in the Legislature since the mid-50s, the member for Oak Bay drew a rebuff from the most famous of his constituents.

Premier Bennett, who lives in Oak Bay and has called Wallace an extreme rightist, got up almost immediately and left the house. Later in his speech, Wallace fired back a broadside in which he characterized the premier as "a flat-earther" who refuses to even consider the possibility of nuclear power.

But apart from a muttered insult or two and some studied inattention from the government benches, Wallace's speech produced no fireworks and very little heckling.

"What goes on in this Legislature is mainly play-acting," Wallace said. "This chamber is a political theatre rather than a forum for democratic debate and decision."

"Much of the public display by members is a performance by actors on both sides of the house, simulating alarm, anger and outrage to win the attention of the public rather than to give or receive useful information."

The Tory member said the public believes government members always toe the Sacred line "and if he is an opposition member always opposes the government but never manages to change anything."

As a Conservative member, Wallace said he would support "sound, sensible, responsible policies" put forward by the



IN THE LEGISLATURE

government rather than simply oppose for the sake of opposing.

Re-affirming his position that "I believe I am serving the electorate of Oak Bay best by following the path I have chosen," Wallace went on to outline some of the alternatives offered by the Conservative party.

He also gave an indication of those policies hinted at in last Thursday's throne speech which he considered to be worthy of support: increased benefits for the handicapped, hospital coverage for those withdrawing from drugs and alcohol and improvement of existing expropriation laws.

Conservative policy alternatives include:

- First priority to raising the standard of living of those on welfare, low-income earners, elderly sick, disabled, and those on fixed incomes.

- Increased minimum wage.

- Hospital insurance coverage to all patients requiring any level of care, including those in nursing homes.

- Removal of school taxes from property in all cases where the homeowner is over 65.

- Increased assistance for all the poor "with no choice" but no welfare for the young and able-bodied who "refuse jobs in order to live close to nature."

- Establishment of a non-

political employment research board to advise government on what types of jobs will become redundant and of the outlook for new fields of employment. This would facilitate both training and retraining of workers.

- Incentives for business and industry in the form of tax relief over the first few years of operation with the provincial government "protecting the revenue sources of a municipality."

- Abolition of the B.C. Mediation Commission which would be replaced by a management labor council backed by technical experts which would try to assist voluntary settlements. The government would only intervene as a last resort and then probably only by ordering "a cooling-off period" in which work must be resumed pending further negotiations.

- Protection of the right of an individual to work without belonging to a labor union.

- Evaluation of all potential power sources including nuclear generation.

- A bigger role for individual MLAs, committees which sit outside of a session, more free votes in the Legislature, a full-scale Hansard, a daily question period in the house.

- Appointment of an ombudsman and a auditor-general to check all spending by the government and crown agencies.

B.C. 'Exploiters' Paradise'

VANCOUVER (CP) — In a brief almost totally critical of the social credit administration of Premier Bennett, the British Columbia Federation of Labor describes the province as an "exploiters' paradise."

The federation, voice of 150,000 trade unionists in B.C., mailed the brief to Bennett and all other members of the provincial Legislature this

week instead of following its former practice of presenting its annual brief to the cabinet.

Last year Bennett did not attend the meeting with the federation and gave no explanation for his absence.

"The government's record of benevolence in dealing with the fastback corporations may be unsurpassed anywhere in Canada," the brief says.

The brief repeats longstanding federation requests that the government, among other things:

- Repeal the B.C. Mediation Commission Act under which the government can institute compulsory settlement in labor dispute.

- Pass legislation to eliminate the use of injunctions in labor disputes and protect the jobs of workers on legal

strikes by outlawing strike-breakers.

- Pay higher old-age pensions and welfare allowances and institute a higher minimum wage.

- Appoint an ombudsman to act on behalf of citizens in their complaints with the government.

- Halt the rise in car insurance rates and gasoline prices.

Heart Surgeons Hit

Dogmatic and uncompromising attitudes of heart specialists in Vancouver have caused a heavy backlog of patients awaiting open-heart surgery, a Special Credit MLA said Tuesday.

"I would like to suggest to the heart specialists that they could enjoy a much more harmonious relationship with the minister of health (Ralph Loffmark) if they pursued a more flexible course in permitting other surgeons use of hospital facilities," Evan Wolfe, second member from Vancouver Centre, said in his throne speech debate.

He cited the case of Dr. George Stefanik, a trained open-heart surgeon now practising in New Westminster and "anxious" to use the facilities in Vancouver General, but "the heart surgeons don't want him on their team."

Wolfe said the attitude of the doctors at Vancouver General against outside doctors "became a real issue," and had resulted in blocking, at least temporarily, adaptation of hospital beds in the provincial government's Willow Chest Pavilion as post-operative intensive-care beds.

He recommended that a new advisory committee, which would rule on which doctors are privileged to use the heart facilities, should be well represented from the ranks of heart surgeons.

Wolfe said he opposed strongly the decision of the

'Dogmatic' Attitudes Blamed for Backlog

Greater Vancouver Regional District Transportation Committee, that Vancouver was not ready for a proper rail rapid transit system.

"This part of the transportation committee's report really concerns me, and is in disagreement with the findings of the Deleuw Cather study as to the feasibility of rail rapid transit for the area."

He said he could see rapid transit being delayed 20 to 30 years if it was not included in the regional district's transportation plans now.

The Deleuw Cather study of 1970 commissioned jointly by the regional district and the provincial government said a two-stage network involving 24 miles of track and costing

about \$300 million should be undertaken.

He said the provincial government should arrange to meet with federal government officials to discuss a formula for financing urban transportation with emphasis on rapid transit.

Wolfe said the provincial government should "lay out more emphatically with the federal minister of transport those sections of the crossing (First Narrows Crossing) for which British Columbia will be responsible ... and for the Vancouver MPs to go to bat for this area and indicate to the federal cabinet very strongly we want this First Narrows Crossing."

He said the crossing which would cost Vancouver almost

nothing would "provide the future access for rapid transit to North Shore."

The federal government was neglecting B.C. in regional economic expansion grants giving the province 26 cents per capita between July 1969 and March 1971 compared with \$28.60 for Nova Scotia \$8.84 in Quebec \$1.85 in Ontario \$7.84 in Manitoba \$5.44 in Saskatchewan and \$13.21 in Alberta he said.

B.C. was the only province which did not have a "special area" as defined under the program he said.

Wolfe also said the province should go on record as favoring price and wage controls and pressure the federal government to install them immediately.

Socred to NDP: Do Not Meddle

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson told the New Democratic Party Tuesday not to meddle in affairs outside of B.C. where action is up to elected governments.

In his speech in the Legislature Peterson seemed to reject the proposal by Opposition Leader Dave Barrett that the government invite Washington state legislators to discuss common pollution problems here later this year.

Reacting to taunts from the NDP benches Peterson shot back: "You must remember you were not elected to govern this province and you must not meddle in affairs outside our borders."

The attorney-general said consultation "on a day-to-day basis" already exists between B.C. and Washington on pollution control.

He also cited the current exchange of electrical power between Washington and B.C. after snow and ice broke transmission lines linking the Peace power project and the Lower Mainland.

As further proof of co-operation, Peterson read a letter from Washington Governor Dan Evans inviting Premier Bennett to be honorary co-chairman of celebrations this summer to mark the cen-

tenary of the settlement of the San Juan Islands boundary dispute. He added that Bennett has accepted.

Referring to the visit by the NDP caucus earlier this month to the state capital at Olympia, Peterson said Barrett and his group had been less than frank with their American hosts because they didn't disclose that several members, including the leader, had signed the anti-American Watkins manifesto.

"I'm glad you didn't make a full and frank confession," Peterson said, "because they are our friends and this government wants to continue to have a good relationship with them."

Stock 'Rip-Offs' Attacked

Weak laws and an under-staffed securities commission make B.C. a "home sweet home for rip-off artists," Dennis Cocke (NDP — New Westminster) told the Legislature Wednesday.

Cocke said he welcomed an indication in the throne speech that the government was studying the whole question of securities and company law in the province, adding that he hoped the matter would be placed before a house committee at the current session.

Under its present laws, the NDP member said, B.C. is vulnerable to all kinds of corporate wheeler-dealers and the small investors who put money into these companies are virtually without protection.

Cocke spent some time tracing the development of one scheme which he claimed grew into a "financial octopus," providing profits for "a long line of leeches and bloodsuckers" and ending up with 37,000 B.C. citizens being made into "suckers."

He read copies of three letters sent by a Vancouver law firm to Seattle promoters offering for sale 5,800 acres of crown granted timber land in the B.C. Interior, oil properties in northern B.C., and North-West Life Assurance Co., incorporated by private act of the Legislature in 1956.

Cocke said these were examples of the kind of activity by promoters, often involving Americans, which resulted in small investors in this province being "ripped off" because the government doesn't have tough enough laws to protect them.

He also called on the government to pass new laws to protect employees covered by non-contributory pension plans. Federal controls are in existence to offer protection in employer-employee pension plans only, he added, and it's up to the province to fill the gaps that are left.

Cocke cited the recent closing down of the McGavin Toastmaster Co. operation in Vancouver in which at least 48 employees, all in or approaching their 50s and with a total of over 800 years service, were left without jobs or pension benefits.

The same plan covers the bakery's employees in Alberta and Saskatchewan, the NDP member said, but at least in those province's the law requires that anyone with 10 years service, or who has reached age 45, gets "full proportionate credit for his service."

B.C. Can Attack Sniffing—Clark

Barrie Clark (L—North Vancouver Seymour) said in the Legislature Wednesday that, despite government denials, curbs on toxic solvents in nail polish remover and other products can be introduced without recourse to Ottawa.

He said Alberta has obtained convictions of persons charged with using intoxicating solvents in a public place and said this backs an earlier claim by Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer that one solution lies in an amendment to the provincial Liquor Act.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson, speaking in the Legislature Tuesday, denied this claim.

Clark added that Vancouver had passed a bylaw which allowed civic authorities to revoke the licence of retail outlets which sell harmful substances to children who sniff them for kicks. He suggested Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell draft a bylaw to achieve this aim and circulate it to all municipalities in the province with a request that local councils adopt it.

Clark said the greatly stepped-up use of government advertising in B.C. has raised the question of its use as a bribe both to advertising agencies and the media. He added that the time had come to introduce protective legislation similar to that passed recently by the British Parliament.

In the U.K., Clark said, any agency which accepts political advertising at election time isn't allowed to do business with that party, if it

forms the government for the whole of its term.

He said the government's advertising bill with James Lovick, which totalled \$774,000 last year, doesn't require much arithmetic to compute the commission paid to the agency.

Clark also urged the government to establish a revolving fund out of which the home taxes of elderly people would be paid with the fund being reimbursed from proceeds of the property's sale after the death of the owner.

Minister, Grit MLA Clash Over Oil-Drilling Permits

A Liberal MLA and a Social Credit minister clashed in the Legislature Wednesday over federal and provincial policies for granting oil drilling permits off the B.C. coast.

Barrie Clark (L.—North Vancouver Seymour) accused Resources Minister Ray Williston of not telling the full story when he claimed Ottawa had no right to object to Alaskan oil shipments down the coast when it was granting oil drilling permits in B.C. waters.

Williston earlier told the house that Petrocar Chemical Ltd. of Calgary has been given a drilling licence on about 1.4 million acres, most of which is on the southeastern side of the Queen Charlotte Islands, plus a small strip west of Banks Island on the northern B.C. coast.

Outside the house the minister said Ottawa didn't let the province know about the



Williston

licence but the provincial mines and petroleum resources department found out after checking with the federal government on a rumor about drilling.

Williston said the latest oil drilling licence indicates that the Liberals, both provincially and federally, are "talking out of both sides of their mouths" on the question of pollution. He added it didn't fit in with the stand taken against oil tanker shipments to a refinery near Blaine.

Clark retorted that all holders of federal drilling permits have been advised that no permission has been given to carry out exploratory drilling "and none will be given" until ecological and environmental studies are completed.

The Liberal member then demanded to know why the B.C. government hadn't revoked provincial oil exploration permits which it issued in 1966.

The minister said in an interview that the B.C. government is taking a stand that there should not be any oil drilling until technology is sufficiently reliable to ensure against any ecological disaster.

However, Mines Minister Frank Richter, in a later interview, said the province granted Union Oil Co. a licence three months ago to do some exploratory drilling in the vicinity of the Queen Charlottes.

Williston Warns Loggers

'Stop Taking Best Only'

B.C.'s coastal logging operations are going to have to stop harvesting only the best timber stands if they are to fit into the province's "revolutionary policy," Resources Minister Ray Williston told the Legislature Wednesday.

In his throne speech debate, he said 72 per cent of the province's timber is being harvested on the tighter requirements of the close utilization (CU) process, but "outside of the larger tree farm

licenses on the coast there has only been a small implementation of such wood use here."

The difference between CU and the older intermediate utilization (IU) program, he explained was that the old system stipulated useable limits to be 13 inches at the base, measured at breast height, down to eight inches at the top; the new limits are eight inches measured at one foot from the ground, and down to a four-inch top.

The old system calls for all sound wood to be harvested, but the CU system, introduced 10 years ago, says every log must be barked and all residuals chipped, and all trees with 50 per cent sound wood must be taken from the forest.

Asked outside the house

whether the government might take steps to force the coast loggers to comply with the new regulations, which would mean re-tooling their sawmills to utilize the smaller trees up to the new standards, Williston wouldn't say.

He said the introduction of CU was voluntary, except in the case of new sawmills being built in the Interior, and would probably continue to remain on a voluntary basis for some time.

"There has to be co-ordinated development," he told reporters. "The industry has to have facilities to use the wood we are now leaving on our forest floor."

He added, "I would hope, however, the policy I have enunciated today in this house will telescope it."

In his speech, Williston said

the CU operation was a "revolutionary policy," which would utilize fully every resource value of the log. "Even the logs with no other value than for conversion to chips would be handled in this manner."

In final utilization, he said the bark, sawdust and shavings are being used in new pulp mills for conversion into a fuel that will be burned without smoke or particle fallout, creating steam which will be used in generating electricity and in power for pulp making.

Williston admitted the development of close utilization plants was costly, but B.C. has the largest group of efficient CU sawmills to be found anywhere in the world.

Bennett Says Moran Out of Question

To Dam or Not To Dam?

Premier Bennett told the Legislature Wednesday no one in the provincial government has advocated construction of the Moran Dam on the Fraser River but opposition members refused to accept his assurance.

Barrie Clark (L-North Vancouver Seymour) said unless the government's lead-off speaker this afternoon, Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell, can come up with a "clear statement" of the government's policy on

damming the Fraser, it must be assumed the Moran will go ahead.

Robert Strachan (NDP-Cowichan-Malahat), former leader of the New Democratic Party opposition in the house, got involved in a shouting match across the floor with the premier on the Moran issue. Strachan brandished newspaper clippings which quoted Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan as saying last October that damming of the Fraser would control

flooding in the lower reaches of the river.

At the height of a series of shouted charges and counter-charges, Speaker William Murray called for order and said: "If the house won't settle down I'll make it settle down by adjourning the debate."

Federal authorities oppose the Moran Dam because they claim it would destroy a multi-million-dollar Fraser River salmon fishery. The B.C. Energy Board, currently study-

ing the province's power needs over a 15-year period to 1985 is considering the Moran Dam among other hydro projects.

Earlier, Dennis Cocke (NDP-New Westminster) suggested that Bennett and B.C. Hydro chairman Dr. Gordon Shrum were engaging in a "sham battle" over nuclear power sources while secretly favoring the Moran Dam. He said the NDP opposes the project.

Socred on Annacis Island Area:

Fraser Sewage Plant Urgent

Immediate secondary sewage treatment at Annacis Island in the Fraser River urgent, M.L.A. Robert Wenman (Socred-Delta) said Wednesday in the Legislature.

Wenman said reverse flows and influence of Georgia Strait tides could cause effluent from Annacis Island to reach Douglas Island and Pitt River.

At times of low flow, he said, the effluent would lay in the Fraser, causing contamination in the South Arm and possibly having a sub-lethal effect on sea-bound salmon, causing them to be vulnerable to predators.

Wenman proposed a \$5 million B.C. multi-cultural heritage fund, to secure "examples of architecture and life style of all of the cultural heritages from the earliest native Indians to today's proud young Canadians."

He said he proposed the fund to stress the multi-cultural aspect because it was a true reflection of Canadian identity, saying "this aspect is currently being eroded by an unnecessary, unfortunate and overbearing emphasis of the French factor in our Canadian culture."

Non-Confidence Motion Defeated

House Kills Plea Over Insurance

By IAN STRELL

Colonist Legislature Reporter

An NDP non-confidence motion taking Social Credit to task for failing to bring in government-run car insurance in B.C. was defeated Thursday night by a vote of 39 to 13.

The lone Conservative in the House, Scott Wallace of Oak Bay, and four of the five Liberals voted with the government against the motion. One Liberal, Barrie Clark of North Vancouver-Seymour, voted with the NDP.

After the vote was taken about 9:15 p.m., climaxing just over three hours of lacklustre debate, Opposition Leader Dave Barrett jumped to his feet and shouted across at the government benches: "I challenge you, Mr. Premier, to go to the people on this issue tomorrow."

Premier Bennett shook his head. But earlier, Attorney-General Leslie Peterson rallied some government backbenchers who appeared to be wavering on the issue by reminding them that if the non-confidence vote succeeded there would be an election. The move succeeded and no Socreds broke ranks.

Barrett earlier noted that at least three backbenchers and one cabinet minister, Agriculture Minister Cyril Shelford, were on record as favoring government car insurance. And he noted the annual Social Credit convention had on more than one occasion passed resolutions approving it as well.

"But this so-called little people's party is in the grasp of the New York insurance companies," the NDP leader said. "It refuses to acknowledge that 85 per cent of the people in this province want government car insurance. And if that is synonymous with socialism, I say to them all, join the NDP."

Peterson accused NDP insurance spokesman William Hartley of providing "misleading" information to the house on car insurance rates and said it was only fair to give the B.C. Automobile Insurance Board, which has only been in existence for a year, more time to prove it can regulate the industry effectively.

"State ownership isn't a panacea," Peterson said. "I think it is only fair and reasonable to allow the regulatory authority time to demonstrate how it can deal with a very complicated and difficult problem."

Garde Gardom (L-Point Grey), said the NDP claim

that it would save B.C. motorists money was "tommyrot."

Gardom added, however, the Liberals want the government tax through the B.C. Auto Insurance Board to "bring the insurance companies into line" by ordering them to provide the no-fault benefit package for a flat fee of \$7.50 a year for 1972 and 1973.

The insurance board, which recently told companies they must reduce the cost of the no-fault package by about \$7 to \$15, would wipe out overcharges in the past two years since the compulsory plan went into operation by halving that figure, the Liberal member said.

Wallace said the present car insurance system obviously isn't working well but added that didn't mean it should automatically become more efficient and less costly under government auspices. To think so, he said, meant resorting to the "narrow mind and tunnel vision" of socialists.

"The system we have is neither efficient nor fair priced," the Tory spokesman said. "But the solution lies in more regulation of the industry — not in government ownership."

Wallace added he agreed the auto insurance board should order companies to repay to motorists the premiums for which they had been overcharged on the no-fault package during the past two years.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) criticized the government for accepting "Mexican jumping bean figures" from insurance companies which he claimed were so vague as to justify almost any action on the part of the industry.

Quoting from a report filed by Westco, "the prince of creamers," Macdonald said one item actually listed "other income and expenditures, totalling \$176,000." He asked how income and expenditures could come under a single heading and said the same company listed \$334,000 in general expenses and taxes while claiming a net loss.

"That report should have been sent back to the company, postage due, COD, because it's rubbish," Macdonald said. "No wonder the insurance board couldn't get enough information from the companies to order them to refund premiums motorists have been overcharged in the past two years."

The NDP member said the government has to demand information about reserves,

earnings on those reserves, and where they are invested. It is only in this way, he said, that the public will ever know about the "grossly wasteful bureaucracy, the directors' fees, hidden expenses and commissions, and kickbacks" which make private insurance plans so costly.

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver Howe Sound) said complaints by motorists about insurance premiums would continue until the government exercises its responsibility to regulate the industry. He also said the board should order redress for overcharged no-fault premiums.

He cited the case put forward by Hartley — who had noted a 65-per-cent increase in premiums over a 12-month period for his two family cars — as evidence that the NDP, as "up the garden path variety socialists," were continuing to mislead the public on the car insurance issue.

Hartley claimed a government scheme in B.C. would result in a 50-per-cent reduction in premium costs in his own case.

Williams said the NDP member's company reported 80 cents in every premium dollar last year went to cover loss. He therefore questioned the validity of Hartley's claim. And he pointed out the company, with headquarters in Saskatchewan, had "precisely the same" minimum premium structure as the government-run car insurance scheme in that province.

"This is the kind of insurance intelligence that the NDP offers us," the Liberal said while government ministers and backbenchers pounded their desks in delight.

The non-confidence motion was made by NDP member Frank Calder of Atlin, who did not preface the amendment to the throne speech, simply stating that the house should oppose the fact no mention had been made of a government car insurance plan supplied to the people of B.C. at cost.

Deputy Speaker Herbert Bruch appeared to be questioning the legality of the motion, but yielded the chair to Speaker William Murray, who did not rule the motion out of order.

Secondor Hartley of Yale-Lillooet, the NDP's insurance expert, used some of his throne speech debate time to rail the government for its soft attitude on car insurance.

He said Peterson had announced, prior to the 1969 election, there would be a 15-35 per cent reduction in car

insurance premiums, a reduction that never was realized.

The government was returned by the largest majority in its history that year, he said, "and no doubt it received the greatest campaign funds from the car insurance industry it had ever received."

He said he was sure some of the backbenchers on the government side would be in favor of insurance reforms, but "you're in the bag of the car insurance industry."

In a later reference, Hartley withdrew the word "bribe" from his statement, on the order of Speaker Murray that it was "highly improper."

Hartley asked Premier Bennett to categorically deny that any member of his government had ever received campaign funds from the car insurance industry, but Bennett said, "Sit down, and I will talk."

Hartley said one insurance company, to his knowledge, had raised collision rates 65 per cent, and concluded: "Until we supply car insurance with every licence plate, the business would continue to bleed car drivers."

Fellow Socred Disenchanted

Closed Up North Blamed on Skillings

A Social Credit backbencher took Trade Minister Waldo Skillings to task in the Legislature Thursday night for failing to open up new employment opportunities in northern B.C.

Don Marshall (SC—South Peace) said he was most disenchanted with the performance of a department which should be aggressive and full of promotional schemes but which under Skillings suffers from complete paralysis.



IN THE LEGISLATURE

He said the adage that the north is the land of opportunity could become largely a

myth unless the government opens up new jobs.

At present, he said, there are pockets of rapid development which suffer from higher than average unemployment, a high concentration of welfare recipients and have high school, vocational, and, in some cases, university graduates who cannot be absorbed in the mainstream of the community.

"Agriculture opened up the Peace and it is still its economic mainstay," Marshall said. "Yet our department does nothing to stimulate production of new products nor does it contribute very much to production facilities, market development or sales contacts in the promotion of agricultural products."

The House rose at 11:35 p.m.

Government Taken To Task For Nature 'Rape'

The Social Credit government's morality in raping streams and flooding valleys was taken to task by William Hartley (NDP—Yale Lillooett) in his throne speech debate Thursday.

Questioning Attorney-General Leslie Peterson's understanding of the word morality he said, "Isn't it as bad to rape a trout stream or flood a beautiful valley as for a lovely young lady to walk around with a bare bosom?"

Peterson ignored the reference to his recent campaign on topless and bottomless dancers for a few seconds, then asked Hartley, "What are your views on bottomless dancers?"

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett suggested the government might "rise above your morality."

Hartley said the government was "a fast-buck opportunistic government with no environmental program," and turning to purchase of crown land said, "If you happen to be a mining corporation you can buy land for a townsite (inexpensively), not if you are a deserving community."

As a last jab at government procedure, Hartley suggested the Legislature sit in fall sessions, "instead of all-night sessions, trying to ram legislation through like a sausage machine."

Kaiser Scrutiny Urged by Socred

Close scrutiny of Kaiser Steel interests in B.C. was called for Thursday by Social Credit backbencher Burt Campbell (Revelstoke-Slocan) in the throne speech debate.

Campbell said he wanted to see a full investigation in the "curious case of Kaiser Resources," recently reported in the Wall Street Journal.

The government should place the investigation in the

hands of the standing committee of railways and mining with orders to look fully into the relationship between Kaiser, KRL Investments Ltd. (who handled the stock sale) and Kaiser Resources.

He suggested the committee should also study whether Crows Nest Industries, being 60 per cent foreign-owned, should be allowed to build the Kootenay-Elk railroad.

Island 'Bicycle Paradise'

Vancouver Island should strive to become a bicycle paradise, Frank Ney, Nanaimo's member, told the house Thursday in his throne speech debate.

"A bicycle path from Victoria to Campbell River would be a great feature for bringing thousands of cycling enthusiasts to the Island from all over North America," the man who made Nanaimo the "Bathtub Capital of the World" said.

He cited Bermuda and Hawaii as examples of bicycle-

oriented tourist areas — "Bermuda has made money out of cyclists and we can do it here."

"In Europe cycling paths have been the fashion for hundreds of years. If we are thinking in terms of a growing population we should be thinking of bicycle paths."

The government should be thinking about adding another ferry on the Nanaimo run, to help handle some of the tourists that would be encouraged to visit the Island by the "catalytic action" of

Pacific Rim Park, on the Island's west coast, he said.

Some plan should be devised to give the Island's dairy industry a shot in the arm, Ney suggested, such as some form of compulsion for chain stores who are selling milk outside their plant location area, to purchase an equivalent amount of milk from local producers.

Ney said he thought it was a shame the "crumpet eating capital of Canada" was planning to sterilize its pigeons after having lured them to the Island by its slogan Follow the Birds to Victoria posted all over North America.

"Surely we have not got to a position where there is a danger of Victoria becoming the Pigeon-Pie Capital of North America. In Trafalgar Square in London, St. Mark's Square in Venice and many other great capitals of the world, the pigeons add to the color and charm of the environment."

As a solution, Ney suggested the Pigeon Racing Association of Nanaimo had volunteered to come down and trap the pigeons and transport them to Swartz Bay and Nanaimo ferry terminals, where they could be kept in pigeon lofts and fed by the tourists.

Ottawa Backs Majority Cut

Federal Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chretien has advised B.C. that Ottawa has no objection to lowering the majority needed for approval of an Indian municipality to 60 per cent from 75 per cent.

In a telegram read by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell to the Legislature Thursday Chretien said he felt the requirements in the Municipal Act for incorporation of both Indian and non-Indian municipalities should be the same.

The federal minister was replying to a wire sent by Campbell earlier stating the province was prepared to make the necessary amendments to the Municipal Act if there was no objection from Ottawa.

While agreeing with the B.C. proposal Chretien did,

however, suggest the B.C. Union of Indian Chiefs should be consulted for their view. Campbell gave no indication if this would be done.

The question arose following the four vote defeat earlier this month on a vote to make Cape Mudge on Quadra Island off Campbell River the first Indian municipality in Canada. The band council called for reduction of the required majority and an early second vote.

Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin), the province's only Indian member, said he hoped the House would support the change to 60 per cent majority for inclusion of Indian reserves into the municipal status would "be passed at this session, so Cape Mudge might have another chance."

Bennett, Campbell Burn Gulf Bridges

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell attacked "airy-fairy" and "way-out" planners in the Legislature Thursday for destroying the environment they are supposed to be trying to protect.

He centred his attack on the Capital District Region's publication Gulf Islands Options but discussed only one of the four options offered, to link the islands by a series of highway bridges to both Vancouver Island and the mainland.

Premier Bennett, who has a leisure hideaway on Salt Spring Island, said "no way" when Campbell told the house that "it has been pretty clearly suggested that building bridges through all those little islands isn't any part of government policy."

Campbell stressed it was up to the government to make such public policy and said so-called superplanners are getting in the way of official efforts to control growth in order to properly protect the environment.

Robert Williams (NDP—Vancouver East), a professional planner, said Campbell should make clear to the house that other options had been offered by the Capital Regional Board. "What about the \$36 million for

parks?" Williams said. "Be responsible for a change."

Campbell said it must be made clear that politicians and not bureaucrats are responsible for charting directions which individual communities or the province as a whole must take. He said planners are too often completely out of touch with the needs of the people.

While it's fashionable to deride the activities of land speculators and developers, the minister added, developers are often unable to meet "foolish" regulations, planning ideas and zoning proposals formulated by planners.

Campbell also warned that where bylaws passed by regional boards don't meet the test of public opinion, he as minister will refuse to sign them.

He cited the case of 250 Coquitlam residents, now living in a rental trailer park, who got together and came up with an "innovative idea" of co-operatively building a landscaped and fully-serviced mobile home park but were thwarted by local regulations.

This kind of thinking by planners, Campbell said, amounts to "planning for Forest Lawn cemetery rather than for living people."

Williams Lake Death

MLA Predicts Indian Furor

● Other legislative stories
Page 32.

B.C.'s only Indian MLA, Frank Calder of Athol, predicted there will be cross-Canada repercussions over the recent death of an Indian at Williams Lake.

Referring to the death of

Fred Quilt Nov. 30, two days after he had been arrested by RCMP when he was parked on a highway near Williams Lake, the NDP member asked the house in the throne speech debate, "Does Mafia justice toward Indians actually exist in this province and throughout Canada?"

(There has been unrest among B.C.'s Indians because an all-white jury absolved the RCMP of any blame in the death, which was caused by peritonitis from a ruptured vessel in Quilt's stomach.)

Calder said many Indian leaders are aroused and are going to pursue the case in

provincial and federal quarters.

He said the eyes of other countries would be on Canada, and the Quilt case created "a bad court image for our country."

He said he had decided to accept a post on a committee to study "Indians and the law," on a Canada-wide basis.

Fellow NDP member William Hartley (Yale-Lillooet) also referred to the case in his throne speech debate. "There appears to have been a gross miscarriage of justice, or a gross misinterpretation in the press, of what has gone on."

He said one of the main problems of the Indians was brought about by their low economic stature and suggested the government should take immediate steps to provide free court workers for them.

Hartley tabled several questions for Attorney-General Leslie Peterson to answer regarding the Quilt case but Peterson's written reply said no transcript of the coroner's inquest into Quilt's death has been received by his department.

Backbencher Cites Inexperience

Hydro Opposed on Pipeline

Hydro should get out of the pipeline construction controversy, Social Credit Backbencher Alex Fraser (Cariboo) said during the throne speech debate Thursday.

"They have no experience in building natural gas transmission lines while other applicants have. If they were given the right to build the transmission lines for gas to Vancouver Island they would no doubt waste a lot of public funds because of their lack of experience in this field."

He said it would be necessary for the government to raise large sums for capital expenditure if Hydro were to do the construction at a time when the government had to raise a great deal of money for Hydro's electrical power expansion program.

He said, however, he felt Hydro should have its share of distribution rights once the natural gas arrives on the Island, suggesting 60-40 for Hydro over private interests.

Fraser said he favored the northern route for the transmission line, since it would be 359 miles with 15 miles under water, compared with 504 miles for the southern cross-

ing with two stretches under water totalling 35 miles.

Fraser said he was disturbed about the government's "inadequate policy" on municipal sewage treatment.

He said the government should alter its directive on minimum treatment level from primary to secondary.

He cited the action by citi-

zens in Prince George in the last municipal election by returning to office or electing those favoring secondary treatment.

Hydro Can Do Job Better, Cheaper, Says NDPer

Island Pipeline
'Paying Off IOUs'By IAN STREET
Colonist Reporter

Premier Bennett was accused in the Legislature Friday of opposing B.C. Hydro's bid to build a natural gas pipeline to serve Vancouver Island because a private company holds "political IOUs" on the provincial government.

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) said he had evidence in the form of a 1969 National Energy Board report to the federal cabinet to refute Bennett's claim that Hydro wasn't interested in the pipeline project until bids were called last April.

In the NEB report Hydro was quoted as saying that it felt that provision of natural gas to Vancouver Island would be feasible by 1973-74 and added it would be better for the crown agency rather than Westcoast Transmission to build the pipeline.

Macdonald charged, however, that the government is now deserting Hydro in favor of a private company which he claimed was a clear case of private interests being served before the public.

Hydro, which already purchases natural gas for distribution in the Lower Mainland from Westcoast at Huntington on the international boundary, would be able to provide lower rates on the Island than any private bidder because under current contracts the price gets less as the volume increases, the NDP member said.

"Westcoast doesn't like that," Macdonald told the House.

Recalling the eve of the 1960 provincial general election, when former Westcoast president Frank McMahon warned a U.C. victory at the polls would mean a loss of 10,000 jobs in B.C., Macdonald said this fact was the reason "Westcoast holds so many political IOUs of this government."

He added: "For 19 years this government has been like a mother to Westcoast Transmission."

The reason Westcoast is pressuring the government to award the pipeline contract to a private company and to insist on a northern route from Williams Lake to the coast at Powell River is quite simple, Macdonald said.

The NEB, which regulates all exports of natural gas, has decreed that Hydro can purchase natural gas at Huntington — where the Westcoast line goes into the U.S. — for 5 per cent less than the current price of gas sold to the U.S. The result is, he added, the price consumers on Vancouver Island will be regulated by Ottawa "where it belongs."

Sale to a private company at Williams Lake, however, would not come under scrutiny of the national agency and that's what B.C. wants because it must pay its political debts to Westcoast.

"With a northern route there would be no controls," Macdonald said, "which is why this government has tried to shove Hydro aside. When the bids were called the government wouldn't even give the specifications to Hydro."

"The government was determined to see a private company get this pipeline because it wanted to strip away Hydro's right to scrutiny of gas prices by the National Energy Board."

"In this matter, the premier sneezed and the Public Utilities Commission broke its act, which requires a hearing of all applicants for such a franchise and not designating one prime application as the commission originally did in the case of Malaspina Pipelines Ltd. and shoving all the others off into a corner."

Macdonald said the two cabinet ministers who serve as Hydro directors, Resources Minister Ray Williston and Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan have failed in their duty to protect the public interest. The best watchdog, he added, has been Hydro chairman Dr. Gordon Shrum who has shown "some independence" on the pipeline issue and "helped to stave off the giveaway."

The NDP member said Malaspina, originally designated the prime applicant but later placed on the same basis as several others, was merely a front company for Westcoast with neither engineers nor money of its own to attempt to carry out the pipeline project.

Daniel Ekman, former executive assistant to Premier Bennett, has been associated with both Westcoast and Malaspina, Macdonald said. "He has good pipeline connections," he added, "because he has been the pipeline between the industry and the premier's office for years."

"Ekman is bon vivant, premier's speech writer, voyageur, taster. When bids were called, naturally, it was 'oh Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling. After all he has served both Bennett and McMahon, two masters with but a scintilla thought.'"

By acceding to the premier's wishes, Macdonald said, the PUC has "badly let down the people of this province."

By giving the pipeline contract to Hydro, he added, the

commission can assure Vancouver Islanders cheaper gas and at the same time provide more jobs for British Columbians by completing engineering and planning for the project here rather than in San Francisco.

Socred Accuses Socreds Of Silence on Sterilization

Pat Jordan, B.C. minister without portfolio, criticized her fellow Socreds Friday for keeping silent about human sterilization.

Speaking in the Legislature during the throne speech debate, the blonde MLA from North Okanagan said people are beginning to accept sterilization as part of family planning because of "a major reversal in social attitudes based on fact, with little fanfare."

"But I have not heard one word out of any member of this house on the subject."

"An even more important step is the strengthening of thousands of homes and the family unit in British Columbia, a placing of women on an equal footing with me, married or single, in the area of family planning," she said in reference to vasectomy or male sterilization.

As a further adjunct to family life, Mr. Jordan said the government should stimulate the thriving sport by appointing a director of snowmobiling.

She said the new director could bring legality into the sport whose followers have been "accused of every vice from wholesale slaughter of wintering wild animals to outrageous wilderness seduction of spinster conservationists."

The snowmobile director would work under the parks and recreation minister and co-ordinate the location of sites in crown lands for snowmobilers to engage in photography, wild animal and bird watching and enjoyment of scenery.

Mrs. Jordan attacked the federal Liberal government on its agricultural program, saying, "The federal government members have ricocheted around British Columbia and Canada damning our de-

pendence on the United States, yet it (the government) has deliberately married an 'independent farm annihilation policy' and is trying to give birth to corporate farms."

She said unless the small farmers were given some joint policy between federal and provincial government, which would give them a fighting chance, the entire province would become urban with only carefully cultivated greens.

Cemetery Operations Blasted by Macdonald

The Public Utilities Commission is "in contempt of the Legislature" and should be retired, Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said Friday.

The NDP member based his charge on the commission's handling of cemetery operations in the province which he said failed to indicate alleged mishandling of trust accounts.

"The commission must go," Macdonald said, "and be replaced by a reconstituted, aggressive, independent scrutinizing body to protect the people of this province."

Macdonald said the Robert Hagel group of companies which owns cemeteries in Nanaimo and Colwood and "dipped into" trust accounts and instead of reporting this too the Legislature, the commission had awarded a crematorium "in the hope that out of the profits some day they could make up losses in care funds."

"The wages of sin in this case were the award of a cre-



IN THE
LEGISLATURE

matorium," the NDP member said.

He told the house the PUC is composed of two long retired deputy ministers and a former Social Credit cabinet minister who should all be replaced because they have failed to exercise their responsibilities.

The reason: "When the premier sneezes the commission gesundheit."

Macdonald also called on Attorney-General Leslie Peterson to prosecute executives of Kaiser Resources Ltd.,

who, he charged, violated insider trading regulations under the Securities Act in the purchase of shares in the company's Kootenay mining operations.

Tisdalle on Pat Bay Highway:

Road Hazard Built In

The Pat Bay Highway has built-in dangers, Soered John Tisdalle told the Legislature during the throne speech debate Friday.

The member for Saanich-The Islands said he was pleased to see advancement in construction, "but we are building difficulties for the motorist into it."

He said the overpass at McTavish-Airport Road was "built for disaster and not for safety," and its level crossing represented a constant danger.

In his opening remarks, Tisdalle said he felt the interior decor of the legislative buildings should be changed, since he had it on good scientific authority that red was ex-

tremely injurious to the eyes and he was sure his three months a year spent in the house was injuring his sight.

He said, however, he understood the reason for the red-

carpet in the legislative chambers was so "we wouldn't see the blood being spilled."

In remarks about Soviet defector Igor Gouzenko, Tisdalle said he was tired of a federal government that "pussyfooted around with all the pinks and half-baked socialists in the world."

On the subject of laws he said, "Talk about laws that are queer, not all the queers are laws."

"I want to say something about educational TV," Tisdalle said.

"That's what we should have in the house right now," Dennis Cocke (NDP—New Westminster) interjected, amid general laughter.

Tisdalle also talked about a proposed extended-care hospital for Central Saanich, which he said he had learned from the newspapers was being reconsidered.

After a few minutes, Health Minister Ralph Loffmark, cut off Tisdalle saying, "No problem."

The more than 60 minutes of Tisdalle's speech covered a wide variety of topics.

'Vancouver in Danger Of Being Throttled'

Social Credit Party Whip Hunter Vogel of Langley recommended Friday that B.C. Hydro be divorced from the transportation field.

Speaking in the throne speech debate Friday, Vogel said Vancouver was in danger of being throttled by freeways and losing its identity as a beautiful city, unless something was done immediately about getting more cars out of the city and less cars encouraged from entering the city.

For one remedy, he said all thoughts of a third crossing should be suspended, since

Vancouver did not "want North Vancouver cars dumped in its streets."

He said a crown authority, such as the ferry authority, should be set up to study the mass transportation picture in the Lower Mainland, with emphasis placed in its study on busing people downtown to parking lots for dispersal in the city core.

Vogel also said he felt throne speech debates were twice as long as they should be, since they were not dealing with specifics, like the budget debates.

He suggested the throne debates be cut to one week with the parties splitting up the

Westco Firing in House

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson was asked Friday by Alex MacDonald (NDP — Vancouver East) to take a look at the firing of Brian Rudkin as president of Westco International Insurance Co., to ensure the man's civil liberties were not violated.

Rudkin, founder of the Vancouver company, announced Thursday he had been fired by Westco's parent company, Northland Insurance of St. Paul,

Minn., for choosing not to raise the company's no-fault car insurance premiums.

"When a British Columbian is preemptorily dismissed for pledging better rates for B.C., there should be laws that he be given proper termination notice," MacDonald told the Legislature.

The whole "Question of the man's civil liberties should be considered," he said, "as well as the independence of this province."