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Rental boards proposed

By PAT HRUSHOWY
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A draft bill to establish rental accommodation grievance boards in B.C. municipalities was filed in the legislature Monday by Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell.

Campbell said the proposed legislation, which says the board will be run at the municipal councils' expense, will now be circulated in municipal leaders throughout the province for study and comment.

The bill would empower the board to hear grievances from a tenant or landlord who alleges the terms of written lease have not been adhered to, or if municipal bylaws regulating rental accommodation are being abused.

The decision of the board, subject to a Supreme Court

More legislature
Pages 2, 12, 13, 23

appeal, would be binding on all parties.

The bill would also clarify the powers of municipalities to regulate rental accommodation in their areas.

During the Second World War, the federal government had wide powers under the War Measures Act to regulate housing, but after the war this power was passed on to the provincial governments. The B.C. government passed this power on to the municipalities.

The bill specifies that municipal councils would have the power to regulate the terms and conditions of accommodation not under written lease in the following areas:

- The amount of notice to be given for rent increases.
- The length of notice of termination required by both landlord and tenant.
- The level of service and maintenance to be required.
- The conditions of entry

for inspection of rental accommodation by the landlord, except in emergencies.

Campbell filed the draft legislation after the Opposition accused the government of irresponsibility in ignoring abuses of the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Norman Levi (NDP) (Vancouver South) said the government was acting irresponsibly by ignoring abuses to the Landlord and Tenant Act, particularly in the Vancouver area.

"There is a great deal of gouging going on in every riding in the Vancouver region," Levi said. "The real victims are the senior citizens and the low income groups."

"The minister must have received several briefs on the matter, yet there are no amendments insight to solve the problems. This is irresponsible."

Campbell replied that a committee was formed last year to investigate the whole field of land reform and he prom-

ised to table in the House a report on the committee's progress.

BILL OF RIGHTS

He said he hopes one of the results will be a tenants' bill of rights.

Leo Nimsick (NDP—Kootenay) accused the government of doing nothing but cater to the needs of Crows Nest Industries to the detriment of the people of Natal-Michel.

"This government is in cahoots with Crows Nest Industries," Nimsick said, but withdrew the word "cahoots" when Campbell objected.

Campbell said his department is ready to act immediately on any Natal-Michel residents' application to be relocated in the new town of Sparwood. Nimsick insisted the government should take the initiative in the move.

"Property prices are falling lower and lower and pollution is getting worse and worse," Nimsick said. "It's almost impossible to live there."

Robert Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) said Natal-Michel has one of the meanest environments in B.C. The relocation to Sparwood, he said, is a "classic example of government bungling."

ABLE TO RELOCATE

"There should have been some initiative on the part of this government to see that people were able to relocate properly," he said. "The people were offered only a chance to buy a lot when they should have been offered a house for a house . . . The scheme you have come up with is a sterile suburb, when it could have been an enlightened case of community rebuilding."

"It's a classic mess, that's all."

Campbell accused Williams of using "caustically abusive language." No community in B.C. had been visited more by government officials than Sparwood.

"I'm sure the people of Sparwood wouldn't want to hear it described as a sterile suburb," Campbell said.

He agreed that Natal-Michel could be described as a dirty little town with a mean environment — but that is why "we are trying to change it."

Campbell said he has written Kaiser Coal and has been assured the town of Sparwood will not be subject to the same pollution that had afflicted Natal-Michel.

The municipal affairs minister's department estimate of \$55,953,400 was approved and the House later went into Campbell's other ministerial

responsibility, the department of social welfare.

Norman Levi (NDP—Vancouver South) said Campbell should be brave and try experimenting a bit in his department and get away from having to account for all money spent.

Levi said the department "is not delivering into the system the type of services that are needed."

"If the people need it, they should get it and never mind the accountability."

The NDP member told the House he was present when a district supervisor of the social welfare department had to authorize the expenditure of 25 cents for a tube of toothpaste.

He said it cost more trying

to keep track of the money spent than it does to provide services.

"Quit making social workers be bookkeepers — it's a great waste of trained personnel."

Referring to statements made earlier this session by Campbell when he said he was "unleashing his people" so that they could protect themselves from public criticism, Levi said the minister should turn loose his employees in lower-ranking offices to make their own decisions.

"I suggest unleashing some of the lower echelon people so that they can make more decisions on the local level without waiting for the bureaucratic machinery."

Levi said poverty is a serious problem in the province and the social welfare department should adapt the most up-to-date techniques to deal with the problem.

Continued slash burning study urged

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA —The legislature's forestry committee has recommended continued evaluation of burning of forestry slash in B.C. coastal areas, although it has concluded that this method of disposal is likely to continue the most economical.

In the report submitted to the House by committee chairman James Chabot (SC—Columbia River), the committee urged that the B.C. Forest Service continue its assessment of slash burning in the interior, with a further report of interior slash burning to be made to the committee when it is reconvened at the 1970 session of the legislature.

On slash disposal on the coast, which created public protest last fall because of the heavy pall of smoke over the Lower Mainland, the committee urged the forest service and industry ask the federal department of transport for continued efforts to improve special fire weather forecasts.

Similar representation should be made to the federal department of fisheries and forestry asking it to expedite its research projects aimed at producing a series of earning indices.

However, the committee concluded on the question of coastal slash burning:

"Although disposal of slash by fire is now and is expected to continue to be the most economical means of slash disposal, rearsch of other means should be encouraged.

"Evaluation of slash disposal should be continued and your committee recommends a committee be established in two years to again review the effectiveness of the existing policy."

The committee also was instructed in its terms of reference to look into fire-fighting wages, damaged forest values by mining development, range management in relation to forestry, and the extent to which tree farm licence operators are contracting out logging work to small contractors.

The committee accepted a proposal by the forest service that the fire-fighting rate be established at \$1.75 per hour compared with the existing \$1.25, plus payment of a board allowance of \$4.50 per day where meals are not supplied to persons required to fight forest fires.

On damaged forest values by mining developments, the committee recommended local forest rangers be given more direct notice of exploratory work being carried out by prospectors and mineral exploration teams.

However, the committee also said the mining industry should be allowed to utilize the necessary timber to carry out normal operations, and that the department of mines, in co-operation with the forest service, continue to advise the mining industry of the need for minimum tree cutting and fire prevention measures.

The committee concluded that there have been conflicts over the best utilization of Crown land between agriculture, forestry, mining and recreation interests.

To overcome similar difficulties in future, the committee recommended the establishment of a provincial land

Job loss uproar flares

By TONY EBERTS
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An uproar over charges that an Opposition member misled the House, and counter-charges of electioneering, briefly sidetracked third reading of the government's new auto insurance legislation Monday.

Welfare Minister Campbell accused Bill Hartley (NDP—Yale Lillooet) of misleading the legislature last Friday by saying he had lost his position with an insurance company because he opposes the government Bill.

Hartley replied that he had misled no one, and said he had two letters, received Monday, one cancelling his life insurance agent's licence and one cancelling his general agent's licence.

LACK OF PRODUCTION

Attorney-General Peterson said Hartley lost his licences not because he opposed the auto insurance bill "but because of lack of production." "Every member of this House would be concerned if a member lost his job because he spoke out against some legislation," Peterson said. "That isn't the case here. The member simply wasn't producing."

Opposition Leader Strachan shouted over loud heckling from government benches that "any insurance company would be unhappy to see cabinet ministers and others attacking and vilifying one of the firm's employees."

"The whole government is attacking and harassing this

into effect and promised this would be done this year "as a matter of government policy."

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) urged that the bill be changed to stop discriminating against the under-25 drivers simply on the grounds of youth.

"In the case of very inexperienced drivers or those with bad records, high premiums may be in order," he said. "But it is wrong to make someone under age 25 pay \$200 and more for minimal insurance just because of his age."

Both Macdonald and Hartley said the legislation will, in effect, subsidize the insurance companies by paying medical costs out of the public purse instead of private company funds. Peterson said the money involved in this sphere "is a relatively minor amount."

The house completed committee consideration of the insurance bill, and the legislation possibly will receive third and final reading today.

100,000 on welfare in B.C., says Strachan

There are more than 100,000 welfare recipients in B.C., Opposition Leader Strachan charged in the legislature Monday night.

Strachan said this was a guess on his part because Social Welfare Minister Campbell—who later hinted at a negative income tax plot—would not say how many welfare recipients there are in B.C. right now, and he had to go by figures for the last few months of 1968.

The Opposition leader told the House that he had figures

which showed there were 83,000 welfare recipients in October, 1968, and 94,000 in December, 1968. He said the trend would indicate that there must be 100,000 recipients in B.C. now.

Campbell replied to Strachan's charges by hinting of a new scheme involving negative income tax.

This plan, apparently a system under which an individual whose income reaches a certain minimum receives a subsidy instead of paying a tax, may provide some of the answers, the minister said.

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The committee concluded that there have been conflicts over the best utilization of Crown land between agriculture, forestry, mining and recreation interests.

To overcome similar difficulties in future, the committee recommended the establishment of a provincial land use committee, made up of the ministers of municipal affairs, agriculture, lands, forests and water resources, recreation and conservation, and mines and petroleum resources.

The committee also said that an over-all land-use policy should be developed to accommodate and encourage an orderly and controlled use of Crown land.

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Opposition Leader Strachan shouted over loud heckling from government benches that "any insurance company would be unhappy to see cabinet ministers and others attacking and vilifying one of the firm's employees."

"The whole government is attacking and harassing this man," Strachan persisted. "Hartley was fired because these insurance companies want to stay on the right side of this government — they're afraid to go against it."

SHOUTING MATCH

A government-Opposition shouting match ensued, with Chairman Herb Bruch threatening to "name" Strachan after repeated demands of "Sit down" and "Keep quiet" and "Order" failed to end the dispute.

Earlier, Hartley called the auto insurance bill "just an election bill" and said the government wouldn't dare put it into effect until after the next provincial election.

"I suggest it's something for the government to go flying around B.C. with, promising that it will solve all the problems," Hartley said. "But it may never come to pass."

"This is insurance company legislation and election promises. This has gone on long enough. You're not going to get away with this sort of thing much longer."

URGES CHANGE

Peterson said the government is anxious to put the bill

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Tuesday, April 1, 1969

Ministers' use of planes brings probe

By ALEX YOUNG
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An inquiry into use of highways department aircraft by B.C.'s four ministers - without - portfolio - including former highways minister Phil Gaglardi - will be held today by the legislature's public accounts committee.

Three highways department officials will be called before the committee at the request of Liberal Leader McGeer, who said Monday he wants to know the details of what government business has been involved in use of the planes by the ministers - without - portfolio, along with costs.

The officials are the highways department's aircraft dispatcher and departmental comptroller and the assistant deputy minister of highways.

"We want to know who commissions the use of the airplanes," McGeer said at a meeting of the committee Monday. "We want to know who decides it's government business, and who decides on the use of government aircraft when commercial flights are available."

McGeer, noting that logs on the use of government aircraft showed extensive use of the planes by ministers - without - portfolio, claimed the use of government aircraft is at "extraordinarily high cost" compared with the cost of commercial planes.

"But it would seem that the aircraft are used for very little else, if you examine the log," he said.

Dave Barrett (NDP-Coquitlam) claimed that, in the last year, Gaglardi has "had the aircraft in the air for 189 hours; and this could not be all flying from here to his permanent hotel room in Vancouver."

Hunter Vogel (SC-Langley) commented that, "if these planes are so loosely handled that people say it is improper and unnecessary, then this committee should look into it."

The discussion on highways department aircraft followed nearly an hour of questioning of government officials by committee members over the controversial issue of Gaglardi's permanent room at the Hotel Vancouver.

The two officials - comptroller - general C. J. Ferber and James McDiarmid, a departmental comptroller responsible for checking vouchers of ministers - without - portfolio - disagreed on the question of whether Gaglardi should have been forced to reimburse the government for

billing the government for his Hotel Vancouver room while at the same time receiving a sessional expense allowance.

Ferber said emphatically the sessional allowance is something received by all MLAs and can be used for any purpose. If a minister requires out - of - pocket accommodation while on government business, he said, then he should be reimbursed or have his bills paid by the government.

But McDiarmid said such expenses should not be accepted while the House is sitting. Ferber said if these bills came to him he, unlike McDiarmid, would accept them.

McDiarmid, who also said he has limited to \$4,400 a year Gaglardi's expenses, told the committee he made the decision against accepting Gaglardi's Hotel Vancouver bill on his own.

McGeer repeated his statement, made at earlier sessions of the committee, that Gaglardi on a number of occasions had put in bills for two different hotel rooms, in different cities, on the same date.

McDiarmid would not answer questions about whether he thought this was proper. Asked if he had known other ministers to do this, McDiarmid said, "I can't speak for other departments."

McDiarmid said he had not charged Gaglardi for this, although "it obviously was a mistake on my part, because I would have charged him."

McGeer then got an admission from McDiarmid that Gaglardi, while charging his \$7-a-day hotel Vancouver room to the government, was not at the same time claiming the \$15-a-day allowance for other expenses, including food.

"If it is legitimate to submit the bill for the hotel room while out of Victoria on government business, then it is also legitimate to submit a claim for the \$15 allowance," McGeer said.

NDP Leader Strachan interjected that the "real answer" is that McDiarmid does not check on whether a minister is out of town on government business, but as a civil servant simply takes his word for it.

McDiarmid said he is able to check and does so whenever he feels an account might be "out of order."

In a reply to Industrial Development Minister Skillings, McDiarmid agreed that he is given a "free hand" to examine a minister's accounts.

"There is no pressure?" Skillings asked.

"No, none," McDiarmid answered.

McDiarmid told the commit-

tee that to his knowledge no other cabinet minister ever had maintained a permanent hotel room in Vancouver.

If any other minister - without - portfolio had submitted a bill for a hotel room during a session, then he would not have accepted it, McDiarmid said.

But if such a bill were received outside a session, from a hotel at Powell River, Vernon, Kamloops or Vancouver (the home centres of the ministers - without - portfolio), then McDiarmid said he would accept them if the ministers were on government business.

Comptroller-General Ferber refused to answer when Barrett asked him if he thought it "unique" that a minister should keep a permanent room in the Hotel Vancouver at government expense. When pressed further to comment, Ferber snapped that Gaglardi had explained last week why he had the hotel room and that committee members have to accept the explanation.

In Vancouver, the \$7-a-day rate paid for Gaglardi's hotel room was confirmed later by Victor Burt, manager of the Hotel Vancouver.

The manager said there are other persons who have year-round rooms in the hotel but he would not disclose what rates they pay.

Tuesday, April 1, 1969

Mine bills pass; NDP says they won't work

Province Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA—To Opposition complaints of "too little" and "it won't work," the government's bills aimed at controlling surface mining were given final reading in the legislature Monday night.

Opposition Leader Strachan called the amendment to the Coal Mines Regulation Act only a first step. Bill Hartley (NDP—Yale Lillooet) said the Mines Regulation Act amendment promised no controls over preliminary prospecting and development work.

But the bills, complete with 177 recommendations, went through unscathed by NDP and Liberal critics.

Mines Minister Richter summed up his replies to criticism and misgivings by saying simply: "All I want is the authority and the program will be carried out."

Hartley argued that the legislation, inspired by controversy over the Kaiser-Crows Nest Coal development near Fernie, overlooked strip mining done in preliminary exploration work that may never lead to a producing mine.

"Thousands of acres of countryside are ripped by prospectors and preliminary mine exploration groups and the scars remain forever," Hartley said.

Dave Barrett (NDP — Coquitlam) said he is not optimistic about enforcement of the new surface mining regulations.

He said he studied the mines minister's estimates and could find no indication of staff increases to police mining operations. The minister indicated he would make use of staff from other departments.

Barrett objected that this would just lead to "bureaucratic red tape" and asked the minister to file any inter-department memoranda concerning the structure proposed for co-ordinating policing on the regulations.

When Richter did not reply to Barrett's request, the NDP member said "You'll be so tied up in red tape that, by the time you get around to handling a situation, it will be long past the time you could do anything about pollution."

The mining legislation, as amended by the legislative committee on mining and railways, requires that the mines minister obtain approval of mining companies' reclamation programs from the three other resource ministers before he can give the go-ahead to the mining company.

"We need immediate reports to the minister (of mines) and immediate authority of the minister to go back and do whatever has to be done," Barrett said.

Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby - Edmonds) said the legislation, as amended by the mines committee, seems to anticipate water pollution

but does nothing to prevent it. "Nothing in this legislation prevents the start of pollution," Dowding said. "Your legislation should clearly define that the mineowner prevent pollution of water courses."

Richter, he said, claims mineowners must set out in their plan of operation how they will prevent pollution before they will get a permit but "on the other hand, there are streams that are being polluted now and we must provide that they be cleaned up."

Opposition Leader Strachan told the House the mining committee's amendments to the legislation reflect a situation that developed in the province "in a very few weeks."

Strachan said news media had depicted "what would have become of the province unless there was protective legislation" dealing with surface mining.

Without the "glare of publicity," he said, the "conscience" of the government would not have been affected and the legislation regulating surface mining would never have come before the House.

Strachan said the people of the province "owe a debt of gratitude" to the news media for showing what can happen to land when it is extensively mined on the surface.

Allan Williams (Lib — Vancouver - Howe Sound), who served on the mining committee, said committee members of all parties showed a sense of responsibility in bringing in the amendment to the mining legislation.

"It is not necessarily the (mines) department the tools to ensure that the devastation which has occurred elsewhere doesn't occur here," Williams said.

"If it does not work it will be because of inefficiencies in the department, which I don't expect, or because of shortcomings in the legislation, which I'm sure will be corrected as they show up."

5 ministers face air quiz today



DAWSON GAGLARDI JORDAN MCCARTHY LOFFMARK

By ALEX YOUNG
Province Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Five cabinet ministers are to appear today before the legislature's public accounts committee to answer questions about their use of highways department aircraft.

They are Health Minister Loffmark, minister without portfolio Gaglardi, the former highways minister, and the three women ministers without portfolio, Grace McCarthy, Pat Jordan and Isabel Dawson.

The committee decided unanimously Tuesday to call them to explain about their flights after a 75-minute hearing during which the following occurred:

- Liberal Leader McGeer accused the highways department of "very gross negligence" for failing to keep detailed records of the costs involved in operating the highways department planes.

- Testimony was given by a highways department official that Gaglardi exercised sole authority over who could use his department's planes up to the time he quit as highways minister (while under Opposition attack for misuse of a government-leased jet) and became minister without portfolio March 21, 1968.

- There was disclosure for the first time of a policy statement on the use of highways department planes, dated last June 6, in which the warning is given that abuses of flying privileges by ministers or other officials may result in the levying of a special charge for all flights.

- In the face of Opposition suggestions that the four ministers without portfolio and Loffmark had used the planes to a "ridiculous" extent, comptroller-general C. J. Ferber said no special charges had been levied for ministerial flights.

Decision to call the ministers for questioning came after Dave Barrett (NDP

Coquitlam) and McGeer gave the committee the following figures on plane use:

Gaglardi, 93 flights from March to December last year, 43 of them from Gaglardi's hometown of Kamloops. Total air time by Gaglardi, 173.1 hours in the 10 months.

Loffmark 89.4 flight hours in the same period.

Mrs. McCarthy, 79 flights between Victoria and Vancouver, her home riding.

Mrs. Jordan, 39 flights or from Kelowna, airport nearest her constituency of North Okanagan.

No figures were given for flights by Mrs. Dawson, but logs tabled earlier in the current session of the legislature by Highways Minister Black showed that she used government aircraft rarely.

SHOULD ASK

Ernie LeCours (SC — Richmond) appeared to sum up the view of the Sacred majority on the public accounts committee in relation to calling the ministers when he said, "I think every person in this committee is interested in whether these aircraft are being abused, and we should ask the ministers."

LeCours also suggested the present highways minister be called, but no action was taken on that when Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby-Edmonds) said Black could be called later if it appeared necessary.

ASSISTANT DEPUTY

The first witness at Tuesday's hearing on the use of government aircraft was Fraser MacLean, assistant deputy minister of highways, who was called to report on dispatching of the highways department aircraft.

In an opening statement on plane-use policy, he said that for about 11½ months of the fiscal year under review by the committee — the year which ended March 31, 1968 — Gaglardi as highways minister "took a very detailed interest in the aircraft operation."

Gaglardi and personnel of his office took care of all

bookings — of who used the planes, and of where they went.

PHONE REQUESTS

"People phoned the office through his secretary and made bookings and said where they wanted to go, and these were approved by that office, and I presume they were booked with the minister and approved on most occasions," MacLean said.

"Is the witness saying that all the highways aircraft flights were booked out of the highways minister's office prior to that time?" asked Barrett.

"Yes," said MacLean. "Was there any record of these bookings?" he was asked.

"No. Flights were approved, and once they were booked and the flights were made, that was that."

NO NAMES

The only airport records kept were the actual logs of each plane, in which only dates and destinations were kept and no passenger names, plus the required filing of flight plans with the department of transport.

MacLean said he had not brought the logs to the committee but in any case would not be able to provide the log of the jet, since it had gone with the plane when the government lease had been terminated.

MacLean agreed with Barrett that the jet flights had all been booked out of Gaglardi's office.

"In effect," Barrett commented, "it was a private aircraft?"

Industrial Development Minister Skillings, a member of the committee, interjected, "No, I don't agree with that."

"That is my opinion," said Barrett.

MacLean did not directly answer the question, but he pointed out that, as of March 1, 1968, a log of all passengers was started for the jet.

MacLean then outlined the new procedures and policies for booking aircraft which were instituted on Gaglardi's departure. Specially designated people in each government department make reservations through the highways department, he said.

When McGeer sought to find out "how far down the line" of civil servants people were eligible to use the planes, MacLean appeared unsure. He also said he was unable to say who decided whether highways planes or commercial aircraft were used on a given trip. But there was no requirement, for example, that a person wanting to use a highways plane had to show no seat was available on Air Canada.

PROVIDE SERVICE

"In other words, you are not interested," said Dowding. "No, we provide a transportation service," MacLean answered.

The highways department operates two D-18 Beechcraft with five seats each under good weather conditions, four seats under intermediate weather conditions, MacLean told the committee.

It also has one Beechcraft D-18 turbine which will carry four passengers under all weather conditions. MacLean said a Grumman Goose is now being converted to turbine engines "which is not yet on the line."

MacLean was evasive when questioned about costs of operating government aircraft. It would depend, he said, on whether the questioner was talking about costs per seat mile, per air mile, per hour of flying time, etc.

LEADING QUESTION

Asked directly by Barrett if the jet was less costly to operate than the other planes, MacLean said, "I think that could be interpreted as a leading question."

Barrett: "Yes or no, whatever basis you use to evaluate costs of operation, was the Lear jet cheaper?"

"I would rather not answer because it involves many complex factors."

However, when Barrett pressed him for an estimate, MacLean finally said: "Per seat mile, I only vaguely recall that it was indicated that it was competitive with the others."

Asked if he had said "competitive or comparable," he said, "comparable per seat mile."

"You must have some idea," McGeer said in seeking more detail on costs.

"It was checked out at one time. I just forget the figures," MacLean replied.

"I know you can cost these things out very accurately," McGeer insisted, "because I used to own a plane. If we are not costing it in the highways department then someone is guilty of very gross negligence. We should be able to get the answers from someone."

Dowding said it appears the government has made a decision not to use commercial flights but to use highways aircraft to fly "all over North America."

POLICY AREAS

LeCours said the discussion was getting into policy areas and that the ministers should be asked about policy.

MacLean agreed and said that, when ministers are asked questions "from time to time," they give answers. It is therefore unfair to ask him for details on costs, he said.

Skillings then introduced a statement of policy on highways aircraft, which he said had been circulated to all ministers by Black.

These were the guidelines laid down by Black in that memo:

- Aircraft to be used to increase productivity and effectiveness of ministers and senior civil servants on government business.

- Each minister to bear the responsibility for ensuring that all flight requests are reasonable and in keeping with broad outlines above.

- Ministers may delegate their flight authority to senior members of their departments, but must forward such names to Highways.

- All flight requests to be made through highways department Local 3265.

- All bookings to be made at least two days in advance, except for emergencies, to allow for proper scheduling of crews, servicing of aircraft, etc.

- No booking to be accepted more than 30 days in advance, and flight priorities to be established in the order they are received.

- Approved flights will not be cancelled in favor of later requests except in cases of emergency, and every opportunity will be taken to fill all seats on all flights.

- Names of all passengers to be given at time of booking and other than government employees may be transported providing they are travelling with government employees for mutual official business.

- In an effort to make maximum use of all flights, whenever possible passengers will adjust their schedules to share flights.

- No flights to be made outside provincial boundaries, except Watson Lake or Whitehorse for northern B.C. trips; on overnight trips the aircraft will remain at the field points only where this is the most economical arrangement.

- No more than two ministers or three deputy ministers are to be transported on one flight unless approved by highways minister; pilot to have final decision on whether to make a trip if safety is jeopardized "regardless of any influence which may be exerted by others."

The policy statement concludes:

"For the present time, all operating expenses are being carried by the department of highways. However, if the privileges are abused, it may be necessary to levy a charge for all flights.

"It is my desire to operate an efficient aircraft service for the ultimate benefit of the people of this province through more effective use of their servants. Only with full co-operation of all concerned will this be achieved."

After Skillings read the Black letter to the committee,

Barrett resumed his efforts to get more detailed estimates on operating costs, this time from Alan Rhodes, highways departmental comptroller.

He failed, but Rhodes said he would attempt to provide some figures covering the current year when the committee resumes today. He said he could not give any unit costs for the year under review — 1967-68 — but only total costs.

Also to appear today will be the aircraft dispatcher, H. F. Norman, who operates at Patricia Bay Airport, to explain his duties.

Loffmark, a member of the committee, listened to most of the discussion about ministerial use of the planes in silence, but as the meeting approached its end, he caustically told Liberal critics they should "look at the costs of the federal government jets . . . they have 10 . . . I'm sure they could tell us about costs — ask the federal Liberals."

Quartet almost become ministers without pay

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The four ministers-without-portfolio almost lost their salaries Tuesday night when government MLAs forgot what they were voting for.

Long-awaited criticism from the Opposition over the activities of the ministers-without-portfolio failed to materialize. A lone NDP member voiced criticism and indicated his party would vote against paying the ministers.

A standing vote was called and, when committee chairman Herb Bruch called for the yes votes, not one government member stood.

With a confused look, Premier Bennett asked Bruch what they were voting for

while Opposition members exploded with laughter and pounded their desks.

At this point, some government MLAs realized what was happening and stood but when they saw their leader wasn't following suit they immediately sat down again.

After a considerable time, Dave Barrett (NDP-Coquitlam) demanded Bruch call the "nay votes."

With all 22 Opposition members in the House laughing and calling for the no votes, Bennett finally realized what vote was being called and stood — but it still took several seconds before his backbenchers followed suit.

Active battle urged against water plan

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Liberal Leader McGeer suggested Tuesday that the B.C. government campaign more actively against a U.S.-originated scheme that would divert major B.C. river waters for U.S. consumption.

Rather than "ignore their propaganda," said McGeer of the scheme known as the NAWAPA plan, the government should say that every acre of land flooded in B.C. would have to be replaced by land ceded by the U.S., including Point Roberts, the San Juan Islands and perhaps even some of the Hawaiian Islands.

NAWAPA — The North American Water and Power Alliance — is a scheme proposed by the Ralph M. Parsons Engineering Co. of Los Angeles and New York. It proposes turning B.C.'s major river systems to the south and east, creating huge reservoirs and canals that would feed water and power-hungry parts of North America — most of them in the U.S. It would cost billions to carry out.

McGeer did not describe the project in any detail, but said he had seen a "propaganda" movie being circulated by the Parsons firm and came away convinced that the project would work to the disadvantage of B.C.

"We should let 'em know we intend to preserve B.C. for recreation and tourism development," said McGeer. "I know the minister of lands and forests says we will never abide by this plan, but our best defence may be the best offence. We could say we won't even think about it and close it off forever."

(Premier Bennett vigorously applauded this statement).

"But that would be putting our heads in the sand," McGeer said.

"Let's have no more Kaiser deals," said Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby Edmonds), in reference to a one-time Social Credit government plan for construction of a Columbia River dam by Kaiser Aluminum.

"No more Columbia deals, either," said McGeer. Recreation and Conservation Minister Kiernan, whose

spending estimates were being discussed, said McGeer reminded him of a man who wanted to prod a porcupine to see if it had sharp quills.

"Once you talk about trading land for land," he said, "you make a mental commitment somewhere along the way." Kiernan said the U.S. has plenty of water but misuses it.

"If they were dying for lack of water this might be justified," he said, "but they have plenty of water, if they would stop wasting it and clean up what they have polluted. By that time, they will probably have developed the refinement of sea water to the point where they don't need more."

When McGeer attempted to reopen the NAWAPA subject after the dinner adjournment, Bennett leaped to his feet and said:

"As premier re-elected all these times, I say B.C. is not going to give away any of its water. We have given none of it away, and we are going to keep our water for the benefit of the people of B.C."

McGeer had suggested that Kiernan, as a B.C. Hydro director, and Hydro co-chairman Dr. Gordon Shrum, had spoken of B.C.'s great water resources in connection with B.C.-U.S. trade and tourism promotion.

Bennett said: "Dr. Shrum wasn't speaking for the people of B.C. and the Liberal leader is not speaking for the people of B.C."

McGeer also proposed more concentration by the recreation and conservation department on developing winter recreation areas. He called for establishment of "50 or more" winter Class C parks.

Kiernan told him the government is developing "quite a range" of winter facilities and promised to send McGeer a list.

Kiernan said B.C. has the Centennial Trail from Simon Fraser University to the far side of Manning Park, as well as Lifeboat Trail on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Brutality allegations false — Peterson

By PAT HRUSHOWY
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A report tabled in the legislature Tuesday shows there were no grounds for allegations of police brutality against Indians at Sechelt, said Attorney-General Peterson.

"The allegations of police brutality or, for that matter, of police indifference to Indian matters, are not substantiated," Peterson said.

He said department inspector A. F. Plummer investigated every one of the allegations made by Tom Berger (NDP - Vancouver Burrard) and a "quick perusal" of the 60-page report indicated they were all "unfounded."

"I personally feel a great disservice has been done to Indians and the members of the RCMP who serve in that area," he said.

"The RCMP might follow up this report, but that is up to them."

The last observation Plummer makes in his report is:

"As far as I am concerned, these allegations appear to be unfounded, but I suggest that the inquiries to be continued to establish the genuineness of otherwise of the complaints, keeping in mind the possibility of mischief charges under the Criminal Code."

Peterson would not say who might have mischief charges laid against them.

The report said the RCMP started their own investigation before Berger brought up the matter in the House on Feb. 28, but the investigation was stopped when Berger made his allegations.

ARRIVED QUICKLY

Plummer said his investigations showed the RCMP exercised considerable effort to help a person who was nearly drowned, a case cited by Berger as an example of the Indians receiving little or no help from the RCMP. He said an RCMP constable was on the scene two minutes after receiving a call.

The report contains direct interviews on eight specific cases mentioned by Berger. Witnesses were interviewed as well as the police involved and the subjects themselves.

Plummer, in general observations in the report, said: "Contrary to what might be deduced from Mr. Berger's letter, there is a good rapport between the vast majority of the residents of the village and reserve and by both groups with the police."

NO COMPLAINTS

He said none of the 27 non-Indians interviewed would agree that the relationship between the Indians and the village of the Indians and the police had deteriorated.

"In fact, with the exception of the interim controlling group and the complaining group, the Indians had no complaints against the police and, in fact, were fearful the

police might be kept off the reserve.

"A good many of them expressed disbelief in the charges."

Plummer said the Sechelt Indian band's business has suffered through lack of proper control because of having no chief for some time.

CHIEF ELECTED

Plummer concluded that it seemed that control rested "almost solely" with Clarence Joe, the band manager. It was Joe who brought the allegation of police brutality to Berger's attention, and the NDP MLA sent him to the attorney-general's department.

"Now that a chief has been elected—Mr. Henry Paul—it was still suggested to me that the band books should be produced to the new chief and arrangements made by him for safe custody," Plummer said.

There were repeated complaints of loss by fire on two occasions of the band records when they were in Joe's custody.

"I suggest you draw this portion of the report to the attention of the Indian commissioner for British Columbia," Plummer said.

CASE HISTORIES

The report suggests that Berger had been misinformed "as it will be seen by the case histories obtained — charges were laid, seizures made, goods recovered and reports of the incidents made or, in the case of drunks, the persons picked up were released when sober, in accordance with departmental policy."

Plummer said that it is significant that the seven members of the RCMP detachment all were alleged to have taken part in incidents of brutality.

"If these allegations are true, we have the unlikely coincidence that all seven members of the detachment are brutal."

One other fact Plummer uncovered is that a number of cases, Indians complained of the actions of a Const. Kelly.

INTERVIEWED ALONE

Plummer said he interviewed each person alone and the name Const. Kelly continued to be mentioned.

"Only after I had interviewed the native Indians and the non-Indians did I interview the seven members of the RCMP."

"It was then that I learned that there is no Const. Kelly stationed at Sechelt or near Sechelt, neither has there been within knowledge of other police in Sechelt ever been a Const. Kelly stationed there."

"There is no constable with any name similar and no constable using such a nickname."

It was after this observation that Plummer suggested that investigation be continued with the possibility of mischief charges being made.

HALF-BAKED

Berger later termed the report a "half-baked partisan inquiry" that didn't even attempt to investigate fully the complaints.

"You can't dignify this document by calling it a report," Berger said. "The report shows the young people who complained to me repeated their complaints to Plummer."

Berger said the report deals only with the seven charges he outlined in the House but doesn't say anything about the at least 10 other complaints that were brought to him during his investigation.

He suggested Plummer cut short his investigation to satisfy Peterson's directions to bring in a report that would be inconclusive.

INJUSTICE

"This government is incapable of dealing with a serious matter of injustice in a non-partisan way. The Indians were entitled to an independent inquiry and to an impartial report."

Berger said Plummer, as a former Vancouver city policeman working for the attorney-general's department, was not the vehicle for an impartial investigation.

The NDP member said the report indicates to him that Plummer "does not feel the allegations were unfounded" and suggestions that the investigation be continued, with possible mischief charges being laid, is an attempt to "intimidate the Indians."

He said the report's references to the band manager's handling of the Indians affairs was "none of Plummer's business."

Gaglardi rapped on land trade

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Former highways minister Gaglardi has been accused of interfering with the department of recreation and conservation in an exchange of 116.8 acres on Vancouver Island for 75 square miles of timber in Wells Grey Provincial Park, 120 miles north of Kamloops.

Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) told the legislature Tuesday night the timber deal was announced by Gaglardi supposedly because there was an emergency situation.

"Gaglardi made the announcement," Williams said, "not the minister of recreation and conservation nor the minister of lands and forests."

"And when did he make it? On Sept. 25, 1963, five days before the provincial election he was fighting with Davie Fulton."

Williams said the deal with Clearwater Timber Co. was an exchange of land at Rath-trevor Beach near Parksville worth \$180,000 for 50 square miles of land in the southern portion of Wells Grey Park.

Williams said Gaglardi made the announcement in Clearwater and said timber in the area was "blow-down" and this would be salvaged, making way for employment.

"The minister also said the company would pay the standard stumpage," Williams said.

Williams said the contract between the provincial government and Clearwater Timber was for 21 years. For the length of the contract, the company was to be charged \$1.50 per 100 cubic feet for fir and \$1.20 for all other species.

He said normally stumpage is based on a sliding scale geared to current timber prices. "However, in this deal the company was charged a fixed rate. If we are to project this into today's prices, fir in the Kamloops forest district now goes for \$16.90 per cubic foot and \$12.30 for lodge-pole pine.

"There has been 6.8 million cubic feet of timber cut in this area which is about 40 per cent of the total timber. We have got credit for \$88,000 compared to \$180,000 of land at Rath-trevor Beach."

Williams said that at today's prices a total of all logs cut in the 50-square miles granted Clearwater Timber is \$670,613. With all the timber cut, total value will amount to \$1.6 million.

The NDP member said the timber contract was written before an order-in-council was passed by the cabinet. The contract also had a two-year renewable clause at the same stumpage rate.

Williams said it is even more peculiar the company was granted a further 25-square miles of timber within the park adjacent to the 53-square miles it received before the 1963 election.

Williams said "this extra 25 square miles was granted the company within a year after the original contract was announced." He further complained the company was not charged land rental, a normal practice with timber contracts.

"Because of this, the province has lost over \$10,000 of land rental a year," he said.

Later, the same company received permission to cut timber on a further 600 acres of land in the park. "The government called it a fire sale and all we got was \$18,000 for two million cubic feet of timber," he said.

Williams called the whole deal a glaring example of park mismanagement mixed with outside interference.

"What we are looking at is between 50 and 60 Stanley Parks. What B.C., the public, is being left with is stumps.

This was virtually strip-mining within the park. We have given a great deal away and have given somebody a substantial capital gain in the park."

'At his request'

Strachan draft is off

NANAIMO (CP)—A draft Strachan campaign has been dropped by the Cowichan-Malahat NDP constituency association, the riding represented by Strachan.

A spokesman for the group, Mrs. Barbara Wallace of nearby Cedar, said the matter was dropped "at Mr. Strachan's request."

NDP Leader Strachan last year announced his retirement from party leadership he has held for 13 years. A new leader is to be chosen at a convention April 11, 12 and 13.

Three main candidates are MLAs Tom Berger, Dave Barrett and Robert Williams. But despite Strachan's announced decision that he could not accept a draft, Dave Stupich (NDP-Nanaimo) said he would ask the veteran MLA to reconsider.

Subsequently it was announced by Lake Cowichan NDP Association an attempt would be made to draft Strachan.

Final reading given

CHARTER CHANGES

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Final reading was given by the legislature Tuesday to a bill giving 19-year-olds the right to vote in Vancouver civic elections.

The bill amends the Vancouver City Charter so that "age 19" replaces the phrases of "full age" and "age 21" and puts the charter in line with the Provincial Elections Act.

Other charter amendments include authority to employ parking meter maids, to change the name of the Zoning Board of Appeal to "Board of Variants," and the right of city council to dispose of property worth more than \$200,000 with a two-thirds vote.

Pharmacists dispute Campbell statements

The B.C. Professional Pharmacists Society has taken issue with Welfare Minister Campbell over statements attributed to him after the society announced a \$1 surcharge on welfare prescriptions.

The society disputes an alleged statement by the minister that he hoped negotiations with pharmacists on welfare drug costs would continue.

The pharmacists claim Campbell has verbally and by letter cut off further negotiations despite a desire by the society to continue talks.

The society also says charges that pharmacists are endeavoring to involve the minister in a controversy over manufacturers' and wholesalers' drug prices are also without foundation.

According to the society, it has agreed to a contract based on pharmacists' drug

costs plus a negotiated fee for service.

Ministerial allegations that the pharmacists' surcharge announcement was "premature" are not correct because, they say, a brief setting out a proposed contractual agreement was presented to the government in April, 1968.

The brief, claims the society, showed pharmacists were losing 61 cents per welfare prescription, and this climbed to \$1.14 in 1968.

Finally, the pharmacists say a government threat to set up a centralized drug distribution centre for welfare recipients would, if put into effect, relegate old-age pensioners and other recipients to the status of second-class citizens by denying them the right to freely choose their pharmacist as they now do their doctor, dentist and other suppliers of health services.

One agency urged for handicapped

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A report by the provincial trade and industry department recommends establishment of a single co-ordinating agency to find jobs for the handicapped.

More than 150 organizations now exist in Greater Vancouver and Greater Victoria alone, the report says, but there is a lack of cohesion so that "ultimate focus on the employment of the handicapped becomes blurred."

The report, intended as the first step toward a pilot project study of employment opportunities for the handicapped, was prepared by management consultant A. L. Watson. It was commissioned Feb. 17 by Trade and Industry Minister Skillings, who tabled it in the House on Tuesday night.

"A single co-ordinating agency that serves as a repository of information with respect to the accomplishments of all agencies . . . should be given consideration," it concludes.

Also suggested was a "competitive employment committee" with top-ranking representatives of business, industry and labor unions vying with each other to improve the lot of the handicapped job-seeker.

The report notes that there are 23,000 B.C. children known to have some permanent disability that will interfere with education or prevent full employment — but the study itself was limited to persons between the ages of 18 and 65.

In this category it found about 3,300 handicapped persons looking for jobs to get them off the social assistance rolls, and these are the main concern of the report.

A questionnaire was sent to 745 employers, and slightly more than half have responded. Of these, 22 per cent now have some handicapped workers and 53 per cent said they are willing to hire some.

But of the total force now employed by the firms questioned, handicapped workers represent only a half of one per cent.

Some employers said they had to consult the union or unions involved before hiring handicapped applicants. Some union spokesmen surveyed indicated organized labor in B.C. supports the principle of such hiring but wouldn't take the initiative.

The report recommends possible tax incentives to businesses employing the handicapped, urges that more on-the-job training be given and suggests that employers provide job guidance to newly discharged patients from mental hospitals and treatment centres.

Wednesday, April 2, 1969

B.C. to push negative income tax idea

By TONY EBERTS

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. will take the initiative in introducing a new "negative income tax" approach to welfare services, Premier Bennett told The Province Tuesday.

The premier, who first proposed the plan at the February federal-provincial constitutional conference, said the plan could replace the present welfare ~~dole system~~ which "simply doesn't work in Canada, the U.S. or Britain."

Basically, it would be a form of subsidy for low income groups. At a certain minimum level, an individual would cease paying income tax and receive money instead — hence the "negative income tax" label.

"As welfare programs now operate," Bennett said, "they are like foreign aid — they don't go direct to the people. This would put the help where it is needed the most, and keep people off the dole."

The plan was mentioned briefly by Welfare Minister Campbell during debate over his department's \$87.8 million spending estimates Monday night.

Opposition Leader Strachan questioned Campbell about reports that the number of welfare recipients in B.C. had risen by 20 per cent in the last few months of 1968.

Campbell replied that the welfare system isn't working in B.C. or anywhere it is used, and that several recent studies indicate about 65 per cent of those now on welfare will stay there indefinitely.

He said "some answers can be found" in the negative income tax plan that could bring a new day to social service in Canada. It has been introduced in some parts of the U.S., he added.

Bennett said Tuesday that B.C. will take the initiative with the plan, but that ideally it should be instituted at the federal-provincial level. He added that B.C. will not necessarily "go it alone."

The premier said he couldn't say where the level for receiving the negative income payments should be set—that it would depend on individual circumstances and the economy of the region.

He said Ontario has endorsed the plan since the federal-provincial conference and he expects other provinces — and perhaps Ottawa — to follow suit.

"It could easily be adjusted to suit the special needs of areas like the Maritimes and Quebec," Bennett said, "and it would take over where the many existing plans fail."

Opposition members have been cool to the plan, arguing that it would have to be set up and administered at the federal level.

Alternatives studied to \$1 drug surcharge

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Welfare Minister Campbell told the legislature Tuesday that his department is looking at alternative means of distributing drugs to welfare recipients to get around the \$1 surcharge B.C. pharmacists want to collect.

Campbell said one of the areas he is looking at is expanding the government-operated mail order and walk-in drug service in Vancouver which now handles 30 per cent of the drugs issued to people on welfare.

The minister also said he is investigating the possibility of distributing drugs through hospitals and health centres.

Campbell's statement came after the Opposition called the dispute between the government and the B.C. Professional Pharmacists' Society "arrogant and stupid."

The pharmacists served notice Monday that they will be levying a \$1 surcharge on each welfare prescription dispensed under the rates of payment followed by the provincial government, starting April 15.

Campbell said negotiations had broken down with the druggists and "I have not been asked for a further meeting with the pharmacists," but he said he is studying the alternatives.

Dave Barrett (NDP—Coquitlam) said this issue is a confrontation precipitated by Campbell and "both sides are arrogant and are using welfare recipients as tools in this stupid debate."

"Have you any idea what a dollar means to a person on welfare?" Barrett asked.

The government should not

hesitate to handle this surcharge for people on welfare because "we are talking about peanuts compared to a \$1 billion budget."

"I suggest the minister (Campbell) get up and tell us he will settle this within 24 hours."

"Any government that uses people on welfare as pawns should be ashamed of themselves."

The welfare minister then launched into a heated speech saying that the Opposition reaction to the drug price issue is a classic example of NDP "political irresponsibility."

"You'll catch any bus, ride down the river on any log, ride on the back of any issue for political purposes," Campbell said.

"Apparently he (Barrett) has no regard whatsoever for the feeling of the government of Canada on drug prices."

"As long as we are in power, we don't intend to knuckle under to the drug industry."

"They (the Opposition) will sell out any day to the monopoly of the drug industry for political purposes," Campbell said.

Barrett said the minister's speech was a "cheap political demonstration" and accused Campbell of twisting the argument.

The minister "wants to turn around and say the pharmacists have cold hearts," Barrett said.

Campbell, cooled off somewhat, replied that Barrett's argument was a "complete oversimplification of the problem."

The government, he said,

is looking for alternative means of distributing drugs and no welfare recipients will go without "life-saving drugs."

"No one on this side of the House, especially myself, has said he would not investigate alternatives," Campbell said.

"The NDP apparently feels there are no alternatives that are worthwhile for the department of welfare to investigate. We say it is worthwhile to investigate the alternatives."

"I'm not in a position of arrogance — It's far more complicated than the NDP makes out."

Alex Macdonald NDP—Vancouver East) said the confrontation shows "The minister has blundered in these negotiations in failing to see druggists get their fair return."

Macdonald chastized Campbell for attacking the NDP because the party has been trying for five years to get the government to break the drug monopoly.

"The government has turned down Opposition proposals consistently for a provincial pharmacy," he said.

Barrett said: "If this government can dispense liquor from government liquor stores, this government can dispense drugs from government drug stores."

The House later approved the social welfare department's \$87.8 million expenditures for the next fiscal year.

House suspends

NDP member

Strachan raps censure move

By ALEX YOUNG
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — In what parliamentary experts termed an unprecedented move, the Social Credit government majority Wednesday voted for the censure and suspension of an Opposition-MLA.

Banished from the legislature for the balance of the sitting of the 1969 session—a matter of only a few hours—was Gordon Dowding, 51-year-old lawyer and New Democratic Party MLA for Burnaby-Edmonds.

He was ordered to leave the chamber by Speaker William Murray after the government approved by a 30-21 vote a motion of censure put forward by Herb Capozzi (SC—Vancouver Centre) and seconded by Don Phillips (SC—South Peace River).

ALLEGATIONS

The Capozzi-Phillips motion was based on allegations outlined by Capozzi that Dowding was guilty of a breach of the privileges of the House, because partners in his law firm had earned fees in 1966 for getting a private bill through the House, setting up an insurance company, while Dowding was a member of the House and of the private bills committee—even though Dowding at the time had declared his firm's interest and had refrained from voting on or dealing with the bill in any way as an MLA.

In the vote on the censure motion—taken after Dowding absented himself from the House—Dowding was backed up by all members of his party as well as by the six Liberal MLAs on grounds that Capozzi did not prove his charges nor give the House adequate time to consider them or to call possible witnesses.

POLICY MATTER

The government's vote against Dowding came after a hurried caucus of Social MLAs, which indicated the vote was made a matter of scandal.

At one stage of the debate on Capozzi's motion, Premier Bennett urged Capozzi to withdraw his motion and he was supported by Strachan. But then former highways minister Gagliardi got up to declare that he, too, joined in the appeal for withdrawal, even though Dowding had put him through "seven weeks of hell" during the 1963 session with allegations about irregularities in a highways contract.

An angered Strachan then leaped up to declare that, on the basis of Gagliardi's statement, he was withdrawing his appeal to Capozzi. And Ben-

nett, angered in turn by Strachan, declared:

"We have tried to be non-partisan but, since the leader of the Opposition has gone contrary to the leader of the government, I no longer ask the member (Capozzi) to withdraw."

After 2½ hours of debate and three recesses called to permit consideration by the Speaker of details of allegations and to hear Dowding's explanations, the government finally approved Capozzi's motion:

"I move that the member for Burnaby-Edmonds be admonished by the Speaker and suspended from the service of the House for the remainder of this session."

Murray then withdrew to notify Dowding of the results of the vote and to ask him to reappear in the House to be censured.

HUSHED

With Dowding back in his seat, Murray said in the hushed chamber:

"Will the honorable member for Burnaby-Edmonds please stand in his place."

"Mr. Member, pursuant to the order of this House, the chair is now called upon to censure you for a breach of the privileges of Parliament, namely that you were a partner in a firm which acknowledged receipt of pecuniary reward for services involving the enactment of legislation.

"In accordance with the said order, you are suspended from the service of the House for the remainder of this session."

POUNDED DESKS

Dowding then walked from the House and, as he passed through the door, NDP and Liberal MLAs pounded their desks to show their disagreement with the Speaker's action. Government members sat silent and grim, and Dave Barrett (NDP-Coquitlam) called out to them, "shame."

At Strachan's press conference, Dowding said he considered he had done nothing wrong.

"The only thing I regret is that I will now be unable to proceed with my bill on Commonwealth Trust, a bill which would correct the government's failure to properly supervise the company," he said. "The government now knows I will not be in the House and, with the sponsor missing, the bill cannot be proceeded with."

PARTISAN

Said Strachan: "I stand behind Dowding and this party stands behind him 100 per cent. We have absolute faith in his integrity. This is a partisan move by a government which has displayed time and time again that it is not to get this member for exposing its mishandling of its affairs."

"The speaker had no alternative but to follow the dictates of the government majority."

"We have known for weeks that the government members had this material. A government minister told me in the hall that they were going to 'get Dowding'. He had in his hand at the time papers Capozzi used today."

This shows how desperate

of the obscure rule in May's Parliamentary Procedure which Capozzi claimed made it improper for any partner of a member to gain financial benefits through promotion of a bill.

NO PRECEDENTS

Legislature clerk E. K. DeBeck said he knew of no precedent for the passage of a motion of censure against an MLA in B.C. There have been motions proposed in the past, he said, but they had always been withdrawn.

However, MLAs have been suspended by the Speaker on his own—the last case being the "naming" and suspension for the remainder of a sitting of former North Vancouver Liberal MLA Gordon Gibson for having said "money talks" in connection with the issue of forest management licences. That was on Feb. 16, 1955.

Dowding will receive his full sessional indemnity of \$8,000 despite his suspension because he has met the requirement of attending a minimum of 40 sitting days of the session.

DOCUMENTS

Capozzi rose at the 2 p.m. opening of the final day's sitting Wednesday to raise a question of privilege, quoting May and waving documents.

Dowding protested immediately that he had absented himself from the committee and declared his connection with the law firm promoting the Southwest bill. (His firm was then known as Dowding, Trasov, Deverell and Harrop. It is now Dowding, Deverell, Harrop and Wood, with offices at 2695 Granville in Vancouver).

Dowding also argued that the matter raised by Capozzi could not properly be dealt with by the present legislature because it occurred in a previous legislature.

"The honorable member who has taken it upon himself to raise this matter," he said, "was not a member of the House in 1966 and to raise this question on hearsay is reprehensible and I ask him to withdraw any inference he is trying to make."

Capozzi insisted Dowding had violated the rules laid down in May—rules accepted by this legislature. He then read from copies of invoices recording \$9,225 in fees paid to the Dowding firm for promoting the Southwest Mortgage bill in the House.

"The honorable member is abusing the privileges of this House," Dowding said. "The statement he makes is false, absolutely false. He has no right to make these statements here."

ABSOLUTELY FALSE

"If he makes these statements outside the House, I will be pleased to take appropriate action. What he says is absolutely false."

Speaker Murray said: "Very grave charges are being levied here and I think we must bear the rest of the statement to be made by the member for Vancouver Centre, in view of the fact that the matters raised, if true, do contravene sections to which he refers."

James Chabot (SC—Columbia River) pointed out that May also rules that a member being charged must withdraw while debate on the

Strachan protests

harm in a member of the House sponsoring a private bill (the Southwest Mortgage bill had been sponsored by Bert Price, the Sacred MLA for Vancouver Burrard). But it was "reprehensible" for an MLA to render a bill for appearances before a committee.

MISLEADING

Dowding complained that the total quoted by Capozzi was misleading because it probably dealt with matters other than the Southwest Mortgage bill. After having studied the document quoted by Capozzie, Dowding confirmed that the total was based on matters other than Southwest. The Southwest invoice had involved \$2,500, of which \$1,700 was reimbursement for advertising an other expenses.

"I know what is behind this mischief," cried Dowding.

Capozzie said he didn't pretend to know what was behind anything. All he knew was that the bill contained Dowding's signature.

He then made his motion for Dowding's censure and suspension.

IMMATERIAL

"The fact that he didn't vote is immaterial," Capozzi said.

Dowding replied that he had declared his interest in 1966.

"And I didn't send any bill," he insisted.

Murray told Dowding: "The member would not want to prejudice his position until he has examined the documents and I would invite him to do so with the leader of the Opposition in my office."

Strachan shouted: "In view of the statement made by the members for Vancouver Centre, I want it made clear that some three or four weeks the minister of industry said to me that he was going to get this member, that it is government policy, and I want the answer of the premier right now."

Murray then recessed the House. The recess lasted 47 minutes.

SERIOUSNESS

On his return, after meeting separately with Capozzi and Strachan, and Dowding, he declared:

"I regret having delayed the business of this House, but the seriousness of the allegations presented made it necessary to hear representations in camera from the leader of the Opposition and the member.

"I find on the basis of the material placed before me, while some of it is irrelevant, there is on the face of it a breach of privilege.

"However, there are certain salient facts with which this House should be acquainted before it votes on the motion which I must find to be in order.

"The member was a member of the private bills committee in nineteen sixty six. He made it abundantly clear to that committee that he would neither vote nor attempt to persuade the committee on the bill. It seems that the deposit in connection with the bill was submitted by his firm and for that reason he explained he did not want to be involved.

Secondly it was a matter before a previous Parliament and I haven't had time to determine whether this is a factor. Each member must decide for himself when he votes on this motion.

"Under the circumstances I

must find that a breach of privilege has occurred. With these reservations I find the motion presented by the member for Vancouver Centre is in order."

Dowding then said he had examined the invoice presented by Capozzi and that it did contain his firm's name in the letterhead . . . but it was not his signature on the letter. He said he could only surmise his name had been placed on the bill in keeping with the practice of law firms to place the name of the senior member on pleadings and other legal documents.

HANDWRITING

"Someone wrote my name on it but it was not in my handwriting," he said. "The member alleged that the bill was for \$9,000, but it really was not. It was for about \$2,500, of which \$1,700 was for disbursements."

"I said it was a total on the invoice," Capozzi said. "I apologize if I left a different inference. But his dictation initials were on the bill rendered."

Dowding said that if he had known at the time that it was not considered proper for a member of his firm to deal with such a private bill, he would not have allowed it.

"The fact that I withdrew and declared my interest made it perfectly clear that I regarded my position as proper with respect to Parliament," he told the House.

Bennett then got up to ask Capozzi to withdraw.

LAUGHTERS

"The very fact," he said, "that the Speaker has accepted the motion shows the seriousness of the situation. However, I myself know what you are up against when someone else signs a letter with your name on it."

(MLAs laughed at this comment, a reference to the "Dear Hal" case of 1965 in which public relations man Al Williamson was convicted of forging Bennett's name on a letter seeking immigration clearance for U.S.-Phillipines businessman Harry Stonehill through Hal Dornan, then an aide to Prime Minister Pearson.)

Bennett continued:

"While I think, Mr. Speaker, that this is a very serious situation, and I am not trying to detract from that, I ask the member to withdraw the resolution."

Strachan joined Bennett in this request, pointing out that Dowding did not "practise as counsel upon a private bill."

"This is specifically forbidden and the Speaker and the member have made it very clear that he did not contravene this basic rule governing every member," Strachan said.

they are. The premier was with this minister when he spoke to me in the corridor and I am quite sure he had been talking to the premier. That minister was Mr. Skillings (Industrial Development Minister Waldo Skillings, a close friend of Bennett)."

OBVIOUS PLOT

Strachan said it was "obviously a plot to get the man who has been a thorn in their flesh."

"They have used nothing more than a debatable technicality. And even at that they had no proof, gave no chance to examine the facts by a committee. It is one of the most despicable things to force through a motion of this kind without proof, to not give him an opportunity to testify that the documents used were not related to him. It is the death rattle on the part of this government."

In a telegram to Dowding's constituency association, which coincidentally had scheduled its nominating convention for Wednesday night, Strachan declared he backed Dowding for re-nomination "unequivocally."

RUTHLESS

The caucus supports Gordon Dowding and we urge upon you his re-nomination as candidate for the New Democratic Party," his telegram said. "I also predict that he will double his majority. We cannot allow a ruthless government majority to intimidate Opposition members."

Dowding said at the press conference in Strachan's office that he "might" have benefited personally from the business done by his partners promoting the private bill for establishment of South-west Mortgage Indemnity Corporation in 1966.

However he had believed he did not that was necessary in declaring his connection with the law firm handling the bill and had not been aware

Murray said any member subjected to allegations must be given an opportunity to answer.

SEPARATED

Dowding then said he had separated himself in the House and in the private bills committee in 1966 from anything related to the South-west Mortgage bill, and had said so, with the approval of the then chairman of the private bills committee, former Vancouver Centre Social Credit MLA Alex Matthew. And he said, no official of the legislature had raised any question of the impropriety of any of his law partners dealing with the bill. Dowding said he was not the only lawyer-MLA to have been in such a position.

Strachan said the only question to be considered was whether Dowding had announced his interest at the time — and he had, thus Capozzi had no case.

Capozzi said he was not basing his case on hearsay, and again referred to invoices totalling \$9,225 dated June 23, 1966.

The bill was for professional services rendered, including "taking instructions, study of applicable law and standing orders of the legislative assembly re incorporation by private bill, preparing petition to legislative assembly, preparing bill . . . preparing form of advertisement for the B.C. Gazette and other newspapers throughout B.C. . . . obtaining approval of bill by private bills committee, several attendances upon Mr. Cantell (E. T. Cantell, superintendent of insurance) . . ."

Capozzi said the bill was dictated by Dowding and signed by Dowding, and Dowding shouted Capozzi was making false statements.

Capozzi said there was no

Continued on next page

POLICY MATTER
The government's vote against Dowding came after a hurried caucus of Social Credit MLAs, which indicated the vote was made a matter of government policy.

In a press conference later, Opposition Leader Strachan called the censure vote a "despicable attack" on Dowding and a "partisan political action" designed to "get" Dowding for his effectiveness in exposing government blunders and misconduct especially in relation to the "Commonwealth Trust scandal."

At one stage of the debate on Capozzi's motion, Premier Bennett urged Capozzi to withdraw his motion and he was supported by Strachan. But then former highways minister Gaglardi got up to declare that he, too, joined in the appeal for withdrawal, even though Dowding had put him through "seven weeks of hell" during the 1963 session with allegations about irregularities in a highways contract.

An angered Strachan then leaped up to declare that, on the basis of Gaglardi's statement, he was withdrawing his support from Capozzi. And Ben-

Harassment charge at plane inquiry

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A woman cabinet minister accused the legislature's public accounts committee of harassment Wednesday over the question of ministers' use of government aircraft.

Mrs. Grace McCarthy, minister without portfolio, was one of the five cabinet ministers and two high-ranking civil servants appearing before the fifth and final session of the committee.

On the basis of information supplied by aircraft dispatcher H. F. Norman and highways departmental comptroller Alan Rhodes, Opposition members of the committee calculated that single-passenger use of a government aircraft is from three to eight

times more expensive than use of a commercial airline.

The Opposition members directed their questioning of the ministers—Phil Gaglardi, Mrs. McCarthy, Mrs. Pat Jordan and Mrs. Isabel Dawson, ministers without portfolios, and Health Minister Loffmark—on the lines of whether they used the government aircraft unnecessarily.

"I hope it won't be a committee of harassment as it has been," Mrs. McCarthy said before she was questioned. "Some Opposition members . . . really have not kept this in the proper context.

"They want to decide whe-

Continued on next page

See MINISTER



Grace McCarthy defends her use of planes.

ther or not the government should have a plane service. I didn't think that was in the terms of the committee."

Dave Barrett (NDP - Coquitlam) said the commercial airline fare from Vancouver to Victoria is \$10, while use of a government plane, based on per-seat, per-mile costs, amounts to at least \$32.

A round-trip airline flight to Prince Rupert costs about \$100, he said, and by one of the government's five-seater aircraft totals \$800.

Earlier, Barrett reported that Mrs. McCarthy used government planes on 79 flights between Victoria and her home riding in the fiscal year April 1, 1967, to March 31, 1968.

39 FLIGHTS

Mrs. Jordan made 39 such flights to or from Kelowna, nearest airport to her home riding, in the same period. Barrett said Gaglardi made 93 provincial aircraft flights between March and December of last year, but committee chairman Evan Wolfe (SC - Vancouver Centre) made it clear the committee must consider only the fiscal year ending March 31, 1968.

Mrs. McCarthy testified that she leaves travel arrangements up to her secretary, "and I assume my office will get me to my destination the best possible way."

"I would rather go on a government plane than on a commercial flight," she said, "because it saves time . . . I take a government plane only if at the other end of the trip there's government business to do."

USE OF PLANES

Gordon Dowding (NDP - Burnaby Edmonds) asked if this meant she thought the government planes should be used as much as possible, and Mrs. McCarthy replied that she did.

Mrs. Jordan was questioned over a case on March 8, 1968, when a government aircraft was sent from Victoria to Kelowna—a 3½-hour trip—to pick her up and take her to the coast.

Barrett asked: "Was there no commercial flight available in the time and money it took to fly that plane all the way to Kelowna to pick you up? There are three airline flights per day."

"I would presume not,"

said Mrs. Jordan, "since my office checks such things."

After the four ministers-without-portfolio were briefly questioned, Loffmark gave what the Opposition members claimed was the best argument yet against non-essential use of government aircraft.

He said of 80 round trips between Vancouver and Victoria he used a government aircraft only 15 times. Loffmark said he used the Air Canada flight nine times and B.C. Ferries for all the others.

Opposition members congratulated him for his policy of instructing his office to arrange travel whenever possible by public conveyance.

"Even though you are a minister with a heavy portfolio, attending two cabinet meetings a week, you managed to use a government aircraft very seldom," said Gordon Dowding (NDP - Burnaby Edmonds).

Barrett asked Loffmark if he was ever asked by one of the ministers-without-portfolio who was flying by government plane to a cabinet meeting if he would like to go, along.

Loffmark said he generally found using the ferry more convenient and his office seldom bothered to check to see if someone was using a departmental plane.

"I would suggest," said Barrett, "that there be more liaison between ministers so that, instead of being used by only one, there could be more aboard on the government plane trips."

Gaglardi's 1967 Lear jet flight to Alaska was raised by Liberal Leader McGeer.

McGeer asked Gaglardi about the Alaska trip's purpose and about who accompanied the former highways minister.

"There were three others on board," Gaglardi replied. "One of them was my son,

but the other names I'm not going to give you.

"They were businessmen that I invited along. I take full responsibility. They weren't on government business. They had sort of interests that would relate to government, but I won't divulge just what their business was."

Gaglardi said the governor of Alaska had invited him there for two reasons — to discuss possible paving of the Alaska Highway and to attend a meeting of "men in government life who are advancing Christian leadership and principles."

"I spoke to that meeting three times," he said. "It was a very proud moment."

Questioned about a stop-over in Whitehorse and a visit with the Yukon commissioner, Gaglardi explained:

"I thought it would be an affront to the commissioner if during a fuelling stop in Whitehorse I did not see him . . . It was a courtesy call."

McGeer said he had a voucher indicating that Gaglardi had rented a car in Whitehorse, but Gaglardi said he and his party were driven around the area in the commissioner's car.

Barrett said after the committee session adjourned that "next year there will be a drastic reduction in the number of government aircraft flights by ministers-without-portfolio."

"There is no question that many of these flights—such as trips to Victoria for regularly scheduled cabinet meeting—could easily have been done by commercial airline or ferry, as Loffmark did," he said.

"This is the public's money that is being wasted, and it's time the practice stopped."

The official report of the committee tabled in the House on Wednesday afternoon, however, made no recommendations and gave no hint of the hours of emotional debate that occurred in the committee's five meetings.

Speaker hits back at party chiefs

By IAN MacALPINE

The political uproar over a motion of censure and suspension of NDP MLA Gordon Dowding in the legislature Wednesday has spilled over proration and into a fight between Speaker William Murray and the two Opposition party leaders.

In an unprecedented move Thursday night — 24 hours after the legislative session ended — Murray called a

press conference at which he criticized NDP Leader Strachan and Liberal Leader McGeer for what he termed "malicious and politically-oriented" statements made after proration about his handling of the government motion.

And the party leaders responded Friday by saying Murray brought the criticism on himself by breaking parliamentary rules in the affair.

McGeer said Murray's conduct on the final day of the legislative session was such that he "must decide in his conscience whether he can usefully serve a future session in his present capacity as Speaker."

"A most regrettable precedent was set which could pave the way for a period of political witch-hunting in British Columbia," McGeer told The Province.

Strachan said Murray "earned" the criticism by not adhering to House rules and by co-operating with the Social Credit majority in bulldozing the motion through at the last possible moment of the session.

The conflict erupted from a motion by Herb Capozzi (SC Vancouver Centre), seconded by Don Phillips (SC—Peace River South), in the dying hours of the session,

based on allegations that Dowding was guilty of a breach of House privileges in that his law partners earned fees in 1966 for getting through the House a private bill setting up an insurance company, while Dowding was an MLA and member of the private bills committee.

Dowding, at the time of the bill, had openly declared his firm's interest in the matter and had refrained from voting

on or dealing with the bill in any way as an MLA. The bill setting up Southwest Mortgage Indemnity Corporation was sponsored by then-Socred MLA Bert Price.

Capozzi's motion was passed by a 30-21 vote, with the NDP and Liberals voting against the Social Credit majority, and the Speaker ordered Dowding out of the House for the balance of the session.

In interviews with reporters after the session ended, Strachan said Murray had no choice but to go along with the government majority, and McGeer suggested the Speaker displayed partiality.

On Thursday, at the first press conference he has ever called as Speaker, Murray said the statements of the two

Continued on Page 15
See SPEAKER

Speaker

Opposition party leaders "have enticed me to break the silence usually associated with the office of Speaker."

Murray told reporters the Speaker does not judge that a breach has occurred. That is a question that has to be decided by the House itself.

"The Speaker can only say it is a prima facie case—that's as far as he can go. There was no alternative for any fair-minded Speaker that there had been, on the face of it, a breach of privilege," said Murray.

He quoted from parliamentary rules that "to guard against indirect influence it (The House) has forbidden acceptance of fees by its members for professional services connected with the proceedings in Parliament.

"It is also declared contrary to the law and usage of Parliament for any member to be engaged, either by himself or any partner, in the management of any private bills . . . for pecuniary reward," he said.

"McGeer's statement accuses the Speaker of the legislature of partiality, while Strachan stated that the Speaker has to follow the dictates of the government majority. Both these statements are malicious and politically oriented," Murray said.

He added that both party leaders in the past had expressed complete satisfaction with the Speaker, "but in this instance such a admission would apparently not satisfy their narrow, selfish, political objectives."

Strachan, reached at his home at Cedar, near Nanaimo, said he did not speak out because, as Murray suggested, an admission of satisfaction with the Speaker wouldn't satisfy narrow, selfish, political objectives.

"It was to try to overcome narrow, selfish, political actions," he said.

"I think he (the speaker) earned it in allowing the motion to go through and without coming up with other things in Erskine May (a text on House rules) and other guide books.

"The Speaker is not the issue. But the fact remains that the Social Credit government with the co-operation of

the Speaker made a motion at the very last moment they could make a motion and bulldozed it through, and it was out of order," Strachan said.

The NDP leader said he spoke to Murray before the motion was voted through and advised him of other House rules bearing on the question.

He said one of them is that such a matter be brought to the attention of the House at the earliest possible moment. Strachan said Dowding did this three years ago.

DELIBERATE

The NDP leader also pointed out that government members had the information a month before they used it, so it was obvious that it was "a deliberate attempt to get Dowding."

Strachan also said that until now MLAs believed that, if an MLA declared an interest in a matter and didn't vote on it, he was not guilty of a breach of privilege.

"The Speaker erred in not having Capozzi go and inform Dowding ahead of time that he was going to do this, and the Speaker should not have allowed that motion to go forward," he said.

McGeer also cited the rule that a matter of that kind be brought to the Speaker's attention at the earliest possible time.

"Mr. Dowding made it

abundantly clear (in 1966) to the members of that day the solicitor-client relationship between the partners in his firm and the applicants for the private bill, Southwest Mortgage.

"Furthermore, he met the requirements of the standing orders of our House by absentsing himself from voting on the bill. Nothing was hidden. If there was a breach of privilege the members at that time had total responsibility to bring it to Mr. Murray's attention during discussion of the bill.

"This, too, is standard parliamentary practice. But the bill was sponsored by a government member, Mr. Price, and no question was raised about the impropriety of Mr. Dowding's firm offering professional services to Southwest Mortgage and being paid for those services.

BAD PRECEDENT

"To accept a motion from newly-elected government members such as the mover, Mr. Capozzi, and seconder, Mr. Phillips, on the grounds that these new members three years later just found out about the situation is a breach of parliamentary practices by Mr. Murray," McGeer said.

The Liberal leader said it is also a bad precedent because it will encourage other new members to rake the ashes of decisions made by previous parliaments.

He said Murray and Capozzi showed a lack of courtesy in not informing Dowding beforehand that the matter would be raised in the House, so Dowding would have an opportunity to prepare a defence. And he said Murray broke another rule by not deferring his decision on a prima facie breach of privilege to a future sitting day.

"The ultimate responsibility, of course, for one of the blackest moments in our B.C. legislative history must lie with Mr. Capozzi and the government members who supported his motion. The members had neither seen witnesses nor heard evidence before the trial was concluded and Mr. Dowding censured.

"When political vindictiveness takes hold of the legislative assembly all the people become the losers," said McGeer.

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This was the session

From budget for billion to motion of censure

By TONY EBERTS
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The legislative session that started 10 weeks ago with a billion-dollar bang ended Wednesday night in the acrimonious wake of a vote of censure.

The throne speech that opened it told of B.C.'s first \$1 billion budget and contained promise of wonders ranging from strip mining control to liquor law reform.

It ended on a down-beat, but in between were many hills and valleys—depending on the viewpoint.

Spiced with provincial election hints and the prospect of the NDP's leadership convention, the roller-coaster ride was described by Premier Bennett as "the best session ever."

Prorogation came at 9:35 as Lieut.-Gov. Nicholson performed the closing ceremonies. He inadvertently reduced

the provincial budget by \$999 million when he said that this year B.C. for the first time had reached a million dollar budget.

The figure of course, is \$1 billion.

What were the highlights? Perhaps the first was the appointment of a royal commission to study B.C. liquor laws.

Then came that biggest-ever budget, with its new cash offers to home-buyers and homeowners and increased spending almost all the way across the board.

Next was the start of debate on the controversial strip mining issue, straddled by the first rumblings of the government's role in the Commonwealth group's financial tangle.

By Feb. 21, the government announced the royal commission investigation of the Commonwealth companies, promising that investigation would start "almost immediately."

A few days later began the long and often-overheated battle over the government's proposed loan of up to \$3 million to help Commonwealth Trust stay afloat. Bennett was grilled, criticized and asked to resign, but survived a motion of personal censure.

Auto insurance changes began to grab attention as a legislature committee studied the controversial Wootton royal commission report, and there were glowing reports about the government's human rights bill.

'WHITEWASH'

The Commonwealth issue slopped over into March, propelled by thousands of words, including such inflammatory ones as "whitewash" and "payoff."

In mid-March came resignation of the Commonwealth royal commission members, and charges and counter-charges flew in the House over who caused the resignations and who should do what next.

But the Commonwealth loan bill finally passed and soon went almost out of mind as fresh skirmishes broke out over the government's new car insurance plan.

Lands, forests and water resources department estimates raised some stormy debate, and the public accounts committee got into some shouting matches over such things as Phil Gaglardi's hotel room in Vancouver and the use of government aircraft by cabinet ministers.

There were some disappointments, again depending largely on point of view.

WATERED DOWN

Pollution control and crime victim compensation legislation, for example, were criticized as being watered down. And, according to the Opposition at least, the human

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rights bill passed with too many loopholes.

Other legislation included:

- Statute authority to create a major national park along the west coast of Vancouver Island.
- Establishment of a law reform commission.
- Consolidation of the existing provincial court system.
- Legislation allowing municipalities to hold ratepayers on Sunday.

There were 50 sitting days, three less than in 1968 but well above the average for the last 10 years. There were 50 afternoon sittings and 24 night sittings, one lasting until almost 4 a.m.

There were 79 bills introduced, compared with 115 in 1968, and 47 public bills passed, compared with 59 last year.

A P R

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Negative Income Tax Plan Under Study by B.C. Gov't

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. is preparing to go it alone in the field of negative income tax, Welfare Minister Dan Campbell hinted Monday in the legislature.

He said the government is studying it as a partial solution to the growing number of people who cannot get jobs and added it is not something which has to wait for the federal government to implement.

Campbell was speaking after MLAs were told that the number of people on social assistance is growing rapidly and that more than half will never get jobs because advancing technology has made them unemployable.

Negative income tax is a system under which people who earn below a certain amount, have their income made up by government in a reverse tax process.

WELFARE CASES RISE

The issue was raised by Premier W. A. C. Bennett at the last federal-provincial conference but this was the first time it has been suggested in the legislature by a minister.

Campbell's reference came during debate on the estimates of the social welfare minister's office.

NDP Leader Robert Strachan said the number on welfare rolls in the last nine months of 1968 was 86,000, a 20-per-cent rise over the previous year when the average was 72,000.

The total at the end of the year, he said, was 6,000 up on the total at the end of November and 11,000 more than at the end of October, 1968.

He said the total cost of welfare for the nine months ended December was \$41 million, compared with \$31 million in the similar period of 1967.

NOT EMPLOYABLE

Of the 1968 amount, the share borne by B.C. municipalities under a new formula jumped 165 per cent to \$8.2 million, he said, while the federal government share increased to \$20 million.

The provincial government, he said, paid \$12.68 million, which represented a decrease in its proportion of the total amount paid of 1.3 per cent.

Strachan said there were 94,000 welfare recipients at the end of December and he believes the figure now is more than 100,000.

Although people on welfare are often called bums, more than half of them are not employable, he said.

LACK OF SKILL

He said the annual report of the social welfare department said it has been found that after a period of industrial expansion there is a tremendous increase in the number of welfare recipients and that there is no doubt the great majority of recipients want employment and economic independence.

Strachan said the unemployable are not acceptable to employers because of lack of skill or capacity for available jobs.

Campbell said in considering the numbers on welfare the most important thing is the effect of technology.

The system of welfare as it is now known in Canada, Britain

and the U.S. has been a complete failure, he commented.

NEW DAY EYED

The provincial government, he continued, is now studying the introduction of negative income tax which, with some modifications may bring a new day to the social services field in Canada.

He said he agreed with Strachan that more than 50 per cent of people on welfare are unemployable.

The government feels, he added, that some of the answers can be found in the form of modified negative income tax.

Dave Barrett (NDP—Coquitlam) said part of the reason for the dramatic increase in numbers on social welfare is due to the federal Liberal government.

"We have a prime minister who went around in the election campaign and said 'I promise you nothing'. And that's exactly what we got," he added.

WINTER WORKS

He then referred to cancellation of the winter works program by the federal government.

When this happened "The Vancouver Sun — that great unbiased newspaper" — welcomed that move, he said.

"I dragged out editorials they had in the past condemning this government for not taking fair shares in the past in winter

works," he said. "I call that irresponsible editorializing."

He said provincial Liberal MLAs should either cross the floor to the New Democratic Party or wire Ottawa denouncing Trudeau's 'Just Society'.

When Barrett said it is up to the federal government to implement a negative income tax policy, Campbell interrupted: "That is not true."

"Then get on with it," Barrett replied.

'ARRIVE IN TAXIS'

Norman Levi (NDP — Vancouver South) said he was in a regional director's office recently where he found the director giving approval for purchase of a tube of toothpaste worth 25 cents.

He challenged Campbell to visit Vancouver where he said there are welfare recipients driving to pick up their cheques in taxis, "and they are stoned when they arrive and stoned when they leave."

Giving out money alone is not a solution to the poverty problem in B.C., he suggested.

Levi, who is a social worker, said the department should pick one out of 10 families needing welfare, and give them \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year on a monthly basis.

"Look for people in need, give them money and let your social workers quit being bookkeepers," he said. "That is a great waste of trained personnel."

WELFARE DEBATE

Gaglardi Snoozes In House

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — New Democratic Party MLAs lulled Minister Without Portfolio Phil Gaglardi to sleep Monday night.

The former highways minister, who has been asked to head a task force to find jobs for the unemployed in the province, dropped off to sleep while Dave Barrett (NDP — Coquitlam) was appealing for greater government effort in the welfare field.

Barrett, at 11:45 p.m. was urging Municipal Affairs and Social Welfare Minister Dan Campbell to drop one of his portfolios so that he could devote full time to welfare problems.

He suggested that Gaglardi, "the cabinet's male unemployed employable," would like a cabinet job.

"I'm sure my appeal will wake up the minister I just referred to," Barrett said.

"If we are going to maintain a room for him in the Hotel Vancouver, he should at least sleep there."

At this point, while the House rocked with laughter, Gaglardi woke up with a start.

"It looks like a flop house over there," said Norman Levi (NDP — Vancouver South).

Slash Burning Held Most Economical

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A legislature committee has come out in favor of continuing to allow slash burning in B.C.'s forests for the time being.

A forestry committee report filed Monday in the house said disposal of slash by fire is expected to remain the most economical method.

It added that research into other means should be encouraged and that the question be considered again next year for the Interior and in two years' time for the coast area.

FURTHER STUDIES

The committee called for further studies on slash burning in the meantime and for a continuation of efforts by the department of transport to improve special fire weather forecasts.

The report recommended an increase in the fire-fighting rate for forest service employees to

\$1.75 an hour from \$1.25, plus a board allowance of \$4.50 a day where meals are not supplied.

(The labor movement had asked for a substantial increase in fire fighting pay, pointing out that it is mostly loggers now called out for this type of work and that they receive union rates when fighting fires under the direction of forest companies.)

LAND USE POLICY

(The forest service recommended the \$1.75 rate and employers said that rates must not be made so attractive they become an incentive for people to start fires.)

The committee also called for a land use policy to be developed to encourage integrated use of Crown lands, under a committee made up of the ministers of municipal affairs, agriculture, lands, forests and water resources, recreation and conservation, and mines and petroleum resources.

HARTLEY CASE CAUSES FURORE

House 'Misled' on Job Loss

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A New Democratic Party MLA who claimed Friday that he was dismissed as an insurance agent after Social Credit members attacked his right to sit on the auto insurance committee of the legislature, was himself accused Monday of misleading the house.

William Hartley (NDP — Yale-Lillooet) loudly defended his earlier statement to the legislature in 10 minutes of pandemonium which saw house chairman Herb Bruch threaten to force Opposition leader Robert Strachan and others to leave the chamber.

The uproar occurred before MLAs gave third and final reading to two government bills, amendments to the motor vehicle and insurance acts, setting up a scheme of compulsory, no-fault insurance in B.C.

Hartley said Friday that as an "odd coincidence" the day the legislation was introduced in the legislature, he received a letter from the insurance company with which he was licenced that his contract was cancelled, effective today.

'NOT POLITICAL'

Hartley did not name the company, Co-operative Life Insurance Co., and a spokesman for the firm said later that the dismissal was not for political reasons.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell opened the subject for debate, suggesting that Hartley was dismissed only as a life insurance salesman.

"That member misled the house," Campbell shouted, pointing to the NDP MLA.

"I did not mislead the members. Today I received two letters from the superintendent of insurance (Tom Cantell) cancelling my life and general insurance licences — although the minister suggested only my life licence was cancelled," Hartley shouted.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said he was sure every MLA would support



BILL HARTLEY
... 'didn't produce'

Hartley if there was reason to believe he had been dismissed for his political stand on auto insurance.

PRODUCTION FACTOR

"However, according to information I have received — I have copies of the correspondence — his licence was terminated due to lack of production," he said.

Peterson said that the letters show Hartley had produced no new applications for fire or automobile insurance for the past two years and had sold only a small amount of life insurance.

He said Hartley was warned of this last year.

Strachan leaped to the defence of his backbencher.

"Two months ago the member from Yale - Lillooet told the house he had not been actively working in the insurance field, but from across the way," he said, pointing to the Social Credit benches, "there came a torrent of barracking and harassment, any insurance agency would be embarrassed to find a cabinet minister attacking one of its agents, because insurance companies in the province want to be on the right side of this government," Strachan shouted.

"That's why Bill Hartley was fired," he snapped.

While Bruch hammered repeatedly for order, Strachan yelled: "That is straight dirty partisan politics."

Bruch threatened to name the Opposition leader if he did not sit down, pointing out that he had called Peterson to order earlier.

"But only after you let him read from that letter," Strachan yelled.

After the uproar died down, Hartley expressed disappointment that the government did not accept amendments he proposed which would have allowed the government to go into the auto insurance business. The amendments were ruled out of order by Bruch.

Hartley said there are 188 insurance companies in the province with 188 general managers, 188 offices and staff, and that merging the insurance business into one government operated agency would reduce insurance costs by 25 per cent.

Hartley noted that Peterson had said that a number of actuarial studies will have to be done before the costs of the new insurance scheme can be determined, although he had predicted earlier that the new legislation would allow a 25 per cent reduction in premiums.

SUBSIDY CLAIMED

"This bill is politically motivated, designed to sell as election propaganda to the people of the province and unless you act, that is all it is," Hartley declared.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) asked how much insurance companies will save through medical and hospital costs under the no-fault accident section of the plan being paid by B.C. Hospital Insurance Service and the B.C. Medical Plan.

He said at present these costs have to be met by the insurance companies, but the legislation changes this situation.

Hartley said this represents a subsidy to the companies.

Peterson said the amount recovered by BCHIS and the B.C. Medical Plan from insurance companies in accident cases is insignificant at the moment.

He said it could be "substantial" in the future.

Macdonald then raised the question or premiums varying because of age, and said young drivers should not be discriminated against by having to pay higher premiums.

He said premiums should vary according to accident and violation record only.

Peterson said he hopes this will be studied by the insurance board which will be set up under the legislation to see whether the risk is such at certain age levels that there should be differential rates.

Government backbencher John Tisdalle (SC—Saanich and the Islands) said no one can forecast what premiums are going to be.

He said the legislation will change the pattern of insurance and may need a second look.

Bennett Held Elderly Citizen

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — A New Democratic Party MLA has described Premier W. A. C. Bennett as an example of an elderly citizen who is still making his contribution to society.

Norman Levi (NDP—Vancouver South) said during Monday's debate on the estimates of Social Welfare Minister Dan Campbell that there is a feeling that old people are sick and must be "put on the shelf" when they reach a certain age.

He called for day-care centres for elderly citizens where they can use the skills they used during their days of employment.

"Look at our premier over there," he said. "Here he is," a premier at 68 years of age."

Bennett, with his back turned, ignored Levi's remarks.

Universities Report Filed

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Education Minister Donald Brothers has received the Perry report on higher education, it was learned today.

Brothers said in an interview that he had not had time to study the report submitted by the advisory committee on inter-university relations, but said he expects to take it to the cabinet immediately after the current session of the legislature. The committee was headed by deputy education minister Dr. G. Neil Perry.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Today is the 49th sitting day of the third session of the 28th B.C. legislature.

The house sat at 2 p.m., rose at 6 p.m., sat at 8 p.m., rose at 11:58 p.m. Monday.

This is the 28th day of debate on estimates. MLAs are debating estimates of Social Welfare Minister Dan Campbell.

A meeting of the legislature's public accounts committee was scheduled for today.

Gov't to Meet Drug Challenge

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The provincial government is considering expanding its own drug distribution service to meet the druggists' threat to impose a \$1 charge on welfare patients.

Social Welfare Minister Dan Campbell said Monday the government already runs a mail-order service for drugs for people on welfare.

He said he is now considering extension of this service, with distribution through other channels also, such as hospitals and health centres.

He made it clear the provincial government is not prepared to accept the druggists' arguments for more money for prescriptions dispensed to welfare patients.

ULTIMATUM

Campbell was commenting in an interview on an ultimatum given his office during the day from the B.C. Professional Pharmacists' Society.

The society, claiming to represent more than 500 pharmacies throughout the province, said that from April 15 there will be a \$1 surcharge on prescriptions dispensed to welfare patients, which will be payable by the patient on receipt of the prescription.

Representatives of the society said they had the backing of both members and non-members, including department stores and cut-price outlets.

They said the surcharge is being imposed because they have been told the provincial government will not increase the amount it pays for welfare prescriptions.

'JUST TALK'

Sam Bass, owner of London Drugs Ltd., said in Vancouver that in his view the provincial government is not really interested in going into the drug distribution business.

"That's just talk," he said, referring to the welfare minister's statement.

Bass said he "pretty well goes along" with the stand taken by the druggists.

"They're in a dilemma. The druggist can't exist. He has to subsidize the government," said Bass.

LOSS CLAIMED

The pharmacists, in a letter delivered to Campbell's office in his absence, said they are losing \$1.14 on each welfare prescription dispensed.

At a press conference later they said this figure is based on actuarial study of the cost of dispensing, including a proportion of wages and other overheads.

Campbell said the government now pays for the prescriptions on the basis of 85 per cent of the retail price.

He said the pharmacists want the price to be on a fee-for-service principle.

(Under this principle the price of a prescription is based on the costs of the drugs to the pharmacist plus an amount for dispensing, based on overhead costs.)

Campbell said he believes the

retail end of the pharmaceutical industry is caught in a cost-price squeeze but does not see why the social welfare department should be made the scapegoat for it.

UNCERTAINTY

He said he has discussed the matter a number of times with the druggists and has told them he is not prepared to make any commitments because of the uncertainty of continued federal support for welfare assistance.

He said Ottawa has indicated the program will be phased out.

Referring to prices charged normally by druggists, Campbell said they can vary between different areas of the province and between individual drug stores in the same community, such as in Vancouver.

Asked what he thinks will happen after April 15, when the surcharge is due to go into effect, Campbell said he doubts the society is speaking for every individual druggist.

"I cannot envisage a situation where a person will present a prescription to a druggist and be refused service on the basis of \$1," he added.

BILL IT

"If the druggist wants to record it in his accounts by billing it, that is a possibility."

(The druggists said earlier that in emergency situations they would expect welfare patients to be billed for the \$1 if they could not pay it immediately.)

Campbell, asked whether he believes welfare patients billed by a druggist should in fact pay the bill, replied: "I am not going to give any advice on what they should do with the bill."

J. Murray Dykeman, president of B.C. Professional Pharmacists' Society, said any alternate program of government distribution must meet two standards.

"The first is provision of adequate prescription services in keeping with the level entitled to all citizens of B.C.," he said.

He said this includes instant availability of emergency medications for residents.

COST FACTOR

"The second consideration is that the cost of any such program would be based on actuarial figures as are those costs on which prescription prices to the public are charged.

"The government presently operates a central dispensary which provides limited medications in special welfare cases as well as distributing drugs to institutions throughout B.C.

"Last August the fee-for-service concept was discussed with the minister and as a result of those successful discussions a contract was drafted based on the fee-for-service principle.

"We anticipated a joint signature with government by Jan. 1, 1969, but Feb. 28 this year we were notified by letter from the minister that no adjustment could be made in payment for welfare recipients.

6 B.C. Ministers Face Plane Quiz

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Six cabinet ministers have been summoned to appear Wednesday before the legislature's public accounts committee to explain the use of provincial government aircraft.

Five of them — the four ministers without portfolio and Health Minister Ralph Loffmark — are wanted to give details of their use of the planes, including some apparent weekend trips home.

The other, Highways Minister Wesley Black, is to be asked about government policy on use of the planes.

Two highways department officials are also to be called before the committee in a bid to

get the costs of operating the government's air fleet and details of trips made.

The committee decided today to have the ministers and officials appear after being told of the lack of records of costs and of trips by the planes.

Fraser MacLean, assistant deputy minister of highways, told the committee — which is examining accounts for the year ended March 31, 1968 — that Phil Gagliardi was minister of highways for 11½ months of the period.

He said Gagliardi, now minister without portfolio, took a very detailed interest in the aircraft operations.

"People phoned to his secretary and made a booking for where and when they wanted to go and the flights were approved by that office," MacLean added.

LOGS KEPT

He said no records were kept of the flights apart from the log of each plane required by the Department of Transport.

These logs, he said, were the minimum required and did not name passengers.

Trade and Industry Minister Waldo Skillings said that after Black took over as highways minister a memorandum was sent to all ministers outlining the conditions on which the planes would be used from then on.

The memo, dated June 6, 1968, said the planes were for senior officials, deputy ministers and ministers and flights had to be authorized at ministerial level, he said.

It also said there would be no flights outside the province except to Watson Lake and Whitehorse on trips to northern B.C.

TRIPS LISTED

MacLean said no costs were kept for the planes — two Beechcraft with a maximum of five seats, one turbine-engined Beechcraft with four seats and a Grumman Goose, which is being converted to turbine power.

Dave Barrett (NDP-Coquitlam) said figures for the period from March to December 1968 showed that during this time Gagliardi made 93 flights in government aircraft, including 43 from Kamloops.

Minister Without Portfolio Grace McCarthy made 79 flights back and forth between Victoria and Vancouver.

Minister Without Portfolio Pat Jordan made 39, to or from Kelowna.

Loffmark, "who had the highest account of all cabinet ministers in 1967-68," made 24, 15 of them to or from Vancouver.

IN NORTH VAN

Land Prices Labelled Too High

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The district of North Vancouver was accused Monday in the legislature of doing nothing to bring down residential land prices by selling lots itself for \$11,000-\$12,000.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell, who made the accusation, said municipalities generally are doing a poor job in affecting the market in land.

He said the province is trying to market lots at Blair Rifle Range in North Vancouver and in Surrey at \$3,000 to \$3,500 each.

Barrie Clark (L-North Vancouver-Seymour) said every lot sold by North Vancouver district has been by public tender and asked if the minister wanted municipalities to subsidize land costs.

Campbell said Prince George and the government had successfully worked out a system for bringing municipally-owned lots on to the market in a steady flow to keep down the market price.

Clark got no answer when he asked if the price for the Blair range lots included contributions to the cost of necessary arterial roads and water supply.

He asked why the lots had not been put on the market much sooner, adding "the land has been sitting there for 10 years."

Campbell said the land was released by the department of national defence only last year.

Clark said the district municipality has three or four times as much land as at Blair but can not develop it because of lack of low-cost funds.

Bob Williams (NDP-Vancouver East) said Campbell cannot expect North Vancouver district only to put its land on the market at low prices.



Rental Grievances Boards Provided in Tenants' Bill

By IAIN HUNTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell announced Monday that he has a plan for a "tenants' bill of rights" which he will present shortly to municipalities for approval.

He made the announcement in the legislature in response to questioning from Norman Levi (NDP — Vancouver South) who appealed for a revision of the present Landlords and Tenants Act, and charged that there is too much "rent gouging" taking place in the Lower Mainland area.

Campbell, repeating an earlier statement by Attorney-General Les Peterson, said revision of the act is one of the projects which will be tackled by a law reform commission, being set up under legislation passed at this session.

The announcement came before MLAs approved the estimates of the municipal affairs



DAN CAMPBELL
... drafts legislation

department, totaling \$55.9 million.

But in the meantime, Campbell announced, a committee

headed by himself and Peterson has drafted legislation which will be distributed to municipalities shortly for their comments.

"It is an attempt to codify landlord and tenant relationships and will be a move toward a tenants' bill of rights," Campbell said.

BILL TABLED

He then tabled a draft bill that would allow establishment of a system of municipal rental accommodation grievance boards by municipal councils.

The boards, to be set up under the enabling legislation would have the right to examine dwelling units subject of appeals and to summon witnesses to hearings.

It would hear appeals by landlords or tenants that terms of leases were not being adhered to or that the rental bylaws set up by municipalities were not being observed.

Under the draft bill, municipalities would be able to prescribe the amount of notice of rent increase to be given, the amount of notice of termination to be given by a landlord (except for cause), the amount of notice of termination to be given by a tenant, the level of service and maintenance to be provided, and the conditions of entry for inspection of rental accommodation by the landlord, except in cases of emergency.

BINDING DECISIONS

Decisions of the grievance boards set up under the enabling draft would be binding, unless either party decided to appeal to a county court judge.

Later, Levi said in the house that while the government can bring in speedy legislation on strip mining and auto insurance, it cannot find the time to bring in a bill to protect tenants.

Campbell said because the bill represents a new area of jurisdiction he wanted to give an opportunity for public discussion on it.

Officials Disagree On Hotel Bills

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Two civil servants disagreed Monday on principles governing the payment of cabinet ministers' hotel expenses.

Provincial comptroller-general C. J. Ferber told the legislature's public accounts committee that ministers of the crown may bill the government for accommodation out of Victoria while the legislature is in session.

The provincial secretary's department comptroller James McDiarmid, said this is not allowed — although he once approved such a bill by mistake.

The committee was examining Hotel Vancouver accommodation kept by minister-without portfolio Phil Gaglardi on a year-round basis — including the period while the House was in session last year.

'IN ERROR'

McDiarmid admitted to the committee that he had been "in error" in approving a hotel bill in Vancouver for Gaglardi during the last session.

He said he has laid down a policy as comptroller for the provincial secretary's department, the departments of health and welfare, and for ministers without portfolio, that ministers of the crown — like every other MLA — must use their living allowances while out of town during the session.

The government will pay only travel expenses during this time, he said.

"There is nothing wrong if the government wants to maintain accommodation for a minister out of town," McDiarmid said, "but in my opi-

nion the government does not maintain this accommodation — he (Gaglardi) has his own expense account and the right to use it in areas he sees fit."

Dave Barrett (NDP Coquitlam) — said the vouchers shows Gaglardi billed the government for the hotel accommodation in Vancouver while he was receiving his sessional indemnity last year.

'NOT REIMBURSED'

Barrett asked if Gaglardi had reimbursed the government for this or other Hotel Vancouver bills during the session of 1968. "No, not to my knowledge," said McDiarmid.

Ferber was asked in turn if Gaglardi has ever reimbursed the government for his hotel accommodation during sessions.

"No, and in my opinion he is not required to," Ferber said.

He said he had discussed this question with the attorney-general's department a number of years ago. It had been decided that ministers should not be required to meet out of their sessional indemnity during sittings of the house those expenses which they incur on government business while out of the capital.

"Mr. McDiarmid is a departmental comptroller and they are supposed to lay down departmental policy," Ferber said.

"But I disagree with Mr. McDiarmid on this issue.

"If he wants to apply this policy at the departmental level and if it doesn't come through to me, it stands.

"But I would approve it," he said referring to Gaglardi's accommodation in Vancouver.

Mining Reclamation Laws Pass Their Final Hurdle

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — B.C.'s new mining reclamation laws passed their remaining stages in the legislature in less than 90 minutes Monday night and now need only royal assent to come in to force.

The laws, which are in line with a unanimous report by an all-party legislative committee, provide for reclamation of strip-mined areas rather than restoration as originally proposed by the government.

During the brief debate, Opposition leader Robert Strachan said the laws are due to the presentation by The Sun and the CBC of what has happened in other areas and what could happen in B.C. without legislation.

He said the people of the province owe a debt of gratitude to both media.

The legislation also provides for an appeal procedure, increased performance bonds —

above the previous maximum of \$500 an acre — to ensure reclamation in difficult areas, and a more detailed report on what a coal mining company plans to do in its operation.

This plan will need approval by all four resource ministers: mines, lands and forests, conservation and agriculture.

Strachan said that under "the white glare of publicity" the companies had to admit they did not have the right to do as they please in B.C.

He said without the publicity provided by The Sun and the CBC even the present legislation, with all its errors, would not have been presented.

Strachan said some people from outside the province with experience of strip mining had said the B.C. legislation is weak but "any legislation better than no legislation."

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver-Howe Sound) said everyone should be grateful to those who had drawn attention to the problems of strip mining.

Answering NDP complaints that the legislation appears to allow pollution of watercourses providing they are reclaimed later, Mines Minister Frank Richter said this is not the intention.

He said the reclamation refers to streams which are polluted now and is not intended to permit pollution of other watercourses.

Richter said experts from other government departments and university and other outside sources will be called on as

necessary before mining programs are approved so the government will have the best advice possible on types of reclamation to be used.

James K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — I like Health Minister Ralph Loffmark's courage in telling Greater Victoria to 'get cracking' with hospital construction . . . or else.

The delays, and the bumbblings of officialdom that are going on around here, as I have noted before, are truly incredible. Talk about the "do-nothing" society. We have it right here. Certainly where hospitals are concerned.

Mr. Loffmark is now reaching the end of his tether. He's fed up, and so he should be. Now he had best get out a great big government stick and wield it with vigor, letting the chips fall where they may.

Mayor Hugh Stephen of Victoria, head of this region's hospital planning board, agrees with Mr. Loffmark that the present bog-down should no longer be tolerated. Apparently Mr. Stephen, like Mr. Loffmark, has had it — the mass dilly-dally that is wrapping itself around hospital construction.

"It may be interesting to find out who is delaying what," says the mayor, somewhat mysteriously, indicating there is some pin-head throwing of monkey-wrenches somewhere along the line.

Petty politicking and parochial antics are, it seems to me, being indulged in while thousands of people suffer it out waiting for hospital beds, for which they are paying, but cannot get.

Get out that big government stick, Mr. Loffmark, and let it fall where it deserves to fall.



MAYOR HUGH STEPHEN . . . agrees with Loffmark

Tighter Law Asked On Trust Firms

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — A New Democratic Party MLA introduced a bill in the legislature Monday to tighten restrictions on trust company operations in B.C.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby Edmonds) said his bill would make trust companies comply with requirements under the provincial Companies Act which apply to all other companies with respect to "insider" disclosures, public audit and liability of directors.

He said in an interview that his bill would impose the same duties on trust companies in B.C. as now apply to this type of business in Alberta and Ontario.

KEEPING REGISTER

The bill would require that trust companies adhere to sections of the 1967 Trust Companies Amendment Act in B.C. which call for:

Keeping a register of shareholders;

Opening for inspection by members of all documents referred to in annual reports;

Public declarations by directors, senior officers or shareholders of direct or indirect beneficial ownership of capital securities of a company;

Auditors making annual reports to members shall state whether the financial statement referred to in their reports

"presents clearly the financial position of the company," and the fairness of statements of source and application of funds.

NOT ELIGIBLE

Dowding's bill also states that a person is not eligible to be elected a director of a trust company if he is a director of a chartered bank, other trust company, or corporation carrying on a loan business, or if he holds in his own right common shares of the company on which less than \$5,000 or such greater amount as the bylaws of the company require, have been paid up.

It would make liable directors of a trust company where moneys are paid out impairing the capital of the company or rendering it insolvent, who, being present at the directors' meeting authorizing the action, do not record their protest in writing or, if not present, do not protest within eight days to the minister of finance.



Allan FOTHERINGHAM

VICTORIA — WHEN THE LEAN figure of Patrick McGeer saunters in through the side door of the legislature while a speech is in process, the hoots come up from the Social Credit backbench wits: "Here comes the hot-liner. He's off the air now." McGeer grins that boyish grin and sits down. He takes the taunts, convinced that the experiment he is conducting is the right one and that it eventually will succeed. I



doubt that it will, but it's an interesting experiment, one that will be decided by the guinea pigs, the voters of B.C., over the next couple of elections. What McGeer feels is that the legislature of the province, as it is now conducted, is almost irrelevant to the political process. The lack of a Hansard to provide actual records of what goes on, the lack of facilities or rights for opposition parties, the legislation-by-exhaustion techniques of Premier Bennett, the daily battle of insults — McGeer hates it all. He knows he can never win by fighting on the bearpit terms that now prevail. He thinks that the people of B.C., offered something else, will show that they essentially don't like it either.

So he continues the restrained approach of the Liberal party this session — and slips out to record another hot-line message for another radio station in some upcountry town which has shut out the Liberals — as has every non-metropolitan riding in the province.

"Look. The session lasts nine weeks. That leaves 43 weeks in the year. Which really impresses the public? What an MLA does in 9/52nds of the year? Or 43/52nds of the year? We've got to make much of our contribution outside the house. An opposition MLA is not allowed to make a worthwhile contribution here."

★ ★ ★

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF comment around Victoria this session on the lack of impact made by the Liberals. There are only six of them, of course, but some people thought with new leader McGeer and the slipstream of Trudeauania (remember that?) they would be able to come across with more sock. They have not. One reason is they obviously miss their experienced debaters. Alan Macfarlane has been elevated to the bench. Ray Perrault has gone to Ottawa. And, going back a bit, Harry McKay of Fernie had his seat ingeniously wiped out by redistribution. By contrast, two of the replacements, Oak Bay's Allan Cox and North Van-Capilano's Dave Brousson, were just

elected in last summer's byelections and it takes at least one session to learn the sly strategies and gamesmanship of the house. It's commonly agreed in Victoria that one reason the session is shorter this year is that Perrault is gone. Perrault felt he had to get into every debate, to record his party's views on every subject and to plunge into every crossfloor battle. It was his style. It got him a lot of headlines over the years but it didn't gain his party any seats. It's not McGeer's style. He tries instead to pick his spots.

"Bennett is a bully. But like all bullies he secretly fears being overthrown. That's why he won't allow the opposition any of the simple courtesies and rights given in other provinces. With him, might is right. Okay, that's the way he plays it. In the bullring, I don't want to go that way. There are other ways of getting your message across."

★ ★ ★

IT'S NO SECRET WHAT THE Liberal plan has to be. If the Sacred regime is falling apart and if there is indeed a ceiling on that basic NDP appeal to 35-40 per cent of the electorate, the Liberals have to escape from the comfortable middle class ghettos into which they've settled. They've got to get out of Point Grey and Oak Bay and into the boon docks. So McGeer has organized a steady feeding of material from the legislature to radio stations and small newspapers in certain upcountry ridings which he hopes to knock over. He's somewhat resigned, somewhat bitter, in his feelings toward the metropolitan press. He feels he does not get a fair shake from the Vancouver papers which, he claims, want only headlines. "Look, I could get on the front page of the Vancouver Sun tomorrow. It's easy. I just attack Premier Bennett in outlandish terms. But that's playing his game. That's what he wants." McGeer won't get into the slanging match and so he ends up on page 26. He feels he's making an impact upcountry but that he's not allowed to in the metropolitan press. So he slips out the side door and continues the subliminal approach through the hot-lines.

★ ★ ★

"THIS GOVERNMENT IS IN THE same position as Quebec was under Duplessis. It's been in power so long that anything goes. Voters have lost the ability to be shocked. They are now used to being bribed with their own money. But eventually I think there'll come an end to it. People will get tired of having their morals corrupted. I think if you can show them there is another way of doing things, that government doesn't have to be run this way. I think they'd prefer another way. I may be wrong. But I'm not going to change my approach. I'm not going to get down on the floor of the bear-pit and play the game by his rules. If I'm wrong and it's clear after say five years that my approach won't work then I'll go. Someone also can try another approach."

Police Brutality Charges Shown Unfounded -- Peterson

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Allegations of police brutality to Indians at Sechelt are without foundation, Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said Tuesday after receiving a 60-page report from a special investigator.

He said the allegations, made earlier in the legislature by lawyer-MLA Tom Berger (NDP—Vancouver Burrard) were not substantiated by the report of departmental inspector Archie Plummer.

Plummer, he said, interviewed 62 people in Sechelt, including 35 Indians, apart from the police.

"It appears that the allegations are without foundation," Peterson said, and added he feels a great disservice has been done both to Sechelt Indians and the RCMP officers who served there.

'PARTISAN' REPORT

Berger said at a press conference later the report is a partisan one following an incomplete investigation.

Peterson said any further investigation is up to the RCMP or to the federal department of Indian affairs, to whom copies of the report have been sent.

He pointed out that Plummer suggested the inquiries be continued to establish the authenticity or otherwise of the complaints, "bearing in mind the possibility of mischief charges under the Criminal Code."

The allegations were raised in the house by Berger at the end of February.

He detailed seven instances in which he said Indians of the Sechelt reservation were beaten and abused by members of the RCMP detachment.

Berger charged police brutality and alleged also that the RCMP had failed to come to the aid of Indians on the reservation in cases of trespass and once in a case of near-drowning.

'CONSTABLE KELLY'

Berger said he raised the charges because he was convinced they are true.

He said that after he approached the attorney-general's department about them last November the frequency and violence of the beatings by police had mounted.

Plummer, in his report, said that there was continued refer-

ence in the allegations to a Constable Kelly.

He said he interviewed the seven members of the RCMP detachment and learned there is no Constable Kelly stationed at or near Sechelt, neither do officers there know of a constable of that name ever being stationed there.

He said that of the 27 non-Indians he interviewed, none would agree that the relationship between the Indians and the village of Sechelt or the police had deteriorated.

In fact, he said, they spoke generally of a gradual but maintained improvement in relations.

'LACK OF CONTROL'

"During my investigation it became apparent that the members of the non-Indian community and the majority of reserve residents interviewed by me were of the opinion that the Indian band's business has suffered considerably through lack of proper control," he added.

He said this was due to the band having had, for some considerable time, no chief.

"During this time, and even when there was a chief, it seemed that the control rested almost solely with Mr. Clarence Joe, band manager," Plummer said.

"I received complaints from both Indians and non-Indians at the difficulty of having to do business with him."

He said another oft-repeated complaint was the loss by fire on two occasions of the band records when they were in the custody of Joe.

Plummer said it was suggested to him that now the band has a new chief, Henry Paul, the band books should be produced and given to him for safe custody.

He said he also found among the Indian residents a real physical fear of the local native control exercised over the band members.

Referring to allegations by Berger that in most cases victims of brutality were not charged, Plummer said it seems the MLA had been misinformed.

"Charges were laid, seizures made, goods recovered, reports made, or in the case of drunks the persons picked up were released when sober in accordance with departmental policy," he added.

BERGER'S REPLY

Berger said at a press conference there should have been an independent inquiry.

He said instead the attorney-general had sent in a policeman in the employ of his department who had produced an obviously partisan document. (Plummer is a former Vancouver city police officer.)

Berger said after interviewing only some of the Indian witnesses, Plummer went to the RCMP, who denied they had been guilty of misconduct.

In respect of the mention by Plummer of possible charges of public mischief, Berger said he regards this as intimidation of the Indians.

Bennett Cool to Bridge Plea

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett indicated Tuesday that the provincial government does not feel any responsibility to help pay increased costs of the second crossing at Vancouver's First Narrows.

He was commenting in an interview on a suggestion by Van-

couver Ald. Hugh Bird that the provincial government increase its pledge by \$10 million because estimated costs of the approaches have risen to between \$43.1 million and \$62.1 million.

"Just because the federal and municipal governments have delayed in building the crossing is no concern — is not the responsibility of the provincial government," Bennett said.

Does this mean the province will not reconsider its \$27 million offer to help pay for toll-free sections? he was asked.

"I have made my statement," he said, "and I say that in good humor."

RCMP First in Launching Brutality Probe, House Told

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An RCMP investigation into charges of police brutality against Sechelt Indians was already going on when an MLA raised the allegations in the legislature, said a report filed Tuesday by Attorney-General Leslie Peterson.

The report, by departmental inspector Archie Plummer, said the RCMP investigation stopped when Tom Berger (NDP—Vancouver Burrard) brought the matter to the house.

Plummer said the RCMP investigation was requested by the officer in charge of the Sechelt detachment, identified as Corporal Orville Underhill, after band manager Clarence Joe had complained that his son had been injured while being arrested.

The complaints was made to assistant deputy attorney-general A. L. Pearson late last year, the report said.

It said Pearson wrote the head of the RCMP criminal investigation bureau advising Joe had complained about Corporal Underhill regarding unnecessary charges being laid and alleging lack of interest by him in Indian band matters.

JOE COMPLAINED

Plummer said after the matter was raised in the house he began an investigation on the instruction of the attorney-general.

Referring to eight specific allegations made by Berger, Plummer went through them individually.

The allegations were:

No help from police in a close drowning incident when one of three Indians fell off a pier: Plummer said statements he obtained from Indians and police reports made at the time showed police were there within less than two minutes, assisted in the rescue and took three people to hospital.

GIRL SEARCHED

A 17-year-old girl kicked for refusing to answer questions about a breaking and entering: Plummer said the girl claimed to have been arrested and slapped by a Constable Kelly — whom he says elsewhere in his report does not exist. Mrs. Ingrid Underhill, wife of Corporal Underhill, called in to search the girl, said no unnecessary

force was used on the girl, who was kicking and fighting, and the officers concerned were gentle and patient with her.

A 27-year-old man hit in the mouth after refusing to answer questions by three RCMP officers who approached him on the reservation: Plummer said this man claimed one of the officers was Kelly, and that he had to go to hospital with an abscess as a result of a beating. A doctor who saw the man for an abscess said it was absurd to claim it came from a beating.

A 24-year-old man picked up in a drunken state and assaulted: Plummer said the only evidence is of the man being punched in the eye by another Indian whose boat he had taken without permission. This man also alleged the presence at the incident of the non-existent Kelly.

TOLD STORIES

Two out of five youths assaulted after being caught on the reservation with liquor: Plummer said the stories told by the youths did not back up their allegations.

A third youth assaulted on the same occasion: Plummer said this youth also alleged he was struck by the non-existent Kelly.

An 18-year-old youth arrested on a beach, struck in the eye and nose and attended by a doctor next day: Plummer said there was a scuffle as another Indian tried to prevent the arrest. The matter was gone into before the magistrate who ruled no unnecessary force was used by police.

STOLEN TIRES

Roundup of all young people on reserve after breaking and entering at a Sechelt bowling alley, with a 12-year-old needing medical attention after being hit in the face: Plummer said there is no record of the boy being examined by any doctor around the time of the alleged incident and that a parent of one of the boys present at the police station said there was no trouble and police only talked to the youngsters.

An 11-year-old boy grabbed by the throat, threatened with a strap while being questioned about stolen tires; and having to see a doctor the next day: Plummer said this boy also referred to the non-existent Kelly as being involved and that there was no record or other evidence of him seeing a doctor.

Plummer said in all cases the police officers concerned denied the alleged assaults.

Job Agency Urged For Handicapped

VICTORIA (CP) — A report tabled in the legislature Tuesday urged the government to consider a single co-ordinating agency concerned with employment of handicapped persons.

"Such an agency would act as a clearing house and job placement co-ordinating element for voluntary agencies," says the report, a preliminary survey of employment opportunities for the handicapped in B.C.

The report, tabled by Waldo Skillings, minister of industrial development, trade and commerce, said a survey found the focus of many existing agencies is "medically oriented."

It called for greater emphasis in merchandising the abilities of the handicapped as "an excellent payroll investment" rather

than emphasis being placed on a person's disabilities.

"Questionnaires returned indicated a numerical 97 per cent acceptance of performance where a handicapped worker had adequate knowledge of the job," the report said.

"Perhaps a review could be made of possible tax incentives to businesses that employ severely handicapped persons."

The study also urged that the report be circulated and discussed by a relatively small group of representatives of government, industry and labor organization and others concerned at a future meeting in Victoria.

Public Access To Bush Urged

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — No trespassing signs on bushland in the province burn up Leo Nimsick.

The New Democratic Party MLA for Kootenay urged in the legislature Tuesday that an access act should be passed to allow the public access to any land in B.C., public or private, which is still in its original wild state.

"All wild lands, whether they are privately or publicly owned, should be open for public access," he said.

Mrs. McCarthy Charges Harassment Over Flights

By JES ODAM and IAIN HUNTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA: A woman cabinet minister today accused the legislature's public accounts committee of harassment.

Minister without portfolio Grace McCarthy (Vancouver-Little Mountain), who made the statement, was the first of five cabinet ministers summoned to appear before the committee to explain their use of government aircraft.

Before she appeared, the committee was told it can cost nearly eight times as much to fly a cabinet minister or civil servant by government aircraft as by a commercial plane.

Mrs. McCarthy, who was permitted to make an opening statement before being questioned by the committee, said: "I appreciate the exercise we are going through."

She said she respected the committee's right to inquire into public accounts but said it should not become a committee of harassment of cabinet ministers or civil servants.

"Some of the statements have been just that," she added.

Mrs. McCarthy said she would rather take a government plane than commercial flights because it saves her time waiting around at airports.

But Health Minister Ralph

Loffmark testified that he finds it more efficient — and cheaper — to travel by B.C. Ferries from Vancouver to the same cabinet meetings which Mrs. McCarthy uses government aircraft to get to.

The committee was also told that no costs or records of flights of the government air fleet were kept while Phil Gaglardi was minister of highways and that in that time even the aircraft dispatcher was not told where planes were going.

Gaglardi, now minister without portfolio was among those before the committee.

Other cabinet members were ministers without portfolio Pat Jordan and Isabel Dawson.

The committee did not go ahead with a proposal made earlier to call present highways minister Wes Black.

Mrs. McCarthy said it was ridiculous for committee members to work out flights costs on the basis that only one seat was occupied without finding out the full circumstances.

The committee was told that Mrs. McCarthy made 79 flights in the current fiscal year, but chairman Evan Wolfe (SC-Vancouver-Centre) ruled these cannot be discussed because the committee is considering the year ending March 31, 1968.

Highways department comptroller Cyril Rhodes told the committee he had worked out some 'fair comparison' costs between government and commercial aircraft.

Examples he gave included:

Victoria-Vancouver, \$10 by commercial flight, \$6.75 a seat on government planes. He agreed this worked out to \$32 a flight if only one seat was used.

VICTORIA — Kamloops, \$29 by commercial flight, \$2 a seat by government aircraft, or \$162.50 if only one seat is filled.

Victoria-Prince Rupert, \$53 by commercial flight, \$82.50 per seat by government plane, or \$412.50 for a single passenger.

\$825 A TRIP

Dave Barrett (NDP-Coquitlam) said this meant that, for a return trip to Prince Rupert with one passenger, the government plane cost was \$825 compared with a commercial flight cost of about \$100.

Rhodes agreed with Pat McGeer (Lib. — Vancouver-Point Grey) that the costs were not complete for government aircraft and were calculated on the assumption the plane was flying at 200 miles an hour all the time.

McGeer said this made the costs appear lower than they were as it did not take into account landing and takeoff time.

SINGLE PASSENGER

Barrett said there were a number of occasions on which flights were made carrying a single cabinet minister.

Opposition Leader Bob Strachan said logs showed that the government service appeared to be used efficiently where civil servants were concerned, as they usually flew in groups, but was a luxury service for cabinet ministers who usually flew alone.

Mrs. Dawson testified that she seldom goes by aircraft, preferring to use B.C. Ferries, and that when she does use

Swap Water for Land, McGeer Tells Gov't

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. should go on the offensive against U.S. plans to get Canadian water, Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer said Tuesday in the legislature.

He said the province should say now that for every acre flooded in B.C. for the benefit of water supply in the U.S., B.C. should be compensated by territory ceded to Canada.

"We should start negotiating from strength. I would suggest that areas of recreational value such as Point Roberts, U.S.-owned Gulf Islands and some of the Hawaiian Islands for a start," he added.

McGeer said he had just seen a film produced as propaganda for the North American Water and Power Alliance (a scheme

to divert Canadian water to the U.S.)

Premier W. A. C. Bennett joined NDP MLAs in shouting down McGeer during his speech.

Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan said the moment anybody started talking about trading land they were mentally committing themselves to making a deal at some stage.

"If the U.S. was dying for lack of water there might be grounds for considering some kind of diversion. They have lots of water but they have used it carelessly," he said.

Kiernan said he believes that by the time the U.S. has cleaned up the water it has, desalination of sea water will be as cheap as hauling fresh water any distance.

Insurance Plan Voted

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature gave third and final reading Tuesday to legislation setting up a compulsory, non-cancellable automobile insurance plan providing accident benefits regardless of fault.

A government bill to amend the Insurance Act was passed in a standing vote of 28 to 21, the Liberal and New Democratic Party MLAs voting against the bill. A companion

amending bill to the Motor Vehicle Act was passed in a voice vote.

There was no debate on the bills Tuesday.

The legislature also gave third and final reading to a private bill to amend the Vancouver Charter.

Charter amendments authorized hiring of meter maids and disposing of property valued at more than \$200,000 by two-thirds approval of the city council.

Wed., April 2, 1969*

RCMP First in Launching Brutality Probe, House Told

Sun Victoria Bureau | force was used on the girl who. An 18-year-old youth arrested

: Wed., April 2, 1969 :

Mrs. McCarthy Charges Harassment Over Flights

government aircraft her secretary first checks to see what commercial flights are available.

Mrs. Jordan she is concerned only how she can best get to appointments around the province in the most efficient manner and stated there is limited commercial air transportation to the Interior "where I do most of my business."
"Yes, only three flights a day," observed McGeer.

Another Mining Disaster

The provincial government wasted no time slipping its new mining bills through a dying legislature, capitalizing on the euphoric glow into which everyone seemed to have lapsed on receipt of the report by the MLAs' committee which amended them.

But it was haste which all except the mining companies may have cause to regret.

It was most unfortunate that before the bills were passed little heed was given to the warnings of a lawyer who helped draft both state and federal laws in the United States. Dave Schneider qualifies as an expert on the pitfalls into which inexperienced legislators can tumble.

Mr. Schneider examined B.C.'s bills prior to the report of the mining committee and found them, in a word, "weak." His verdict is unlikely to be altered by the changes proposed by the committee and adopted by the legislature virtually without question. In fact these amendments seem only to weaken the bills further.

Miners, MLAs and conservationists alike seemed to accept as practical the committee's deletion of the word "restoration" from the legislation. But its removal must be examined in full context. What the committee did was take out considerably more than one word: it deleted the phrase "continuous and progressive restoration, reclamation and conservation" and substituted "the protection and reclamation."

This is an even vaguer phrase and a much less potent one. It removes the element of time and it dismisses the principle of conservation from strip mining operations. But the committee went even further. It doubled to six months the leeway granted mining companies to file their development plans with the government. And it suggested that, instead of practising reclamation during the life of a mine, companies be permitted to deposit funds sufficient to carry out the reclamation "at the proper time" which need not be until the mine is abandoned.

There were some minor improvements suggested by the committee, including protection and reclamation of water

courses affected by mining operations and consultation by the mines minister with his lands, recreation and agriculture colleagues.

But the two most glaring faults in the legislation remain undimmed: that there are no prescribed standards and that all power of regulation and approval rests in the hands of the cabinet.

These were the points singled out by Mr. Schneider in his letter to the B.C. Wildlife Federation. Why didn't the government seek the opinions of such an expert who's made and worked with mining laws elsewhere?

Mr. Schneider faults the legislation for vague general terms which "mean only what the minister of mines determines they should mean." These terms are made even vaguer by the committee and open to even wider interpretation by the other cabinet ministers.

The Kansas lawyer also wisely observes that what one minister or group of ministers may consider acceptable and reasonable the next might not, a very real peril of open-ended legislation.

What most disturbs Mr. Schneider is the aftermath if a weak and vague law is enacted. Future attempts to amend it, he predicts from experience, will be met with the plausible excuse that there hasn't been time to prove deficiencies. (The legislation now would extend such time almost indefinitely). Another excuse he foresees is that "there is nothing wrong with the law, just in the way it is administered." Even opposition critics are wont to fall for this one.

Mr. Schneider concludes: "It might be better to have no legislation passed at all rather than accept the one proposed." Such has been the painful experience of California's abortion laws, compromised to appease a hostile governor and extremist lobbyists, which have failed so miserably that even their former sponsors are now crying for repeal.

This warning should have been heeded by all MLAs no matter how anxious they were to return home from Victoria for Easter. Disgraceful though it would be to complete the session without a new mining law, it could be tragic to enact a third-rate one which might cause more trouble than it prevents.

UNGALLANT MLAs FORCE VOTE

Ladies Saved by the Bell

By JES ODAM
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — It was most un-gallant of the legislature.

There sat the three lady ministers without portfolio, just after 11 o'clock on what could be the last night of the third session of B.C.'s 28th parliament, waiting for their salaries and expenses for next year to be approved.

Just behind them sat their lone male colleague, Phil Gagliardi.

All expected opposition MLAs to ask them questions, even voice criticism of the role assigned to them by Premier W. A. C. Bennett.

ANSWERS PREPARED

They had their answers ready, some noticeably prepared during other debates during the day, showing the work they had done during the year.

But what happened?

When debate on their joint estimates was called, NDP MLA Norm Levi (Vancouver South) got up for a mere 15 seconds to say only that the ministers without portfolio served no useful function to the people of the province and then announced his party would vote against their salaries.

No one else spoke and a division was called immediately.

This was indignity enough.

Twice before this session the opposition has moved to reduce the salary of a cabinet minister by \$1 — the traditional expression of non-confidence — but this move if successful would put the four out of a job altogether.

(The two ministers were Premier Bennett himself and Lands and Forests' Ray Williston.)

But worse was to come for the quartet without a definite job.

Grace McCarthy (Vancouver Little Mountain), Pat Jordan (North Okanagan) and Isabel Dawson (Mackenzie), along with Gagliardi, had to sit out anxious minutes as the division bell rang.

HEADS COUNTED

As some seats on the government side remained empty, Scored whip Hunter Vogel (Langley) counted heads with growing concern.

NDP and Liberal members, with all but one of their chairs filled, kept demanding house committee chairman Herb Bruch call the vote immediately.

Eventually, Bruch agreed.

He called for those in favor of the estimates, which consisted mainly of a \$6,000 salary for each and expenses upped from \$3,000 to \$4,000 each.

Only some of the government members stood up.

QUESTION REPEATED

They included Bennett and most of the cabinet, but not the ministers without portfolio and some of the backbenchers.

As opposition members laughed, thumped their desks and shouted "resign," Bruch ordered the question put again.

This time all government members in the house rose — a total of 24.

NDP and Liberal MLAs rose against, to total 22.

It was the closest scrape for the government since 1953, Opposition Leader Bob Strachan said later.

The quartet had got their salaries and expenses by the slim — and ungallant — margin of just two votes.

Premier Bennett said afterwards: "a miss is as good as a mile."

MICROPHONES OFF

He said the confusion on the first call for the vote was because microphones at their chairman's table were off and government members furthest away from him did not hear the question being put.

Scored whip Vogel said one of his members — Robert Bonner (Cariboo) was away in Vancouver and had paired with NDP

absentee Ray Parkinson (Vancouver South).

With speaker William Murray and committee chairman Bruch not voting, this left five other Scoreds not answering the vote call.

Vogel listed them as George Mussallem (Dewdney), John Tisdalle (Saanich and the Islands), Herb Capozzi (Vancouver Centre), Dr. Howie McDiarmid (Alberni) and Dudley Little (Skeena).

DOCTOR LEAVES

He said Mussallem was in the building but did not hear the division bell.

Tisdalle was away following an automobile accident during the day, although not badly hurt.

Capozzi was out of the house at a sportsman's dinner in Victoria and had not returned by 9:30 p.m. as expected.

McDiarmid, a medical doctor, had had to return to his practice by chartered plane to take care of emergency cases because his colleague there had to leave.

And Little, in a wheelchair following a leg injury in a snowmobile accident earlier this year, has to leave the legislature at 5 p.m. each day so he can use an elevator which stops working after that time, Vogel said.

KIERNAN DIGS THE OUTDOORS

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — If you go into the wilderness in B.C., take a spade and a supply of chlorine with you, Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan said Tuesday in the legislature.

He said sanitary facilities cannot be provided at all lakes and people going into the wilderness areas of the province who do not take a space and chlorine do not understand hygiene.

"It ought to be made an offence not to dispose properly of human waste in unorganized campsites," he added.

Develop Beaches, MLA Tells Gov't

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Social Credit backbencher Herb Capozzi called on his government Tuesday to develop the province for the tourists and fun-loving public.

He called for legislation to preserve all beachland for public use, allowing public access to 50 yards above high water mark.

The Vancouver Centre member also called for development of areas for canoeing, hiking, bicycle riding, horseback riding, swimming and other recreational sports throughout the province.

Capozzi, who runs a dine and dance establishment in Vancouver, said that the government should have greater variety in liquor licensing for development of tourist resorts.

The MLA said that the province should become known as a winter sports area, for skiing, and even power tobogganing.

"We should enter a new development phase in promoting tourism for this province," he said. "We should not just be oriented to the marketing end of it."

Speaking on the need for more public access to beaches, Capozzi said B.C. beaches could become as famous as those in Mexico or Hawaii with proper development.

that although priority in promotion is being given to spring and fall tourism, most tourists will continue to come during the summer because of school holidays.

"We are not controlling enough land in this regard," he said. "We should change the legislation so that the public owns high water mark and 50 yards above it, so that we have a reasonable beach area for public use."

Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan said common law established land boundaries to the high water mark and also provided certain riparian rights.

He said since 1956 the Crown has not sold any waterfront land, but only leased that which is not required immediately so it can control waterfront areas.

The minister reviewed development work going in recreational fields such as hiking, bicycle trails, canoeing. He said



Gaglardi Named 'In Land Swap'

By IAIN HUNTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Former highways minister Phil Gaglardi interfered to clear the way for a land swap during the 1963 election campaign which has allowed a private company to reap profits through logging in Wells Grey provincial park, the legislature was told Tuesday.

Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) disclosed details of the exchange of 116.8 acres of beach near Parksville wanted for a park, for nearly 50 square miles of timber in Wells Grey Park.

The provincial park is in Gaglardi's riding of Kamloops.

Williams charged that the public has lost millions in stumpage, forest revenue, rentals and in destruction of part of the parkland, in what he termed a high-grading operation.

ORDER-IN-COUNCIL

He said that an order-in-council in 1963 approved the exchange of land between Clearwater Timber Co. and the provincial government.

The province obtained 116.8 acres in the Nanoose area near Parksville at Rathrevor Beach, now a park, and the timber company received the timber rights in nearly 50 square miles of Wells Grey Park south of Daniel Creek, west of the Clear-

water River and north of the 52nd parallel, he said.

Williams compared the differences in the acreages involved to the wording of the order-in-council which said the beach site was to be exchanged for "an equally valued quantity of timber."

He said the beach park site was valued at \$186,000.

Williams said that the timber, instead of being placed on the usual sliding timber scale to reflect current prices, was fixed at \$1.50 per 100 cubic feet for fir and \$1.20 per 100 cubic feet for other species.

LOW PRICES

"These are extremely low prices," he said.

"This (the fir price) is only nine per cent of what they are willing to pay for timber sales in the Kamloops forest district," he added.

Williams said present prices are \$16.90 per 100 cubic feet for fir, \$12.30 per 100 cubic feet for lodgepole pine, and \$6.25 per 100 cubic feet for spruce.

He said a further 25 to 30 square miles stretching down to Mahood Lake was added the following year, bringing the total acreage granted Clearwater Timber to the equivalent of 50 or 60 Stanley Parks.

The MLA stated that the addi-

tion of the tree farm licence was made without the benefit of a cabinet order-in-council.

"This was simply a licence for the company to run at will through 70 square miles in Wells Grey Park at bargain basement prices," he charged.

"But who made the announcement in 1963? Not the then minister of recreation and conservation (Earle Westwood, recently retired as agent-general in London).

"The announcement was made by the local MLA, the former highways minister P. A. Gaglardi.

"And when was the announcement made? It was made on Sept. 25, 1963, which just happened to be five days before the provincial election in which former federal justice minister E. Davie Fulton was running against him (for the Conservatives)."

SEA OF STUMPS

"There has been a highgrading in that park," Williams charged, "and what the public of British Columbia is left with is a sea of stumps in what should have been prime recreation area."

He said the government in 1963 explained the land swap as an emergency operation because the Vancouver Island beach was needed to save it from public subdivision and on the basis that the timber operation would provide employment in the Kamloops area.

Williams told the house that 6.8 million cubic feet of timber have already been cut, for an \$88,000 credit to the company.

With the total price of Rathrevor Beach Park at \$186,000, this means the company is only 40 per cent through the deal, Williams said.

He said that current forest prices would mean that the province could have collected by now a total of \$670,613 in revenue.

And if this is only 40 per cent of the total revenue, it means that the province could have made \$1.6 million instead of the \$188,000 park site on Vancouver Island it acquired, he added.

"There should have been public bidding if we are going to log in that park at all — and I am not in favor of that," Williams said.

"It is clear the review of the area was made mainly by the member for Kamloops, outside the department of recreation and conservation, and the whole project was put forward as an emergency situation."

"What we are locked into is a 21-year agreement with those people doing exactly what they wish in the park."

"This is an example of what happens when we allow interference in these matters from outside the department."

Williams said he understands Clearwater Timber now has been bought out by a major company from outside the province and added that he believes the new company is Noranda.

'IN SHAME'

"After what the last member has said, the minister should hang his head in shame," Bill Hartley (NDP—YALE-Lillooet) shouted, pointing at Gaglardi, who only grinned.

Dave Stupich (NDP — Nanaimo) said he recalls that Clearwater did not own the beach park on Vancouver Island at all but only had an option on the land.

Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan said he was not the minister at the time the land trade was arranged but pointed out that Rathrevor Beach was on the way to becoming subdivided and the government had to move quickly.

Stupich demanded from Kiernan an assurance that the same deal will not be made in future.

"I agree," said Kiernan. "If we meet this on another occasion we should have timber rates on a sliding scale to reflect the value of timber at current prices rather than have a fixed price."

He also said that the timber in Wells Grey Park is not the "prime aspect" of the park, which is wildlife.

MOOSE PASTURE

He said the parks branch has had to burn about 1,800 acres at the South end of the park to form moose pasture.

"The point is," said Williams, "that this did develop during an election campaign and that it was most fortuitous that the company was able to get at that time timber option on Rathrevor Beach when it was wanted."

James K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — Some MLAs are grumbling about the lighting in the legislative chamber. They say it's so harsh that it hurts their eyes.

The premier, fortunately, can't see much wrong with the lighting, nor can Public Works Minister W. N. Chant. I can't either.

Some MLAs are always complaining about their physical surroundings — it's too bright or too dark, too warm or too cold; they can't hear well, or they hear too much, etc., etc.

The lights in the legislative chamber do not date from 1898, when the main block of the buildings was opened.

MLAs of 1927 growled that those lights — beautiful bluish milk-glass — were not bright enough. Therefore, they had to have something more modern. So out went the beautiful old chandeliers, probably to the rubbish heap.

The milk-glass bracket lights are still in the public galleries, and there are also blue milk-glass shades in the legislative corridors. There are some people itching to tear them out.

The present lights were installed in 1927 by the Liberal government of John Oliver. They were sneered at as "a bunch of banana crates strung from the ceiling."

They cost \$7,632. At that rate, I'd say that to replace them would cost about \$30,000.

Let's keep the lights, and let MLAs wear blinkers.

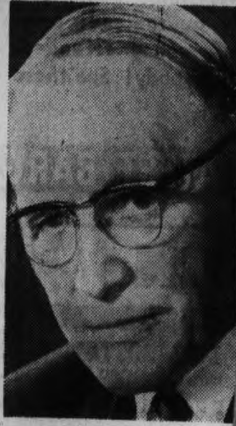
Well, we got the answer about amalgamation of municipalities, this week. The answer is "no." Municipalities will only be amalgamated when the voters say yes, which they will not do, choosing to sponge on their neighbors when they can get away with it.

New Democrat MLA Bob Williams of Vancouver East tried to smoke out Municipal Affairs minister Dan Campbell on the touchy subject of amalgamations, which he had often said before. Mr. Williams suspects that Campbell has changed his mind on this, that the premier has told him to hold his tongue, the premier fearing political repercussions.

Mr. Campbell, who looked somewhat chastened, I must say, rose primly, and said equally primly: "It is not this government's policy to force amalgamations."

It was so unlike Mr. Campbell.

I am of the opinion that Mr. Williams could be right — the premier has silenced Mr. Campbell on the always politically sensitive subject of municipal amalgamations.



WORKS MINISTER CHANT

Gov't 'Seeking Alternative' To Welfare Drug Surcharge

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The battle over payment for drugs for people on welfare continued Tuesday in the legislature, with Welfare Minister Dan Campbell giving a breakdown on how pharmacists are paid now.

He said his department is looking for alternative solutions to the problem.

The pharmacists have threatened to put a \$1 surcharge on welfare prescriptions from April 15, payable by the patient, following provincial government refusal to adjust rates.

Campbell said druggists are now paid by the provincial government the wholesale cost of approved drugs, plus 66% per cent, plus a 50-cent dispensing

fee plus 25 cents for breakage. This total is then discounted 15 per cent.

He said the druggists are demanding payment on a fee-for-service basis, with an amount of \$2.35 being added to the wholesale cost for each prescription.

LOSING \$1.14

The Society of Professional Pharmacists said Monday in a statement they are losing \$1.14 on every welfare prescription and that their surcharge ultimatum follows three years of negotiation.

Campbell said the provincial government is aware of concern over drug prices expressed by the federal government, the

House of Commons, the consumers council and other bodies.

He said NDP MLAs who are calling on the government to reach immediate agreement with the druggists are taking the side of the drug industry and its monopoly situation.

"As long as we are in government we don't intend to knuckle under to the pharmacists and have the drug industry ride on the backs of social welfare recipients," Campbell added.

BENNETT CHALLENGED

In a flare-up during the debate, Leo Nimsick (NDP-Kootenay) suggested Premier W. A. C. Bennett should try to live on a social welfare budget for a week or two to find out what it is like.

Bennett replied: "When I was poor I had difficulty. That's why I always try to help the poor in this country."

Dave Barrett (NDP-Coquitlam) said "because two stupid and arrogant groups — the government and the pharmacists — have not been able to reach a commonsense agreement on drug prices, the people on welfare are now facing a surcharge on prescriptions."

He said people on welfare are being used as tools and pawns and called on Campbell to reach a settlement with the pharmacists in 24 hours.

Welfare Costs Inquiry Sought

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Liberal leader Dr. Pat. McGeer called Tuesday for a wide-ranging legislative investigation into the spiralling costs of social welfare.

Pointing to an estimate of \$74 million for social assistance in the estimates of Welfare Minister Dan Campbell, he said nothing has been done about the ever-increasing costs of welfare.

McGeer made the suggestion before MLAs passed the \$87.7 million departmental estimates.

He said the legislature's standing committee on the subject does not sit and he called for immediate appointment of a legislative investigation which

would study the matter in depth and report to the next session.

He also called for some sort of incentive program under which welfare recipients would be able to keep a graduated amount of money earned above welfare levels.

Campbell said as a result of the last federal-provincial conference, B.C. is co-operating in the setting up of a task force to examine the problem on a national basis.

Referring to incentives, he said a number of programs will be brought in, including the bid to find jobs for the presently unemployable to be made by Minister Without Portfolio Phil Gaglardi.

SOCIETIES TAKE UNPRECEDENTED ACTION

Dowding Suspended From Legislature

By JES ODAM

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Veteran New Democratic Party MLA Gordon Dowding was ousted from the legislature for the dying hours of the session Wednesday after it was alleged he had breached the privileges of the house.

The procedure, used for the first time in the memory of legislative officials and observers, was initiated by Socred backbencher Herb Capozzi over private bill brought before the house in 1966.

A tense and incident-packed 2½ hours ended when Speaker William Murray ordered Dowding, the member for Burnaby Edmonds, to stand up and then told him:

"Pursuant to the order of the house the chair is now called upon to censure you for a breach of the privileges of parliament, namely that you were a partner in a firm which acknowledged receipt of pecuniary reward for services involving the enactment of legislation.

"In accordance with the said order you are suspended from the service of the house for the remainder of the session."

Dowding, an MLA since 1956, walked slowly out of the house with the support of desk thumping by NDP and Liberal MLAs, all of whom had opposed his suspension and censure.

After a brief press conference, at which NDP leader Bob Strachan accused the government of vindictiveness and of having been out to get Dowding because he had been a thorn in their flesh, the MLA went back to his home riding and was nominated for re-election at a pre-arranged nomination convention.

The legislative drama, punctuated by a number of recesses, unfolded like this:

Capozzi (Vancouver Centre) moved that Dowding be admonished and suspended because the legal firm he heads received payment for work in connection with a private bill in 1966 respecting the incorpo-

ration of an insurance company, the Southwest Mortgage Indemnity Corp. Ltd.

After a bid by Dowding to have the move stopped because it related to a previous session failed, the Speaker ruled: "There is on the face of it a breach of privilege."

He made it clear, however, there were reservations to his decision.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett, who up to then had sat silent and grim-faced, then asked Capozzi to withdraw his motion.

So did Strachan, who said the matter concerned was known to members of the house in 1966 and that it had been decided at that time that Dowding was "clean."

Then Minister Without Portfolio Phil Gaglardi — who resigned as highways minister in the session a year ago amid charges related to land deals and use of government aircraft — entered the debate.

He referred to his own experience, claimed that at one time Dowding had been re-

sponsible for him (Gaglardi) going through seven weeks of hell, and also asked for the motion to be withdrawn and Dowding to be shown mercy.

At this stage, the earlier agreement between both sides of the house that Capozzi should withdraw his move fell apart.

First Strachan said he would withdraw his request to Ca-

Dowding Renominated, Page 1

pozzi to drop the motion.

Immediately afterward Bennett, saying he had been trying to act in a non-partisan way, also withdrew his request, saying Strachan had gone against him.

As Speaker Murray tried to cool tempers, Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer appealed for the house to be held in session an extra day so the matter could be considered properly.

After another adjournment, asked for by Capozzi so Capozzi could be sure in his own mind, the issue was put to a

vote and forced through by the government majority.

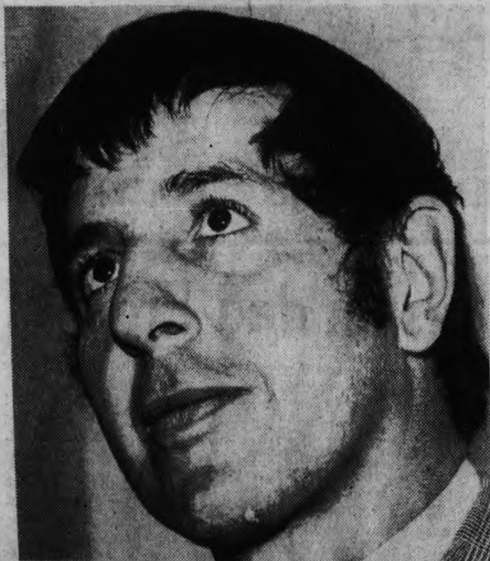
During the last recess, it appeared that Socreds had caucused, and Capozzi was also seen in the company of Bennett and Attorney-General Les Peterson, who did not take part in the debate.

Dowding said later he did not know about the rule under which the charge was brought, but admitted it was probable he had benefited from fees received by his firm for the work done in connection with the bill.

He emphasized, as he had done repeatedly in the house, that he took no part in voting or discussions on the bill and had declared his interest at the time.

(The companies office in Victoria shows the principals in Southwest Mortgage as of April 1, 1966, were:

(Frederick Kirkman, businessman, of Vancouver; John Ross Johnston, businessman, of Vancouver; William John Bell, businessman, of Vancouver; Bert Henry Woodward,



HERB CAPOZZI . . . moved for suspension

—Jim Ryan Photo

executive, of Vancouver, and Walter David Evans, businessman, of Vancouver.

(The records of the insurance inspector's office shows principals in the company as of March 24, 1969, were Kirkman, Bell, Evans, Woodward and Donald A. Rowberry, businessman, of Vancouver.

(An official of the inspectors' office said the company does not have a licence to operate as an insurance company because it has not raised the necessary capital. In the case of Southwest Mortgage the capital has to be at least \$1 million.)

Strachan, at the press conference, charged the move was pushed through by Bennett and his majority without proof being presented.

He said earlier in the house that Trade and Industry Minister Waldo Skillings had told him three or four weeks ago in the corridor that the gov-

Please turn to Page Two See: "Dowding"

Continued from Page 1

ment would "get Dowding."

The Liberals' McGeer said outside the house that the charge has not been substantiated so far in his opinion. He said if it is not substantiated he believes Capozzi should resign as a matter of honor.

If it is substantiated, Dowding should resign and offer himself for re-election, he said.

After Dowding's suspension, the house sat for four more hours before being prorogued by Lt.-Gov. John Nicholson.

During this time a bill entered by Dowding in connection with the Commonwealth storm earlier in the sitting died on the order paper.

Capozzi had raised the matter as soon as the house sat at 2 p.m. by rising on a point of privilege about Dowding's position on the private bills committee in 1966.

He said Dowding made statements at that time which he (Capozzi) accepted about a bill which went through the committee.

"But I have received further documentation in the last few days," he added.

Capozzi then referred to a section of May's Parliamentary Procedure — the standard reference book for the way the house should be run and how members should conduct themselves.

The section dealt with fees received by members for professional services performed in the legislature.

It said that to guard against incorrect influence, such fees must not be accepted.

The section said also that no member or partner of a member must be encumbered with management of a private bill for pecuniary reward.

Dowding then interrupted to say that he declared before the 1966 committee that a partner in his law firm had presented a bill before the committee.

"I absented myself (from the committee) which was the proper procedure. That was not in this parliament," he added.

"I did not vote in any of those proceedings and when the bill came before the house I excluded myself, which is the proper course to follow."

'HEARSAY'

"The member who has taken it on himself to raise this (Capozzi) was not a member of that legislature," Dowding said.

"He took it on hearsay and without personal knowledge. That is reprehensible and I ask him to withdraw any inference he is trying to make," he added.

Capozzi then said he had a copy of an invoice in the amount of \$9,225.

Dowding: "The member is abusing the privilege of the house . . . the statement is absolutely false. He has no right to make these accusations here."

"If he chooses to make them outside the house I would be pleased to accept the appropriate action because he has been misled," he added.

The Speaker then ruled that very grave charges were being levied and the house

It was in regard to incorporation of South West Mortgage Indemnity Corp., Ltd. and bore the heading "for professional services rendered." It listed a number of items, including taking instructions, advertising and preparing a petition for presentation to the assembly.

He said there was also an item for attendance before the private bills committee.

"It is dictated by Dowding and signed by him," Capozzi said.

Dowding interrupted: "It is not."

Capozzi said he considered this a very serious breach of privilege.

"It is reprehensible and a breach of privilege for a member to render a charge to a person for activities on his behalf at one of the committees," he added.

He said Dowding had rendered an account and received payment for work he did on the committee while a member of that committee.

FORMAL MOTION

Capozzi then formally moved that Dowding be admonished by the Speaker and be suspended from the service of the house for the remainder of the session.

The motion was seconded by Don Phillips (SC—South Peace).

The Speaker then called an adjournment to give Dowding and Strachan time to study the documents produced by Capozzi.

Strachan said: "In view of the statements made by Capozzi I want to place it on the record that some three or four weeks ago the minister of trade and industry (Waldo Skillings) said in the corridor they would 'get Dowding.'"

"This is government policy. I want to know what the premier says," said Strachan.

After a 47-minute recess, the Speaker ruled that he found, on the basis of the material placed before him, "there is on the face of it a breach of privilege."

He added: "However, there are certain salient factors with which this house should be acquainted before it votes on the motion, which I must find to be in order."

MADE CLEAR

Speaker Murray said while on the private bills committee in 1966, Dowding made it abundantly clear to the committee he would neither vote nor in any way persuade the committee so far as passage of the bill was concerned.

He said the matter took place in a previous parliament.

"I have not the time now before prorogation to discover whether this is a factor. It is something each member of the house must decide for himself," he said.

"Under the circumstances I must find that a breach of privilege has occurred, with these reservations," Murray said.

Dowding then said he had examined the invoice produced by Capozzi and added: "It does not bear my signature."

He said the invoice was not in his handwriting, not signed by him and he had no knowledge of it.

Referring to the amount of the invoice, Dowding said it

assurance I would not have allowed it to happen."

He said he thought he had acted properly by declaring his interest and withdrawing.

'SERIOUS'

Bennett said the "very fact that the Speaker had accepted the motion shows the seriousness of the situation."

He added: "I am not trying to detract from that. However, I ask the member (Capozzi) to withdraw the resolution."

Strachan said the chairman of the committee in 1966, former Vancouver-Centre Social Credit MLA Alex Mathew, and other members, had knowledge of the situation and had decided that Dowding "was clean."

Gaglardi then made the speech which led to first Strachan and then Bennett withdrawing their request for Capozzi to drop the motion.

BEYOND REPAIR

Said Gaglardi: "I would like to join the premier in asking for the withdrawal of this particular motion."

"Having been an individual that was injured beyond repair by the member who is now under fire — (he) having been the member that had an affidavit presented on the floor of this house which put me through hell for seven solid weeks — I know a little bit about this business."

(During the 1963 session, Dowding filed documents in the house which made charges of graft against the provincial highways department and he called for an immediate inquiry into the allegations.)

(The documents were sworn to by Dick Holzworth, of Helena, Mont., who had been president of Union Contractors which had taken over L and M Logging of Kamloops on a 12.8 mile road job on the Trans-Canada Highway.)

(The documents alleged that Gaglardi had promised to take care of a contractor working on a highways project near Revelstoke; the contractor paid a mortgage held against a highways department employee; the employee's wife, a former Social Credit official claimed to be the organist in Gaglardi's church in Kamloops, was paid \$350 a month; in return the contractor got \$135,000 from the highways department for work never done and work estimate sheets were altered to obtain the money.)

(Holzworth alleged L and M got the \$135,000.)

(Gaglardi denied the charges.)

(Gaglardi's department was

later cleared of the charges by the public accounts committee. They voted 7 to 6.)

'SHOW MERCY'

In the house on Wednesday night, Gaglardi said: "I feel with the premier and I am asking that some mercy be shown in this particular situation and that Capozzi withdraw the motion."

"I hope nothing like this ever happens on the floor of this house at any time in the future."

"It is a pretty sad situation when one has to be subjected to some of the things I have suffered on the part of that member (Dowding)."

Strachan jumped up immediately and said that in view of Gaglardi's statements he no longer asked Capozzi to withdraw his motion.

Said Bennett: "I am trying to act in a non-partisan way but since the leader of the Opposition has gone contrary to the leader of the house (Bennett himself) I withdraw the request to withdraw the motion. Let the matter be debated."

'VERY SIMILAR'

Capozzi said the initials and signature on the invoice were very similar to initials and signature on a note he had received from Dowding.

He said he was not questioning the fact that Dowding had not voted in the committee or in the house, but his charge was related to the receipt of payment after a bill was sent by Dowding or a member of his firm.

He said receipt by either Dowding or a member of the firm is contrary to parliamentary regulations.

Dowding, in a formal statement to the house, said that if Capozzi had shown him the invoice first he could have assured him it was not his signature which appeared on it.

He said Capozzi could have checked with a handwriting expert.

must bear the rest of Capozzi's statement.

Dowding then made another bid to have the matter cut off by arguing that nothing done in the 1966 legislature has any reference to Capozzi.

He said other members who were in the house in 1966 were aware he declared his interest in the bill in question and that minutes of the committee would confirm he absented himself.

NO RIGHT

"This member (Capozzi) has no right to lay these charges in this session of the legislature," Dowding added.

The Speaker again ruled Capozzi should continue.

Capozzi said the invoice for \$9,225 was on the letterhead of Dowding's firm, Dowding, Brasov, Deverell and Harrop, and was dated June 23, 1966.

was for \$2,500 in fees and \$1,708 for disbursements such as advertising.

(No explanation of the difference in the amount of the invoice was given inside the house, but an invoice to Southwest Mortgage filed by Capozzi showed the figure mentioned by Dowding.)

Dowding said he can only surmise it was sent out under his name because it is the practice of most law firms to send out bills in the name of the senior member.

(The invoice filed in the house bore the initials GHD-SP and was signed "Per G. H. Dowding.")

Added Dowding: "If I had known that a member of my firm acting for a client with the private bills committee was regarded in any way as improper you can take my

Thurs., Apr. 3, 1969



BURNABY MLA Gordon Dowding stands to hear motion of suspension in Victoria legislature Wednesday. Six Liberals who voted with NDP turn

back on throne in disapproval of censure action against Dowding arising from Sacred allegations of breach of privilege. —Jim Ryan Photo

Medicare Figures Indicate B.C. Surplus of \$12 Million

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Medicare figures tabled in the legislature on the last day of the session Wednesday indicate that the government should have about \$12.5 million surplus revenue which it could use to reduce premiums or increase medicare benefits this year.

The figures were contained in answers to a question for medicare details asked by Opposition leader Robert Strachan.

They were filed by Provincial Secretary Wesley Black, who is responsible for medicare covering the six-month period from July 1, when the program began.

Black's answers stated that the total payment made for insured services was \$50.9 million and premiums for the period amounted to \$28.4 million.

FEDERAL SHARE

If these figures are doubled to cover a full year, they become \$103.8 million, and \$56.8 million respectively.

Black said earlier in the session that the federal government pays about 40 per cent of B.C.'s medicare costs.

Federal contributions plus premiums amount to \$98.3 million of the estimated annual \$103.8 million in costs, leaving \$5.5 million to be met by the provincial treasury.

However, the estimates for

the 1969-70 fiscal year have budgeted for \$50 million for medicare of which the federal government plus premiums, according to these calculations, would pay about \$40 million.

This means the province has budgeted for \$10 million of provincial money, when past experience has shown it needed to have budgeted about \$5 million.

\$16 MILLION BUDGETED

In 1967-68, the province budgeted \$16 million for the full year, without allowing for federal contributions.

This would be \$8 million in provincial money for the first half of the fiscal year when there were no federal contributions.

On the basis of Black's figures, for the second six months of that year only \$2.5 million in provincial money would have been needed.

This means that provincial medicare expenditure for the full 1967-68 year would have been \$10.5 million.

With the total appropriation of \$18 million, for the 1968-69 fiscal year there would be \$7.5 million still in hand.

This \$7.5 million, plus the expected \$5 million saving under this year's budgeting, means that the government should have about \$12.5 million at the

end of this fiscal year to use if it wishes to reduce premiums.

On the basis of premiums at \$56.8 million, the reduction could be more than 20 per cent.

Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer, said the figures appear to be incomplete.

"In the coming year there is an enormous increase in appropriations in the estimates, suggesting a reduction in medicare premiums to be announced at the time an election is called," he said.

"I'm astonished how low the premium figure is and certainly in the next six months the premium figure will be greater."

AVERAGE PAYMENT

In his reply tabled in the house, Black stated that families receiving 90 per cent subsidy in the first six months amounted to 55,922, families receiving 50 per cent were 17,045, single persons receiving 90 per cent premium subsidy were 123,125, and single persons receiving 50 per cent were 18,061.

Average payment for services, he said, amounted to \$7.67. During the last sitting, the government defeated a motion by Strachan to have a complete financial statement on the first six months of operation of medicare.

Expenses Report Tame

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The report of the legislature's standing committee on public accounts was but a whisper compared to the uproar of the committee meetings during the session.

The report of the committee was tabled in the legislature Wednesday, the last day of the 1969 session.

This was the committee in which opposition and government MLA's wrangled with one another over Hotel Vancouver expense vouchers incurred by Minister-Without-Portfolio Phil Gaglardi, and over the logs of government aircraft.

It was the committee out of which Robert Strachan stormed in a rage last week because his bid to call Premier and Finance Minister W. A. C. Bennett failed, and the committee in which Socred chairman Evan

Wolfe was accused of making up the rules as he went along.

It was the committee in which the four ministers-without-portfolio — Gaglardi, Mrs. Grace McCarthy, Mrs. Pat Jordan and Mrs. Isabel Dawson — were sharply interrogated Wednesday about their frequent use of department of highways aircraft to travel to and from their ridings.

But the report of the committee reflected none of this. It said only:

"Your committee held several meetings for examination of vouchers supplied by the comptroller general.

"Your committee also called several witnesses to answer questions regarding travelling expenses and the use of government aircraft.

"All of which is respectfully submitted.
 Evan Wolfe, Chairman."

Probe Broadened In Firm's Affairs

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The investigation into the affairs of the Commonwealth group of companies has been widened following resignation of a royal commission appointed to do the job, Attorney-General Les Peterson said Wednesday.

He said in an interview that lawyer R. D. Plommer, QC, was appointed Tuesday to head the probe.

A second lawyer, John E. Spencer, was appointed at the same time to join the investigating team, he added.

Peterson said the investigation is under the Securities Act and was started before the appointment of the commission.

The three-man commission resigned without meeting formally on the grounds continuing debate in the legislature on the Commonwealth affair made it impossible for it to do its job.

Involved are Commonwealth Trust Co. and a number of associated companies.

Peterson said Plommer and Spencer will join the existing investigating team of chartered accountant Don Gardiner, lawyer K. S. Fawcus, and the commercial fraud squad of the RCMP.

He said there is no intention at present to publicize the work of the investigators.

When the commission resigned, Peterson said some alternative form of investigation was under consideration to replace the commissioners, who would have sat in public.

House Probe of C'wealth Smashed by Gov't Majority

By IAIN HUNTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The government majority in the legislature squashed a move by the Liberal MLAs Wednesday to have a house committee set up to delve into the Commonwealth affair.

The loud debate on the motion, introduced by Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer, was the last angry exchange in the legislature before the session was prorogued later in the day.

McGeer complained that the motion was not brought forward by Premier W. A. C. Bennett as house leader until the last day of the session when, as Speaker William Murray observed, it would be impossible to implement it, even if it was passed.

The New Democratic Party MLAs joined in supporting the Liberals and Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) charged that the government was defeating the move to prevent light being cast on the government actions in the Commonwealth affair.

WORDING OF REPORT

McGeer's motion read:

"That a special committee of the house be formed to investigate all matter relating to Commonwealth Trust Company, Commonwealth Investors Syndicate Ltd., and any companies subsidiary, related, or associated therewith, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing to inquire specifically into the inspection and supervision of those companies under the Companies Act, the Securities Act, the Trust Companies Act and the Investment Contract Act, and to report to the house within three weeks' time or before the end of the session, whichever is the sooner."

"This is the first opportunity we have had to move this motion on the most important matter to come before this house this year," stated McGeer.

He observed that it was the last chance for public investigation of the affair because of the resignation of the royal commission appointed earlier.

Murray then observed that with prorogation scheduled with a short time it would be impossible to give effect to the motion this session.

"Has the legislature prorogued then?" demanded McGeer sarcastically.

"It is well known that the business of this house will prorogue quite soon," snapped the speaker.

"The business of this house is not complete until we have got to the bottom of this Commonwealth mess," yelled McGeer, and the speaker shouted for him to come to order.

"Even if it is the last day, the motion should still be in order," stated Leo Nimsick (NDP—Kootenay). He said the motion should be considered as long as the house is sitting.

PROBE TO CONTINUE

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson then repeated a statement he made outside the house earlier in the day that the investigation will continue under the authority of the Securities Act, with extra experts being engaged to help carry it out.

Dave Barrett (NDP—Coquitlam) insisted there is precedent for committee of the legislature sitting beyond prorogation to deal with important matters.

"I am not satisfied that this investigation is to be carried on in secret," said Macdonald.

"What is on trial is not the actions of the trust company, but the actions of this government, and the only way this can be brought to light is on a committee where there are representatives of Her Majesty's loyal opposition," the NDP member declared.

"They (the government MLAs) don't want the light of day to shine on this matter. You are guilty as a government in not accepting this motion," he shouted at the Secreds.

'VACUUM NOT FILLED'

McGeer noted that the royal commission, set up under chairmanship of Mr. Justice M. M. McFarlane to investigate the financially-troubled Commonwealth Trust Co. and its asso-

ciated companies, resigned earlier this session without ever beginning its work.

"No one is going to fill that vacuum," he said.

"We need to shine the light on officers in Commonwealth Trust and their relations with the officials of this government sitting on the treasury benches," McGeer said.

The Liberal leader also told the legislature that documents filed with the Alberta government in 1964 and 1965 showed deficiencies in the trust company.

"The Alberta government should have acted as did the Saskatchewan government because in my view the documents filed with the Alberta government did not show adequate reserves to protect the contract holders in that province," he said.

SASKATCHEWAN ACTED

He noted that the Saskatchewan government did act to bar the company from that province for its financial condition.

During the debate on the last day, Bennett acceded to two opposition motions to file further documents relating to the Commonwealth group of companies, including audited statements of the trust company.

But he said that there is difficulty in filing all the documents because there is more than one room full of documents relating to these companies.

McGeer's motion was defeated on a voice vote by the government members voting against the Liberals and New Democrats.

MUCH CONTROVERSY IN B.C. HOUSE

Session Begins, Ends in Acrimony

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C.'s third — and believed last — session of its 28th parliament ended Wednesday as it had begun, in acrimony.

The last hours saw a veteran MLA suspended from the house over a charge of breach of parliamentary privilege brought by a Socred backbencher.

The MLA was Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby Edmonds) and the backbencher Herb Capozzi (Vancouver Centre).

More than two hours of bitter debate marked the suspension.

The session, in the words of Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer, had been characterised by vindictiveness.

It got off to an acrimonious start over the Commonwealth affair, which rumbled through most of the session and had echoes on the last day as the government squashed a Liberal motion to have a legislative probe.

ELECTION HINTS

During the session there were a number of hints that B.C. is headed for an early general election.

At one stage Premier W. A. C. Bennett forecast odds of 60-40.

Observers believed that the government's support on the last day for the move to suspend Dowding was a suggestion that it is preparing the way for an election.

The session saw the introduction of the province's first billion dollar budget, which allocated \$130 million in revenue surplus for such things as aid to Indians, foreign aid, amateur sport, culture and a start on the government's promised new building in Vancouver.

Highlights of the session also included a new auto insurance scheme, with no-fault provisions, which the government claimed will save money for motorists.

CONTROVERSIAL MOVE

Most controversial legislation passed allowed the government to loan up to \$3 million to the financially troubled Commonwealth Trust Company on a matching basis.

There was general agreement on legislation providing for reclamation of strip mined areas, although opposition members

said it represented a first step only.

A provincial human rights act combining existing laws on fair employment and against discrimination also received assent.

Other government bills approved included compensation for people injured while aiding police, permission for municipalities to have local option on Sunday sports, establishment of a law reform commission and simplification of the province's court system.

The session also saw legislation to set up the first national park on the West Coast, based on Long Beach on Vancouver Island.

50 SITTING DAYS

There were 50 sitting days during the session, three less than the record set in 1968.

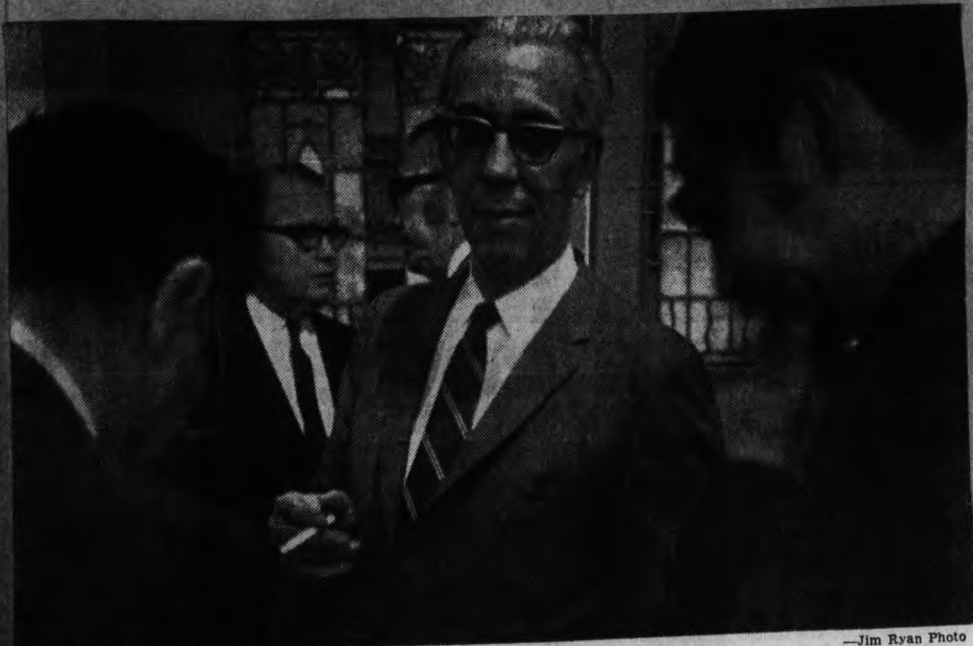
Of 79 bills introduced, 47 public bills were passed, compared with 59 in 1968.

There were 24 night sittings, three less than in the previous year. Latest the house sat was 3:50 a.m. after the opposition proposed a non-confidence vote on Resources Minister Ray Wiliston for his lack of enforcement of anti-pollution laws.

The opposition charged later the late sitting was Bennett's way of punishing them for this.

Bennett himself was earlier subjected to a non-confidence vote and the opposition made an unsuccessful bid to cut off the salaries and expenses of the four ministers without portfolio.

Among opposition members' bills defeated or ruled out of order were those to allow citizens to sue the Crown, to appoint an ombudsman, to provide for a Hansard and to broadcast debates.



—Jim Ryan Photo

BANISHED FROM HOUSE. NDP member Gordon Dowding talks to newsmen in legislature corridor

after censure by 30-21 vote. In background is long-time Socred publicist William Clancey.



James K. NESBITT

VICTORIA — Mr. Speaker William Murray intoned: "We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the legislative assembly of the province of British Columbia, in session assembled, approach Your Honor at the close of our labors with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person, and humbly beg to present for Your Honor's acceptance Bill (No. 75) entitled 'An Act for Granting Certain Sums of Money (\$1 billion this year) for the public service of the province of British Columbia'."

Clerk-of-the-house E. K. De Beck intoned: "In Her Majesty's name, His Honor the lieutenant-governor doth thank Her Majesty's loyal subjects, accept their benevolence, and assent to this bill."

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black intoned: "It is His Honor the lieutenant-governor's will and pleasure that the legislative assembly be prorogued until it shall please His Honor to summon the same for dispatch of business, and this provincial legislative assembly is hereby prorogued accordingly."

These time-honored words, filled with tradition and dignity, mean a legislative session is over. They have been uttered, exactly the same, since the first session, early in 1872, seven months after Queen Victoria's Crown colony of British Columbia became a province of Canada.

Joseph W. Trutch was lieutenant-governor then, John Foster McCreight the premier, A. Rocke Robertson the provincial secretary, and James Tribble the speaker. There were 25 members.

★ ★ ★

These are words that are welcome, after the turmoil and confinement of a session, which, this year, lasted from Jan. 23, when snow was on the ground, and this capital city was mortified by the Arctic weather. Since then spring has burst out all over, and our gardens and parks are in glory.

These are words of nostalgia for, despite the uproar caused in the legislative chamber by wild words flying about, and political bitternesses all over the place, there is always a feeling of loneliness and uncertainty on prorogation day.

It's the end of a chapter and whether this particular chapter be good or bad only the political historians will be able to say.

Who, for instance, of the 55 MLAs, for one reason or another, will not be at the 1970 session? Four 1968 MLAs were not here this session. One (George Vulliamy) died; two (Ray Perrault and Randolph Harding) went to the House of Commons; one (Alan Macfarlane) to the bench.

★ ★ ★

Will there be a general election before next session? Only the premier can tell, and he won't, yet, for he is not sure at this point, though I would think he's sorely tempted.

The premier loves elections. They put pep and bounce into him. He says the oftener he calls elections the more democratic it proves him to be.

An election would knock out at least 20 of the present members, mostly, I'd say, on the government side.

That's somewhat higher than average, but it must not



SPEAKER WILLIAM MURRAY . . . presides at closing

be forgotten this government has held power for a long, long time (going on 17 years) and in longevity there can be mighty danger for a government, no matter how efficient it may be.

"It's time for a change," can be a potent, and uncontrollable urge in the polling booths.

MLAs, during the more than two months' of a session, share much togetherness, though as political partisans, the three parties have little in common but a gilded Captain George Vancouver over their heads.

However, they do feel as fellows in their desire to improve the lot of British Columbians, though they never agree as to how best this can be accomplished. They are as one, too, in wooing the voters, but go about it in different ways.

MLAs like their sessional indemnities, and they like the prestige of being able to tack the initials MLA after their names. They very much like belonging to what the premier often calls the most exclusive club in British Columbia. There is never any shortage of candidates for legislative seats.

★ ★ ★

I think this has been one of the noisiest sessions I've ever observed. Day after day there were fierce rackets. Gavelts were broken trying to keep order. I feared that on occasion heads would be physically pounded.

Explosions blew ceiling-high at any moment. There were sure plenty of moments — and how! It was all tremendously exciting.

I think I detected more lasting political bitterness than usual. That's because an election could come at a wink of the premier's eye.

MLAs, mostly, quickly forget sessional bitternesses, but not this time. They are nurturing them, for use on the hustings.

This session seems to have left a suppurating condition on the body politic of British Columbia.

Tobacco Ads Bill Ends in Smoke

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — A Social Credit backbencher's bill to regulate tobacco advertising in B.C. went up in smoke Wednesday — but only after all sides of the house accepted it in principle.

The bill, introduced earlier by James Chabot (SC — Columbia River) stated that no advertising shall promote the sale of tobacco unless it gives equal prominence to the fact that smoking is injurious to health, and levies an advertising fee equal to the cost of the advertisement.

Chabot told the house before his bill received second reading — it was the only private member's bill to get this far during the session — that it was an attempt to bring tobacco advertising back to reality.

'DECEIVING'

"The type of advertising of tobacco that we see in the press, on the radio and especially on TV, is disgraceful," he said. "The advertising is deceiving because it leads our youth to thinking that smoking is desirable."

"I am suggesting these advertisements are morally wrong and we should accept this legislation on behalf of the youth of this province."

Speaker William Murray observed that he thought the bill went beyond the competence of the provincial legislature.

"That's all right," said Premier

W. A. C. Bennett, "the government will accept the bill."

Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer said this was the sort of legislation that was needed and he hoped every other province in Canada would follow suit.

"I always said that no matter how many smokestacks there are, cigarette smoking is always the worst form of pollution," Bennett said.

"I hope all tobacco manufacturers, all advertising people will understand how the people of B.C. at long last will not stand for this kind of pollution." Dave Stupich (NDP — Nanaimo) alone among the MLAs did not support the principle of the bill.

He said that this would mean driving tobacco advertising away from B.C. media to media coming in from outside the province, such as Bellingham television stations, just as has happened with TV liquor advertising.

SECOND READING

Health Minister Ralph Loffmark said that provincial health ministers at last fall's federal-provincial meeting expressed a desire for uniform tobacco legislation across Canada.

"But there was general agreement across Canada that we should do as much as practical to discourage advertising which endorses smoking as an acceptable pursuit and deal with it as a serious health hazard," Loffmark added.

The bill was given its second reading on a voice vote, Stupich alone dissenting, and then Chabot moved it be referred to the next sitting of the house for the third and final reading.

Because Wednesday was the last day of the session, this meant the bill died.

A P R

1 9 6 9

Car Insurance Bill Passes Final Vote

By JOHN SLINGER

The New Democratic Party spokesman on auto insurance called the government's new program "political propaganda" as the opposition took its last fling at the bill Monday.

As William Hartley (NDP—Yale-Lillooet) was making the charge, saying the government would not dare implement the insurance before an election, two cabinet ministers took a fling at Hartley.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell accused the New Democrat of misleading the house Friday during second reading of the bill when Hartley said the insurance company for whom he worked had cancelled his contract.

CONTRACT CANCELLED

Hartley replied by saying he had received official notification Monday that both his life and general insurance contracts have been cancelled.

Attorney-General Peterson read from two letters which stated Hartley had lost his contracts "due to lack of production" during the last two years.

That brought Opposition Leader Robert Strachan to his feet accusing the company—Co- "I state that as government policy."

Macdonald said the legislation, as it stands, "is a sometime bill," and Hartley called it "insurance company legislation and you're going to try to use it as election propaganda."

"When people are forced into the clenched fist of the insurance companies, they won't like you any more," he added, pointing at the government benches.

"You wouldn't try bringing it in before an election."

The member concluded that "right from the word go, this bill is politically motivated."

Garde Gardom (L—Vancouver Point Grey) said current auto insurance discriminates against young people and this discrimination should stop.

He said that in Vancouver, any person under 25 now must pay about \$210 for basic coverage even if he has a clean driving record.

"Just because you're under 25—just because you're young or old, is no reason to apply operative Insurance Co., for whom Hartley was an agent in Merritt—with being "part of the establishment."

"This company wants to be on the right side of this government," said Strachan. "That's why they fired Bill Hartley and for no other reason."

Strachan described it as "plain dirty politics."

Clause-by-clause committee approval was given the legislation with amendments after about 1½ hours of debate.

Hartley and Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) both centred criticism on the absence of a specific starting date in the insurance bill.

Peterson said it will come into effect before Jan. 1, 1970.

The attorney-general said no cost estimates are available for the additional insurance to cover the \$250 deductible under the new collision plan in the insurance bill.

Allan Cox (L—Oak Bay) said costs of this extra insurance will make costs to the average driver with a good record "unfair."

Committee Calls Five Ministers In Plane Probe

MLAs Demand Explanations

The four ministers without portfolio and Health Minister Ralph Loffmark have been called to explain to a legislative committee Wednesday why they've been using government aircraft like air taxis to their hometowns.

And Highways Minister Wesley Black, in charge of the provincial air fleet, also will be asked to appear to say whether or not he believes they've ignored his warning to all departments last June that flight privileges should not be abused.

The committee agreed this morning it had to call the ministers as witnesses if it is to get down to hard facts on how much it costs to operate the fleet and who uses it.

Ernie Lecours (SC — Richmond) summed up the committee's feelings this morning by observing the ministers must be called because "We want to find out if government aircraft are being abused."

FEW FACTS

The committee learned there are few facts available about the air fleet's operations.

Fraser MacLean, assistant deputy highways minister, who now handles bookings for trips on the government planes, said no operating cost breakdown has been kept for the two piston-driven Beechcraft, one turbine-powered Beechcraft and one Grumman Goose now being converted to turbine power.

He said that Minister Without Portfolio Phil Gaglardi, who was in charge of the fleet as highways minister for almost the entire 1967-68 fiscal year under study, took a personal interest in the air fleet and his office handled all bookings directly.

"People phoned to his secretary and made a booking for where and when they wanted to go and the flights were approved by that office," MacLean said.

NO LEAR RECORD

He added that while operating details were skimpy for the existing fleet, there is no record left at all of the Lear jet's operations because its flight log was returned with the plane to the manufacturer when Premier Bennett decided to drop the lease-purchase agreement after Gaglardi's resignation.

After Black took over the portfolio last summer, he designated MacLean as the booking officer and sent out a circular memo to all departments June 6 laying down conditions for use of the aircraft by senior personnel as transport.

The memo said commercial lines were to be used wherever possible and the government planes used only when absolutely necessary and for productive purposes only with no flights going beyond the province except to use the Watson Lake and Whitehorse airfields when necessary on trips to northern B.C.

Mining Bills 'A First Step'

New Democratic Party and Liberal MLAs predicted the government's legislation to control strip mining, given third reading Monday, will have to be updated next session.

Cities to Handle Tenant Disputes

The provincial government's planned legislation to handle disputes between landlords and tenants turns the key over to municipal councils.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell Monday released draft legislation he said now is being circulated among municipal governments for comment.

It is enabling legislation which would permit municipal councils to set up a "rental accommodation grievance board" and pay for it out of the local budget.

The board will rule on the validity of any complaint dealing with either written leases or where lease are not in effect.

AREAS OF DISPUTE

Specified areas of dispute are:

The amount of time to be given as notice of a rent increase; the amount of time given notice to vacate either by tenant or landlord; the level of service and maintenance to be provided; conditions of entry for inspection of the premises by the landlord and any other conditions set by the local council.

The bill would provide payment of a maximum \$25 a day for members of the grievance board who are not already council members.

Despite opposition efforts to get Campbell to say when such legislation is likely to be introduced, the minister would only say it will come in when local councils indicate they want it.

Norman Levi (NDP — Vancouver South) called the proposed bill "a pitiful document" in the face of what he described as "the rent-gouging now going on" in the province's major urban areas.

Levi said the legislation should be introduced now and be a starting point for more complete statute protection of tenants.

The exchange came as the house neared the end of debate on the municipal affairs department's estimated 55.9 million expenditures.

The bills, amended along the lines recommended by the select legislature committee study, were described as only "a first step" by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

He said his party supported the legislation in the full knowledge that a year from now the legislation "will have to be updated to do the kind of job that's necessary."

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver-Howe Sound) indicated his party did not find the bills as exacting in their requirements for reclaiming mined land as they might be.

He said it provided the government with tools to control devastation and if they didn't work it would be because of the inefficiency of the departments concerned.

CAN BE CORRECTED

"Any faults which do crop up can be corrected next session," he added.

Mines Minister Frank Richter introduced amendments giving the mining companies six months instead of three months to file plans for conserving and reclaiming the countryside at strip-mine sites.

New provisions were added for appeals, consultation between government departments and for increased deposits where reclamation is not to occur immediately.

The opposition continued its demands that a reclamation board, independent of the cabinet, be set up to police the bills — the Coal Mines Regulations Act and amendments to the Mines Regulations Act.

Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston and Conservation Minister Kenneth Kiernan said this would only increase bureaucracy while their departments and the mines department now have enough experts to handle the situation.



LEVI
... blast at welfare

'Stoned Coming, Going'

A social worker member of the NDP said Monday welfare recipients in Vancouver are arriving in taxis to collect their cheques.

"They are stoned when they arrive and stoned when they leave," said Norman Levi (NDP—Vancouver South).

The MLA was critical of both ends of the province's welfare setup as the house debated the \$87.7 million social welfare department estimates.

Levi said there is too much needless bureaucracy in administration of the provincial program and added that no one is checking to see how the money handed out in the bi-weekly cheques is spent.

"Nobody seems to care what happens to these people when they leave the welfare office."

He charged that the system is driving good welfare social workers out of the field because they spend 80 per cent of their time doing nothing but clerical work.

Levi mentioned watching one administrator okay a requisition for a 25-cent tube of toothpaste.

The government was not getting down to the problem "of what's going on on the firing line."

He recommended an experiment: take one in every 10 families on welfare in a community, put them on a straight \$3,000 or \$4,000 annual income and see how they fare. Don't force them to account for every minor expenditure.

He said the present concentration on "accountability" is "crippling the system."

Slash-Burning Supported But More Research Urged

Logging companies should continue to burn slash timber in the fall to help prevent forest fires in the summer, the legislative committee on forestry recommended to the legislature Monday.

But the committee's report said the slash-burning policy should be reviewed next year again in the interior of the province.

And its effects in the coastal area should be reviewed in 1971.

In the meantime, it called for more research on other methods of disposing of the waste wood left behind as litter by loggers.

To help with forest fire fighting, the committee urged efforts continue to improve the federal government's special fire weather forecasts. It recommended the wages paid to men drafted for fire-fighting duty be raised from the present \$1.25 to \$1.75 an hour.

Also recommended was formation of an inter-departmental committee to develop land use policies and adjudicate the various demands from farmers, miners, loggers, subdividers and recreationists for use of the same crown lands.

The report said the cabinet committee should include Municipal Affairs Minister

Campbell, Forests, Lands and Water Resources Minister Wiliston, Recreation and Conservation Minister Kiernan, Agriculture Minister Shelford and Mines and Petroleum Minister Richter.

DEVELOPMENT FOR HOUSING WIDENED

A bill in the final stages of becoming law in the legislature will grant the B.C. Housing Authority power to acquire land to initiate housing developments.

It would increase the powers of the year-old authority to include powers to plan, construct, and manage any public housing project, to acquire and dispose of in its own name any lands required for public housing and land assembly, and acquire in its own name and sell housing to individuals.

The section is contained in the government's omnibus bill, a pot pourri of amendments to various statutes that cleared committee stage in the house Monday.

In explaining the section, Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell said that under the existing statute the authority was "married to land assembly initiated by municipalities."

Bill Would Seal Off Trust Act Loopholes

A bill to tighten up the B.C. Trust Companies Act was introduced in the legislature Monday by an opposition member.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby-Edmonds) said his proposal would close some of the loopholes revealed so far by the Commonwealth Trust Company situation.

He explained it would require trust companies to observe strictly the prohibitions against "insider" deals, provision of public audits and establishment of liability on directors for improvident decisions which now apply to all other companies under the Companies Act.

His amendments would make nine sections of the Companies Act applicable to trust companies and also specifically:

Prevent anyone becoming a trust company director if he already was a director of bank, another trust company or a loan company and also require trust company directors to buy at least \$5,000 worth of paid-up shares in the trust company apiece;

Make directors liable to repayment of all moneys that "are paid out impairing the capital or rendering (the company) insolvent" unless they are on record as protesting the actions in question.

Fight Promised Welfare Case Prescription Fee

The provincial government will oppose plans of B.C. druggists to charge social welfare recipients an extra dollar per prescription.

Social Welfare Minister Dan Campbell told newsmen this is an attempt to force a "fee for service principle on the government."

"We will investigate as many ways of getting around this as are necessary," said Campbell.

He said pharmacists are caught in a price-cost squeeze, "but we don't intend to have the department of social welfare made the scapegoat for that situation."

On Monday the B.C. Pharmacists' Society warned it would introduce the extra charge April 15. The society claimed its members lose more than \$900,000 on welfare prescriptions because the government payment for drugs is too low.

Japan Holds Trade Future For Canada

Japan will become Canada's most important trading partner within the next 15 years, Industrial Development Minister Waldo Skillings told Victoria Gyro Club on Monday.

He described Canada and Japan as "natural trading partners."

"We have everything that the Japanese want: coal, copper, timber and grain from the Prairies."

The minister said B.C. will have its own pavilion at the Osaka world's fair in 1970 due to the importance of Japanese trade. The pavilion will cost between \$1.4 and \$1.75 million, and its message will be "British Columbia is the land of the giant trees," he said.

ANCESTRAL LANDS SOUGHT BY INDIANS

VANCOUVER (CP) — Hearing of a claim against the provincial government by the Nishga Indians for their ancestral lands in the valley of the Nass River 500 miles northwest of Vancouver began this week in British Columbia Supreme Court.

Tom Berger, lawyer for the band of 2,000 Indians in north coastal B.C., said it is a test case for B.C.'s Indians, most of whom never signed land treaties with the provincial government.

The hearing had been postponed twice before at the request of the attorney-general's department.

Negative Tax Idea Studied

By JOHN MIKA
Legislative Reporter

Social Welfare Minister Dan Campbell Monday told the legislature the social welfare system throughout the western world has totally failed and the B.C. government thinks the negative income tax will replace it.

Campbell was replying to a broadside attack by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan that the welfare roll is growing at an alarming rate because the present system doesn't reduce hard core unemployment.

Strachan accused Campbell of "deliberately withholding" welfare roll statistics from the House until after his departmental estimates are approved.

He said the minister is afraid to admit the number of

families on welfare jumped from an average 72,000 in 1967 to 86,000 last December "and probably now total 100,000."

Campbell said his department is still preparing the statistics.

"But as far as the number on welfare rolls is concerned, the most significant thing is the effect of technology today on those rolls."

"The entire system of welfare as we know it in Canada, Great Britain and the United States too, has been a complete and total failure," said Campbell.

Unemployment Problem to Grow

He said it is true a hard core unemployment problem exists here as elsewhere and far from being reduced it will grow with automation.

"With that type of a situation, we simply must find a way to change the way we help with social assistance," said Campbell.

He said the provincial government now is studying the negative income tax idea as the answer.

"We believe that a system of negative income tax, with some modifications, will bring in a new day in the social service field in Canada," Campbell said as several MLAs applauded.

David Barrett (NDP—Coquitlam) doubted the minister's sincerity because "he knows the negative income tax can only be brought in by the federal government."

"No, that's not true," retorted Campbell.

"You can effect a negative income tax just in B.C.?" queried Barrett.

Campbell nodded his head. "Then get with it, do it now," said Barrett.

Premier Bennett was the first provincial leader, at the Constitutional Conference in Ottawa last month, to propose a system of negative income tax for Canada.

Ontario Wants More Discussion

(The system involves establishment of a base line of income and anyone filing an income tax over the base would pay tax while the government would pay the

difference to anyone who earned less than the base line — in other words, a negative tax payment.)

(In effect, the system would establish a guaranteed annual income with income tax forms doubling as the means test.)

The province of Ontario, since Premier Bennett's proposal, has endorsed the suggestion for more discussion on the subject.

In raising the idea, Premier Bennett told the Ottawa meeting that a negative tax would equalize the economic opportunities of all Canadian citizens in better fashion than the present system of equalization grants to "have-not" provinces.

He also pointed out that it would provide major reductions in administration costs and red tape by eliminating the need for a large number of federal and provincial clerks to keep track of the huge volume of transfer payments involved in a variety of programs.

Although the B.C. government is understood to be actively pushing for a major conference on making the change, it is not believed to be considering exercising its right to unilateral action for fear it would start an unparalleled stampede of Canadians moving here.

70-Day Session Of B.C. House To End Tonight

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

The second longest legislative session since 1902 is expected to be prorogued this evening with Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson reading the closing speech around the supper hour.

It will have been an even 70 days since he waded through his first Throne Speech to open the third session of the 28th British Columbia Legislature.

In the days between, the 55 MLAs have gone through 50 day sittings, 24 night sittings, 47 government bills, 29 private bills and 196 written questions and answers.

The load was only slightly lighter than last year's session which lasted three more days.

But there was one all-time record broken during the session — passage of the first \$1 billion budget for operating the various government departments.

It was a highly political session too, opening and closing with rumors of an election this year but with an interesting transformation during the interval.

In the meantime, the politicians' attention already is racing towards another ballot which comes a week after this Saturday.

That's when the NDP choose their next leader who — even some Liberals and Socials concede privately — could be the premier of B.C. the next time the MLAs hear a speech from the throne.

But that depends upon a number of "ifs" in a very iffy profession.

Seven MLAs drew most of the attention throughout the session.

WATCHED CLOSELY

Liberal Leader Pat McGeer, in his freshman appearance in the role, was watched closely during the early days when, in the view of his peers at least, he made several bad tactical blunders.

But he persevered quietly and, although political opponents were loath to concede it, he appeared to have recovered some of the lost stature by learning from the initial bitter experiences.

Attention was focussed automatically on NDP leadership candidates Tom Berger, Robert Williams and David Barrett and, while Barrett gained the

least publicity during the 10 weeks, the daily odds quoted on the race by fellow politicians swung in his favor towards the end.

Attention also was fixed on former Highways minister Phil Gaglardi and former attorney-general Robert Bonner.

Gaglardi was generally ignored even by his own caucus colleagues as he sat through an enforced penance listening, bored and unhappy, to everyone else talk in order to hang onto the last shred of status as a minister without portfolio — a cruel contrast to his heyday when he contemptuously skipped the palaver for days at a time because he had more important business outside the House.

BACKBENCH FREEDOM

Bonner, on the other hand, had the freedom to skip dull sittings for the first time as a backbencher and conversely gave the best demonstration of his entire career of his vital importance to the government because his absence from the cabinet benches was so obviously and sorely missed.

Premier Bennett, as always, also held the spotlight.

He showed surprising vigor and continuing ability as a floor leader for those who already were busy writing him off the political forefront.

The political drama of the session continues to unfold, of course, but the laws laid down will become a part of B.C. history when Nicholson gives them royal assent tonight.

Leading them all is the legislation to introduce compulsory automobile insurance providing a blend of no-fault and liability coverage for death and personal injuries of traffic victims.

New statutes affecting the

public with the most impact include:

The revamping of the courts, elevating magistrates to provincial judges immediately and merging the county and supreme courts next year;

The Human Rights Act to prevent discrimination in the workaday world;

Regulations on strip mining to avoid dotting the landscape with eyesores;

Permission at last for local option votes on Sunday sports and entertainment;

And clearing the way for a national park at Long Beach, the first seafont federal park on this coast, which should preserve for posterity a uniquely beautiful coastline of Vancouver Island.

The government also, this session, set up a three-man royal commission to study the whole question of liquor sales in B.C.

ROYAL COMMISSION

Another royal commission also was set up and it made history by being the first — of some 177 royal commissions in B.C. history — to resign even before beginning its task.

It was, of course, the three-man inquiry panel set up during the Commonwealth crisis which gripped the last half of the session.

A measure of that crisis is the fact that even to MLAs, the controversial question of offering a \$3 million loan to the tottering Commonwealth Trust Company, overshadowed the \$1 billion budget as a conversational topic.

The major piece of unfinished business of this session is the government's continuing delay in announcing how it will carry out Attorney-General Leslie Peterson's ringing declaration to the legislature that some form of public inquiry into the Commonwealth mess will still be undertaken.

The chief impact of the \$1 billion budget on B.C. citizens will be the increase of the homeowner grant to \$150 and introduction of the \$5,000 second mortgage option under the home acquisition grant.

FIVE FUNDS

Five "perpetual funds" were created out of Premier Bennett's long-cherished accumulated surplus which he said will be monuments to his administration lasting long after the concrete crumbles in W. A. C. Bennett Dam on the Peace River.

These will provide annual interest revenue from capital investment funds of: \$25 million for Indian citizens; \$5 million for the province's own "foreign aid" program; \$10 million for the Centennial Cultural Grants Fund; \$10 million for a sports fund; and \$25 million for self-insurance in a provincial disaster fund.

Dazed Bennett Leads Socreds To Near-Defeat

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

The Legislature, led by a totally confused Premier Bennett, almost threw the four ministers without portfolio out of the cabinet Tuesday night.

It took an unprecedented long-count division to prevent the government from permitting the Opposition to cut the four ministers off without salary.

And even then, they got their \$55,028 in salaries and expenses by the closest vote since 1953 when Social Credit consolidated its hold on power with a majority administration.

The roll-call division passed with 24 Socreds against 22 NDP and Liberal MLAs.

But it won't go into the official journals because the government was too embarrassed by the near-fiasco to give the usual courtesy agreement to allow an estimates committee division to be formally reported to the Speaker.

The margin in the vote was narrow because five Socreds did not show up to support the ministers asking for their salaries despite a search after government, which Hunter

Vogel pleaded for extra waiting time because "there are members in this building who have not come to their seats."

But the most astonishing episode was the government's failure to stand up and be counted when estimates committee chairman Herb Bruch called "all those in favor of the motion please stand."

Premier Bennett half got out of this chair and a couple of ministers started to rise when suddenly Bennett sat down again.

So none of the Socreds rose when Bruch, somewhat desperate as unbelieving opposition MLAs began to titter, asked again all those who vote in favor of the salary estimate to stand.

Opposition Roars Laughter

None did as Bennett kept looking around him with a puzzled expression. Socreds began calling out "what's the motion anyway?" and opposition MLAs began roaring with laughter.

Even the ministers without portfolio—Isobel Dawson, Pat Jordan, Grace McCarthy and Phil Gaglardi — sat in their seats with flushed and bewildered faces turned towards the still-puzzled premier.

David Barrett (NDP — Coquitlam) jumped to his feet and demanded that Bruch call the nay votes since there were no yeas but Bruch ordered him to sit down.

With the Barrett-Bruch argument barely audible over the general hooting and desk-thumping by gleeful opposition MLAs, Premier Bennett finally realized what he had done.

The premier got to his feet followed by a handful of Socreds around him — and the four ministers without portfolio.

The rest of the Socreds slowly got to their feet in groups of two and three, some of them still asking "what's the motion?"

The whole disjointed roll-call of the government side took four minutes to complete.

'REPORT INTIMIDATES INDIANS'

A tense Tom Berger Tuesday night called the attorney-general's report on alleged police brutality at a Sechelt Indian reserve a "partisan document" and an attempt to intimidate the area's Indians.

He said the 60-page report by a departmental investigator shows "as nothing else could that this government is incapable of dealing with as serious a matter as the administration of justice in a non-partisan way."

Berger on Feb. 28, charged "more than 30" cases of police brutality against native Indians on the Sechelt reserve.

The report by A. F. Plummer concludes by suggesting further investigation might lead to laying mischief charges under the Criminal Code and Berger described this as "quite frankly intimidation" of the young people involved in the instances the member for Vancouver East related to the house.

Berger said the Indians at Sechelt are entitled to an impartial inquiry by an independent investigator and they got neither.

Berger made a rush trip to the capital from Vancouver after the report was tabled at 6 p.m. He had been absent presenting a case to the B.C. Supreme Court on the rights of non-treaty Indians in the Nass River Valley.

Immediately on his return he went through the report in Opposition Leader Robert Strachan's office then conferred with NDP veterans Alex Macdonald (Vancouver East) and David Stupich (Nanaimo) before making his statement to the press.

He will have no opportunity to reply formally to the report before the legislature progresses.

Berger said the report shows that the young people he said had trouble with the RCMP "have not recanted."

He said the investigator concludes that the investigation should be continued.

Strachan pointed out that Plummer, a former Vancouver city detective, is a competent policeman and knows that a preliminary investigation is supposed to determine whether a prima facie case exists.

"In effect he is admitting that there is a prima facie case" for brutality.

Berger said Plummer only concentrated on the seven cases the MLA outlined to the house and spent the rest of his time conducting an inquiry into the inner workings of the Sechelt band.

Plummer carried on "a half-baked inquiry" into the internal running of the band. This "was none of his business and none of the attorney-general's business," said Berger. "That must be made clear."

Minister Claims Harassment By Opposition

By JOHN SLINGER

Minister Without Portfolio Grace McCarthy today accused Opposition members of the public accounts committee of making statements calculated to harass cabinet ministers and civil servants.

She was on the carpet to explain 79 flights back and forth between Victoria and her home town, Vancouver, aboard government aircraft.

She said she hoped no one in the committee room would suspect cabinet ministers of using the three aircraft on anything but government business.

McCarthy said she generally travels to Victoria twice a week to attend cabinet meetings and Dave Barrett (NDP -Coquitlam) pointed out the government aircraft logs show her flights average 1½ times a week.

The minister said she leaves it to her office to find the most convenient way to travel. She does not request either commercial or government bookings.

LOSE TWO HOURS

But "if it's a question of having my druthers, I'd druther go on a government plane."

She said commercial rules require appearance at the terminal one hour before departure, that's two hours out of a day "I have not been able to spare since I've been elected."

She said questioning whether a commercial plane could have been taken instead of a government flight was harassment because committee members do not know the circumstances surrounding each instance.

The committee was unable to question Mrs. McCarthy about most of the 79 flights since they occurred after March 31, 1968, the end of the period which public accounts can review.

COMPARES COST

Highways department comptroller Cyril Rhodes told the committee he had worked out "fair comparison" costs between government and commercial aircraft.

Examples he gave included: Victoria-Vancouver: \$10 by commercial flight, \$6.75 a seat on government aircraft. He agreed this worked out to \$32 a flight if only one seat was used.

Victoria-Kamloops: \$29 by commercial flight, \$32 a seat on government planes, or \$162.50 if only one seat is filled.

Rhodes agreed with Liberal leader Pat McGeer that the costs were not complete for government aircraft and were calculated on the assumption that the plane was flying at 200 miles an hour at the time.

McGeer said this made the costs appear lower than they were since it did not take landing and takeoff time into account.

USED FERRIES

But Health Minister Ralph Loffmark turned up to face the same questions with diaries and other files specifically outlining his travels during the period.

and added that she leaves the bookings to her office expecting them to find the most efficient means of travel.

Phil Gaglardi, former highways minister and now minister without portfolio, explained a trip to Anchorage more than a year ago aboard a Lear jet leased by the highways department.

When he finished explaining his Alaska trip to the committee, the minister was told he could go.



GRACE MCCARTHY
... office books flights

Co-Ordination Lack Hurts Handicapped

Current efforts to find work for the handicapped are a handicap in themselves because they lack co-ordination, said a preliminary survey of the problem for the provincial government released Tuesday.

More than 150 organizations in Greater Victoria and Greater Vancouver try hard but their lack of a co-ordinating agency means the "ultimate focus on the employment of the handicapped becomes blurred."

The preliminary report was tabled in the legislature by Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce Minister Skillings who commissioned management consultant A. L. Watson last month to undertake a pilot study of job opportunities for the handicapped.

Watson said about 3,300 handicapped adults now on welfare rolls are seeking jobs and their problems should be the main concern.

A questionnaire returned by about half of 745 employers circulated shows 22 per cent now have some handicapped staff and 53 per cent said they

would be willing to hire suitable handicapped persons.

"A single co-ordinating agency that serves as a repository of information with respect to the accomplishments of all (150 existing) agencies... should be given consideration," the preliminary report concludes.

It also recommends study of tax incentives, increased on-the-job training programs and a employer-operated counselling service to patients newly discharged from mental hospitals and treatment centres.

**KITE FLYING CLAIMED
McGEER SUGGESTS SWAP**

**Bennett Repudiates
Shrum on Water
Export Talk**

Premier Bennett Tuesday night repudiated a suggestion by B.C. Hydro Chairman Dr. Gordon Shrum that B.C. would make millions of dollars by exporting some of its water to the U.S.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault quoted Shrum's comments during a government-sponsored trip to San Francisco last month — the same city where Resources Minister Williston last year told an audience that B.C. was not interested in selling any water.

"In this respect," Premier Bennett told an applauding legislature, "Dr. Shrum does not speak for the government of British Columbia and neither does the leader of the Liberal party."

Earlier Opposition leader Strachan attacked McGeer for raising the subject during a debate on recreation and conservation estimates because "there's nothing to talk about — we won't give it away and we won't sell it."

But, after the premier's declaration, David Barrett (NDP — Coquitlam) said he was worried that the B.C. government "was flying a kite through Shrum" and the federal Liberals through McGeer.

The whole issue arose when McGeer suggested a swap might be possible of U.S. land for B.C. water.

He was referring to the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA) scheme — a \$100 billion California proposal to flood the Rocky Mountain trench and use the water to irrigate the arid southwestern U.S., and raise the level and flush out the Great Lakes through a system of canals and pipelines.

McGeer said the government's statement that it does not want to sell water only serves to encourage southern pressure to reconsider.

McGeer said B.C. "should go right on the offensive" — that being the best form of defence — and show the province wants pretty stiff compensation for any possible sale.

Supporters of the NAWAPA proposal are circulating a film showing the abundance of water in B.C. and the need in the U.S. said McGeer, encouraging the government people to see the film to know what kind of "propaganda" they are up against.

Kiernan, in reply said the Liberal leader "looks like the man who meets a porcupine and can't resist prodding to see if its quills are sharp."

Once a "land-for-land" trade was mentioned, "you mentally commit yourself to making a deal."

Kiernan said the United States now has lots of water. It has just been careless in the way it has put the water to use.

By the time the the U.S. has

**Probe Reveals
Band 'Fear';
Not Brutality**

By JOHN SLINGER

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson tabled in the Legislature Tuesday a 60-page report which states opposition charges of police brutality on the Sechelt Indian Reserve "appear" unfounded.

Peterson said New Democratic Party MLA Tom Berger, who made the allegations in a speech to the house Feb. 28, has done "a great disservice" to the Sechelt Indians and the RCMP officers who served there.

As he left the house, Peterson said, "it appears that the allegations are without foundation."

"The report prepared by departmental investigator A. L. Plummer, a former Vancouver city police detective, indicates trouble within the management of the Sechelt Indian band.

'PHYSICAL FEAR'

It notes "a real physical fear" among reserve Indians "of the local native control."

It notes that many Indians were "fearful the police might be kept off the reserve."

And Plummer concludes: "As far as I have gone these allegations appear to be unfounded, but I suggest that the inquiries be continued to establish the genuineness or otherwise of the complaints; keeping in mind the possibility of mischief charges under the Criminal Code."

When Berger made the allegations, he mentioned "more than 30" instances of brutality, most of them against young people, most of them involving instances where the people were taken into custody, no charges were laid.

The MLA said a number of the Indians required medical treatment after being released by police.

62 INTERVIEWED

Peterson said the report indicates 62 persons were interviewed separately. Of these, 35 were Indians and "the report indicates the allegations appear to be unfounded.

"Generally speaking," he said, "the report does not appear to substantiate allegations of police brutality or for that matter police indifference."

Peterson said his department will await reaction from the RCMP and the Indian Affairs department before taking further steps.

Plummer's report outlines difficulties the investigator encountered with Clarence Joe, Sechelt band manager.

He said Joe initially attempted to dictate terms under which he could interview the Indians on the reserve.

Later, Plummer says the majority of reser

**Nishga Rights
Still Intact
Says Counsel**

VANCOUVER (CP) — Nishga Indians have a just and legal right to title of their ancestral lands in northwestern British Columbia, lawyer-MLA Tom Berger said in B.C. Supreme Court Tuesday.

"Their aboriginal title has never been lawfully extinguished," he said while handling the Nishga suit against the B.C. government, seeking a declaration that the Indians still hold title to the land.

At issue are 4,300 acres of forest country north of Prince Rupert, which the 2,000 Nishga of the Canyon City, Greenville, Kincolith and Gitlakdamix bands say they have never legally surrendered.

Mr. Berger told Mr. Justice J. G. Gould that the white man took the area from the Nishga and set up reserves for them but never entered into any treaty or paid them any compensation.

David Borthwick, B.C.'s deputy mines minister, turned over to the court a series of maps showing non-Indians hold tree farm licences, oil leases and 2,318 mineral claims in the region.

Mr. Berger said the Nishga of today who have filed the suit are direct descendants of the Nishga Indians who have hunted, fished, trapped and lived in the area "since time immemorial."

At that time Lofmark was minister of trade and was maintaining an office in Vancouver as well as Victoria, yet he made most of his trips to the capital for cabinet meetings aboard B.C. Ferries.

Barrett noted that Lofmark made 160 one-way trips over the route during the year while carrying "a very heavy portfolio."

A second woman minister without portfolio, Patricia Jordan, was called after the log revealed she made 39 flights to or from Kelowna. She lives in the Okanagan.

Jordan said she endorsed much of what McCarthy said.

"unfair"

PLUMMER CLAIMED

interviewed expressed the opinion that the band's business had been suffering "considerably through lack of proper control" because they were without a chief.

During the period without a chief, Joe was in charge as manager.

"I received complaints from both native Indians and non-Indians at the difficulty of having to do business with him.

RECORDS LOST

"Another oft-repeated complaint was the loss by fire on two occasions of the band records—when in the custody of Mr. Clarence Joe."

Plummer says he "received excellent co-operation" both on the reserve and in Secheft. Difficulties came "only from a very few persons on the reserve."

"Contrary to what might be deduced from Berger's letter (presented to the attorney-general after his statement to the house) there is good rapport between the vast majority of the residents of the village and reserve and by both groups with the police."

Plummer disagrees that relations between Indians, whites and police have deteriorated.

He says most of the people interviewed, to the contrary, spoke "of the increasing integration in the local elementary school and generally said that they believed there was a gradual but maintained improvement in relations between the village and the reserve residents."

convinced this province is out of water and "it has cleaned up the messy situations it has," then processing of sea water will probably be improved to the point where imported water is not needed," he said.

Barrett said the only people in Canada who appeared taken with the scheme were the federal Liberal government and suggested the McGeer suggestions were promoted by Ottawa.

"If the Liberal leader is flying a kite, there is no wind for that kite to get up in the air here."

Irate Minister Shouts Rebuttal On Drug Charges

A dispute over drug prices for welfare clients gave the Legislature a bad "trip" Tuesday.

Before it was sorted out, Social Welfare Minister Dan Campbell shouted at the top of his lungs that:

"This is a classic example of the NDP and particularly the member for Coquitlan (David Barrett) showing they'll catch any bus, float on a log down any river and ride any issue for political advantage.

"They would sell out any day; sell out to the monopolies, sell out to the drug industry, sell out for political purposes."

When he had finished his broadside, opposition leader Strachan quietly asked: "Did you take LSD or what?"

BITTER CRITICISM

What set Campbell off was bitter criticism by Barrett that a "wealthy government with a billion-dollar budget" and the B.C. Society of Pharmacists were using social welfare recipients as pawns in an argument over prescription payments.

Barrett said the pharmacists and Campbell showed "stupid arrogance" in permitting three years of negotiations over the scale to be paid for filling welfare client prescriptions to end in disagreement and an announcement this week that, beginning April 15, pharmacists will levy a \$1 surcharge on such prescriptions.

SERVICE FEE

Campbell, however, said the argument goes beyond prescriptions for welfare patients and involves introducing a "fee for service" principle for druggists

which would add \$2.35 to each prescription filled for any British Columbian.

He also said the issue goes beyond retail druggists and also involves the drug manufacturing industry "and as long as this government is in office we don't intend to knuckle under to the drug industry."

Campbell said at present, the government's payment to druggists on behalf of a welfare prescription includes: the wholesale price plus a mark-up of 66 2-3 per cent, plus a 50-cent dispensing fee plus a 25-cent flat charge for breakages with the total discounted by 15 per cent for the net bill.

STUDY ALTERNATIVES

The minister said the government itself dispenses about 30 per cent of the 800,000 welfare prescriptions filled in a year through its own pharmacy in Vancouver.

Campbell said a study is under way of "alternatives" to using private retailers.

Alex Macdonald (NDP - Vancouver-East) said Campbell "has his gall" to berate the NDP and claim that the government was studying alternatives of wholesaling drugs itself.

He pointed out the NDP for five years has pleaded with the government to establish a provincial pharmacy which could dispense drugs to the public and through competition "break the monopoly" of the drug manufacturing industry.

McGeer Seeks Probe Into Welfare Costs

Liberal leader Pat McGeer called Tuesday for an intensive investigation into causes of spiralling social assistance costs in British Columbia.

Total estimated costs for the coming year are \$74.5 million, up from \$61.4 million last year.

McGeer suggested that the current method of paying welfare has a built-in work-deterrent and suggested a new system of spending might provide an incentive to people to earn more than they get from the province.

The investigation should begin now, McGeer said, so MLAs will be able to study problems in the local constituencies during the summer and bring in a comprehensive report to the next legislature.

He decided the house's

"sterile debate" on the matter, saying it never really gets down to the real cause.

He put forward a suggestion that welfare recipients might be able to keep a percentage of money earned above what they get from the department. They

now are not entitled to get welfare if they have an income.

Welfare Minister Dan Campbell told the house that the province now is participating in a federal program that began at the January federal-provincial welfare conference.

driver was "unfair."

'Fortune Made On Land Swap' LAST DITCH FIGHT GETS BILL PASSED

A private firm is making a fortune logging almost 70 square miles of Wells Grey Provincial Park because former highways minister Phil Gaglardi interfered in its favor five years ago, the Legislature was told Tuesday night.

"There has been high grading in that park," charged Robert Williams (NDP—Vancouver-East) "and what the public of British Columbia is left with is a sea of stumps in what should have been prime recreation area."

He said the provincial treasury's loss will be \$1.6 million in cutting rights because of the deal in 1963, under which 116.8 acres of beach near Parksville was obtained from Clearwater Timber Company to create Rathrevor Park.

In its place, the provincial government gave the company 50 square miles of trees in Wells Grey park which is in Gaglardi's Kamloops riding.

LAND SWAP

The Rathrevor land was valued at \$186,000.

Because the deal was to be an equal swap, the company was given artificially low cutting rights fixed at \$1.50 per cubic foot for fir and \$1.20 for other species instead of a sliding scale.

Present prices are \$16.90 for 100 cubic feet of fir, \$12.30 for lodgepole pine and \$6.50 for spruce.

He said the company was given an additional 20 square miles the following year and also a 21-year tree farm licence.

"This was simply a licence

for the company to run at will through 70 square miles in Wells Grey Park at bargain basement prices," said Williams.

"But who made the announcement in 1963?" continued Williams.

"Not the then minister of recreation and conservation (Earle Westwood).

"The announcement was made by the local MLA, the former highways minister P. A. Gaglardi."

Williams said there should have been public bidding on the Wells Grey cutting rights.

Recreation and Conservation Minister Kiernan said he was not responsible for what happened before he took over the portfolio but pointed out that Rathrevor Beach was about to be subdivided and the government had to act quickly to save it.

The combined opposition voted against the government's new auto insurance plan right to the end Tuesday.

A rare division on third and final reading — given without debate — saw 28 Social Credit MLAs push the legislation through its last lap towards royal assent over the recorded opposition of 21 NDP and Liberal MLAs.

The controversial amendments to the Insurance Act would introduce a compulsory package of no-fault and third-party liability insurance that must cover all B.C. drivers and a statutory prohibition against lawsuits for more than \$250 in collision repair costs by B.C. residents.

However, even after Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson signs the legislation to put it on the statute books its various provisions will not go into force except by cabinet proclamations.

Perry Report On Universities Under Study

Education Minister Donald Brothers said Tuesday he has received the Perry report on higher education but has not had time to study it.

He said he expects to take the report submitted by the government's advisory committee on inter-university relations to the cabinet immediately after the current session.

The committee was headed by Dr. G. Neil Perry, deputy education minister.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1969-



POLITICAL PRECEDENT was captured by this photo taken in the Legislature Wednesday as Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby-Edmonds) stood to hear Speaker William Murray order him out of the House because Social Credit MLAs passed their

motion demanding his ejection on a three-year-old technicality involving Legislative privilege. Top of photo reveals pointed snub given Murray by the Liberals who turned their backs on the speaker to protest a ruling. (Photo by Ian McKain)

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1969-

MILA Censured By Legislature

Jarring End To Session

By JOHN SLINGER

With the third session of the 28th legislature of B.C. grinding out its final moments, the house Wednesday witnessed the all-but-unheard-of suspension of one of its members.

Suspended was Gordon Dowding, the New Democratic Party member for Burnaby-Edmonds, a lawyer and a tireless enemy of the Social Credit government.

The entire government side voted to suspend Dowding for the remainder of the session on a motion by Herb Capozzi (SC-Vancouver Centre) on charges that his Vancouver law firm was paid for shepherding a bill through the legislature's private bills committee in 1966.

Dowding was a member of the committee, but he admitted his firm's interest and withdrew from deliberations during the bill's progress through committee and the house.

All 21 NDP and Liberals in the house voted to support Dowding. The tally was 30 to 21.

In a rare expression of the burden a government leader faces Premier Bennett first tried to get his own backbencher to withdraw the motion. Then he tried to keep Capozzi from reading a note from Dowding threatening a lawsuit, then, usually the first to stand on a government vote, Bennett rose a weary last to support the censure.

Hasty Caucus Held by Socreds

The Socreds had held a hasty party caucus during the third recess, minutes before Capozzi said he would insist on his demand for ejection of Dowding and the vote was held.

Through almost 2½ hours of debate and three recesses the house was torn with questions of its own purpose, of government conscience, of skimpy evidence and charges of vindictiveness on both sides.

When the vote was taken, Speaker William Murray read the charge to Dowding who stood, head bowed, at his desk.

As the Speaker read, the six Liberal members ostentatiously turned their back to express their personal dissatisfaction with the way Murray handled the situation.

Murray read: "Pursuant to the order of this house, the

chair is now called upon to censure you for a breach of the privileges of parliament, namely that you were a partner in a firm which acknowledged receipt of pecuniary reward for services involving the enactment of legislation."

Then, as Dowding turned and slowly walked from the chamber, his NDP colleagues let loose a thunderous desk-thumping ovation to support him and the Liberal members turned their seats and joined the applause.

It was a disjointed debate that began with Capozzi rising as the sitting began on a point "of personal privilege" to say he had documents showing the involvement of Dowding's law firm in passage of a bill to incorporate Southwest Mortgage and Investment Corp.

Leaders Appeal for Withdrawal

It included appeals by Premier Bennett and Opposition Leader Robert Strachan that Capozzi withdraw his censure motion.

And it included a jarring wrench thrown by Minister Without Portfolio Phil Gagliardi who also appealed that the motion be withdrawn and brought an abrupt change of course by Strachan who demanded the vote proceed.

That was followed by an angry Bennett rising to say he was withdrawing his request minister to withdraw his

"I know a little bit about this business and I feel with the premier and wish that some mercy be shown in this particular situation."

It was a bone that neither Strachan nor his New Democrats could chew and the leader

spat back his request for withdrawal of the motion.

Through it all Dowding continually repeated that the Capozzi charges and the documents filed with the house were "false, absolutely false."

Capozzi said he had received "in the last few days" documents showing Dowding's firm had invoices out for the transaction totalling \$9,225.

And he said the firm had done all preparations to get the corporation into legislation.

He said the invoices "were dictated by the member for

was only \$2,500. Capozzi apologized if he have the impression that Dowding's firm got \$9,225.

Dowding said the clerk of the committee could verify that he declared his interest in the bill and withdrew from deliberations.

Had he known it was improper then to have his firm involved with the proceedings he would never have permitted the association with the mortgage company to continue, he told the House.

Not My Handwriting: Dowding

In his final statement to the House, Dowding said he was sorry Capozzi had not informed him of the documents earlier so that the New Democrat might have had an opportunity to explain the situation.

"The member will find that it is not my handwriting, that it is not my signature.

"I did not dictate any letter, any bill or any statement."

He explained that it is a practice in large law firms to sign invoices and bills with the senior partner's name.

He said it is the practice of his firm, when business — such as Legal Aid — is transacted with the government, to put the money from that transaction into a separate account. Dow-

ing said he gets no money from that account.

But he expressed "reservations" concerning the motion, saying Dowding had expressed his interest at the time and, since it happened in an earlier legislature, the speaker had not time to determine whether the action should come before the present one.

The member said that, to his knowledge, he received no money for the 1966 transaction.

He concluded by saying "I have the greatest respect for Parliament and I always try to disclose any interest I might have regardless of how indirect."

He thanked the speaker and turned, leaving the chamber so the vote could be taken.

Strachan defended, quoting the rules of parliamentary procedure, that by declaring his interest, Dowding at no time "was in contravention of the usage of the House or derogatory of its dignity in bringing forward, promoting or advocating this piece of legislation."

Details Given to Committee

Strachan added that the rules also say such accusations as that made by Capozzi should be presented at the earliest possible time.

The chairman of the committee, the clerk and other MLAs involved had full knowledge of Dowding's position at the time, said Strachan.

As the House recessed for the first time, a livid Strachan shouted that "In view of the statements made by the member for Vancouver Centre (Capozzi) I want it placed squarely on record that some three or four weeks ago the minister of trade and industry (Waldo Skillings) told me in the corridor they would get the member for Burnaby Edmonds — that it's government policy."

In the midst of the furore,

Liberal Leader Pat McGeer made an eloquent speech on the essence of parliament.

He said Capozzi had "raised most serious charges" that dealt with privileges of parliament for which members had fought for centuries and "without these privileges, parliament would have little meaning."

He said they were charges "capable of the clearest proof and should not be raised unless they have been proved completely."

The leader suggested they have not been completely proved and should be withdrawn.

The House "must satisfy its conscience that the case has merit because it is not just against the member but against parliament itself."

No Advance Notice of Charge

And, said McGeer, Capozzi had not followed the proper and courteous method of giving advance notice of the charge. The rules call for putting the matter off for a day's deliberation under these circumstances.

As it stands, the Liberals were being asked to judge a member on evidence they have not been able to study and evidence they have not been able to determine as being valid or not.

McGeer said parliament "is the highest court in the land and we are supposed to be the jury."

"We received no notice and had no chance to examine the merits of the evidence.

It "is a matter of intense regret to me and my party and we leave it to the government side on its conscience to decide what to do."

Without an opportunity to examine the evidence, said

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that Capozzi's arrangements filed with the house were motion.

What Gagliardi said was that last year while he was embroiled with battles that led to his resigning the department of highways portfolio, he was injured "beyond repair" by Dowding.

Dowding "put me through hell for seven weeks," said the minister.

"I know a little bit about this business and I feel with the premier and wish that some mercy be shown in this particular situation."

It was a bone that neither Strachan nor his New Democrats could chew and the leader

Burnaby-Eumton's by him."

Dowding stated that he had signed no such bill, had dictated none and had never seen the documents.

Dowding, after seeing the invoices, said Capozzi even had the figures wrong. The total bill

what to do."

Without an opportunity to examine the evidence, said McGee, "the members of this House have been placed in an impossible position."

But the speaker said there was not time for action to be given, the session was on its last legs, the vote had to be taken.



GORDON DOWDING is pictured minutes after being driven from his seat in the Legislature Wednesday by and unprecedented motion from Social Credit backbenchers Herb Capozzi and Donald Phillips. The opposition MLAs told reporters in the

corridor that he had not done anything wrong three years ago as charged when he withdrew from a committee study of a private company bill drawn up by his law firm. (McKain Photo)

'HE HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE CHARGES FALSE'

Gordon Dowding's suspension from the house and his renomination for the Vancouver riding of Burnaby-Edmonds came on the same day.

New Democratic Party Leader Robert Strachan drafted this telegram to the president of the Burnaby-Edmonds NDP riding association.

"Today's despicable attack on your MLA Gordon Dowding by Mr. Bennett and his supporters was a partisan political action.

"It was pushed through the house by Mr. Bennett and his

majority with accusations made, without proof being presented and without affording Gordon Dowding time or opportunity to refute the allegations.

"This government feels that Gordon Dowding has been a thorn in their flesh and they have been planning this move for weeks.

"A cabinet minister told me in the corridor some weeks ago that this year they were going to get Dowding.

"They had the invoices, he said.

"Instead of making the charge in time they made it

at this late date under these circumstances without opportunity for Dowding to prove them false.

"I want you to know that as the leader of this party I support Gordon Dowding unequivocally.

"The caucus supports Gordon Dowding and we urge upon you his renomination as candidate for the New Democratic Party.

"I also predict that he will double his majority.

"We cannot allow a ruthless government majority to intimidate opposition members."

Socreds Shoot Down 'Sniper' On Years-Old Technicality

By JOHN MIKA

The Social Credit majority set a precedent when it summarily forced one of its most active snipers out of the legislature Wednesday on a three-year-old technicality.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan immediately predicted that Gordon Dowding's ejection will boomerang on the government because it

was patently unfair, pre-arranged and vindictive.

And Liberal Leader Pat McGeer accused Speaker William Murray of "partiality" with the "purely partisan attack" by deciding beforehand to allow it to be made without notice as required by parliamentary rules to give the accused opportunity to marshal a defence.

Provincial archivist Willard

Ireland and legislative clerk Ned De Beck both said they had not come across a similar event in the records.

Several MLAs in the past have been banished from the house after being "named" by a Speaker for breaking rules of debate.

'Money Talks'

But never, apparently, has an MLA been driven from his seat by a floor motion concerning a matter outside the legislative chamber itself.

The last man to be barred from the house was Liberal Gordon Gibson, who was "named" Feb. 16, 1955, for his "money talks" speech which eventually led to the Robert Sommers case.

Gibson was named on a motion by then attorney-general Robert Bonner for using those words and he was given two days to withdraw them and avoid being barred from his seat.

But, when the deadline came on Feb. 18, Gibson refused to retract and Bonner put the motion to suspend him which was passed by the government side.

Dowding Wednesday was given no time to decide how to meet the allegations against him which involved documents going back three years issued by his law

partnership and had nothing to do with his conduct in a debate.

(Neither Gibson nor Dowding had their qualifications as elected members or their sessional indemnities affected by the actions of the government and Speaker Murray told the Times, Dowding could return at the next session without any prior procedure.)

The Gibson and Dowding ejections however appeared to have one common link—Robert Bonner.

Tense Drama

Throughout the tense drama of debate and recesses Wednesday, Premier Bennett repeatedly called to backbencher Herb Capozzi, who moved the motion for ejecting Dowding, to ease up the attack.

But Capozzi, who faltered several times and even admitted to the House he did not know how or whether to pursue the point, received several hastily-pencilled notes from Bonner who sits in front of him.

The messages appeared to prompt Capozzi into renewing his efforts and adding or restressing arguments.

Dowding, in a press conference outside the House after his eviction, said he did not do anything wrong. He said although his law firm was paid for legal services to Southwest Mortgage Indemnity Corporation Limited in connection with its private charter bill, he had not been involved in the legislative committee's considerations of the company application.

"The only thing I regret is that I will now be unable to proceed with my bill on Commonwealth Trust," he said, referring to a private bill he was to have sponsored later Wednesday.

"The government now knows I will not be in the house and with the sponsor missing the bill cannot be proceeded with."

Strachan told reporters he and the NDP party stand behind Dowding "100 per cent and we have absolute faith in his integrity."

"This is the political death rattle of a government that has displayed time after time that it is out to get this member for exposing its mishandling of its duties."

The NDP leader said he had known for almost a month that government members had copies of the documents filed by Capozzi.

Evidence Rapped

Liberal Leader McGeer told the Times that Capozzi had "presented the flimsiest possible evidence."

"If true, Mr. Dowding should resign and if not true, Mr. Capozzi should resign," he said.

"But I think it's partisan vindictiveness."

"I don't think the legislature was given any proof on which to base a decision and in the circumstances we Liberals took the traditional position that Dowding is innocent until proven guilty."

"But I believe the Speaker showed partiality in accepting that (Capozzi) motion instead of requiring notice or adjourning the matter to another day as indicated by the prescribed parliamentary authorities."

"Mr. Capozzi had ample opportunity to warn Dowding and he failed to do so which indicates he wanted to catch

No Joy As House Adjourns

The third session of the 28th Legislature of British Columbia was prorogued by Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson at 9:35 p.m. Wednesday with only one hitch.

His Honor, reading the closing speech written for him by Premier Bennett, made a \$999 million slip which brought a smile to Opposition Leader Strachan's face and a stony stare from the premier.

The written speech said Bennett's budget of "one billion dollars for the first time in the province's history is particularly praiseworthy."

But, inadvertently, the lieutenant-governor read it as "one million dollars" and the slip did not go unnoticed.

NO COMMENT

After the prorogation ceremony, Premier Bennett refused to comment on the last-minute expulsion of Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby-Edmonds) on a three-year-old technicality revived by two government backbenchers.

But he told reporters it was the "best session" of his administration because it showed the billion-dollar fruits of "17 years of sound planning for the benefit of the people of this province."

But the usual joyful release of prorogation was in little evidence as the MLAs, attendants and legislative stenographers dispersed and few of them went the usual social rounds of bidding each other goodbye for another year.

FLEE QUIETLY

Most of them just fled quietly from the bitterness lingering in the building after the three tensest hours of the session surrounding Dowding's sudden ejection even while Nicholson was rehearsing the traditional final words:

"Honorable members, I now relieve you of your legislative duties, and I trust that the blessing of Divine Providence will accompany you to your respective homes."

the member for Burnaby-Edmonds unprepared.

Consulted Speaker

"He never spoke to Dowding but he apparently consulted the Speaker beforehand.

"The Speaker himself said so because he gave permission for notice to be waived which, in my view, indicates partiality.

"This was a purely partisan attack and in another case (the allegations of mishandled highway construction contracts in 1963) Gagliardi was given time to defend himself and there certainly was no snap decision made there."

McGeer said that the whole session was characterized by vindictiveness "not just today's move and I think there should be an election so that new members could come back and cleanse the legislature of this unhealthy vituperation."

Strachan later said he agreed with McGeer's criticism of the Speaker's handling of the motion.

"I didn't raise it myself because it was one of my colleagues involved and I thought I had to fight this on the integrity of my man rather than criticize a third party," said Strachan.

"But I agree with McGeer's statement that the Speaker was partial."

Public Health Job Transfer Causes Snags

By JIM HUME
Times City Hall Reporter

Hopes that Greater Victoria public health services would move smoothly under the Regional District Board umbrella were dispelled Wednesday.

Health Minister Ralph Loffmark in an exclusive interview said before the transfer could take place a solution must be found to the problem of civil servants now in provincial employ who would become employees of the Regional District.

And he added, "I am unable to resolve this problem."

The virtual veto by Loffmark following passage of permissive legislation sponsored by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell two weeks ago, came as a shock to municipal officials.

By this morning, confronted by a puzzled Mayor Hugh Stephen, chairman of the Regional District Board, Loffmark had softened his stand, but not enough to clear the way for a district take-over of the Metropolitan Board of Health.

Wednesday afternoon Loffmark said: "We are not able to offer any encouragement (to the Regional District) that there would be any change in the amount of money that would be available. Nor are we prepared to concur in the transfer of the civil servants involved."

"The amalgamation proposed envisages the transfer of civil servants now with the public health unit to the Regional

District. This would mean a change in the terms of employment.

"I am unable to resolve this problem."

Contacted this morning, Campbell declined comment other than to say, "They'll just have to work out the details. They have the authority to make the transfer and they have held previous discussions. They have the vehicle to move."

Discussions to plan the proposed take-over have been under way for approximately three years with detailed planning going on for the past 18 months.

Until yesterday municipal and regional district authorities had thought all major problems well out of the way.

AMICABLE TALKS

Stephen reported this morning that his long discussion with Loffmark had been on most amicable terms.

"Personally I am satisfied that the transfer will still take place," he said. "The minister wants us to provide the figures showing the rationale behind the move. I think once he has those the transfer will be validated."

On the matter of civil servants being moved from the provincial to Regional District employ the mayor said he anticipated no major difficulties.

"We have scouted the people concerned very thoroughly and haven't come up with one objection," he said. "If we do come across any objections I am sure we shall be able to overcome them."

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"After that I am sure the transfer will take place."

Medicare Costs Tabled; \$10 Million Surplus Seen

The provincial government tabled costs and revenues for the first six-months of its medicare plan in the legislature Wednesday and added fuel to speculation that it is padding appropriations for a premium reduction announcement later this year.

Opposition MLAs have accused the government of withholding information from the legislature so it could

spring a surprise premium cut as bait in an election campaign.

Premier Bennett vehemently denied the suggestions when they were made.

But the medicare figures tabled by Provincial Secretary Wesley Black suggests there may be up to \$10 million available in unexpended medicare appropriations by the end of this fiscal year.

That would amount to about 20 per cent of the total collected in premiums during the course of a year.

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Premiums collected for the six months totalled \$28.4 million.

If the figures are doubled to project them for a year's operation, the payout becomes \$103.8 million and the premium income adds up to \$56.8 million.

Black earlier in the session said that on top of premium income, B.C. is reimbursed by Ottawa for about 40 per cent of the payout.

That represents \$41.5 million of the \$103.8 million.

TOTAL PREMIUM

Adding the projected premium total to the Ottawa reimbursement, B.C. would obtain some \$98.3 million from outside sources in a year-long operation leaving only \$5.5 million to be made up from the provincial treasury directly.

Black's figures for the six months of last year indicate that the provincial treasury needed to supply only \$2.75 million to make up the difference although it had \$9 million available for the period in last year's budget.

This suggests that Premier Bennett began this calendar year with \$7.25 million left over unused.

NEW BUDGET

In addition, the new provincial budget provides \$50 million including the expected \$40 million from Ottawa, for the coming year.

That leaves some \$10 million of the appropriation to come from provincial coffers but on the basis of the six-months experience with premium income and federal payments carrying the bulk of the load, it appears only about three-quarters of it will be needed.

With the \$7.75 million apparently left over from last year still in the kitty and apparently another \$2.5 million likely to be unexpended from the present year's appropriation, the likelihood emerges that the province will have \$10 million to play with if the cabinet does decide to cut premiums.

Socreds Spurn Public Inquiry

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson Wednesday said two more lawyers have been added to the team of investigators delving into the affairs of the Commonwealth group of companies.

He told a reporter the move was taken because of the resignation of the three-man royal commission which had been appointed earlier to conduct a public inquiry.

The government's inquiry is being conducted privately under the Securities Act.

Asked if the government still intends to launch a public inquiry or ask the B.C. Securities Commission to hold open hearings, Peterson replied: "I can't answer that."

The two lawyers, both of Vancouver, added to the team are R. D. Plummer, QC, and John E. Spencer.

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"There is no reason why the government can't use its legislative power to establish the committee," said Barrett.

"There is no reason for it hiding behind prorogation."

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CHABOT
... equal time for health

ALL SMOKE, NO FIRE IN AD BILL

A private member's bill for the regulation of tobacco advertising won second reading, or approval in principle Wednesday on the final day of the session.

The bill, however, died on the order paper at the end of the session without the required three readings to become law.

Introduced by James Chabot (SC-Columbia), the bill would restrict publication by word, picture or sound or anything intended to promote the sale of tobacco in any of its forms.

Such products could be advertised but only if equal time or space is granted to "clear advice that the consumption of tobacco is injurious to health."

All such advertising would have to be approved by a public health officer and the fee for approval would be equal to the cost of the advertising involved.

In support of the proposed act, Chabot said its purpose "is to bring advertising of tobacco back to reality."

He said television advertising of cigarettes is the worst offender.

Commercials showing skiers, mountain climbers and horse-back riding lead youth to believe smoking is healthy, he said.

Premier Bennett said "We'll accept the bill."

Bennett said smoking is one of the most offensive forms of pollution.

'ROYAL SEAL' ON LAND RIGHTS

VANCOUVER (CP)—The up-coast Nishga Indians' claim that they still own a vast tract of land is based largely on a Royal Proclamation of 1763, lawyer-MLA Tom Berger said in British Columbia Supreme Court Wednesday.

The Nishga Indians, who still inhabit the rugged Nass Valley area of their ancestors, are bidding for a Supreme Court declaration that their right of ownership was never surrendered or extinguished despite laws made by the white man.

Mr. Berger, who is conducting the case for the Indians, told Mr. Justice J. G. Gould that the 1763 Royal Proclamation guaranteed the aboriginal title of Indian tribes in all the vacant lands of North America claimed by the British. He submitted the

proclamation applied to the Pacific Coast Indian tribe.

When the Nishgas came under British sovereignty, their Indian titles became a legal title which could be extinguished only by

surrender to the Crown or by the passing of competent legislative authority, Mr. Berger said.

He said there never was any surrender and that neither the

British colony, or later the province of British Columbia, had the power to wipe out the Indian title by passing legislation.

The hearing continues.

Adding Conflict to Confusion

THE REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATOR from the Attorney-General's Department states that he found no evidence to support charges, raised recently in the Legislature, of police brutality against Indians in Sechelt. The NDP member who introduced the issue calls the report partisan.

"The Indians were entitled to an independent inquiry and an impartial report," he says. "Instead they have received a partisan report by a government which has shown itself incapable of looking into any subject in an impartial way."

This is a highly unsatisfactory development in a situation which has caused deep concern to British Col-

umbians and one which could have been avoided. In such instances it is imperative that a person appointed to investigate complaints enjoy, prior to his selection, the confidence of all parties concerned. An employee of the government, no matter what his personal qualifications, obviously may be placed in an invidious position. It is cases such as that provided by the Sechelt charges which again suggest the need for an ombudsman.

The present report seems merely to have added to the controversy, and meanwhile the good name of both police and Indians is left in question.

Comox-Strathcona Area Plans Industrial Study

COURTENAY — Mayor Ron Ellis of Comox and regional district chairman, announced that a comprehensive industrial study has been authorized for the Comox-Strathcona area.

He was informed of steps to be taken by provincial Minister of Trade and Commerce Waldo Skillings.

Ellis and Mayor George Hobson of Courtenay recently returned from Ottawa where federal minister for regional economic expansion, Jean Marchand, announced and expanded

concept of the Area Incentive Act.

Aim of the new study is promotion and development of industry in areas which have no sound economic base or those dependent on a single industry.

NDP PICKS TEACHER FOR COMOX CANDIDATE

CAMPBELL RIVER (CP)—Courtenay alderman and teacher Harry Harris has been selected New Democratic Party candidate for the Comox riding for the next provincial election.

He was elected on the first ballot over two other candidates to oppose Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell.

A P R

1 9 6 9

Peterson Tells House:

Fired Member Wasn't Selling

By IAN STREET, Legislative Reporter

The provincial government charged Monday that William Hartley (NDP—Yale-Lillooet) "misled" the Legislature earlier by alleging that his dismissal as an insurance agent was connected with his role as party spokesman on automobile insurance.

The charge was first made by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell during the debate in committee on clause-by-clause approval of legislation setting up a new compulsory, non-cancellable car insurance scheme which will provide basic no-fault coverage.

Mr. Hartley jumped up to demand that the minister withdraw his statement. He told the House: "I did not mislead the members last Friday. Today I received two letters from the superintendent of insurance cancelling both my licences, for life insurance and general insurance."

'TABLE LETTERS'

Scored members shouted and thumped their desks, demanding that the NDP member table the letters so that the Legislature would know why he had been dismissed.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson then rose to say that he was sure every MLA would support Mr. Hartley if there was reason to believe he had been dismissed for taking a stand on automobile insurance.

"However, according to the information I have received—I have copies of the correspondence—his licence was terminated due to lack of production."

NOTHING NEW

Mr. Peterson said the letters indicated the NDP member had produced no new applications for fire or automobile insurance for the past two years and had sold only a nominal amount of life insurance.

He added that the withdrawal of Mr. Hartley's licences had resulted from warnings issued in 1968.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan reminded members that Mr. Hartley had told the House two months ago that he was no longer actively working in the insurance field.

ATTACKS RAPPED

The NDP leader then criticized the "barracking, attacking and general harassment" aimed at Mr. Hartley throughout this session by government members and in particular by Minister Without Portfolio P. A. Gagliardi.

"It's not surprising that any company should be unhappy when it finds a cabinet minister discussing one of its agents in these terms," said Mr. Strachan.

"The company, being part of the establishment in this province, doesn't want to get on the wrong side of this government. And that's why Bill Hartley was fired."

It's straight dirty politics on behalf of that minister (Mr. Gagliardi) and this government."

In the uproar that followed, committee chairman Herb Bruch (SC—Squamish) several times ordered Mr. Strachan and Mr. Hartley to sit down.

When Mr. Hartley sat down after one heated exchange, James Chabot (SC—Columbia River), who had earlier challenged the NDP member's right to sit on the committee studying recommendations of the royal commission on automobile insurance, called across the floor: "You'll be fired out of here, if you're not careful."

'HE'LL BE BACK'

Mr. Strachan leaped to his feet and shot back: "It'll take more than you guys to fire him. He'll be back, and that's more than I can say for some of you on that side."

The car insurance legislation passed through the committee, with some minor amendments, in about a hour and a half of debate. It will be given third and final reading later this week.

BEFORE JAN. 1

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) led the opposition attack on a section of legislation which he claimed doesn't tie the government tightly enough to a Jan. 1, 1970, deadline for implementation of the new insurance scheme. "It's a sometime bill—that's all it is," he said.

Mr. Peterson replied that the government was anxious to bring in the new provisions as soon as it could. He added: "It will be in effect before next Jan. 1, and I say that as a statement of government policy."

The attorney-general told the House no firm date could be offered for implementation of the plan at this stage because the industry still had to carry out "very extensive" cost studies on the no-fault benefits.

CLAIMS CRITICIZED

Mr. Hartley repeated his earlier accusation that the government didn't intend to implement the legislation before the next general election was called. He said the bill was nothing more than "election propaganda."

Mr. Macdonald also charged that the government's claims that lower premiums would result for most drivers under the new system was based not

only upon "watered-down benefits" but also on transfer of medical costs to government-run plans.

The attorney-general replied that insurers would not be required to meet medical expenses provided by either B.C. Medical Plan or B.C. Hospital Insurance Service, but only in relation to no-fault benefits.

He added that he could not estimate how much of a saving to private companies this might entail, but added that similar benefits under the existing system were "very minor."

HIGHER PREMIUMS

Allan Cox (L—Oak Bay) said the \$250 ceiling placed on court actions to recover damages to automobiles would work a hardship on careful drivers in the form of higher premiums for collision coverage.

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver How Sound) said he believed the legislation would result in insurance companies encouraging their clients to sue for higher benefits for injury than those immediately available under the no-fault plan.

Welfare Services 'Complete Failure,' Says Campbell

B.C. May Act Alone in Low-Income Tax Relief

B.C. may go it alone if the federal government doesn't act reasonably soon to introduce a new form of negative income tax to help less fortunate Canadians, Social Welfare Minister Dan Campbell indicated Monday night.

He told the Legislature during discussion of the estimates of the social welfare department that welfare services, not only in Canada but in the U.S. and Britain, had proved to be "a complete and total failure."

The minister was replying to a charge by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan that the government was trying to hide the fact that the total number of people on welfare rolls in B.C. had jumped sharply in recent months to a figure estimated to be more than 100,000.

Mr. Strachan said the figure had jumped from 87,991 in November, 1968 to 94,000 in December, 1968, and "I'll bet it's over 100,000 right now."

He criticized Mr. Campbell for not informing the House of these figures before the minister's department estimates came under discussion. A question to this effect has been on the order paper for some time, Mr. Strachan said.

Mr. Campbell told the House the opposition leader was correct in suggesting that at least 50 per cent of those now on the welfare rolls would never be taken off assistance.

"This leads me to suggest that the entire system of welfare as we know it today, not only in Canada, but in Britain and the U.S. as well, has been a complete and total failure," Mr. Campbell said.

Mr. Campbell said those who suggested B.C. welfare authorities weren't looking to the future should consider the possible effects of a computerized study of welfare recipients now just getting under way in the Lower Mainland.

This, the minister said, was part of a program aimed at arriving at a negative income tax, which he claimed, would "bring a new day" to the entire social welfare field in Canada.

"We simply have to change the way people receive assistance in this country. This government intends to indicate at least some of the answers to welfare problems can be found in a modified form of the negative income tax which has already been introduced in parts of the U.S."

Dave Barrett (NDP-Coquitlam) said the introduction of a negative income tax was tardy, my brother has a spinal problem and is completely helpless. He needs to be bathed, fed and dressed like an infant. I'm beginning to wonder if the responsibility will fall on me. Please don't think I am selfish or cruel but I don't want the burden of my handicapped brother. I could spoil my chances for marriage.

I have never heard of a place that cares for people who are both retarded and

Gaglardi Issue

Officials Differ On Bills

Two senior provincial officials disagreed Monday over whether Minister Without Portfolio P. A. Gaglardi should have reimbursed the government for his Vancouver hotel bill.

It was third meeting of the public accounts committee since last Wednesday to be taken up almost entirely with the matter of who should have paid Mr. Gaglardi's hotel bill in Vancouver during the last two weeks of the 1968 legislative session.

Another meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. today, but opposition MLAs sitting on the committee indicated a change in tactics when they asked for highways department officials to appear as witnesses to explain use of government aircraft.

Liberal leader Patrick McGeer told the committee his study of logs showed the four ministers without portfolio were involved in a "very high proportion" of the use made of the planes.

He said the committee should find out why ministers, and particularly ministers without portfolio, summoned government aircraft to Interior points such as Kamloops and Vernon, instead of travelling by scheduled airline flights or commercial charter.

David Barrett (NDP-Coquitlam) claimed that in the past year Mr. Gaglardi "had the aircraft in the air for 189 hours, and that could not all be flying from here to his permanent hotel room in Vancouver."

Hunter Vogel (S.C.-Langley) commented that "if these planes are so loosely handled that people say it is improper and unnecessary, then this committee should look into it."

For an hour previously, committee members had questioned departmental controller James McDiarmid and comptroller-general C. J. Ferber about Mr. Gaglardi's hotel bill.

ERROR ADMITTED

Mr. McDiarmid, who is responsible for expense accounts of the ministers without portfolio, told the committee Mr. Gaglardi had not been asked to reimburse the government for the two-week hotel bill.

Asked why, the official said, "was an error on my part."

However, Mr. McDiarmid added, he had since informed Mr. Gaglardi that he would not

accept expense accounts for accommodation during the session unless they agreed to forfeit the corresponding part of the living allowance all MLAs receive while the House sits.

A CEILING

The controller told the committee this "is a ruling that I have made" to be applied to all ministers within his jurisdiction.

Mr. McDiarmid also said he had placed a ceiling of \$4,400 a year on Mr. Gaglardi's expense account and told him, along with other ministers without portfolio, that if he spent the money before the 12-month period elapsed, additional expenses would not be accepted.

Mr. Gaglardi, he added, had also reimbursed the government for various items previously covered by expenses, including laundry.

"Good," Mr. Barrett commented. "I thought we were still being taken to the cleaners."

Under questioning by Mr. Barrett, the controller said he was not aware of any other minister who kept a permanent hotel room in Vancouver during the session. But he said Mr. Ferber must reply to a question about whether Mr. Gaglardi had reimbursed the government for his hotel bills.

"The answer is no," the comptroller general said, "and in my opinion he is not required to reimburse the government."

WORD ACCEPTED

Mr. Ferber said as far as he was concerned, he would continue to approve expense accounts for ministers who travelled on government business during the session, because he could see no alternative to the practice of accepting a minister's word that the expense was necessary.

Mr. Barrett repeated his question about other ministers keeping permanent hotel accommodation away from Victoria and Mr. Ferber also said he knew of none except Mr. Gaglardi.

HOTEL BILLS

Mr. Ferber said to his knowledge the former minister of highways had not reimbursed the government for his hotel bills during the period of the session.

"I disagree with Mr. McDiarmid," the comptroller-general said, "and since in the final analysis it is my responsibility, I will continue to approve expense accounts for ministers travelling during the session on government business."

"But if the expense accounts don't come through because of a ruling by the departmental controller — that's fine."

Mines Bills 'Will Need Updating'

New controls over surface mining in B.C. were given final approval by the Legislature Monday night amid gloomy opposition predictions that they wouldn't do the job properly.

The two bills — Coal Mines Regulation Act and an Act to Amend the Mines Regulation Act — went through the committee stage of clause-by-clause consideration and, after some amendments, were given third and final reading in the space of about 1½ hours.

Mines Minister Frank Richter introduced amendments based on the report of the Legislature's mining committee which gives mining companies six months instead of the previous three months to file plans for protection and reclamation of the countryside where surface mining is to be carried out.

The government also accepted committee recommendations for a new appeal procedure, new consultation procedures among government departments, and

deposits based on the estimated life of a mining operation in addition to the previous bonding requirements of up to \$500 an acre.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan told the House the legislation was "a first step, and 'that's all' toward the kind on controls that were required. He said the NDP voted for the bills "knowing full well that 12 months from now, no matter who is government, this legisla-

tion will have to be updated to do the kind of job that's necessary."

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver Howe Sound) said the Liberals regarded the bills as "not necessarily the most exacting legislation" in the field.

He added that the House was giving the government "the tools with which it can ensure the devastation that has occurred elsewhere" as a result of surface mining wouldn't happen here.

Legislative Roundup

Welfare Tied in Tape

A welfare recipient must have a department official's approval for buying a 25-cent tube of toothpaste, the Legislature was told Monday night.

Norman Levi (NDP—Vancouver South), a social worker in his first legislative session, told the House more money was being spent on the administration of welfare than on its recipients.

Mr. Levi said social workers in the lower echelons of the social welfare department should be "unleashed" to make decisions on their own in matters of welfare payments.

WRONG PLACE

The MLA said the money was being spent in the wrong place. In any event, some welfare recipients drove up to liquor stores in taxicabs, "stoned when they get there, stoned when they leave." And "they can't live anyway on \$75 a month."

Mr. Levi said that Welfare Minister Dan Campbell should reduce "accountability" for welfare money and give a family \$3,000 or \$4,000 for a year as an experiment. Recipients now have to go through a means test every month for their payments; single men have to take a means test once every two weeks.

Mr. Levi's comments came during the spending debates of the social welfare department under the minister's salary vote. The House earlier approved the municipal affairs department spending, where Mr. Campbell's salary is registered at \$17,500.

Total municipal affairs spending is estimated at \$55,943,400.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby-Edmonds) introduced a private member's bill in the legislature Monday night which would place stricter controls over the operations of trust companies in B.C.

The proposed legislation would require trust companies to observe the same strict compliance with the Companies Act as other companies with respect to "insider" disclosures, public audit, and liability of directors.

The forestry and fisheries committee of the Legislature has recommended a wage increase for forest fire fighters from \$1.25 to \$1.75 an hour, plus a board allowance of \$4.50 a day.

The committee also urged formation of a land use committee, made up of cabinet ministers, to make policy on "orderly and integrated use of our Crown lands."

DECISION WAIVED

The report, filed Monday in the House by committee chairman James Chabot (SC-Columbia River), waived a decision

on the effect of slash-burning because the committee could not "properly assess" the situation in the Interior of the province.

The committee says that slash-burning is still the most effective method of disposal, but recommends that "research of other means should be encouraged." Another committee should be struck in two years to review existing policies.

The committee's report says forest rangers should be notified immediately upon the opening of mines in any area so that the use of timber by the mine company can be supervised.

COMMITTEE MAKEUP

The recommended land use committee should consist of the ministers of municipal affairs, agriculture, lands, forests and water resources, recreation and conservation, and mines and petroleum resources "to establish and administer a land use policy."

"The establishment of such a policy would improve land management with a greater degree of social and economic benefit for the people of this province," the report says.

'Tenant Power'

Grievance Board Act Now in Draft Form

Municipalities are receiving from the government a draft bill providing for establishment of rent-payers' grievance boards, Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell said Monday in the Legislature.

A copy of the bill was tabled Monday in the House in response to the questions of MLAs about the government's policy on rent grievances.

COMMENTS SOUGHT

The bill was not part of the government's legislative program this session, Mr. Campbell said, but was being or would be distributed throughout the province for comments by interested municipalities.

In its present form, the bill would pave the way for municipalities to establish boards to hear complaints from both landlords and rentpayers in the matters of notice of rent increase, notice of rent termina-

tion, level of service, conditions of entry and other unstated issues.

Mr. Campbell said he hoped the bill would develop into a sort of tenants' bill of rights.

LOCAL BYLAWS

The regulations would be made up in each case by adoption of local bylaws by municipal councils. The grievance board's decision would be binding, except for appeals made to the County Court.

The boards' powers would also include right of access for inspection at all "reasonable times" of a dwelling that is subject of an appeal. Summonses may be issued by the board to a person as a witness, who can take an oath before evidence is taken.

Local councils would assume in their budgets the cost of paying the board and its expenses.

No Minister Paid For Air Warning

By IAN STREET
Legislative Reporter

The provincial government warned its cabinet ministers and senior officials last year that any abuses of travelling privileges on government aircraft might result in a special charge being imposed on all flights.

The order, contained in a confidential memo circulated to all ministers and top officials by Highways Minister Wesley Black on June 6, 1968, was made public for the first time Tuesday at a meeting of the Legislature's public accounts committee.

The committee later decided to call five cabinet ministers as witnesses, to appear at what is expected to be the final open committee meeting this session at 10 a.m. today, to answer questions about their use of aircraft in the government fleet.

The ministers called are Health Minister Ralph Loffmark, former highways minister P. A. Gagliardi and three other ministers without portfolio, Grace McCarthy, Patricia Jordan and Isobel Dawson.

David Barrett (NDP—Coquitlam) and Liberal leader Patrick McGeer backed opposition suggestions that the ministers concerned had used government planes to a "ridiculous" extent last year with figures extracted from flight logs tabled earlier this session.

They claimed Mr. Gagliardi made 93 flights from March to December last year, 43 of them from the former highways minister's hometown of Kamloops. Mr. Gagliardi's total air time was 173.1 hours in the 10-month period.

Mr. Loffmark logged 89.4 flying hours in the same period.

Mrs. McCarthy used the government aircraft on 79 flights between Vancouver, her home riding, and Victoria; Mrs. Jordan made 39 flights to or from Kelowna, the airport nearest to her home base of Vernon.

Ernie LeCours (SC—Richmond) appeared to sum up the view of the Sacred majority when he said, "I think every person in this committee is interested in whether these aircraft are being abused, and we should ask the ministers concerned."

The Sacred backbencher

also suggested that Mr. Black, as the minister responsible for the government air fleet, should be called to say whether or not he believed the warning to all departments that air travel privileges should not be abused had been observed in all cases.

However, no formal action was taken on that score when Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby Edmonds) said Mr. Black could be called later if the committee decided it was necessary.

Comptroller-General C. J. Ferber was asked later if any minister or senior official had been required to pay the special charge referred to in Mr. Black's warning.

Mr. Ferber replied that no charges had been assessed other than direct charges of the air fleet to the highways department.

Also appearing before the committee this morning will be highways department controller Alan Rhodes, who was instructed to prepare estimates of the approximate "per-seat-mile" cost of operating the government aircraft.

This action followed a charge by Dr. McGeer that highways department officials were guilty of "very gross negligence" for failing to keep detailed records of costs involved.

Fraser MacLean, assistant deputy minister of highways, told the committee at Tuesday's hearing that Mr. Gagliardi exercised sole authority over who could use the department's planes right up to the time of his resignation last March. (Mr. Gagliardi resigned his highways portfolio amid opposition charges that he had used the aircraft on non-government business.)

Mr. MacLean said: "People phoned the minister's office through (Mr. Gagliardi's) secretary and made bookings. I presume they were booked with the minister and approved on most occasions."

He was asked whether any record was kept of these bookings. "No, the flights were approved, and once they were booked and the flights were made, that was that."

Mr. MacLean then outlined new procedures for booking aircraft which were instituted after Mr. Gagliardi's departure. He said specially designated people in each department make reservations through the highways department.

He told the committee the department operated two D-18 Beechcraft with five seats each under good conditions and capable of carrying four in inclement weather. It also has one Beechcraft D-18 turbo-prop which will carry four passengers under all

weather conditions. A Grumman Goose is currently being converted to turbine power.

Mr. MacLean was evasive

however, when it came to answering questions about the costs of operating government aircraft. He declined to answer a question about the relative costs of the Lear jet, formerly leased by the department under Mr. Gagliardi, and conventional aircraft in the fleet, on grounds that "too many complex factors" were involved.

When pressed by Mr. Barrett, the official finally said: "I only vaguely recall that it was comparable on a per-seat-mile basis." He added: "It was checked out at one time. I just forgot the figures."

"I know you can cost these things out very accurately," Dr. McGeer insisted, "because I used to own a plane. If we are not costing it in the highways department, then someone is guilty of very gross negligence. We should be able to get the answers from someone."

Trade Minister Waldo Skilling then read to the committee the confidential memo sent out by Mr. Black last June 6, establishing new guidelines for use of government aircraft.

They included a stipulation that aircraft must be used "to increase productivity and effectiveness of ministers and senior civil servants on government business" and placing the responsibility for this upon each minister.

Bookings must be made at least two days in advance and not more than 30 days ahead, but approved flights will not be cancelled in favor of later requests except in an emergency. To make maximum use of all flights wherever possible, passengers are required to adjust their schedules to meet seat vacancies.

Names of all passengers must be given at the time of booking and persons other than government employees may be carried provided they are travelling with government employees on official business. No flights can be made outside provincial boundaries except to Watson Lake and Whitehorse in the Yukon for northern B.C. trips.

The memo quoted Mr. Black as saying: "For the present time, all operating expenses are being carried by the department of highways. However, if the privileges are abused, it may be necessary to levy a charge for all flights."

"It is my desire to operate an efficient aircraft service for the ultimate benefit of the people of this province through more effective use of their servants. Only with the full co-operation of all concerned will this be achieved."

McGeer Speaks Alone

Land Gain Seen In Water Trade

B.C. should agree to American demands for export of Canadian water, but the provincial government should negotiate on the basis that it receive choice U.S. lands in return for areas that would be flooded in this province, Liberal leader Patrick McGeer said Tuesday.

He made the proposal in the Legislature during the debate on recreation department estimates, and immediately spokesmen for the government and the NDP made it clear they opposed water export.

Dr. McGeer accused the government of "putting its head in the sand" and refusing even to think about acceding to American demands for use of water storage in this province.

10 FOR C

He said the Liberals believed negotiations with the U.S. could result in B.C. obtaining up to 10 acres of choice property in places like Hawaii for every acre of this province flooded to provide storage to meet American water needs.

The Liberal leader was also critical of the stand taken by Resources Minister Ray Williston, who has flatly opposed the giant NAWAPA scheme, a \$100,000,000,000 plan to flood large areas of B.C. including cities like Prince George, to provide water storage for the parched southwestern U.S.

Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan said he opposed a start in negotiations with the U.S., and added that to begin talks on the basis of a land-for-land swap would leave B.C. "virtually committed to some kind of deal."

JUSTIFICATION

"If the U.S. was literally dying for lack of water," the minister added, "there might be some justification for negotiations on the question of water export. But the U.S. has plenty of water if it only stops wasting what it has and cleans up pollution."

Mr. Kiernan added that within a few years he believed even the threat of water shortage in dry regions of the U.S. would disappear as the process of making fresh water from the sea was perfected.

David Barrett (NDP-Coquitlam) said the NDP favored "no talk of negotiation, no talk of land exchanges, the continuation of clear statements from this province that there is no way the U.S. will get our water."

NO WIND HERE

"If the Liberals are trying to fly a kite," Mr. Barrett added, "let them know that there is no wind around here to get it off the ground."

He said it was up to Dr. McGeer to decide whether he wanted "to take his political career in his hands" by making the question of water export part of the Liberal platform in the next provincial election.

Handicapped

Survey Notes Chances

Industrial Development Minister Waldo Skillings filed a preliminary survey Tuesday in the Legislature on employment opportunities for handicapped persons in B.C.

The report says a single coordinating agency to find jobs for the handicapped should be established, and sets out definitions for a pilot project study on the question.

PROBLEMS LATER

The report notes that 23,000 B.C. children are known to have some disability which will complicate their employment opportunities later in life. Between the ages of 18 and 65, there are about 3,300 handicapped persons looking for jobs to get them off the social welfare rolls.

A questionnaire survey of 743 employers, to which about half replied, shows that about 22 per cent now employ handicapped persons. Fifty-three per cent said they would be willing to hire the handicapped.

'Stupid' Clash Raises Storm

By CLEMENT CHAPPLE

A "stupid" dispute between the government and the province's pharmacists has left welfare recipients holding the high price-tag of drugs, an NDP member charged Tuesday in the Legislature.

David Barrett (NDP—Coquitlam) singled out Welfare Min-

ister Dan Campbell as being instrumental in the failure of the government to agree with the pharmacists on the service charge for dispensing welfare drugs, some of which carry a \$1 surcharge beginning April 15, according to a pharmacists' announcement.

Mr. Campbell quickly accused Mr. Barrett of standing "four-square" for the fee-for-service system that pharmacists were hoping to achieve, and of proposing a fee increase "on behalf of the drug industry."

MONDAY CLAIM

He repeated a statement made Monday that B.C. would not accept a fee-for-service arrangement, and later added that alternatives being examined at present did not include any surcharge.

Mr. Barrett denied that he was standing being the drug industry. "The minister is twisting the argument. Hundreds of thousands of people now are caught in the middle of a debate that has been going on for three years. The government are being stupid, the pharmacists are being stupid and the people caught in the middle are the people on social welfare," he said.

Two press releases issued Monday and Tuesday by the B.C. Professional Pharmacists' Society announced that a \$1 surcharge would be made on welfare prescriptions effective April 1. Mr. Campbell said in the House that he was not prepared to get involved in "press release warfare" with the pharmacists.

LOW PRICE

Mr. Campbell explained the cost to government of welfare drugs bought in drugstores this way: wholesale price of drug plus 66.2-3 per cent of this, plus 50 cents (dispensing fee) plus 25 cents "breakage," the whole discounted by 15 per cent. Mr. Campbell would not explain the "breakage" aspect.

Dr. Ray Parkinson (NDP—Vancouver Burrard) said that in order to receive low-priced welfare drugs, the recipient had to obtain them through the government dispensing agency and therefore did not enjoy the same right of choice as non-welfare people. "Welfare recipients deserve to be treated

identically to other people," Dr. Parkinson said.

Mr. Campbell insisted that welfare recipients got the same standard of drugs as anyone else.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the government should set up a provincial pharmacy to purchase drugs wholesale, sometimes by import to evade the high cost which sometimes represented 100 times the real cost. Mr. Macdonald added the government was doing nothing to break the "drug monopoly."

"It's not the pharmacists" that are being paid too much, "It's the monopoly drug manufacturers," he said.

'Ministers-Without' Nearly Do Without Session to Finish Today

The third session of the 28th legislative assembly of British Columbia is expected to wind up today after a sitting which lasted 70 days. This is just three days short of the length of the record 1968 session.

The Tuesday night sitting ended in confusion shortly after 11:15 p.m. when the \$6,000 salary for each of the four ministers without portfolio just squeaked through the House by a vote of 24 to 22.

Before the vote could be completed some confusion in the government ranks which saw cabinet ministers and backbenchers unable to fathom what motion they were voting on, prompted cries of "resign, resign" from the opposition.

The government was caught off guard by the NDP tactic which produced only one question instead of the criticism that the ministers without portfolio estimates have produced in the past two sessions.

Norm Levi (NDP—Vancouver South) said: "They (ministers without portfolio) appear to be public relations people and serve no useful function on behalf of the people of this province. That is why we are voting against their salaries."

Premier Bennett then called the next set of estimates, covering operations of the Public Utilities Commission, but after a few minutes withdrew them because he told the House he had not been aware of a prior arrangement between party whips which guaranteed adjournment after the ministers without portfolio had been dealt with.

B.C. Fact-Finder:

Police Brutality Allegations Without Proof

Allegations of police brutality against Indians at Sechelt which were brought to the attention of MLAs earlier this session by Tom Berger (NDP-Burrard) are unfounded as far as the man who investigated them can tell, the Legislature was told Tuesday night.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson filed a 60-page report dealing with the alleged incidents involving members of the Sechelt RCMP detachment as the House recessed for the dinner hour. It was prepared by departmental inspector Archie Plummer who interviewed 62 people to obtain his findings.

PRESS MEETING

Mr. Peterson said later that "from a quick perusal" of the report he found it showed that not only were allegations of police brutality unfounded, but so were claims by Mr. Berger and others that Sechelt RCMP were "indifferent" to the needs and rights of Indians.

Later, Mr. Berger told a press conference the report was "partisan" and obviously in-

tended to intimidate the Indians so they would not continue to press their complaints against police officers.

"The Indians were entitled to an independent inquiry and an impartial report," the NDP member said. "Instead they have received a partisan report by a government which has shown itself incapable of looking into any subject in an impartial way."

'A DISSERVICE'

Mr. Berger also criticized the report for probing the private affairs of the Sechelt Indian band, which he claimed are "none of the attorney-general's business."

"I personally think," the attorney-general said, "Mr. Berger has done a great disservice to the Indians living on the Sechelt Peninsula as well as to the RCMP in that area."

Mr. Peterson said he has forwarded copies of Mr. Plummer's report to Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chretien in Ottawa, as well as to RCMP, the

Indian affairs department's regional director, J. V. Boys, and Chief Henry Paul of the Sechelt band.

The final paragraph of Mr. Plummer's report stated:

"As far as I have gone, these allegations (of police brutality) appear to be unfounded, but I suggest that inquiries be continued to establish the genuineness or otherwise of the complaints; keeping in mind the possibility of mischief charges under the Criminal Code."

HUSHED HOUSE

Mr. Berger told a hushed House on Feb. 23 about 18 months of alleged police brutality involving the RCMP and the Sechelt Indian band. He claimed that despite complaints to the attorney-general's department by band manager Clarence Joe, "cases of abuse of police power" had continued.

The NDP member said he was hesitant about giving details to the Legislature, but did so after personal investigation and trips to Sechelt. He then recounted a series of incidents in which it was alleged Indians had been threatened and assaulted by police.

LETTER MATTER

The report by Mr. Plummer contained a copy of a letter to Mr. Joe, dated Dec. 11, 1968, in which assistant deputy attorney-general A. L. Pearson requested further details of matters discussed with the Sechelt band manager in Victoria. There was no reply.

On the following day, the report said, Mr. Pearson advised RCMP headquarters that Mr. Joe had complained about the head of the RCMP detachment in Sechelt laying unnecessary charges and about lack of interest in Indians. An RCMP investigation was begun in February but was discontinued when Mr. Berger made his charges in the Legislature.

Starting March 3, Mr. Plummer said, he went to Sechelt and interviewed a total of 35 Indians and 27 non-Indians.

The report said: "Contrary to what might be deduced from Mr. Berger's letter, there is good rapport between the vast majority of residents in the village (of Sechelt) and the reserve and by both groups with the police."

It added that none of the 27 non-Indians would agree with claims that relationship between Indians and the village, or Indians and the police, had deteriorated. Most said relations were actually improving.

ALL SEVEN

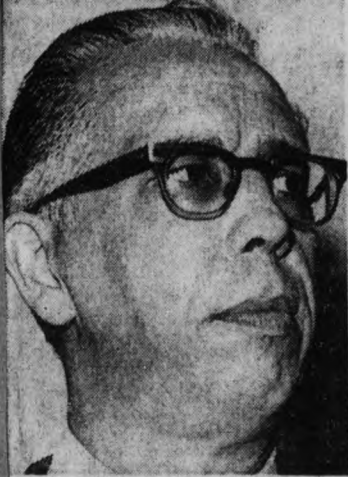
The report concluded that the investigator said it was most significant all seven members of the detachment were alleged to have been involved in the incidents.

Mr. Plummer said: "If these allegations are true, we have the unlikely coincidence that all seven members of the detachment are brutal."

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1969

11th-Hour Uproar Over Alleged Fees

House Censures, Ousts NDPer



Suspended Dowding

Accuser Capozzi

Wild Climax For Session

● Five ministers tell about flights. Page 6.

By IAN STREET, Legislative Reporter

A New Democratic Party MLA was censured for breach of parliamentary privilege Wednesday and suspended but only for the final sittings of the Legislature in what parliamentary experts termed an unprecedented move in B.C.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby Edmonds), a 51-year-old lawyer who has sat in the Legislature since 1956, was ordered to leave the chamber by Speaker William Murray after a motion of censure put forward by Herb Capozzi (SC—Vancouver Centre) was approved by a 30-21 vote.

The motion was based upon allegations by Mr. Capozzi that the NDP member was guilty of a breach of privilege of the House because partners in his law firm had earned fees in 1966 for passage of a bill through the Legislature setting up an insurance company.

Mr. Dowding told the House that at the time the events mentioned had occurred, he had declared his firm's interest and refrained from voting on or dealing with the bill in any way as an MLA. He was a member of the private bills committee in 1966.

The NDP member absented himself from the chamber during the vote on the censure motion in which he was supported by his NDP colleagues and the six Liberal MLAs on grounds that Mr. Capozzi had not proved his charges nor had the House been given adequate time to consider them or call possible witnesses.

TENSE HOURS

The debate, lasting nearly 2½ tense hours, came as MLAs were preparing to wind up the legislative session and return to their homes for Easter. It was punctuated by three recesses, the longest lasting 47 minutes, while the speaker and Mr. Dowding examined documents produced by Mr. Capozzi.

At one stage, Premier Bennett urged the Socred backbencher to withdraw his motion, and he was supported by Mr. Strachan. But then former highways minister P. A. Gagliardi got up to declare that he, too, joined the appeal for withdrawal, even though Mr. Dowding put him through "seven weeks of hell" during a legislative committee hearing on alleged irregularities in highways matters in 1963.

I BLEED'

"I bleed for this member."

Mr. Gagliardi said, "and I ask that mercy be shown."

Mr. Strachan, flushed with anger, jumped to his feet and declared that on the basis of Mr. Gagliardi's statement, he would withdraw his appeal to Mr. Capozzi.

The premier, who also reacted with a flash of anger, said, "We have tried to be non-partisan, but since the Leader of the Opposition has gone contrary to the leader of the government, I no longer ask the member (Mr. Capozzi) to withdraw."

'GET' MEMBER

Mr. Strachan told the House at one stage in the debate, "In view of the statement made by the member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Capozzi) that some three or four weeks ago the minister of trade said to me that he was going to get this member, that it is government policy, I want the answer from the premier right now."

In a press conference later, Mr. Strachan called the censure vote a "despicable attack" on Mr. Dowding and "a partisan political action" designed to "get" the NDP member for his effectiveness in exposing government blunders and misconduct, especially in relation to the Commonwealth Trust affair.

NDP TELEGRAM

The NDP leader then released the text of a telegram which he sent to a nominating convention which is being held in Mr. Dowding's riding of Burnaby Edmonds Wednesday night. The wire said: "I want you to know that as the leader of this party I support Gordon Dowding unequivocally."

"The caucus supports Gordon Dowding and we urge upon you his renomination as candidate for the New Democratic Party. I also predict that he will double his majority. We cannot allow a ruthless government

CONT'D PAGE NEXT PAGE

majority to intimidate opposition members."

Mr. Capozzi asked leave for the House to recess while he considered whether he should withdraw his censure motion, which was seconded by Don Phillips (S-C-South Peace River). The motion read: "I move that the member for Burnaby Edmonds be admonished by the speaker and suspended from the service of this House for the remainder of the session."

'NO ALTERNATIVE'

After a wait of nearly 15 minutes, the House reconvened and the Sacred backbencher said that in view of the speaker's ruling that there appeared to be a prima facie case of breach of parliamentary privilege, "I have no alternative but to let the motion stand." Government members held a brief caucus during the recess. After the vote was taken, the speaker ordered another brief recess while Mr. Dowding was notified of the result and ordered to reappear in the House to receive the censure.

Mr. Murray said to the hushed chamber: "Will the Honorable member for Burnaby Edmonds please stand in his place?"

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

When Mr. Dowding complied, the speaker told him: "Mr. Member, pursuant to the order of this House, the chair is now called upon to censure you for a breach of the privileges of parliament, namely that you were a partner in a firm which acknowledged receipt of pecuniary reward for services involving the enactment of legislation.

"In accordance with the said order, you are suspended from the service of this House for the remainder of this session."

As Mr. Dowding walked from the chamber, past the silent and grim members on the government side, NDP and Liberal MLAs pounded their desks to show their disagreement with the action. David Barrett (NDP-Cogitlam) called out: "Shame!"

NOTHING WRONG

Later, at the NDP press conference, Mr. Dowding said he believed he had done nothing wrong.

"The only thing I regret is that I will now be unable to proceed with my bill on Commonwealth Trust, a bill which would correct the government's failure to properly supervise this company."

He added: "The government now knows I will not be in the House, and with the sponsor missing the bill cannot be proceeded with."

BEHIND HIM

Mr. Strachan told the press conference: "I stand behind Mr. Dowding and this party stands behind him 100 per cent. We have absolute faith in his integrity."

"This is the political death rattle of a government that has disloyal time after time that is out to get this member for exposing its mishandling of its duties."

"The speaker had no alternative but to follow the dictates of the government majority."

FOR WEEKS

"But we have known for weeks that the government members had this material. A government minister told me in the corridors of this Legislature three or four weeks ago that they were going to 'get Dowding.' He had in his hand at the time the papers Mr. Capozzi used today."

"It is one of the most despicable things to force through a motion of this kind without proof, to not give him an opportunity to testify that the documents used were not related to him. They used nothing more than a debatable technicality."

Mr. Dowding said at the press conference that he "might" have benefited personally from the business done by his law firm partners in promoting a private bill for the establishment of Southwest Mortgage Indemnity Corporation in 1966.

IN ANY WAY

However, he said, he had believed that he did all that was necessary by declaring openly and fully his connection with the law firm handling the bill, and not taking part in deliberations upon it as an MLA in any way.

Mr. Dowding said he had not been aware of the obscure rule in May's Parliamentary Procedure which Mr. Capozzi claimed made it improper for any partner of a member to gain pecuniary benefits through promotion of a bill.

After studying the material tabled by Mr. Capozzi in the House, the speaker told MLAs on his return: "I regret having delayed the business of this House, but the seriousness of the allegations presented made it necessary to hear representations made in camera from the member."

SALIENT FACTS

"I find on the basis of the material placed before me, while some of it is irrelevant, there is on the face of it a breach of parliamentary privilege. However, there are certain salient facts with which members of this House should be acquainted before it votes on order."

"The member was a member of the private bills committee in 1966. He made it abundantly clear to that committee he would neither vote nor attempt to persuade the committee on the bill. It seems that the deposit in connection with the bill was submitted to his firm, and for that reason he explained he did not want to be involved."

INSUFFICIENT TIME

"Secondly, it was a matter before the previous parliament and I haven't had time to decide whether this is a factor. Each member must decide for himself when he votes on this motion. Under the circumstances, I must find that a breach of privilege has occurred. With these reservations I find the motion by the member for Vancouver Centre is in order."

E. K. DeBeck, clerk of the Legislature, said he knew of no precedent for the passage of a censure motion against an MLA in the B.C. Legislature.

SOME NAMED

However, MLAs have been suspended or "named" by the speaker for misconduct in the House. The last of these was former North Vancouver Liberal MLA Gordon Gibson, who charged in 1955 that "money talks" in connection with the issue of forest management licences.

Mr. Dowding will receive his full sessional indemnity of \$8,000 because he had already met the requirement of attending a minimum of 40 sitting days in the session, which has spanned 70 days.

Immediately after the House began the afternoon sitting, Mr. Capozzi rose on a matter of privilege to make his charges. He read from copies of invoices which he claimed recorded the payment of \$9,225 in fees to the

law firm in which Mr. Dowding is a senior partner for promoting the insurance company incorporation in the Legislature.

ACTUAL AMOUNT

Later, however, the Sacred backbencher admitted after Mr. Dowding had the documents and complained that the amount involved was actually \$2,500, of which \$1,700 was for advertising, that he did not know what the fee was and apologized for any wrong inference.

At one point in the debate, Mr. Dowding said: "The honorable member is abusing the privileges of this House. The statement he makes is false, absolutely false. He has no right to make these statements here. If he makes these statements outside the House, I will be pleased to take appropriate action. What he says is absolutely false."

DECISION APPROVED

The NDP member said the chairman of the private bills committee in 1966 had been former Sacred MLA Alex Matthew, who had approved his decision not to have anything to do with the passage of the insurance company incorporation bill, which had been sponsored by another former Sacred MLA, Bert Price, then member for Burrard.

Mr. Capozzi said the bill for services rendered in incorporation of the insurance company had been dictated by Mr. Dowding and signed by Mr. Dowding. He said there was no harm in an MLA sponsoring a private bill, but added that it was "reprehensible" for an MLA to render a bill for appearances before a committee.

FIRM'S LETTERHEAD

Mr. Dowding said later that he had examined the invoice presented by Mr. Capozzi and agreed that it did contain his firm's name and letterhead. He said it did not contain his signature but he could only surmise that someone had signed his name in accordance with the usual practice of law firms in placing the name of the senior member on pleadings and other legal documents.

"Someone wrote my name on it, but it was not in my handwriting," the NDP member said.

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"It is a matter of intense regret that a matter of this kind should be brought up. We leave it to government conscience to decide what to do on this matter. But we say from our point of view that we haven't been given an opportunity to consider the merits one way or the other. We think that individual members have been placed in an impossible position if this matter is brought to a vote."

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"I have great respect for parliament," said Mr. Dowding. "I have always tried to disclose any interest, direct or indirect. But I leave the matter to this House and I say that I regret that the honorable member did not see fit to bring it to me first, so that I could do whatever I could to straighten out the facts and have time to investigate what he was talking about, so that we might bring it up before a committee on privileges so that we could air it completely."

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tion of the province's three public universities. It was commissioned by Leslie Peterson when he was education minister more than a year ago.

Mr. Brothers divulged none of the report's recommendations in an interview Tuesday.

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The report will be considered by the cabinet. "... and then we'll decide whether to make it public," said Mr. Brothers.

majority to intimidate opposition members."

Mr. Capozzi asked leave for the House to recess while he considered whether he should withdraw his censure motion, which was seconded by Don Phillips (S-C-South Peace River). The motion read: "I move that the member for Burnaby Edmonds be admonished by the speaker and suspended from the service of this House for the remainder of the session."

'NO ALTERNATIVE'

After a wait of nearly 15 minutes, the House reconvened and the Sacred backbencher said that in view of the speaker's ruling that there appeared to be a prima facie case of breach of parliamentary privilege, "I have no alternative but to let the motion stand." Government members held a brief caucus during the recess.

After the vote was taken, the speaker ordered another brief recess while Mr. Dowding was notified of the result and ordered to reappear in the House to receive the censure.

Mr. Murray said to the hushed chamber: "Will the Honorable member for Burnaby Edmonds please stand in his place?"

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

When Mr. Dowding complied, the speaker told him: "Mr. Member, pursuant to the order of this House, the chair is now called upon to censure you for a breach of the privileges of parliament, namely that you were a partner in a firm which acknowledged receipt of pecuniary reward for services involving the enactment of legislation. "In accordance with the said order, you are suspended from the service of this House for the remainder of this session."

As Mr. Dowding walked from the chamber, past the silent and grim members on the government side, NDP and Liberal MLAs pounded their desks to show their disagreement with the action. David Barrett (NDP-Coquitlam) called out: "Shame!"

NOTHING WRONG

Later, at the NDP press conference, Mr. Dowding said he believed he had done nothing wrong.

"The only thing I regret is that I will now be unable to proceed with my bill on Commonwealth Trust, a bill which would correct the government's failure to properly supervise this company."

He added: "The government now knows I will not be in the House, and with the sponsor missing the bill cannot be proceeded with."

BEHIND HIM

Mr. Strachan told the press conference: "I stand behind Mr. Dowding and this party stands behind him 100 per cent. We have absolute faith in his integrity."

"This is the political death rattle of a government that has disloyal time after time that is out to get this member for exposing its mishandling of its duties."

"The speaker had no alternative but to follow the dictates of the government majority."

FOR WEEKS

"But we have known for weeks that the government members had this material. A government minister told me in the corridors of this Legislature three or four weeks ago that they were going to 'get Dowding.' He had in his hand at the time the papers Mr. Capozzi used today."

"It is one of the most despicable things to force through a motion of this kind without proof, to not give him an opportunity to testify that the documents used were not related to him. They used nothing more than a debatable technicality."

Mr. Dowding said at the press conference that he "might" have benefited personally from the business done by his law firm partners in promoting a private bill for the establishment of Southwest Mortgage Indemnity Corporation in 1966.

IN ANY WAY

However, he said, he had believed that he did all that was necessary by declaring openly and fully his connection with the law firm handling the bill, and not taking part in deliberations upon it as an MLA in any way.

Mr. Dowding said he had not been aware of the obscure rule in May's Parliamentary Procedure which Mr. Capozzi claimed made it improper for any partner of a member to gain pecuniary benefits through promotion of a bill.

After studying the material tabled by Mr. Capozzi in the House, the speaker told MLAs on his return: "I regret having delayed the business of this House, but the seriousness of the allegations presented made it necessary to hear representations made in camera from the member."

SALIENT FACTS

"I find on the basis of the material placed before me, while some of it is irrelevant, there is on the face of it a breach of parliamentary privilege. However, there are certain salient facts with which members of this House should be acquainted before it votes on order."

"The member was a member of the private bills committee in 1966. He made it abundantly clear to that committee he would neither vote nor attempt to persuade the committee on the bill. It seems that the deposit in connection with the bill was submitted to his firm, and for that reason he explained he did not want to be involved."

INSUFFICIENT TIME

"Secondly, it was a matter before the previous parliament and I haven't had time to decide whether this is a factor. Each member must decide for himself when he votes on this motion. Under the circumstances, I must find that a breach of privilege has occurred. With these reservations I find the motion by the member for Vancouver Centre is in order."

E. K. DeBeck, clerk of the Legislature, said he knew of no precedent for the passage of a censure motion against an MLA in the B.C. Legislature.

SOME NAMED

However, MLAs have been suspended or "named" by the speaker for misconduct in the House. The last of these was former North Vancouver Liberal MLA Gordon Gibson, who charged in 1955 that "money talks" in connection with the issue of forest management licences.

Mr. Dowding will receive his full sessional indemnity of \$8,000 because he had already met the requirement of attending a minimum of 40 sitting days in the session, which has spanned 70 days.

Immediately after the House began the afternoon sitting, Mr. Capozzi rose on a matter of privilege to make his charges. He read from copies of invoices which he claimed recorded the payment of \$9,225 in fees to the

law firm in which Mr. Dowding is a senior partner for promoting the insurance company incorporation in the Legislature.

ACTUAL AMOUNT

Later, however, the Sacred backbencher admitted after Mr. Dowding had the documents and complained that the amount involved was actually \$2,500, of which \$1,700 was for advertising, that he did not know what the fee was and apologized for any wrong inference.

At one point in the debate, Mr. Dowding said: "The honorable member is abusing the privileges of this House. The statement he makes is false, absolutely false. He has no right to make these statements here."

"If he makes these statements outside the House, I will be pleased to take appropriate action. What he says is absolutely false."

DECISION APPROVED

The NDP member said the chairman of the private bills committee in 1966 had been former Sacred MLA Alex Mathew, who had approved his decision not to have anything to do with the passage of the insurance company incorporation bill, which had been sponsored by another former Sacred MLA, Bert Price, then member for Burrard.

Mr. Capozzi said the bill for services rendered in incorporation of the insurance company had been dictated by Mr. Dowding and signed by Mr. Dowding. He said there was no harm in an MLA sponsoring a private bill, but added that it was "reprehensible" for an MLA to render a bill for appearances before a committee.

FIRM'S LETTERHEAD

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B.C. Aircraft Flight Cost Higher Than Route Fare

The Legislature's public accounts committee was told Wednesday that the one-way cost to the taxpayer for flying a single cabinet minister by government aircraft to Victoria from Vancouver exceeded \$32.

David Barrett (NDP—Coquitlam) told the committee he arrived at this estimate by using cost figures supplied by highways department officials which indicated it cost approximately \$5.75 for each of the five passengers on the Vancouver-Victoria flight. The figures did not include overhead.

IN MARCH

The NDP member cited official aircraft logs which showed that during the month of March, 1968, government planes made a total of 13 flights across Georgia Strait. Nine of these flights carried only one passenger, three had two passengers and one had three passengers.

Mr. Barrett said the \$32 one-way cost of a single trip by government aircraft compared with the \$10 one-way Vancouver-Victoria fare by Air Canada, which he said offered nine flights each way daily.

KAMLOOPS COST

He said the government figures also showed a cost to the taxpayer of \$162.50 to carry single passenger from Victoria to Kamloops. The commercial one-way air fare to Kamloops is \$29.

The NDP's other comparative fares are: Prince Rupert, one-way commercial fare, \$53, government cost for a single-passenger flight, \$412.50.

Highways department controller Alan Rhodes provided the committee with cost estimates for operation of government aircraft ranging from 13 cents to 14.3 cents per seat mile. He said the costs did not include overhead or other fixed charges, but he disagreed that the addition of these cost factors would approximately double the costs given.

Health Minister Ralph Loffmark said opposition comments on what he called "short trip costs", using government aircraft did not take into account substantial savings of taxpayers' money on lengthy trips, some of which carried civil servants to points throughout B.C. not served by commercial airlines.

CIVIL SERVICE

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan commented: "It looks like a very efficient service for the members of the civil service, and a luxury for the cabinet ministers."

The committee then heard testimony from four ministers without portfolio — Grace McCarthy, Isabel Dawson, Patricia Jordan and Philip Gaglardi — who have been criticized for making what the opposition

alleged to be improper use of travel privileges on government planes.

SHE'S HOPING

Mrs. McCarthy told the committee she would like to correct some statements by opposition members and added that she hoped the hearing would not degenerate into mere "harassment of cabinet ministers."

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby Edmonds) replied: "We won't harass the witness, if she doesn't harass us."

'NO RELATION'

Mrs. McCarthy, who according to aircraft logs made a total of 79 flights by government plane between Vancouver and Victoria last year, said opposition criticism bore no relation to "businesslike administration."

She told the committee if her plane flew from Victoria to Vancouver carrying other passengers on government business, it was "still more reasonable to carry one minister back to Victoria than send the plane back empty."

The minister was asked if she had instructed her office staff to check commercial flights before reserving space on the government aircraft. She replied: "If it is a question of my druthers, I'd druther use a government plane."

Mrs. Dawson said she seldom used government planes, preferring to travel back and forth between Victoria and her home in Powell River by car and ferry.

She said a standing instruction had been issued to her secretary to check all forms of transportation before making a travel choice.

Mrs. Jordan said she endorsed "a good deal" of what Mrs. McCarthy said. She added that the criterion used by her staff in making travel arrangements was "how best to get there, most efficiently on the most reasonable basis."

BROAD SENSE

Asked whether she had issued instructions for her staff to check commercial flights before reserving on government planes, Mrs. Jordan replied, "In the broadest sense, yes."

Mr. Loffmark told the committee he made 160 single trips between Vancouver and Victoria last year. Thirty of these trips were by government aircraft, nine by commercial flights, and the remaining three-quarters by B.C. Ferries.

EASIEST WAY

The minister said he made a practice of travelling by ferry to most of the twice-weekly cabinet meetings held in Victoria because "this happened to be the cheapest and easiest way."

Opposition MLAs commended Mr. Loffmark, who at the time held the portfolio of trade and industry, for making this kind



Jordan

of travel arrangement when ministers without any portfolio had to travel largely by government aircraft.

LEAR LEASED

Mr. Gaglardi, a former highways minister, also appeared before the committee and discussed the trip he took in the leased Lear jet to Anchorage, Alaska, via Whitehorse.

He said he took his son and two other businessmen along as guests on the trip, which resulted from a request by then Alaska Governor Walter Hickel that he address a conference of Christians in government, and discussions on paving of the Alaska Highway.

The committee filed its report in the Legislature Wednesday afternoon, but made no comment on its investigations into either Mr. Gaglardi's hotel bills in Vancouver or use of aircraft by ministers.

Tobacco Idea Dies Anyway

Private-Bill Disdain Softens

The traditional government disdain for private members' bills relaxed momentarily into approval Wednesday night during a backbencher's attempt to give anti-smoking promotion "equal time."

Non-smoker Premier Bennett voiced his approval for a bill by James Chabot (SC—Columbia River) designed to "bring the advertising of tobacco back to reality."

Premier Bennett informed the House that "the government

accepts the bill," fully aware that as the session ended, the bill would never again see third reading or the light of day.

Mr. Chabot's bill, one of the two dozen rammed into oblivion on the session's last day, would have given equal time on television to the dangers of smoking tobacco whenever a tobacco advertisement was broadcast.

Health Minister Ralph Loffmark, commenting on the often-mentioned possibility of constitutional illegality of provincial bans on cigarette ads, said he also supported the bill. A federal-provincial conference of health ministers, he said, had endorsed a war on tobacco ads.

THE ARGUMENT

One way or another, he said, the constitutional conundrum would be resolved. The argument is that radio and television broadcasting cannot as yet be controlled by either the federal or the provincial jurisdictions.

Indian MLA Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin) added that tobacco was a North American invention. "I'm very sorry you don't like our poison," he said, "but I sure like your fire-water."

Sole disagreement for the bill came from David Stupich (NDP—Nanaimo) who said that if the province curtailed tobacco advertising, the tobacco interests would move their

business across the border to U.S. radio and television stations.

The House might have waived its rules and pushed the bill through to finality, but Mr.

Chabot inexplicably called for third reading at the next sitting of the House "after today," and the bill vanished in the midst of laughter.



Chabot

Billion-Dollar Session Prorogues

Finale Bitter Sweet

By CLEMENT CHAPPEL

The 28th session of the B.C. Legislature wound up its business at 8:51 p.m. Wednesday in a mixed atmosphere of ceremony and joviality.

Within the next hour, Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson had arrived, read the closing speech, summing up the session's achievements, and departed.

Following a rare censure motion of a New Democratic Party MLA in the afternoon sitting, the House heard humorous debate on the remainder of private members' bills in the evening, most of which died with the session. (See stories on Page 7.)

Besides private bills and motions, the only business left after the censure motion was the spending estimates of the Public Utilities Commission. The \$490,826 vote passed without a word of debate from the opposition side, stunned into silence after Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby Edmonds) strode from the House to the desk-thumping of the NDP and Liberals.

The government passed 47

bills, answered 196 formal questions, sat a total of 72 sittings over 49 sitting days, and put through B.C.'s first billion-dollar budget.

Mr. Nicholson made the ironic slip of calling the budget "million" instead of "billion." His speech, authored by the government, singled out the \$130,000,000 Revenue Surplus Appropriation Act for "particular notice."

When the 10-minute ceremony finished, several handfuls of paper rained down from the galleries amid general desk-thumping.

One of the 13 motions remaining on the order paper, put forward by Liberal leader Patrick McGeer, called for appointment of a special committee of the Legislature to investigate the whole of the Commonwealth Trust Company "fiasco."

Dr. McGeer said it was "disgraceful" that prorogation day was the only chance given him to raise "the most important resolution in years."

"The business of this House is not complete until we know about Commonwealth Trust," he said.

Speaker William Murray

said it was "quite impossible" to accept the motion because of the short time remaining in the session. Premier Bennett said he would be willing to continue the debate if attorney-general Leslie Peterson found it necessary, but Mr. Peterson said "we concur" with the speaker's ruling.

Mr. Peterson said that two non-civil-servant lawyers had been added to the Commonwealth investigation being carried out under the Securities Act.

David Barrett (NDP—Coquitlam) said the government could still call a committee to sit after the session ended, and if the government was "truly concerned" it would name a committee. The government was trying to "hide behind prorogation," Mr. Barrett said.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the government was "afraid because you don't want the light of day to shine on this matter."

Closing debate on his motion, Dr. McGeer said that while recognition of "abuses" had been made, the government had rewarded Commonwealth Trust instead of castigating it.

Among the 26 private members' bills voted down, left to die on the order paper or ruled out of order were bills to appoint an ombudsman, provide for full disclosure of election campaign funds, create a reclamation commission on strip mining, lower the "age of majority" from 21 years to 19 years and allow private citizens to sue the crown.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan, speaking to his motion to have complete financial statements tabled in the House of the B.C. Medical Plan up to June 30, 1968, said the plan was in "chaos" and this was the reason the information was not tabled.

"It's unbelievable that we have an operation carried on this way," Mr. Strachan said. "The reason they can't give the information is because of the chaos, and I've been told by members in the department that the service is in chaos."