

MAR

1966

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1966

Rent-Purchase Plan

Home Gift To Reach \$300 Peak

Premier Bennett said Monday the government is "studying" a rent-purchase plan for persons unable to raise a down payment to purchase their own houses, and that the homeowner grant would be increased to \$150, to \$200 and to \$300.

The remarks came while the legislature was considering second reading of a bill to increase the homeowners grant by \$10 to \$110.

The bill passed second reading by unanimous consent of the House.

OTHERS ADVANCE

Three other bills also passed second reading but resulted in a concerted opposition attack on the government and at one point a "yes" reply from the premier that he was electioneering.

The other bills were to pay off the B.C. Ferry Authority debt, to increase by \$4 the provincial per-capita grant to municipalities, and increased subsidies for the provincial medical care scheme.

Mr. Bennett, after several opposition MLAs called for some aid to renters, told the House:

"I'm making no promises. I am only reporting to the House it (rent-purchase plan) is being studied."

He said under such a scheme more people would be eligible to receive the homeowner grant.

NOT ENOUGH

Opposition leader Strachan agreed the grant helps but it is not enough to meet rising assessment rates in many areas.

Liberal leader Ray Parrrault and Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) said giving the grant only to homeowners "discriminates" against the growing population of renters.

Alan Macfarlane (L, Oak Bay) said the government's refusal to extend the grant to renters could only be construed to mean that the government was "not prepared to help the little man who rents."

POLICY FLEXIBLE

While discussing the raise of \$4 in provincial per capita grants, Mr. Bennett denied a statement by Mr. Strachan that the government had earmarked sales tax money for municipalities.

Government policy, he said, is flexible with regard to financial aid to municipalities.

"We live in a changing world," the premier said.

"You must have dynamic policies for a dynamic society."

"Municipalities and the people of this province can always expect more every year."

'CAMPAIN SPEECH?'

Mr. Perrault interjected: "Is that a campaign speech?"

"Yes," the premier shot back.

Mr. Perrault termed the grant principle "penny ante" and "penny-pinching."

He charged that the government has "a collective guilt complex in its treatment of municipalities."

Dr. Pat McGeer (L, Vancouver-Point Grey) said there would be no solution without a "complete new approach to (municipal) financing."

"Fixed grants, like per capita grants," said Mr. Macfarlane, "will never solve the problem."

Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell issued a challenge that the Union of B.C. Municipalities or any other municipal group offer a better financing formula than is now in use.

Mr. Strachan answered with another challenge: that the government include in the bill the \$12,000,000 more coming to municipalities if the previous formula—denied by Mr. Bennett—were used.

Mr. Strachan said under that formula, a combination of sales tax and car licence money, the government would be giving \$35,000,000 to municipalities and not the \$23,000,000 in this year's budget.

Dudley Little (SC, Skeena) cast the only dissenting vote when the debate ended. He did not speak in the debate to explain his position.

An opening statement that the bill providing for \$37,000,000 to pay off the ferry debt would mean rates would not go up came in for attack by opposition speakers.

Mr. Strachan complained that "we are not allowed access to the accounts of the ferry authority" and that the premier had said many times the crown corporation was self-supporting.

It is now obvious, Mr. Strachan said, that the claims "were untrue."

He charged that government management of the fleet "deliberately destroyed" the workers as a bargaining unit by bringing them under civil service legislation.

The premier answered the charges with one of his own — the opposition is "trying to mislead."

He said a 1961 Public Bodies

Act provides that such corporations must make full financial reports and "never once did I say . . . public money would not go into the ferry authority."

Mr. Bennett said a two and a half per cent subsidy is included in the act establishing the authority and that the lump sum payment does the same subsidizing job but in only one year.

To charges that ferry workers work odd hours and get few weekends off, he said:

"Nowhere else are conditions so good as in our ferry fleet."

"Every single person sleeps in their own bed every night — or at least I hope they do."

He recovered from the ensuing laughter by saying those who don't sleep in their own beds are likely in hotels while going about their business and Canada's business.

There were increased costs, he said, basically increased wages for ferry employees who could see the manager at any time — "the door is always open."

Welfare Minister and Provincial Secretary Black told the House that increased aid in the Medical Grant Act would involve about 64,000 persons covered by the B.C. medical plan.

The bill provides a subsidy of 90 per cent subsidy who are not liable to pay income tax.

It gives a 50 per cent subsidy for those who originally got a 25 per cent subsidy and whose taxable income was less than \$1,000.

Mr. Black said there are 95,944 subscribers to the plan which covers 198,244 persons including dependents.

The 90 per cent subsidy will be given to 51,716 persons and the 50 per cent subsidy to 12,646.

However, Mr. Macdonald thought the government was not going far enough.

"I only wish we could drag this government, kicking and screaming as they may be, into national medicare," he said.

"Why should we divide people into classes?"

He predicted that unless the government came up with a universal plan and premiums were removed that "premiums will pull this government down at the polls."

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1966

B.C. Plans Step

Pension Boost Due For Some Servants

The B.C. government intends to boost pensions for former civil servants who don't qualify for Canada Pension Plan benefits.

The legislature gave first reading Monday to bills introduced by Provincial Secretary Wesley Black, which will integrate the Canada Pension Plan so that monthly deductions for civil servants, teachers and municipal employees will be no higher than they were before the plan came into effect Jan. 1.

A bill to amend the Civil Servants Superannuation Act provides that ex-civil servants who retired before March 31, 1955, will get an extra \$1 a month for each year of service.

GRADUATED DOWN

Those who retired between April 1, 1965, and March 31, 1957, will get 90 cents a month for each year of service (widows 63 cents); April 1, 1957 to March 31, 1958, 70 cents (49 cents); April 1, 1958 to March 31, 1959, 60 cents (42 cents) and April 1, 1959, to March 31, 1960, 50 cents (35 cents).

Civil servants who retired between April 1, 1960, and March 31, 1966, will get 50 cents for each year of service (35 cents for widows).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1966

Heated Debate Runs On

Electoral Redistribution

Major Split Running Through House Ranks

Premier Bennett paced the members' corridor outside the Legislative Chamber Tuesday night as, inside, Dr. Pat McGeer (L, Vancouver-Point Grey) decried the premier's unwillingness to take part in heated debate on electoral redistribution.

Earlier, J. R. Chabot (SC, Columbia) told the House:

"I ask the government to restore the existing ridings in the Kootenays. Unless the government can do this, I cannot support this bill."

It was an indication of a severe split forming in the house's party ranks over the thorny question of adding eight seats to the legislature in areas that opposition members feel strongly favor the government's security.

Dr. McGeer called the provincial cabinet and government backbenchers who support the bill "cracker-barrel politicians" and slammed the premier in particular for being absent for "most of the debate."

PACING CORRIDOR

At that very moment, the premier was passing the corridor outside the chambers, occasionally looking through the glass doors.

Dr. McGeer challenged the premier to take part—at which several government members rose from their seats and left the chamber.

The premier entered a few minutes later.

NEW WORLD

"There's a new world in our political lexicon," said Dr. McGeer, expressing his contempt for the cabinet.

"It's Bennett - mandering, which is quite different from gerrymandering."

"It's taking a report like the Angus commission report on redistribution, and using it for his own political ends."

FIVE-HOUR DEBATE

The five-hour debate was adjourned at 10:33 p.m. by Highways Minister Gagliardi, who charged that the opposition was filibustering the royal commission report which had been accepted "in principle" by the government.

During the heated debate, Ralph Loffmark—minister of development, trade and commerce, supported the government's Bill 32—vehemently.

Another supporter of the bill—this time from the opposition side—was Frank Calder (NDP, Atlin).

LOUD APPLAUSE

Government members greeted

his choice with thunderous applause, praising him as the only wise man seated on the opposition benches.

Mr. Loffmark defended the bill on the grounds of what he termed the inequality of representation in Saskatchewan.

There, he said, the CCF and Liberals had been in power since the end of the Second World War—and still distribution was anything but equal.

He questioned the sincerity of dissention voiced by members of the NDP and Liberal parties in the House.

Mr. Calder explained that he favored the government's bill "because of the size of the north."

TWO SEATS

The government bill proposes an increase of two seats over and above the number recommended by the Angus commission. The north of the province presently has seven members while the Angus commission recommended five. In fact, the government bill proposes no change in the north's present status.

The bill provides for an increase of four seats in Greater Vancouver, three in Fraser Valley and one in North Vancouver.

DISCRIMINATION

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said he felt the bill was "discrimination against the whole of the interior of British Columbia."

He said the government is "using the redistribution of seats to its own ends—which is discrimination of the rankest kind."

RISE UP

"I hope the people of the interior rise up in their wrath and destroy the people who tried so hard to discriminate against the interior," he said.

Ray Perrault, Liberal leader, told the House the government had "crippled democracy."

At this juncture, Premier Bennett rose from his seat and sauntered out of the chamber.

"That's right," cried Mr. Perrault. "The premier can walk out. It's par for the course."

"There's no need to be rude," called back one of the government members.

Mr. Perrault said the government had failed to exercise democratic judgment—at which point several government members leaped out of their seats and shouted at him to sit down.

COURAGE

Asked by the speaker to retract his statement, Mr. Perrault conceded, adding that re-

distribution is a question governments should tackle with courage.

"And courage is what this government has not got . . ." he concluded.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner told the House that while he regrets to see the disappearance of some of the historic ridings which will be merged by redistribution, he will support the government bill.

"It must be a matter of conscience and responsibility of the ministry, whether it has the approval of government members or not, to bring our best judgment into the House," he said.

POLITICAL POWER

One of the most eloquent arguments against the bill was presented by Dave Barrett (NDP, Dewdney) who told the House "the whole thing's a matter of political power."

He continued:

"People will be confused—and thousands throughout the province will be denied their vote. We know you'll ram this through. That's Social Credit policy."

During the night sitting, Harry McKay (L, Fernie) charged that cabinet ministers had tacitly admitted in earlier debate that the terms of reference for the royal commission were wrong and that British Columbia is ruled by a "one-man government."

He said the government should have kept its "gerrymandering fingers" out of the report because "politicians cannot be trusted—we're all biased, let's face it."

OPEN TERMS

Mr. McKay told the House the commission's results "would have been entirely different and not one boundary would have remained the same" if the commission had been given open terms of reference on its study.

"We are all proud of the north but what about the south-eastern part of the province (which is to lose a number of seats), he asked. The Fernie Liberal said the government is merely attempting to set itself up to carry on in perpetuity.

EVERY RESPECT

Recreation and Conservation Minister Kiernan said, "the principle of this bill carries out the recommendations of the royal commission in virtually every respect."

He said the opposition was guilty of "charging madly forward, holus bolus to accept the recommendations of the commission" without giving thought to what was being proposed.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1966

Federation Claims Bill Curbs Group's Freedom

Three groups Monday attacked a proposed bill which some said would deny engineering technologists and technicians a right to choose which union they join.

The complaints were aired during a hearing by the legislature's private bills committee of a bill proposed by the Professional Engineers Association of B.C.

The association proposed that instead of being allowed to strike, employees should have

their disputes settled by compulsory arbitration.

EMPLOYEE'S RIGHT

B.C. Federation of Labor assistant secretary John McNevin told the committee that under the Labor Relations Act the employees have the right to say who will represent them and whether they want to strike.

"I don't think you can have any true collective bargaining if you are going to limit employees' freedom of association," he said.

WOULD 'DOMINATE'

William Lowe, vice-president of the Office and Professional Employees International Union, said the association's proposals would allow employers or their representatives to dominate the professional employees.

The Vancouver Board of Trade asked that the proposed

bill not be passed at this session because of certain ambiguities in it.

Home-Buying Aid

Young Couples, Needy May Receive Grants

Premier Bennett said Tuesday the government is thinking of giving grants to help low-income people and young married couples to buy their own homes.

He explained in a corridor interview about his plan, announced in the legislature Monday for providing assistance to hard-pressed families.

"We hope it will be a grant like the homeowner grant," said the premier. But he stressed

that it would be premature to give a firm commitment at this time.

ALTERNATIVES

"Whether it should be an outright grant, a non-interest loan or a low-interest-rate loan is under active study," Mr. Bennett said in an interview.

The premier said earlier during debate on a bill to raise the homeowner grant from \$100 to \$110 this year that the government was considering some

form of financial assistance for people who wanted to make down payments on homes.

'NO PROMISES'

"A person who is struggling to raise his family and who doesn't have the money to buy his own home—that's the group we're giving thought to," he told the House.

"I'm making no promises at this time—I'm just telling the House that this is being studied."

All Ferry Workers Promised Raises

Payment of the B.C. Ferry Authority's \$37,000,000 debt will enable the government to give the employees a pay increase this year, says Premier Bennett.

He made the announcement during debate in the legislature Monday on the government's bill which would pay off the debt.

The premier said outside the House that while details of the pay boost would be announced later, "everyone will get an increase."

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1966

Revolt Raging New Ridings Irk Socreds

By JACK FRY
Legislative Reporter

Saanich MLA John Tisdalle confirmed Wednesday that a revolt is raging in the Socred ranks about the government's redistribution bill.

He said he thinks the only way the party rift can be patched is for the government to amend its own bill.

"That is the only hope for getting harmony back in the House," the Socred MLA said in a corridor interview.

Mr. Tisdalle declined to say how many backbenchers are against the bill.

But he was one of five backbenchers who had applauded opposition charges Tuesday that the government was discriminating against the Kootenays.

The others were Arvid Lundell (Revelstoke), Donald Robinson (Lillooet), Ernie LeCours (Delta) and James Chabot (Columbia).

A five-hour debate had been adjourned by Highways Minister Gaglardi Tuesday after Mr. Chabot—the first of the above five members to speak—told the

House he could not support the bill unless three seats were restored to the Kootenays.

The bill could still pass by a 27 to 23 majority if it is supported by 26 Socreds and New Democrat MLA Frank Calder, and opposed by 13 New Democrats, five Liberals and five Socreds.

But it would represent the most serious party split ever faced by Premier Bennett since he came to power in 1952. And Mr. Gaglardi's adjournment was seen as a means of heading off the revolt until such time as the problem could be settled in the Socred caucus room.

Stands of the other Socreds who indicated opposition to the bill will not be known until debate is resumed on the second reading of the bill.

But Mr. Tisdalle said Wednesday that the government could amend its bill during third reading in the House and that he was hopeful the amendments would be made.

"I hope the government will yield to the obvious dissatisfaction with the bill by some of its own members, as well as the opposition," he said.

The Saanich MLA had earlier indicated his dissatisfaction with the way his riding was to be

carved up by the government bill.

He suggested yesterday it was still possible to return Victoria West to the new two-member Victoria riding, leave the Saanich-Victoria boundary where it is now and turn Saanich into a two-member riding.

"A dual-member riding would be better for Saanich than what is proposed now," he said.

Oak Bay Liberal MLA Alan Macfarlane had charged Tuesday that the government changed the Angus commission's recommendations to avert a rebellion by its northern members.

"That's why we've got this bill before us now. It was to stem rebellion on the back benches. It was to save the government," he told the House.

He said it was possible the government could have toppled if the bill had been opposed by northern Socred MLAs as well as those from the eastern part of the province.

The dilemma apparently facing the government is whether to push through its bill and risk an open split in its own ranks, or to amend the bill and reopen the festering redistribution problem.

PGE Share-Purchase Bill Sparks Lively House Debate

A bill authorizing the government to buy \$25,282,000 worth of unissued shares of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway was given unanimous second reading in the legislature Wednesday, after sparking a lively debate in the House.

Opposition Leader Strachan told the House he agreed with providing the money to offset PGE losses, but disagreed with management policies of the government.

He complained that \$20,000,000 was borrowed in 1962 to lay 85-pound steel rail and "now we are ripping up the 85-pound rail which we haven't paid for and are proceeding to lay down 100-pound steel."

Liberal leader Ray Perrault charged that the premier was deliberately "cheating" the people of the province by not getting federal subsidies for the PGE.

Gordon Gibson (L, North Vancouver) suggested that instead of investing the money provided in the bill, the government should sell the railway at a profit and invest its capital in another area.

'WE'LL NEVER SELL'

Premier Bennett answered the criticism.

The ripped-up rail was not lost but was being used on sidings and on extensions where there was less traffic, and "as long as I'm premier of this province, we will never sell the PGE."

He answered Mr. Perrault's charge with one of his own—one he has repeated several times—that B.C. is not getting fair treatment from the federal government.

He said B.C. went to the then prime minister St. Laurent and asked for a subsidy when it was planned to extend the PGE north of Prince George.

But the federal government said the railway should be extended only 50 miles and would pay a construction subsidy only on that amount.

"This 50 miles ended in muskeg," Mr. Bennett said, "and that's where the Liberals have been ever since."

Second reading (approval in principle) was also given to nine other government bills.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1966

Perrault Demands Action

Socreds 'Evade' Pollution

B.C. Liberal leader Ray Perrault told the legislature Wednesday the government was evading its responsibility on the problem of pollution control.

He also launched an attack on Premier Bennett, saying that he had refused to answer letters from citizens about the pollution control problem.

"No premier should be so busy that he can ignore the citizens," Mr. Perrault continued.

"When the leader of a province begins to believe he rules instead of represents, he has outlived his usefulness."

The Liberal leader was supporting one of six opposition bills which were sidetracked Wednesday before receiving second reading.

The bill brought in by Tony Gargrave (NDP, MacKenzie) would give the pollution control board broader powers and extend the board's authority to include air and soil pollution as well as water pollution.

Mr. Perrault said that every time pollution was mentioned in the House during the past two years, a government member jumps up and asks for more time to think about it, but all they've come up with so far is political flim flam.

Mr. Gargrave said that while he did not expect the pollution problem to be solved overnight, he felt the pollution control board should be given more personnel and more money.

He told the House that up to now, "the government has shrugged off their responsibilities in this area."

B.C. LEADING

Lands and Forests Minister Williston replied that at the moment there is no effective pollution control legislation in Canada and that B.C. is leading the way in this field.

He said he is chairman of a nation-wide pollution control conference which will be held this fall and which has already cost B.C. \$12,000 in the preparation of technical papers during

the past 18 months.

The minister moved adjournment of the debate because the results of this conference would not be known until fall.

OPPOSITION

Mr. Gargrave called for a division, in which Mr. Williston's motion was carried by a vote of 27 to 17, with the New Democrats and Liberals in opposition.

The only opposition bill which brought sympathy, but not support, from the government benches was one brought in by Leo Nimsick (NDP, Cranbrook) which would give people a "cooling-off period" in which to reject agreements they had signed with "fly-by-night" door-to-door salesmen.

This bill, in the form of an amendment to the Sale of Goods Act, would give the buyer seven days in which to cancel agreements signed "anywhere outside trade premises."

MINDS CHANGE

"Too many times salesmen come to the door and make you feel that if you don't sign it now you are going to lose a bargain," said Mr. Nimsick.

And too many times, people sign agreements at the door and later "found they shouldn't have done it, couldn't afford it or didn't need it."

Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) told the House he knew of a man in Vancouver who was taken for \$750 by a door-to-door salesman who subsequently disappeared without delivering the goods.

SOCRED SYMPATHY

The unsuspecting buyer lost his savings in the deal, eventually lost his house and was "reduced to Skid Row" because of the activity of this salesman, he said.

Attorney-General Bonner, who moved adjournment of debate on this bill, said, "The government has sympathy for the objects sought to be protected . . . and are giving thought to legislation of this sort."

He said the government

wanted to find out how similar laws operate elsewhere before it brought down its version.

Dave Barrett (NDP, Dewdney) presented a bill that would prevent the sentencing of children less than 12 years old to schools such as Brannen Lake near Nanaimo.

During the debate, he said there were 31 youngsters between the ages of nine and 12 in the school last year.

However, the bill was ruled out of order by Speaker William Murray (SC, Prince Rupert) because it dealt with matters involving the expenditure of public money—a government prerogative.

OUT AGAIN

A bill presented by Mr. Gargrave suffered the same death because it would require money to set up a legal aid system proposed in the bill.

Alan Macfarlane (L, O a k Bay) spoke for the fourth successive year on his bill which would allow persons to sue the government. It was ruled out of order because only the government can introduce such a law.

Mr. Macfarlane said that in British Columbia, the government was "judge and jury on its own cases" and that no one could sue for wrongs done by the government unless the government agreed to be sued.

DETIMENT

The government "should be the first to ask that the citizens be free to sue the government if they feel something is wrong," he said.

Labor Minister Peterson moved adjournment of debate on a bill debate aimed at eliminating discrimination against women in the labor force.

He said that while he agreed in principle with the bill brought in by Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East), the proposed amendment to the Fair Employment Practices Act "could work to the detriment of those it was intended to assist."

The rest of the day's sitting was devoted to second reading of government bills.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1966

Bonner Defends Licence-Lifting By Police Officers

Attorney-General Bonner answered criticism Wednesday that has come from outside the legislature against proposed laws to curb drinking drivers and those who leave the scene of an accident.

He defended the proposals in moving second reading of a bill which sets out requirements that empower a policeman to issue 24-hour roadside suspensions for suspected drinking drivers and make police stickers mandatory on vehicles with more than \$100 damage before they can be repaired.

He said questions of civil liberty have been raised by several persons.

QUESTIONS COMPETENCE

But the roadside suspension provisions only questioned the "physical competence" of a driver as is done in driving tests when applying for a licence.

"A licence is not a right but a privilege to be obtained upon examination," he said.

ENDS THERE

The suspension data would not be used in any other action against the driver.

The sticker-before-repair provision was an effort to reduce the "unbelievable" rise in leaving the scene situations.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) adjourned debate before second reading was

passed because careful study was required on the civil liberty questions.

No Charges Laid By Board

No charges were laid in 1965 by the newly-organized provincial pollution control board, says Lands, Forests and Water Resources Minister Williston.

This was the reply given to a question placed on the order paper by Tony Gargrave (NDP, Mackenzie).

Mr. Williston reported that "the efforts of the responsible officials dealing with pollution control have been toward encouraging industrial and community installations to abate pollution."

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1966

Big Laugh to Premier's Family, People of B.C.

Name-Calling 'Never Hurts Me'

Premier Bennett told the legislature last night that his family and the people of British Columbia laugh at the taunts of the opposition that he is a "great dictator."

"My friend (Opposition Leader Strachan) is always saying the premier is a great dictator, he rules the government," then turns around and says the premier doesn't answer his letters . . . which are turned over to the cabinet ministers."

He chided the opposition for calling him a dictator and charging at the same time that an outside Super Government reigns over the provincial cabinet.

'NAMES, NAMES'

"The people of this province laugh, laugh, laugh. They are laughing at the opposition because they know," said the premier.

He recalled that his old Scottish grandmother in New Brunswick used to tell him: "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names never hurt me."

The opposition can't win a

political battle, he said. "They can do nothing but call names, names, names."

CAMPAIGNING?

Social Credit government is the government of the people, continued the premier, in what was beginning to sound like a campaign speech.

It is not run by "old line parties, socialists, newspaper barons, labor bosses, industrial tycoons . . ."

"How long have you felt this way?" called a loud, curious voice of Dave Barrett (NDP, Dewdney).

TEAM

Slipping frequently from a glass of water and waving his arms to stress his points, Mr. Bennett looked up at the crowded public galleries and press box and said:

"I do not deny I'm the leader, the captain of this group for the past 14 years. As a captain, I'll take the blame for failures, but these people (motioning to the Sacred benches) will take the credit for success because they are a team."

"This is natural gas?" asked

Gordon Dowding (NDP, Burnaby), calling the premier's attention to the fact he was supposed to be replying to comments made earlier by NDP leader Robert Strachan.

WILLIAMSON

"Funny how my friends don't like the truth," said Mr. Bennett as he turned back to the subject of natural gas.

Mr. Strachan told the House that "after that campaign speech" he felt he should reply that all the old line parties and the people the premier was decrying had simply "moved into the Social Credit party."

"And that's why you took that trip to Japan, so you wouldn't have to appear at that court case in which Al Williamson testified how they collected their campaign funds from the same people that used to contribute to the Liberal and Conservative campaign funds."

Mr. Strachan reiterated his charge that "the people of this province are being gouged for the gas they buy from the B.C. Hydro which they own."

Post-Natal Time Off May Bring Hardship

A number of MLAs expressed doubts Thursday about a government bill which would compel employers to give women workers six weeks off following birth of their children.

Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) said some mothers, especially those who had been deserted, might face serious financial problems and

need the wages they would be denied under this act.

Mrs. Lois Haggren (NDP, Grand Forks-Greenwood) told the House the only reason a woman would go back to work so soon was because she "needed the money for herself and her baby," and for this reason, some consideration must be given to these mothers.

Ernie LeCours (SC, Delta) said this legislation could sometimes cause hardship. He recalled that women living on the Prairies occasionally had to go to work two weeks after childbirth.

FINAL READING

The bill was given third and final reading after Labor Minister Peterson said the measure was "designed for the protec-

tion of mothers," and that the time limit was chosen after his department had received medical advice from doctors.

During the rapid passage of another government bill, Mr. Macdonald said the title should have been amended to include the words "passed in great haste."

TWO OR THREE DAYS

"I wonder why it's necessary to push this legislation all through in a period of two or three days?" he asked.

Premier Bennett replied: "We generally leave legislation until the last and it gets rushed. This year we're trying to be a model session. We haven't tried to rush things through—just do business with dispatch."

Sales Tax On Books May Vanish

Premier Bennett said in the legislature Thursday the government would include library books among articles to be exempted from the five per cent sales tax, and hinted it might be extended to all books.

The bill to lift the tax from confections, non-alcoholic "soft" drinks, school supplies, newspapers, magazines and restaurant meals was given third reading.

Gas Rate Cut Supported By Bennett

By JACK FRY
Legislative Reporter

Premier Bennett announced in the legislature last night that he will "strongly recommend" that natural gas rates be reduced by B.C. Hydro.

He made the announcement in reply to a charge from Opposition Leader Strachan that gas prices are too high.

The premier said he will meet with Hydro directors in Vancouver March 21 "whether the House is sitting or not," at which time he will recommend the reduction.

"I would expect that if there are going to be any rate reductions they would be made by March 31, the end of the fiscal year," he said.

Mr. Bennett also said he would recommend a reduction for propane users on Vancouver Island but that it would not necessarily mean rates would be

brought down to equal Vancouver prices.

"But I am going to be very frank with you and say I am not going to recommend further reductions this year in electricity rates."

The B.C. Hydro issue came up during debate of the \$76,269 estimates for the premier's office for the fiscal year starting April 1.

Mr. Strachan told the House the crown agency paid Frank McMahon's Westcoast Transmission Company \$11,602,000 last year for gas which was sold to Hydro's 153,000 customers for nearly \$30,000,000.

'Charging Too Much'

"It's obvious we're charging the gas consumer far too much money . . . we can afford to re-

duce the rates unless gas rates are being kept at a high price to force people into using electricity so all the hydro potential will be used," he said.

The opposition leader also complained that British Columbians pay 32 to 35 cents for natural gas while it has been exported to the United States for 22 cents.

"It's all right for Frank McMahon to get his share of the pie, but I think it's time the people of B.C., who own the natural gas, get more of their share out of it."

Premier Bennett replied that the Hydro profit, which was \$13,000,000 last year, will be down \$5,000,000 this year to "around \$8,000,000" because of the rate reductions which were made in electricity.

He said electricity rates have been reduced by more than \$20,000,000 a year since the government took over the old B.C. electric Company and that "these reductions we asked them to make leave the profit quite thin."

"Never in all history has there ever been a deal so good for the people," he said, adding that "our great utility must not be allowed to operate at a loss."

Transit Plans Queried

A. J. Turner (NDP, Vancouver East) asked in vain in the legislature Thursday whether the government planned any meetings with lower Island and Vancouver municipalities to discuss the future of Hydro-owned public transit.

"I wish the government would at least let us know what it has in mind," he said in the debate on the premier's estimates. "The people of Vancouver and the lower island are very concerned."

Premier Bennett was silent.

Medicare Stand Kept in Dark

Provincial secretary Wesley Black refused to say in the legislature Thursday whether the B.C. government favors a universal Canadian medicare plan. The legislature gave third reading to a bill to change the Medical Grants Act.

The government was accused by Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) of "twisting the federal government's arm" and "trying to break the federal plan" and turn it into a premium plan.

Terming the matter "a great issue of principle that is dividing this country," Mr. Macdonald challenged the minister to "rise and tell the House" whether the Socreds favor the Ottawa scheme.

Said Mr. Black: "We are discussing the principle of this bill; and I am not going to answer this question."

Almost simultaneously, bills committee chairman Herbert Bruch (SC, Esquimalt) said the question was not in order as the house was discussing only principles.

INCREASES

The bill would increase the government's share of premiums for persons with non-taxable income from 50 to 90 percent; for those with taxable incomes up to \$1,000 from 25 to 59 per cent.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault then quoted from a letter on file with the government from federal Health Minister McEachen in which he said the minister says the B.C. plan does not conform to the Hall Commission recommendations.

He quoted Mr. McEachen as saying the federal government has been unable to get a reply from B.C. as to the terms on which the province wanted to participate in a federal plan.

'SUSPICIOUS'

"This doesn't indicate a very deep interest in participating in a national plan," Mr. Perrault charged. "The federal government is protesting that it can't get an answer."

"It is a suspicious and shoddy situation."

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1966

Government's PGE Plans Face 'Moment of Truth'

Opposition Leader Strachan called Premier Bennett the "personal dictator of the House" Thursday during discussion on a bill to provide \$25,000,000 in government investment in the PGE.

Mr. Strachan made the statement during an exchange in which the premier said there were "mischievous" attempts to plant in the minds of the public the idea that something is wrong with the PGE.

Mr. Strachan made the charge when the premier refused to answer a question of whether

the premier was referring to the opposition when he mentioned the word mischievous.

FINAL READING

The bill, along with 11 others, passed third and final reading.

Gordon Dowding, NDP member for Burnaby, agreed with Mr. Strachan that the government is facing a "moment of truth" in the \$25,000,000 investment.

Mr. Dowding said the premier had never been realistic in making up the PGE balance sheet. He said the premier had always under-estimated depreciation.

The other bills included a \$10 addition to the provincial home-

owner grant, making it \$110, and removal of sales tax from meals, candies, school supplies and clothing for youngsters 15 years of age or less.

In discussion preceding the final reading of a bill increasing the provincial grant to homeowners, Premier Bennett said "there will be a broader" approach to the question at the next sitting of the legislature."

RENT-PURCHASE PLAN

He hinted at what that approach might be last Monday when he mentioned a "rent-purchase plan" for persons unable to raise a down payment to buy their own homes.

He believed through such a scheme more persons now renting accommodation would qualify for the homeowner grant.

The bill increased the grant by \$10 for a total of \$110 annually.

TAX EXEMPTIONS

Mr. Bennett said study will be given "next session" to further sales tax exemptions and that is why a bill that passed third reading Thursday was left partly open.

The bill removes sales tax from meals, school books, newspapers and clothing for youngsters 15 years of age or less.

Abolition of Premiums For Medicare Urged

A bill which would extend B.C. Medical Plan coverage to all B.C. residents, abolish premiums and provide for payment for prescription drugs was introduced in the legislature Thursday by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

The bill, one of two opposition measures given first reading during the afternoon sitting, was a proposed amendment to the Medical Grants Act.

A bill brought in by Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP, Grand Forks-

Greenwood) would amend the Fireworks Regulation Act to prohibit the sale or setting off of fireworks except for public displays authorized by the fire marshal or one of his local assistants.

MLA Cites Butane

Grant Change Sought

Gas Rate Equalization Urged

Victoria Socred MLA Donald Smith complained in the legislature Friday that Vancouver Island users of B.C. Hydro's butane gas are paying 50 per cent more for this fuel than people on the mainland.

He told the House that municipalities benefitted from equalization of assessment, that rural residents benefitted from equalization of electrical rates and that it is time for gas rates to be equalized between the Island and the mainland.

Mr. Smith suggested the premier should ask Hydro

officials to consider this problem, when he presents a request for lower natural gas rates during Hydro directors' meeting in Vancouver March 21.

Mr. Smith also asked the government to consider making the homeowner grant apply to persons who own and live in duplexes.

The premier advised him he should bring this item up when the homeowner grant vote comes before the House at a later date.

The Victoria MLA said that, at the present time, persons who buy lifetime apartment

suites are eligible for the grants.

He also pointed out that if two families who jointly own and occupy a duplex want to take the trouble of forming under the Companies Act, at a legal cost of about \$350 each, each family then becomes eligible for the grant.

Mr. Smith said outside the legislature it is a shame that people have to go to so much trouble and expense to obtain the grant. He believes legisla-

tion should be amended to make them eligible for the grant.

City Too Slow On Offer Bennett Hints

The city of Victoria waited too long to take up a government offer to pay half the cost of building a convention centre, Premier Bennett indicated in the legislature Friday.

Victoria MLA Donald Smith (SC) asked the premier whether any further consideration is being given to an offer made by the government several years ago that it would pay 50 per cent of the cost if the city proceeded with the project.

The offer was not accepted at that time.

Mr. Bennett replied: "I think the city of Victoria is very well treated by this government."

The premier explained that the government is now spending millions of dollars along with the federal government on construction of the new provincial museum and archives complex.

He said the government is also spending "hundreds of thousands of dollars" through the Capital Improvement District Commission to beautify British Columbia's capital city.

Bennett Backed On Procedure

Premier Bennett was proved right Friday about his stand on a procedural wrangle two weeks ago which brought the threat of an election.

Shortly after the estimates for the premier's office were passed in the House, Speaker William Murray (SC, Prince Rupert) told the legislature that the premier's stand had been supported by Sir Barnett Cocks, clerk of the House of Commons in England.

Disagreement between the premier and the Speaker on what procedure should be followed after time ran out without official adjournment of debate on the afternoon of Feb. 18 resulted in the premier threatening to call an election, according to Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

But Mr. Bennett yielded to the Speaker's ruling, the legislature ground back into action and the incident was temporarily forgotten.

The Speaker informed the House yesterday that he had referred the matter to Sir Barnett and received a reply which meant, in effect, that he was in error in his decision.

'Nothing To Add' On Span

Liberal leader Ray Perrault asked Premier Bennett in the legislature Thursday whether any plans are in the air for a new First Narrows Crossing and was rewarded with a curt: "I have nothing to add."

Speaking in the debate on the premier's estimates, Mr. Perrault reported a Vancouver alderman told him the premier said to the alderman he "would be glad to tell him what a bridge is and what approaches are."

Mr. Perrault asked whether the highways department had submitted a plan to the premier, if any proposals have been made and if the premier intended to enter negotiations with Ottawa.

REJECTION

But when the premier rose to answer his questions he said: "I have nothing further to add to what has already been said."

"We do not accept" Mr. Perrault's recommendations that the Public Utilities Commission be expanded and study Hydro rates, said the premier in reply to another question.

Mr. Perrault assaulted the government for announcing Hydro rate reductions "preceded by a political message paid for by public funds."

'Premier Plots To Dominate'

By JACK FRY
Legislative Reporter

Personalities were dragged through the dirt in the legislature Friday when ex-logger Gordon Gibson assailed Premier Bennett for ignoring problems in the Lower Mainland area.

The towering Liberal member from North Vancouver said that unless the premier starts paying attention to these problems, "you are going to do down in disgrace because you are getting too high for this world and you should move on to the next."

Mr. Bennett retorted that he saw Mr. Gibson on television recently and that he looked a little high, too.

'POWER'

Mr. Gibson unleashed a bitter tirade against the premier.

He said it is not the money that Mr. Bennett wants (the House was debating the \$76,269 estimates for the premier's office), "it's the power you

want—you needn't kid me."

"If you stood up right now and said you want four times the salary and if you would start working for the people instead of yourself, I would gladly give it to you," Mr. Gibson said.

'ASHAMED'

He then told the House he wants some assurance from the premier that he is not only physically fit but that "mentally you're all right."

"Order!" Order!" rapped deputy speaker William Speare (S.C. Cariboo).

"I'm sick of personalities," shouted Donald Smith (S.C. Victoria), jumping to challenge Mr. Gibson. "You should be ashamed of yourself. I'm ashamed of your attitude!"

ATTITUDE

Harry McKay (L. Fernie) joined the fray. Jumping up and wagging a finger towards the Sacred MLA, he said: "You sit down. Did you hear the premier's remark five minutes ago?"

When order was restored, Mr. Gibson continued: "I am very concerned, Mr. Premier, about your attitude, your planning, your scheming, your thoughts to dominate, not govern."

He told the premier he should not go to the people for re-election until he takes care of the problems faced by the Lower Mainland.

CALMER

"The people in B.C. know they (Liberals) are talking out of both sides of their mouth at once . . . they try to condemn the government, then say, 'Don't bring on an election because he's doing a good job there,'" said the premier.

Mr. Bennett apologized to Mr. Gibson, explaining that he prefers to attack politics rather than people. "If I hurt your feelings a few minutes ago, I apologize."

The tension on the floor eased and Mr. Gibson, in a friendlier tone called back: "It's no wonder you get elected."

For Grits

20-Year Sleep Forecast

Premier Bennett predicted Friday the Liberal government will be defeated in the next federal election.

The Liberal party "will be defeated and it won't rise again for 20 years," he said in the legislature in reply to a verbal attack on Einar Gunderson by B.C. Liberal leader Ray Perrault.

Mr. Perrault told the House that Mr. Bennett must ask Einar Gunderson to resign his directorships on the B.C. Hydro and other Crown agencies or give up his job as custodian of funds for the Social Credit party.

'MORALITY'

"This is a most serious situation, at stake is the whole government standard of morality. He has not only failed to resolve this serious conflict of interest but . . . he actually told the Senate he didn't know the man was a member of the Social Credit party."

The Liberal leader said that "one of the reasons the Bank of B.C. application was rejected by the Senate was because he (the

premier) wasn't prepared to tell the truth about Mr. Gunderson to the Senate."

Premier Bennett replied that it is time for the Liberals to "clean things up right at home. The prime minister of Canada said recently that he appointed senior men to the Senate because they collected funds for the Liberal party."

These men, he continued, are "directors of chartered banks" and the ones who blocked B.C.'s application for a chartered bank.

Columbia

Hydro Stung -NDP

By BARRY JOHNSON

B.C. Hydro is being sold down the river by contractors clearing land to make way for the Columbia River project. Ran-

dolph Harding (NDP, Kaslo-Slocan) told the legislature Thursday.

Mr. Harding, speaking in the debate on the premier's estimates, was hammering at his familiar theme of fair treatment for the Arrow Lakes settlers whose property is being expropriated. He said Hydro pays contractors upwards of \$400 an acre for clearing land and pays settlers only \$100 an acre for cleared land.

CURRENT COST

The settlers are entitled to the value of cleared land for all their holdings, he said. That is, the cost of clearing, plus the land's initial cost.

Premier Bennett then rose to quote from a document handed to him by Agriculture Minister Frank Richter.

He said the agriculture department is clearing land in the Kootenays at a cost of \$38.10 an acre.

'RIDICULOUS'

"You'd better come up to the people of the Arrow Lakes and tell them that," Mr. Harding said. "If the department can do it for \$38, why do we pay \$400 or \$500?"

Some clearing goes as high as \$1,400 an acre, he said.

"Hydro is getting sold down the river."

Changing his tack, the premier then said: "To compare the two is just ridiculous. The Arrow Lakes clearing is not the

same as farm clearing."

OTHER CUTS

"No it isn't," said Mr. Harding. "Up there (at the Arrow Lakes) they just cut the trees down and burn them."

Earlier, Mr. Harding referred to a scheduled March 21 meeting between the premier, as Hydro fiscal agent, and the power company, at which Mr. Bennett said he would recommend natural and manufactured gas rate reductions.

"If you can make those reductions, I have several others you can make at the same time," Mr. Harding said.

'GIVE ME MEMO'

He then launched his often-repeated plea for itemized accounting of expropriation payments.

"Can you give me one good reason why they shouldn't have them?"

The premier shook his head indicating he did not intend to answer and said: "You give me a memo and I'll take it over to the meeting."

DEADHEADS

Mr. Harding also accused the government of a "major blunder" in not clearing reservoirs of lakes to be created by the Columbia project.

"This will be a major resort area," he said. "And tourists will see miles and miles of deadheads."

"This is poor economics and we will live to regret it."

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 1966

No More Redistribution Concessions?

Measure of Discontent

Observers at the legislature say the government can make no more concessions to its discontented back-benchers about the redistribution bill which is before the House.

Some political pundits say that in bringing in a bill which soothed the Throne Speech protests of its northern members, the government has already modified the Angus Commission's report to the point where there can be no excuse for further changes.

* * *

There is a very good chance the bill will be pushed through the way it was introduced, on an odd-man-out basis in which some faces will disappear from the government benches as well as from the opposition side of the House.

Obviously, politicians on both sides of the House disagree on what changes should be made to give citizens better representation in the legislature.

But a close look at the lineup will show that changes must be made.

* * *

For example, Saanich MLA John Tisdalle represents 29,719 voters while each of the three Victoria members — Public Works Minister W. N. Chant, Waldo Skillings and Donald Smith — each speak for only 10,927.

Atlin MLA Frank Calder represents 1,574 voters in north-western B.C. while Dewdney MLA David Barrett is the voice for 38,638 registered voters.

Thus, there can be no doubt that redistribution is needed at this time.

* * *

The approach taken by Dr. Henry F. Angus, under the

restricted terms of reference laid down for his commission, was based on a conclusion that in this mountainous province it is impossible to use either a population formula, or an urban-rural formula anywhere outside of the Lower Mainland.

So the commission drew up a compromise, single-member riding plan in which Greater Vancouver would get four new seats, the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley three more and North Vancouver and Coast one more.

These eight seats were to be found by eliminating three ridings in the Kootenays, two in northern B.C. and one each in Greater Victoria, the Okanagan and West Central B.C.

There would then be 16 members for Greater Vancouver, seven for the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley and three for North Vancouver and Coast, while in the far north the former 69,700 square mile Atlin riding would be merged into a new Northland riding 128,830 square miles in size.

* * *

Northern Soerod MLAs immediately protested and when the government's redistribution bill was introduced in the legislature Premier Bennett announced the government had decided to leave the northern ridings as they are, and to make up for the deficiency by adding two more seats to the House.

This action weakened the menacing rebellion which is still raging in the Soerod backbenches. But it is considered highly unlikely that the government would further alter the Angus report by amending its own bill to please a handful of disgruntled backbenchers.

'Not Authorized'—Strachan

'Under Study'—Premier

Why Tax Trees? Bennett Asked

The government is studying the question of whether trees should be ignored when assessment is being made on land, Premier Bennett said Monday.

He was replying in the legislature to a charge by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan that the Taxation Act does not authorize the placement of a tax on trees.

Mr. Strachan had asked during debate on estimates for the department of finance why trees growing on private property are assessed, when a farmer is not assessed for the crops he is growing.

One assessor, he said, had been quoted as saying, "You keep upping the assessment, and as long as no one complains you keep upping the assessment."

The premier asked the NDP leader: "Would you give me that assessor's name? That is against all government instructions."

Mr. Strachan told the House that people on Vancouver Island are being forced to have their trees cut down by this assessment policy which is destroying the beauty of the Island and is causing "irrational and excessive jumps" in assessment rates.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault told the House that B.C. has the highest provincial capita debt, according to the Canadian Tax Foundation tax report released in February.

B.C.'s per capita tax debt is \$812, while Alberta's per capita debt of \$273 is the lowest in Canada, he said.

Mr. Bennett replied that some of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures were in error, and said, "They were so wrong they didn't credit B.C. with setting up a sinking fund for its direct debt—and we are the only province which has (such a fund)."

Alex Macdonald (NDP—

Vancouver East) asked the finance minister to consider bringing in legislation which would put a limit on election campaign funds and require public disclosure of funds above a certain amount.

"The answer is no," said Mr. Bennett. "I'm in favor of the federal Parliament dealing with this matter on a broad basis."

The premier explained that provincial legislation would be ineffective because unless it were controlled on a nationwide basis, campaigning could be done across the border by radio stations in Alberta or Seattle.

Party Leaders Honor De Beck

The 83rd birthday Monday of E. K. DeBeck, clerk of the legislative assembly, was acknowledged in the House by all three political leaders.

Premier Bennett said, "There is a lot of talk these days about the age of people and how young they should retire. But it isn't the age of a person, it's the spirit that counts."

He said Mr. DeBeck had served British Columbia well, and that "we hope he has many, many more (birthdays) to come."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan and Liberal leader Ray Perrault.

The premier urged Mr. DeBeck to "go ahead" and say something in reply. The elderly clerk pulled a microphone toward him and protested: "But I have no voice here."

Insurance Bill Introduced

A bill which would put the B.C. government in the automobile insurance business was given first reading in the legis-

lature Monday.

It was introduced by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

The bill calls for establishment of a universal, government-administered insurance plan for personal injury and property loss compensation.

However, the opposition is not allowed to bring in legislation which would involve the expenditure of money, and the bill may be ruled out of order when it comes up for second reading.

Sport Fishing

'Lenient' Laws Criticized

A commercial fisherman from Sidney complained Monday that B.C.'s sport fishing laws are too lenient on fishermen from the United States.

Richard Larson told a special legislative fisheries committee he knew of one American sports fisherman who, along with a friend, took 67 coho and chinook salmon at Stewart Island.

He said the American told him their two-day fishing trip had not cost him a cent in Canada, because he had loaded enough fuel and provisions in Seattle for the whole trip.

BUY ICE HERE

Mr. Larson said some American yachts buy ice here for 500 to 700 pounds of salmon which they have in their boats.

A B.C. Wildlife Federation brief advised the committee that a study should be made to evaluate the competition between commercial and sports fisheries interests, to decide how their activities should be limited.

The federation also supported earlier proposals by the Fisheries Association, the Trollers' Association and the Fishermen's Union that a commercial fisheries department should be established by the provincial government.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1966

NDP Demands Probe

Did Suppliers Pay?

Jones' Ghost Shows Up

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The NDP member read to the legislature excerpts of a radio interview last July, in which former purchasing commission chairman George E. P. Jones purportedly said Einar Gunderson wanted to know who was being awarded certain contracts.

Earlier in this session, the opposition called on Premier Bennett to force Mr. Gunderson, former finance minister, to give up his job as "Social Credit bagman" if he wanted to retain his directorships on several Crown agencies.

TRANSCRIPT

Mr. Barrett told the House that according to the radio transcript, Mr. Jones "saw nothing remis" in drawing certain files and informing Mr. Gunderson of the awards.

The newsman, Roy Jacques of radio CFUN, was quoted as saying: "... In subsequent months, officials for companies who had been bitten for slush fund contributions contacted him to ask if he could help in calling off the dogs."

Mr. Jones allegedly said the situation reached the point where

one man who had contributed \$25,000 to the "Sacred barrel" complained he had been brushed off by "some young buyer punk wet behind the ears" and that Mr. Jones had better "do something about it."

NO PERMISSION

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"No one's," snapped the premier.

The Dewdney MLA said that if Mr. Jones' statements were lies, he should be taken to court by the attorney-general.

INVESTIGATION

Oak Bay Liberal MLA Alan Macfarlane wanted to know if Premier Bennett had asked the attorney-general to investigate the charges made in the interview.

Mr. Bennett replied the "attorney-general is responsible for law enforcement... the premier doesn't interfere in any way."

"Well, I would like to say I think this is a disgraceful situation," continued Mr. Macfarlane. "The premier is the leader of this government and he is responsible to see that important matters are taken care of by his departments."

'DEPLORABLE'

He said it is "obvious to everyone the minister of finance knows or must know about alle-

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There was a "deplorable silence" from the government benches on this question, said Mr. Macfarlane. "It lends the people to suspect there's something very seriously wrong with Mr. Gunderson being connected with the government and a member of various Crown agencies."

"It is disgraceful and typical of what we are trying to deal with in this House and this government — the people in this province can do nothing but believe the worst about Mr. Gunderson, the premier and the attorney-general when they refuse to stand up and say something."

NO MEMO

The radio transcript, which indicated that a memorandum about Mr. Gunderson's access to the files was sent to the attorney-general, was tabled in the House by Mr. Barrett.

Attorney-General Bonner said: "This is the first information I have that a suggestion has been made about my receipt of a memo from the former chairman of the purchasing commission."

"I have no recollection of having received such a memorandum... the girls are searching the records now and they advise me there is no such memorandum in the files."

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The radio transcript, which indicated that a memorandum about Mr. Gunderson's access to the files was sent to the attorney-general, was tabled in the House by Mr. Barrett.

Attorney-General Bonner said: "This is the first information I have that a suggestion has been made about my receipt of a memo from the former chairman of the purchasing commission."

"I have no recollection of having received such a memorandum. ... the girls are searching the records now and they advise me there is no such memorandum in the files."

Socred Trio Opposes New Ridings

By JACK FRY
Legislative Reporter

Three Social Credit backbenchers voted against the government's controversial redistribution bill when a showdown was called Tuesday after a tense, two-hour debate in the legislature.

A fourth backbencher, Saanich MLA John Tisdalle, delivered a blistering attack against the bill but supported it during second reading — approval in principle — because he believes redistribution is needed in B.C.

Second reading of Bill 32, called at 4:25 p.m., after seven hours of bitter debate in the House (five of them during afternoon and night sittings last Tuesday), passed by a vote of 29 to 19.

It was supported by 26 Socreds and Atlin New Democrat MLA Frank Calder, and opposed by 12 New Democrats, Socred backbenchers — Don Robinson of Lillooet, Arvid Lundell of Revelstoke and James Chabot of Columbia.

Premier Bennett, in the closing minutes of the debate, an-

nounced that another redistribution would be held in 1971, five years from now.

He defended the "courage" of the government in bringing in the bill and boasted that in the next election, Social Credit would win "every seat in the Kootenays."

Revolt of the backbenchers began a week ago, when Mr. Chabot warned he would not support the bill unless the government restored the three seats which are to be eliminated in the Kootenays.

It grew Tuesday when Mr. Robinson told the House he and the people of Lillooet wanted to know why this riding, which had two members in the House back in 1871 and is now 95 years old, was to be torn up and split into three parts.

One of Oldest

Lillooet was one of the original ridings in British Columbia, one of the oldest and one of the richest, he said, "and now they wipe my constituency right off the face of the map."

He said his voters wanted the boundaries to remain as they were, or at least for the old name to be retained as "Lillooet-Yale," and they wanted "assurance the government has respect for this constituency."

"Pussyfoot!" called Liberal leader Ray Perrault. "So, you're going to settle for a change of name!"

"Where's the old fight?" goaded John Squire (NDP, Alberni).

Tension mounted as the whole House waited to see how far the Socred MLA would go.

"My decision, Mr. Speaker . . .

we are premature in going for redistribution now . . . Lillooet boundaries should not be changed, and until we get something clear-cut on it, I have to vote against the bill," Mr. Robinson said.

He was followed immediately by Mr. Lundell, who announced: "I am opposing this bill because the majority of people in my riding are opposed to it and I am a member of that majority."

The Revelstoke Socred said, "I am opposing it because it throws three ridings together which have nothing in common socially, geographically or otherwise."

"In voting against this bill, I think this is one time when the government should utilize to good advantage the proverbial 'second look,'" Mr. Lundell said, quietly but firmly.

Tisdalle Applauded

Then came Mr. Tisdalle, who drew a round of applause from New Democrat and Liberal members when he said he thought the government's decision to add two seats to the House nullified the purpose of the Angus commission's public hearings.

"I want to make it clear the submission I made would never have been made on the basis of 54 members. Any submission anyone made at that time is ultra vires," the Socred said.

Instead of upgrading the Angus report, "I say we downgraded the commission," Mr. Tisdalle continued.

"I agree the cabinet has the right as a supreme ruling body to make changes of its own—but it shouldn't waste people's time."

The Saanich MLA said the hearing was "a waste of my time" because he had known the government would increase the membership of the House to 54 "I would never have agreed with Victoria decreasing its membership . . . I might have been bold enough to suggest 56 members."

Premier Bennett rose to defend the bill, explaining that "I did not intend to enter this debate."

"It is true that the Kootenays had great development around the turn of the century, but other governments let Kootenay die on the vine."

"This government opened up the Kootenays, built highways and negotiated the Columbia River treaty," said the premier.

"And the Social Credit government, when an election comes, will win every seat (four after redistribution) in the Kootenays."

'YOUR DUTY'

"You can talk here as long as you like, and you have the right to talk. It is the duty of the government to lead and the duty of the opposition to oppose."

"I say that again, it is your duty to oppose us here today," said the premier, wagging his hand toward the opposition benches.

Vancouver and the Lower Mainland regions of British Columbia need greater representation, but 'out of 54 members, if the whole northern half of the province is not entitled to seven members then let them (the opposition) tell that to the people."

"This government is not going to wait 20 years for another redistribution. We will have another redistribution in five years, Mr. Speaker."

Before a division was called and the vote taken, Ernie LeCours (SC, Delta) said, "I am happy to support the legislation as it is now."

Earlier in the debate, Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) charged the government with "tampering" with the Angus report to gain an advantage over the NDP in northern B.C. and the heavily populated Vancouver area.

'COLD REALISM'

"We are debating the cold political realism of the Social Credit movement who've looked at this to see where they could get the most political advantage," he said.

Mr. Bennett called out: "This is the first election ever conceded before it was called."

Victoria MLA Donald Smith roused the wrath of the opposition when he said that apart from ridings in northern B.C., the Angus recommendations were kept intact "except for a few (boundary) lines."

"Bill 32 has been greatly improved in accordance with the report that was brought in," he continued.

Farms 'First'

By JACK FRY
Legislative Reporter

B.C. Hydro should give preference to farmers in rural areas when restoring power lines broken by snow storms, says Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

Many farmers on the Island found themselves without power for "four or five days and even more" during a heavy snowfall a few months ago, he said Tuesday during debate of estimates for the agriculture department.

Farmers, and particularly dairy farmers, rely on electricity for their milking machines, milk cooking processes, and Gee' freezers, said Mr. Strachan.

"If this government takes the credit when the sun shines, it will also have to take the blame for bad weather," he told Agriculture Minister Richter.

Widow's Share Boosted

A bill which will double a widow's share of her husband's estate in the hands of an administrator was given first reading in the legislature Tuesday.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner introduced the amendment to the Administration Act which will increase a widow's automatic sharing of an estate from \$10,000 to \$20,000 where there is no will.

The bill will also give administrators the authority to arrange for funerals and make other arrangements in connection with a deceased person's estate before letters of administration are issued.

Legislative Roundup

Section of Act On Wildlife 'Open to Abuses'

A section of a proposed new wildlife act giving the cabinet power to waive terms and conditions of hunting licences is "open to all kinds of abuses," Randolph Harding (NDP, Kaslo-Slocan) said in the legislature Tuesday.

The section would allow non-residents selected by the cabinet, on recommendation of Recreation and Conservation Minister Kiernan, to hunt without guides.

WAIVE SECTION

The provision was also criticized by Cyril Shelford (SC Omineca) who noted the minister will have the power to designate any area of the province or any person he chooses, and waive the section of the act that stipulates no non-resident may hunt without a licensed guide.

"Many people today are sitting right across the border waiting for this change," he said. "This is like an open book."

NOT SUCCESSOR

"I trust this minister, but don't trust his successor."

"If a non-resident came, say

to Tweedsmuir Park and was allowed to go hunting without a guide there would be nothing in the world to stop him taking a potshot at a mountain goat, or sheep, or moose or anything," he said.

"I don't want to see this department changed from a department of game management to a department of game harvest, and when you let in non-residents, this is a game harvest."

USE OF AIRCRAFT

Tight controls on using aircraft in hunting were urged by Leo Nimsiek (NDP, Cranbrook) who said just prohibiting hunting from aircraft is not enough.

He said aircraft should only be able to transport hunters to where the aircraft normally operate from.

"Certain areas of the province

should be taboo to aircraft," he said and warned that game here could "become like the buffalo."

Liberal leader Ray Perrault told the legislature the provincial government has failed to keep trust with residents of the Fraser Valley after making flood control promises.

He quoted Premier Bennett saying in 1964 that the premier had a vision of a multi-million dollar flood control program.

"Is this government waiting for another 1948 disaster on the Fraser before doing anything?" Mr. Perrault asked in the debate on agriculture estimates.

He charged the government has told municipalities they must share flood control costs, but said according to the Water Resources Act, only federal-provincial participation is needed.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1966

DRAMATIC STEPS

Mr. Perrault also wondered "Where are the drastic steps" in irrigation, envisioned by Attorney-General Bonner in a report made 11 years ago to a royal commission on agriculture.

He said Mr. Bonner said in his report the government foresaw expenditures totalling \$87,000,000 on irrigation between 1955 and 1975. The report said there are 500,000 acres of irrigable land in the province.

The government said there are 24,000 to 33,000 irrigable acres in Kamloops alone, he said.

"More than half that 20 years has now elapsed," he said. "Where are the dramatic steps?"

ENORMOUS SURPLUS

"I call for some expenditures from the government's enormous surplus for this kind of profitable investment.

"In the Fraser Valley, it is not only crops, but life and limb that is endangered," he said.

* * *

D. D. Stupich (NDP, Nanaimo-Islands) charged agriculture minister Frank Richter "does not know how to spend his money."

Mr. Stupich pointed out the education department, the government's biggest spender, last year had a difference between estimates and expenditures of one-quarter of one per cent on a budget of more than \$100,000,000. The agriculture department, he said was 20 per cent out on a budget of less than \$4,000,000.

* * *

Dr. Gordon Shrum suggested to a legislative committee Tuesday that dental laboratory technicians and mechanics be permitted to take impressions and make dentures from them.

He said they can now only make dentures from impressions supplied by dentists but have demonstrated that their work satisfies "a great number of people."

DENTIST SHORTAGE

Dr. Shrum, co-chairman of the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority, was chairman of the board of examiners of the Dental Technicians Act.

Dr. Shrum said the shortage of dentists has created a situation which might be corrected by supplying more dental nurses, hygienists, technicians and mechanics to relieve some of the burden of technical work.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1966

NDPers Spray Richter, Charge:

Pesticide Threat Shunned

Agriculture Minister Richter was bitterly criticized in the legislature Wednesday for not taking comprehensive counter measures against the threat of pesticide contamination in B.C.

The attack was launched by Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP, Grand Forks-Greenwood) who accused the minister of being more concerned with "glorifying" his own position in the cabinet than in assisting the owners of three farms in her riding which were temporarily closed because of contamination.

Leo Nimsick (NDP, Cranbrook) said that if there was danger of contamination elsewhere in the province, "we should stop using pesticides until we know where we stand."

WANT 'FAIR DEAL'

In the debate which raged most of the afternoon before the agriculture minister's salary vote was finally approved, Liberal leader Perrault said, "What the opposition is fighting for today is merely a fair deal for these farmers."

Randolph Harding (NDP, Kaslo-Slocan) repeatedly hammered the minister with questions about who was studying the pesticide problem, how many were at work on it and where they were conducting research.

David Stupich (NDP, Nanaimo-The Islands) told the House that all the minister had done in the Grand Forks agricultural crisis was to "urge the member (Mrs. Haggen) . . . not to say anything and maybe the problem would go away."

Mr. Richter shouted into his microphone: "There is no place in the world where there is knowledge of how to dissipate this from the soil."

'HACK, HACK, HACK'

"This is a far bigger problem to me than to you, because I have the responsibility. And all you've done is hack, hack, hack at me for the past 24 hours."

The minister said there was not a great deal of information about how the pesticide contamination, which affects an animal's fat tissues, could be dissipated from the soil.

RESEARCH UNDERWAY

Trade Minister Lofmark told the House that the contamination problem "has to be attacked on a continental basis" and that the United States had

given a grant toward pesticide research being carried out by the B.C. Research Council.

Opposition Leader Strachan charged Mr. Richter was "being hamstrung into taking no action by the pinchpenny attitude of the minister of finance."

'A MATTRESS'

He said the department of agriculture "has been used for years and years as a mattress into which to stuff surplus funds."

Recreation Minister Kiernan, a former minister of agriculture, rebuked the opposition: "I'm not going to sit here quietly and see this type of misinformed abuse heaped upon the minister."

FARMERS 'VICTIMS'

Dr. Pat McGeer (L, Vancouver Point Grey) said the Grand Forks dairy farmers were "victims of incomplete knowledge and inexact science" and were entitled to compensation.

Mrs. Haggen told the House that the information which she presented and which touched off the fiery debate could be found in the agriculture department's files as well as her own.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1966

End of Water Dispute Aim of Provincial Bill

By JACK FRY
Legislative Reporter

The provincial government took steps Thursday to break up a water dispute which has been raging for several years between the city of Victoria and the municipality of Central Saanich.

A bill which will return ownership of all water in this region to the Crown was given first reading Thursday night in the legislature.

When this amendment to the Water Act is passed, the Greater Victoria Water Board and Central Saanich alike will have to start buying their water from the provincial government.

ROW BLAMED

Water Resources Minister Ray Williston, who introduced the bill, confirmed in a corridor interview that the new legislation would not have come about if Victoria had quietly settled its water price dispute with Central Saanich.

He said the issue would never have arisen if the Greater Victoria Water District had "taken the initiative to service the peninsula."

The bill, he said, is only an interim measure because there is not enough water in Elk-Beaver Lake to supply the growing needs of the Saanich Peninsula.

RUMPING LATER

Eventually, the water district may have to pump water into the lake to maintain the lake level, said the minister.

Mr. Williston met with a delegation from city council at the legislature last night to explain the intent of the new legislation.

Deputy water resources minister Arthur Paget estimated that the water district, which up to now has been getting its water free, will have to pay the government about three cents per customer per year for water.

Major lakes in this area affected by the change will be Sooke, Elk-Beaver, Thetis, Langford, Prospect and Glen Lakes.

LICENCE NEEDED

Nominal fee charged for water, after a water rights licence is obtained, is two cents per 100,000 gallons for domestic purposes, and two cents per acre-foot (about 250,000 gallons) for irrigation purposes.

Central Saanich will have to pay about \$110 for its licence, while Greater Victoria Water District will be given a free licence under terms of the bill, provincial water officials explained.

Lakeside residents who up to

now have been pumping water at no charge from the lakes in the capital region will also have to obtain water rights licences when this water reverts to the Crown, Mr. Williston said.

TAKES CREDIT

Saanich MLA John Tisdalle took credit for bringing the matter to the attention of the government, on behalf of people in the northern part of the Saanich Peninsula.

He said he was asked to take action during a meeting at the Central Saanich municipal hall in January, which was attended by representatives from Central Saanich, North Saanich, Sidney council, Sidney water board, the Deep Cove water district, the North and South Saanich Agricultural Association, the B.C. Ferry Authority and the federal Experimental Farm at Saanichton.

The city of Victoria, Mr. Tisdalle said, "had five years to make up its minds whether it wanted to deal with Central Saanich in good faith and its hasn't done so."

'CITY'S WHIMS'

"In my opinion, the domestic water consumers on the northern Saanich Peninsula deserve some consideration" on the question of water rights, he said.

"They shouldn't be left to the whims of a city of Victoria council which change every few years."

Mr. Williston said the Water Act amendment "places water rights in the region under licence similar conditions which exist in every other part of British Columbia."

TECHNICAL

"Insofar as Victoria is concerned, it will be in fact a technical difference because

Victoria will have, through licence, access to all the water it requires either for domestic purposes or for recreational use.

"The matter was brought administratively to the fore because of the squabble" between Victoria and Central Saanich, the water resources minister said.

"In analyzing the situation, there was absolutely no reason to continue an arrangement which was abolished in all other parts of the province in 1944.

RESEARCH

"John Tisdalle did some research on the water administration in this area and posed the question as to why Victoria was treated differently than all other parts of the province, and of course, there is not satisfactory answer."

Mr. Williston explained that

in 1944, the Coalition government under the late Liberal premier John Hart voided 55 water rights acts similar to the Act of 1873 which gave Victoria all the water rights in a 20-mile radius.

The government at that time pulled back the legislation which would have voided the Victoria Act, and rescinded a similar amendment to the Water Act in 1945, he said.

The matter then remained dormant until it was revived because of the Elk-Lake Beaver Lake dispute.

Dollar To Cents

Central Saanich will soon have to pay only two cents for the same amount of water for which it was willing to pay Victoria \$1.25.

For the past four years the city of Victoria has refused to accept the cheques being sent them by Central Saanich, for water drawn from Elk-Beaver Lake at the rate of 1 1/4 cents per 1,000 gallons—or \$1.25 per 100,000 gallons.

But under terms of a bill introduced in the legislature Thursday, Central Saanich will soon be able to buy Elk-Beaver Lake water from the government at the rate of two cents per 100,000 gallons.

'SATISFIED'

Reeve R. Gordon Lee said Thursday night: "Naturally, Central Saanich is very satisfied this matter has finally been dealt with to the satisfaction of not only Central Saanich but North Saanich, Sidney and other users outside, including the toll authority, airport and experimental farm.

"For four years, I have been trying to negotiate to get a renewal of the expired water contract. My only regret is that there had not been an early settlement between Central Saanich and Victoria which would not have necessitated this."

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1966

Legislature Roundup

Lash Demanded To Curb Drunk Drivers

Gordon Gibson, never a man for half measures, said in the legislature Thursday drunken drivers and habitual lusers should get the lash.

First "I'd hit their pocket-books real hard," said the North Vancouver Liberal. "Then when fines are no good any more, I'd go back to the old system of six lashes."

"Keep them in jail for a week, then let them out, then bring them back and give them six more."

He would also treble the tax on liquor to cut down on drunkenness but would leave beer, the workingman's drink, alone, he said.

Appointments

Oak Bay Liberal Alan Macfarlane charged that appointment of Queen's Counsel in British Columbia is "politically motivated."

He said the judges of the province and the Law Society submit recommendations to the attorney-general about the appointment of a Queen's Counsel.

"But he knows as well as he's sitting there that he does not accept these recommendations."

"It's not good enough that these appointments are made for political purpose. It is a disgrace that a large number of Queen's Counsel appointments are politically motivated."

Insurance

Attorney-General Bonner told the legislature he expects to have "something before the House" this sitting on a cancellation of car insurance clause.

Members had complained car insurance companies can cancel a policy 14 days after delivery of a letter to the clients' residence. They said they have files of complaints that persons were away from home, had an accident only to find their insurance had been cancelled by letter.

Colquitz

David Barrett (NDP, Dewdney) blasted government stalling on closing Colquitz Jail and said the matter, plus a cleanup of Oakalla, "rests on the con-

science" of Attorney-General Bonner.

He said the government gave "the first of its standard excuses in 1959" for not closing Colquitz, saying it would tear the ancient "snake pit" down in 10 years.

"Then you said you weren't bringing criminal offenders there," he said. "Then, when you admitted you were, you said it was only for six months."

"That was two years ago."

Mr. Barrett also said B.C. government "through the attorney-general's neglect," is running a school for crime at Oakalla.

Speaking in the debate on the attorney-general's estimates, Mr. Barrett said the "school" is the old jail's west wing, where persons awaiting trial or appeals are held.

Of the unit's average population of 175 to 200, 15 to 20 are in the 15-to-17-year age group, he said. The majority are younger than 21, the rest range in age to 65.

During their average two-month stay there, young accused persons experience their introduction to drugs and homosexuality, he said.

Social Security

A bill was introduced in the legislature Thursday which would make workmen's compensation part of the provincial social security scheme.

The bill, introduced by Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) is called the Sickness and Injury Benefit Investigations Act and calls for a commission of inquiry to hold hearings and formulate legislation on what would then become a phase of social security.

It would provide loss-of-income insurance in cases of sickness or accident not covered by workmen's compensation, which should be part of the social security scheme, Mr. Macdonald said.

No Change

Attorney-General Bonner hinted in the legislature Thursday he sees no change in rulings prohibiting press coverage of juvenile court actions.

He said that, because the question has been raised, he has asked his department to review

the law on the matter and study interpretations and past attitudes.

However, he added:

"I would have to have very compelling reasons given to me to suggest that Crown prosecutors depart from past practice."

Missing Memo

The Case of the Missing Memo became a subject of debate in the legislature Thursday.

Gordon Dowding (NDP, Burnaby) gave the matter the title and demanded to know why the memo—from dismissed purchasing agent George E. P. Jones—was missing from Attorney-General Bonner's files.

The memorandum was first mentioned in the legislature by David Barrett (NDP, Dewdney) earlier this week when he read a transcript of a radio broadcast involving Mr. Jones.

The memo was dictated by Mr. Jones, then chairman of the purchasing commission who was subsequently fired by an act of the legislature, to Mr. Bonner.

It dealt with a contractor's complaint of not getting proper consideration after giving \$25,000 to the Social Credit Education Fund—termed by the opposition the Social Credit "slush fund" for campaign funds.

Discussion of the missing memo and destroyed files spilled briefly into the night sitting when Mr. Bonner told the legislature:

"The documents were destroyed under the Public Documents Disposal Act."

"I am advised the files were destroyed in 1963."

Opposition leader Strachan later asked Mr. Bonner to file in the House the documents giving approval for the files to be destroyed.

Mr. Strachan said the public Mr. Strachan said the Public Document Disposal Act prohibits any important paper from being destroyed in less than 10 years.

He said the document Mr. Dowding was referring to was made in 1965 and would not be 10 years old in 1963.

The act was amended in 1964 to provide for destroying documents less than 10 years old if they were put on microfilm before the papers were burned.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1966

Bennett Adds One More B.C. Riding

By JACK FRY
Legislative Reporter

Premier Bennett surprised the entire legislature Friday by announcing he will add another seat for the Kootenays—boosting total membership in the House from 52 to 55.

It was one of two last-minute concessions apparently aimed at silencing a string of protests against the redistribution bill which would have eliminated three seats by the merging of ridings in the Kootenays.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black had announced at the opening of debate on third and final reading that the name of the new Yale constituency would be amended to become Yale-Lillooet.

DEBATE DRAGGED

This move apparently was made to appease the objections of Lillooet Soered MLA Don Robinson, who later announced he still intends to vote against the government bill.

A score of members, including Saanich Soered MLA John Tisdalle who said he will vote against third reading, had dragged the debate on for 1½ hours before Premier Bennett pulled back the bill for the two amendments.

The unexpected climax came when the premier stood up and casually but firmly, said: "We live in a democracy. It is the duty of the government to lead and it is also the duty of the government to listen."

GOOD SUGGESTION

Mr. Bennett told the House that the member from Fernie (Liberal MLA Harry McKay) had a good suggestion in his argument that the new Columbia River riding would be too large for a single member.

The premier said the government "proposes to divide that riding, so we will withdraw the bill today and make two ridings of what is now Columbia River."

He confirmed outside the House that the government bill which would have provided for two new members in the House, will now be amended to provide for three new members.

He said in the corridor he changed his mind because of the government's two-river development policy.

"Because of the Peace River development in the north we added two seats there, and because of the Columbia River development we're adding an extra seat in the Kootenays," Mr. Bennett said.

Harry McKay, 15th MLA to speak on the bill during the afternoon, said, "This may be the last chance I have to speak for the Kootenays in the House."

He asked that if the government does nothing else to the

Seiners Ask Opening Of Inlets

A provincial department of commercial fisheries is needed to help put seiner fishing on a proper basis, a special legislative committee was told Friday.

Frank Buble, president of the Salmon Seine Vessel Owners Association, said gillnetters and trollers now hold a great advantage over seine fishermen.

Seiners are not allowed to fish seven inlets where the best species of salmon are caught and have only partial access to five other areas, he said.

Mr. Buble asked that half a dozen areas on the coast be set aside for exclusive use by seine fishermen.

bill it should at least split the Columbia River riding (formed by merging the present Columbia, Revelstoke and Kaslo-Slocan ridings) because it is too large.

Mr. Tisdale, who spoke about the same time, said he regrets that the area called Saanich has lost its "centre of influence" in the legislature.

He said that while redistribution is a forward step "... It doesn't go far enough, and for that reason I'm not prepared to support section three (the realignment of boundaries) of this bill."

Mr. Robinson told the House "we should never have gone for redistribution in British Columbia this year."

'WORTH THREE'

He read a telegram from a voter in the Lillooet riding, which he said expressed the opinions of many people in the rural areas.

The sender of the telegram said he considers that "one vote out here is worth three of the bloodsucker, welfare artists" who live in the larger cities in this province.

The Soered backbencher concluded: "As it stands, I'm afraid I've still got to vote against it."

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1966

Higher Grants to Simon Fraser

University Too Old?

Education Minister Peterson said Monday the University of Victoria does not receive per capita capital grants as high as Simon Fraser University because it was established some years ago.

He said in reply to a question from Alan Macfarlane (L. Oak Bay) during debate on the minister's salary vote that SFU is a "completely new and instant university."

It is not accurate to compare the two sites because building costs at SFU are higher and Simon Fraser "is a completely new plant, starting from scratch."

JUST AS NEW

Mr. Macfarlane argued that the University of Victoria's Gordon Head campus is just as new as Simon Fraser, and that while the latter did not have to pay for the land it is situated on, Victoria is still faced with operating a split campus and paying for its new land.

He told the legislature the

government should pay off the remaining debt left on the Gordon Head campus and equalize the capital grant ratio paid to both universities.

Earlier in the debate, Mr. Peterson told Mrs. Lois Haggren (NDP, Grand Forks-Greenwood) he agreed with her that the pupil-teacher ratio is too high and that there is a teacher shortage in the province.

RECRUITING

But the minister said steps are being taken to reduce the unbalanced ratio, and that "a very active recruitment campaign" is now taking place.

Indian MLA Frank Calder (NDP, Atlin) says he would be against establishment of a vocational school for Indians in northern B.C. — because he is against segregation.

Cyril Shelford (SC, Omineca) told the legislature there should be some type of industrial school which could teach Indian students with a Grade 6 education how to work in a pulp mill.

But Mr. Calder told the House: "As an integrationist, I must oppose any separate building that would create segregation in this province."

After discussion raged for seven hours, 10 minutes in the Legislature, Monday, over Mr. Peterson's salary estimates, the vote was withdrawn by Premier Bennett at adjournment, for further discussion starting at 2 p.m. today.

Earlier, David Barrett (NDP, Dewdney), waved a little red book in the air, and called across the House to Mr. Peterson:

NO "CANADIAN"

"I don't think our school books are being screened closely enough."

He was complaining that the Winston New Canadian Dictionary his nine-year-old son, Joe, had had to buy did not contain the word Canadian.

"It has 'American.' An American is defined. But if you turn further on, you don't see the word Canadian at all."

Second-Class Awards Up 1,000

More Scholarships

Second-class scholarships awarded by the provincial government, amounting to one-third of a university student's tuition costs, are to be made to 3,500 students this coming year — up 1,000 from the number of present grants.

Replying to questions by Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) on his education estimates, Education Minister Peterson said that between the systems of first- and second-class scholarships, bursaries and loans available at universities, "no one need go without a university education."

He also assured John Squire (NDP, Alberni) that boarding allowances for children attending schools away from home would be increased this coming year from \$30 to \$40.

NOT ENOUGH

Mr. Squire received the news gladly, but said it was still not sufficient. He had asked earlier for a \$90 allowance.

On university funds, Mr. Peterson said he hoped bursaries would be increased and that,

in this regard, the federal program of granting bursaries should integrate into the provincial scheme.

Last year's loan assistance was of benefit to 6,751 university students, Mr. Peterson said, and totalled "somewhere in the region of \$4,000,000."

RESEARCH CRITICIZED

Much of this was a federal loan program, but provincial loans were also being continued and encouraged, he said.

David Barrett (NDP, Dewdney) specifically criticized the minister for what he termed inadequate financing of educational research.

He pointed out that of the total provincial educational budget of \$166,000,000, only \$35,000 had been set aside for research, and that there were only three research officers in the province.

SCHOOLS HELPED

"I would like to see at least 25 research officers," he said.

Mr. Peterson replied that Mr. Barrett had failed to take into account the money granted by the provincial government to

"other research agencies" such as the school districts themselves.

Mr. Barrett commented to the minister that "one only needs to look across the border" to see that a university education can be obtained cheaper.

"EXAMPLE"

"I'm an example myself," he quipped, "and now I'm back in B.C. to see if I can't do something about reforming our own educational system here."

Mr. Squire told the minister he was concerned that education at university should be so expensive, where it had been "free" up to grade 12 or 13.

"Apparently we can afford to look after all those youngsters as far as Grade 12 or 13. The onus is on government.

ABILITY — MONEY

"But suddenly, once they've reached that point, the onus reverts to the student himself — somehow to find \$500 or so a year to pay his tuition fees.

"Up to Grade 12 or 13, it's a question of a student's ability to get ahead; after Grade 13, it's a question of money," he said.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1966

'Politicians Mistrusted'

Young people of today have a poor image of people in public life, and it's scaring them away.

Making a plea for a broader base for social studies in schools, Ray Perrault (L, North Vancouver) told the House there is general mistrust by youngsters in schools and universities today of all politicians.

"I think it would be dreadful indeed if we were to lose young people of capacity simply because they believe public life is sordid and unworthy of

them," he said.

At this juncture, an unidentified New Democratic Party member asked:

"I wonder what brought this on?"

It was an obvious reference to the political fracas raging in Ottawa between the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives over the Munsinger sex-security scandal.

Mr. Perrault urged Education Minister Peterson to try to set up a wider range of social studies, with particular emphasis on political education.

Mr. Peterson turned this away with the comment that provincial schools should not be made responsible for "upholding the image of members."

In debate ranging around education estimates, Cyril Shelford (SC, Omineca) told members he felt students living in outlying areas stood a smaller chance of going on to universities than those living in urban areas.

Checking over the list of graduates from University of B.C. from his own riding in 1964, Mr. Shelford said he had found only two.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1966

In the Legislature

Compensation Changes Not Indicated

Labor minister Peterson held out no hope in the legislature Tuesday for any amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Replying to sharp opposition criticism of the act, Mr. Peterson brought calls of "shame" when he announced: "We can't promise legislation immediately . . . but are most anxious to see it some time in the future. It is a matter of serious and urgent study."

Leo Nimsick (NDP Cranbrook) angrily charged that "all (the government) did with that report was make a few measly increases."

He referred to the Tysoe royal commission on workmen's compensation benefits tabled this session.

"You didn't need a commission if you didn't intend to bring in a bill this session," he said.

Said the minister: "A lot of the recommendations of the Tysoe royal commission have already been implemented and

the WCB benefits in this province lead all Canada.

Premier Bennett popped in and out of the legislature about 8 p.m. and again about 11:20 p.m.

"Maybe the premier would like to adjourn," said Mr. Nimsick at the premier's second appearance.

Mr. Bennett promptly got up and walked out, leaving the debate to drag on.

Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) moments before had told Mr. Peterson the opposition sees no reason why the government will not give some assurance that more recommendations of the Tysoe report will be brought before the House.

Debate was adjourned at 11:40 p.m. on a motion by Attorney-General Robert Bonner and is to resume today.

* * *

Uproar on Labor

Mr. Peterson shot the legislature into an uproar when he worked the "checkoff" into an answer on labor laws.

Replying to a question by Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Peterson said: "I am surprised they (the NDP) are still looking for ways to get their hands in the workingmen's pockets without their consent."

"If you want this to be quiet evening, you better take that back," roared John Squire (NDP, Alberni) as he leaped to his feet, flushed with rage.

"I will not take that back," replied the minister.

"You take that back too, attorney-general," Mr. Squire shouted to a comment by Mr. Bonner unheard in the press gallery.

"I won't take that back," said the attorney-general.

Deputy speaker William

Speare who throughout had gavelled relentlessly and without effect, then also leaped to his feet and ordered both men to sit down.

Taking their time, they sat. Mr. Speare then ruled Mr. Squire did not have a point of personal privilege and allowed the minister to continue.

Mr. Peterson was replying to Mr. Macdonald's charge that "trade unions can't make political contributions, but companies can give as much as they like and as secretly as they like."

"Any government that treats companies with a generous hand and unions with an iron hand is not going to last long," he said. "The seeds of its own destruction are there."

Mr. Peterson replied that contributions are the concern of the individual union member.

Merger Ratification

A bill to ratify the merger of the B.C. Power Commission with the B.C. Electric Company, which was taken over by the government five years ago, was given first reading in the legislature Tuesday.

The measure was introduced by Attorney-General Bonner after lawyer Gordon Dowding (NDP, Burnaby) had pointed out to the House that the new agency, B.C. Power and Hydro and Power Authority, had been operating illegally for more than a year, prior to July 30, 1965.

The attorney-general said the bill was "a precautionary piece of legislation" which approved the formal merger agreement signed last August "and events surrounding it."

Mr. Dowding had earlier told the House during budget debates that the government would have to bring in a validating bill which would clean up details of the takeover.

Doctors Control Doctors

Greater professional control will be imposed on British Columbia's 2,400 practising physicians under an amendment to the Medical Act which was given first reading in the legislature Tuesday.

The act, introduced by Health Minister Martin, gives the College of Physicians and Surgeons responsibility for regulating the physicians.

A doctor can be suspended for emotional disturbance or addiction to alcohol or drugs. The scope of a physician's practice can be limited if he is "found wanting" in skill or knowledge.

The college council will also have the right to demand that a physician submit to an examination, and can remove a doctor's name from the register for infamous or unprofessional conduct, or other traits which could endanger the public.

Maximum fine for second offences of unlawful practice will be \$1,000 up from \$250, and mandatory jail terms for third and fourth offences will be boosted to six months from three months.

First reading was also given to a bill Tuesday which will give the government power to place regulations for safety and sanitation control of public swimming pools and tent and trailer camps.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1966

'Grants Big Enough To Offset Fee Hike'

Premier Bennett dropped a veiled threat that B.C.'s three universities had better not increase fees this year as debate on a \$25,000,000 university grant bogged down in charges of secrecy in the legislature Tuesday.

Mr. Bennett commented as opposition members charged the government with operating under a "veil of secrecy" in refusing to disclose how the \$25,000,000 figure was arrived at.

NOT TALKING

Several opposition speakers demanded to know whether the grant would be sufficient to obviate a fee increase, but Education Minister Peterson wasn't talking.

But the premier interjected: "I don't think there will be a fee increase this year."

Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) snapped: "I am not interested in the opinions of the premier."

LARGE ENOUGH

"The grants are large enough that there should not be a fee increase this year," said Mr. Bennett in what sounded like a warning to the universities.

The issue began with a question in the estimates debate by

Alan Macfarlane (L., Oak Bay) who asked Mr. Peterson whether the budget had been filed with the legislature.

He said it is essential for the house to have this information before whether the grant would be enough. "Is the grant designed to avoid an increase this year? Have there been any consultations with university officials to ensure this? What attempts have been made by the government to cover this problem?"

Mr. Peterson did not reply.

BREACH CLAIMED

The cry was taken up by Gordon Dowding (NDP, Burnaby) who charged the government with a "breach of every rule of parliament by coming before the house and asking approval of a money vote "without justifying the expenditure or even disclosing what it's for."

Amid opposition calls of "blank cheque," Mr. Dowding said this is the custom of 400 years of parliament, but with this government it would have to be written into law.

ARROGANCE

"That shows the arrogance of this government," he said. "It's time we had an accounting with

the people on this hidden expenditure.

"Expenditures of tax money should be an open book."

REFUSES ANSWER

Mr. Peterson refused to answer whether the grant is more or less than the total estimate of the three universities.

"I'm still waiting for the minister to answer my question," said Mr. Macfarlane.

Said Mr. Peterson: "The answer is no."

NOT GOING TO TELL

"You're not going to tell us," asked Mr. Macfarlane.

"No," repeated the minister.

Opposition leader Strachan rose to remind the house that "with much smaller sums of money involved, the budget requests and needs are public."

Mr. Dowding rose again to add: "The government doesn't want them to be public knowledge, because if they were the government would be under pressure to increase the grant."

Said Mr. Macfarlane: "If there is a fee increase this year, the responsibility will rest solely and fully on the shoulders of the government and the minister of education."

No Match for Ottawa Noise—Strachan

B.C. House: Quiet Grind

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In the absence of any scandal big enough to compete with the Munsinger case, legislators here are quietly grinding through the seventh week of the session.

If there is any crisis on the local scene, it does not show.

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"It's certainly much preferable to what's happening in Ottawa, and I think most of

the people would agree with me."

Mr. Strachan estimated the House was slightly ahead of last year, considering the legislation brought in early by the government.

He ventured no guess, however, as to why the government

measures were being pushed through instead of being left to the last minute, as often happened in past years.

"This is the first time I've seen the legislation as far ahead—that's up to the premier—but there's nothing against it," said Mr. Strachan.

No Dentists Disciplined

An affidavit denying that any dentists were disciplined for co-operating with dental mechanics who were selling to the public was filed Tuesday

with a legislative committee studying the Dental Mechanics Act.

Dr. Wesley P. Munsie, past president of the B.C. College of Dental Surgeons, said in the affidavit that prosecutions were undertaken only when both a dentist and a dental mechanic were accused of violating the law.

Education Estimates Quarter of Budget

The legislature passed the department of education's 1966-67 estimates Tuesday, after 11½ hours had gone into debate for this department's budget of \$166,949,421, which represents one-quarter of the entire provincial budget.

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Green Light Favors Victoria Bill

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The bill, an amendment to the Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act, was introduced by Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell.

When passed by the legislature it will:

- Validate the agreement reached by municipalities here for construction of the Centennial Stadium on Gordon Head campus.

- Double the amount of money, from \$750,000 to \$1,500,000, which the city can borrow on the will of the late philanthropist Thomas S. McPherson, for repayment not later than May 15, 1968.

- Facilitate reconstruction of Royal Athletic Park by allowing the city to proceed before it actually possesses some extra land on Caledonia Avenue.

- Remove a 19th-Century esplanade restriction on eight city-owned lots west of the CPR terminal on Belleville Street. (A new restriction will require Capital Improvement District Commission and provincial public works department approval of any project started there, because of its proximity to the legislative precinct.)

- Permit the city to build and maintain sidewalk canopies on a local improvement basis.

ALL REQUESTED

(A section of the bill also provides that if any of these canopies are removed by the city at a later date, cost of their removal would have to be borne by the city.)

Mr. Campbell said outside the House that all these measures were requested by the city of Victoria.

The new bill will also validate the taxes which were levied by the village of Sidney in 1965, and validate municipal elections which were held prematurely last December at Invermere and Masset, B.C.

Extra-Seat Bill Introduced

Provincial Secretary Black introduced in the legislature Tuesday an amendment to the government redistribution bill.

The amendment splits the proposed Columbia River riding to give the Kootenays one extra seat in the House, as promised by Premier Bennett last Friday.

MORE SEATS

Mr. Black's amendment increases the membership of the legislature to 55 seats from the present 52.

The amendment calls for a new riding—Revelstoke-Slocan.

Under the proposed redistribution bill the ridings of Kaslo-Slocan, Revelstoke and Columbia were placed into one large riding to be called Columbia River.

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Mr. Black's amendment roughly cuts in half the proposed Columbia River riding.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1966

Labor Estimates Bring Out Name-Calling Orgy in House

By BARRY JOHNSON

Election fever, with another dark hint from Premier Bennett and a wild round of name calling hit the legislature at the witching hour Wednesday.

During an orgy of name calling over labor unrest, Premier Bennett yelled across the floor to Opposition Leader Strachan: "You are going to hear a lot about that general strike in the next election."

The outburst came as Labor Minister Leslie Peterson called Mr. Strachan "an anarchist and supporter of general strikes."

WORK STOPPAGE

They referred to a threatened B.C.-wide two-day work stoppage last fall.

As Mr. Strachan retorted that the premier is "ruthlessly and arrogantly again threatening

this house with an election," Mr. Bennett called on him to take his hands out of his pockets.

"With you, Mr. Premier, and with all of you, I keep my hands in my pockets," Mr. Strachan said.

As the rhubarb roared into full blast, John Squire (NDP, Alberni) accused Mr. Peterson of telling "an outright lie" when the minister stated in the house he had not blamed the NDP for fomenting the strike threat.

Government members shrilled for Mr. Squire to withdraw. He replied that he would withdraw when Mr. Peterson admitted the statement.

Still on the strike, Mr. Squire said Mr. Bennett was "the only premier in Canada who supported Ross Thatcher in sup-

porting the doctors' strike in Saskatchewan."

"That's not true," said Mr. Bennett, flushing.

"Look at the premier blush," said Mr. Squire. "He knows it."

As Sorensen heckling reached a crescendo, Mr. Squire yelled: "Oh shut up . . . go roll your hoop," and plunked into his seat.

The labor department estimates were finally bulled through at 12:10 a.m.

When the last vote passed, Premier Bennett rose to say: "There is no finer minister of labor on the whole continent of North America."

"To show there's no ill feeling," he added, in a reference to today being St. Patrick's Day, "the top of the morning to all of you."

Slow Rise Collapses Filibuster

By JACK FRY
Legislative Reporter

A nine-hour legislative filibuster fell apart at the seams at 10:40 p.m. Wednesday when an opposition member didn't get up in time to block passage of Labor Minister Leslie Peterson's office estimates.

The marathon debate about an \$8,068 office expense vote began Tuesday night. It resumed in the Wednesday afternoon sitting and carried on into the night.

It was sparked by opposition charges that the government is dragging its feet in implementing recommendations which were made by Mr. Justice Charles Tysoe in his royal commission report on the Workmen's Compensation Act.

HAMMERING

Countless speakers had hammered away at the government during the debate and three divisions had been called before it ended dramatically and unexpectedly.

William Hartley (NDP, Yale) had asked the labor minister when the government received the Tysoe report, and Mr. Peterson replied simply that he did not know.

Chairman William Speare (SC, Cariboo) called out for probably the 100th time: "Shall Vote 176 pass?"

A chorus of ayes was heard from the Sorensen benches and Mr. Hartley was still on his feet. There was no word from the opposition benches.

Mr. Speare then went on to the next vote in the labor department estimates and a startled Opposition Leader Robert Strachan called out, "Hold it! Hold it!"

But it was too late.

The last division in the debate, defeated by a vote of 27 to 16, was a motion by Gordon Dowding (NDP, Burnaby) that "the vote of office be reduced by the sum of one dollar."

Premier Bennett told the House: "We oppose this, and from this night on the opposition party will be known as the one-dollar party."

Opposition members called for the first of two divisions during the evening sitting when Robert Strachan challenged a ruling of chairman William Speare (SC Cariboo) declaring an opposition motion out of order.

The motion, made by Mr. Strachan, was to report progress and adjourn the debate "to give the minister time to frame amendments" that had been the basis of the opposition filibuster.

Speaker William Murray was called to the chair, and the government won the division 28 to 16.

At one point Mr. Nimsick bypassed the chairman and appealed directly to Premier Bennett who, during his fleeting appearances during the debate, sat with his back turned to opposition speakers.

Told by Mr. Speare to address the chairman, Mr. Nimsick re-

orted: "This debate is too important to bother about rules of order."

The beleaguered Mr. Peterson surrendered a point when he admitted one type of industrial disease not covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act was unknown to him.

Randolph Harding (NDP, Kaslo-Slocam) said men working in tunnels under high air pressure were subjected to "caisson disease" (the bends) and are not covered.

The Opposition and government became deadlocked early in the day on whether changes would be made in the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Mr. Peterson refused to promise any amendments during the present session, and John Squire (NDP, Alberni) told the House he would not vote the minister's salary until some changes were made.

Opposition Leader Strachan forced a showdown when the Opposition outnumbered government members in the House 17 to 14.

But when a division was called and the Sorensen hurried back into the House, the NDP leader's motion to withdraw Mr. Peterson's salary vote until workmen's compensation measures were introduced was defeated by a vote of 24 to 18.

While the votes were being counted, Opposition members called out: "Against the workers!"

"Cheap politics," retorted Highways Minister Gaglardi.

Mr. MLA Squire told the House that current rates should be paid for disability pensions, regardless of how many years ago the injury might have occurred.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1966

Mine Tailings Threaten Lake

Fish and plant life in Buttle Lake at Strathcona Park could be destroyed by mine tailings from Western Mines' operation at Myra Creek, a legislative committee was told Wednesday.

Fears about poison from the mine were contained in a brief submitted by a group of biology students from the University of Victoria.

Robert Hearst, spokesman for the group, said they decided to appear before the committee after discussing the question of pollution in their biology classes.

LITTLE KNOWN

Their main argument was that there was inadequate information about what effects copper mine wastes dumped into Buttle Lake would have on fish and plant organisms there.

"At this point, none of us knows exactly what effect these pollutants may have on life in the entire Campbell Lake water system," the students' brief stated.

"We do know, however, that even trace amounts of Cyanide, or as little as .04 parts per million of copper sulphate, will kill living things."

THREE POISONS

Mr. Hearst said mining activity could produce three kinds of poison which are highly toxic in minute quantities — sodium cyanide, copper sulphate and zinc sulphate.

"Until a 100 per cent guarantee is given that these poisons will not be permitted to enter the water, it must be assumed that they will accumulate in the lake," he said.

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Skillings Scorched Over Skirt

Victoria MLA Waldo Skillings had to rise in the legislature Thursday night and withdraw a remark that the only woman MLA in the House was hiding behind her skirts.

The argument evolved from Premier Bennett's statement earlier in the day that Agriculture Minister Richter had been unfairly criticized by the opposition.

Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP, Grand Forks-Greenwood) told the House the premier "reminded me of a mother hen with her chicks or a mother whose children can do no wrong."

PURCHASE

She noted that since a major debate on the agriculture minister's estimates was held in the House, the government has bought up the Grand Forks area cattle which were contaminated by pesticide.

"If the minister felt that what I said was wrong . . . why has he done exactly what we pleaded for him to do before?" Mrs. Haggen asked.

She said she doubted that Mr. Richter would have been allowed to buy the cattle if the farms affected in that area had not been included in the new riding where the minister would be running.

Conservation Minister Kieran and Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell protested that Mrs. Haggen was out of order, speaking on this subject during debate of Health Minister Martin's office estimates.

Mr. Skillings called out: "You're hiding behind your skirts!"

Chairman William Speare (SC, Cariboo) leaped to his feet, asked Mrs. Haggen to sit down, and then turned with a stern voice to the Victoria MLA.

REGULATIONS

"I ask you to rise and withdraw that remark," he said.

Mr. Skillings popped up quickly from his chair and said, "I will if you request."

Opposition Leader Strachan carried an earlier debate about chronic care a step further by telling the health minister that if he did not agree with Ottawa's regulations, he should have had them changed.

LONG SPEECH

"Even if Ottawa made the written regulations, you are the minister of health of this province and if you don't agree with it, your responsibility is to write

regulations to fit the needs of the province," Mr. Strachan said.

Earlier, chairman William Speare tried to keep the debate moving by reminding William Hartley (NDP, Yale), who spoke for nearly an hour, that this was not an occasion for "major speeches" by each member.

Mr. Hartley stressed the need for a province-wide, land-air ambulance plan financed by B.C. Hospital Insurance Service.

Chronic care should be extended to all the people in the province, home care and out-patient care should come under BCHIS and the government should initiate a medicare program under BCHIS, said the Yale MLA.

Dr. Patrick McGeer (L, Vancouver Point Grey) told the House there was a "serious medical crisis in B.C." because of the government's "pinch-penny" politics.

Hospital emergency facilities are "overloaded beyond all tolerance" and British Columbia's medical standards are in jeopardy, he said.

LONGER LIST

Dr. McGeer told the House that a list of patients waiting for elective surgery at Vancouver General Hospital had grown from 700 names last year to 776 names as of Feb. 22, 1966.

"And 1,500 in Victoria," chimed in Alan Macfarlane (L, Oak Bay).

Dr. McGeer, chief health critic in the early afternoon debate, said he was told by a brain specialist that a patient suffering a brain tumor has to wait "two or three weeks" before being admitted to hospital for surgery.

MORE SPENDING

He urged the government to start spending for hospital purposes some of the \$91,000,000 which the Liberals estimate will have accumulated by the end of this fiscal year from the two per cent sales tax increase made in 1954.

He asked Health Minister Martin to undertake a comprehensive study of B.C.'s acute, chronic and mental health care facilities and other medical institutions.

But Mr. Martin did not reply.

Only 'Basket Cases' Getting Chronic Care

A person has to be "practically a basket case" to qualify for B.C. Hospital Insurance Service chronic care coverage. Saanich MLA John Tisdalle said in a stinging attack in the legislature Thursday night.

He asked the government to ease up on its qualification restrictions and to extend its \$1-a-day coverage to the masses who need it.

The Saanich MLA said the government's regulations had "unfortunately created two classes of people: Those fortunate enough to get into line to reach a bed that qualifies, and those who don't make it."

He told the House about a 67-year-old man paralyzed by a stroke, who is rapidly losing his last few hundred dollars in a \$9-a-day Victoria nursing home.

The man does not qualify for BCHIS coverage because he is in a non-profit nursing home.

He also asked the government to either extend \$1-a-day coverage to include private hospitals or to "lease, rent or take over" the chronic-care private hospitals for which the government approved licences.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1966

'No Wonder We're Going to Country'

BENNETT AT BRINK OF ELECTION

By JACK FRY, Legislative Reporter

Premier Bennett nudged British Columbia closer to a 1966 election Thursday, when he told the opposition the government would not stand for the insults which have been hurled toward cabinet ministers.

It was the second consecutive day that the premier had taunted the opposition with a threat of an election.

"It is no wonder we are going to the country — we're not going to longer stand for this kind of insult to the ministers of a duly elected government," Mr. Bennett said, in the midst of debate on estimates for Health Minister Martin's office.

"This is a deliberate campaign of the opposition in the House — I hesitated to speak until now," the premier stormed.

"You haven't been here," called someone from the opposition benches.

"A deliberate campaign,"

continued the premier, "first against one minister, then against another."

SUCH ATTACKS

"In all the years I've been here, I've never seen and never heard such personal attacks against the ministers as I have at this session," he said.

"It was first the minister of agriculture (Frank Richter), the best minister of agriculture B.C. has ever had. They attacked our attorney-general (Robert Bonner), charging he should resign. Then they attacked the best minister of education and labor (Leslie Peterson)."

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan replied, "It is obvious the ministers are living in fear and trembling."

CHUNKS IN ARMOR

"The ministers and the

premier would not be so ragged and jumpy if we were not getting through the chinks in the armor they put on so well . . . it's obvious they are on the defensive."

He told the House the government was "indulging in every cheap political trick learned during the days when the premier was in the coalition."

CONTINUE TO EXPOSE

"He can threaten the opposition but not intimidate us, because we will continue to expose the shallowness of this government."

Late Wednesday, the premier warned that the election issue would be last year's threatened two-day general strike to back striking oil workers.

Opposition Attacks Martin

Chronic Care Definition Brings 'Resignation' Cry

Opposition members demanded the resignation of Health Minister Martin in the legislature Thursday after reading his department's definition of a chronic-care patient.

They accused the minister of using the federal definition for qualification for disability pension as a definition for qualification for \$1-a-day chronic care in B.C.

The definition says the patient must be "unable to walk or use a wheelchair without assistance and be completely or substantially unable to care for himself. He will need the use of trained staff in washing and bathing and using the toilet, bedpan or urinal, and in getting into and out of bed. He may also be unable to feed himself or move independently in bed."

Mr. Martin insisted the definition "was drawn up to conform to federal requirements" and added: "I'm sure the interpretation is quite liberal."

The definition was mailed Dec. 19, 1965, by the BCHIS to the province's welfare offices by J. W. Mainguy, director of hospital construction.

Said David Barrett (NDP — Dewdney): "You'd have to be an Egyptian mummy to qualify, and even then, an Egyptian mummy is standing up and wrapped in bandages and might not qualify."

'NOT ELIGIBLE'

The definition also says: "A patient who can walk without assistance, or who can get into and out of a wheelchair and operate it independently, will not be eligible unless the

treatment he needs necessitates the continuing availability of a graduate nurse.

"In other words, the functional ability of the patient is of paramount importance in determining medical eligibility, although diagnosis, medication and treatment must, of course, be taken into account."

"This is a disability pension definition and you are using it for chronic care," said Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan).

"We know what chronic care cases are, and there are hundreds of them walking around in this province right now."

Said Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) "You've had to bring out this definition because you don't have any chronic care beds available."

Mad Little World

AT THE END of last week Mr. John Tisdalle sought to rally the voters of his constituency to his side in his fight against the changes in the boundaries of the riding proposed in the provincial redistribution bill. He called on them to bombard the premier's office with petitions and telegrams. He wanted an enlarged Saanich territory including the Gulf Islands but with two MLAs.

As far as his constituents were concerned, he might as well have saved his breath and energy. The premier's office, as of yesterday, was still waiting for a small bang, let alone a bombardment.

Should Mr. Tisdalle be pondering the whys and wherefores of this lack of response to his battle cry, he might get a clue from *The Ottawa Journal* of a recent date. The *Journal* wasn't commenting on his case, of course, but on the plan of Mr. Real Caouette to introduce a bill which would completely upset the impartial and independent redistribution in the federal field.

"Politicians," it said, "live in a mad little world of their own when they discuss constituency boundaries. They think everyone is disturbed by the thought of boundaries being changed by the independent commissions set up by Parliament.

"Voters, on the other hand, are bored. They believe redistribution to remove anomalies in constituencies is essential. . ."

Quod, as Euclid was wont to say, erat demonstrandum—in Saanich.

Chronic Care Complainers 'Angry Heirs'

Health Minister Martin said in the legislature Thursday most of the complaints about the province's chronic care come from relatives who see inheritances going down the drain in private hospital costs. (See also Pages 14, 24, 39.)

"That is the most terrible statement issued by a minister of health in my experience," said David Barrett (NDP, Dewdney). "If anything should happen here, this minister should resign.

"This is absolutely despicable," he said.

Mr. Martin had said that "if chronic care patients were not in private hospitals, many of them would be in boarding homes where they would still have to pay, although it would be less.

"But many of them choose and prefer a room in a private hospital even though at higher rates.

"They really belong in boarding homes, but many of them are in private hospitals," he said. "But their next of kin don't like it.

"The next of kin get very angry because they see inheritances disappearing."

Said an angry Mr. Barrett: "The minister has been a total failure in this area. It is no longer a joke.

"I'm fed up with having you get up in this House, avoiding answering questions and telling giggling little stories."

Bennett 'Scores' On Perrault From Gallery

Premier Bennett had a brief chance to write the news the way he wanted it Thursday night.

The premier, an honorary member of the legislative press gallery, slipped quietly up into the press gallery.

On the floor below, Health Minister Martin was engaged in a debate on how a person could qualify for chronic care coverage, as outlined under a federal government policy.

B.C. Liberal leader Ray Perrault called out: "You don't believe everything Ottawa tells you?"

Premier Bennett, not one to miss a political gain, picked up his pencil and began scribbling away on a reporter's note pad.

Mr. Perrault, looking up at the broadly smiling premier, frantically waved his hands back and forth that he didn't want to be quoted on his last remark.

Mr. Bennett then quietly slipped out of the House.

The premier dropped into the ter back Mr. Martin through a back Mr. Martin through a tough line of questioning and barter for passing of his salary vote.

Mr. Bennett entered the House as Opposition Leader Strachan was relentlessly questioning the minister on how many persons are enrolled at \$1 a day in chronic-care beds.

The minister said, just as relentlessly, there was no way of knowing, the situation changed daily, the information could be dug up.

As Mr. Strachan drummed away at the question, Premier Bennett, who sits directly in front of Mr. Martin, quietly coached: "Don't answer him. Don't answer him."

Property assessment increases would be controlled by an amendment to the Assessment Equalization Act introduced in the legislature Thursday.

Attorney-General Bonner out-

side the House described the bill as an "equitable principle" and said it would be of particular interest to householders.

Under the amended act, the assessed value of land and improvements could not be increased more than five per cent over the assessment of the previous year when use of the land had not changed.

An amendment to the Liquor Act introduced Thursday would put minors, waiters and drinking establishment owners on the same footing if the minor is nabbed.

All would be subject to a maximum fine of \$150 on a first conviction. The amendment would eliminate minimum fines.

Currently, the guilty minor faces a maximum fine of \$50, while the waiter who unwittingly served him can be fined up to \$1,000, with a minimum of \$300. Establishment itself is subject to a minimum fine of \$1,000 and maximum of \$4,000.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1966

Even More MLAs Proposed by Bruch

The amended redistribution bill which will give the legislature 55 instead of 52 seats was approved in committee Friday — after opposition members failed to talk the government into withdrawing the bill for a complete overhaul.

It is now up to the government to decide when it wants to bring the bill before the House for third and final reading.

Most of the afternoon sitting was taken up by the redistribution wrangle, so far the most controversial legislation in the seven-week-old session.

ELECTION NEEDLESS

Liberal and New Democrat members argued Friday that the bill should not be pushed through just for the sake of an

election, which they claim is not necessary at this time.

In the Sacred backbenches, Esquimalt MLA Herb Bruch said the chamber should be enlarged and more than 55 members seated, while Saanich MLA John Tisdalle announced he will now vote for Bill 32 because he received no public support in his one-man campaign against it.

Alan Marfariane (L. Oak Bay) said the government's changes in the northern B.C. ridings necessitated the change which was made in the Kootenays, and that changes are now needed for the lower mainland and Vancouver Island.

BACK FOR STUDY

"This isn't an election year. We've been here only 2½ years and we can stay here until 1968," he said.

"There is no need to pass this bill this year — there is no reason why we can't pass it back to the Angus commission for further study."

Mr. Tisdalle referred to an editorial in Friday's Colonist which pointed out that the public is not as concerned about redistribution as the politicians who live in their own "mad little world."

'PUSH OUT WALL'

Mr. Bruch told the House: "I am not satisfied that 55 members are sufficient.

"We have the smallest chamber outside of Newfoundland

and Prince Edward Island. We should push out that wall behind the Speaker's chair and make room for expansion in future years."

John Squire (NDP, Alberni) didn't know whether to call it the Auction Bill or the Bingo Bill.

'BINGO'!

"I have 48 seats, do I hear 49? Forty-nine, do I hear 50? Now I hear 55, I wonder if I hear 56 in the background?"

"Or," said Mr. Squire, should it be: "Under the B. 55. Bingo!"

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1966

MLA Fights Water Bill 'Drain Beaver, Reclaim Land'

By JACK FRY

Oak Bay Liberal Alan Macfarlane made a lone, unsuccessful bid Monday to block second reading of a bill under which water rights in Greater Victoria will revert to the Crown.

He suggested in the legislature that the city of Victoria could drain Beaver Lake, reclaim 250 acres of land and make \$1,250,000 through sale of this land at \$5,000 an acre.

"Beaver Lake is not a lake at all, it is an impounded body of water. The land under that water is owned by the city of Victoria, which has a perfect right to drain that land, reclaim it and put it to any use it likes."

Mr. Macfarlane estimated it would cost \$2,500,000 or more to install a pipeline to service the

northern part of the Saanich Peninsula.

He said the only way to solve the domestic water problem in this area was through "consultation and negotiation over a period of time" by the municipalities involved.

"It cannot be handled any better with this legislation than without it, and what this would do is force these municipalities apart," said the Liberal MLA.

John Tisdalle (SC, Saanich) interjected: "They (residents of northern Saanich Peninsula) want a contract."

'How Will it Help?'

"Is the government going to force onto the other municipalities in this area a contract that is unfair . . . that people in other parts will have to pay for water to Central Saanich?" replied Mr. Macfarlane.

He told the House that "Central Saanich is now getting its water free — how is it going to help to have them charged for the water?"

Mr. Macfarlane asked the government to postpone its bill until next year, so the municipalities concerned could have more time to discuss their problems.

Mr. Tisdalle said this amendment of the Water Act would be the "swan song" to the Act of 1873 which gave Victoria control of water sources in this area.

He said people in the northern part of the Saanich Peninsula would "rest peacefully" once the legislation was passed.

Victoria Soered MLA J. Donald Smith told the House that any further delay in bringing in this legislation would only add more confusion to that which has already been in existence for a number of years.

No Reason Given

Resources Minister Williston told the House the member from Oak Bay had given no reason why the act should be pulled back at this time.

"It is the intent of the government before this act is proclaimed that all the problems and licensing and needs of Victoria will be fully taken care of," he said.

"I want to assure the House and the people of Victoria that rights to use water will be safeguarded to an even greater extent under this legislation than they were formerly."

The minister said that under present legislation, Elk-Beaver Lake were not safeguarded for either recreational or water use, and nobody had ever determined how much water could be removed from there while safeguarding it for recreational use.

It appeared that recreational values were far more important than water use at Elk-Beaver Lake, and Central Saanich might be mistaken in assuming the lake was an answer to its water problem, Mr. Williston continued.

The answer to the water needs in the rapidly expanding northern Saanich Peninsula lay in the extension of water pipes running from the Sooke hills, but it might take a year or more to resolve this problem, he said.

'Speculators Benefit'

Against Policy

Oak Bay to Fight Tax Assessment Plan

Oak Bay council prepared Monday to fight legislation introduced in the legislature last week that would limit tax assessment increases to five per cent or less a year.

Council authorized Reeve Allan Cox to take the matter to an inter-municipal meeting today and to explore fighting the measure through the executive of the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

"Taxes are based on market value of the land," Mr. Cox said. "If it goes up, the owner could be making fantastic money on speculation, but he

would not be contributing proportionately to municipal revenue."

He said the situation could create an artificially low assessment.

He pointed out that the value of land in some areas of a municipality increases more rapidly than that in other areas.

Councillors charged the act runs contrary to the government's home owner grant philosophy and to the principles of the equalization act.

Reeve Cox said land speculators would not be paying

their fair share of municipal taxes.

"This is going to fly right in the teeth of taxes being based on market values," he said.

"This is not the sort of thing that should be dubbed in at the last minute of the session."

Amendment Fails

Solid Socred Vote Backs Riding Bill

Last phase of the redistribution battle were fought in the legislature Monday night when controversial Bill 32 was given third and final reading.

Bill 32 will become law when royal assent is given by Lieutenant-Governor Pearkes on the day the House prorogues, and the next provincial election will be fought along the new riding boundaries.

A last-ditch effort by Opposition Leader Strachan to turn the bill back to the Angus

royal commission for further study went down in overwhelming defeat.

NEW REPORT

Mr. Strachan moved an amendment to third reading, for the bill to be withdrawn and sent back to the commission along with instructions that a new report should be returned to the House within the next 30 days.

He explained it was "unfair" to have tied the commission's hands with restrictive terms of reference which were later ignored by the government and said that "in all fairness we should have some non-partisan advice."

But when a division was called the NDP leader's amendment was defeated by 26 to 13, with Frank Calder (NDP, Atlin) supporting the Socreds and the NDP and Liberals joining forces in opposition.

NO SOCREDS

When third reading was called, not a single Socred voted against the government bill, although a number of backbenchers had indicated earlier that they could not support it.

This vote was 26 to 15, with Frank Calder again supporting the Socreds.

B.C. Hydro 'Best Gem'

The Pacific Great Eastern Railway is the shining jewel of the Socred government but B.C. Hydro is "the great diamond," Premier Bennett told the legislature Monday night.

Mr. Bennett told the House that a "great highway program, great railway," ferries, energy development and educational system "are the factors that build a great nation, a great country."

Police Getting Bad Name

Police are getting a bad name in B.C. because this province is too hard on its citizens, Attorney-General Robert Bonner told the legislature Monday.

B.C.'s chief law enforcement officer told the House: "I do believe we are giving too many people too many records in this country."

"Our rate of prosecutions in B.C. or Canada is really very high."

SECOND READING

The attorney-general spoke shortly before the House gave second reading, approval in principle, to a bill which provides for compulsory motor vehicle testing and 24-hour licence suspensions for drinking drivers.

It was time for legislators to find other means of securing public order instead of just prescribing offences for the police to enforce, said Mr. Bonner.

"WAY OF LIFE"

"I am concerned with the way charging has become part of the Canadian way of life," he said, adding that it is far too easy for a young person to be charged with hitch-hiking or for a young person to get a record as a juvenile delinquent because he has no licence for his bicycle.

That was why, said the attorney-general, he wanted this new legislation introduced "in a form permitting police officers to be judicially firm with people whom they wish not to see fall into trouble or disrepute."

Morrow Report

Province May Set Gasoline Prices

Gasoline prices need regulating and the government should intervene if the oil industry is unwilling to bring about the changes, says a long-awaited royal commission report tabled in the legislature Tuesday.

The 164-page report of Judge Charles W. Morrow, which took 1½ years of hearings and 1,800,000 words of testimony in its preparation, was tabled by Provincial Secretary Wesley Black.

It concluded that unless drastic changes were made "within a reasonable time," the government should move to regulate gasoline prices, either under the Petroleum Sales Act passed in 1940 or under the Public Utilities Act.

NOT JUSTIFIED

Judge Morrow said the five-cent difference between the cost of premium and regular gasoline "is not justified," and that the tank wagon price of premium should be dropped two cents a gallon — even though it may cost the oil companies a \$2,000,000-a-year loss of revenue.

Tank wagon price to independent, major-brand dealers should be two cents less a gallon than the tank wagon price to lessee operators, he said.

MARKUP CITED

The judge said the retail markup on gasoline should be "about the same" throughout the province and that "the present high retail markup in some areas is unfair."

He said no more service stations should be constructed in B.C. for at least the next five years, and that operators who were buying their stations should be allowed to repay their debt in full any time after five years so they could become more independent.

CASH PAYMENT

Consideration should be given to customers who paid cash for their gasoline rather than those who used credit cards, the report recommended.

This could be accomplished by allowing a discount to cash customers, abolishing the credit card system, or by adding a surcharge to credit card users, it stated.

Consignment selling is "unfair," the judge reported, and "all companies should withdraw the consignment agreements immediately."

POINTS REJECTED

The following submissions were rejected by the royal commission:

- That sales promotions should be restricted.
- That hours of operation should be more closely regulated.
- That discounts should be eliminated to industrial, com-

mercial and government accounts (bringing increased costs to the public).

- That the government should operate a refinery.

- That there should be a single dealer tank wagon price in all parts of the province ("It would result in one area subsidizing another.")

- That the price of gasoline should be tied to cost of production ("There is no known method of calculating product costs").

- That pricing should be on a freight-on-board basis (This would be contrary to normal development of market economy, Judge Morrow suggested).

- That discounts should not be given to non-brand service station operators, including department stores, to obtain their gasoline supplies at prices lower than their competitors, the major brand dealers.

("In some instances these discounts do, in effect, amount to a lower supply price to retailers, since no jobbing function of any consequence is performed.")

EARLY START

The gas price squabble in B.C. started back in the mid-1930s. Complaints of high prices, similar to those voiced today, led to appointment of the McDonald royal commission which recommended in 1937 that prices should be lowered.

A board was appointed and ceiling prices were placed on gasoline, but the oil industry retaliated with a 10-day strike in 1940, in which no deliveries were made to B.C.

SPECIAL SESSION

In the face of this emergency, the government called a special session of the legislature to pass the Petroleum Sales Act, which was so broad that the government had the power to enter the oil business and to seize operating companies.

But this act to this day has never been proclaimed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

The gas dispute died down and was forgotten until five years ago, when it was revived by Cyril Shelford (SC, Omineca).

Mr. Shelford's opinion of Judge Morrow's report:

"I was disappointed that the judge did not recognize there should be one wholesale price throughout British Columbia, so all gas stations would have the same start."

He was pleased, however, that the judge had "put the onus on industry for it to clean up its own house or the government will do it for them."

For Years—Nothing

Bennett: 'Don't Answer'

Mental Health 'Shell Game'

By BARRY JOHNSON

After some of the season's crustiest debate, three Sacred backbenchers leaned hardest on Health Minister Eric Martin in the legislature Tuesday.

Donald Smith (Victoria), John Tisdalle (Saanich) and Ernie LeCours (Delta) made emotional appeals for action on establishment of a treatment centre for emotionally disturbed and retarded children.

Proposing a department of human relations, Mr. Smith said: "We are concerned about the gross national product, we should also be concerned about the human product."

"I cannot speak too strongly on this."

DESKS THUMPED

He said the problems of mental health "must be set aside from these great industrial complexes we're building."

"Until we do, I don't think we can call ourselves successful public servants," he said to a wave of desk thumping that included most of the Sacred backbench contingent, but left all cabinet ministers staring stonily in all directions.

Backing his proposal for a human relations portfolio, Mr. Smith pointed out persons seeking help for emotionally disturbed or retarded children could have to fight their way through the labyrinths of six departments — health, education, public works, welfare, attorney-general and finance.

"Many members on this side are certainly not satisfied," he said. "We are doing more than other provinces, but that's not good enough."

"It is obvious to anyone who has listened to this debate that there's a great deal to be desired. The minister just hasn't the time required to do the job."

"We've built lots of highways and ferries. If we can be criticized it is in the area of human relations."

He compared the province's mental health machinery to "the old shell game" and said "people are distressed after

months and years of trying to pin down what they could or should do."

Mr. Tisdalle, who has a mentally retarded son, said he had hoped he would hear the minister say something encouraging this session and recalled the last time he brought it up three years ago when "the emotion and tension in the house could have been cut with a knife and was felt in the hallways and down in the streets."

But his "expectation of a profound announcement" had been disappointed.

"We can wait 100 years and suddenly decide we are going to build an institution that will put all others to shame," he said, and added, "But, Mr. Minister, these children won't live 100 years."

"The first ingredient of Chris-

tianity and society is to help the sick and the motherless and fatherless, yet we lack the ability to say: 'It shall be done.'"

"It is no salve on a broken body when we say they don't do it in Ontario."

"We've got the land, we've got the know-how, we've got the materials, we've got the technicians and we've got the money."

"Surely we can tell the parents: 'This will be done.'"

Referring to Highway Minister Gaglard's new turbine snowplow he taunted: "We can send snow flying a mile with a new machine but this doesn't do one thing for me. We can't solve the simple problem of providing an institution that can care for humanity."

An angry Mr. LeCours began his speech by saying he was

glad he had cooled off since the afternoon session when he had intended to talk.

"I am glad because I hope the bitterness will have left my voice."

He accused the minister of meeting all questions on the issue by standing firmly "with both feet in mid air and going into a lengthy song and dance to avoid giving an answer."

'SICK AND TIRED'

"I for one am sick and tired of being treated this way."

He charged: "The minister knows full well that every voluntary organization that is concerned with the health of our emotionally and mentally handicapped children is crying out for help."

Members of this house are entitled to answers, he said.

As has been the pattern, Mr. Martin sat through questions in determined silence or answered circumvently, sometimes blaming the department's ills on "the previous administration" 14 years ago.

When questioning became tough, Premier Bennett quarter-backed the minister's answers or quietly counselled him: "Don't answer him. Don't answer."

'Sleepy Lagoon' Sewage Safe or Health Threat?

How big a health threat are the "sleepy lagoon" type of open sewage disposal systems? Opposition members wanted to know in the legislature Monday night.

Health Minister Martin said, "Our health officials advise us that sewage lagoons are perfectly safe and not a menace to health."

The question was raised by Gordon Dowling (NDP, Burnaby) during debate of a \$3,752,761 vote for public health services.

He said there might be as many as 40

sewage lagoons in the province and that they were "a very serious menace to health."

Dr. Pat McGeer (L. Vancouver Point Grey) wanted to know whether the health minister considered the sleepy lagoons a temporary measure for sewage treatment, or whether they were here to stay.

Mr. Martin replied that so far as his department was concerned, they were perfectly safe.

Martin Under Attack

'City of Mental Illness'

Health Minister Martin was accused of creating a "city of mental illness" as stubborn debate of his estimates continued in the legislature Tuesday.

NDP members David Barrett of Dewdney and Gordon Dowling of Burnaby criticized the government for planning to build a residential clinic for emotionally disturbed children, adding to it the Vancouver General Hospital forensic clinic near the Willingdon School for girls.

Mr. Barrett said mixing the

three would create a potentially dangerous situation.

"You are creating a city of mental illness," he said.

He asked the government to reconsider and experiment with other systems of handling emotionally disturbed children.

He urged the government to turn to decentralized units, buying up old houses for just a few children at a time and investing the money in staff rather than "monuments."

"The light bill alone at Essondale has been as high as \$22,500 a month," he said, "and

once you turn the lights on in an institution like this, you can never turn them off."

LOVE, TRUST

"It is impossible to take 50 or 60 children, even in the cottage system, and stir them together and expect them to come out sane.

"Love and trust are factors that can be evident in a barn just as well as a million-dollar building," he said. "Walls cannot reach out and love a child. Clean hallways don't mean a rapport between staff and children."

Suggesting the minister call a halt to the plan, he said, "I want to build a monument, build it for something else."

He urged a limit of six to eight children per house, where they could receive treatment "as part of continual participation in the real world, rather than the institutional."

"Institutions teach them only how to live in an institution."

Replied Mr. Martin: "No matter what is done, it will be criticized. So there is nothing left to do but go ahead and do it. And that is what we are doing."

As he has done previously, Premier Bennett entered the legislature during Mr. Martin's estimates debate, and coached the minister with "Don't answer him," as opposition members asked questions.

B.C. Offers To Share Freeway Aid

Premier Bennett told the legislature Wednesday the provincial government will pay one-third the cost of freeways through Vancouver if the federal and city governments shared the rest.

Saying his offer is based on each government paying one-third the construction costs, he explained later that Vancouver must take the initiative with the federal government.

Why Not Answer?

IN the legislature this week three Socred members sought to draw from the health minister some assurance of positive action with respect to the establishment of a treatment centre for emotionally disturbed and retarded children.

This was not the kind of question voiced by Opposition members patently for political reasons, but an earnest plea for humanitarian attention to a much needed aspect of human welfare.

And all it got was a studied silence or the 'type of evasive reply that runs round in circles and means nothing.

When the questioning became acute, according to press gallery report, the premier buttressed his minister or said to him: "Don't answer him. Don't answer."

Why should a minister of the crown not answer straight-forward questions when these are advanced with honest intent and in the public interest?

There is far too much of this negative reaction to questions, both here and at Ottawa, put to cabinet ministers on subjects that vitally concern the public. Governments are becoming increasingly arrogant in this respect, and forgetting they are the guardians of a public trust and answerable for all their acts of both commission and omission.

Ease Trade Barriers

For B.C.'s Sake—Grit

Liberal leader Ray Perrault suggested in the legislature Wednesday night trade barriers should be lowered with the Western United States.

He said that even with absolute equality of freight rates between Eastern and Western Canada, B.C.'s secondary industry would have a tough time competing with well-established industry in Ontario and Quebec.

"It might take years to bring Eastern politicians around to our way of thinking," he said

during debate on Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark's salary estimates.

Mr. Loffmark later said he advocates a careful examination of Canada's trade policies to see whether the five regional areas of the nation could gradually bring about tariff reductions with a view to selling in the bigger markets in the U.S.

"The present system they're using in Ottawa hasn't brought Canada together and it hasn't developed Canada," he told the House.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1966

Strachan Charges: Kiernan Opened Park

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan Thursday accused Kenneth Kiernan, first as mines minister and later as recreation and conservation minister, of personally piloting the opening of Strathcona Park to mining interests.

He told the legislature that records for 162 claims staked at the southwestern end of Butte Lake were issued between 1959 and 1963, while Mr. Kiernan was mines minister.

These claims, when consolidated with 23 mineral claims granted by the Crown in 1924 and held by Western Mines Limited, were large enough to guarantee that development of a mine at Myra Creek would be profitable, said the NDP leader.

RECLASSIFIED

Mr. Kiernan was named recreation and conservation minister in 1964, and on May 13, 1965, the cabinet approved his recommendation that the Class A park be broken into three conservancy areas and two Class B areas, he said.

The reclassification put Western Mines' holdings in a Class B area, where mining is permitted. And on the same day the order-in-council was issued, "a park use permit was given to the company — they could hardly wait to get their hot little hands on it," Mr. Strachan said.

"Every action of the minister since his appointment has been directed toward giving the people with whom he dealt as minister of mines, everything they need to utilize the property he gave them as minister of mines.

'ANYTHING'

"The whole purpose of creating Class B section is the park was to allow the minister, step by step, to give this company the right to do anything they pleased in this park — and that's why the park was gutted."

Mr. Strachan told the House the Socreds were "prepared to leave no stone unturned to help some company make a dollar" and that all the while development was being encouraged in the park the government was "operating behind a facade of appearing reasonable and ra-

tional" about the situation.

He said the government had shown it was willing to "give them what they want, how they want and when they want it," while the people of B.C. and members of the House were being "led down the garden path ... never knowing what was going on."

POLLUTION

The opposition leader also pointed out that after Western Mines issued a prospectus of its holdings in Strathcona Park in 1962, a provincial cabinet order-in-council was passed in December of that year placing Butte Lake outside the jurisdiction of the provincial Pollution Control Board.

Earlier, Leo Nimsick (NDP, Cranbrook) told the House that "Operation Chop Up" started in Strathcona Park shortly after the new Parks Act was passed in 1965.

Industrial interests see British Columbia's provincial parks as a "veritable paradise for exploitation if they could ever get their hands on them," he said.

'PRESSURE'

"Big mining companies and timber companies are putting the pressure on ... and the minister of parks today who was minister of mines before knows the pressure is on."

Mr. Nimsick wanted the minister to tell the House "how he is going to control pollution from the mine."

Mr. Kiernan angrily replied, "I have listened for an hour and 10 minutes to nonsense, misinformation, misrepresentation and distortion of the facts."

'MALARKY'

He said his new Parks Act was passed last year to clear up "40 years of contradiction, procrastinations and lack of direction" in management of the parks network.

"While they called some of these large parks Class A parks where there could be no alienation of land, this was the greatest bunch of malarky ever foisted on an unsuspecting public.

"Last year, I told you I would have no part of a continuing policy of confusion. I said we

were going to make our parks into proper Class A category and we were going to weed out from Class A parks those areas where alienation already existed," Mr. Kiernan stormed.

BRIEF

"How can you sit there and say this government is not very much park-minded when we have created over 180 new parks since we came to power, including eight marine parks which never existed before?"

The minister pointed out that Western Mines' development in the park was based on claims which were Crown granted in 1924 and that these claims represented up to 1,150 acres — "as much as the Kimberly mine occupies."

Mr. Kiernan also advised the House that his stand was made clear in a brief which was submitted earlier to a special legislative committee studying the advisability of allowing a mining town to be built inside the park, and that this information had been available to the opposition members.

PURCHASE

His brief pointed out that it would probably cost B.C. \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000 to eliminate Western Mines' alienation in the park by buying them out.

"If the province were in a position to spend this kind of money for park acquisition purposes, in my opinion the money could be spent more advantageously elsewhere, for many desirable park and recreational areas could be bought for much less than it would cost to buy the mineral claims of Western Mines," it stated.

"In some cases it is practical to eliminate the alienations in the large parks by a variety of means, which include purchase or trade for alternate land where it is practical to do so.

"Where the private holdings of timber land or mineral rights are on the border of a park, it is in some cases possible, by a simple boundary amendment, to remove the alienation from the park and, in some instances, this is the best course to take," Mr. Kiernan's brief stated.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1966

Liberal Admits Shares

'Dastardly' Attack

Strachan, McGeer Clash in Battle of Buttle

By JACK FRY
Legislative Reporter

One of the wildest scenes in the current session of the legislature erupted Thursday night when Opposition Leader Strachan charged that Liberal MLA Dr. Pat McGeer was involved in the Western Mines operation at Strachcona Park.

Dr. McGeer (Vancouver Point Grey), challenging Mr. Strachan's suggestion earlier in the afternoon that 250 pounds of copper sulphate which would be needed daily would find its way into the lake, said the NDP leader was "guilty of misleading the House by suggesting this."

He said the chemical would be entirely consumed in the mining process and that none of it would enter the lake.

The hassle occurred shortly before the end of a six-hour debate when Recreation and Conservation Minister Kiernan's salary vote was finally

passed by the House.

The House exploded when Mr. Strachan retorted: "I am surprised that the member for Point Grey participated in this debate because, according to records of the company, he is not a disinterested party."

Liberal leader Ray Perrault shouted: "That's a disgraceful thing to say . . ."

Premier Bennett jumped into the fray: "I am rising as the leader of the government . . . the member for Point Grey has been attacked by the leader of the opposition in a dastardly way."

Mr. Strachan replied that the premier was "deliberately trying to create chaos in the House, so the chaos will draw public attention" away from the government's "bankrupt parks" policy.

The recreation minister then threatened that "if there is any further criticism of the overall parks policy of this province, I am going to take the next two hours to outline

the parks policy from the year 1952 to 1966."

He reiterated his stand that copper sulphate will not enter the lake, "if any does get into the lake it will not harm the fish and if any gets into the lake "and we found it detrimental then the method would have to be changed."

Dr. McGeer, who has opposed the idea of allowing mining inside B.C.'s provincial parks and who voted against the new Parks Act last year, said outside the House he assumed that what Mr. Strachan was referring to was the fact that "I am a very minor shareholder" in Western Mines.

He said in the House: "I'm opposed to mining in parks. When I rose to defend the government allowing tailings in the lake it was on a point of scientific information, not opinion."

'Buttle Won't Be Poisoned'

Recreation and Conservation Minister Kiernan was unable Thursday to placate opposition members who said they were not satisfied he had taken enough steps to ensure Buttle Lake would not be destroyed by mine tailings.

And Liberal Gordon Gibson crossed his party's line and urged Mr. Kiernan to stand up for profitable mining operations inside park boundaries.

Western Mines Ltd., has asked government permission to dump chemical-loaded tailings into the lake.

ONLY LAKE

Opposition Leader Strachan warned that tailings would include 250 pounds a day of copper sulphate in solution and said it takes only .14 parts per million of copper sulphate to destroy life in a body of water.

"No matter where you dispose of the tailings, there is only one place to get rid of the water (containing the copper sulphate), and that is in the lake," he said.

Gordon Dowding (NDP, Burnaby) added that tailings dumped anywhere in the lake's basin, even on the ground, would eventually find its way into the lake.

LAND

Replied Mr. Kiernan: "We don't want to tell you it's absolutely 100 per cent (safe) until we know."

"If it isn't, the tailings will go on the land."

Mr. Gibson said that if, in the minister's judgment, there would be a greater return to the people from mining than from park use, the minister should "stand up in the cabinet and tell Mr. Premier that's what you're

going to do."

"Western Mines is doing nothing but good for the people of this province," said Mr. Gibson.

"I'm tired of people going all haywire about the sacredness of park boundaries, when 20 feet away they don't care."

"The whole of B.C. is a park and I want you to do your housekeeping on the whole province as you would a park," he said to the minister.

A Sacred backbencher, at one point, called out: "Is this Liberal policy?" Liberal leader Ray Perrault replied: "No."

Said Mr. Gibson: "I am not speaking for the group because I have no right to. I haven't made any friends making this speech, but it's my honest opinion."

"Not one person in 1,000 has ever walked two miles in any park in B.C.," he said.

Replying to Mr. Gibson's stand, David Barrett (NDP, Dewdney) said it is easier to attack the government than "a member like that member, who is loved by every member in this House."

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1966

Ottawa Funds Welcome For Parkland

Recreation and Conservation Minister Kiernan said in the legislature Thursday that he would welcome federal money in a joint development of Garibaldi Park, but the park must remain under B.C. ownership.

He said the province had already begun "an orderly and well-planned" development of the park, costing more than \$1,000,000, and has spent \$33,000,000 on a road to Pemberton to provide access.

EXCELLENT PROPERTIES

"If the federal government wants to develop a park on the Pacific Coast, I can direct them to a number of excellent properties on tidewater which they could acquire," he said.

"Garibaldi is not substantially different from the 1,000,000 acres of parks already in existence in B.C."

SEASIDE PARK

A seaside park would be more worthwhile to the federal government, he said.

The minister denied a charge by Liberal leader Ray Perrault that he had steadfastly refused to negotiate with Ottawa on its proposal to invest \$10,000,000 in Garibaldi development over a five-year period.

VERY NEBULOUS

Besides, he said, "the \$10,000,000 offer was very, very nebulous."

Mr. Perrault argued that national parks are "protected against violation and exploitation by an act of Parliament."

NOT FLEXIBLE

"It wouldn't have the flexible park policy we see in B.C."

He pointed out that Banff and Jasper bring \$50,000,000 a year into Alberta, and estimated Garibaldi would be worth \$70,000,000 a year to B.C.

MINERAL CLAIMS

He said the federal government had already undertaken to leave mineral claims and timber lots as they were by altering park boundaries, and quoted Northern Affairs Minister Laing as having written: ". . . Happily, Garibaldi is almost devoid of resources except for beauty."

Said Mr. Perrault: "The cost to B.C. would be almost nothing, and the benefit to B.C. almost incalculable."

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1966

Bill to Protect Grant Nearer Final Reading

Premier Bennett said Friday a bill limiting property assessment increases to five per cent a year is aimed at preventing municipalities taking the homeowner grant from the people.

He told the B.C. Legislature that the bill, which passed committee stage prior to formal third and final reading, is a government attempt to prevent increases in school taxes. He said it will put the onus on

municipalities if taxes are increased.

"No longer do we want municipalities or anyone else to take the homeowner grant away from the people," he said.

"If they want to raise higher assessments for other than school purposes that's their responsibility, not ours."

Mr. Bennett said many municipalities "hid behind" the Assessment Equalization Act by

using it to calculate their own taxes. The result was the homeowner grant was being eaten up for purposes other than school taxes.

ONE OPPOSED

The bill passed the committee stage on a standing vote in which Anthony Gargrave (NDP, Mackenzie) was the only MLA to oppose it.

Mr. Gargrave said he was reflecting a stand taken by Powell River, the largest population centre in his riding, that the five per cent limit would cause the community hardship.

The House moved into committee of supply at 4 p.m. when Recreation and Conservation Minister Kiernan's estimates were finally passed.

The House rose at 5:45 p.m. with the final vote of Mr. Kiernan's estimate getting little debate.

Enumeration Of Voters 'Needed Now'

An Opposition MLA Friday called for a complete new provincial voters' enumeration which he said is necessary because of constituency boundary revisions.

Gordon Dowding, (NDP, Burnaby) said the enumeration is needed immediately, before any provincial election is called.

"We have an elastic-band premier; he loves to call snap elections," quipped Mr. Dowding.

NOT ENOUGH TIME

He pointed out that only seven days are allowed for registration of voters under the Elections Act.

This won't allow enough time for the large number of revisions on the voters' lists, he said.

There have been "wholesale boundary changes" in the government's redistribution bill, said Mr. Dowding. People who were in Vancouver East riding are now in Vancouver South.

NO ANSWER

"And there is no procedure as yet for validating the transfers."

The mobility of BMC's population is another factor requiring a new enumeration, he said.

Mr. Dowding called on the premier for an answer to his plea, but got none. Provincial secretary Wesley Black told Mr. Dowding: "I will certainly take it under advisement if and when an election is called."

Salvage of Driftwood Urged on Legislature

Commercial driftwood salvage and processing was advocated Friday in a report to the Legislature tabled by the house committee on forestry.

The report suggests that the Crown sell driftwood after the original owners of logs have been given time to recover them.

An estimated 300,000,000 board feet of lumber has accumulated along B.C.'s 15,000 miles of shoreline. Until now lumber and pulp mill operators have shunned driftwood because of sand and gravel embedded in the beached logs.

MLA Cyril Shelford, chairman of the forestry committee, has said that industry should be encouraged to harvest the waste wood, possibly with mobile chipping plants that would rove the inlets.

The committee's report said that strict regulations should be drawn up to prevent log pirating.

The report also proposed increased pulp mill capacity and new mills for better utilization of smallwood, timber unsuitable for lumber.

It advocated that there be no more sales of pulp timber in the coastal area until there is a market for smallwood now being left in public sustained yield units.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1966

To Pull Up Socks, Shelford Advises:

Give Oil Firms A Year

Oil companies should be given one year "to pull up their socks and clean house" before the government forces them to equalize gasoline prices, the Socred gas man said Monday.

Cyril Shelford, the Omieca member who sparked the Morrow royal commission, said in the legislature that would be time enough before the government "steps in and takes strong action and quits fooling around."

He also suggested the government-owned Red Star Petroleum Products Company — acquired with B.C. Electric — buy gasoline from the major companies and sell it to independent firms.

"Then these companies would begin to talk turkey and the consumer would get the break he deserves," he said. This would "break the hold the companies have across the province."

But Opposition Leader Robert Strachan would be even tougher.

"Twelve months is far too long," he said. "Most of the recommendations are fairly easy to implement."

MAKE UP MINDS

"They can make up their minds in a week whether they differ with the recommendations (of the Morrow report).

Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) told the House that gasoline trade names didn't mean a thing because the product was the same.

The motoring public had to pay for the "thousands and thousands of dollars" of advertising, which says that one gasoline is better than another, he said.

SAME TANK

This type of advertising was "ridiculous," said Mr. Macdonald. "They know darn well it often comes out of the same tank."

"It is a total waste of money. Commercialization is paid for by the motorist, and I don't think it is necessary."

Mr. Macdonald advised the government to set up a small refinery as a pilot project "to keep the oil companies honest, in terms of the cost of their product to the motoring public."

SUPPLY JOBBERS

Such a refinery could supply jobbers and produce fuel for

government vehicles, he said. "Only that way can you find out what the real problems of the industry are."

He also told the House, "It is time for equalization of tank-wagon prices across the province."

Trade and Commerce Minister Loffmark replied that the government had had the Morrow royal commission report on gasoline prices in its hands for only a few days, but that "it is under most active consideration."

PEOPLE INDEBTED

Alex Matthew (SC—Vancouver Centre) told the House that the "people of B.C. are under a debt of gratitude" to Mr. Shelford, for his pressure which led to the appointment of the royal commission.

He said Mr. Shelford should be reimbursed for some of the expenses which he incurred in connection with appearances before the commission. But no action was indicated by the government.

B.C. Movie Mecca?

MLA Says Money Only Drawback

British Columbia could be the Hollywood of Canada if the provincial government would start helping independent film producers, Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) told the legislature Monday.

This province has ideal climate, enough technicians and actors and a varied terrain which offer the greatest potential in Canada for film making, he said.

Mr. Macdonald said the government should make some money available to encourage this industry. "There should be a chance for B.C. to get into this most important field and become one of the major producers."

Trade and Commerce Minister Loffmark replied that the government would wait a few months to see what became of a federal proposal for establishment of a national film board.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1966

Enumeration Rouses Members *Bennett Called 'Little Hitler'*

Premier Bennett was called a Hitler Monday night and he in turn called the NDP members Communists as the Liberals backed the NDP in an attack on the government for failing to conduct a province-wide enumeration based on new electoral riding boundaries.

The attack started when Attorney-General Bonner introduced an amendment to the Elections Act in which post-redistribution voters' lists are to be compiled by transferring names from existing voters' lists.

Opposition members pressed the attorney-general to give them some assurance that the government, which has the power to call for an enumeration through a cabinet order-in-council, would take this step prior to the next election.

FLAT REFUSAL

Mr. Bonner flatly refused to give any assurance this would be done.

As the debate raged out of control at one point, John Squire (NDP, Alberni) pointed to Premier Bennett and called out: "Look at him sitting there like a little Hitler."

The premier jumped to his feet and angrily retorted, "I'm not having any of these Communists call me a Hitler."

Opposition members said the people of B.C. should be warned after this sitting of the House that if they want to vote in the next election they should take immediate steps to see that their names are placed on the voters'

lists.

After nearly two hours of heated debate, the government amendment was approved by a vote of 28 to 18.

Earlier, Mr. Dowding told the House that the fact there were fewer names on the 1963 voters' list than in 1960 shows there is a "serious defect" in the list, which can only be corrected by an enumeration process similar to that held by the federal government.

THOUSANDS UNLISTED

Randolph Harding (NDP, Kaslo-Slocan) said there are "hundreds of thousands of people in B.C. who are off the lists right now."

Arthur Turner (NDP, Vancouver East) called the government move "simply a device to avoid the necessity for a complete re-enumeration."

Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) said it is obvious the government "intends to call an early election, simply by transferring names from the old list and calling a snap election."

ELECTION IN SPRING

Frank Calder (NDP, Atlin) went even further: "There's no doubt about it, there's going to be an election in the spring of this year . . . it looks as though the premier is going to dissolve the House and call an immediate election."

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said the government has "a serious obligation" to make certain that as many people as are entitled to vote are on the list.

"Before we have an election there should be a most thoroughgoing enumeration of voters than B.C. has ever had."

'NEVER IN HISTORY'

Lois Haggan (NDP, Grand Forks-Greenwood) said: "I too must say, as a member without a constituency in the next election, I believe there should be a complete and full enumeration before the next election."

"Never before in history were voters' lists more incomplete and inaccurate than they were in the 1963 election," she said.

Harry McKay (L, Fernie) asked the government to at least have some voter's registration cards available for the next election—"Don't pull what you pulled the last time."

Mr. Dowding said, "there hasn't been a proper enumeration in this province for years and this government is derelict in its duty."

Dave Barrett (NDP, Dewdney) was ruled out of order when he suggested debate on the amendment be adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

"What does this government fear from enumeration? What does the government hope to gain from not getting everyone on the list?" he asked.

Alan Macfarlane (L, Oak Bay) said that after the House rises there should be "a massive campaign" to tell the people how and where they can get on the voters' list.

'Money Needed For Good Ideas'

Esquimalt MLA Herbert Bruch would like to see the government give some backing to new secondary industries in the province.

He outlined his plan to the legislature Monday during debate on Trade and Commerce Minister Loffmark's salary vote.

Mr. Bruch wants "some form of assistance for these people who have a good idea" but not enough money to put it into practise.

The government could "find an old building somewhere with space for 10 to 15 different operations," move in some equipment and call on the B.C.

Research Council to help put the ideas into action, he said.

After two or three years of concentrated assistance from the government, operators of the new businesses could go to a bank for financial backing.

"It would help these little fellows with ideas produce new products," Mr. Bruch told the House.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1966

All Sides Hail MLA, Premier Hails WAC

There was so much well-wishing floating around the legislature Monday that Premier Bennett just couldn't stand it any longer without grabbing a slice for himself.

The real object of the back-slapping was Cyril Shelford (SC, Omineca) who conducted an arduous, one-man fight that resulted in the recently-issued Morrow report on gasoline industry.

Members on all sides of the House congratulated Mr. Shelford for his uphill five-year struggle, and Gordon Gibson (L, North Vancouver) told Mr. Bennett the farmer member should be made a minister without portfolio "but with pay."

★ ★ ★

"I am very proud that Mr. Shelford did something that no one else did and that the cabinet didn't do," Mr. Gibson said.

He also said Mr. Shelford had been "a very fine chairman of our forestry committee."

"I wouldn't have him up there running a trapline or running a few cattle. Make him a minister without portfolio."

★ ★ ★

Several members urged the government to compensate Mr. Shelford for the considerable expense of the fight.

But in the long run, it was the premier who took the credit.

"I appreciate the member's remarks," Mr. Bennett said, "but he's 14 years late."

★ ★ ★

"In the 1952 session I noticed this brilliant young man, and urged him to seek the Social Credit nomination up there."

"I'm so happy that members on all sides of the House agree that the premier's judgment was right again."



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1966

Wind-Up on Saturday?

Forests Fiery In Long Session

By JACK FRY
Legislative Reporter

The departmental estimates of Lands, Forests and Water Resources Minister Williston drew strong fire from the opposition benches Tuesday despite the fact that the legislature is now running a week longer than normal.

A number of MLAs have already started thinking about returning to their homes and planning post-session vacations but there has been no tendency in the House to rubber-stamp estimates to hurry things along.

The legislature is now in its ninth week and its third consecutive week of daily night sittings. Members are now talking in the corridors of the possibility of a special sitting being called Saturday to wind it up.

ONE HURDLE

After entering the second day of debate, lands and forests estimates had cleared the last hurdle by the time the House rose for dinner, but water resources estimates were yet to

be dealt with.

David Stupich (NDP, Nanaimo-The Islands) warned the House that British Columbia is falling behind more every year on the job of reforestation.

He said during debate that "instead of gaining on the backlog we are getting farther behind every year."

Mr. Stupich told the House it is estimated some 26,000 acres have been insufficiently planted after being logged and that the B.C. Forest Service planted only 6,000 acres in 1964.

FALLING DOWN

"The government is falling down badly on this job of reforestation. Extremely little is being done by the Forest Service because we have not given them enough money to do the job," he said.

He suggested the overall answer to B.C.'s forest problems would be to "do away with all forms of tender" and have logging carried out on a sub-contract basis.

"Forest land should be owned and controlled by the people of B.C.," said Mr. Stupich, through

purchase, expropriation and compensation, and simple cancellation of tree farm licences.

SALARY USED

Gordon Gibson (L, North Vancouver) told the House that the government should pay the chairman of the legislature's select standing committee on forestry \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year "to be a roving commission to go anywhere there are problems which will come before our committee."

He also urged the government to show leadership in encouraging salvage firms to remove logs and driftwood from the beaches and debris which is floating on the water, posing a threat to small boats.

Mr. Williston advised the members that the E & N land belt on Vancouver Island is about the only privately-owned forest land in the province and that 95 per cent of the woods are Crown owned.

"You can't harvest to optimum until there is a market for the material you bring off the land," he said.

Reimbursement For Shelford

Premier Bennett introduced a bill Monday that would give Cyril Shelford (SC, Omoneca) \$5,000 reimbursement for his expenses attending hearings of the royal commission on gasoline prices.

The premier introduced a special bill that would grant Mr. Shelford the money out of consolidated revenue.

Mr. Shelford, who hammered at the government to set up the commission, said he was at one point forced to borrow \$2,000 to see his campaign for a proper investigation of gasoline prices result in the report of Judge Charles Morrow.

Mr. Shelford travelled through most of British Columbia, attending hearings of the commission wherever they were held.

"I was the most surprised person in the world," he said outside the legislature Tuesday.

"I expected nothing—it's just part of an MLA's job."

The bill followed requests Monday by MLAs from both sides of the legislature for some reimbursement for Mr. Shelford.

Townsite Allowed Inside Park

Western Mines Limited should be allowed to build a townsite inside Strathcona Park, a special legislative committee recommended in a report tabled in the House Tuesday.

Opposition Leader Robert

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1966

Strachan tried unsuccessfully to block acceptance of the report in the House. His bid, supported by only the New Democrats, was easily outvoted by the government and Liberal benches.

The NDP leader later explained outside the House he considered the report nothing more than a public relations job on behalf of the government's parks policy.

The report recommended:

- The townsite should be as close as possible to the company's mine on Myra Creek at the southwestern end of Buttle Lake.

- The minister of recreation and conservation should maintain "rigid control" on construction and maintenance of the townsite.

- Conditions for construction inside the park should include provision for removal of the townsite and mine buildings "upon termination of the operation of the mine."

- "It must be the responsibility of Western Mines Ltd. to prevent any pollution of waters of Buttle Lake as a consequence of any operation connected with the mine or townsite."

The report also recommended that the provincial pollution control board exercise "most stringent pollution control requirements with a continuing survey and inspection of Buttle Lake waters."

The special committee advised the legislature that its findings should not be interpreted as a precedent for future government policy in the "multi-use concept of park lands."

Committee chairman William Speare (SC, Cariboo) concluded the report, however, with the suggestions that the government try to acquire existing private holdings within Class A parks, and that Forbidden Plateau be acquired and added to Strathcona Park.

No Clear-Cut Understanding

B.C. and Ottawa Fishing In Murky Water

British Columbia's fishing industry is in a mess, a special legislative committee implied in a report filed in the legislature Tuesday.

The committee headed by William Speare (SC, Cariboo) noted that jurisdictional and regulation matters in the industry were "confused by lack of clear-cut understanding between federal and provincial authorities."

It recommended that the provincial government should hold negotiations with the federal government to "clarify the responsibilities" relating to:

- Limiting the number of commercial licences issued;
- Control of quasi-sport commercial fishing activities;
- Unregulated exploitation of B.C. coast fisheries by non-resident sport fishermen;
- The licensing of tidal sport fishing.

In the event that negotiations led to establishment of provincial jurisdiction over the industry, a minister of commercial fisheries should be appointed and money should be provided for establishment of a provincial fish culture branch, the report said.

It called for an evaluation study of the sport fishing industry to determine its relative importance to the provincial economy.

PRIME CONCERN

"Your committee further recommends that pollution control should become a prime matter of concern to the provincial fisheries department and that it should develop close contact with the pollution control board . . . to protect provincial fisheries," the report said.

It also suggested to the legislature that "studies and development of the shellfish and oyster industry be continued and encouraged."

Public Access 'No Problem'

No serious problem relating to public access to privately operated roads was turned up by a special legislative committee appointed to review the situation.

The committee reported to the legislature Tuesday that a "spirit of co-operation exists between industry, recreation groups and government."

It recommended that "present voluntary access programs be encouraged to continue and that a further review by a legislative committee take place in two years' time, with specified reference to access problems in the B.C. Interior."

Dental mechanics should be given more freedom to deal with the public, the legislature was advised Tuesday by a committee on the Dental Technicians Act.

Dental mechanics should be licensed to work directly with the public in taking impressions and making and fitting whole and partial dentures, stated the committee's report which was filed in the House.

TWO AMENDMENTS

It recommended two amendments to the Dentistry Act to permit co-operation between professional and non-professional groups.

The present working arrangement between dentists, dental mechanics and dental technicians and the public is "unsatisfactory and prevents the public from enjoying to the fullest the benefits of these essential services," the report concluded.

ON REQUISITION

The committee, headed by James Chabot (SC, Columbia), proposed that dental laboratory technicians be licenced to work only on requisitions from dentists.

It recommended that in the case of "immediate full or immediate partial dentures" a dental mechanic be limited to taking the impression and making the denture.

In this situation, the fitting and subsequent care of the oral cavity would have to be carried out by a dentist or a physician.

No answer to the shortage of farm labor was found this year by the legislature's select standing committee on agriculture.

The report was tabled in the legislature Tuesday by chairman Willis Jefcoat (SC, Salmon Arm).

CONTINUING PROBLEM

It stated simply that "as long as farm wages cannot meet the competition of other industries, a continuing problem of undefined magnitude will undoubtedly exist."

The question of the availability of farm labor in B.C. is "far too complex to bring in a detailed report at this time," Mr. Jefcoat's report stated.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1966

These Signs Indicate Lateness of Session

By BARRY JOHNSON

To the astute observer, tiny signs indicate the lateness of both the session and the hour as the government pushes to grind its estimates through before the end of the fiscal year.

As the tuckered members of the opposition harried Provincial Secretary Wesley Black, supply votes moved faster and faster and members grew restive.

At one point late Wednesday night, the cabinet forces were down to three members: Wesley Black, who pretty much had to be there; Attorney-General Bonner, likewise being house leader in the premier's

absence; and Agriculture Minister Frank Richter, who was loyally there but not in it.

There was a scattering of Socred backbenchers. They were busily engaged in watching an impressive display of arm wrestling between Cyril Shelford (Omineca) and Don Robinson (Lillooet).

Mr. Shelford, after a stiff fight, took the right arm; Mr. Robinson rallied on the left.

Called out of the house by the challenge of a press gallery member (things weren't what they could have been in the gallery either) Mr. Robinson handily shamed the much younger (Vancouver Sun) man.

B.C. 'Courting Trouble' From Ferry Workers

Opposition members warned the legislature Wednesday night the B.C. Ferries labor problem may deteriorate unless the government appoints a board of reference soon to hear the workers' grievances.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black replied that the cabinet will consider the appointment when he places the request before them — but he gave no indication of when this might be.

Ferry workers dissatisfied with a Civil Service Commission finding that no change should be made this year in their shift of 12 days on and three days off during the four-month summer season, filed an appeal against the ruling last Feb. 21.

When no action was taken on their request for appointment of a board of reference, the ferry

workers filed a petition of protest on March 23 with Dr. Hugh Morrison, chairman of the commission.

Dr. Morrison at that time would say only, "no comment," when asked about when a board would be appointed.

The issue was brought up in the House Wednesday night by Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) who said there was "great unrest" among the ferry employees.

NO MINIMIZING

"Can the minister assure me a board of reference will be appointed immediately?" he asked, during debate on estimates for the minister's office.

Mr. Black replied: "I realize problems are taking place in the ferry service of a serious nature and I don't want to minimize this at all."

He said he had hoped "some of the dissatisfaction which exists there can be ironed out" through the appointment of

William Thomas McLaughlin, who will become personnel officer for B.C. Ferries on April 1.

Mr. Macdonald warned: "You are courting trouble when you deny the limited appeal these people have ... If labor relations deteriorate further the sole responsibility will be on the government's shoulder."

MAR

1966

CASH FOR DOWN PAYMENT

Loans for Home Purchase Part of Bennett Platform

By JOHN MIKA

Times Legislative Reporter

Premier Bennett Monday revealed he plans to top his home-owner grant plan by being the first government leader anywhere to introduce a home-purchasing loan plan.

He has ordered a departmental study to evolve a program which would enable the government to advance low-interest, low-installment loans to persons needing cash for a 'down payment' on a home.

The revelation came within minutes of another debate in which the premier dropped another big hint of an impending election.

It came as he wound up a lengthy boast of his administration's financial assistance to people and municipalities, including the \$1 per capita increase in municipal grants that was under discussion.

"Is this a campaign speech?" queried Liberal Leader Ray Perrault.

"Yes," grinned Mr. Bennett and promptly sat down.

The premier gave the first inkling of the new idea during a debate in the legislature in which he also declared that the homeowner grant will go as high as \$300 if he stays in power long enough.

SECOND READING

The legislature gave unanimous second reading — approval in principle — to a bill which would boost the homeowner grant \$10 to \$110 this year.

The premier recalled that he was the first to introduce the homeowner grant anywhere in the world and it now is gaining acceptance in other provinces and areas.

He said it will keep pace with rising taxes.

"This amount will go to \$150, it will go to \$200 and, if we are government long enough, it will go to \$300," Mr. Bennett declared.

Then he dropped his surprise. "We're looking to see if we can find a formula that would enable a man to enter a rent-purchase plan and thereby secure the homeowner grant immediately.

"That is being studied now. I'm making no promises at this time. I'm only reporting to the house that this is under study.

"A person who is struggling to raise his family and who doesn't have the money to buy his own home — that's the group we're giving thought to. We want to help people to help themselves."

Later, he told *The Times* in an interview:

"This shows you how young this government is. It always has new ideas.

"We expect this to be our next move but I can't make any promise yet when it will be brought into effect."

But the premier pointed out

that he gave the first inkling of the homeowner grant by informing the legislature it was under study and it was implemented in a matter of months, "certainly within the year."

Mr. Bennett said his plan is to help persons who wish to buy a home but have to rent because they have difficulty raising the initial \$500 or \$1,000 down payment in cash.

"Take an ordinary family that has to rent now," he said. "Suppose they're paying \$40 a month — it would have to be something like that because we're talking about people with modest incomes.

LOW INCOMES

"That's \$480 a year but if they were able to buy that house they would immediately get \$110 a year in homeowner grant which would help with the payments, see the point?"

"People who have the money now have the choice whether they rent or buy but I'm talking about those who don't have the choice because they don't have the down payment."

The premier said his plan is to advance a down payment to such a man — "which may be through the government or could be a guarantee for a private lending agency but it would have to be low-interest rates."

He said the down payment level might go up "to \$500 or \$1,000, we don't know yet.

"And then he could pay, say, \$75 a month until the down payment was paid off and then go down to \$40 a month again (on the regular mortgage). After all, he could go higher for a while because he would be buying something but the amount would have to be kept within his earning power to make it possible for him to take this up."

"And he would qualify immediately for the homeowner grant to help him."

RENT PURCHASE

Mr. Bennett said his plan would enable homeowners to apply rental money towards the purchase of a home and he called it a "rental-purchase" scheme. The name was suggested by the British "hire-purchase" expression for installment buying of consumer goods.

Although the opposition voted for the homeowner increase, it criticized the methods of applying it as being too restrictive.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said the amendment "undoubtedly brings surcease to people who live in municipalities.

"But there is doubt as to why assessments are going up as well as the homeowner grant."

Also, those people who live in rural areas are at a disadvantage to city dwellers because of the imbalance of grant increase to assessment increase, Mr. Strachan said.

He pointed to Ladysmith area as an example of the way residential owners have been saddled with sharply rising assessments because there has been no pulp mill development or sawmill expansion to widen the tax base in that school district.

Residents of Yellow Point have experienced as much as a 900 per cent increase in assessments, he said.

ASSESSMENTS

"This \$10 will help, but it certainly won't allow them to pay their taxes under increased assessments," the leader said.

Some homeowners are being forced into liquidating timbered sections of land. "It is a bad policy to tax people on income before they receive that income. They are being taxed because they have some trees on their land.

"It means they have to log off their land. It will mean only the very wealthy can afford to live in a rural setting," Mr. Strachan said.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the fact that homeowner grants are not extended toward apartment dwellers who rent is a "lasting discrimination."

He noted that under strata titles legislation an apartment owner may receive the grant, but these persons are likely to be only the very wealthy by Vancouver standards where apartment sales are in the \$40,000-\$50,000 range.

"If the homeowner grant is a dividend from our natural resources, then it is a discrimination to deny renters . . . who make a distinct contribution to our economy," said Liberal Leader Ray Perrault.

Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan) said the best long-term relief for increased taxation at the local level would be for the municipal affairs department to "change the stupid policies you've laid down," addressing Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell.

He urged the minister to call a municipal-provincial conference on taxation.

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NKRUMAH MEN VISIT LONDON

LONDON (AP) — Eight members of the entourage of ousted President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana flew here unexpectedly today from Moscow. They were headed by Kwesi Arimah, former Ghana trade minister.

Socred Rebels On Grant Plan

Municipalities Need More, Insists MLA From Skeena

Only one member of the legislature Monday voted against the government's \$4 increase in per capita grants to municipalities—Social Creditor Dudley Little of Skeena.

He said later it was because per capita grants are not high enough in what he called the critical growth period of municipalities — the population range from 8,000-12,500 persons.

He did not speak to the bill in second reading but said he would do so when it comes up for final reading.

The bill is to increase per capita grants by \$4 according to a schedule that would see \$24 given to municipalities of up to

3,500 persons; \$20 for those between 3,500 and 8,000; \$16 for those between 8,000 and 50,000, and \$14.50 for those communities of 50,000 or more persons.

Mr. Little said the 8,000-12,500 range is the most critical time for financing in any community because it is when things like street and sewer improvements take place.

Such communities should get \$20 per capita instead of \$16, he said.

Grants Slanted, Says Bennett

The \$4 increase last year cost the treasury \$5,350,000, Premier Bennett said and this proposal will cost \$5.5 million for a total \$10.85 million in the one year.

The premier said he had heard criticism that the increased grants are not fair to the large cities. "I would like to say they are slanted more toward the larger centres than smaller ones," he said.

This was because there are more people per block and per mile than in the "extended municipalities," he felt and therefore cities with high-rise

apartments such as Vancouver get more benefit than other parts of B.C.

Arthur Turner (NDP — Vancouver East) called the increase a small appeasement to the problem of local financing.

A complete revamp of the municipal-provincial financial relationship is needed, he said. The grants "don't break the skin of the problem."

Patrick McGeer (Lib. — Point Grey) said he would support the bill because "when a person is gasping for breath you don't deny him air."

Reshuffle of Financing Urged

But "voting for \$4 here and \$4 there is a pathetic way to approach the future," he said, suggesting a completely new approach to municipal-provincial financing.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said it is up to the provincial government to negotiate a new with the federal government over the possibility of getting local taxes claimed as an income tax deduction.

He also said that only B.C. and Prince Edward Island had failed to initiate royal commission studies of local-provincial financing.

Charles MacSorley (SC — Burnaby) said studies in other provinces had been "a farce" and would do no better here.

Government MLAs oppose

municipal leaders all across the province, said Alan Macfarlane (Lib. — Oak Bay). They had turned down a bid for local representatives to meet with the legislative committee on municipal matters, he said.

"Fixed per capita grants will never be a solution to increased costs at the local level," he said, suggesting it was time the province paid full taxes for its municipal properties.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell said Mr. Macfarlane suggested that a better deal was to be found elsewhere in Canada.

There is still no formula any better than that of B.C., the minister said, challenging the Union of B.C. Municipalities to bring before the government any formula that is better.

'Declaring War' on Districts

"You're declaring war on the municipalities," Mr. Macfarlane said.

Mr. Campbell said the government didn't want "half-hearted support — calling the bill picayune and penny ante — vote against it," he challenged.

"Haaf a loaf is better than no grant," said Randolph Harding (NDP — Kaslo-Slocan). He also urged a conference with the municipalities to work out something better.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said the problem facing municipalities is "much greater than this bill."

He challenged the minister of finance to put in the bill for per capita distribution the money that could be raised under the old formula of grants to municipalities, which would be \$35.9 million compared with \$23.95 million total per capita aid under the proposed amendment.

Mr. Bennett noted the same problem of municipal financing came up under the old Pattullo government and coalition governments. But this aid would "not be the last increase municipalities would get from this government. Each year they can expect more," he said.

CO-INSURANCE

Coalition Ghost Tied to Socreds

The premium system of medicare will destroy the Social Credit government, an opposition member of the legislature predicted Monday to hoots of laughter from government benches.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) was speaking on second reading of a bill to expand coverage to persons of limited income by paying for 90 per cent of medical expenses of those who pay no income tax, and 50 per cent of costs for those earning up to \$1,000.

"Why should you divide people into classes on a thing like medicare?" Mr. Macdonald asked.

"Unless the premium system goes it will pull this government down at the polls. Premiums destroyed Boss Johnson and they'll wipe out this government," he said.

The member referred to the system of hospital insurance brought in by the coalition government prior to 1952, which required annual premiums to be paid by adult persons. Byron Johnson was premier to Aug. 1, 1952.

SALES TAX

When the Social Credit government was elected compulsory premiums were replaced by a sales tax levy as exists today.

There should be one law for all the people, Mr. Macdonald said. The system of medicare adopted by B.C. "flies in the face of the Hall Report," he said, referring to the royal commission on health services.

"I only wish we could drag this government, kicking and screaming though they may be, into national medicare," Mr. Macdonald said.

"The Hall Report is a great

plan for Canada," he said. It could mean a national medicare plan for the Canadian centenary next year, he felt.

NATIONAL PLAN

But this bill probably would defer a national plan a full year — "An act to delay and frustrate a national medicare plan for Canada" — Mr. Macdonald said.

It was unfortunate that B.C., which had led the nation in many social schemes, would be dragging its feet this time.

David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) said the bill meant people who need medicare most are not getting it. These were employable welfare cases not entitled to a free medical card and persons of such limited income that they could not afford to pay the premiums to cover them — like pensioners already on a subsistence level.

Second reading passed the House by an unopposed voice vote but Premier Bennett called for a division to make the record indisputable. The standing vote was unanimous.

SUBSIDIES

Welfare Minister Wesley Black reported to the House that a total of 64,362 persons are subsidized on the existing scheme that pays for 50 per cent of medical expenses for those not paying income tax and 25 per cent of expenses for those earning up to \$1,000.

There are 95,944 subscribers to the plan or 198,244 persons actually covered. Of these 51,716 subscribers or 53.9 per cent get half their expenses paid, and 12,646 or 18 per cent get a quarter of their expenses paid.

Mr. Black said 58,171 or 29.34 per cent are over 65 years of age.

LATER IN YEAR

Promise of Pay Hike Given Ferry Workers

Premier Bennett Monday said paying off the \$37 million debt of the B.C. Ferry Authority will enable the service to give a general pay increase to all ferry workers this year.

He made the statement in the legislature during a debate on a government bill to plough part of the surplus into paying off the authority's debt.

Outside the legislature, he said that the amount and timing of the raises will be announced later but "everyone will get an increase."

The coming raise for ferry authority employees was not included in the \$4.3 million estimate for increasing government employees' pay, he said.

The civil service increases — on a sliding scale but averaging slightly over 5 per cent — become effective April 1 and the indications pointed to a similar effective date for the ferry workers.

The premier told the legislature that the B.C. ferry fleet has long waiting lists of appli-

cants for work because its conditions are the "best anywhere."

"Nowhere else in the world do sailors . . . go home every night to sleep. Every person (in the B.C. fleet) sleeps in his own bed — at least I hope so."

The aside prompted a burst of laughter.

UNSATISFACTORY

Earlier opposition members from both the NDP and Liberal parties said the ferry workers should have bargaining rights because present management-labor relations were unsatisfactory.

"You would think we were living in the days of Rome, the way they treat these galley slaves," Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby) criticized the ferry management.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said the government "deliberately destroyed" the ferry workers' rights to bargain collectively and the authority "needs complete re-examination of its employee relations" more

than it needs \$37 million subsidy.

"The employees can talk to the general manager of the ferry fleet at any time," countered Premier Bennett. "The doors are always open."

"But he's never in his office," shouted Mr. Dowding.

Mr. Strachan said the subsidy should result in lower fares for ferry patrons.

"If you can give this kind of a gift from the taxpayers to the authority and still not reduce fares, then something is really wrong," he added.

The premier's response was that costs are rising and the largest of these was wages which would be increased soon.

NOT ONE NICKEL

Leo Nimsick (NDP — Cranbrook) said the ferries should be regarded as much a part of the highway system as bridges so "not a nickel" should be charged people using them. However, he said fees for vehicles were legitimate.

Lake Dump of Tailings from Mine 'Less Dangerous Than on Shore'

Dumping mine tailings into the bottom of Buttle Lake would be less dangerous to fish than stockpiling them on land nearby, a special legislative committee was told Monday.

In a surprise development, committee also learned that the water resources department and not the parks branch would have the final say on whether tailings could be dumped into the lake by Western Mines.

The committee wound up its hearings on western Mines' proposal to build a townsite inside Strathcona Park near its mine. It will hold a night sitting to consider its recommendation to the legislature.

I. L. Withler, fisheries biologist with the provincial fish and game branch, said that dumping 300 tons daily of fine tailings into the 180-foot deep lake was not expected to harm fish but a study should be made of the movement of the lake's water.

"If it stays below 100 feet, the effects certainly would be very small," he said.

GREATER HAZARD

He pointed out that stockpiling the tailings on land could result in run-off carrying the fine silt into the upper layers of the lake's water and create a greater hazard to fish, as it has in other mining operations.

"I don't know which system would be ideal but I think the lake system is the more satisfactory," he said.

Howard Paish, manager of the B.C. Wildlife Association, made the same point more strongly. He said it was a choice of the lesser of two evils but the choice was clearly in favor of lake dumping.

INTERNAL LINKS

"There's no use being emotional about this," he said.

"We would favor these fine tailings going into the lake under controlled conditions rather than take the risk of uncontrolled breakaway (of land stockpiling) that has been experienced in the past which can cause really serious problems," he said.

Mr. Paish said he was particularly disturbed about the lack of internal governmental

liaison in processing applications like Western Mines' request for developing a mine in Strathcona Park.

He was referring to deputy water resources minister A. F. Paget's testimony that under the law his department would decide whether Western Mines would be permitted to dump tailings into the lake, rather than the parks branch as everyone had assumed.

He said one positive benefit of the committee hearings was that he had learned through newspaper reports that lake dumping was being proposed.

Asked by committee chairman William Speare (SC—Cariboo) if it was possible that he might never have been officially notified of the situation but for the hearings, Mr. Paget replied:

"We would have found out about it sooner or later—and we would have been writing some nasty letters."

DUMP TAILINGS

He said whether a lake was in a park or not, his department was the licencing authority for dumping of tailings, specifically, and such licences have been refused on occasion in the past.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1966

PENSION INTEGRATION TO INCLUDE TEACHERS

Bills to "integrate" civil service, teachers' and civic workers' pensions with the Canada Pension Plan were introduced in the Legislature Monday.

The provincial government administers all three superannuation plans.

The Civil Service Superannuation Act amendment, according to an explanatory note in the bill, "would integrate contributions to the fund with contributions required under the CCP so that the total employee contributions would remain at approximately their present percentage level."

A bill to amend the Milk Industry Act also was introduced which Agriculture Minister Frank Richter said would permit his department to approve of pasteurization of milk by infrared rays.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1966

CRACK APPEARS IN SOCRED WALL DURING HEATED RIDING DEBATE

Bennett Gives MLAs Time to Cool Off

By JOHN MIKA and AB KENT

Both Social Credit and NDP caucuses were licking their wounds today during a break in a marathon battle that developed Tuesday over the government's redistribution bill.

Each party saw one of its members rebel — Frank Calder (NDP — Atlin) announcing he would vote for the bill and James Chabot (SC — Columbia) declaring he would vote against it.

But there had been signs that more government MLAs would follow Mr. Chabot in his rebellion.

The government request for second reading of the bill — approval in principle — touched off five hours of debate that spilled over into the evening sitting. Thirteen speakers attacked the bill and nine defended it before a surprise halt called by the government.

It was generally expected the government would allow debate to go until a vote was held but at 10:35 p.m., after prompting by the premier, Highways Minister Gagliardi adjourned it as opposition attacks became more ferocious and Mr. Chabot — the only backbencher to get the floor for a speech — revealed the first crack in the Socred wall.

The unexpected development gave rise to speculation the government wanted a cooling off period to prevent Mr. Chabot's rebellion spreading too far.

Four other Socred backbenchers had joined Mr. Chabot earlier in applauding opposition charges of discrimination against the Kootenays where several seats would be wiped out. Their turns to speak were expected to produce more anti-government votes.

The four were John Tisdalle (SC — Saanich), Arvid Lundell (SC — Revelstoke), Donald Robinson (SC — Lillooet) and Ernie LeCours (SC — Delta). Both Mr. Lundell and Mr. Robinson represent seats that would be wiped out by the bill and both have given strong indication they would oppose it.

Mr. Chabot, whose riding would be merged with two others but would retain its name, was known to be wavering before the debate but his straightforward opposition when he spoke foreshadowed the largest rebellion the premier would have suffered in his 14 years at the helm.

Socred MLAs have voted against the government only about four times and never more than two at a time before.

But for a while Thursday night it appeared that at least three and possibly five would take the step — more than offsetting the Socred glee at Mr. Calder breaking step with his NDP caucus.

Several MLAs later said the turning point came during a severe attack on the bill by Alan Macfarlane (L — Oak Bay). He said the Angus royal commission report was altered by the premier in an effort to stem even larger revolt of northern Socreds which would have resulted in defeat of the government on the floor of the house.

He lashed at the main target of opposition attacks — the government bill's retention of the existing seven northern ridings despite the Angus commission's recommendations they be cut to five.

The premier "did some quick mathematics" and realized that six of the seven northern MLAs would vote against the Angus plan, Mr. Macfarlane said.

(This number includes Mr. Calder but not Speaker William Murray (SC — Prince Rupert) who has no vote in the house).

Likely Three

"There are at least two men sitting on the government side who are going to vote against the bill as it is, and I think it likely there will be three," he said, speaking before Mr. Chabot.

"So the vote would have been 26 against the government and 25 for and the government would have fallen," he said, allowing for only two interior dissidents instead of the probable three.

"Every one of the cabinet ministers knows that is true," he shouted over heckling that came predominantly from government front benchers.

"That's why we have this bill before us in this form. It was to stem this rebellion. It was political expediency. It was to save the premier's political neck.

"Don't get up on the floor of this house and make vacuous excuses about why this bill was brought in. We know why.

Disgrace

"This bill is a disgrace. It's a disgrace to the province and it's a disgrace to this legislature."

Mr. Macfarlane also charged that even after altering the Angus commission's report to satisfy the northern Socreds, the government was trying to stifle another revolt from the interior

Socreds.

He pointed out that the number of cabinet speakers entered in the debate (all seven Socreds who had spoken at that point were ministers) showed the government was trying to squeeze out its own backbenchers — "a tip-off of trouble in the government ranks."

Mr. Macfarlane also scored the bill on the opposition's secondary complaint — the decision to create dual-member ridings in Vancouver and Victoria cities.

He said this was a government plot to win seats for "weak candidates riding in on cabinet ministers' coattails."

Send It Back

The Oak Bay MLA wound up saying if the government was not happy with the Angus report, it should send it back to the commission with expanded terms of reference for a further report and thus retain the principle of non-political redistribution.

Election talk also entered the debate.

Trade and Commerce Minister Ralph Loffmark threatened the opposition: "If you vote against this, we're prepared to take this thing to the people of the province."

"I don't blame them for being afraid to face an election but don't try to blame all your political misfortunes on redistribution," added Mr. Peterson.

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault said the government should ask the commission to recommend boundary changes giving more seats to the Kootenays by enlarging the house beyond the 54 proposed in the bill.

"Do this before you go to the country," he urged.

Ready For Vote

"I know the government's advertising agency is getting its ads up and organizers are running around the country getting ready for an election."

The premier, towards the end of five hours, began shouting "fillbuster" at the opposition and Randolph Harding (NDP — Kaslo-Slocan) indicated even after second reading was completed he would fight the bill on its clause-by-clause stage in third reading.

Mr. Bonner said he was accepting the commission's recommendations to cut the Kootenays' ridings from seven to four "against my better judgment.

"I would rather see these historic ridings retained . . . but

you can't change them without changing every brick in the chimney."

He said the north was different because boundary lines permitted some change and conscience dictated that it would be unfair to create a riding "literally 10 times the size of the Netherlands" as recommended by the commission.

Mr. Bonner maintained, over opposition catcalls, that unless the northern ridings were left unchanged, they would be under-represented by 1975 when population projections showed the average of the seven ridings would rise from 17,560 now to 34,142.

If the seven were cut to five, their average population in 1975 would be 47,800 against the projected average of 46,400 for all 52 ridings, which would "create an under-representation of 1,000 to 2,000 for the northern ridings."

Pat McGeer (L — Vancouver-Point Grey) said the bill added a new word to the political lexicon — "Bennett-mandering."

"How many in this house think that we would have had this bill . . . if six of the seven northern seats were held by the opposition and the Kootenays were held by the government side?

Self-Interest

"The bill reflects only the blatant self-interest of those who hold political power. Giving the north more seats serves only your interests, not the people's interests," he shouted at the Socreds.

"The political power in this province is behind the double oak doors (of the cabinet chamber) and the 110,000 phantom Socred voters," he charged.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said the least the government could do now is to ask the Angus commission to bring in further recommendations to increase the number of ridings in other parts of the province.

His comment drew opposition applause and approval from some Socred members too.

Mr. Perrault said that the government should introduce legislation immediately to provide for statutory redistribution every 10 years as in Manitoba or even every seven or eight years.

Contemptible

He ran into trouble with Speaker William Murray twice as he accused the government of rigging the distribution bill behind closed doors.

(He was referring to weighting of voter-MLA registration that would be created in favor of non-urban areas by the bill.)

Mr. McGeer blasted Mr. Bonner's population projections for northern ridings as spurious.

"He wouldn't dare present them to the scrutiny of the commission — it's contemptible," he said.

He pointed out that 13 of the 14 NDP members, four of the five Liberals and only 20 of the 33 Socreds made representations to the Angus commission.

"You made your submissions on this matter behind closed doors down the hall," he accused the Socreds.

"The insinuation is uncalled for," stormed Waldo Skillings (SC — Victoria). That statement is not true and I demand it be withdrawn."

Mr. Murray told Mr. Perrault to accept the denial by Mr. Skillings when the two began arguing.

Mr. Perrault then called the government bill "this dishonorable action" but withdrew it when Mr. Murray sternly told him it was an unparliamentary reference to legislation.

Mr. Perrault said, "It may be necessary to increase the number of seats in the legislature . . . to maintain electoral balance," he said, contending that if the northern ridings were to be retained then there was no reason for Victoria or the Kootenays to lose seats.

Mr. Perrault criticized the premier for not consulting the leaders of the opposition parties about the terms of reference for the commission or the government bill in an attempt to obtain a non-partisan agreement.

"He may have had one consultation with the minister of finance (also Mr. Bennett) but that's the only person he consulted," Mr. Perrault said.

Education Minister Leslie Peterson said "this bill represents a sincere attempt to give equitable representation to all parts of the province."

"The axe has fallen evenly on both sides of the house," he said in pointing to the bill's elimination of three seats held by opposition members and three held by Socreds.

He said representation-by-population works well in a compact and densely populated country like England but not as well in a sparsely settled and huge area like B.C.

Accusation

Mr. Peterson accuses the opposition of hiding behind a royal commission by refusing to come to grips with the problem created by the Angus commission's recommendation of a Northland riding which would involve "an area one-third the size of the province — 10 times the size of this Island — as large as the state of Washington — to be represented by one member."

Randolph Harding (NDP — Kaslo-Slocan) assailed Mr. Peterson's argument that the axe had fallen evenly.

"Is this the measure the government takes?" he demanded. "That if the axe knocks off three government seats you knock off three opposition seats?"

He brought waves of opposition applause — joined by Socred backbenchers John Tisdalle, Arvid Lundell, James Chabot, Ernie LeCours and

Donald Robinson — as he demanded the same treatment for the Kootenays as would be given the northern ridings.

"You should be on your feet fighting against this bill," he stormed at Provincial Secretary Wesley Black and Mines Minister Donald Brothers who come from the interior. "We're going to tell the country about you."

He said the cabinet committed "a major blunder" when it restricted the commission to proposing a legislature of no more than the present 52 seats "and then they broke their own terms of reference."

"If we are to have a common denominator in B.C. (deciding new ridings on population basis) then we have just as much right in the Kootenay country to demand and receive additional representation as any other section of the province," he said.

"This government has demonstrated it is just as bad or worse than any previous government, and has used the authority of government to try to perpetuate themselves in office," Opposition Leader Strachan said.

Rise In Wrath

"I hope the people rise up in their wrath."

Accepting the Angus report would have been the government's chance to decide the matter of distribution free of politics, he said.

"We agreed to accept the recommendations of the Angus commission," the opposition leader said. "This was a golden opportunity to try to restore honor to the reputation of politics, despite the fact that it would hurt many people on this side of the house."

The bill, in changing the Angus report, upset the balance it tried to achieve, reduced the effectiveness of the lower mainland area and "discriminated against the whole interior of B.C." by taking seats from it.

Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East) called the bill "a violation of democracy" and suggested the British system of redistribution—appointment of an independent, non-political group that is not responsible to parliament but whose recommendations are accepted by the government.

Hangs Well

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell said the bill is an exercise in judgment. Taken all together, it "hangs together very well," he said.

David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) said the government is fooling no one by altering the terms of reference that were handed to the royal commission—a reference to the predicted populations of constituencies and the maximum number of seats to be distributed.

The member called for an amendment to make a completely new enumeration of voters mandatory, in order to give every qualified person a vote.

BATE

"Fooling around with the boundaries is just a small part of the problem," he said. People will be confused by the new boundaries and not vote.

"Thousands of people won't get a chance to vote and that's Social Credit policy and you can't shut that off," Mr. Barrett said.

Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston argued that acceptance of the Angus report would mean disenfranchising a tremendous number of people.

He said the terms of reference were designed as an objective solution to the redistribution problem.

Purpose

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) said it seemed to be forgotten that the purpose of setting up a royal commission was to take the problem out of the political field, outside of the legislature where it is implied that self-interest is at stake.

Harry McKay (Lib.—Fernie) said if anything had come out of the debate, it was a "tacit admission by government members that the terms of reference were wrong." It was evidence of one-man government, he said.

He also deplored the government's preservation of Atlin riding, which would have been eliminated if the bill followed the Angus report. It is held by NDP Frank Calder, the only native Indian member of the legislature.

The government's explanation of why the seat was protected—because it ensured a voice for the Indian—was "mealy-mouthed," Mr. McKay said.

"You set up a royal commission to keep your gerrymandering fingers out of it," he admonished the government. There could be no proper dealing with the matter politically—"we're all biased," he declared.

Recreation and Conservation Minister Kenneth Kiernan said the opposition members showed their lack of knowledge of the north by their arguments.

It is not so much a matter of looking at reports, but more important to go out and look over the country, he said.

Opposite

The opposition's premature acceptance of the Angus report demonstrated their willingness to "accept someone else's thinking, so they don't have to think on their own and have no responsibility for it. That's the exact opposite of democracy. That's rule by royal commission," Mr. Kiernan said.

"You can always tell when the cabinet is in quicksand," said John Squire (NDP—Alberni).

In his 15 years in the legislature, he said, he had "never seen so many red herrings dragged back and forth, up and down, sideways and every way to avoid the main issue."

He said it was an insult to Dr. Angus that cabinet members,

after a quick look at the figures, came up with "a better study than he has." It was "an insult to his intelligence" that the government changed the terms of reference and altered his recommendations.

If it were a question of accessibility to the northern ridings, redistribution is not the answer, but planes, boats, time and money are what are required to get members in an out, Mr. Squire said.

Tony Gargrave (NDP—MacKenzie) said redistribution is "a struggle for power" which would not become apparent until voting night, when inequalities in the division of power among voters of the province would cast the political future of the province for the next four years.

He'll Run for Us' .. Hopes Premier

Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin) may have guaranteed himself an acclamation victory at the next election when he broke ranks with his party Tuesday night to support the government redistribution bill.

Premier Bennett earlier said his first reason for altering the Angus Commission's recommendations to retain the existing northern ridings was a distaste for wiping out the Atlin seat held by the only Indian MLA in the House.

Both he and other cabinet ministers privately hinted that if Mr. Calder supported retention of the northern seats, the Socreds would not run a candidate against him at the next election.

Tuesday Mr. Calder told the House: "I am a northerner . . . about a minute after I saw this bill I said to myself there is only one way I am going to vote and that is why I am going to support this bill."

As government MLAs applauded him loudly, David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) shot at the premier: "You going to run someone against him now?"

"He'll run for us, we hope," Premier Bennett shot back.

'Create Our Own Steel Industry'

A chance to combine the resources of government, labor and private capital to create a secondary steel industry for B.C. awaits an "imaginative" government.

David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) told the legislature Tuesday there is no reason why the government shouldn't stimulate a native steel industry in the province.

He noted that Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. is paid a \$100,000 a year bounty to produce a limited amount of steel at Kimberley; that B.C. iron ore and coal is shipped to Japan, and that B.C. buys back finished steel.

"There is no reason why we can't start our own proper steel industry in the province," Mr. Barrett said.

He was speaking to a bill that would permit conditional cancellation of crown coal reserves by the minister of mines.

He said the government could go to the trade unions and ask them to put up a share in a steel industry along with the government and private capital.

OPEN NEW MARKETS

"There is nothing wrong with that," he said. It is done in Sweden," he pointed out.

"Here we are putting our vast coal reserves to the use of another country."

His suggestion, if followed, would create industry, expand employment and open new markets.

"Will we continue to be supplier of raw materials, or use some imagination?" he asked.

Harry McKay (Lib.—Fernie) said the coal is of no use "sitting in the mountains." To sell it to Japan is good for Canada's imbalance of trade, and it may be many years before there is a steel industry in B.C.

Coal may be shipped abroad for the next 50 years at 10 times today's production, the reserves are so great, he said.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1966

REPORTS ON EAST KOOTENAY MILL PROGRESS

Tree Planting Mission Nets Dividend

Lands and Forests Minister Ray Williston's arrival in Tokyo last week ended a 44-day drought and added goodwill to B.C.-Japan friendship.

He was welcomed back to the legislature Tuesday after a four-day visit to Japan in which he took dogwood trees for the Imperial Palace gardens.

* * *

He told the legislature his tree mission attracted widespread publicity and showed the people of Japan to be "far more interested in trees than we are and they consider this as cement for the friendship between the two countries."

Mr. Williston said there had been a drought for 44 days when he arrived Saturday to face 20 to 30 television and news cameramen at Tokyo airport.

* * *

"I don't know whether it had anything to do with my arrival, but on Sunday there was a small typhoon, and the crown prince and princess picked out a place for the trees in the rain," the minister said.

He brought back personal greetings from the royal household and the Canadian ambassador in Tokyo and reported on latest plans for a pulp mill at Skookumchuk, a joint venture of Honshu Pulp and Paper Co. and Crestbrook Timber Co.

Mr. Williston said equipment is being moved into the East Kootenay mill site and

construction is slated to start when frost is out of the ground. It will be a 700-ton daily production mill and its total cost will be between \$50 and \$60 million.

The minister called it a "tremendous breakthrough" that companies are being allowed to proceed without a performance bond. The fact of mill construction is itself evidence of performance, he said.

* * *

While in Japan, Mr. Williston noticed the continuing impact of last year's cabinet visit to the country when the dogwoods were promised, and recalled there had been criticism that the premier and five ministers had made the trip.

"The impact on our trade situation is out of all proportion to all other visits which have taken place," Mr. Williston said.

* * *

He said he was given the honor of being first to sign the register at the formal opening of Honshu Paper Co.'s new office building in the Ginza of Tokyo.

Souvenir paper satchels bearing a large dogwood motif were handed to guests at the opening, he said.

Finally, Mr. Williston noted the "profound Japanese sense of humor." He was often introduced with a chuckle as "the man who brought the Dogwoods to Japan," he said.

No Charges Laid In 1965 For Pollution

The provincial pollution control board didn't lay a charge last year, Lands Forests and Water Resources Minister Ray Williston admitted today.

His printed answer to questions by pollution critic Tony Gargrave (NDP—Mackenzie) came in the vote and proceedings journal of the legislature.

The board was re-organized last year by the government for a sharpened program of combatting water pollution and Mr. Gargrave had asked if any charges were laid in 1965 under the Pollution Control Act.

Mr. Williston answered no, "however, the efforts of the responsible officials dealing with pollution control have been toward encouraging industrial and community installations to abate pollution."

AND WILLISTON CHUCKLES

MLA 'Knocked' Out of His Seat

Hulking Gordon Gibson (L-North Vancouver) woke up several other MLAs when he fell out of his chair Wednesday during a soporific debate on air pollution.

It happened while Forests, Lands and Water Resources Minister Day Williston was telling a nodding house about government requirements that pulp mills install up-to-date pollution control equipment.

"I know that must have been a shock but I didn't think it would knock the member out of his seat," laughed Mr. Williston.

"I make no apologies, I make no apologies," mumbled Mr. Gibson as he clambered to his feet and picked up the overturned chair.

"It seems the longer I talk the greater the impact," chuckled Mr. Williston.

Moments later Mr. Williston moved adjournment of debate on the private member's bill submitted by Tony Gargrave (NDP—Mackenzie) for the third year in a row intended to widen the scope of the Pollution Control Act to include air pollution. It now covers water.

The opposition—several crying "closure"—voted against adjournment but the government majority overwhelmed them 27 to 17 and the bill is not expected to come up again this session.

Another bill brought in for the second time by Mr. Gargrave bit the dust.

Speaker William Murray, citing standing orders, ruled his proposal for an expanded system of government-supervised legal aid for order on the grounds it involved expenditure of public money—an exclusive prerogative of the government.

UNHAPPY RECORD

Speaker Again Kills Two Bills

Two private members' bills with an unhappy record in the legislature were again ruled out of order Wednesday by speaker of the House William Murray (SC—Prince Rupert).

For Alan Macfarlane (Lib.—Oak Bay) it was the fourth time his bill to permit actions against the government had failed.

The same number of rebuffs have also been faced by David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney), who tried to have the Training Schools Act amended to prohibit the sentencing of children to an adult jail without certain conditions, to prohibit the mixing of children over 12 with younger offenders, and to require physical and psychological examination of sentenced children.

Mr. Murray ruled against the amendment bill on the same grounds as on previous occasions, that it requires expenditure of public funds. The ruling was upheld by a voice vote after Mr. Barrett challenged it.

Later, the member said he intends to reintroduce a simplified amendment that will seek to prohibit sentencing of children 12 and under to institutions with older persons.

130 SENTENCED
Up to 1964 he said there were more than 130 children aged 9, 10, 11, and 12 sentenced to Brannen Lake training school. Last year there were 31 boys under the age of 12 sent there, the highest in the history of the place.

There is little or no chance of a younger boy improving when he is placed in contact with others who may have an emotional problem, and the older ones have a negative influence, Mr. Barrett said.

Mr. Murray ruled against Mr. Macfarlane's Crown Proceedings Act because it involves royal prerogatives in which permission to sue must be granted by the government.

The member asked for consent to the bill by the attorney-general and government, "to give the people freedom in matters of justice."

NO REPLY
He asked for an indication from the government as to what might be done, but received no reply.

He said as it stands, the government is in the position of being "judge and jury in its own case," and it should be the first to ask for a change.

Bill Considers Alcoholism As Sickness

Recognition of chronic alcoholism as an illness is embodied in an amendment of the Summary Convictions Act, Attorney-General Robert Bonner said Wednesday in the legislature.

If the amendment passes the house it will enable courts to exercise the option, "at the discretion of probation officers, to require a man to undertake a variety of regimens to break him of his chronic alcoholism."

Mr. Bonner was referring to the "profitless cycle" of drunks who go before police magistrates, are sentenced for being intoxicated in a public place, are sent jail, serve their time and return to their haunts to repeat the process.

He said such agencies as the Salvation Army, Alcoholics Anonymous and the government's Alouette River alcoholism unit would be employed in passing sentence on convicted persons.

Mr. Bonner said the problem is particularly evident in Vancouver as it effects "the unhappy inhabitants of what is called the Skid Road district."

The bill would permit a "departure from the old conviction and incarceration procedure," the attorney-general said.

Debate was adjourned by Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby), who said the bill requires "considerable study."

The legislature also gave second reading with little or no discussion to government bills intended to protect the job rights of pregnant female employees, provide eight statutory holidays for most workers and improve the Factories Act.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1966

LEGISLATION UNDER CONSIDERATION

Early Action Promised On Fly-By-Night Pedlars

A private bill that would curtail fly-by-night pedlars and fast-talking salesmen will get early government attention, the legislature was told Wednesday.

The bill brought in by Leo Nimsick (NDP—Cranbrook) would amend the Sales of Goods Act to give a buyer the right within seven days to cancel an agreement to purchase signed anywhere outside trade premises.

Such agreement also would be cancelled automatically if the buyer did not receive a copy by mail.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner said the government is sympathetic with the victims of high-pressure salesmen. "The government is considering legislation of this sort," Mr. Bonner said.

But before it is introduced the experience of other jurisdictions will be sought, he said.

Mr. Nimsick agreed to adjourn debate on the bill indefinitely.

RULE OUT FAST-TALKER

He said the crux of the bill was "to rule out the fast-talking door-to-door salesman," the effect of which has been incorporated into British and Saskatchewan legislation.

In Ontario, too, he said, there is investigation into a "cooling off" or "decompression time" for sales agreements.

The Saskatchewan system provides for a refund to dissatisfied customers out of a fund built up from bonds posted by the salesmen, Mr. Nimsick said. And there is no indication that the law has been hard on business, he added, pointing to an increase in bonded salesmen.

Agreements are "often signed by the wife" and it is realized later they couldn't afford or didn't need the item, be it a new freezer, refrigerator, roof

or siding for the house, he said.

"People seem to fall for the pitch that if they don't sign now they'll lose a bargain," Mr. Nimsick said.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) cited the case of a man who was ruined by an unscrupulous salesman who sold him a home improvement scheme for \$750. The contract was on paper of Interprovincial Building Credits, Mr. Macdonald said.

The salesman took it to the company, was paid \$500 of \$600 and disappeared.

The home owner was sued for the money by the company, lost the case and his savings and eventually his house, he said.

Finally, the man reached skid road, Mr. Macdonald said.

"He was ruined by a fly-by-night door-to-door salesman who didn't do a tap off work on the house. A cooling-off period would have at least saved his savings, and in this case his life," the member said.

Closer and Closer

'Gibson's Blasts All Election Talk'

By JOHN MIKA

Times Legislative Reporter. Premier Bennett Wednesday neatly turned back the violent outburst by Gordon Gibson (C—North Vancouver) in which he had accused the premier of using Hitler, Capone, Huey Long and Castro tactics.

The premier pointed out that Mr. Gibson had contrasted his feelings this year with those of last year when he praised the premier extravagantly.

Mr. Bennett also recalled that Mr. Gibson himself in his 1965 speech told the House that he would be bound to stop praising and start criticizing the premier in the event of an election campaign.

"That's the reason and the only reason that he criticized me the other day — not because he believes in it but because he fears an election!" cried the premier triumphantly.

"He was telling the truth a year ago and, I won't say he wasn't telling the truth the other day, but he was politicking."

Mr. Gibson laughed sheepishly as the premier and Socred members laughed uproariously.

"Are we near an election then?" called out an opposition member.

EVERY DAY

"You're always near an election," laughed the premier. "We get nearer every day, my friend."

Later, the premier touched off more tumult in the House when, contending that most British Columbians are united with him in wishing to develop the province, he made the aside:

"It's at least 65 per cent of the people — and recent surveys show it."

As opposition members began accusing the premier of throwing another election scare, the premier grinned and repeated emphatically "and a recent survey shows it."

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1966

PULL THE PLUG, SAYS BENNETT

Premier Bennett Wednesday told the five federal Social Credit MPs to pull the plug on the Liberal government if it doesn't raise the old age pension to \$100.

The premier, considered by many to have reasserted himself as the mastermind of the national Socred parliamentary group, switched dramatically and unexpectedly in his position that Robert Thompson was right in voting to keep the government in office to avoid an early election.

"I don't speak for them (the Socred MPs) but if I was in the House of Commons on budget day if that \$100 isn't there for the old age pensioners the Social Crediters should vote them out of office," he told the legislature.

"They kept them in office only to give them an opportunity to perform and if they don't perform I hope they have the intestinal fortitude to throw them out."

The premier's gratuitous advice was prompted by an opposition jibe at the Socred support for Liberal government in Ottawa in contrast to Premier Bennett's criticism of the federal government.

The premier has met the same jibe almost daily through this session and, up until Wednesday, has staunchly maintained it was statesmanlike for the federal Socreds to keep the government in power rather than precipitate another unwanted national election.

Liberties Not Violated, Says Bonner

Attorney-general Robert Bonner Wednesday argued that his proposed Motor Vehicle Act amendments do not violate civil liberties.

He took the stand in seeking second reading for the bill which includes provisions allowing police to make 24-hour "roadside suspensions" of driving licences and requiring police stickers on cars needing accident repairs.

Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver-East) adjourned debate before the bill could receive second reading because he said the civil liberties aspects needed close scrutiny.

"A licence is not a right but a privilege to be obtained upon examination," said Mr. Bonner. He said roadside suspension of drivers who have been drinking involves only the question of

temporary driving competence.

TRAIN POLICE

He said the new provisions would not be implemented for some time because police would have to be trained as to "the limits to which they may use" the legislation and also would have to be trained and equipped with breathalyzers.

"I think no one is more conscious of the need . . . of civil liberty than I," said Mr. Bonner in referring to some public criticism of the bill.

"Frankly, I am particularly sensitive about this subject and it is one of the reasons that I have objected to the use of breathalyzers for the purpose of adducing evidence" (as is done in Saskatchewan).

"This legislation is a question of physical competence (to drive) and not of civil liberty.

Mr. Bonner said in the past couple years there has been an alarming increase in the number of hit-run accidents which probably are "tied-in" with the increase in liquor consumption.

"Therefore we have moved with some regret with legislation against that trend in regard to reportable accidents and the repair of damage."

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1966

LAUGH, LAUGH, LAUGH

'GLEEFUL RESPONSE' TO DICTATOR CHARGE

By AB KENT

The more people call Premier Bennett names, the more his family laughs about it, he told members of the legislature Thursday.

He referred to recent accusations that he is a "dictator," which brought gales of gleeful response from his children and grandchildren, he said.

"They laughed and laughed and laughed just as the people of the province laugh, laugh, laugh."

The premier recalled an old Scottish saying his New Brunswick mother used to say:

"Sticks and stones may hurt my bones, but names will never hurt me."

People who can't fight fairly resort to name-calling as they would kick and scratch in a fight, the premier said.

HIGH SPIRITS

He was in a mood of high spirits and oneness, touching on a variety of subjects in debate over estimates for his own office.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan referred to it in a remark across the floor of the House as an election speech. Earlier he had called the premier the "dictator of the House."

The premier said he didn't care what the old parties, the socialists, newspaper barons and industrial tycoons called him:

"We are the government of the people."

Several members of the opposition cried, "Gunderson, Gunderson," the man who is

the premier's friend, counsel and director of several Crown agencies, a former finance minister and now adviser to the government.

"You say we are dictators. Well, I say this: we are the people who were elected by the people."

'CAPTAIN OF GROUP'

"I do not deny that I am the leader, that I am the captain of this group for 14 years . . . but others have done the work. I don't take the credit. I take the blame for failures," the premier said.

He went into the type of government that existed in B.C. prior to his office in 1952 and was critical of the tight control over public affairs by political machines.

"You didn't break the stranglehold of politics in this province," Mr. Strachan hurled back, recalling that the premier had himself been a coalitionist prior to becoming an Independent member.

"You just joined the Social Credit Party," Mr. Strachan said. He referred to influential persons who had had a voice in government. "You hugged them to your breast just as the Liberals did in the past."

"And that's why you went to Japan so you wouldn't have to appear in that court case where the evidence came out," the opposition leader said, referring to the trial last summer of Al Williamson, public relations counsel, who worked closely with the premier.

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'Model Session' Handles 22 Bills in One Sitting

Premier Bennett said Thursday he is trying to make a "model session" out of the current legislature by getting most bills through the house well before the end of the session.

SIXTH BID TO BAN FIREWORKS

Mrs. Lois Hagegn (NDP—Grandforks-Greenwood) Thursday opened her sixth annual attempt to ban fireworks except for public displays.

She introduced a bill in the legislature which would repeal the Fireworks Regulation Act and prohibit both the sale and discharge of fireworks by anyone except for public displays approved in writing by the fire marshal.

The same bill has died on the order paper in each of the preceding five sessions.

Rarely has there been such acceleration of the process of introducing bills and putting them through their readings as on Thursday afternoon, which saw third reading given to 22 bills.

One 21-page bill with 63 sections zipped through in about five minutes including questions, for an average of more than 12 sections per minute. It was the re-written Factories Act.

"Is it necessary to rush?" asked Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East). There was little chance for opposition members to move amendments with chairman of committee Herbert Bruch (SC—Esquimalt) calling the shot.

Mr. Bennett said, "In the past we have been criticized for

holding legislation until the end of the session when members are tired. This time we are trying to hold a model session.

"We haven't tried to rush anything through," he said "just with despatch."

Among the bills passed were amendments to the Regional Parks Act, Social Services Tax Act and Annual Holidays Act; revision of the Factories Act; a new Maternity Protection Act, Crop Insurance Act and Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company Share Capital Act.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1966

ANNOUNCEMENT SEEN BY MONTH'S END

Lower Gas Rates Pledged

B.C. Hydro rate cuts for gas users were virtually assured Thursday night in the legislature but electricity rates will remain unchanged.

Premier Bennett, fiscal agent for B.C. Hydro, said he will meet with directors March 21 to recommend reductions in natural gas rates.

He said he would recommend a cut in the rate for propane gas sold on Vancouver Island also.

"And bring it in line with Vancouver (natural gas) rates?" asked John Squire (NDP - Alberni).

"I didn't say that," replied the premier.

The premier did not specify the size of the cuts he would "strongly recommend." He said they would be announced by B.C. Hydro March 31 and put into effect April 1, when the fiscal year starts.

FISCAL YEAR

He said he would "strongly recommend reduction in the rates for natural gas" and that if accepted, lower rates likely would take effect March 31, the end of the fiscal year.

Later, he said "I will be frank with you, I'm not going to recommend a reduction this year" in electricity rates.

The statements came in response to remarks of opposition leader Robert Strachan, who said the people of B.C. are being "gouged by prices charged by B.C. Hydro."

The rate cuts would be effective in Vancouver and Victoria, where Hydro has domestic gas distribution systems.

ELECTRICITY

"We don't set the rates but we do recommend reductions," the premier said. They were put in effect first on electricity because more people are reached this way, he said.

Hydro in the current year is expected to show an \$8 million profit, down about \$5 million from the \$13 million of the previous fiscal year.

"The profit this year is quite thin," Mr. Bennett said. Partly through increased operating costs such as higher wages there is not the same opportunity for making reductions.

But he pointed to the average \$20 million a year reduction in rates, "a great dividend to the people so soon" after government takeover of B.C. Electric operations.

It is necessary for the crown company to guarantee its success, to "ensure that this great utility will not be operating at a loss," the premier said.

Hydro is financing "the largest development taking place anywhere in the world today," Mr. Bennett said, pointing to the more than \$300 million capital expenditure earmarked for this year.

He recalled the criticism directed toward B.C. when export of natural gas was permitted at a price of 22 cents per thousand cubic feet. But

B.C. was the first province to get into gas export and now others want more of it.

A newly-negotiated price of 27 cents U.S., or nearly 30 cents in Canadian funds, will be retroactive, he said. The deal is between West Coast Transmission Ltd. and El Paso Gas.

It would have a "a tremendous effect on the economy of this province and the future of the great northland," Mr. Bennett said.

More industry, more employment, development of the petrochemical industry would follow, he said.

HIGH LEVEL

Mr. Strachan had said it is obvious B.C. Hydro is charging its gas consumers "exorbitant prices," and suggested prices were being "kept at an artificially high level to force customers into using electricity in order to use the hydro potential coming up."

Hydro showed a 4 per cent net earnings increase, a 10 per cent gross increase to \$153 million, and gas sales of \$29.9 million, while it paid \$11.6 million to Westcoast Transmission Co. for the gas, Mr. Strachan said.

British Columbians pay 32-35 cents for gas, Mr. Strachan said. "Whether or not it's okay for Frank McMahon (head of Westcoast Transmission) to get his slice of the pie, I think it is time the people of B.C. got more," he said.

**\$150
MILLION
MORE?**

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan Thursday said the government has miscalculated financing of the Columbia River power project and will be forced to borrow between \$150 and \$200 million to complete it.

He made the charge during consideration of Premier Bennett's salary estimates.

The premier, fiscal agent for B.C. Hydro, maintained that the \$501-million Columbia project will be financed by a \$273 million advance payment from the U.S. for downstream bene-

fits and \$70 million compensation for flooding.

He said an international committee had worked out a mathematical equation indicating that the two sums, invested at 5 per cent compounded interest until 1973 when the project is to be completed, would cover the bill.

Mr. Strachan said compounding the capital at 5 per cent interest annually would only produce a total of \$379 million without touching any of the capital until 1973.

SALES TAX

But the province already is drawing on the capital and knows that the Columbia bill will rise at least \$10 million as a result of the 11 per cent sales tax on construction materials, he said.

"The money just isn't there to finance the Columbia as you told the people a year ago," Mr. Strachan said.

"The premier hasn't refuted my figures and he is not telling

the people just where money is coming from for the Columbia.

"We will have to borrow at least \$150 million and perhaps \$200 million to finish the Columbia while the cheap downstream benefit power is going to the United States and our rates will go up."

Premier Bennett insisted that the advance payments would produce a total of \$501 million but "I'm not going to suggest now that with inflation it may or may not meet (the Columbia costs) because credit and monetary policies are not in the hands of the province."

Mr. Strachan noted that the first \$5 million loan to B.C. from the Canada Pension Plan has been allocated and the premier said it and possibly the remainder of the \$80 million B.C. hopes to borrow from the CFP fund will be invested in B.C. Hydro.

"For the Columbia?" queried Mr. Strachan.

"No, for the Peace and other transmission lines in the system," replied the premier.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1966

'That Press Conference' Explained by Mr. Bennett

Premier Bennett took some sharp joshing for a week in the legislature about his one-reporter press conference but he finally broke his silence in an interview, to deny that it was what it seemed.

The premier says he was not upset about publicity the preceding Friday on his now-famous snap election threat in the speaker's office, nor did he seek a full-scale press conference the following Monday morning to give his version of the incident.

He said that he was very busy that morning and he just asked his staff to call in whatever press representatives were handy so he could issue a statement and it wasn't his fault that only one radio reporter was available at that moment.

Not Vindictive

"I have lots of faults," he confessed in the interview. "But I'm not vindictive. I was not trying to cut off the press. "I just had five minutes so I said bring someone down here quickly and I'll give a statement."

Mr. Bennett pointed out that occasionally he has his office phoned by the press gallery to have one reporter come down to pick up a release for general distribution to the



Mike

other reporters and that's all he wanted that Monday.

When a reporter was brought in, he gave him a statement and "I asked him at the end if he understood it and he said 'yes' — so I did not stop him from asking questions," the premier maintained.

He also insisted that the reporter subsequently dissociated himself from the interpretations of the unusual event, which saw five other newsmen answering the press conference summons and being turned away.

"But I don't want to get in an argument with the press gallery," he concluded. "After all, I am an honorary member of the gallery."

I report this interview to give the other side but also because it seems connected to another subject of joshing which appears to have brought a much quicker response from the premier.

At the end of last week NDP members Alex Macdonald and David Stupich wound up the budget debate for their side with needles that seemed to make the premier jump in his seat.

They derided his handling of the record budget as a sign of old age (political hardening of the arteries, Mr. Macdonald said with telling effect on the premier's disposition) because there was not a single, new, radical or imaginative program in it as there was in the smaller budgets of the early Bennett administration, stretching back 14 years now.

New Ideas

At the same interview in which he explained his so-called press conference, the premier proudly noted that his surprise home-purchaser loan idea "shows you how young this government is. It always has new ideas."

Both aspects of the interview probably are linked by a common objective—to ward off two counterattacks on fronts he had opened up for the coming political campaign.

An argument with the press is not feared by the premier because he has used it in the past to win votes. But that was done on the basis that the press was trying to suppress the achievements and potential exhibited by himself and his party.

An Underdog

He claimed to be an underdog which the press was trying to muzzle because he spoke for the ordinary people and, no matter how vehemently the newspaper editorials denied the assertion, there is no doubt that some people believed him in the past.

But a \$657 million budgeteer can't use the same old argument, especially when he is being chided for locking out the press from a press conference. So this time, it looked as though the shoe was on the other foot with an impression gaining ground that it was the premier who was trying to manage the news.

Worker 'Offered Bribe'

Premier Bennett Thursday night promised to investigate immediately whether a B.C. Hydro electrician was offered a bribe to keep quiet about unsafe working conditions on the Mica Dam project.

The allegation was revealed by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

He read portions of a letter from a man identified only as "Mr. Priest" whose son was a member of the Kamloops local of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and a

foreman on the Columbia River project.

"He claims violations of the electrical code, Workmen's Compensation Board safety regulations and even the union agreement were so flagrant and extensive that he subsequently asked for demotion to journeyman status," the letter said.

The request was denied as was a second request for demotion.

RESIGNED IN JANUARY

"Finally, in the closing days of January he resigned from the job entirely and 15 members of his crew quit with him.

"He wrote me: 'My attempts (to resign) were rejected. Instead, an attempt was made to 'buy' my co-operation (a \$1,500-a-month position).' Mr. Priest's letter said he was offered a salary bonus.

"It added that 'Now we are all suspected of attempting an illegal walkoff. We are black-listed from all B.C. Hydro power schemes for the next 10 years.'"

Mr. Strachan said the letter was an example of poor employee relations attributable to government policies.

"A man has a right to live like a human being. You can't settle everything with money," said Mr. Strachan.

"You've got the union leaders beat into line. They'll obey legislation no matter how bad it is.

"But not all the union agreements and laws in the world will keep a man from making protest when they don't like what you're doing to them. You can't push workers around this way."

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1966

ALL BOOKS NEXT YEAR?

Gov't to Drop Sales Tax On Books for Libraries

Premier Bennett Thursday said the government has decided to lift the sales tax from public library books and will consider extending the exemption to all books next year.

He made the revelations under questioning and urging by opposition members during consideration of the bill to remove the 5 per cent tax from meals, magazines, newspapers, periodicals, school supplies, candies, confections and soft drinks.

Lois Haggen (NDP—Grand Forks-Greenwood) urged the premier to add the exemption to all books.

He replied that it will be removed from library purchases and will be considered for all books in the next budget.

FREE \$2,500

(The book tax elimination would free about \$2,500 annually in the Victoria Public Library's book purchase funds.)

The premier revealed the tax would be removed from libraries by cabinet regulation

rather than the amendment bill before the House.

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault pointed out that the Kelowna Public Library board in the premier's own constituency was complaining that the tax ate up \$2,000 of its book purchase budget.

(The B.C. Library Association recently requested the removal of the tax.)

The premier said the section on school supplies lifts the tax on such items as pens, pencils, nibs, ink, erasers, boxes, protractors, compasses, dictionaries, atlases, satchels and zipper binders.

Mrs. Haggen said she was glad the restaurant tax was removed. "Hundreds of thousands of dollars must have been collected on \$1 meals (which up to now had been exempt). The government did well on that."

Mrs. Haggen agreed generally that the tax should not apply to most magazines and periodicals, but there are others on which tax should be high enough to "tax them out of existence."

LUXURIES

She was surprised the government was lifting the tax from candies and soft drinks. "I think these are luxuries," she said.

It is not fair to children to make these sugary things more attainable to youngsters than they are now.

"Many grandparents are culprits at giving children these teeth-destroying foods," Mrs. Haggen said.

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault wanted to know whether tax was going to be lifted on soaps, detergents, toothpaste and bathroom tissue, but got no reply from the premier.

When he asked how much tax is involved in each exemption category, the premier replied: "I have no idea. The department doesn't keep track by categories."

The premier said the intention is to define "soft drinks" as all non-alcoholic beverages and told MLAs that if they run across any non-alcoholic drink that is not included in the exemption list "they should tell me about it."

Meeting Soon On Medicare

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black Thursday told the legislature that a federal-provincial meeting on medicare will be held soon to negotiate the terms of a national scheme.

But he refused twice to say whether he will agree to a universal plan. He was badgered by opposition members during debate on third reading to a bill raising B.C. Medical Plan premium subsidies.

Ray Perrault pointed out that federal Health Minister Alan McEachen has written B.C. to ask for its views on the four principles proposed for a national scheme by Prime Minister Pearson but no reply has been sent.

"It doesn't seem to indicate a very deep interest by this government," he said. "It's a very suspicious and shoddy situation if we don't even answer our mail in such an important matter as this."

Mr. Black replied that there was no positive certainty about

the four principles so "all we're doing is go step-by-step and go slow."

"We (provinces) are going to meet Mr. McEachen relatively soon, I understand. This is a period of negotiations."

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said Mr. Black was just "shadow boxing." The Socreds in B.C., Alberta and Ottawa oppose the federal proposal for universal medicare because they want premiums charged for coverage.

"Do you favor a single universal plan according to the recommendation of the Hall royal commission?" he demanded.

"That has nothing to do with this bill and I'm not going to answer," replied Mr. Black.

"That confirms there is a tussle and that this government is trying to twist the arm of the federal government and water down its universal plan," said Mr. Macdonald.

Later, Arthur Tuner (NDP—Vancouver East) asked the same question on universality and Mr. Black replied: "I'm not required to answer that type of question at this time."

APPRECIATED

August Holiday Urged

Victoria MLA Donald Smith Thursday suggested in the legislature that a civic and provincial "bank holiday" be declared for July or August.

The Social Credit member said some weeks ago he would bring the matter up this session, and chose debate on an amendment to the Annual Holidays Act to present the idea.

He noted there are no statutory holidays during July or August, affording no opportunity to parents to get away for a long weekend. Other provinces declare such a holiday, he said.

"I think this would be well received," he said, asking Labor Minister Leslie Peterson to consider it in the bill, or another one of his choice.

Legislation should declare a civic and provincial holiday, which "would be very much appreciated by people who are tied to their work during the summer months."

There was no response from the minister.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1966

Erosion of Our Rights

EVERY LAW-RESPECTING citizen must sympathize with police authorities in their efforts to meet the challenge of modern-day crime. It is to the citizen's advantage to make his life safer from the hazards of drunken drivers, confidence men and bank robbers, and he will support police measures to curb and punish lawbreakers.

But he will not do this beyond the point where his rights and liberties are infringed. And it is this borderline which law authorities lately have been encroaching upon.

There was the quickly squelched attempt in Ontario some months ago to introduce Star Chamber methods into the taking of evidence. There have been the urgings of various police chiefs, including Victoria's, for more freedom for police action in such fields as the right of search. And now Attorney-General Bonner, in a well-meant attempt to make motor vehicle driving safer, asks the legislature to approve two measures which must arouse the defensive instincts of all who cherish human rights that have been won by struggle down through the centuries.

The new bill to permit police to gauge the blood alcohol content of drivers in curb-side tests opens up a very questionable assault on personal freedom. While the results of the test—refusal to submit to it, or evidence of a breathalyzer reading of .08 per cent or more will result in suspension of the driver's licence for 24 hours—may not be used in any subsequent court action, the fact remains that the law will give a constable the power on the spot to act as both judge and jury.

And while Mr. Bonner assures us that the law will be exercised only under certain conditions and not as a continuing, widespread imposition, the power will be there to do far more than this. Apparently, with no more reason than a policeman's hunch, a driver may be

stopped and asked to undergo a test, or lose the use of his car for 24 hours. This surely is an infringement on the principle that a man is innocent until proved guilty, and that police interference must have a sound basis of cause before a citizen may be halted in his lawful use of the streets.

There is the added fault in Mr. Bonner's legislation that its application for some time to come would be regional. Drivers in Victoria and on the lower mainland would be subject to the law; those in other areas of the province would not be, until such time as equipment and training of personnel made a wider use possible. It would be a denial of the basic principle of equality that some British Columbia drivers should be subject to a law and others escape it merely through the chance of geography.

The legislation which will require a motorist to obtain police permission before he may have damage of more than \$100 value repaired likewise makes serious inroads on personal liberty. The measure is designed to help the police catch hit-and-run drivers—a laudable enough end but a very questionable means.

Here again the innocent person must suffer or be inconvenienced because of the guilty. And he presumably will be under the necessity of proving himself innocent of a traffic crime before he can get his damaged car repaired. This is an obvious departure from our long-recognized rules of justice. It represents one more step in a trend which cannot fail to cause more and more infringement of our rights. This trend should be resisted and fought.

There will be no gain if we can defeat crime only by imposing police shackles on the law-abiding public. History shows that rights and liberties lost little by little can lead to just as disastrous a result as when they are all lost at once.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1966

IN NEXT LEGISLATURE

Loans for Home Purchase Coming

Premier Bennett Thursday told the legislature he will introduce legislation for a home-purchase loan program in the next legislature.

The program will involve either government loans or government guaranteed loans, at low interest rates, for down payments on homes, he indicated Monday.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan pointed out that in some cases it was possible where a person paid his tax bill to a mortgage firm in advance, that the home-owner grant form was not filled out by error and the benefit lost.

"The other day I gave what I thought was a broad hint that there will be a broader, constructive approach to this whole question at the next sitting of the legislature," replied Mr.

Bennett. (He had linked the grants with a proposal for a system of low cost, 'down-payment' loans for would-be home-owners.

"At the next session (of the present legislature)" asked Mr. Strachan.

"The next legislature," said the premier.

MLA SPINS A NEAT WEB

By JOHN MIKA

Randolph Harding (NDP--Kaslo-Slocan) spun a neat web around Premier Bennett Thursday night.

The Kootenay champion repeated his demands that the government give an itemized account of their payments to farmers being moved from the shores of the Arrow Lakes which will be flooded by the Columbia project.

He charged farmers were being paid only \$100 an acre for cleared land when they had to pay an average of \$500 to have it cleared.

Premier Bennett, admitting he was no expert in the field, said the department estimated its farm land clearing costs at \$38.10 an acre.

But Mr. Harding shattered that riposte quickly.

"You're sure getting taken by the contractors then," he said, pointing out B.C. Hydro was paying up to \$1,400 an

acre for land clearing along the projected shoreline.

"To compare the two is ridiculous," shot back Premier Bennett. He said B.C. Hydro had to clear rocky land that was not suitable for agriculture.

Mr. Harding popped up gleefully again.

"All they do is take a chain saw, cut down the trees and burn them. They don't have to pull out stumps like the farmers have to do," he said.

In any event, he said, if it costs B.C. Hydro an average of \$500 to clear land along the shoreline "then by golly the farmer is entitled to that sum of money plus the original purchase price of the land."

Premier Bennett promised he would take Mr. Harding's complaints before Hydro directors but pointed out that 600 properties have been purchased by negotiation and only five so far have had to be expropriated because agreement on price could not be reached.

Dramatic Verbal Slugfest Pits Gibson vs. Bennett

Premier Bennett and Gordon Gibson verbally slugged it out toe-to-toe in a dramatic row Friday that sucked both gasps and chuckles out of veteran MLAs and visitors in the galleries.

Both men, the most volatile personalities in the House and long-time political opponents, alternated between blunt insults and praise for each other.

The tensely-watched clash saw:

- Premier Bennett hurled more election threats at the opposition and another threat of a floor-defeat for the federal Liberal government:

- Mr. Gibson suggest the premier was mentally ill and should drop dead;

- The premier counter with a suggestion that Mr. Gibson was intoxicated in a television appearance.

"This is the first time in a month here that I've had the pleasure of seeing the premier in his seat when I speak," Mr. Gibson said as the House considered the premier's office estimates including his \$20,000 salary.

The Liberal MLA repeated his earlier vitriolic attack that the premier was bullying North Vancouver residents into voting Soered by denying a second bridge to the area and refusing to answer a Vancouver Board of Trade letter on the subject.

DISGRACE

"It's a disgrace," he stormed after committee chairman William Speare told him several times to avoid personal references to the premier.

"You're getting too high for this world," Mr. Gibson roared at Mr. Bennett. "You should be getting on to the next one."

"I saw you on TV the other night and you were pretty high yourself," the premier shot back in his only interruption.

Over Mr. Speare's objections, Mr. Gibson continued that the legislature has only one hold over the premier and that was withholding his salary (which would bring down the government).

"He doesn't need it — it's just peanuts — but it's the power he wants," said Mr. Gibson.

'WORK FOR PEOPLE'

"If you would just work for the people I would gladly give it to you because you are an able man.

"But I would like an assurance that you are not only feeling all right physically but that mentally you're all right."

Attorney-General Robert Bonner leaped to his feet and bitterly criticized the attack as unparliamentary. David Barrett

(NDP—Dewdney) shouted into the growing din "The premier was pretty low too" in reference to the earlier play on the word "high."

J. Donald Smith (SC—Victoria) hotly denounced Mr. Gibson's attack, while Mr. Speare tried to restore order, standing up himself at one point as he pounded his gavel.

"I have the right to criticize," maintained Mr. Gibson.

"Hear, hear," applauded Premier Bennett.

SURPRISE

"Thank you," responded Mr. Gibson with some surprise.

"I give you credit for being a bigger man than I thought. Right now the attorney-general sitting beside you looks a little smaller man," he added.

"I still want to discuss your attitude but I'll put it in a kinder way . . . your planning, your scheming . . . to dominate the people, not govern."

Mr. Gibson said he resented all the election hints thrown out by the premier at the session because he was only half-way through his term.

"You've got a job to do before you have a right to call an election and you haven't done it yet, especially for the lower mainland."

He said the premier's refusal to meet the Vancouver trade group to discuss a second crossing was "an absolutely indecent threat.

STALL ELECTION

"I hope you will stall this election until you have made arrangements with the board and Greater Vancouver civic leaders) to discuss this."

Premier Bennett, rising to reply, said he always liked to listen to Mr. Gibson "because he's one of the best businessmen in this House."

He said the Liberals were so jittery with "election-itis" that they were inconsistent.

"If I took the stand that a premier of this province was losing his grip and was controlled by an outside group, I'd want election tomorrow," he shouted waving his arm at the Liberals.

"I'd want it at once!

"But the Liberals are talking out of both sides of the mouth at the same time."

He said he was accused of trying to bribe and bully people to vote for the Soereds, then dived under his desk to bring out a large, election poster used by Mr. Gibson several elections ago.

He waved it around then held it up for the press gallery to copy the words: "More Government Dollars Were Spent For Lillooett Than Ever Before —

Re-elect Gibson."

"Look at it, it's heavy cardboard . . . it must be the most expensive campaign poster ever seen in B.C.," cried Mr. Bennett triumphantly.

"I paid my own dollars for it," roared Mr. Gibson, who became a millionaire in the logging business.

"I know you did and you earned them," said Mr. Bennett in a soft tone. "And I admire you for it.

"I never criticize individuals. I just criticize policies."

Then the premier apologized for his earlier heckle.

"If I hurt your feelings a few minutes ago, I apologize, my friend, and I mean my friend."

"Thank you," said Mr. Gibson, then with a sigh he added: "No wonder you get re-elected."

Suddenly switching tone and volume again, the premier picked up his attack on the Liberal party.

He said both the provincial and federal Liberals are afraid of facing the voters again, and made a double-edged allusion to a provincial election and a federal one that could be forced if the federal Soereds vote against the government.

FEAR GRIPS GRITS

"Fear grips the Liberals," he shouted.

"I know that there are Liberal ministers here (for the provincial wing's convention in Victoria) and my advice to them is to get back to Ottawa quickly because defeat faces them soon, too.

"I make a prediction that in the next federal election the Liberal party will be defeated and it won't rise again for the next 20 years," he stormed.

This was part of his answer to Liberal Leader Ray Perrault's demands that the premier end a "scandalous situation." He requested Einar Gunderson (a Soered party fund raiser and official of several Crown corporations), to drop one role or the other to eliminate a conflict of interest.

MOONLIGHTING

"I ask the premier, would he sit idly by if the head of TCA, or the CNR or the Bank of

Canada collected funds for the Liberal Party on a moonlight basis?" asked Mr. Perrault.

"The time to clean things up is right at home," Mr. Bennett charged back.

The Prime Minister of Canada said recently that he appointed certain men to the Senate because they collected funds for the Liberal party.

"In the Senate appointed by the Liberals it was senators who collect money for the Liberal party and who are directors of chartered banks who vetoed the

Bank of B.C.

"If you want to clean up — start with the Liberal party." Alan Macfarlane (L — Oak Bay) wouldn't let the Gunderson issue die.

He said every time the premier is asked about the matter, he makes a political speech and doesn't answer.

"I will. Mr. Gunderson is going to stay," the premier said emphatically.

David Barrett (NDP — Dewdney) jeered both Liberals and Socreds over the Gunderson issue.

"It's always interesting to watch these lovers' quarrels," he laughed. He said both parties were jealous about the use of the same "bagmen" and "political machines."

"They collect money from certain sources for the federal Liberals and from the same sources for the provincial Socreds. You know, if you keep subjecting them to this strain you will give them a nervous breakdown."

As backbenchers heckled him, Mr. Barrett responded:

"I'm not jealous of your bagmen but I hate this because it corrupts politicians."

The legislature finally passed the premier's estimates after almost five hours of debate Thursday night and Friday afternoon. They totalled \$76,269 for his salary, office staff, supplies and expenses.

Fisheries Minister Necessary in B.C.

A provincial department of fisheries headed by its own cabinet minister was advocated Friday as a necessary first step towards revitalizing the industry in B.C.

The submission was made by a 30-strong delegation from the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union at a special legislative committee meeting.

The brief, presented by Secretary-Treasurer Homer Stevens, said that the 1966-67 estimates of such a department should be at least \$2 million. The estimates proposed in the provincial budget provide only \$32,872 for the commercial fisheries branch of the Recreation and Conservation Department.

Among the objectives of a fisheries department, the union listed:

Development of an offshore fishing fleet capable of competing with all foreign nations operating in the Pacific Ocean;

A training program for future fishermen and a re-training

program for present-day fishermen;

Development of spawning projects and other programs aimed at raising the salmon potential catch to 300 million pounds instead of the present 95 million pounds;

Licensing of both sport and commercial salt water fishermen.

HYDRO BANS CIGARETTE DISPLAYS

B.C. Hydro will stop advertising cigarettes on its transit buses as soon as the current display contracts run out.

Premier Bennett told the legislature that he had taken up the suggestion at the last session and asked B.C. Hydro directors to discontinue the advertisement cards but was told existing contracts could not be broken.

However, they will not be renewed, he said.

Bennett Right On House Rules

Sweet vindication was tasted by Premier Bennett Friday who had been accused of trying to change the parliamentary rules two weeks earlier.

It turned out that he just knew the rules better than the legal experts here.

Speaker William Murray informed the legislature that the world's foremost authority on parliamentary procedure agreed with the premier's interpretation of the rules when he made his famous snap election threat.

Sir Barnett Cocks, clerk of the British House of Commons, was asked to review the dispute over the rules and his judgment paralleled the premier's interpretation, the speaker announced.

The procedural wrangle began when Premier Bennett cut off Alan Macfarlane (L — Oak Bay) by drawing the speaker's attention to the clock which was at automatic 6 p.m. adjournment time.

Opposition members and the speaker's staff agreed that the

budget debate itself had died on the order paper because no one had adjourned it before the recess.

Technically, this meant that the cue for resuming debate — an order putting "Adjourned debate on the (budget) motion . . ." — was not on the Friday night order paper when the house resumed after 8 p.m.

In between, the premier had told the speaker that it should be on the order paper because the budget debate continued "until disposed of" according to the wording of its own motion.

Mr. Murray said the crucial words "until disposed of" troubled him and he wrote to Sir Barnett who said this situation was well known to the mother of parliaments and the wording prevented the budget debate motion from dying on the order paper — just as the premier had contended.

Mr. Murray said he was drawing the judgment to the legislature's attention because it was important to remove the erroneous precedent.

Hard-Of-Hearing May Save \$25 On Phone Costs

About 700 hard-of-hearing telephone subscribers may be saved \$25 a year as a result of discussion in the legislature Friday.

Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East) said that number of B.C. residents pay a monthly \$1.25 surcharge for either volume controls or flashing lights on their telephones because of their handicap.

He asked if this charge could be abolished as it had been in Manitoba.

Premier Bennett said he had been advised by Attorney-general Robert Bonner that the request will be made through the federal board of transport commissioners which sets telephone rates.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1966

HYDRO DENIES BRIBE

'Suspicious Strengthened'

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan Friday said a B.C. Hydro denial strengthened suspicions that there was an attempt to "buy" off, then blacklist an electrician.

He made the charge after a letter by B.C. Hydro co-chairman Hugh Keenleyside was filed in the legislature by Premier Bennett.

The letter was written in reply to reports of allegations read to the House the previous day by Mr. Strachan. In it a "Mr. Priest" wrote that his son was offered a \$1,500-a-month job when he complained that working conditions on the Mica Creek dam were not safe.

Mr. Priest claimed his son twice tried to be demoted from foreman and finally quit over the complaints along with 15 others in his crew. He then was blacklisted from work on any B.C. Hydro job for 10 years.

Dr. Keenleyside's letter, read by the premier, said:

"The 15 electrical workers quit without warning on Jan. 28. They complained about the toilet conditions at the tunnel entrance and this the resident manager undertook to correct at once.

"They also demanded subsidies for living in trailers. This was not provided in the agreement under which they were hired and was refused.

"They said nothing at the time about safety conditions.

CAUSE FOR DISMISSAL

"In addition to the 15 electrical workers, a foreman, a Mr. R. Froese, was fired on Jan. 27. The cause of his dismissal was

his continued refusal to obey instructions regarding the parking of his automobile.

"The firing of the foreman was not at any time used as an explanation for the subsequent refusal of the men to continue their work.

"As the men in question had proved themselves unreliable and had violated their agreement they will not, for the present time at least, be re-considered for re-employment. There was no mention of 10 years or any other length of time."

TEMPORARY BASIS

Dr. Keenleyside also quoted a letter from the provincial inspector of electrical energy stating electrical installations in the tunnel "have been judged to be acceptable on a temporary basis" and "at this time we do not have any record of unsatisfactory installations" at the site.

Mr. Strachan said the B.C. Hydro reply did not make any point-blank denial that working conditions were unsafe or that an employment blacklist existed.

"I suggest to you that (it) is very carefully worded. It certainly fortifies in my mind that the electrical equipment may not be safe," he said.

"And this statement doesn't deny for one minute, in fact it admits, that a blacklist exists."

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1966

Salmon Bootleggers Rapped by Troller At Fishing Hearing

A Sidney troller today told MLAs that "game hog" sports fishermen sell their catches as a bootleg operation during closure periods affecting commercial fishermen.

The accusation was made by Richard Larson, an independent fisherman living in Sidney, who appeared before a special legislative committee inquiring into the fishing industry.

Mr. Larson said commercial fishermen are policed closely to ensure they observe the closures but any sports fisherman can sell his catch by obtaining a licence at nominal cost.

"I have no quarrel with the true sportsman but there is a lot who should be called game hogs," he said.

He also told the committee — which is looking into a suggestion that licences be required for salt water sport fishing, particularly by Americans — that many U.S. yachtsmen reap

a fishing bonanza on the west coast of Vancouver Island and take home as much as 700 pounds of salmon.

"I have talked to a Yank who stated he really enjoyed his visit to our country as he and one other man on his yacht had caught 67 coho and chinook salmon in two days at Stewart Isle," he said.

He added that the visitor told him the trip hardly cost him anything as he had a diesel engine enabling him to fuel and provision in Seattle for the foray deep into Canadian fishing waters.

Mr. Larson also criticized local sports fishermen.

He said a Victorian bragged to him of catching 55 pink salmon in one day in Saanich Inlet.

"I asked him what he did with them," he recounted.

"His reply was: 'I gave a couple of the better ones away and buried the rest in the garden'."

City Council 'Too Slow' For Centre Aid

Victoria was too slow on a government offer to pay half the cost of a convention centre, Premier Bennett indicated Friday.

He was asked by Donald Smith, Victoria Socred MLA, whether any further consideration is being given to an offer several years ago by the government to pay half the cost if the city went ahead with the convention centre.

The offer was not accepted at that time. The premier said Victoria is well treated by the government, pointing out the new museum and money spent through the Capital Improvement District Commission.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1966

AUTOMATION NOT CUTTING PUBLIC JOBS

Computers and labor-saving machines working for the provincial government have so far meant more employees to handle the work turned out, Premier Bennett said Monday in the legislature.

"People say they cut down staff. As minister of finance I say it's not true. They do the work with more dispatch.

"We're not reducing any men; we're increasing.

"In all the years we have been in government we have never had more computers or machines, and last year we had a bigger increase in staff than any previous year," the premier said.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1966

Socred Bagman Follow-Up Alleged in Purchase Fray

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

The Jones case burst again in the legislature Monday with a new twist—a suggestion that it involved Einar Gunderson, Social Credit party fund chairman and top government officer.

Premier Bennett ignored repeated demands for an inquiry or a full explanation of why the government left unchallenged G. E. P. Jones' claims that Mr. Gunderson kept tabs on government contracts.

Mr. Jones was fired last session without explanation after nine years as chairman of the government purchasing commission.

His discharge came in a government bill passed by the Socred majority against the five Liberal MLAs after the NDP walked out in a body. It was an unprecedented protest against the refusal to hold a legislative hearing as requested by Mr. Jones.

Subsequently, Mr. Jones launched an unsuccessful civil suit against the premier.

SLUSH FUND

David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) revived the controversy during finance department estimates by reading excerpts from a radio interview last July in which Mr. Jones said Mr. Gunderson asked for information about companies bidding on government contracts "to get money for the Social Credit slush fund."

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) recalled that it was Mr. Gunderson who screened and recommended Mr. Jones for the job 10 years ago.

"I'd like to know just what were the reasons for Mr. Jones disappearing from the scene and his abrupt retirement," he said.

"Was it due to he and Mr. Gunderson having a falling out over campaign funds or something?"

"It is time we had a little more inquiry into the whole field between government business and political contributions," Mr. Dowding said.

Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay) hammered repeatedly at the premier to order an inquiry or give an explanation but he was met by silent glares.

"This can't be allowed to be laid to rest," Mr. Macfarlane warned.

"At this point of time, there is no denial of the allegations and we can have nothing but have the province believe the allegations when the premier and the attorney-general beside him sit in their seats and do nothing.

"I think it's disgraceful. But it's typical of this government that they should fail to comment on this serious allegation.

"The people of this province can do nothing but believe the worst about this government, the worst about Mr. Gunderson and the worst about the premier and attorney-general."

Then Mr. Macfarlane demanded to know what orders for an investigation the premier gave Attorney-General Robert Bonner when he heard about the broadcasts.

Mr. Bennett's only reply to Mr. Macfarlane was that Mr. Bonner took an oath of office as attorney-general "and he's responsible for law enforcement. The premier doesn't interfere in any way . . . and doesn't order anything of the attorney-general."

TURN HIS BACK

"That's a very unsatisfactory answer," replied Mr. Macfarlane. "The premier is the leader of this government and he's responsible to see to it that all these important matters are taken care of."

The premier spun his seat away from Mr. Macfarlane, bringing a taunt that "it's not good enough for the premier to turn his back."

Mr. Barrett quoted a radio interview between Vancouver broadcaster Roy Jacques and former purchasing commission chairman G. E. Jones, at 8:10 a.m. July 7, 1965. He filed a copy with the clerk of the House.

Mr. Jones was asked about things he and government advisor Einar Gunderson are alleged to have discussed, particularly the names and bids of persons or companies involved with the commission.

Mr. Gunderson, who heads the Social Credit campaign fund, asked for the information "to get money for the Social Credit slush fund," according to Mr. Jones.

Mr. Barrett read from the transcript and quoted Mr. Jacques as saying the fund referred to is the B.C. Free Enterprise Education Fund.

Mr. Jacques asked if Jones had evidence that certain companies had been approached and had in fact contributed.

"Yes," the former purchasing agent was quoted.

"On several occasions I was called and asked if certain awards were made and if so to whom."

NOTHING WRONG

He said that this information was public after awards were made and he could see nothing wrong with divulging it.

Later, callers asked Jones if he was aware of the Free Enterprise Education Fund. Some were "outraged," he said.

"Some companies have asked me if there was anything I could do to have the dogs called

off," Jones said.

Mr. Barrett went on: "These things have been said over the air.

"If they are not true I would expect the government to deny them and launch a suit against Jones.

"If they are true, they are very serious allegations.

"If they are not denied this House should call together a commission to investigate just what happened.

"How does a person like Gunderson get in a position where he can get information of the purchasing commission? Does information like this leave doubts in the public mind? Is Gunderson a member of the purchasing commission?" Mr. Barrett asked.

BACKFIRED

The member then described another part of the radio program, in which Jones told of a man who complained that his \$25,000 contribution to the fund had "backfired."

He said the man was badgering a junior buyer and asked to speak to Jones in private. The man said he did not "contribute \$25,000 to the Socred barrel just to be brushed off by some young buyer punk wet behind the ears."

Jones said the man asked him to do something about it. "If you can't help me I'm going to see Bob," he was quoted.

Jones said he elicited from the man that he meant Attorney-General Robert Bonner, to whom he offered to take the man.

The ex-purchasing commissioner said he wrote to Mr. Bonner telling him what had happened, but had never received acknowledgment.

Mr. Barrett asked the House if the memo actually exists, were the statements made and what action did the government take.

Later, Mr. Bonner denied any knowledge of the matter until Mr. Barrett brought it up. He said there was no record of any such memo as Jones suggested he wrote, that his files had been searched and his staff was unable to find a trace of it.

In questions on the finance minister's estimates Mr. Barrett asked the premier if he did not feel it incumbent upon a cabinet minister, having received such information, to inform the premier of it.

FULL CONFIDENCE

Mr. Bennett said he could not speak for his cabinet ministers, but added, "I have full confidence in the ministers."

In his first response to Mr. Barrett's questioning, Premier Bennett said that one would have thought if there was any complaint by Mr. Jones he would have gone to the premier

as finance minister responsible for the purchasing commission. "In all the years, Mr. Jones never made any complaint to me at any time," he said, adding that deputy finance minister Gerald Bryson had not received any complaints either.

OPEN BIDDING

Mr. Bennett recounted his orders when he became premier that had led to establishment of open bidding records on government contracts which he said had saved the province millions of dollars.

"That's my answer," he said to Mr. Barrett.

The next few minutes saw Mr. Bennett popping up to answer a rapid series of questions from Mr. Barrett as they came.

Q — Did the premier receive any memo from Jones?

A — "No memo at any time was brought to my attention."

Q — Did he know of Gunderson's discussions with Jones about government contracts?

A — "I have no understanding and no knowledge of any

persons having discussions."

Q — Did Gunderson have any special rights with respect to the purchasing commission?

A — "He has no special rights with respect to the purchasing commission?"

A — "He has no special right over Tom Jones or Bill Henry" (apparently another way of saying Tom, Dick or Harry).

Q — What does the premier think of Mr. Jones' public assertions of a serious situation in government policy and if untrue why didn't he take him to court?

A — "I think any person in a free society should be able to make any statement."

Q — Is Mr. Jones slandering the government?

A — "I'm not answering about Mr. Jones."

Q — Does Mr. Gunderson have the premier's permission to sniff around the purchasing commission?

A — "The answer is no."

Q — Then whose permission did Mr. Gunderson have?

A — "Nobody's that I know of."

Mr. Bennett finally complained of the cross-examination atmosphere and said "this isn't a courtroom, surely."

"The premier has often said the legislature is the courtroom of the people," shot back Mr. Barrett. "If these allegations are not tested in a courtroom then certainly they must be tested here."

Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi also objected to the tone of the questioning as "dirty politics" only to have Mr. Barrett recall that "his name is not free from the allegations."

"We've had enough attacks on the minister of highways," responded Premier Bennett. "We had them three years ago and they ended in nothing."

Mr. Barrett filed a copy of the broadcast transcript after a parting shot at the Seated backbenchers whom he described as "a sea of nameless faces that refuses to recognize what is going on."

'Let Safety Begin At House'

The B.C. government was urged Monday to insist on extensive safety devices in automobiles ordered for official use, forcing manufacturers to produce safer cars for everyone.

David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) cited the U.S. government's auto safety policy, which forces manufacturers to build in a number of safety features such as seat belts and roll bars.

Makers have complied because they are competing with other car builders, he said. If the B.C. government insisted on hydraulic bumpers, roll bars, shoulder-lap belts, complete internal padding, collapsible steering columns, recessed knobs and door handles, it would be a "step forward for everybody."

PREMIER TOASTS OLD NED

B.C. patriarch of the legislature Monday received the best wishes of the premier and opposition leaders in a desk-thumping happy birthday salute.

Ned DeBeek was 83 years old and in his 18th year as clerk of the legislature.

Premier Bennett said at the opening of the house there is much talk these days of the age at which people in high office should retire.

"It's not the age that counts; it's the spirit," he said.

Driftwood Pulp Plans Unveiled by 2 Firms

Two companies revealed plans Monday for clearing beachwood and floating driftwood from Vancouver Island's coastline and parts of the mainland shore.

Both made their submissions to the legislature's forestry committee which has been holding hearings on feasibility of salvaging driftwood for pulp processing.

The two companies suggested they might need some amendment of the present wood salvaging regulations to enable them to dispose of "marked" logs owned by logging companies that would be picked up in their operations.

Beachwood Recovery Company Ltd., largest of the two groups, said it was willing to invest \$2.75 million in a ship which would pick up the salvage material, run it through chippers and dump the chips into barges for transport to pulp mills.

Canadian Wood Reclamation proposed to operate a chipper on a barge which would not be able to go out into rough waters as the BRCL ship would.

Bruce Irvine, of Canadian Wood Reclamation, said that his firm intended to operate along the east coast of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. He estimated it would cover some 500 miles of shoreline.

Gordon Gibson, committee member and millionaire logger, pointed out that B.C. has some 15,800 miles of coastline and both firms could operate without undermining each other.

The proposals were discussed by the committee in camera.

BCE TIDYING-UP BILL HINTED BY PREMIER

Two statutes dealing with takeover of B.C. Electric in 1961 may be joined on the province's law books by a third, Premier Bennett indicated Monday.

Gordon Dowling (NDP—Burnaby) told the legislature that despite the two bills passed by the House, before and after a court judgment dealing with the action, there still is doubt about the status of B.C. Hydro.

"There never has been a proper clearing up of the takeover," he said.

"There may be a bill this session," interrupted Mr. Bennett.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1966

'NOTHING TO PERMIT THE TAXING OF CROPS'

Strachan Slams Tree Tax As Beyond Present Laws

A call to bring "sanity" to the courts of revision and appeal for property assessments in B.C. was issued in the legislature Monday by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

He said current policy is "beyond the law — there is nothing in the law to permit the taxing of crops."

That is what is happening with lands that have timber stands, even though they are not being exploited by the owners, who simply prefer to live on treed land for the atmosphere and beauty, he said.

He asked the premier what qualifications an assessment revision board must have, how the members are appointed and who appoints them.

"The court of revision and property taxes generally are causing a great deal of concern in my constituency," Mr. Strachan said.

Some land owners had had as much as a nine-fold increase in assessment, he said, challenging the right of an assessor to increase assessment because of the trees on the land.

"This is a growing crop. You

don't assess a farmer for the crop growing on the land." A farmer doesn't know whether he ever will harvest his crop, which may be overcome by natural disaster, storm or fire Mr. Strachan said.

BEAUTY SPOTS

The leader said he feared the desolation of beauty spots on the Island because of policies that are forcing owners to harvest their trees. The "assessment policy is destroying the beauty," he said.

The complaints come from parcels of anywhere from 5-50 acres, he said.

"As long as no one complains, you keep upping the assessment," he told the premier. "When you do get complaints, you ease off a bit."

"Give me the name of the individual assessor," Premier Bennett said. "That is against all government instructions."

Mr. Strachan said courts of revision do an inadequate job throughout the province.

He felt there would be many more appeals "if the general

public felt they could get a fairer hearing."

Vancouver had some of the biggest volume of assessment appeals, he said — 300-500 a year.

On one occasion the city of Vancouver appealed 176 assessments and won 175 of them, against "fairly wealthy and large land-holders like the CPR," he said.

"This indicates that the court of appeal system is wrong somewhere," Mr. Strachan said.

The premier replied that timber taxing is under active study now and that some changes may be made.

He noted that all the provinces are studying the B.C. system.

BENNETT CLAIM:

Tax Experts Red-Faced After Misrepresentation

People from the Canadian Tax Foundation went away from the premier's office recently with red faces.

They appear to be using the wrong figures to represent B.C.'s financing, Premier Bennett said Monday in the legislature.

He was challenged by Liberal leader Ray Perrault to explain why total per capita debt in B.C. is the highest in Canada, according to just-published figures of the foundation.

"The foundation may get their figures from the dominion bureau of statistics," Mr. Bennett said.

"I don't say they try to get wrong figures, but when they were in the office the other day, to put it mildly their faces were a bit red."

The premier said the CTF men did not know that direct debt is balanced by a sinking

fund and they were not applying the home-owner grant to either education or to aid to municipalities.

GROSS AND NET

And he said figures representing the gross budget of all other provinces were used in the tables prepared by the foundation, but those for net budget were used for B.C.

"I'm glad they came out here and got educated a bit," the premier said.

Mr. Perrault, who had pointed out that B.C. has \$812 per capita total debt according to the foundation, and provides less aid to municipalities than other provinces, asked the premier to commit himself to writing the foundation to correct its figures.

"We gave it to them directly, with pages of reports, and they still got it wrong," the premier replied.

He said it was "completely wrong" to say that B.C. is setting up no sinking funds.

Mr. Perrault compared liquor revenues with what is done for alcoholism rehabilitation. He asked the premier to justify getting \$19 per capita liquor revenue against 10 cents per person spent on rehabilitation. "I think it constitutes a scandal."

The Liberal leader also said sales tax reductions should have been larger. He suggested the premier was ashamed of the amounts by categories. That was why he has not disclosed the numerical savings to the people of B.C., he suggested.

Riding Reform in Five Years Bennett Promises House

By JOHN MIKA
and AB KENT

Another redistribution of electoral districts in five years was promised by Premier Bennett Tuesday.

"This government will not wait 10 years or 20 years for another redistribution."

"We will have another redistribution in five years," he told the legislature.

His remarks came minutes before the House gave the crucial second reading to the current bill which redrafts provincial constituencies.

The bill was approved in principle, 29 to 19, with three Soered backbenchers voting against the government and one NDP member voting with it.

Arvid Lundell (SC—Revelstoke) and Donald Robinson (SC—Lillooet), whose seats would disappear, combined with James Chabot (SC—Columbia) whose riding would be merged with two opposition-held areas, to produce the biggest backbench rebellion in the 14-year history of the Bennett administration.

But their stand was offset by Frank Calder's (NDP—Atlin) support for the government and the absence of Lois Haggen (NDP—Grand Forks-Greenwood) and Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver) in giving the government a comfortable margin of 10 years.

John Tisdalle (SC—Saanich) was the only MLA who tried to ride both horses. He told the House he would vote against some specific boundary definitions when third reading on the details comes up—but he voted for the government on the all-important second reading.

The vote came after seven hours of debate on second reading, five last week and two hours Tuesday, for the government bill which modifies the Angus commission's recommendations and increases the 52-member legislature by two seats.

Premier Bennett slammed back at opposition cries that the Kootenay area—which will lose three seats—will punish the government at the polls.

WIN EVERY SEAT

"It is my opinion that the Social Credit government, when the next election comes, will win every seat in the Kootenays," he shouted over the jeering.

The premier, shouting throughout his speech, said previous governments allowed the Kootenays to "wither on the vine" and it was only the Soered government that opened it up with highways, power projects and other developments.

He defended the government's decision to retain the existing seven northern seats—instead of cutting them to five as recommended by the commission—as the minimum representation that an entire half of the province deserved.

Mr. Bennett also declared that eight more MLAs for the lower mainland proposed by the bill showed that "no (other) government has been so fair to the lower mainland and the city of Vancouver in all history."

His final declaration of a further electoral shake-up in five years was a surprise and the first reference by a government minister to future redistribution.

COMPLAINS

Mr. Tisdalle complained bitterly that the government bill had undercut all submissions to the Angus commission because it enlarged the House to 54 members.

"My submission was voided by the powers that be and I had no chance to read their minds," he said, contending he would have made an entirely different recommendation if he had known the number of seats would be increased.

He quarrelled with Waldo Skillings (SC—Victoria), who said that the government bill "upgraded" the commission's report.

"I say that if you upgrade something you downgrade something else — and that would be the commission."

Mr. Tisdalle said "a principle has been abdicated (in redrawing Saanich constituency into Saanich and The Islands) because the community centre of interest has been shattered and cast asunder."

He said he would oppose some sections of bill's specific boundary changes but he would approve of the principle of redistribution for B.C.

"I would like sometimes to break from my principles, but I cannot, even though this is a tough decision," he said, as opposition members hooted with laughter.

"I am in favor of redistribution, but not in the manner in which it was carried out."

Mr. Lundell said the Soered opponents of the bill were not acting from selfish motives.

"I am opposing this bill because the majority of my riding are opposing it," he said.

"I am one of that majority and I express the voice of that majority in this house."

Leo Nimsick (NDP—Cranbrook) said the cabinet set terms of reference that obviously required abolition of sparsely-populated ridings such as Atlin but when northern Soereds rebelled "the cabinet

broke its own guidelines."

"This bill is nothing but a political manoeuvre to wipe out certain opposition seats."

"Just as sure as the preferential ballot did not save the (coalition) Liberals and Conservatives in 1952, this bill of gerrymandering will not save you either," he warned the government.

RETAIN NAME

Don Robinson (SC—Lillooet) said the people of his constituency want the boundaries left as they are, or at least to retain the historic name of Lillooet in a new constituency.

In a period of balanced growth in population and industrial development in B.C., "why was it necessary to redistribute?" he asked, agreeing with a speech of the attorney-general that said redistribution was more necessary in 1965 than today.

"My people say the constituency should not be changed and until we get something clear cut on this one, I'm going to vote against the bill," Mr. Robinson said.

He said the people of Lillooet want some assurance that resources are developed and that the legislature has some respect for the constituency.

"They want the constituency the way it was, or the way it is now. Or they want the name retained," Mr. Robinson said.

"Tell him," Mr. Squire urged, indicating the premier.

'DON'T TELL ME'

"I'll tell him. I don't tell you how to debate, don't you tell me," Mr. Robinson said heatedly.

"Throw some more marshmallows," Liberal leader Ray Perrault called.

The Member for Lillooet objected that under the bill, the constituency as an economic unit would be split up, part going to West Vancouver, part to Cariboo and part to Yale.

He noted there had always been a Lillooet constituency, ever since 1871, and that it contains generous mineral and forest wealth and water resources.

"Now, in 1966, they wipe my constituency right off the map... one of the richest in natural resources in the province," Mr. Robinson said.

He quoted from a protest letter written by constituents, asking for preservation of Lillooet identity, at least by linking the name with Yale, adjoining it to the east and which would absorb part of Lillooet. "They are not asking too much," the member said.

TAMPERING

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the opposition could have accepted

the Angus report, "but we can't go along with that kind of tampering," he said, referring to the bill.

"We're debating the cold political realism of the Social Credit movement who've looked to see where they could get the most political advantage . . . the government was frightened in its boots of the NDP . . . they have tried to gerrymander, but the people have the last word, and they will be defeated at the polls," Mr. Macdonald said.

J. Donald Smith (SC — Victoria) told the members it was the opposition that was playing politics, that they had joined to support the redistribution report, "blatting like little sheep."

In any case, he suggested, the redistribution "only affects the northern third of the province . . ."

"Oh, no it doesn't," someone on the opposition side sang out. ". . . except for a few lines," Mr. Smith finished.

OPPOSITION HOWLS

His remark brought howls

from the opposition.

"That's what the Kaiser said about Belgium," an opposition member chortled.

David Stupich (NDP — Nanaimo and the Islands) observed that all cabinet ministers except those for mines and provincial secretary's departments had spoken on the redistribution bill.

"And the minister of finance," added Finance Minister Premier Bennett.

"I'm expecting him too. I'm expecting him to whip the boys into line," Mr. Stupich said.

He said the NDP feared a "political snow job" was in the offing when it was noticed that two civil servants were members of the royal commission on redistribution, but when it was delivered within the terms of reference the opposition accepted it.

Then when the bill was introduced, the NDP decided it was a "political snow job . . . not a proper job of redesigning the political boundaries of B.C.," Mr. Stupich said.

LONG LIST GUARANTEES QUALITY

Premier Bennett Tuesday saw no contradiction between a waiting list of applicants and B.C. Ferry Authority's advertisements for help.

"We are always advertising for men even if we have a waiting list," he said in an interview.

"We want to keep that waiting list up so we have a good selection choice."

Last week, while announcing there would be a general wage increase, he told the legislature that working conditions were so favorable on the ferries there was a waiting list for jobs.

Sportsmen Ask Fishing Preserve

A three-mile offshore reserve for sports fishermen in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Haro Strait was urged today before a special committee of the legislature.

The proposal to restrict operations of commercial salmon fishermen here was advanced by Robert Wright, manager of Oak Bay Marina and representative of the Amalgamated Conservation Society. This includes 12 organizations interested in sport fishing from Sooke to Cowichan Bay.

Mr. Wright said commercial net fishermen operating in the Strait of Juan de Fuca have become so efficient that they are blamed for the decline in sports fishing catches of salmon.

He conceded barring them from a three-mile corridor along the shoreline would cut commercial catches here.

But he pointed out it would improve the sports fishing all along the southern Vancouver Island coastline and commercial fishermen could offset local losses by picking up the increased streams of salmon that would reach the Fraser River area.

"We can harvest in harmony if we manage this fishery resource properly," Mr. Wright told the committee.

FARMERS: GET INTO THE CHIPS!

A chance for farmers to get into the chips was seen in the legislature Tuesday by Arthur Turner (NDP — Vancouver East).

Producing a bag of potato chips during debate on Agriculture Minister Frank Richter's estimates, Mr. Turner noted that a farmer gets between \$50 and \$100 a ton for potatoes.

As opposition leader Robert Strachan tasted the chips, Mr. Turner pointed out that the 3.5-ounce bag cost 25 cents.

That would make a ton worth \$2,666, he said.

HIKE SHARE FOR WIDOW

A government bill introduced in the legislature Tuesday indicated a rising affluence or inflation.

It would amend the Administration Act to double the automatic share of a widow to \$20,000 in estates where a husband has left no will.

Attorney - General Robert Bonner said the increase is intended to keep pace with the constantly rising value of estates in B.C.

Mechanics, Technicians Needed

Dr. Gordon Shrum, co-chairman of the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority, was a witness Tuesday before a special legislative committee investigating the Dental Technicians Act.

Dr. Shrum was chairman of the board of examiners of the act from 1958 to 1965.

He said the shortage of dentists has created a situation which might be corrected by supplying more dental nurses, hygienists, technicians and mechanics to relieve some of the burden of technical work.

CAN DO WORK

"The making of dentures is one important area where it has been demonstrated that technicians can do work which satisfies a great number of people," he said.

He suggested legislation be implemented to permit dental laboratory technicians and mechanics to take impressions and make dentures from them. They can now only make dentures from impressions supplied by dentists.

"Very stringent regulations and penalties should be set out in the act to prevent technicians from extracting teeth or performing other dental work," he said.

Surplus Eastern Labor Eyed for Farms in B.C.

Redistribution of surplus eastern Canadian farm workers to fill a B.C. shortage is under joint study by federal and provincial agriculture authorities.

Agriculture Minister Frank Richter told the legislature Tuesday he had considered using imported Jamaican farm labor, but he observed there had been "bitter experience" in other areas that had imported foreign labor.

He said that of 160,00 farm workers in Quebec there was a foreseeable requirement up to 1980 for only 140,000.

Federal authorities had been told by B.C. that some incentive to farm labor could be provided by offering compensation and unemployment insurance benefits available in other industries, he said.

David Stupich (NDP—Na-

naimo and the Islands) quoting the minister in budget debate as saying he thought there was a problem in the area of farm labor, said it is time the minister did more than "sit and think there is a problem."

"I think it is time we had a minister over there who knew how to spend money," Mr. Stupich said.

Mr. Richter had let down the agriculture industry, does not know its requirements, how to estimate costs or how to spend money, Mr. Stupich charged.

He pointed to nearly 20 per cent underspending of the department's last budget, or \$555,137.

Why then, he asked, should there be a shortage of district agriculturists.

Mr. Richter said more service is being provided by the agriculture department than ever before. There would be a meeting with federal authorities

next week to discuss the labor problem, he said.

And the minister thanked Mr. Stupich for his "critical remarks."

Liberal leader Ray Perrault called on the government to spend some of its "enormous surplus—\$125 million by 1967"—on Fraser Valley flood control measures as a means of protecting crops and property.

He reminded the legislature of a brief delivered by the attorney-general to the royal commission on Canada's economic prospects in 1955 in which it was stated that \$87 million was needed for flood control and irrigation by 1975.

"Where are the dramatic steps?" he asked.

The agriculture minister had placed a "miserable amount" in the estimates for his department, some \$6 million or less than one per cent of the total budget, Mr. Perrault said.

\$10,000 Lost to B.C. Economy By Farmer Shooting 20 Moose

A B.C. farmer who shoots 20 moose on a special permit to reduce crop damage deprives the economy of \$10,000, said Cyril Shelford (SC—Omineca) Tuesday in the legislature.

He said during debate on a new wildlife bill that moose are worth \$1 a pound if hunted.

Such permits, as provided for in the bill, should be "held down to a very minimum." He knew of one farmer who shot 18 moose because they were getting into his hay stacks.

NOT SPORTSMEN

"Unfortunately, a lot of people who hunt are not good sportsmen," Mr. Shelford said, and suggested that all licensed hunting guides be made honorary conservation officers.

The northern member also was critical of a provision that would allow non-resident hunters to shoot big game alone, or without a licensed guide, upon special permission being granted.

If a non-resident hunter were permitted, for example, to enter a deer hunting area, "I don't think there is anything in the world to stop him taking a pot shot at a goat, moose or caribou if he is so inclined," the member said.

This would be an unfair advantage for the rich hunter from across the border, too, he said. He could fly to where the game is in the north, get his

bag and fly out, while the poorer hunter would just have to take what he could get.

He said he did not want to see a change from a department of game management to a department of game harvest.

COYOTES BIG GAME?

But he objected to the inclusion of cougar, coyotes and wolves in the definition of big game, because he felt this interferes with the department's predator control program, one of the most important of its functions and one not being carried out fully, he felt.

Mr. Shelford drew attention to a period in which wolves running in packs killed off all the game in an area, sometimes just for the "fun of killing."

Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan) agreed that permitting non-residents to hunt without a guide would be opening the door to a lot of abuses.

Recreation and Conservation Minister Kenneth Kiernan said the provision for waiving a guide was intended to allow former residents to hunt after being away from the province for a year.

UNDER PROPOSED LAW

Board Can Ask For Sewer Lines

An omnibus bill amending the Municipal Act introduced in the legislature Tuesday would allow municipal councils to build sewers without ratepayer approval under certain circumstances.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell said wherever the Pollution Control Board orders a municipality to undertake capital works to eliminate pollution, municipal councils would be permitted to authorize the work without a money bylaw.

However, he said such projects could not be railroaded against public wish because a vote would be mandatory if 10 per cent of the affected property owners petition for one.

The bill also includes some housekeeping clauses to meet questions raised by last year's regional districts section.

These would include definition of regional plans, provision for school board representatives on regional plan committees, methods of dissolving regional districts and clarification of cost sharing arrangements.

HAGGEN VS. RICHTER

Once-in-Lifetime Blast Makes Minister Squirm

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

Opposition MLAs pinned Agriculture Minister Frank Richter to the wall and made him squirm during an attack they've never made before on him and likely never will again.

It took almost seven hours and the help of two other ministers to complete his \$6,026,574 estimates by adjournment time Wednesday — in sharp contrast to the usual one or two hours it has taken in past years.

The long battle began Tuesday night and was renewed the following afternoon when Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP — Grand Forks-Greenwood) blasted Mr. Richter for leaving farmers in her area in the lurch.

Round One

The lashing criticism from the legislature's demure woman MLA was unusual and some saw it as the opening gun of a fight between her and Mr. Richter for the seat which the redistribution bill will create as **Bou nd a r y-Similkameen** by merging their two constituencies.

Several Sacred backbenchers accused the opposition of "starting the election campaign too early" as they tried to counter-heckle the critics.

Opposition spokesmen maintained they were tired of seeing Mr. Richter do nothing for farmers except underspend his estimates to help build the provincial surplus account.

The full-scale clash over the agricultural department's operations may be the last seen by the B.C. legislature.

Salary Vote

The general redistribution of B.C. seats will reverse the historic balance by giving urban areas a majority of seats in future and it is not likely that so much time will be devoted to less than 1 per cent of the budget.

Most of the seven-hour fire was directed at Mr. Richter's salary vote of \$20,000. The minister, unused to such grilling, became flustered and angry several times, complaining of the treatment.

"I as minister have the responsibility but all you can do is hack, hack at me," he burst out at one point.

Mr. Richter said no one knew how to cleanse the soil of pesticide pollution at Grand Forks and he has turned the problem over to a soils advisory committee for study. He said it would begin after the spring

thaw.

Mrs. Haggen blasted back that he was a "flop" as a minister because he did not provide compensation for quarantined dairy farmers.

She accused him of being "more concerned in glorifying your position to cabinet and the premier" than helping the farmers by spending money.

"You have been derelict in your duty in failing to set up a survey of pesticide use and soil pollution in this province," charged **R a n d o l p h Harding** (NDP — Kaslo-Slocan).

"I can do nothing about it . . . I've been in discussion with Ottawa for two years now," protested Mr. Richter.

"Passing the buck" jeered **Leo Nimsick** (NDP — Cranbrook).

"If you know how to explore this problem I'll hire you tomorrow," retorted Mr. Richter. "It's all right for you to laugh but I'll admit I don't have the technical knowledge."

"You can't escape your responsibility and toss it over here," stormed Opposition Leader **Robert Strachan**.

"This whole thing has come about as a result of the minister's inaction and you can't sluff it off on Ottawa."

Mr. Richter left the chamber briefly at one point, an unusual event when a minister is undergoing questioning on his salary.

Frost Damage

Liberal Leader **Ray Perrault** accused the minister of a "shocking display" of evading the issue of compensation to affected farmers by trying to obtain sympathy on the difficulty of gauging residual effects of chemicals.

He also suggested that orchardists in the Okanagan were compensated for frost damage because "there are government MLAs there but in Grand Forks-Greenwood there is an opposition member."

Recreation and Conservation Minister **Kenneth Kiernan**, who formerly held the agricultural portfolio, interceded in the debate.

"While I don't pretend to carry the ball for the minister, I am not going to sit quietly by and see this type of misinformed abuse heaped on the minister," he snapped at the opposition.

"It is not only misinformed and inaccurate but also incompetent."

Mr. Kiernan said the attack on Mr. Richter was unjustified because soil pollution by new pesticides is a problem bedeviling the whole continent and so far no research breakthrough

has been made in discovering a way of cleansing the affected soil in Grand Forks.

"It's all very well to lambaste the minister for this lack of knowledge but I would point out to you that the control of these chemicals comes under the (federal) food and drug branch . . . it was not the minister's responsibility."

Later, as the attack continued, Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce Minister **Ralph Loffmark** also rose to deny he was trying to defend Mr. Richter.

"I only want to assist the House with information," Mr. Loffmark said.

He argued that the B.C. Research Council is carrying out basic research on soil pollution with a U.S. government grant.

This pointed up the fact that the problem was a continental dilemma which went beyond provincial jurisdiction and required a co-operative scientific approach.

Mr. Loffmark also pointed out that while some problems have developed, the modern pesticides have led to huge increases in agricultural crops.

Mrs. Haggen held Agriculture Minister Richter solely responsible for the "Grand Forks disaster" about which farmers have sizzled mutely for a year.

Kept Quiet

"Since last February they have kept quiet," she told the legislature. She said the closing down of dairy farms and quarantine due to pesticide infestation "might have gotten adverse publicity" if people had spoken out.

The member repeated an earlier speech protesting the lack of co-operation between federal and provincial agricultural and food and drug authorities to solve the problem.

Nothing had been accomplished and the farmers were being used as guinea pigs, she said.

The tolerable limits of the pesticide still are unknown, farmers were not compensated for their loss of business during a 36-day shutdown, and although a provincial agriculture department official assured both Mrs. Haggen and a B.C. Federation of Agriculture officer that hay bills would be paid, both governments refused, the MLA said.

Farmers followed directions of the government representatives "explicitly," one man doubling his milk production and on the verge of tripling it when he was shut down. Told that his quota would be protected he later found himself in the position of cutting his herd

to just 35 cows.
"You may think the farmers are bitter," Mrs. Haggen said. "They have every reason to be bitter by the treatment they have received from both the provincial and federal governments."

Cruel Things

Mr. Richter had said cruel things about the farmers, she said, blaming them for not making an effort to obtain "clean feed."

Residual pesticide has been in the ground for years, she said. It is likely to remain for many more years before farmers may replant feed crops, the member said.

"Farmers are in a very sad state now." They can't get credit at the banks or anywhere else," Mrs. Haggen said.

Outdoorsmen To Show Film In Park Fray

A special legislative committee will begin drafting its recommendations regarding a proposed townsite in Strathcona Park after a final hearing Friday.

A delegation of outdoorsmen from all parts of the province will oppose the Western Mines proposal and a color slide show of the area will be presented to the committee at the final hearing.

MODERN LAMENT

'Being Buried Under Bottles'

People are in danger of disappearing under the sheer volume of empty bottles that have been used to bring beer, pop, jam, and pickles into their homes — and cars.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) put a plea before the legislature Wednesday for burnable cartons and packaging for foodstuffs.

"I can hardly step onto my back porch there are so many bottles there," he noted in debating agriculture estimates.

He quoted ex-premier Khrushchev's "We'll bury you" remark.

"Actually, we are in danger of being buried by empty bottles," the member said.

"You can't go to the beach today without the danger of injury by stepping on a bottle," he said.

He also deplored the side

effect of bottle surplus — tossing the empties from moving cars to shatter on streets and sidewalks.

He said the question being turned over in Washington today is whether bottles should be returnable or disposable, and suggested the fact that many bottles are returnable is causing so many to accumulate.

Agriculture Minister Frank Richter replied there was "not much I can do about the accumulation of bottles. That's the prerogative of the person who acquires them."

But he suggested there may be a whole new field of enterprise open to members in the fact that some wineries today take empty bottles back.

Facing the Hard Facts Of the Distribution Bill

The student of provincial affairs can spend many absorbing hours turning the redistribution issue over like a diamond with many facets, each worth examination.

This week, the jewel was fitted into its place firmly by a comfortable vote of 29 to 19 on second reading. It would seem to be a tactical victory for Premier Bennett, but it may be a strategic defeat.

There seems little doubt that the premier genuinely wanted a non-partisan redistribution that would once and for all take this thorny political question out of the hands of the politicians. Yet he was forced to meddle and the golden opportunity for a precedent — and the lustre of "statesmanship" for his declining years — was lost.



Mika

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

would lose their present seats at a stroke of the pen.

It was a clear signal to Premier Bennett that the NDP could help him stave off a rebellion within his own party if he still wanted to adopt the Angus report.

It was obvious that for several days the premier hesitated over this offer, but finally decided he couldn't risk accepting it.

Doubtless he realized what a tremendous temptation it would have been to the opposition to renege. If he had pressed through the Angus report in the expectation that the opposition would support him, the likelihood that Socred backbenchers would revolt (in peace and security) would have become a certainty.

And what would have been the situation at that dramatic roll call?

For the first time, not enough Socred MLAs would have risen in support of the government to guarantee victory.

And for a moment or two, the opposition members would have had the chance of a lifetime — the dreamed-of thrill — of defeating Premier Bennett on the floor of the House, thus deciding themselves the date of the next election and giving themselves their best chance for gaining seats by precipitating a campaign which the Socreds would enter publicly as a divided and outsmarted party.

Thought Ahead

The premier must have thought ahead to that moment when his government's life would be suspended on the single thread of the NDP declaration. Obviously, he came to the conclusion he could not trust the opposition in the face of such great temptation.

Instead, he took the alter-

native of appeasing enough Socred rebels to avert defeat by the simple expedient of retaining the existing northern ridings. This was done, without upsetting the rest of the Angus jigsaw of constituency boundaries, by enlarging the House to 54 seats.

So he gave in to the northern rebels which tipped the scales back in his favor — including the consolation of breaking the NDP front by forcing Frank Calder into a hopeless situation unless he supported the government.

The refusal to go all the way in pacifying his dissident backbenchers in the Interior testifies to the premier's desire to salvage as much of the non-partisan report as he could. The same holds for his promise to hold another redistribution in five years.

But even the minor rebellion of three Socreds has its tactical advantage because it successfully blunts opposition cries that the government bill is a one-sided effort at gerrymandering.

Not So Easy

There was a great deal of tightrope walking behind closed doors at the Socred caucus but the public straddling act of John Tisdalle may perplex some persons. After all, he appears perfectly safe with the extension of his riding to the reliably-Socred Gulf Islands.

Yet he seems terribly upset by the boundary change.

Could it have anything to do with the fact that Mrs. Beth Wood — a close friend of Premier Bennett's in sharp contrast to the relations between the premier and Mr. Tisdalle — now lives on Salt Spring Island?

The former mayor of New Westminster is a formidable politician and an ideally situated to make the long-expected jump into provincial politics — by winning the Socred nomination for Saanich and The Islands.

Eight Against

It was immediately apparent that the Angus commission's recommendations would put up to eight Socred backbenchers — five in the north, two in the Interior and possibly one in Victoria — against its adoption in a government bill.

These, added to the 19 opposition votes, would have produced a 27 to 23 defeat for the government on the floor of the House, perhaps a closer margin if one or two rebels could be dissuaded from voting, but defeat nevertheless.

The opposition realized this, too, and that's why the 14-member NDP caucus — in an unusual step — announced soon after the report came down and before government policy had hardened into a bill that it would support adoption of the Angus report even though three of its members

FOR IMPAIRED DRIVER?

'Six Strokes of Lash'

Heavier fines and "six strokes of the lash" were advocated Thursday in the legislature as an alternative to jail sentences for impaired driving.

Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver) also said hard liquor taxes should be trebled to cut down drunk driving but "the working man's drink — beer — should be left as it is."

Attorney-general Robert Bon-

ner said higher taxes would only encourage clandestine production of "moonshine" liquor. He said this is already true in the U.S. and eastern Canada

where more clandestine liquor is being funnelled into the regular market now than in prohibition days.

He made no comment on the suggestion of lashes.

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'POLITICAL HACKS' CHARGED

Two MLAs Join Forces To Attack QC Awards

A Liberal and a New Democrat joined forces Thursday to attack the government's policy of awarding the honor of Queen's Counsel for political reasons.

Lawyers Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) and Alan Macfarlane (Lib.—Oak Bay) were scathing in their criticism of the attorney-general, and Mr. Macfarlane amid government backbencher's heckling, was pushed to the brink of naming one political appointee.

"Political hacks," Mr. Macfarlane called members of the legal profession who had been appointed.

"Name one. Name one," the backbenchers shouted.

"It would be too embarrassing to the attorney-general and members," Mr. Macfarlane replied.

"Tell us how the judges are appointed by the Liberals," Trade and Industry Minister Ralph Loffmark heckled.

"By and large, judicial appointments in this province have

been good," the Liberal member said, mentioning that number of Conservative appointments had been made along with others. There were cries of derision from the Social Credit side.

RECOGNIZE ABILITY

"There is a great difference with Queen's Counsel because it is supposed to recognize ability," Mr. Macfarlane said.

He had previously called the B.C. appointment situation "disgraceful . . . when so many supporters of the government are named."

"What about the senate?" government members asked.

"What they are doing in the senate is no better," Mr. Macfarlane agreed.

"You can do better than that," Attorney-General Robert Bonner chided.

"We need reform in the senate and we need reform in these appointments," the Oak Bay member said, recalling his own earlier reference to an elected senate.

"I understand you're getting one," Premier Bennett called across the floor.

"The only political appointment I'd favor is the appointment of W. A. C. Bennett (to the senate)" Mr. Macfarlane said.

He challenged Mr. Bonner to compare the list of suggested appointees from the B.C. Bar Association with the actual list of lawyers given the honor.

He said it would be "just too embarrassing" to do that on the floor of the House.

DOWNGRADE LAWYERS

"You downgrade the lawyers of this province and you downgrade the Queen's Counsel," the member charged.

"A large number of QC appointments in this province are politically motivated," he went on. He emphasized his point by saying one deserving lawyer "didn't make it because he was a strong critic of the government on the floor of the legislature."

Mr. Macdonald called the appointment of QCs "an honor interlarded with political consideration," which had fallen into disrepute in B.C. and other provinces. It was "a rather empty honor," about the only advantage of which was a position some 15 feet closer to the presiding judge when appearing in the Supreme Court of Canada.

"I'm not bucking for QC myself," the NCP member said. "Under the present system I wouldn't accept one in any case." He noted that it meant the recipient must buy a silk gown.

Mr. Bonner replied that B.C. probably has the lowest ratio of QC appointments in Canada and the number is limited to 10 a year by statute.

WHAT ABOUT SAANICH?

City Court Facilities 'Already Too Small'

Victoria's Centennial Square traffic and magistrate's courts are already too small though just a few months old, members of the legislature were told Thursday by Alan Macfarlane (L.—Oak Bay).

He challenged the attorney-general to give a statement on the now unused Saanich court facility and its use in the next few years.

"As much as I admire the Fisgard Street facilities and

magistrate's court facilities, they are already too small," Mr. Macfarlane said.

He also was unsatisfied by the comparison of convictions in Victoria courts with the number of charges laid.

"Because, frankly, we in Victoria, and the citizens of Victoria, are not satisfied at all," Mr. Macfarlane said without elaboration.

The attorney-general made no reply to any part of the member's questions.

Re-Register Voters Government Asked

Enumeration of all provincial voters should be held before the next general election because of redistribution of seats, the legislature was told.

NDR lawyer-MLAs Gordon Dowding and Alex Macdonald both advanced the theory on the grounds that all voters are registered under the present ridings and would have to be re-registered under the new ones.

But when asked if it would

be legal to hold a general election on a redistributed riding basis without enumeration, Attorney-general Robert Bonner replied with a smile:

"I don't think I could offer legal opinion on that but this time next year I hope to."

His comment prompted an outburst of laughter among MLAs who expect an election this year.

MORE QUESTIONS

Jones Affair Back in House

Premier Bennett and Highways Minister Gaglardi Thursday denied they were guests in Phoenix, Ariz., of a Calgary businessman connected in the legislature with the Jones-Gunderson case.

But Attorney-General Robert Bonner remained silent on the same point.

The denials were part of a running series of questions and accusations by Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) and Opposition Leader Robert Strachan about a mysterious destroyed file and "missing memo."

They raised the question at intervals often through the 7½ hours spent on the attorney-general's estimates Thursday afternoon and night.

Mr. Dowding recalled that G. E. P. Jones, fired without explanation by a controversial bill last session as head of the government purchasing commission, had claimed in a July broadcast, he sent a memo to Mr. Bonner.

COMPLAINT MADE

Mr. Jones said a man claimed he would complain to Mr. Bonner because he had given \$25,000 to the Socred party fund and was not satisfied with treatment he was receiving from the purchasing commission.

Mr. Dowding identified the man as Louis Wener, a director of Concrete Constructors Ltd., Con-Force Construction Ltd., Pre-Cast Concrete Ltd. and Hercules Co. Ltd., which between 1956 and 1965 sold more than \$1.2 million worth of supplies to the government.

The MLA said Mr. Wener claimed he knew Mr. Bonner, Premier Bennett and Mr. Gaglardi quite well.

"He may just be name-dropping but he claims they were his guests at Phoenix," Mr. Dowding said.

"I was never a guest in Phoenix," snapped Mr. Bennett.

"I've never been to Phoenix," said Mr. Gaglardi.

Mr. Bonner said he doubted the Jones memo on Wener's complaints existed. He could not recall receiving it and his staff could not trace any record of it.

Mr. Dowding said he asked to see purchasing commission records to check a copy of the memo only to be told it had been destroyed.

He said this was done illegally.

FILES GONE

Mr. Dowding asked if he could see the commission's files on the Wener companies' transactions with the government.

"I am advised that documents of the purchasing commission are destroyed on a five-year basis," Mr. Bonner said. He said he didn't know under what authority it was done.

Mr. Dowding said under the Public Documents Disposal Act no documents of the commission, a branch of the finance department, could be destroyed sooner than 10 years without permission of an official committee.

He said there should be an investigation of the affair "and whoever is responsible should be prosecuted."

Later, Mr. Dowding raised the subject again to say he had information the files in question were intact up to the time Jones was suspended by the cabinet in 1964.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Mr. Strachan also raised the question twice and demanded to know what happened to the documents.

"In the period under question, the files have been destroyed under the Public Documents Disposal Act," replied Mr. Bonner.

Mr. Strachan said that the law requires a specific application to be made to the committee for destruction of documents less than 10 years old (Jones said he sent his memo in 1956).

Smith Case Revived By MLA

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) Thursday night revived the J. Stewart Smith case in the legislature.

Mr. Macdonald repeated earlier statements that Mr. Smith should have been charged with at least two criminal offences before he left his office as chief of the B.C. securities commission in 1962 to live in New Zealand.

He said Mr. Smith had accepted Northern Ontario Natural Gas Company stock at substantially reduced price of \$2 a share shortly before it went to \$38.

He also said that Mr. Smith accepted 100 shares of International American-African Corporation stock worth \$12,500 without paying anything at a time when he allowed the company to sell its stock in B.C. without requiring registration.

VIOLATED CODE?

Mr. Macdonald said both transactions violated the Criminal Code and he demanded Attorney-general Robert Bonner explain why no charges were laid.

Mr. Bonner said the situation had been aired numerous times before.

"It's my view, on departmental advice, that prosecution was not warranted on the evidence we had prior to the time (Smith) left his office," he said.

Mr. Bonner said the IAAC transaction involved a trade of stock by Mr. Smith.

"We were deeply distressed that the superintendent of brokers should engage in any stock transaction and quite frankly it led to a parting of the ways for which I was grateful."

'COMPELLING REASONS' TO OPEN COURT DOOR

Attorney-General Robert Bonner said Thursday in the legislature he would need "compelling reasons" to depart from the practice of giving no publicity to juvenile court cases.

He was asked to comment on his department's survey of a suggestion that reporters be admitted to juvenile courts, even though the Criminal Code forbids any publicity being given to juvenile court matters.

Certain magistrates are being canvassed for their views, Mr. Bonner said.

If there is no great discrepancy in the views forwarded, then the department may consider instructing prosecutors to admit reporters to court in a test.

OF CAR INSURANCE

New Law to Require Cancellation Notice

A law to curb the cancellation of auto insurance without notice to the holder probably will be introduced at this session of the legislature, Attorney-General Robert Bonner said Thursday.

He was replying to protests by Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay) and Alex Matthew (SC—Vancouver Centre) that called the ability of a company to arbitrarily cut off a person's insurance as "dangerous."

A person holidaying, for in-

stance, would be living in a fool's paradise, Mr. Matthew said, if his insurance was cancelled while he was away from home.

The attorney-general also said his department is taking a look at the discrepancy between high fixed fines for beer waiters convicted for serving minors and the relatively small fines to the minors themselves.

"I may be able to recommend an amendment to the (liquor) act before we rise," Mr. Bonner said.

TV Beer Ads Mockery of Law

'Unregulated Messages' in U.S. Affecting Youngsters in B.C.

By AB KENT

Liquor advertising broadcast in B.C. is a mockery of Liquor Control Board regulations and could be stopped immediately by the attorney-general, a Liberal member said Thursday in the legislature.

TV ads for "lion-hearted lager," together with the inviting sound of a beer being poured, have a bad influence on youth, besides losing \$750,000 a year to U.S. broadcast media, Liberal Leader Ray Perrault said.

"The attorney-general has the power to say (to the liquor and beer producers) 'We put you on the shelf or we don't put you on the shelf.' He has the power to control advertising," Mr. Perrault said.

PIOUS POLICY

He pointed to the "pious policy" of the LCB, forbidding the use of radio and TV for liquor ads in B.C., but which overlooks the fact that producers, distillers or brewers may advertise without restriction using U.S. stations readily received in B.C.

Using a tape recorder Wednesday night, he copied a number of TV ads for beer, which he quoted in the House.

"One 'lion-hearted lager — because it's nothing like those tame beers — has more bite, more authority, with old-fashioned beer flavor" is the "lager beer for men who like to drink, drink, drink beer," Mr. Perrault said.

"This wouldn't be allowed in Quebec or Ontario," he claimed, where new regulations for liquor advertising are restrictive, but have stopped the flow of ads to nearby American stations.

'REAL MAN WHEN . . .'

"Another commercial sug-

gested a drinker is "a real man when you drink our beer," Mr. Perrault said.

"Those unregulated messages are affecting the young people of B.C.," the member said.

"We continue the righteous hypocrisy of no liquor advertising, when in fact millions of Canadian dollars are spent over the years . . . encouraging people to have a roaring good drunken time."

Mr. Perrault said the attorney-general knows that liquor is a big factor in crime. He quoted Vancouver prosecutor Stewart McMorran as saying that 85 per cent of crime in Vancouver comes from the bottle. And the alcohol factor in accidents is well-known, he said.

EXPLAIN LOGIC . . .

The Liberal leader drew attention to the fact that LCB policy permits newspaper and magazine advertising of liquor, and challenged the attorney-general to explain the logic of that when broadcasting is denied.

He recommended a government advertising campaign urging moderation; and that the A-G and LCB influence producers to promote and advertise moderation, and that the A-G bring "sense and sanity to advertising" by allowing broadcasting rather than the abuses there are now.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said it would be "the rankest hypocrisy on the part of those who manufacture and produce alcohol to indulge in

programs urging moderation.

BAN ADVERTISING

"No advertising of liquor of any kind should be allowed," he said. And if anyone is going to urge moderation, let it be the government, not the producers.

"Tell any producer if he circumvents B.C. liquor advertising regulations that he simply won't be allowed to sell his products to the Liquor Control Board of B.C.," Mr. Strachan said.

David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) suggested producers of alcoholic beverage be made to match their advertising budgets with research grants into alcoholism.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) said the advertising of moderation in drinking was "hypocritical" because it would increase advertisements by liquor interests using brand names.

He also attacked Mr. Perrault's criticism of liquor advertising by the Bellingham television station beamed at B.C. as "deploring it and then saying we should have some of it too."

Mr. Bonner took the same stand, saying the Channel 12 liquor advertising was "in extraordinary bad taste" but there was little B.C. could do about it.

He also said the moderation advertising would probably be welcomed mainly by advertising firms which would increase their accounts.

Crime Victim's Fund Has Merit: Bonner

A compensation fund for victims of criminal attack is an idea of some merit, Attorney-General Robert Bonner agreed Thursday in the legislature.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) made the suggestion that such a fund be administered by a board like the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Thousands are spent on rehabilitation of criminals, he said, but "we spend nothing on the victim," who often suffers great loss.

A criminal is judgment-proof and has no assets, although civil suits are sometimes launched," he said.

An application of the idea could be in compensating persons injured when going to the aid of a policeman, as it is their legal duty to do when requested, Mr. Macdonald said.

"My own view is that if the suggestion has merit it should be done on a national scale," said Mr. Bonner. It would not be fair in one part of the country and not in another, he said.

Mr. Macdonald said he would like to see the idea expanded to cover persons who help firemen, rescue persons at their own peril and look for lost hunters for extended periods.

HIGHWAY ACCIDENTS WILL 'SQUASH 1,000'

Highway accidents in B.C. will "squash to death" 1,000 persons a year by 1971, Liberal leader Ray Perrault predicted in the legislature Thursday.

"Unless the government launches a major program of highway and traffic safety . . . that's what we're headed for," he said.

His prediction of highway deaths a year ago came close to the nearly 500 killed last year, the member noted, urging a program of high school driver training in the province.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner said there are 15-17 centres in the province which have high school driver training programs, conducted at the expense of the students, not from public funds.

"I am not in a position to announce any departure from existing policy," Mr. Bonner said.

Rules of the Game

THREE MEMBERS OF THE legislature have drawn government attention to loopholes in proposed wildlife legislation which could have serious influences on the conservation of game in this province.

Mr. Randolph Harding notes the abuses which might occur if non-residents were permitted to hunt without licensed guides, provided such permission were granted to special individuals by the cabinet on the recommendation of the minister of conservation. Mr. Cyril Sheldford supports the Harding stand with the pronouncement that while he trusts the present minister he has misgivings about some unknown successor in that office. And Mr. Leo Nimsick calls for closer control over the use of aircraft to fly hunters in and out of wilderness areas.

All are impressed by the fact that, as one of them phrased it, game management could be con-

verted to game harvest by the improper application of proposed legislation.

The point is well taken. Only the other day a commercial troller was objecting to the impropriety of so-called sports fishermen moving into the commercial market. He mentioned two Americans who reportedly caught 67 coho and chinook salmon in two days—more than four times the legal limit. He also referred to some local fishermen whom he called "game hogs".

These are exceptions in the ranks of sportsmen, but they may have their counterparts among the hunting fraternity. The need for control to enforce management—the point made by the three legislators—seems abundantly clear. The fate of the buffalo indicates what can happen to apparently inexhaustible supplies of game.

The Fiat Is Still Inviolable

IT IS PROBABLY LESS SURPRISING than disappointing that British Columbia has again declined to move into modern times insofar as certain legal actions against the Crown are concerned.

Once more Mr. Alan Macfarlane's bill seeking to eliminate the need for a fiat in specific claims against the government has been rejected—again on the ruling by Mr. Speaker that it is out of order.

The simple fact is that the fiat, a required authorization for an in-

dividual who seeks to bring suit against the government, is an anachronism. It has been abandoned not only by Britain but by other provinces in Canada as an outworn appendage of medieval law.

For no good reason, British Columbia clings to a restriction relinquished by fair-minded governments elsewhere. In the process the administration seems to admit that a sensible measure cannot be entertained when it comes from a member of the opposition.

Certificate Requirement Protested

An organization representing about 100,000 elderly British Columbians protested Thursday against a medical certificate requirement before dental technicians can make false teeth.

The Federated Legislative Council, formed by 14 senior citizens groups in the province, made the protest before a committee of the legislature studying the Dental Technicians Act.

The submission hit at the act's requirement that a certificate of oral health signed by a dentist or doctor must be obtained first before anyone can deal directly with a dental technician.

The council claimed that in most cases there is no examination and the dentist charges anywhere from \$5 to \$25 simply for his signature on a form.

This raises the cost of dentures unnecessarily and hurts low income persons who seek the economies of dental technician-made dentures which cost as low as \$50.

The council said that there has been no evidence of any health problems since the controversial act was passed authorizing dental technicians to deal directly with the public.

Citizens' Delegation Here to Save Strathcona

Ordinary citizens today entered the battle to keep a town out of Strathcona Park.

A delegation of 25 persons from up-island points appeared before a special committee of the legislature studying the Western Mines townsite proposal.

They were backed by a 120-name petition from Courtenay and a 20-minute colored slide show of the park area.

The presentations were a change of pace from the flurry of official briefs presented by opposing organizations.

O. Keith Morton, Courtenay businessman who has helped establish 150 miles of alpine hiking routes in Strathcona Park, led the delegation and presented the petition, which he said was collected within eight hours Thursday.

"We would have had a lot more people in the delegation if they had been able to take the day off from work," he told the Times.

"We have terrific support up there. People certainly are worked up about it."

Alec Merriman, Victoria outdoors writer, showed the colored slides, twice bringing gasps from the committee members.

The first time, a slide showed a hideous tangle of logged-off slash running alongside a beautiful stand of virgin timber which Mr. Merriman said was the park's boundary line.

The mutely eloquent slide instantly shattered verbal assurances previously given the committee that the park boundary was just an artificial

straight line on the map and no one on the scene would be able to tell where the park started or ended.

MYRA CREEK FALLS

The second gasp came when beautiful Myra Creek Falls was shown tumbling through a sylvan glade at the edge of Buttle Lake.

Mr. Merriman said it was the best trout stream in the park but the mine was being established upstream, the company fuel dock was only 200 yards from the falls and there were fears that pollution and silt from the mine would destroy the recreational and aesthetic values of both creek and falls.

Despite questioning, Mr. Morton declined to attack the mining operation itself because it was a fait accompli but he

said expanding its destructive influence to the wilderness beauty by adding a townsite should not be permitted.

"The establishment of a townsite in Strathcona Park would set a precedent for further development in this or any other park in B.C.," he warned.

"The mine will have a limited life," he added.

"Even if the town is razed to the ground, upon termination of mining activities, this area will be devoid of any recreational value whatsoever for years to come.

"There is only one real issue involved here — we think a townsite has no place within a provincial park."

The committee was to discuss the issue in camera before reporting to the legislature.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1966

DISTRICT ASSURED OF WATER RIGHTS

Water Resources Minister Ray Williston has told Victoria representatives he would assure Greater Victoria Water District of water rights despite a bill he introduced to the legislature Thursday to claim rights for the Crown.

The suggestion came out of a meeting between the minister and a delegation from Victoria city council, and it prompted Oak Bay MLA Alan Macfarlane to say he would seek this assurance from Mr. Williston in the legislature.

Greater Victoria Water District is made up of lands within a 20-mile radius of the city, mostly in the Sooke Hills, Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich and Esquimalt as co-owners send representatives to its administrative board, but two watershed areas within the circle are wholly owned by Victoria — Thetis and Beaver-Elk Lakes.

Mr. Williston's move, prompted by a dispute between the city and northern Saanich Peninsula water users, was greeted with alarm and indignation at city hall, where the original water rights were vested in 1873 and remained for 22 years after similar water acts in all other parts of B.C. were cancelled.

Mr. Williston said the Greater Victoria situation would be "regularized" by the bill which

was given first reading in the House.

This means the water district will have to apply to the provincial water resources branch for a water licence, entitling it to administer the district as it is now.

But the act also will allow Central Saanich and other northern peninsula users to apply for water rights, for example at Elk Lake where Central Saanich has a pumping station that draws water not only for users within its boundaries, but for North Saanich, Deep Cove and Sidney areas.

Central Saanich has tried to maintain an old nominal wholesale rate emanating from a previous federal agreement that gave it Elk Lake water for \$1,000 a year.

Victoria refused to accept these payments because it wanted to negotiate a new rate and suggested five cents per thousand gallons.

That was flatly rejected by Central Saanich on grounds that it would make water rates to some users about three times what Victoria customers pay. It simply was not fair, the council protested.

John Tisdalle (SC—Saanich) took up the protest with the government and the Water Act amendment bill resulted.

Mr. Williston said the bill

would do nothing to solve the long-term problem of supplying water to Saanich Peninsula, the fast-growing suburban sprawl area that is rapidly shrinking agricultural lands.

Elk Lake is not large enough to meet the domestic water and recreational demands that face it in the next 10 or 15 years, Mr. Williston acknowledged.

As an interim measure the bill ensures that people on the peninsula have water at a reasonable rate.

But as the area grows it probably will mean that in order to keep the lake system at a recreational level, Greater Victoria Water District will have to pump water in from the Sooke Hills.

The bill subjects the water to licence regulation, but has no bearing on land title, Mr. Williston said.

Seats for seven city council members were reserved in the Speaker's gallery at the legislature Thursday night.

Ald. Robert Baird and Ald. Cecil Parrott sat with ex-city clerk Frank Hunter and solicitor T. P. O'Grady, who arrived later was seated nearby.

Mr. Williston earlier obtained special permission of the House to introduce his bill without the usual notice.

Planning Under Way For Saltair Prison

Planning is in the "active stage now" for development of a major Vancouver Island prison at Saltair, south of Ladysmith, the legislature was told Thursday.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner said a problem in ensuring an adequate water supply held up the project for the past two years but is now solved.

He said this was the reason that Colquitz Jail here has been in operation for two years instead of the six months originally promised.

He was replying to criticism from Dave Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) who recalled that Health Minister Martin had boasted the grim Colquitz mental hospital building would be closed forever when it was shut down by his department.

OPENED BACK DOOR

But "while they were closing the front door they were

opening the back door" to establish the provincial jail in the same building.

"They said it would be only for six months," Mr. Barrett laughed. "That was two years ago—and they have just spent all kinds of money on a new gate and fence."

Mr. Bonner said the Saltair prison, when completed, and a variety of other prison facilities now under construction or planned will help decentralize the province's prison establishments and relieve the pressure on Oakalla.

This was his answer to Mr. Barrett's charge that the provincial government involuntarily was operating a "school for crime" at Oakalla.

Mr. Barrett referred to a holding unit for persons awaiting trial, where men aged 15-65—first offenders and hardened criminals—mingle together.

Some of the 175-200 men held

there have already been convicted and await appeals to be heard he said.

Some are children who have been government wards for years, shifting from foster home to foster home, heading for Brannen Lake industrial school or another part of Oakalla.

The majority of inmates are under 21; some persons would not be there at all if they had the money for bail; they are sex offenders, homosexuals, drug addicts, safe crackers and criminals of every description, Mr. Barrett said.

A man could be put into solitary confinement at Oakalla for breaking a jail regulation while in the holding unit, Mr. Barrett said. Yet, he could be acquitted of the original charge against him.

The department of corrections annual report backs up all his statements, Mr. Barrett said.

FROM BOTH SIDES

Extra Seat Applauded

By AB KENT

Without warning, Premier Bennett Friday gave notice of a third new seat for the provincial legislature and won applause from both sides of the House.

He rose during debate on third reading of the government's controversial redistribution bill after sharp opposition criticism of political imbalance between northern and southern constituencies proposed to give the House 54 seats.

The premier's announcement would give the House 55 seats in place of 52 as it stands today.

"We live in a democracy," the premier said.

"We live in a legislature representing all the people and all the parts of British Columbia

"It is the duty of the government to lead and to listen," he said, accrediting Harry McKay (Lib. — Fernie) with the

suggestion that a seat be restored to the Kootenays.

Mr. McKay had said the Kootenays would be well-represented in the redistributed House, with the exception of Columbia River, the new name for a large riding that lumps together three existing constituencies.

"The government proposes to divide Columbia riding and proposes to make two ridings of what is now Columbia River," the premier said.

Mr. McKay said it probably was the last time he would be speaking in the legislature but he wanted to voice the demands of the Kootenays to fair treatment.

Will Not Seek Retention of Seat

He said he would not seek retention of his riding of Fernie because he acknowledged it should be merged with Cranbrook.

"But the least the government can do is take that huge Columbia River riding and cut it in half to give the Kootenays one more seat," he said.

Noting the premier had promised another redistribution in five years' time, he wound up with a demand that "next time, Mr. Premier, you keep your political fingers out of it."

Mr. Bennett jumped up and thanked him for implying his own political demise while anticipating the premier would still be head of the government five years from now.

Debate on the bill took a

lively turn when earlier Randolph Harding (NDP — Kaslo-Slocan) scored Kootenay cabinet ministers Provincial Secretary Wesley Black and Mines Minister Donal Brothers for not opposing the realigned Kootenay ridings.

"You should be with us," Mr. Harding called across the floor. "It is not too late. We can still change them (boundaries) if we put enough pressure on."

"If the premier can add two seats to the north, it's not too late to add to the Kootenays and lower mainland," the member went on.

"We are not asking for an advantageous position. We are asking for equal treatment. We're demanding equal treatment," he cried.

'Afraid of Cold Water,' Charged

Mr. Harding said the provincial secretary was "afraid of cold water" or he would be on his feet fighting the bill. He called the new lines a "foolish alignment of boundaries" creating an unwieldy area.

He was "amazed that a member from the Kootenays, and indeed a minister, could say this redistribution is good," referring to Mr. Black.

The premier had restored to seven the northern seats, although the Angus report had recommended five, and he took four seats from the Kootenay

area, Mr. Harding said. "Our population is exactly the same as in the north. Nobody can come into this legislature and say the northern part is any more important than the eastern part," Mr. Harding said.

Mr. Black had said he felt he had discharged his responsibility and avoided commenting on the bill while he was carrying it.

"I agree wholeheartedly with the premier in outlining policy on the bill, and particularly in respect to the Kootenays I

support the bill," Mr. Black said.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said he wondered if the minister had read the bill because he had answered no questions put by the opposition, "didn't explain or comment on the bill; he hasn't said anything about the bill."

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault, noting a display of daffodils on each member's desk, said:

REPORT 'COFFIN'

"We should take all the flowers in the chamber this afternoon and put them on the coffin of the Angus report."

He called the premier's redistribution bill, "patently a political balance." The non-political Angus report had been sacrificed on "the altar of political expedience."

The government had destroyed the political balance of the report, a balance which the government had stated would be sought, Mr. Perrault said.

Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East) observed:

"If the bill passes in its present form it will be one of the black days of this government."

"It has been well said the premier proceeded with a carrot in one hand and a stick in the other."

This was in reference to the premier's promise of another redistribution in five years' time.

'AFRAID'

He suggested the government was afraid of something, and deprecated the lack of any effort to justify provisions of the bill; "not a fraction of a good reason" had been given.

Bert Price (SC—Vancouver-Burrard) was the first government frontbencher to rise in response:

"Very few members in this House have any right to vote against this bill," he said.

It was a "great disgrace" that members were opposing an attempt to give better representation.

He said individuals don't count, even though a member could see his seat "going up in smoke."

The north was being favored because of its growth, he suggested.

"What about the Kootenay country? We've grown, too," Mr. Harding said.

"You haven't grown fast enough," Mr. Price replied.

David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) said the member for Burrard didn't understand what the sections of the bill were about.

"Once a member is elected to the House he has the right to say anything he wants," Mr. Barrett declared.

But he got an idea of the government's attitude on redistribution from a remark

earlier in the week by J. Donald Smith (SC—Victoria) who referred to the changes involved as "a few lines."

"What's a few lines? What's a few lines between friends?" he said as members responded. Then he turned the blade:

"I'll tell you. The cynicism and pseudo-sanctimonious attitude displayed by those benches," Mr. Barrett said.

"If anyone in this province is against freedom it is the premier, who is against the principle of one man, one vote," he said.

Dr. Pat McGeer (L—Point Grey) called the effect of giving three more seats to the city of Vancouver and two to the north was a "despicable game of politics — self-interest at its worst."

He brought a gale of government laughter with his next remark, an obvious misstatement which he did not trouble to correct:

"It is a double or nothing game (of political advantage) and I hope it doesn't backfire on them in the next election."

Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby) said he regarded Mr. Price's remarks as an insult to all members for suggesting that they should not be interested in laws that would provide balance of power on election day rather than immediate self-interest.

Both Opposition Leader Strachan and Soered backbencher Donald Robinson (SC — Lillooet) blasted Mr. Price.

RIGHT TO COMPLAIN

"The opposition has the right to complain in this house," Mr. Strachan stormed. He said the right to object to government policies is one of the cornerstones of parliamentary democracy.

Mr. Robinson angrily said he would like to put Mr. Price in the position of a rural MLA whose riding would disappear.

"Every member is entitled to say what he thinks," he snapped at the Soered whip.

Mr. Perrault said "I think we have had enough of the colossal arrogance of this government

"They sit in that corner laughing the way people laughed waiting for the Guillotine to drop in the French revolution

"It's not high humor in the Kootenay country to see the minister sitting there laughing."

RETAIN RIDINGS

Mr. Strachan also hammered at the government's decision to change the Angus commission by retaining existing northern ridings.

"You're still being unfair to Vancouver Island and the lower mainland as well as the Kootenays by not treating them the same as the north," he said.

John Tisdalle (SC — Saanich) said the premier's promise of another redistribution in five years "bodes well" and he said he hoped that his riding would be reinstated then with two MLAs to represent it.

"Nevertheless, there has been a forward step" in enlarging the legislature and next time it should be increased in size again.

"I appreciate all this bill sets out to do but it doesn't go far enough and that is why I am not prepared to support Section 3 (boundary changes)."

Provincial Secretary Black introduced a minor amendment to rename the new Yale constituency as Yale-Lillooet, in recognition of the merger of the present separate Yale and Lillooet constituencies.

Both Mr. Robinson and William Hartley (NDP — Yale) praised the move.

"But I'm still not satisfied," said Mr. Robinson.

He said he would vote against third reading because it would wipe out Lillooet constituency.

Mr. Robinson read a telegram from one of his constituents who claimed that one voter in Lillooet was as good as "three bloodsucker welfare artists and big shot millionaires in the cities."

While the language might be rough, "you can appreciate the temper of the people in the constituencies that are being eliminated," said Mr. Robinson.

'PUBLIC RESENTMENT CAN BE EXPECTED'

MLA Lashes Instant Justice

By JOHN MIKA

A sharp attack on the government's proposal to increase police power against drinking and hit-run drivers was launched Friday in the legislature.

The debate was adjourned for another day after several MLAs slapped at the principle of Motor Vehicle Act amendments as infringements of civil liberty.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) opened the attack by singling out the provision which would allow police to make "roadside suspensions" of drivers' licences for a 24-hour period on suspicion they had been drinking.

"This is the first time the police have been able to administer instant justice without right of appeal and outside the realm of the court," he said.

Mr. Macdonald said the government should have tried the other tack to curb impaired driving by making breathalyzer tests of blood-alcohol compulsory.

"You may say this (police suspensions) is a very small infringement of civil liberties but I really think it is the first time that there has been conviction and sentencing outside of our courts."

Bert Price (SC—Vancouver-Burrard) said he reluctantly would go along with the roadside suspensions but opposed the other controversial measure — a requirement that no one repair any car in an accident unless it bears a police authorization sticker.

"The load of decision as to whether a car has been in an accident is going to fall on the shoulders of a man operating a business and trying to make a living," said Mr. Price.

"I know what will happen — you're going to lead to bootlegging of auto repairs . . . and there is nothing worse than encouraging businesses operating outside the law."

Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay) said he would support the bill but it should be regarded as purely an experiment that should be reviewed by the legislature next year and repealed if it does not work.

"I suppose you can say that it (roadside suspensions) is an infringement of civil liberties but almost every law or rule we have is an infringement if you like to look at it that way," Mr. Macfarlane said.

He said drastic steps are needed to stop the traffic toll climb.

"This sort of experiment is

necessary but I don't minimize the possibilities of great trouble in (its) enforcement."

EDUCATE POLICE

He said great care should be taken to educate police in proper administration of the law because "a great deal of resentment by the public" could be expected.

Mr. Macfarlane also argued the roadside suspensions should not be permitted until the police had been trained and equipped to introduce it on a province-wide basis.

He said that probably one of the greatest advantages of the bill and its publicity "is to convince the public that the authorities are serious in keeping drinking drivers off the road."

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) said the suspension provision would exacerbate existing public distrust and dislike of the police.

BILL OF RIGHTS

"Remember, it isn't just the drunken driver that is concerned in certain sections of this bill but ordinary citizens. I'm all in favor of road safety but I'm also in favor of the principles set down in the bill of rights."

Mr. Dowding said the govern-

ment bill would violate traditional safeguards "that are there not for the guilty but to protect the innocent."

"This idea of pre-judging and delegating judicial power to the police . . . tends towards the police state which is known in Eastern Europe where the courts . . . and the legislatures are unable to protect the citizens" from police abuses.

Mr. Dowding said instead of giving police more power the legislature should give courts more power to curb drunk driving by establishing an automatic one-year licence suspension on conviction.

Leo Nimsick (NDP—Cranbrook) said it "is terrible when we have to experiment with justice in order to solve a problem."

"This goes beyond what we know of as justice and it is going to leave a bitterness in the public towards the police."

He said automatic licence suspensions by the courts would be a better alternative. Mr. Nimsick also said the police repair sticker will encourage establishment of "bootlegging body shops."

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault adjourned debate on second reading of the bill, ensuring that it will come under further scrutiny next week.

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1966

Next Time Perhaps?

HOPES THAT THE ANGUS commission report on redistribution of provincial legislative seats would put the whole matter permanently on a non-political basis have now been destroyed.

In departing from the commission's recommendations in regard to the northern constituencies, Mr. Bennett broke away from the scientific or expert's approach and injected political and geographical factors into the system. While some argument could be made for his action—about one-third of the province would have been included in the most northerly riding and still have held only a normal number of voters—the chief criticism against it was that it weakened the principle.

That weakness has now been demonstrated in a further amendment to the Angus recommendations. The Columbia riding will be split into two, to meet the protests of members concerned with the

Kootenay area. With these precedents there is little defence left against still more tampering with the original constituency plan. An excellent chance to take redistribution out of the politicians' hands has been lost.

It is recognized, of course, that strong pressures have been brought to bear by members who face the elimination or depreciation of constituencies in which they have built up support. That is only a human response to the threat of political oblivion. But the representation of the province as a whole is of greater importance than the political convenience of individual members.

A systematic, non-partisan, equalized division of voting districts should be established, free from the dangers of tampering and personalized readjustment. We had a chance to achieve this at the present session, but Mr. Bennett weakened and we must wait for a more courageous moment.

Seine Fishermen Demand More Inlets Be Opened

A provincial department of commercial fisheries is needed to help put seine fishing on a proper basis, a legislative com-

mittee was told Friday.

Gillnetters and trollers now hold a great advantage over seine fishermen, said Frank Buble, president of the Salmon Seine Vessel Owners Association.

Seiners are not allowed to fish seven inlets where the best species of salmon are caught and have only partial access to five other areas, he said.

He asked that half a dozen areas on the coast be set aside for exclusive use by seine fishermen.

MACFARLANE ECHOES CHARGES

Education Minister Denies Uvic Treated 'Unfairly'

By JOHN MIKA
Legislative Reporter

Education Minister Leslie Peterson Monday denied that the University of Victoria has been or will be treated unfairly by government construction grant policies.

He was replying in the legislature to questions raised by Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) based on a speech made by Uvic development board official Floyd Fairclough several weeks ago.

Mr. Macfarlane said Uvic had to put up more than \$800,000 for acquisition of property while Simon Fraser University received its land free.

Mr. Peterson replied that Burnaby municipality gave SFU its \$2 million campus as a civic gift. He also pointed out that Uvic borrowed its \$800,000 against the multi-million-dollar Thomas McPherson bequest.

HELD BACK GRANT

Mr. Macfarlane said the government had held back \$500,000 of its promised \$2.5 million

matching grant for Uvic construction.

Mr. Peterson said Uvic fell behind its construction schedule so it had only drawn \$2 million in progressive government payments when the Tri-University Building Fund was set up.

The minister said the government gave a special commitment to the Tri-U fund which was more generous than a matching grant but on the understanding that it superseded all previous matching grant arrangements which both Uvic and the University of B.C. had.

Mr. Macfarlane said that by 1970 Uvic will need \$17.5 million, including the \$500,000 matching grant that has been withheld, to meet its building needs for a projected student population of 5,000.

Schools Blamed For 'Bad Image'

By AB KENT

British Columbia's politically sterile schoolrooms Monday night took some of the blame for the bad image of Canadian politics.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault told fellow members of the legislature a growing mistrust of public life "touches all of us," no matter where in Canada it derives.

And it touches on education, he said.

The occasion was debate on Education Minister Leslie Peterson's salary estimate. Mr. Perrault took the opportunity to criticize the lack of political expression — as part of the social studies curriculum — in public schools.

NO MAN AN ISLAND

"When it comes to general mistrust of politicians, legislatures and parliaments, no man is an island," Mr. Perrault said.

"If there is general public cynicism toward public life, we can't say it is a problem that belongs to some other part of Canada.

"A la Cardin," Mines Minister Donald Brothers said.

"It is a problem that deeply involves every member of this legislature and it touches on education," Mr. Perrault continued.

An opposition member took up the minister's hint. "Gundersen," he said.

But Mr. Perrault went on: "I am not pointing the finger at any individual but I think we have a duty to improve our public image.

"No party in this house has a monopoly on virtue."

He said he would admit freely that the people who are elected to the legislature try to do "their best for their province and their country."

Being a member is "a high-minded vocation," he said.

"I've heard more young people in this past year say they don't want anything to do with politics because it's a dirty business."

The attitude needs correcting through education, Mr. Perrault said.

"I am sick and tired of school boards who think that to have politics in the classroom is just slightly worse than bubonic plague or hepatitis.

"Every graduating class in B.C. should be able to hear the political viewpoints. I think it would help the elected members — MPs and MLAs — to meet more students. I put forth this view in all sincerity," the Liberal said.

"It would be dreadful to lose young people of capacity simply because they believe public life to be sordid," Mr. Perrault said.

Mr. Peterson told the member the public schools "should not be held responsible for the public image of politicians . . . especially the harm politicians bring to this image in another house.

"They teach that public life is an honorable profession," the minister said.

"I'm afraid we have some responsibilities ourselves in this respect, responsibilities that unfortunately are being ignored in other places," Mr. Peterson said.

DEFICIT

He said it will receive only \$10.9 million from the Tri-U fund, leaving it with a deficit in 1970 of \$6.4 million.

Mr. Macfarlane said SFU's per student capital grants by 1970 would equal \$2,571 against \$1,551 for Uvic.

"The difference between the two is \$1,020 per student, and when you multiply that by 5,000 students you get \$5.1 million or almost the whole of the building deficit which will accrue by 1970," he said.

"So it becomes apparent that Uvic is not being treated fairly in comparison with Simon Fraser."

Mr. Peterson said there was no discrimination. He said the government grants were based on actual requirements of the universities.

CAMPUS FREE

He added that the provincial government gave the Lansdowne campus for free to Uvic when it achieved university status although it was worth a large sum of money which sooner or later would be realized by the university.

He also said direct comparisons between Uvic and SFU were not fair because all of SFU's buildings are being constructed during a high-cost period whereas Uvic is using the Lansdowne campus which was built at a relatively cheaper prices.

Mr. Macfarlane insisted, however, that operating a split campus is more expensive "and this at a time when it has the same problem as Simon Fraser in developing its new Gordon Head campus."

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1966

5,000 Indian Pupils Integrated

An increasing number of Indian children living on reserves are being integrated into the regular provincial school system, the legislature was told Monday night.

Education Minister Leslie Peterson said 5,000 children from reserves were enrolled last year in regular elementary and secondary schools.

He said about 300 are in various vocational schools, a substantial increase from the previous year.

Mr. Peterson said also there were 18 Indians in university courses.

He agreed with Frank Calder (NDP-Atlin) that "integration is the ideal."

Earlier, Mr. Calder opposed a suggestion by Cyril Sheldford (NDP-Omineca) that a special vocational school be built in the North for Indians to train them for work in pulp mills, mining operations and similar jobs that are opening up in the North.

"A great many of our students have entered vocational schools and are doing very well," he said.

"As an integrationist, I must oppose any separate buildings or segregation of Indian children."

'IT'S TIME WE CONCENTRATED ON ELEMENTARY EDUCATION'

The B.C. education department is neglecting primary and elementary classes, said Lois Haggen (NDP — Grand Forks-Greenwood) Monday in the legislature.

With the proper emphasis on these formative grades, she said, much of the need for later retraining might be eliminated.

"Elementary classes are much too large," Mrs. Haggen said.

In addition, teachers are not being granted the help nor the salaries their jobs require, and "are not being shown as a professional body as they should be.

"It is high time we concentrated more on primary and elementary grades," Mrs. Haggen said.

The teacher shortage also came under fire from the opposition member:

"We have been living off the programs and training facilities of other countries for many years. It is time we had sufficient facilities of our own."

Mrs. Haggen asked whether teacher training clubs in the schools have provided satisfactory numbers of teacher recruitment material, and why more people generally were not being attracted to teaching as a profession.

She felt too much time was being spent on the parts of teaching staffs performing non-teaching duties such as lunch-room supervision.

Education Minister Leslie Peterson said special efforts are made to increase the number of teachers and 20 per cent of B.C. university students enter the field of education — the highest ratio in Canada.

"While I agree that the pupil-teacher ratio still is too high, it is being reduced," he added.

Gov't May Lift Ban On Exporting Pulp

Forests Minister Ray Williston suggested Monday that export of pulp wood logs may be permitted for a limited period to help the industry deal with an over-supply situation.

He made the suggestion at the end of a review of the government's proposed "full utilization" policy for the B.C. forest industry which he delivered at a meeting of the legislature's forestry committee.

A chief factor in the "full utilization" policy is the insistence that present uneconomic trees and waste wood be funnelled into the pulp plants that are proliferating across the province.

The government has been under fire from some quarters in the industry for permitting so many firms to build or plan construction of pulp mills that there will be a glut.

The government response has

been that any over-supply will be temporary only.

Mr. Williston told the committee that he would appreciate it making a study of the situation with a view to making recommendations on the conditions of export of pulp wood logs during the over-supply period.

Until now, there has been a strict ban on such exports and special permission has been required from the government to export saw logs.

Hopes Pinned On Talks With Ottawa

An upcoming federal-provincial education conference may hold the key to improved university financing through government grants, Education Minister Leslie Peterson told the legislature Monday.

He was replying to criticism by Pat McGeer (L—Point Grey) that politicians have yet to grasp the fact that excellence in post-secondary education relies heavily on the drawing power of money.

"We won't have our share of outstanding men until we can offer the best education in Canada, and one of the better in North America," the member said.

Mr. Peterson said the forthcoming education meeting of premiers and prime minister will deal with university financing, subject of Bladen royal commission report last year.

He hoped the federal government would come through with more financial assistance as the province has done to pay for capital projects. The minister observed that the Bladen report recommends a \$5 per day student grant.

Another 1,000 To Get Gov't Scholarships

The top 3,500 second class honors students entering B.C. universities this fall will receive provincial government scholarships—1,000 more than at present, Education Minister Leslie Peterson announced Monday.

He also announced that bursaries for university students will be increased and possibly weighted to help out-of-town students more.

And Mr. Peterson said that beginning April 1, the boarding allowance for elementary and secondary school pupils will be boosted by \$10 to \$40 a month.

He made the announcements in the legislature during scrutiny of his estimates.

\$1 MILLION

All government aid to university students and teachers in training will be raised from \$780,000 in the current year to \$1 million in 1966-67.

Mr. Peterson said the government will continue its program of paying half the tuition through every university year for all students who graduate with first-class honors from all high schools, junior colleges and the Institute of Technology and maintain their standing.

First-class honors start at 80 per cent.

UP 1,000

But the present limit to the first 2,500 graduates with second-class honors — who receive a one-third tuition scholarship on entering university — will be raised by 1,000.

This will cost about \$150,000 and will cover almost all students in the 70 to 80 per cent category. Second-class honors start at 65 per cent and few if any in the 65 to 70 per cent range are expected to be within the 3,500 group.

"These scholarships are based not on need by on achievement," Mr. Peterson pointed out. "But bursaries will be increased as well . . . and here we consider need as well as

achievement."

The fund for bursaries will be raised by \$50,000 to a new total of \$290,000 in the coming year.

DOVETAILED

Mr. Peterson said he hoped that provincial and federal student-aid bursary programs could be dovetailed to provide extra assistance for students who have to go out of town to attend a B.C. University.

Mr. Peterson made the announcements after several NDP members attacked the \$56 increase in university fees this year.

"I think universities are becoming the sanctuary of children of the privileged families," declared Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East). "It is no longer possible for a child of any ordinary working family to go through for even a general degree."

'ESSENTIAL STEP'

"Abolition of all fees is an essential step if we are to have equality of opportunity for our children."

John Squire (NDP—Alberni) said that the present education system advances a pupil on ability up to Grade 12 "and then they change the goal posts and the question no longer is ability but money."

He also read several letters from parents in Zeballos whose children had to board out-of-town to attend high schools at a cost of \$90 a month with the school district providing only a \$30 subsidy.

Mr. Peterson said he could announce that the provincial government will pay up to \$40 a month towards the board of children required by school districts to live away from home while at elementary or secondary schools.

Compromise Plan In Townsite Row

A special legislative committee on Monday warmed to a compromise proposal to solve the Western Mines townsite controversy.

The compromise was suggested by two real estate firms which said they would develop a townsite at Comox Lake, between the park and Courtenay.

This would require construction of a 16-mile road from Buttle Lake inside the park to Comox Lake, which is now connected to Courtenay by a logging road.

The proposed new route would enable the Western Mines ore trucks to haul minerals from the minesite to Union Bay where a deep-sea loading dock exists, instead of going through the park to a road leading to Campbell River where new waterfront facilities would have to be built.

SERIOUS LOOK

The committee indicated it will take a serious look at the suggestion made by Rockland Agencies of Nanaimo and Arnett and Wensley of Courtenay.

Both Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce Minister Ralph Loffmark and Leo Nimsick (NDP—Cranbrook) were enthusiastic after the meeting — about the first time they have appeared in agreement since hearings began on Western Mines' request for permission to build a 1,000-population town on Buttle Lake.

Mr. Loffmark said the real estate firms' suggestion would eliminate the need for a wide corridor cutting Class A sections of the park in two to permit ore trucks to drive through to the Campbell River road.

Both he and Mr. Nimsick agreed that Western Mines would have to be compensated for an access road now nearing completion alongside Buttle Lake if the alternative route was required by the government.

The Western Mines road than could become a public road giving all persons access to the eastern shore of Buttle Lake, chief attraction of Strathcona Park until now accessible only by boat.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1966

'DAGGER OVER OUR HEADS'

Water Bill Goes Ahead

The provincial government has turned thumbs down on Victoria's bid to delay legislation on Elk-Beaver Lake water rights for one year.

Water Resources Minister Ray Williston said he is anxious to get the legislation through as quickly as possible. It strips Victoria of historic water rights in the district.

He did however promise not to proclaim the legislation law until Victoria and the Greater Victoria Water District had had full opportunity to present their case to the government.

'DAGGER OVER HEADS'

Mayor A. W. Toone said such a move would be like arguing with a "dagger over our heads."

Once the legislation is approved by the legislature Mr. Williston could proclaim the bill law any time he wished.

"He assured us that he would not make a proclamation until every aspect had been discussed fully," Mayor Toone said, "even if it takes 18 months to straighten things out. Mr. Williston felt that an early decision was required to enable his department to spend public funds on surveys and studies."

Asked if the minister gave any reason for the suddenness of his actions last week, Mayor Toone answered "no."

Mr. Williston warned Victoria

that he would be bringing in the legislation last Tuesday and within 48 hours had the as then unprinted bill introduced to the house.

Monday's discussion in Mr. Williston's office was friendly enough according to Mayor Toone.

"It was a good discussion lasting about 1½ hours," he said. "But I suppose the only thing we fully agreed on was that a great deal of discussion was needed. We did not agree on when the discussion should take place. We feel the discussion should take place before the bill is voted on."

Mr. Williston's decision means that Victoria and the Greater Victoria Water District will be able to bring any points they wish forward after the bill has received the assent of the house.

STALL ONLY

But their arguments will only be able to stall proclamation of the bill, not prevent it from eventually becoming law.

Present with Mayor Toone for the discussion were Reeve Hugh Curtis of Saanich, vice-chairman of the Greater Victoria

Water District; city solicitor T. P. O'Grady, water commissioner Ronald Upward, city water commissioner James Garnett, city manager Dennis Young and Ald. Michael Griffin.

PREMIER TOO BUSY

Mayor Toone had originally asked for a meeting with Premier Bennett and the minister but the premier informed him that he would be too busy to attend.

Mr. Williston said he had "offered every help and given the assurance that there would be no precipitous action."

He stressed the bill would not become law until it was proclaimed by order-in-council and that before that happened there would be plenty of time to iron out any misunderstandings.

"As we move we will cooperate and deal with the problems as they come along," the minister said.

He said he was sure that side-issues such as the Elk-Beaver Lake problem could be resolved.

Mr. Williston also repeated an earlier statement that "there is no question of the provincial government taxing water board lands."

STEADY GRIND AHEAD FOR MLAs

Premier Bennett began pouring on the coal Monday to finish up the legislative session in a hurry.

He ordered a night sitting Monday but despite seven hours through the afternoon and evening, Education Minister Leslie Peterson still had not received approval of his salary vote.

Indications are there will be night sittings every day of the week for the balance of the session.

This probably will ensure prorogation sometime next week and possibly will see a record number of night sittings racked up for a session.

They began the earliest ever this year when twice weekly night sittings were instituted at the outset and 14 have been held so far.

The steady grind will—if past performance is a guide—soon tell on the opposition MLAs as they grow tired and offer few arguments.

From here on, some of them can look forward to a treadmill existence starting in the morning with committee meetings from 9:30 a.m. to noon, afternoon sittings from 2 to 6 p.m., another committee meeting from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., and finishing with a night sitting starting at 8:30 and going to about 11:30 p.m.

Then, next morning, committee meetings at 9:30 a.m. and . . .

PREMIER ABSENT

Bonner Frees Legislators To Land of Nod

The legislature sat almost until midnight Tuesday, then adjourned without Premier Bennett in the chamber as is customary.

Deputy Speaker William Speare (SC—Cariboo) ruled an opposition motion to end debate for the night out of order, but he accepted a moment later the same motion by Attorney-General Robert Bonner who agreed that members need their sleep.

Leo Nimsick (NDP—Cranbrook) remarked at 11:40 p.m. that opposition pressure on Labor Minister Leslie Peterson to promise Workmen's Compensation amendments at the current session were getting little attention due to lateness of the hour.

He moved the committee of supply rise and report progress on the minister's salary vote—a government prerogative—which would put the debate over to the next sitting.

PROTESTS

The speaker ruled him out of order, which drew a chorus of protest from the opposition benches.

Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East) lodged a personal protest that he had not only been at a committee meeting at 9:30 a.m. lasting until noon, but also at the afternoon sitting of the house and went with two others to a 7 p.m. committee meeting not knowing it had been cancelled. Then along came the 8:30 p.m. house sitting, in all making full and tiring day.

TALK ITSELF OUT

One opposition member noted the premier had looked in on the house at 11:20 p.m., had a short discussion with Mr. Peterson and Mr. Bonner, and left again, apparently prepared to let the opposition talk itself out until the labor minister got his salary.

Mr. Speare said later that until the attorney-general pulled the salary vote back, he could see no reason for stopping the debate while the labor minister was present and there was still business before the committee. He therefore ruled Mr. Nimsick's motion out of order.

PERRAULT PROPOSAL

'Plant Education In TV Wasteland'

British Columbia could sow the cultural wasteland of television with a government channel devoted to education, Liberal leader Ray Perrault suggested Tuesday in the legislature.

This province is missing out on adult education, he said during discussion on Education Minister Leslie Peterson's estimates.

Government-sponsored educational television in the U.S. has made "tremendous steps" and should be studied here, Mr. Perrault said.

Making use of evening time, there could be a broadcasting station on the lower mainland with satellite stations in other parts of the province, he said.

A program could be worked out between University of B.C., Simon Fraser and University of Victoria to "reach out for

persons hungry to further their education," the Liberal leader said.

It would give such people a chance to study for their degrees, he thought: "How many people who missed out can look wistfully back and afford to take three or four years out to attend university?"

He called television the "greatest medium of communication in the world—and what are we doing with it?"

NHL hockey, he noted, is number one on both CBC and CTV national networks; This Hour Has Seven Days is among the top 10 and Batman rates high on the popularity ratings.

"TV in Canada is a cultural waste," Mr. Perrault said.

He called upon the education minister to set up a study immediately, and to include the prospect of using FM radio for education broadcasting.

'Northern Student Pays Double Price'

Only method of providing professionally-trained persons for the north and interior areas is to offer equalization grants for their high school graduates willing to enroll in universities, Cyril Shelford (SC—Omineca) told the legislature Monday night.

He said he was shocked to learn that 68 per cent of the University of Victoria students come from this area, and 72 per cent at University of B.C. come from Greater Vancouver.

"That doesn't leave much for the rest of the province," he said.

"But the real shocker was that in rural British Columbia less than three per 1,000 students go on to university, as compared with 20 in the cities.

"And that's counting places like Kitimat, Kelowna and Prince Rupert as part of the rural area."

He said it costs a Uvic

student living at home \$800 a year to go to university and someone from out of town more than \$1,500.

SUCH FIGHTS

"It's no wonder that there are such fights between Kitimat, Terrace and Prince George as to where the junior college should be located," he said.

"We were short 21 doctors from Terrace to Quesnel last year," Mr. Shelford pointed out.

"We need many more professional people in the north and the only way we are going to get those people is by training those who are there now because those who are in the lower mainland and Victoria are not going to move away from the luxuries of the big city," he said.

Mr. Shelford said the only answer is to offer a differential grant to students from outlying areas "so they are on an equal footing" financially with students living near universities.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1966

Emphasis on Primary Classes

MRS. LOIS HAGGEN MAKES A useful contribution to the debate on education with her suggestion that more time, money and consideration should be given to primary and elementary grades in school. She feels that they are being neglected and that the price of this neglect could be costly in years to come.

Her words are supported by the opinion of experts who in recent months have pointed to the necessity of developing the attitudes and encouraging the basic skills of very small children to avoid frustration and apathy when they move into the higher grades of elementary, or junior high schools.

The demand for competency among teachers in this stage of schooling is obvious. An older child, properly taught in primary and early grades, may have the skill and determination to overcome the de-

ficiency of a poor teacher in later school years. If that skill and determination have not been nourished, the chances are that the child's ability to learn by his own efforts will remain dormant.

The ideal, of course, is to have excellent teachers in every grade—but until the supply of excellent teachers is expanded, that remains an ideal.

Mrs. Haggen wants to know, also, why we are not producing enough teachers of our own, without depending on the graduates of schools outside this country. The answer, as the minister indicates, is that so many professions are making their demands on high school graduates that we have not enough to go round. As it is, teaching attracts a large segment of the graduating classes — probably as many as it can expect to attract in competition with other vocations.

TEACHER SHORTAGE ADMITTED

Between 35,000 and 40,000 children will begin grade school in B.C. next term and to date the education department still faces a teacher shortage, the legislature was told Tuesday.

Education Minister Leslie Peterson admitted "we are short (of teachers)" after questions by opposition leader Robert Strachan.

He said the department can use help in finding enough teachers to properly staff all classrooms, but said he is not aware of an independent committee's list of about 1,000 applications from abroad from persons who would like to teach in B.C., which was mentioned by Mr. Strachan.

'SCHOOL TAXES SHOULD BE CUT'

Education Minister Leslie Peterson Tuesday said B.C.'s 83 school districts will receive a higher rate of provincial help this year but how much won't be known until mid-April.

He made the statement while explaining increases in two factors used in the complicated provincial aid formula which he announced in the legislature.

Exact effects of the changes on each school district won't be known until April 15 when all school board budgets will have been analyzed, but the general effect will be to increase the province's share of basic school costs above last year's average of 52 per cent.

He said the combination of the \$8.3 million increase in school grants and the \$10 increase in the homeowner grant should lower taxes this year.

"Many homeowners should be paying less in school taxes in 1966 than they did in 1965 and many will be paying only the residual \$1 for school taxes," he said.

* * *

The grant scale for helping school boards pay the salaries of teachers will be raised for the first time since 1960 to bring it up to 90 per cent of current salaries.

The new grants will range from \$2,800 to \$8,460, including six pay categories—a boost of \$200 at the low end and \$500 at the high end.

In addition, the basic operating grant—computed on a per-teacher basis to help with administration, maintenance and supply costs—will be raised by \$50 to \$2,610.

Strachan Raps 'Paper Local' of IBEW

By JOHN MIKA
Legislative Reporter

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan Tuesday night sharply attacked a "paper local" of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers which he said was acting as a "protection agency" for B.C. Hydro.

He slammed Local 344 of the IBEW and its business agent, listed as Les Crampton in an-

nual labor department reports. The local has jurisdiction over all electrical workers on the Peace River Dam project but its agent ignores workers' grievances and signs one agreement without reference to another local that was involved, Mr. Strachan charged.

The NDP leader said Local 344 was given the jurisdiction before the project was under way on the grounds that it was

located in Prince Rupert and was closer to the work site than Vancouver locals.

He demanded an "independent inquiry so that the men can speak freely about working conditions on both hydro projects (Peace and Columbia rivers) without fear of losing their jobs."

Mr. Strachan said that because of a 10-year no-strike agreement between the electri-

cal unions involved in the projects and B.C. Hydro, all men who quit when working conditions are not improved go on a blacklist and can't be rehired.

Labor Minister Peterson defended Local 344 and said a grievance procedure now is in progress but "unfortunately the leader of the opposition is not content to let it go forward without his interference."

DEBATE CONTINUES

Compensation Reform Lack Snarls House

By AB KENT

Failure of the government to bring in enough Workmen's Compensation Act amendments to satisfy the opposition stalled business of the legislature for three hours Tuesday.

It resulted in the longest night sitting of the season.

Labor Minister Leslie Peterson was target of opposition demands for a commitment that more Tysoe commission recommendations would be acted upon at the current session.

Mr. Peterson refused to give that assurance despite heavy pressure from all quarters of opposition benches and his salary vote was pulled back a 11:40 p.m. for further debate today.

Pleas were made by Leo Nimsick (NDP — Cranbrook) who said that aside from "Measly increases" in widow's and children's pensions the government had not acted on other aspects that would broaden application of the act.

He guessed that \$75,000 had been spent on the royal commission appointed in 1962 which finally reported last year.

"All you've done with that report you could have done four years ago . . . You didn't need a royal commission."

Randolph Harding (NDP — Kaslo-Slocan) continued the debate after Mr. Peterson said he couldn't promise anything this session.

"I am bitterly disappointed in the minister's answer," he said.

Nonsense

It was "sheer nonsense to say there hadn't been time," he said after the minister said he felt the government had acted "with great dispatch" on the matter of pensions.

"It didn't take long to bring in changes when there was an election last fall," Mr. Harding

said.

Many recommendations should still be brought forward even though the session is nearing an end.

"I doubt if it will last another two weeks. It is just about time we had a labor minister in this province that stood up for labor and labor unionists," he shouted.

"You should be on your feet fighting for them . . . You should be standing up against your colleagues in the cabinet.

"And what do you do? You are an apologist for the cabinet in this legislature."

Two Portfolios

Mr. Harding said the labor minister, who also is education minister, cannot handle two portfolios properly.

He said the labor portfolio "shouldn't be a hobby, that's what it looks like to me.

"If you treated the industrialists the same way you treat the working man we'd have no complaint.

"We don't have to tie down these people," he said, referring to labor legislation that prohibits political dues checkoff. "They are responsible people, just as responsible as the people who hire them."

General Strike

He referred to the "trouble" that arose last fall (a reference to a proposed general strike).

"I lay most of the trouble at your doorstep," he told Mr. Peterson. It was because he is a

BILL AIMED AT LOOPHOLES

The government introduced a bill in the legislature Tuesday aimed at plugging all legal loopholes in its takeover of B.C. Electric.

The power measures bill would validate and confirm the final agreement, dated last Aug. 20, which amalgamated the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority, B.C. Power Commission and B.C. Electric Company Limited.

"part-time minister."

"You can't possibly do a job in education and labor too. Tell the premier tonight, 'I want to be relieved of my labor portfolio.' Go down to his office and tell him. If you're afraid I'll go with you.

"It would be your biggest contribution to labor in this province," Mr. Harding said.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan called Mr. Peterson's attention to labor a "half day a week" job.

"I don't know if he spends that much time on it," Mr. Harding said.

"Nonsense," the minister replied. "How do you know?"

Was an Insult

The pressure was kept up by Liberal Leader Ray Perrault, who said it was an insult to the house that no action had been taken this session.

Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East) noted the government has had the Tysoe recommendations since November without acting.

"They don't deserve to hold office," he said.

"This is our last chance for assurance this session," he said, explaining that once the minister's salary passes further debate on the subject will be ruled out of order.

He said a great deal of labor unrest in the province is due to restrictive legislation, especially on financial contributions by unionists to a political party. But the government allows freedom of companies to make political contributions.

Courts Said Too Active In Strikes

B.C. courts are being turned into participants in labor disputes by the growing number of ex parte injunctions used by employers to stop picketing, the legislature was warned Tuesday night.

Rae Eddie (NDP—New Westminster), chief opposition spokesman on labor matters, made the warning during discussion of Labor Minister Leslie Peterson's estimates.

He said the ex parte injunctions were intended to fill a special purpose where instant court orders were provided temporarily to prevent an irreparable harm.

"As such they should be a rarity rather than the rule they've become," he said, contending that B.C. has more ex parte injunctions in labor disputes than the rest of Canada.

"This abuse is reducing the status of the courts to that of a participant in these labor disputes and I think we should be concerned."

Fewer Dropouts In B.C.

British Columbia has the best rate in Canada of students who remain in school beyond the age of 15, Education Minister Peterson told the legislature Tuesday.

"The dropout rate has declined in B.C. and the retention rate has increased to the best in Canada," he said. But it is not related to school

leaving age, he added. It is based on total numbers of children starting school compared with those who complete their schooling.

The minister was commenting on a suggestion by Leo Nimsick (NDP — Cranbrook) that minimum school leaving age be raised from 15 because of the greater importance of education today.

The age limit was set arbitrarily years ago, he said, and today needs upgrading.

"Certainly I would be the first to encourage students to attend school well beyond the age of 15," Mr. Peterson said.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1966

DOWNTOWN CANOPIES APPROVED

Uvic Centennial Stadium Gets Legislature's Nod

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell Tuesday cleared the way for a number of changes on the Victoria scene.

The projects include:

- Construction of a centennial stadium on the Gordon Head campus;
 - Canopies over downtown sidewalks where groups of merchants are willing to pay for them;
 - Freeing eight waterfront lots on Belleville between the B.A. Paint Company and CPR terminal as building sites for an observation tower planned by private interests;
 - Construction of a new and expanded Royal Athletic Park stadium to start this spring at a cost of about \$700,000.
- All projects were involved in an annual omnibus bill to amend the Municipalities Validating and Enabling Act—a catch-all statute giving individual legislation to specific municipalities which can't fit into the general Municipalities Act.
- One section cites the March 8 agreement between the four Greater Victoria municipalities, the Greater Victoria centennial

committee and the University of B.C. and says it "is declared to be lawful . . . and binding on all the parties . . ."

This meets a condition of the agreement that legislative approval and certification be obtained.

Two sections are involved in the Royal Athletic Park stadium project.

The first doubles the city's borrowing limit against the T. S. McPherson estate to \$1.5 million to provide the money for construction.

The other gives the city a guarantee of immediate possession if it expropriates 1002 and 1036 Caledonia for the stadium site's expansion.

Under present legislation, the city could have been delayed until after expropriation proceedings were completed—sometimes taking a year—before it could move into the properties.

But it needed immediate possession on rights in order to beat the May 1 deadline for claiming the \$22,000 balance in the fire insurance payment on the destroyed stadium.

TRUST PROVISION

Another section abolishes the trust provision on eight lots on Belleville in which a crown grant stipulated they must be used only as a waterfront esplanade.

Twice the city was frustrated by the trust when it wanted to sell the land for a federal marine depot and an expansion of the paint company plant.

It now is considering a proposal by a private firm wishing to build an observation tower and the bill would permit sale of the land for any purpose approved by the Capital Improvement District Commission which would weigh the impact on the legislative precinct.

The sidewalk canopy legislation was sought as a result of a proposal to establish a canopy on the north side of the 700 block Yates Street, complementing one erected on the south side several years ago on a co-operative basis by merchants.

It would permit the city to build canopies, where requested by a group, and maintain them—charging the costs back to the property owners on a local improvement basis as is done with sidewalks, roads and sewers.

ANNUAL ARGUMENT

NDP Tiffs With Socreds On Union Political Bars

The annual argument over the government's legislation forbidding use of union dues for political donations cropped up Tuesday night in the legislature during Labor Minister Leslie Peterson's departmental estimates.

Mr. Peterson noted that the legislation had been upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada but Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East) advised unions there were technical ways of circumventing it.

(Mr. Macdonald told a union group in Victoria recently that

the law does not forbid use of union funds other than dues for donations to political parties and also that it could spend dues income on "political education" if not political action.)

"I'm rather surprised that they're still looking for ways to get their hands in the pockets of the working man for political purposes," said Mr. Peterson.

ACCUSATION

John Squire (NDP — Alberni) demanded the minister retract the remark because it amounted to an accusation that "someone's trying to steal money."

His objection was ruled out of order and Mr. Peterson maintained his statement was correct.

He added that the law merely ensured union funds were not diverted for political purposes.

"Do the same to companies and we won't object," called Mr. Macdonald.

As heckling broke out on both sides of the house, Mr. Peterson said current labor unrest is largely "caused by this unholy wedlock of the New Democratic Party and organized labor."

"The ordinary working man is concerned about this and even if you obtain millions in political donations you won't get the union man's or the working man's vote in the next election," shouted Mr. Peterson.

UNHOLY WEDLOCK

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan accused Mr. Peterson of hypocrisy in decrying the NDP as an "unholy wedlock" with unions.

"He himself has attended meetings in Vancouver of hotelmen who wanted political action and they contributed to the Socred political campaign funds. The minister knows what I'm talking about."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1966

300-Foot Space Needle To Tower Above Victoria

Victoria's ever-changing skyline will make a dramatic leap into the space-age in 1967 with the completion of a proposed 300-foot-high space needle.

First step towards construction of the tower was made in the legislature Tuesday night when the government approved the removal of restrictions on four lots between Pendray and Oswego Streets giving the city full title to the property.

The city has held the lots in trust for many years but restrictive legislation had insisted that they be used only for an esplanade.

With full title to the property the city can dispose of the property as it sees fit.

The space needle, to be constructed by Skydeck International, Toronto, will be built with aluminum.

ALL ALUMINUM

Anthony Bristowe, a partner in Yorkshire Securities, and Douglas Gage, associated with Pemberton Holmes Ltd., say that Victoria will be the first city in the world to have an all-aluminum tower.

The \$450,000 tower will be built along the lines of the space needle in Seattle, although only half the height of the 600-foot World's Fair effort.

In addition to the tower and its soaring observation deck the base and surrounding area will be landscaped with lawns and gardens plus pools containing marine life.

At the top of the single-column tower there will be two circular decks. The lower deck will contain a coffee shop and souvenir shop. The upper deck will be an open observation platform equipped with high-powered binoculars for close-up viewing of distant landmarks.

The core of the tower will house a high-speed elevator with a 500-feet-a-minute speed and a top capacity of 600 passengers an hour.

While the project still needs city council approval no difficulties are anticipated in obtaining a unanimous vote to let construction go ahead.

Studies made of visitor potential by the builders show the tower can expect a visitor potential of 500,000 people a year.

WATER TOWER

When constructed the tower will be almost level with the familiar water tower landmark which has long dominated the high Rockland Avenue area.

The water tower stands 350 feet above sea level.

GRANTS SAID LARGE ENOUGH

No Need for Fee Hike

—Bennett

By JOHN MIKA
Legislative Reporter

Premier Bennett Tuesday told the legislature that a \$25 million provincial grant to the three universities this year should head off any further fee increases.

He made the statement after prolonged questioning by opposition members angered by Education Minister Leslie Peterson's refusal to give a breakdown of the grant which will be shared by Universities of B.C., Victoria and Simon Fraser.

He also declined to say whether the grant was more or less than the total requested by the universities.

Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East) noted last year's \$56 increase in university fees shortly after the legislature prorogued and said "We are in great danger of the same thing again."

"As premier and minister of finance, I don't think there will be any increase in fees this year," responded Mr. Bennett.

Alan Macfarlane (L — Oak Bay) demanded to know if the grant is more or less than the amount sought by the universities.

"I know what their requests were, as president of treasury board, and that's why I say in my considered opinion there will not be a fee increase this year,"

aid Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Macfarlane insisted that an opinion is not good enough and the legislature should be given an assurance.

"I can give you this assurance — the grants are large enough this year that there should not be any increase in fees this year," Mr. Bennett said.

Last year the government grant was \$18.5 million for operating grants. This year the estimates provide \$25 million but do not say how much will go to each of the three universities.

In addition, the estimates provide capital grants of \$3 million for UBC, \$4 million for SFU and \$1 million for Uvic — the same as last year.

NAME-CALLING ERUPTS IN HOUSE

Bennett Lights Election Fuse

By TERRY IZZARD

With gunpowder already in the air, Premier Bennett decided to set off his own election fever time fuse in the legislature Wednesday night.

During a bitter crossfire slanging match with Opposition Leader Robert Strachan, the premier said:

"You are going to hear a lot about that general strike in the next general election."

He was sparked into making the comment after Mr. Strachan called him a "political opportunist of the worst kind."

The name-calling erupted during opposition criticism of Labor Minister Peterson's

handling of last year's threatened two-day strike.

Said Mr. Peterson: "You're going to hear a lot about that general strike."

In a further outburst Mr. Peterson accused Mr. Strachan of being an "anarchist and supporter of general strikes."

Replying to Mr. Bennett's comment on an election, Mr. Strachan said of the premier he was "ruthless, arrogant and without principle" and "continually threatening us with a general election every time we try to fulfill our role as the opposition."

Referring to last year's near general strike, Mr. Stra-

chan challenged Mr. Peterson: "You said it was an NDP plot and the National Democratic Party knew nothing about it."

Replied Mr. Peterson: "I did not tell an untruth. I said it was instituted by political bedfellows of the NDP. And I stand by that."

At this point of the foray, John Squire (NDP — Alberni) called on Mr. Peterson to resign — "You're not fit to hold the portfolio."

Although morning was fast approaching, Mr. Strachan still found time to come back with a fast remark when the premier shouted across to him to take his hands out of his pocket.

Quipped Mr. Strachan: With you, Mr. Premier, and with all of you, I keep my hands in my pockets."

While members continued to bandy words back and forth across the floor, Mr. Squire introduced the present discontent by B.C. Ferries employees against working hours.

He said: "I'll warrant you, Mr. Premier, that unless you change the rules on those ferries they'll be down this summer."

As further outbursts came from the government benches, Mr. Squire plonked down in his seat with the final comment to the premier: "Oh shut up . . . go roll your hoop."

WATCHDOG URGED

Review Set On Aid Cut To Painter

Labor Minister Leslie Peterson indicated in the legislature Wednesday he would look into a two-year-old fight by a former Victoria painter for Workmen's Compensation Board recognition.

Mr. Peterson asked Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay) for the man's claim number so he could have the case re-examined.

"I'll give you the number; I'll give you my whole file on this matter," Mr. Macfarlane said following a review of the case in debate on Mr. Peterson's salary vote.

He was referring to the case of William Dickinson, a married man with daughter who return-

ed to England in order to obtain treatment for an injury received while at work here. Mr. Macfarlane said the man went back to Britain in order to get away from WCB influence.

"I'm glad to hear the case will get the minister's personal intervention and give confidence to other workmen in the province they will get proper attention for their claims," Mr. Macfarlane said.

Evidence He Needed Treatment

Mr. Dickinson was on compensation for a time, then was cut off even though there appeared substantial evidence that he still needed treatment.

"I think the board is wrong in this case," Mr. Macfarlane said, "but they are not prepared to make any change in their decision."

"The doctor in England expresses absolute amazement in Workmen's Compensation Board handling of this case."

He said "any doubt at all should be resolved in favor of the workman" when there is dispute over compensation claims.

Mr. Macfarlane suggested the appointment of a legally-trained "permanent watchdog" to ensure no slipping back by the board.

J. Donald Smith (SC—Victoria) agreed that the working man should be given the benefit

of doubt "in all instances."

"I think the board should adopt a different philosophy in dealing with these claims," Mr. Smith said.

This, in brief, is what happened to Mr. Dickinson:

- In July, 1964, he injured his shoulder at work;

- His family physician, Dr. G. Scott Wallace, diagnosed the injury and recommended treatments;

- The Workmen's Compensation Board paid him compensation until May, 1965, when payments ended;

- A British orthopaedic surgeon confirmed the findings of Dr. Scott Wallace;

- The WCB rejected two appeals claiming he was not suffering the injury.

"There is no question but that the accident took place at work," said Dr. Scott Wallace.

Right Shoulder Was Injured

"The right shoulder was injured. He tried to carry on, couldn't, was off for four days, went back, had to quit after a few days."

"He consulted me and I referred him to a specialist in Victoria. For some time he and I worked together to improve the situation. He was treated both in and out of hospital."

"The basis of the whole problem is that the shoulder didn't improve. A painter with a bum shoulder isn't much good."

In correspondence from England, Mr. Dickinson said the board wrote Dr. Scott Wallace in March, 1965, expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of progress and suggesting he see another doctor.

He went to Vancouver and was examined by a board doctor who suggested further physiotherapy, supplemented with some extra exercises.

He went downtown to visit a

specialist who "told me he could find nothing wrong with my shoulder and that in his opinion I was quite capable of returning to work as a painter."

Dr. Scott Wallace wrote the board disagreeing with this finding, stating the man was incapable of moving his arm through a complete range voluntarily.

The board doctor then said he agreed with the Vancouver specialist, although Mr. Dickinson says the board doctor wrote on an X-ray slip: "Twisted shoulder, limited mobility."

Mr. Dickinson said the board then decided to terminate his compensation payments, with half-benefit ending on May 25.

"Unfortunately nobody seemed very keen to oppose the compensation board and a further suggestion was made that I should go to the U.S. for treatment and another opinion," he said.

'We Returned to England'

"After careful consideration I decided to raise what money I could and return to England with my wife and five-year-old daughter."

While the board decision was being made, he was en route to Liverpool and, when he heard the decision, he appealed.

The notice of appeal contained a report by a leading Liverpool orthopaedist who stated:

"You had a capsulitis of the shoulder and movement under anaesthesia was considerably restricted. In fact, in order to get full movement, I had to break down adhesions by manipulation."

The doctor said he had no doubt the condition would have prevented the painter from working in Canada.

The appeal failed and the board notified him there was no

change in its previous decision.

For the rest of last year he continued to receive treatment in Liverpool.

Last November the Liverpool doctor gave a written report which supported Dr. Scott Wallace in the beginning.

The report was sent to the board with a letter from Mr. Dickinson asking for a review of his case. For the second time, an appeal was turned down. The board maintained the injury wasn't caused by the accident.

Dr. Scott Wallace said the basic point is that the man couldn't move his shoulder properly and when forced to it gives him pain.

He said the board is "unalterably" taking the opinion of one surgeon while several others disagree.

"I know he's not a malingerer," he said.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1966

'TOP OF THE MORNING TO YOU ALL'

'Accident' Ends Filibuster

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

The legislature ushered in St. Patrick's Day early this morning with a row that saw an immovable government break an irresistible opposition.

"The top of the morning to you all," grinned Premier Bennett as the house adjourned at 12:12 a.m. following the end of a 11-hour battle over labor department estimates that began Tuesday night and continued through Wednesday afternoon and night.

The opposition mounted a massive filibuster that ran more than nine hours in an effort to force the government to promise it would amend the Workmen's Compensation Act at this session by improving benefits and procedures.

The filibuster, apparently ended by accident, was followed by an hour-long pre-election political fight over last fall's general strike threat and then was resumed a final hour.

Throughout, the government refused to agree to any commitment that it would introduce at this session any legislation to increase further, WCB pension raises provided by the budget or amendments suggested by Mr. Justice Charles Tysoe in a royal commission survey that began more than four years ago.

THREE MOTIONS

The opposition threw three separate motions at the government — including a rare joint NDP-Liberal non-confidence amendment — but failed to budge Labor Minister Leslie Peterson from his declaration that he will not rush a major revision just to beat the end of this session.

More than 25 speakers entered the debate. Many of them spoke numerous times, led by chief opposition critic Leo Nimsick (NDP — Cranbrook) who made lengthy speeches and read sections of the 441-page Tysoe Royal Commission report on the WCB six or seven times.

WARNING

The treadmill succession of opposition speakers followed a warning by Mr. Nimsick that the attack on Mr. Peterson's office expense vote of \$8,068 — first item in the labor department estimates — would be maintained "until you promise you will bring in some sort of legislation at this session."

But the debate expired suddenly a few minutes after the government defeated 27 to 16

the no-confidence amendment.

The government made one of its many attempts to have the question on the office expenses put and, for the first time, no opposition member rose to intervene with another speech.

'HOLD IT!'

As the Sacred "ayes" rang out, Opposition Leader Robert Strachan jumped to his feet with a start and called out: "Hold it, wait a minute."

He whirled around to ask several of his backbenchers if they had any more to say but during the hesitation Premier Bennett quickly introduced the next money vote and the filibuster was over.

The non-confidence amendment was made by Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby) and Harry McKay (L — Fernie), calling for a reduction of the minister's office expenses to \$1.

"We oppose this motion and from this night on, the opposition will be known as the one-dollar party," shouted Premier Bennett.

'10-CENT PARTY'

"You just gave some of the (compensation) pensioners 69 cents a month raise — so you're the 10-cent party," Mr. Nimsick shouted back as the division bells rang and the government majority rejected the motion.

Earlier, the government side actually was out-voted in a voice vote on a motion by Mr. Strachan that the minister's estimates be tabled until he introduced legislation to upgrade the WCB — but it didn't count.

Randolph Harding (NDP — Kaslo-Slocan) protested that there were 17 opposition members in the chamber against the 14 Sacred still in their seats but committee chairman William Speare (SC — Cariboo) said "I didn't take time to count" and ordered ringing of division bells for a formal roll call vote.

MLAs, summoned by the bells, hurried back to the chamber from coffee, naps and conferences and when the standing vote was taken the government beat down the motion 28-16.

Mr. Strachan asked that the vote be recorded in the journals of the house but later Speaker William Murray ruled it not only could not be recorded, the motion was out of order because the opposition had to vote for or against the government money vote but not postpone consideration.

About half an hour after the marathon debate resumed following the supper break, Mr.

Strachan tried again with a motion to adjourn discussion and "report progress."

OUT OF ORDER

Mr. Speare ruled this out of order as "an abuse of the house" but his decision was challenged so the Speaker was called back in. He ordered a division on the challenge. Mr. Speare's ruling was sustained 28 to 16, and the debate resumed.

The same arguments broke out again as midnight approached and the legislature reached the final items of the \$6,198,473 labor department estimates, including \$2.5 million as first installment on a \$10 million government subsidy to the WCB and \$500 for hiring temporary assistance.

Mr. Nimsick said the subsidy represented the first time that taxpayers had been tabbed for such payments and it should have been added to normal assessments on industry which supports the WCB fund.

Mr. Strachan said the amount should be raised to \$7.5 million this year to enable the board to grant further pension increases but Mr. Speare pointed out he was not empowered to make such a motion.

"So if this sum is not adequate, the responsibility rests squarely on the government," Mr. Strachan emphasized.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE

Mr. Harding said the temporary assistance vote should be raised by \$10,000 so a specialist could be hired to draft quickly legislation to improve the WCB "because it's obvious the minister, who has two portfolios, is too busy to look after compensation matters."

When the sums finally were approved by voice vote, Premier Bennett demanded a formal roll call division even though there had not been a single nay.

All MLAs were recorded in favor of the \$2.5 million subsidy in the formal vote which ended the longest debate of the current session and first one to go beyond midnight.

During the debate, the opposition made a single small gain.

Mr. Harding said the WCB doesn't even cover one of the deep miner's illnesses — known as "caisson disease" — which is similar to the bends that strike deep-sea divers at times.

Mr. Peterson said he would look into the situation and rectify it if there was an inadvertent omission.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1966

Martin Roasted for Making 'Despicable' Statement

By JOHN MIKA
And AB KENT

Seven opposition MLAs Thursday demanded the resignation of Health Minister Eric Martin over his handling of chronic care.

Socred backbenchers remained silent except for two who added to the criticism.

Mr. Martin withstood a blistering attack for 6½ hours before receiving his salary vote at 11.20 p.m.

He declined to reveal the number of persons actually occupying some 3,000 beds he claimed were "available" now for \$1-a-day extended care under B.C. Hospital Insurance Service.

Angry Cries

And he touched off an angry outburst when he claimed that much of the criticism of the chronic care programs is raised by people who see their inheritances disappearing in private hospital bills for relatives.

"The next-of-kin get angry because they see an inheritance disappearing," he said.

Cries of "shocking," "despicable" rose from furious opposition MLAs.

"I've experienced it personally," the minister persisted.

He said many people who do not need supervision could stay in cheaper boarding homes but prefer to spend more money in order to have more luxurious rooms, service and meals.

Relatives Unhappy

"But it costs more and their next-of-kin don't like it," he said.

"That's the most despicable thing I've ever heard from a minister of health," stormed David Barrett (NDP — Dewdney). "It's a terrible statement — that the next-of-kin are trying to dodge their responsibility to protect their inheritance."

He challenged the minister to "say it outside the house" — where there is no privileged immunity from libel suits.

He said even the backbenchers were disappointed and angered with Mr. Martin's chronic care programs and he should resign.

Socreds Critical

Two of the most telling blows were struck by Herbert Bruch (SC — Esquimalt) and John Tisdalle (SC — Saanich) although both said they were sure the minister was doing his best in a difficult situation.

Mr. Bruch said Mr. Martin should increase his offer of 50 per cent grants to non-profit societies to buy out modern private hospitals and operate them so the beds would qualify for \$1-a-day coverage.

He said this would encourage

provision of some 1,000 additional B.C.H.I.S.-covered beds for chronically ill persons.

'Too Restrictive'

Mr. Tisdalle said the medical qualifications for coverage "are too rigid and restrictive." He added it obviously was designed to keep the number low because there are insufficient beds in non-profit institutions to handle the numbers who need the help.

He also said it was unjustly cruel to play a game of "musical beds" by moving elderly people out of non-profit institutions because they did not fit the new program's qualifications.

"We have unfortunately created two classes of people — those who are able to get in line and quality and those who can't so they are not able to get \$1-a-day coverage," he said.

Lease Proposal

Mr. Tisdalle said the government should at least lease private hospitals so the beds would be covered by B.C.H.I.S. "and these people put on an equal footing with those in non-profit homes" until enough public beds are built to handle the volume of cases.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan said Mr. Martin should resign for misleading the legislature on the definition of chronic care cases and for refusing to say how many now actually receive \$1-a-day coverage.

Mr. Strachan read a definition circulated to provincial welfare offices by B.C.H.I.S. Dec. 19, 1965, which Mr. Martin referred to as based on federal government policy.

Later, he quoted from a letter he received from former federal health minister Judy LaMarsh which referred to chronic care basis outlined by Mr. Martin in a letter to her as "sound."

"You've been telling us all afternoon that Ottawa laid down the regulations," Mr. Strachan came back. "Now he reads a letter that indicates he laid down the regulations."

"Read the one you wrote to Miss LaMarsh and file both with the house," he said to the minister. "You've been misleading this house all afternoon . . . you are now hoist on your own petard," Mr. Strachan said.

"Author, author," cried Liberal leader Ray Perrault.

Mr. Martin said he would produce the first letter later as he did not have it with him.

Qualifications

According to the definition of chronic care circulated, a patient must:

Not be in need of acute or rehabilitation care;
Require by illness or dis-

ability skilled nursing services available 24 hours daily with continuing medical supervision;
Be unable to walk or use a wheelchair without assistance;

Be completely or substantially unable to care for himself, needing staff assistance getting in and out of bed, washing, bathing, using the toilet, bedpan or urinal, eating or moving in bed.

A patient will not be eligible who can walk without help, get in and out of a wheelchair and operate it independently, unless the treatment needed necessitates continuing attendance of a graduate nurse.

"In other words," Mr. Strachan quoted, "the functional ability of the patient is of paramount importance in determining medical eligibility although diagnosis, medication and treatment must of course be taken into account."

He said, "If a patient has any functional ability at all he can't get covered."

Not Even Mummies

Mr. Barrett said the definition was so restrictive that "even an Egyptian mummy couldn't qualify if he was all wrapped up in bandages but still standing on his feet."

Social Credit considers chronic care facilities like soap flakes — the best for those who can pay the most, said William Hartley (NDP — Yale).

He said Mr. Martin should resign if he could not take action to buy out or expropriate approved private care facilities to put them under B.C. Hospital Insurance Service.

'No Alternative'

Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East) said Mr. Martin had "no alternative but to resign" because his failure to start a chronic care program years ago had resulted in proliferation of private hospitals which now will cost at least \$37 million to buy back — more than double their cost because compensation would have to be paid for lost profit.

Randolph Harding (NDP — Kaslo-Slocan) and Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby) repeatedly accused the minister of failing in his duty and peppered him with demands he resign.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault confronted Mr. Martin with a statement made by the minister in 1955, promising a Social Credit convention 50 per cent financial aid to chronic care hospital construction.

He suggested 600 persons in the province may be receiving chronic care coverage today — "It's not good enough," he stormed.

Throughout, Mr. Martin main-

tained that B.C. had the finest chronic care program in Canada but it was hampered by the federal government's refusal to provide sufficient financial assistance.

Maximum Fines Reduced

Attorney-General Robert Bonner Thursday night introduced a bill to put both minors and bartenders on the same scale of fines for infractions of the Liquor Act.

It would eliminate minimums and alter the maximums in all cases of convictions involving serving of liquor to minors.

Minors breaking the law now are subject to a maximum fine of \$50 but the waiters who serve them must pay at least \$300 and up to \$1,000.

Both would be subject to a maximum of \$150 under the proposed schedule.

In addition, the owner of the licensed premises involved would be subject to \$150 for a first offence and a \$2,000 fine for a subsequent offence instead of the present \$1,000 to \$4,000 scale.

Mr. Bonner said the change was being made as a result of considerable criticism that the present situation is inequitable.

HIDING

Skillings Withdraws Comment

Waldo Skillings (SC - Victoria) made a personal crack at the legislature's lady member Thursday night and drew an instant order for withdrawal from deputy speaker William Speare (SC - Cariboo).

Lois Hagen (NDP - Grand Forks-Greenwood) was on her feet during debate on health ministry estimates and having her own trouble with the chairman for trying to work in comment on an agricultural matter raised earlier by Premier Bennett and replied to by the leader of the opposition.

DIFFICULT

She was saying it was difficult to be denied privileges accorded to other members of the House, when Waldo cracked: "You're hiding behind your skirts."

There was a second of shocked silence before opposition members growled their disgust and Mr. Speare rose to his feet, grasping the microphone to order the member for Victoria to withdraw in apology to Mrs. Hagen.

"If you order me, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw," the Soled member said, half-rising and leaning toward his microphone.

CURBS ASSESSMENT RISES

Bennett Nails Down Planks For Election

By JOHN MIKA
Legislative Reporter

Premier Bennett Thursday night indicated he is planning an election now and it will feature an outright grant to home-buyers needing a modest down payment as one of the government planks.

He underlined his intentions by introducing another plank of the platform—a bill which would slam the brakes on rapidly climbing property assessments attributable solely to market demand.

All three moves were made separately in and outside the legislature.

"No wonder we're going to the country!" he shouted during a floor debate, the first time he has admitted election planning already is under way.

Later he drew special attention to the new bill which would put a five per cent ceiling on property assessment increases to be permitted in any one year—where there are no alterations—as a major boon to all property owners.

And he told The Times in the corridor that he now is considering a "non-repayable grant" rather than a low-interest loan for families on modest income who can't raise the down payment for a home. "The announcement might come next month or in the next few weeks," he said, whether or not legislation would be needed at the next session.

When asked for more details, he said he could not say more but insisted he was not floating a trial balloon.

MANY LETTERS

"We already have had a great deal of interest—many letters, all favorable," in response to his hint in the legislature several weeks ago that some method of lending tenants a down payment to buy a home was being considered.

Mr. Bennett said the five per cent annual ceiling on assessment increases would prevent annual homeowner grant increases "from being eaten up" and would help prevent people

from being driven out of their homes by rising taxes.

He said the government had the limit under study for the past two years because the 12-year-old Assessment Equalization Act had brought school district assessments into equilibrium and there was no further need for major fluctuation in general assessment levels.

"It was just a question of what the limit would be and I as minister of finance decided five per cent. But that doesn't mean the assessors have to increase assessments that much," he said.

"They don't have to increase them at all, but if they do they can't go higher than five per cent."

Mr. Bennett agreed that the limitation could be construed as a solid election clue "but there have been lots of others too."

He volunteered the observation that a newspaper report had predicted the polling date would be May 6.

Asked if it were correct, he only grinned puckishly.

He ended the interview with the request: "Don't quote me too much."

Earlier, he tipped off the legislature that he is planning an election while trying to draw blistering opposition fire away from Health Minister Eric Martin's handling of chronic care.

THREATS

But Opposition Leader Robert Strachan slammed back that election threats would not stop the bombardment of cabinet policies.

Waving his arms and showering the opposition with accusations of deliberately personal attacks on Mr. Martin, Agriculture Minister Frank Richter, Attorney-General Robert Bonner

and Education and Labor minister Leslie Peterson, the premier shouted:

"No wonder we're going to the country."

"We're not going to stand any longer these insults and personal attacks on the duly-elected ministers of the province."

Opposition MLAs shouted back that he was trying to threaten the legislature.

"I make no threats," cried Mr. Bennett. "I make only commitments and announcements."

It was the first time the premier did not play coy while taunting the opposition with the possibility of an election. He has met repeated predictions of an early election with the assertion it could be called this year, next year or in 1968.

Later, outside the house, he told The Times, "I have nothing to add to my statement," when asked if it would be possible to call an election in 1967 or 1968 on the grounds of alleged insults to the cabinet in this session.

"The premier can resent all he likes," Mr. Strachan answered the premier. "He can threaten us but he'll never intimidate us."

"We are going to continue to expose the shallowness of this government and its hoaxes on the people year after year."

He said the premier was afraid of "any critical examination of the ministers he appointed and stand exposed with using a very cheap political trick the premier learned when he was in the coalition."

"Obviously the ministers and the premier are now living in fear and trembling, otherwise they would not be so jumpy if we were not getting through the chinks in the armor they put on so well," said Mr. Strachan.

The Pre-Election Pattern Discerned in Legislature

By JOHN MIKA
Times Legislative Reporter

The legislature takes tonight off by royal dispensation—a welcome break in the steady grind towards dissolution which the government hopes is only a week away.

The Queen Mother's side trip here for a few hours while on her way to Australia is far short of Premier Bennett's earlier hopes that the monarch herself would come for a formal visit to help kick off British Columbia's jump on the nation in the centennial celebration business.

But it still will be a highlight of the current session and many an MLA's wife will be dazzled by the oppor-



Mika

tunity to speak with royalty.

However, their politician husbands inevitably will give a stray thought to the impact the Queen Mother's presence alongside Premier Bennett will have on the spectators who—very soon apparently—will be voters.

Events in and outside the legislature seem to be settling into a smooth pre-election pattern.

Numerous opposition members expect a general election to be called soon after prorogation although a few still suspect that the premier will seek to dissolve the house before its business is completed.

Even prominent Soered members are betting on whether polling day will be May 9, 16 or 30, all Mondays. May 23 is ruled out because it is part of the Victoria Day weekend holiday.

The merits of a spring election versus fall are being seriously debated—in the MLA's hotel rooms, not the legislative chamber of course.

It would be the first provincial spring election in B.C. since the run-off vote called by the premier in 1953.

Like Idea

Most seem to like the idea. The world is fresh, awakening from the long sleep of winter snows and dark, and people are in a happy frame of mind looking forward towards summer holidays. The politicians feel this atmosphere would make for an easier campaign.

September elections are always chancey, coming after the uncertainties of the growing season in rural areas and fire season in the woods and

people generally feel a bit hung-over as they pack away summer camping gear and boats and start worrying about winter unemployment.

However, there are MLAs who stick to the opposite theory. They hold that autumn—the season of harvest—is the best climate in which to approach the voters for support in a political campaign.

The argument, of course, revolves entirely around personal opinion and preferences and Premier Bennett traditionally has been a September booster when it comes to elections.

There has been a story circulating in the background that the Soered braintrusts made an interesting conclusion in the 1963 fall election post-mortem when the party racked up 33 seats. It appears they decided that had the election been held the following spring, the party would have substantially increased its majority.

Many Clues

Ever since, there have been clues filtering down that next time a June vote would be considered.

The latest hard clue pointing towards a spring election came this week when the premier spent most of a day—and luncheon in the Union Club—with two executives of the firm that normally handles Soered campaign advertising and Danny Ekman.

Mr. Ekman, formerly executive assistant to the premier and now employed by Frank McMahon of Westcoast Transmission, has been loaned to the premier to help plan campaign strategy in past elections—according to the testimony of Al Williamson last summer.

Marching Backward On Fluoridation

British Columbia is marching backwards while the world pushes on with water fluoridation to protect children's teeth, the legislature was told Thursday.

"We're moving in the opposite direction to the world in this important health measure," said Pat McGeer (L—Vancouver-Point Grey).

"At the present time, one out of three Americans drinks fluoridated water, one out of six Canadians, and one out of 25 British Columbians," he said.

New York, Detroit and Dallas have fluoridated their water supplies since the legislature opened Jan. 27. The United Kingdom "is totally behind fluoridation," Connecticut state has a law compelling municipalities to fluoridate their water and New Zealand is committed to fluoridation, he said.

"With all this going on, in British Columbia six municipalities have rejected fluoridation this year and last year it was rejected by eight municipalities."

Health Minister Eric Martin gave no answer when he asked what the plans the department had "to speed this health measure."

'COMPEL DOCTORS' TO REPORT BEATINGS

Legislation to compel doctors to report all cases of child beatings and abuse by parents was proposed in the legislature Thursday by Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East).

He added that doctors at the same time should be protected from slander and libel suits when they do report suspicious cases.

He asked Health Minister Eric Martin if he was contemplating introducing a bill requiring disclosure of such cases.

"I have no comment at the moment," Mr. Martin said after a quick conference with Premier Bennett. "All these things are under study day by day."

'Lot of Court Cases' If Riding Bill Passes

If the government's redistribution bill passes without amendments to the Elections Act, B.C. courts will be faced with a "flock of cases" opposition MLAs warned in the legislature Friday.

They were referring to a previous argument pointing out that the Elections Act is based on existing electoral districts, most of which would disappear under redistribution.

Controversial Bill 32 passed committee reading with amendments providing for 55 members of the legislature instead of 52 as at present.

Opposition members resisted the bill all the way, urging the whole matter be returned to the Angus royal commission whose report was tabled at the opening of the legislative session.

The non-political report was accepted by the opposition, but the government's bill made significant changes in the Angus recommendations, drawing opposition charges of political gerrymandering.

THIRD READING NEXT

Before the bill passes the legislature it must be given the formality of third reading, without further debate, and when the 27th legislature is dissolved it becomes law.

That makes it law before the next provincial election, opposition members pointed out.

The more amendments there are introduced, the further away from the Angus commission's terms of reference the matter goes, Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said. And the more the bill moves away, the more changes are required, he said.

OUT OF BALANCE

Restoration of a Kootenay seat merely makes the lower mainland and Vancouver Island further out of balance with the rural areas of the province, he said.

If it is mandatory that there be seven seats in the north, as opposed to the commission's recommended five, this should be the reference point for the

rest of the province, he stated.

The leader said instead of further amendments, the government had so mixed up the matter and strayed so far from the terms of reference it had no alternative but to refer redistribution back to the commission if it want to avoid the label of gerrymander.

Government "tampering with the bill had upset the balance (between rural and urban areas) still further," said Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East).

'THIRD RATE OPERA'

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said "redistribution has become more like a third rate comic opera rather than an exercise in judgment . . . tampered and tinkered with three times."

Randolph Harding (NDP — Kaslo-Slocan) said he still was unsatisfied with the amendment giving the Kootenays another seat. "On the basis of population our area is entitled to another two seats," he said, urging the two cabinet members for the Kootenays to stand up and fight for them.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner said no legislative body could avoid its responsibility entirely by turning a matter such as distribution over to an independent body.

Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby) said the government is playing off one area against another with its changes to the bill.

NEW VOTER'S LIST

He tried to introduce an amendment that would ensure a new voter's list, but he was ruled out of order by chairman William Speare (SC — Cariboo), who pointed to a standing rule that gives the government perogative to amend the Constitution Act.

Mr. Harding asked Provincial Secretary Wesley Black whether there would be legislation to cover discrepancies as a result of the bill "You'll have to have them" he said.

Mr. Black said he hadn't

considered it yet, and Mr. Bonner said he would consider it.

Mr. Harding predicted a "whole flock of court cases from one end of the province to the other" if the bill passes without Elections Act amendment.

J. Donald Smith (SC — Victoria) said the opposition was playing politics with redistribution. He said it had been obvious that in fairness the Angus Commission's recommendations of huge northern ridings would have to be modified.

AGAINST CHANGES

"That's why the opposition decided they would insist on the Angus recommendations — because they are against the changes and they had their sticky political fingers in there from the start," he said.

John Tisdalle (SC — Saanich), who previously had announced he would vote against third reading, said he would support it in deference to public opinion.

He recalled that last weekend he appealed for Saanich voters to bombard the premier's office for demands that the proposed Saanich and The Islands riding be altered but in fact no one had bothered to write.

"They have clearly indicated they are not interested," he said. "If they feel this is a good thing, then who am I to fly in the face of their opinion."

SUPPORT BILL

"And the opinion of the public through the press has been to applaud this bill. Therefore you must support the bill."

Alan Macfarlane (L — Oak Bay) said he would not sit in his seat merely because some editorials approved of the bill.

"I'm sorry the member for Saanich feels he has to knuckle under to one editorial writer," he said, contending the redistribution issue should be sent back to the Angus Commission with new and wider terms of reference.

COLLEGE CHIEF SAYS:

\$140 Top Price Set For Dental Plates

The president of the College of Dental Surgeons of B.C. said Friday no one need pay more than \$140 for false teeth and anyone who has could apply for a refund from his organization.

But Dr. E. P. Munsie of Vancouver added one important qualification — if the higher price was paid as a result of an agreement between dentist and patient then there can be no refund.

Dr. Munsie explained in an interview a submission he made Thursday to a special legislative committee studying dental mechanics and technicians regulations.

He said the dental college's schedule of fees provides for a standard charge of \$140 for a set of dentures.

Anyone who was charged more is entitled to the extra money back "unless the dentist has told them beforehand" that his price was higher.

He said refund applications should be made to the college's registrar. Payments are made out of a special assessment on all dentists.

Members of the committee predicted there would be a run on refunds because they knew of many persons who paid more than \$140 for their plates.

Dr. Munsie said that there have been only a few applications for refunds over the years "because the average fee is just about \$140 or \$150."

Cyril Shelford (SC — Omineca) said the public was unaware that the college had set a scale and would refund excess charges and that was why there were few applications.

He said he knew a person who had paid \$1,250 for a set of dentures. Dr. Munsie said if there had been no prior understanding or agreed estimate before the work was done, then that person could apply for return of \$1,110.

Government Bends To WCTU Wishes On Liquor Laws

VANCOUVER (CP)—The provincial government refuses to relax B.C. liquor laws because it's afraid of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Ernie Le Cours, Social Credit member of the legislature for Delta, said Thursday.

Le Cours, in a speech to a group of students at the University of British Columbia, said the 1,000-member WCTU is imposing its wishes on 2,000,000 people in the province.

"They cause all the trouble. Its cowardly of the government to bend to the WCTU's demands. And it's hypocritical because Victoria derives considerable revenue from liquor."

He said lots of people who oppose liquor do so because "liquor makes people feel good and they can't stand that."

Le Cours said the Social Credit cabinet sits in an ivory tower, but if the members got out and rubbed elbows with the people in the streets, maybe there would be some changes."

Vandalism Serious In Access Program

More than 100,000 Vancouver Islanders were admitted to private logging roads owned by five forest companies last year and the steadily mounting use is creating serious vandalism problems.

This was the gist of submissions by MacMillan Bloedel and Powell River Ltd., Crown Zellerbach (Canada) Ltd., and Canadian Forest Products Ltd. Among several other B.C. firms that presented briefs to a special legislative committee Friday.

In general, the public access program launched in 1960 is working reasonably well but its very popularity with recreationists is creating some problems from an abusive minority, the committee was told.

However, none of the submissions advocated closing the roads to the public again.

M.B.P.R. reported 56,861 persons used its 3,016 miles of private road, most of it on the Island, last year. There were cases of theft of chain saws, tools, fire extinguishers, gasoline and other equipment.

"A much more serious result is vandalism which could endanger the lives of loggers," the brief said.

It reported a hunter's bullet kicked a spar tree guy line at Northwest Bay and if the damage had not been discovered before the tree was operated the wire could have parted and employees might have been killed.

In another incident, at Franklin River, a bolt was placed in the swing gears of a shovel loader and if the operator had not noticed it before starting the machinery, flying bits of gear teeth could have cut down bystanders.

MASSIVE LOSS
"We have experienced massive direct loss from fire," the company added.

It said a 1,700-acre fire at Kelsey Bay last September cost \$15,000 to suppress and destroyed 27 million board feet of timber. It was caused by a hunter.

"The above incidents are reported to indicate the continuing need for public education regarding responsibilities that are accepted when entering upon lands for recreational purposes," M.B.P.R. said.

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MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1966

New Deal Asked For Farm Hands

There would be no shortage of farm laborers if they were given a decent wage and working conditions, a legislative committee was told today.

The B.C. Federation of Labor presented a brief opposing the B.C. Federation of Agriculture's request that harvest laborers be temporarily imported from other countries each year.

The labor organization proposed that farm laborers be given the same protection of the law as other workers in such matters as minimum wages, hours of work and holi-

days, workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance.

They are excluded at present from these programs by law.

To help farmers operate on a more businesslike basis so they could afford to provide decent pay and working conditions, the labor federation proposed sweeping provincial government assistance.

This should include encouragement, through legislation and low-interest loans, establishment of co-operatives both for cultivation and of adequate acreages and purchases of modern machinery; more research on both machinery and crops; establishment of all necessary marketing boards; and more agricultural vocational training similar to that provided fishermen.

The brief said that other segments of the work force have progressed as a result of legislation intended to ensure them a decent standard of living.

'REAL CAUSE'

"And yet, when we look at the agricultural industry, we find time and again that farm laborers are specifically excluded from the operation of almost all beneficial legislation.

"Here, we believe, lies the real cause of labor shortages in agriculture.

"For many years now, B.C. has had a high rate of unemployment and yet one major segment of the economy suffers from underemployment.

"The simple reason is that the economic returns are not substantial enough, the security not high enough and the protection against personal injury not strong enough to attract the average person into farm work no matter how long he has been unemployed."

Major Hike Due In Water Rates

Costly Hookup With Victoria Required Soon on Peninsula

By JOHN MIKA
Legislative Reporter

Saanich Peninsula water boards—which fought against a Victoria proposal to charge a wholesale price of five cents per 1,000 gallons—were warned Monday they soon will face more than double that rate.

The warning came as the legislature gave second reading — with Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay) casting the only dissenting vote — to a bill that would transfer Victoria's water rights over Elk and Thetis lakes to the provincial water rights branch.

Water Resources Minister Ray Williston denied the bill is a manoeuvre in the current controversy between Victoria and Central Saanich over the latter's use of Elk Lake water

to supply all of the peninsula. He said Elk Lake obviously will be insufficient to meet their needs and they soon will have to connect to the Greater Victoria Water District's Sooke Lake Reservoir system.

(This inevitably will involve a costly pipeline extension. The GVWD, a co-operative wholesale agency operated by the Greater Victoria municipalities, already has to charge 13 cents per 1,000 gallons for its Sooke Lake water.)

Recreational Values Stressed

Mr. Williston also warned that the recreational values of Elk and Thetis lakes overshadow their limited potential as watersheds and would be protected for the general public good by the provincial government.

He said a complete study of all aspects, and agreement of the municipalities, will be undertaken before the bill is implemented.

This could take a year, he said.

He gave repeated assurances the recreational values of Elk and Thetis lakes and the water supply value of Sooke Lake "will be safeguarded even to the greater extent than formerly."

Mr. Williston said the current controversy had led to the discovery that only Greater Victoria in all of the province was exempted from control by the water rights branch under provincial legislation. The bill was brought forward only to rectify this situation.

"The legislation has nothing to do with land owned by the city and in no way abrogates the rights over land, easements and pipelines which has been referred to in general comments to the press," he said.

Because of the current controversy, it had been "mistakenly" thought of as a lever in the present situation," he said.

Proper Study for First Time

He said the Victoria Water Act of 1873 — which would be repealed by the bill — did not safeguard the recreational values of Elk and Thetis lakes.

"No one really knows yet how much water can be removed from Elk Lake and still retain the recreational amenities of that body of water," he said. "And these are more valuable than using the lake for drinking water purposes."

"A real study will now be taking place for the first time with officials of my department participating ... and this may take a year."

"There is a feeling in North Saanich that Elk Lake provides the answer for the water needs of that vast region but anyone who gives this even a little

study will find out very, very rapidly that Elk Lake answers their problem scarcely at all."

He said the Sooke Lake system is the only practical answer and added that both the study and negotiations with the municipalities involved will be completed before the legislation is promulgated.

"I give the House and the people of Victoria an assurance that this will be done before the act becomes law," he said.

John Tisdalle (SC—Saanich) said peninsula residents realize that Elk Lake "can only be a temporary stop-gap of meeting their needs."

"They too look with interest on a plan by which they would, as quickly as possible, obtain supply from the same source as Victoria," he said.

Major Expansion on Peninsula

Mr. Tisdalle observed that a properly based water supply system would quickly bring sewers in its wake and create a major expansion of development in the peninsula.

He added that his constituents had felt that the provincial government was not dealing with the problem properly while the city was reluctant to agree to continuing an arrangement under which the federal government had obtained water from Elk Lake.

Mr. Macfarlane said that the arrangement with the federal government virtually gave away water "as a patriotic gesture in wartime" for a nominal \$1,000 a year.

Central Saanich wanted to continue this 20 years later while reselling the water to other districts and declining to join the Greater Victoria Water District, he said.

Mr. Macfarlane decried the "unnecessary haste" of the government in introducing the bill.

"It shouldn't be passed at this session because it frustrates what might have been an early agreement" among the municipalities themselves resolving the problem.

"The problem of giving adequate water to North Saanich must be solved by negotiations on a regional basis under Greater Victoria Water District," he said. "This act is not going to bring that about."

He said if the government intends to force GVWB "into an unconscionable contract, then it (government) is in real trouble."

"Does the minister want to hold an axe over someone's head? Is that the reason for the legislation?"

Mr. Williston did not reply.

Mr. Macfarlane also said Victoria could drain Beaver Lake and reclaim 250 acres. Sale of the land at \$5,000 an acre would bring in \$1,250,000.

"Beaver Lake is not a lake at all," said Mr. Macfarlane. "It is an impounded body of water. The land under the water is owned by the city of Victoria, which has a perfect right to drain that land, reclaim it and put it to any use it likes."

SPCA Bill Leashed For Reconsideration

Criticism from both sides of the legislature Monday night sent a bill that would give the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals wide powers to a committee for more discussion.

A section that would give the SPCA the power to sell or dispose of an animal after giving only three days notice to its owner drew the heaviest fire.

Berts Price (SC—Vancouver Burrard) said an owner could be away from home and would stand to lose his animal.

"It will be a real shame and

disgrace if any organization is given such power," he said.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) objected to the SPCA being given powers to draw up regulations and laws.

"The idea that the SPCA should act as its own lawmaker and law enforcer is to me distasteful," he said.

However, before Attorney-General Bonner could refer the bill to a select standing committee, the legislature gave it approval in principle.

The bill consolidated existing laws now scattered in other acts into one piece of legislation.

NEW LAW APPROVED

Police to Act 'Cautiously' On Suspension

By JOHN MIKA and AB KENT

The "roadside suspensions" bill Monday was given approval in principle by the legislature after Attorney-General Robert Bonner said it would be used cautiously.

Generally approving speeches were made from both sides of the house, in contrast to an earlier debate when it was criticized as an invasion of civil liberties.

Mr. Bonner maintained civil liberties are not at issue in the bill but police will be carefully instructed to use its provisions cautiously when suspending a driver's licence for 24 hours on suspicion of drinking.

"The purpose of this legislation is to give some means of clearing the highways of doubtful drivers during the duration of that doubt," he said.

If a sober passenger is able to drive the car, he can take over after the driver had given up his licence, he said.

Mr. Bonner said he could not agree that a provincial licensing law should be used to make breath tests compulsory, in contradiction to the present Criminal Code.

CONFIDENTIAL

He promised that suspensions will be kept confidential and not open to view by insurance company officials.

The attorney-general said much disrespect for police today springs from the fact that too many problems are settled by laying of charges, unlike the United Kingdom practice of persuasion.

"For instance, it is far too easy to have a juvenile record because one doesn't have a licence for a bicycle.

"It seems to me we should deliberately seek to keep public order short of charging.

"This explains why I was anxious to see this legislation in a form that was not an offence."

Mr. Bonner pointed out licences now are suspended on a major scale by the motor vehicles branch. He said 141,974 traffic convictions were reviewed last year, resulting in 8,243 warning letters, 2,789 interviews, 2,013 probation periods and 3,279 suspensions.

During the debate Ernie LeCours (SC-Delta) said 12-hour suspensions would be adequate.

He said the proposed legislation would not only serve to separate the drinking driver from his car but also encourage improved drinking habits gen-

MODERATION POSTERS

He urged 5 per cent of provincial liquor profits be spent to promote moderation by posters and other means.

He regretted a problem relating to impaired driving has not been touched by the bill — the driver who leaves the scene of an accident to avoid an impaired driving charge.

"We should consider a compulsory six months' jail sentence for hit-run driving," he said.

'INTERIM MEASURE'

"I view the present proposals as an interim measure," Liberal Leader Ray Perrault said.

Adoption of the bill could mean a 15 per cent improvement in the death and accident toll on B.C. highways this year, he said.

"I don't think it is asking too much that people who take their autos on to highways have their blood reasonably free of alcoholic impairment," he said.

IMPLIED CONSENT

He pointed out that in 41 American states the issuance of a driver's licence contains the implied consent of the holder to submit to chemical testing of his blood. Previous bar association resistance to this, on grounds of encroachment on civil liberties, had been "cast aside" because of "absolutely dramatic decrease in highway deaths," he said.

Compulsory motor vehicle testing immediately in Victoria, New Westminster, Burnaby and North Vancouver, with mobile units to test cars elsewhere, would cut the highway death toll by up to 10 per cent, he said.

David Barrett (NDP — Dewdney) said he supported the legislation but the government should require liquor interests to advertise the harmful effects as well as pleasures of drinking. The government should also advertise which cars it buys for government service after making safety inspections.

Harry McKay (L-Fernie) said he does not feel civil liberties are violated by the bill but urged a review next year to ensure that there were no police abuses.

He was supported by John Squire (NDP-Alberni) who added that the suspension files should not be opened to insurance company officials or else rates would be raised for persons merely suspected of having taken a drink.

OIL INDUSTRY TAKEOVER ATTEMPTED BY OPPOSITION

A move to nationalize the petroleum industry by means of a 26-year-old provincial statute was among five opposition members' bills introduced in the B.C. House Monday.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan brought an amendment to a 1940 Petroleum Sales Act that would remove the need for it to be made law by cabinet proclamation. It has lain dormant on the books since its passage.

The act allows the government to take over pipelines and refineries and to retail oil and gas products, a wartime measure taken after oil companies staged a 10-day blockade. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled it legal for the province to regulate oil and gas prices.

A second bill introduced by Mr. Strachan would force disclosure of all interest rates and charges on any credit sale of more than \$50.

The NDP introduced a similar bill in 1963 and withdrew it when the attorney-general said the government would consider its own legislation.

LONGER HOLIDAYS

Leo Nimsick (NDP-Cranbrook) proposed a bill to give workers three weeks' holiday after five years' employment. Legislation now provides for two weeks after one year.

David Stupich (NDP-Nanaimo and The Islands) introduced a bill to require dealers to maintain an adequate supply of farm machinery parts.

And Patrick McGeer (L-Point Grey) brought in an amendment to the Municipal Act that would allow a straight majority to pass a fluoridation referendum instead of 60 per cent as now required.

Opposition bills rarely survive to become law.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1966

Redistribution Bill Gets Final Passage

By AB KENT

The government's redistribution bill passed the legislature Monday night despite a last-minute attempt by New Democratic Party and Liberal members to have it referred back to the Angus royal commission.

It requires only royal assent to become law before the next provincial election.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan sought an amendment that would return the bill to the commission for a report to the house within 30 days.

His amendment went to a division, with 13 opposition and Liberal votes in favor and 26 against. Frank Calder (NDP-Atlin) voted with 25 Social Crediters. Two members were paired.

Mr. Strachan said the royal commission report, which had been supported by the opposition, resulted from restricted terms of reference that put a 52-seat limit on redistribution and set the size of constituencies at no less than 7,500 voters by 1975.

As the bill had untied the commission's hands by increasing house membership to 55, he said redistribution should go back to the commission.

Opposition members fought the bill on grounds that amendments were made to the political advantage of the gov-

ernment.

The bill "created political imbalance between the northern ridings and other parts of the province, it was argued.

Patrick McGeer (L — Point Grey) said the bill should be withdrawn for resubmission to the commission.

"There's no need for it now," he said. "This is not an election year next year will be . . ."

He was ruled out of order by the speaker.

Leo Nimsick (NDP — Cranbrook) said the Kootenays are still being discriminated against and being "given the short end of the stick."

Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East) protested the government's "political tampering with the report of a non-partisan commission."

Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby) opposed what he first referred to as "patent dishonesty" then described as "unwitting ignorance" in the bill's extension of time limit in calling a bye-election, which he said would cause trouble.

This was "political flim-flam, just as the rest of it is," Mr. Dowding said before he was ruled out of order.

The vote went to a division called by the premier. Twenty-six voted in favor, including Mr. Calder of the NDP, and 15 against. Six members were paired.

NEW BILL RECOGNIZES DRUNK AS A SICK MAN

A bill to give magistrates discretion to treat chronic drunkenness as an illness rather than a crime was praised by opposition spokesmen in the legislature Monday.

The amendment to the Summary Convictions Act passed second reading—approval in principle.

It would enable a magistrate to sentence a chronic alcoholic to an institution for treatment or rehabilitation or suspend sentence in the case of those who voluntarily agreed to enter such institutions.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) said this should reduce the present "drunk parade" of 60 to 90 cases each morning in Vancouver magistrate's court where drunk cases "are processed in squads."

He said present policy virtually imposes "life prison sentences on the instalment plan" to men who are in and out of jail continually because they drink to escape a severe personality problem.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the same type of legislation should be introduced for narcotics addicts but not traffickers.

53% Less Cavities

Fluoridation is rapidly becoming a necessary part of Northern life because there are 10,000 persons for every dentist, the legislature was told Monday.

Cyril Shelford (SC—Omineca) said Prince George, Burns Lake, Fort St. John, Kitimat, Prince Rupert and Smithers now have fluoridation.

Prince George, the first community to fluoridate its water supply six years ago, already has reported that tooth decay has dropped 53 per cent among children between the ages of six and eight.

"I think all the towns in the North will go eventually to a fluoridation program," Mr. Shelford said.

"Of course we have only one dentist for every 10,000 people, so we have to do something else to save our teeth."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1966

HOUSE IN UPROAR OVER MARTIN 'WAFFLING'

Socreds Join Opposition In Blitzing of Minister

The roof fell in on Health Minister Eric Martin Tuesday.

In the afternoon he was hammered into red-faced anger by opposition members questioning his handling of mental health services.

He charged back after the supper break with an arm-swinging political attack on Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay)—and promptly was hammered into red-faced silence by his own party's backbenchers.

It was the most scathing attack directed on a minister by the legislature in years and saw numerous bursts of applause by Socred backbenchers—when they weren't delivering the blows themselves.

J. Donald Smith (SC—Victoria) led the backbench assault with John Tisdalle (SC—Saanich) adding to the punch but the most crushing blow was swung by Ernie LeCours (SC—Delta).

"I have cooled off considerably since I first tried to enter this debate and I'm thankful for that because I hope the bitterness will have left my voice," he said.

"But in regard to the mental health services in this province this minister stands firmly on both feet planted solidly in mid-air and goes into a lengthy song and dance to avoid giving answers."

'Sick, Tired of Martin Treatment'

Applause broke out on both sides of the House as he added:

"And I for one am sick and tired of being treated this way."

As Mr. Martin stared grimly at the floor between his feet and Premier Bennett began coloring, Mr. LeCours went on to say that all groups involved with disturbed, handicapped or mentally ill children and adults are in an uproar over the minister's procrastinations, empty promises and refusal to answer questions.

"I don't think we as responsible officers of this House should have to take the type of treatment we too are taking from this minister," Mr. LeCours stormed.

"It's all right to waffle now and then, but we must have answers once in a while and most of all we must have action."

The backbench patience broke after listening to hours of questioning by opposition members about promised facilities for mental patients and retarded children, particularly in the Victoria area, which were met by studied silence or bombast from Mr. Martin.

"I agree with some of the observations of the opposition," said Mr. Smith. "They're disappointed and so are some members on this side."

He said it was obvious that in present programs for emotionally disturbed children, "with all respect to the minister," there is a great deal to be desired.

"I don't hold that the minister is incapable but he doesn't have the time required to do a good job."

Mr. Smith said parents and organizations involved with handicapped or disturbed children are "shuffled" among the ministers of health, education, welfare, finance, public works and the attorney-general because their problems range from legal to educational.

'Department of Human Relations'

"I suggest we set up a department of human relations and appoint a full-time minister to carry on this sort of work," Mr. Smith said as MLAs from all sides pounded their approval.

"Then if you have problems with emotionally disturbed children, or with the Indian question or whatever, you have a minister who has the authority to deal with the other departments and find solutions."

He said a single minister with responsibility for co-ordinating efforts is needed "to take care of the members of our society who have not had the best treatment."

"We're very interested in the gross national product. We must be equally concerned with the human product."

He said it has been estimated that Greater Victoria alone has 600 emotionally disturbed children, "and there must be thousands throughout our province, and they are entitled to more consideration."

Mr. Smith said the parents are stymied by years of frustra-

tion and inaction by government and many cannot bear the crushing burden much longer of trying to care for retarded children at home.

Mr. Tisdalle recalled his speech three years ago describing his personal ordeal as a parent of a handicapped child in a province that had insufficient facilities and Mr. Martin's promise of a 400-bed hospital at Royal Oak for retarded children.

"I had hoped with earnest expectation a pronouncement from the minister tonight that the citizens, especially the parents of these children, would not have to wait longer," he said.

No Problem on Jet-Power Snow Plow

He said the government had developed a jet-powered snow plow "but we can't solve, apparently, the problem of providing an institution for humanity."

"These children need (help) now and their parents need it now. It doesn't help to say they don't do it in Ontario or they don't do it across the line.

"I'm tired of waiting."

Mr. Tisdalle said he knew of children who had passed beyond the point of rehabilitation during the two years of delay since Mr. Martin made his promise.

"It's too late for them but why can't we say we're going to do the job immediately?"

"Surely we can give an answer to these parents tonight that it won't be another year before we turn the first sod."

During the afternoon, Mr. Macfarlane set the scene by making Mr. Martin flush and Premier Bennett shout under a relentless hammering.

He spent most of an hour repeatedly badgering Mr. Martin to say when promised facilities for mental patients and retarded children will be built on southern Vancouver Island.

Most of the time Mr. Martin heeded Mr. Bennett's whispered instructions not to answer but even the premier was goaded into rising for a retort by Mr. Macfarlane's persistence.

"I'm soon going to get a new member for Oak Bay," snapped Mr. Bennett, who lives in Mr. Macfarlane's constituency.

"I have no right to answer questions (about construction plans) which come under jurisdiction of the public works minister," Mr. Martin said, declining Mr. MacFarlane's suggestion he lean over to Public Works Minister Chant and find out.

'Gov't Bankrupt' on the Problem

"I say shame to you because it should be the first concern of a minister of health to know where and when mental hospital facilities will be provided," cried Mr. Macfarlane.

"For 10 years, the people of Vancouver Island have been waiting for construction of a facility for mentally retarded children.

"But this government is bankrupt in its outlook and its policy on this particular problem.

"For many years the people of Vancouver Island have desperately needed these facilities and they have been promised and promised until they are sick and tired of promises.

"The only answer is that this government is not prepared to provide these facilities for southern Vancouver Island."

Mr. Martin replied that the Socred governments of the past 14 years has been hampered in developing facilities here "because previous administrations—particularly Liberal ones—never did a thing.

"They left such a backlog in all of the province that we have to work hard just to catch up.

"This government has done things that have brought about a great economic expansion on Vancouver Island and as a consequence a need for even more facilities.

'Gov't Alive to This Situation'

"We're much on our toes. This government is very alive to this situation and we will continue to be."

But Mr. Martin would not say when the proposed centre for 400 retarded children at Royal Oak would be built.

And he would not say when the Lee Avenue 170-bed mental hospital would be built.

The latter question precipitated the exchange because Mr.

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Martin claimed that the hospital was under way.

But he sat in silence when Mr. Macfarlane asked him what contracts had been let and what work was done.

After the supper break, Mr. Martin resumed the attack without waiting for questions.

"This afternoon we were given a most peculiar exhibition of what not to do and say," he said.

He said the Soered administration had spent \$30 million on mental hospital facilities, increased staff at Essondale by 1,200 and out the patient load.

"But past Liberal administrations in this province have done almost nothing for mental patients."

He said Royal Jubilee Hospital's psychiatric wing had been developed into the finest in the province as a result of his prodding "and then came the Black Day—the day which, as Roosevelt said, will live in infamy."

Construction Brought to Halt

"Under the leadership of the member for Oak Bay and his cohorts out there, he brought to a stop all the hospital construction in this area," he shouted.

As opposition members protested, Mr. Martin continued to lambaste Mr. Macfarlane for the defeat of the hospital tax vote in Greater Victoria last December. On the government side, only Public Works Minister Chant encouraged him.

Mr. Martin said St. Joseph's Hospital had been on the point of adding psychiatric beds, "but these will not be built now because of the type of leadership given by the Liberals."

"We see our duty in this province and we're doing it despite the member from Oak Bay."

"Your own members are disgusted with you," replied Harry McKay (L—Fernie).

Mr. Martin replied:

"The delay could be disastrous for hospitals in this area and we can lay the blame on the doorstep of the member for Oak Bay without a doubt whatever."

David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) repeated earlier demands Mr. Martin resign because he had conducted a personal attack on Mr. Macfarlane instead of answering his specific questions about the proposed mental and retarded children hospitals.

"To stand up and blame the deficiencies on the Liberals is a signal admission of failure by the minister," said Opposition Leader Robert Strachan. "You've been in power 14 years."

Mr. Macfarlane replied that it was ridiculous to accuse him of masterminding the campaign against the hospital tax vote "because I was out of the country on vacation then."

Both Sides 'Disgusted'

BENNETT RELENTS, MLAs GO TO BED

The legislature was adjourned by Premier Bennett at 12.25 this morning after relenting on a threat to keep the MLAs in session until dawn.

It was the longest sitting so far and meant a number of MLAs had been hard at work for 15 consecutive hours except for lunch and supper breaks.

"We'll be here at 5 o'clock," he told the opposition MLAs at midnight as they continued to grill Health Minister Eric Martin.

All told, the house spent about 14 hours — in several periods beginning Thursday — on the health department's \$125.2 million estimates.

Much of the time was taken up with speeches by Mr. Martin, alternated with repetitious questions by opposition members angered by his refusal to answer.

Premier Bennett forced continuation of the night sitting even after Mr. Martin's final estimate was passed at 12.10 this morning.

He immediately called for consideration of Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi's salary vote — one of the major items in the estimates debate.

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"You're just doing this for spite," called Leo Nimsick (NDP—Cranbrook).

"Come on, this is foolish," said Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver). "Starting a new vote at this time is nuts."

"All the members are disgusted with your tactics," shouted Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Sloosan).

"I'm disgusted with you," Mr. Bennett shouted back.

"Any premier who would bring a vote of this importance in at 12.10 in the morning — when the members have been working since early yesterday 16, 17 and even 18 hours — is disgusting," Mr. Harding stormed back.

Premier Bennett said he was not asking the opposition to pass Mr. Gaglardi's salary — just giving them the opportunity to pose questions so he could have answers later in the day.

But 15 minutes later, he withdrew the vote so the MLAs could go to bed after David Stupich (NDP—Nanaimo and The Islands) pointed out "some of us have a committee meeting at 9.30 a.m. today and I hope we'll be able to leave for it."

"On that basis, I'll withdraw the vote," said the premier.

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Road Suspension Bill Approved

The legislature gave final approval to the roadside suspensions bill Tuesday as an effort to cut down the hazards of drinking drivers.

Leo Nimsick (NDP — Cranbrook) took a last swing at the bill by suggesting it "may give people a feeling they can have an extra drink" because they will only lose their car keys for 24 hours if caught.

But most MLAs thought otherwise.

"I think it will result in less prosecutions for impairment," said Tony Gargrave (NDP — Mackenzie). "A lot of people will say 'Thank God that's all that's happened to me' and stagger off and get into a taxi."

Attorney-General Robert Bonner agreed.

He said the important question is not whether there would be more or fewer prosecutions.

"The question is whether we are being effective in discouraging people from drinking while driving."

He said the new law should be tried because other efforts to discourage drinking-and-driving had failed.

The legislation was given third reading, clearing it through the house but it still must go through two more stages before becoming effective.

It requires royal assent and then cabinet proclamation — which Mr. Bonner indicated will be some months away to give police departments time to obtain breath-testing machines and learn how to operate them.

Martin Blames Ottawa For Ambulance Impasse

Health Minister Eric Martin Tuesday told the legislature he favors hospital-based ambulance service, but the federal government refuses to allow B.C. to adopt it under hospital insurance coverage. Answering a question by John Squire (NDP — Alberni) the minister said such service "is going to be tremendously costly."

"So costly that I approached the health minister's conference with the idea of them taking the matter up with the federal government. "I was astonished at the almost complete silence," Mr. Martin said.

He said federal regulations are very restrictive in this

respect, but the federal government controls the situation because it contributes to B.C. Hospital Insurance Service.

Mr. Squire said ambulance service is a legitimate charge on BCHIS when directed by a doctor, and he protested the exorbitant ambulance bills patients are often faced with in such areas as his own.

Because of the distances involved in taking patients to Victoria and Vancouver hospitals for specialized treatment, the bill may be \$125 or more, he said.

The community would be willing to pay its share of the cost of a hospital-based service, Mr. Squire said.

OVER MARTIN REFUSAL TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

Spirited Shouting Match Erupts

A charge that Premier Bennett has instructed his ministers not to answer opposition questions on estimates sparked a spirited vocal melee Tuesday on the floor of the legislature.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan made the statement, calling the premier and cabinet ministers "snivelling crybabies."

Furious reaction came from Bonner, acting as house leader in the absence of the premier.

Both stood shouting and shaking their fingers at each other amid a rolling babel erupting from both sides of the house.

"The member has no right to abuse the ministers," Mr. Bonner cried.

"Your own ministers are complaining," an opposition member shouted.

Mr. Strachan had been trying to get an answer from Health Minister Eric Martin on how many extended care patients were eligible for \$1 a day hospital coverage since the plan began.

Mr. Martin sat in his chair and said he did not have the information. Mr. Strachan persisted.

"The minister has answered the question," committee chairman William Speare said. "The minister has not

answered the question," Mr. Strachan reiterated, raising his voice.

"He's sat there and refused to answer."

Several Social Credit members complained of "abuse" by the opposition leader.

"He deserves abuse," Mr. Strachan cried.

"I'm now of the opinion the ministers have had orders from the premier not to answer questions. A pattern has developed this session . . . crybaby ministers . . . snivelling, whimpering government," he said.

At this point Mr. Bonner shot to his feet to protest.

When the shouting died down, Mr. Martin arose and complained of "constant complaints, session after session," over his estimates.

"I try to answer questions, but this is the type of information that requires research," he said.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell got up to protest Mr. Strachan's "unparliamentary language. I object to his use of the word 'snivelling' and ask him to show his respect for parliament by withdrawing."

Opposition members growled their protest at the protest and Mr. Campbell added:

"I also ask him to withdraw

the word 'crybaby.'"

Chairman Speare asked the opposition leader to withdraw and Mr. Strachan, referring again to the words "whimpering, snivelling and crybaby," said:

"If you ask me to take back the word 'snivelling' I'll take it back."

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault said he was protesting "in the most vehement terms" the minister's refusal to answer.

He reminded the house of Mr. Martin's promise of last week that he would try to bring in figures.

"I'm not going to sit here and be insulted by the minister. He's weaseling and waffling and obfuscating."

"It looks like Operation Coverup by the premier and minister of health on whether we have a satisfactory chronic care program in the province."

Alex Macdonald (NDP - Vancouver East) said the question appeared on the order paper for the day's proceedings, and there was a reason for not answering.

"The whole program is completely a myth," he said.

"No new beds have been opened up. The same patient is in the same bed — he hasn't even turned over. You've simply reclassified him."

ALL-PARTY ATTACK ON POLICY

Health Minister Eric Martin was shaken and subdued early this morning when the legislature finally approved his estimates after an all-party attack on his mental health policy.

While trying to duck a verbal pummeling from opposition MLAs, he was hit with a stunning rabbit punch by three Socials who were cheered by other backbenchers.

The attacks followed demands by seven MLAs last week that he resign from his cabinet post.

MOTHER CECILIA:

Vivisection Blackest Crime In The World

(See Also Page 29)

Mother Mary Cecilia was back in her role as an embattled defender of animals today.

She blasted the University of B.C. as "sinful" for using vivisection, and she defended her relocated animal shelter at Mill Bay from an attack by her new neighbors.

The controversial nun, who has split with the Vatican over her determination to operate the Good Shepherd Animal Shelter, appeared before a legislative committee this morning considering a proposed new act governing the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Gordon Dowling (NDP-Burnaby) suggested to the SPCA officials that it was a pity animal carcasses "are thrown on a dump in Victoria and probably other communities" because there was no incinerator for them.

He said it would be better to turn the bodies over for medical research in such cases.

Victoria SPCA manager David Beeching said the organization would not agree to turn over dead animal bodies for research because it would undermine confidence in the SPCA and seriously affect public contributions.

Mother Cecilia, who attended the hearing as a spectator,

Colleagues By 'Teach

For the second time this session, Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce Minister Ralph Loffmark reverted to his professional manner to reprimand colleagues chatting while he expounded his economic theories.

"Pardon me, but would you please go outside," he snapped with asperity at Public Works Minister W. N. Chant and Donald Smith (SC - Victoria) who were conversing beside him.

A startled hush fell over the legislature. Mr. Chant grinned.

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Mother Cecilia, who attended the hearing as a spectator,

asked to be heard by the committee.

"I am very happy that Mr. Beeching has taken this stand," she said.

LIVE ANIMALS

"If you don't refuse to give up dead animals for research you soon will be giving up live animals for research.

"I look upon vivisection as the blackest crime in the whole world," the nun said.

"Those doing it will have to suffer for what they are doing.

"To breed animals and torture them as they appear to do at the university is a sinful thing."

The committee adjourned its hearing to give the SPCA counsel time to meet with the committee's counsel to redraft several sections of the proposed act, particularly to extend a suggested three-day waiting period after trying to notify an owner of an impounded animal, before destroying or selling it.

Mother Cecilia Wednesday was criticized by some neighbors at her new Mill Bay establishment who claimed accommodation for the animals was very poor, they were not properly tended and were fed steaks and chocolates.

In an interview after the committee meeting, she denied most of the charges but admitted that accommodation is poor.

"But we have been there only two weeks and we are working on plans now for new buildings," she said. "It will take several months before we are properly settled.

"I do not feed the dogs steaks and chocolate. They receive regular dog meal, stews and things like that.

"I haven't heard one word against us until now."

Traffic Hinders Work

Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi said his department will keep plugging away at widening of Patricia Bay Highway but work will be slow because there is so much traffic.

"I'm glad the minister realizes that traffic is heavy on that road," said John Tisdalle (SC-Saanich) in the legislature Wednesday.

He said the traffic volume more than justifies a four-lane highway and suggested that its narrowness is at least partly to blame for two recent deaths.

"Let's not go over that," said Mr. Gaglardi. "We know about that."

"Yes, well that's why we want it," replied Mr. Tisdalle.

Herbert Bruch (SC-Esquimalt) said the Trans-Canada Highway and Old Island Highway also should be widened to four lanes as far as Colwood and Langford to handle heavy streams of sight-seeing traffic.

Sooke River Bridge Set This Year

A new Sooke River bridge will be built this year, Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi said Wednesday.

He was answering questions in the legislature posed by Herbert Bruch (SC-Esquimalt).

Mr. Gaglardi, in an interview, added that the new bridge will be built at a slightly different point across the river than the present crossing so that no traffic interruptions will be involved.

"We should be starting almost right away—in early spring," he said.

He gave no cost estimate or construction time.

Mr. Gaglardi added his department currently is co-opting with various logging companies to reconstruct a series of wooden bridges along the Jordan River - Shawnigan Lake road.

Paving of some sections of the Sooke-Jordan River road is also under study.

Colleagues Rapped By 'Teacher Loffmark'

For the second time this session, Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce Minister Ralph Loffmark reverted to his professional manner to reprimand colleagues chatting while he expounded his economic theories.

"Pardon me, but would you please go outside," he snapped with asperity at Public Works Minister W. N. Chant and J. Donald Smith (SC-Victoria) who were conversing beside him.

A startled hush fell over the legislature. Mr. Chant grinned

weakly and waved his hand soothingly.

But Mr. Loffmark remained indignant.

"Mr. Chairman, it is rare when one makes adverse comments about one's colleagues, but this is most unseemly."

It took almost 20 minutes for the normal buzz of gossip to return to the chamber while Mr. Loffmark explained his estimates.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1966

AIMED AT VANCOUVER

Cost Split Three Ways New Highway Plan

Premier Bennett Wednesday announced an offer that could set a precedent for through highway construction cost-sharing by local, provincial and federal governments.

He said in the legislature a plan that would split such costs equally among the three governments had been set as a matter of government policy after long study of the Vancouver situation, to which his remarks were applied.

But other cities such as Victoria and New Westminster are responsible for major highway construction within their boundaries, for which provincial grants may be sought.

The three-way equal cost sharing conceivably could apply to such work as the Victoria West freeway proposed in a 1965 transportation study of the Capital Region Planning Board.

MOUTH OF GORGE

Among its principal recom-

mendations are bridges over Selkirk Water at the mouth of the Gorge and over the Inner Harbor to James Bay.

Total cost of all traffic recommendations contained in the report was estimated at \$44 million.

Earlier, Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) drew attention in debate on highway estimates to the fact that there was no increase this year in the \$500,000 grant to cities of more than 30,000 population to assist in arterial road maintenance.

Vancouver would get about \$355,000 of this amount, Mr. Macdonald said.

"Freeways stop, bingo, at city limits," he complained. "We have been short-changed in highway budgets for 14 years," he said, pointing out that Toronto gets half the cost of its arterials paid for by the province of Ontario.

"You are the spanner in the wheels of progress," he told

Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi.

Dealing with a question from John Squire (NDP—Alberni), Mr. Gaglardi told the House that red reflector driveway markers along highways are illegal.

"They are all up and down the Island," Mr. Squire said. At night appearing suddenly in the headlights of a car they can appear to be twin reflectors of a parked car and pose a threat to the oncoming driver, he said.

"I'm sure this is taking place in many places in B.C.," Mr. Squire said.

HOTDOG STANDS

"They are illegal," the minister said.

Mr. Squire objected also to spotlights often focused on roadside hotdog stand signs that "hit you right in the eye if you come around a curve. The minister said he would look into both matters.

FLYING PHIL REPLIES:

I Sometimes Suggest Speed Limits'

Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi Wednesday said he does not set highway speed limits, but sometimes "suggests" what they should be.

He was replying in the legislature to Liberal Leader Ray Perrault's question:

"On what grounds are speed limit laws in the province of B.C. being revised upward these days?"

He observed the minister's statement that fast driving is safer.

Mr. Perrault noted that superintendent of motor vehicles George Lindsay publicly disagreed with this and recommended lower nighttime speeds than those posted for daylight driving.

"Limits are being increased at random without consulting with the motor vehicle branch and automobile associations,"

Mr. Perrault said.

He pointed out the Patricia Bay highway limit has been increased in places from 50 to 60 miles an hour with no noticeable improvement in safety measures. There are 100 level intersections up to the ferry terminal at Swartz Bay, he said.

Mr. Gaglardi's high-speed thesis "is correct only if we engineer these roads to safe high-speed standards."

"Speeds are not set by me," the minister replied. They are set in conjunction with the police, traffic department and engineers. I OK them and authorize them."

"Do you suggest any?" Mr. Perrault asked.

"The only time I suggest them is where the road is properly engineered," Mr. Gaglardi said.

LOFFMARK EXPLAINS HIS THEORY

Minister 'Misunderstood'

Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce Minister Ralph Loffmark Wednesday told the legislature he was not a separatist.

"I am as loyal a Canadian as any and I have never done anything even indirectly that would prejudice Canada's sovereignty and independence."

Mr. Loffmark said his calls for economic integration between B.C. and the U.S. were misunderstood.

He said the danger this would result in political domination by the U.S. was so remote "as to be impractical."

Meanwhile, present national tariff policies are not developing Canada's potential fully nor retaining its economic independence so a new course should be tried by lowering tariffs applying to B.C. exports item by item.

"That might achieve a

greater independence for Canada," he said.

Mr. Loffmark pictured himself as a champion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's free trade philosophy as the best course for developing Canada.

He conceded that Laurier was defeated in the crucial 1911 election on his reciprocity issue "but that doesn't mean he wasn't right."

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault seemed to agree although he criticized Mr. Loffmark for "lacking inventiveness" by constantly belaboring the federal government and eastern establishment over unfair freight rates.

B.C.'s younger secondary industry would not be able to compete effectively in Eastern Canada even if freight rates were equalized and present efforts should be directed at lowering tariffs to give easier entry for B.C. into the western U.S., Mr. Perrault said.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1966

STRACHAN CHARGES:

Park Gutted to Give Mining Firm Its Way

The blame for opening Strathcona Park to mining interests was laid squarely on the shoulders of Recreation Minister Kiernan on Thursday.

The minister was accused by Opposition Leader Strachan of using his present job to help the people he associated with in his former post of mines minister.

Mr. Strachan said 162 claims were staked at the southwestern end of Buttle Lake between 1959 and 1963 when Mr. Kiernan was mines minister.

He said these claims — consolidated with 23 granted in 1924 and held by Western Mines Ltd. — were enough to guarantee that development of a mine at Myra Creek would be profitable.

The Opposition leader said Mr. Kiernan was made recreation minister in 1964 and on May 13, 1965, the cabinet approved his recommendation that the Class A park be broken into three conservancy areas and two Class B areas.

This move put Western Mines holdings in a Class B area where mining is permitted.

On the same day the order-in-council was issued "a park use permit was given to the company — they could hardly wait to get their hot little hands on it."

Said Mr. Strachan: "Every action of the minister since his appointment (in 1964) has been

directed towards giving the people with whom we dealt with as minister of mines everything they need to utilize the property he gave them as minister of mines.

"The whole purpose of creating Class B sections in the park was to allow the minister . . . step by step . . . to give this company (Western Mines) the right to do anything they please in this park.

"And that's why the park was gutted we think there's some-

Mr. Strachan suggested the government is willing to leave no stone unturned to help some company make money.

"They believe the parks are secondary.

"But we think there's something more than the almighty dollar bill."

Referring to the staking of claims in the park, Mr. Strachan said: "Step by step, the people of B.C. and members of this House have been led down the garden path."

Mr. Strachan pointed out that an order-in-council had been passed in 1962 bringing large areas of B.C. under control of the Pollution Control Board.

But, he said, another act was passed later leaving Buttle Lake outside control of the board.

"The policy of this minister blows nothing but ill for the future of parks in this prov-

ince."

Mr. Kiernan replied that he had never heard "such nonsense, misinformation, misrepresentation and distortion of the facts."

He said a new parks act was passed last year to clear up "40 years of contradiction, procrastination and lack of direction" in park management.

Certain parks, he said, were termed Class A where there was not supposed to be industrial development, but "this was the greatest bunch of malarkey ever foisted on an unsuspecting public."

He said the new act allows him to "weed out" from the original Class A areas parts where land had already been alienated.

"We are trying to straighten up this situation to make every classification mean what it says," Mr. Kiernan said.

Strathcona was one park in that situation because there had been 1924 Crown grants for mining claims.

Surprise support came for Mr. Kiernan from Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver).

Mr. Gibson told the recreation minister: "I want you to give the people all the co-operation you can in developing Western Mines and any other mines.

"... You have my complete support."

BOYCOTT CALLED OFF

Park Development Sharing Proposed

Recreation and Conservation Minister Kenneth Kiernan Thursday told the legislature he had resumed talking to Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing.

He wrote the federal minister the previous day offering to share development costs for Garibaldi Park near Vancouver but not if it involved turning over the provincial title to Ottawa.

He also indicated that he thought the federal government would be better advised to purchase private land to establish a national seashore park and suggested one parcel of 400 acres with 3,000 feet of waterfront on the Sechart Peninsula could be bought for \$250,000.

The letter reversed Mr. Kiernan's statement to the legislature several weeks ago. He said then he would never talk or write to Mr. Laing again until

the federal government gave B.C. a copy of the legal brief it will present to the Supreme Court of Canada reference on its claims to jurisdiction over off-shore mineral rights.

BREACH OF FAITH

Mr. Kiernan said Mr. Laing gave him a commitment more than two years ago that he would forward a copy but it was never fulfilled. He said it was a breach of faith he would not forgive.

In his letter, Mr. Kiernan repeated the charge of a broken promise but added "there is no point in belaboring this matter and as far as I'm concerned, the episode is closed."

The remainder of the letter was a reply to Mr. Laing's public offer last fall of \$10 million for Garibaldi development if it was turned over to be a national park.

Examination Asked Before Pets Killed

Mandatory veterinary examination and advertising should be required in each instance before animals are destroyed by the SPCA, a legislative committee was told Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Barr, 965 Trans-Canada Highway, made the submission to the committee on behalf of the Cats Protection League.

They recounted one incident in which a one-eyed pet cat became lost from a temporary home while its owners were on

vacation. It was picked up and destroyed by the SPCA.

Harry McKay (L—Fernie) said the requirement of a veterinarian's certificate and wide advertising would be impractical and exorbitant for a voluntary society.

David Beeching, Victoria SPCA manager, said \$1,000 was spent for veterinary services and \$300 for advertising last year.

He said he would be willing to meet the mandatory suggestion "if someone would donate the extra money needed for this."

Mr. Beeching added a peace officer and an SPCA official must concur before any animal is destroyed.

And advertising is used to try to locate an owner wherever possible, he said.

Attack Sparks Uproar

Strachan Remark Held Disgraceful

By JOHN MIKA
Legislative Reporter

The legislature exploded like a pressure cooker Thursday night after five hours of increasingly heated debate over the Western Mines development in Strathcona Park.

The argument boiled over into a flood of bitter shouting with Premier Bennett, Opposition Leader Robert Strachan and Liberal Leader Ray Perrault while the rest of the MLAs hooted and catcalled.

For a few moments the House was out of control but the immediate target of the fury — Pat McGeer (L—Vancouver-Point Grey) — was absent.

DEADLY THRUST

The uproar began as Liberals joined Soereds to decry Mr. Strachan's contention that up to 250 pounds of poisonous copper sulphate would go into Buttle Lake from the mining operation each day, posing a deadly threat to the game fish.

Mr. McGeer, pointing out he was a research chemist who had investigated the situation, accused Mr. Strachan of "misleading the House" because all the copper sulphate would be consumed by the mining process and could not enter the lake.

A few minutes later, after Mr. McGeer had left the chamber, Mr. Strachan rose again to attack the Liberals and Soereds for combining to try "to cover up a plan to destroy a public park" by private development.

'NOT DISINTERESTED'

"I was surprised that (McGeer) participated in this debate because according to the records of the companies office, he is not a disinterested party," Mr. Strachan said.

Premier Bennett and Mr. Perrault immediately erupted and all three shouted at each other.

"That's a disgraceful thing to say," yelled Mr. Perrault.

"It was a personal attack on a member of the House," called Mr. Bennett.

WITHDRAWAL ASKED

Attorney-General Robert Bonner demanded a withdrawal of the imputation while Mr. McGeer was absent and committee chairman William Speare ordered Mr. Strachan to make a retraction.

But Mr. Strachan began arguing with Mr. Speare and the

premier jumped back into the fight:

"As leader of the government and this House I must accept responsibility for the individual integrity of all the members of this House.

"The member for Point Grey has been attacked by the leader of the Opposition in a dastardly way and he was not here to defend himself.

"As leader of the government I do not want this house to be brought down to the same state as Ottawa which the leader of the Opposition has been trying to do at this session."

Mr. Strachan stormed back that the premier was trying to create a scene to divert attention from Strathcona Park's fate.

CREATING CHAOS

"The premier is deliberately trying to create chaos in this house so that public attention will be directed toward the chaos instead of the bankrupt park policies of this government," he said.

"He is trying to create a great big uproar to point attention away from the terrible, terrible policies of the government to destroy parks in B.C."

By this time Mr. McGeer had re-entered the chamber and Mr. Strachan repeated his accusation that he was not a "disinterested party" and entered the debate improperly.

OWNS SHARES

Mr. McGeer (who later told reporters he owned some shares in Western Mines) said he had earlier put himself on record as opposed to any mines in provincial parks.

"When I rose to defend the government, the point I made was a point of scientific information," he said.

"The leader of the Opposition, in my opinion, misled the house and when I closed my remarks I said there were better reasons for opposing mining in the parks.

"The leader of the Opposition, by his imputation, has not added to the dignity and decorum of this house."

All through the debate, MLAs snapped angrily at each other and at one point Mr. Strachan said the government "is so jumpy and so nervous about this because we've cut close to the bone."

David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) and Recreation and Conservation Minister Kenneth Kiernan angrily berated each other as Mr. Barrett demanded to know if scientific testing of copper sulphate's potential harm to the lake had been or would be undertaken.

BADGERED

Mr. Kiernan protested he was being repeatedly badgered on the same points.

He said the fish and game branch and pollution control branch would first have to approve dumping of mine tailings into the lake before the parks branch would even consider the company's application

for permission.

Mr. Kiernan also said that in regard to the copper sulphate — if that is the chemical used by the company in its process — he would give assurance that:

Either it will not be dumped in the lake, or if it is dumped in the lake it will be after reasonable certainty that no harm will result, or, if it is dumped and found detrimental to lake life the company will have to find another method of disposing of mine tailings carrying it.

MAKE TESTS

Water Resources Minister Ray Williston said his pollution control board would make tests in the lake before copper sulphate is used or mine tailings are permitted to be dumped in the lake.

Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan) said that last year the legislature was not informed that a road would be needed through the park to service the mine "but now we are told that it is logical and you add this and you add that — retreating step by step — until we wind up dumping tailings into the lake."

CHANGED HANDS

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said Western Mines recently changed hands for \$193,000, which "would have been a trifling sum to save Strathcona as a wilderness park."

Mr. Macdonald accused Mr. Kiernan of misleading the legislature at the last session that huge sums would be needed to buy out Western Mines in order to stop the development.

"We lost our chance to save Strathcona last session by not spending what amounts to a piddling sum in the government's budget and future generations will rue the day," he said.

The debate was sidetracked numerous times into shouting matches, arguments over procedure and lengthy speeches before Mr. Kiernan's salary vote of \$32,870 was passed.

KIERNAN: Lagoon Price Tag Too High

The provincial government would like to bring Witty's Lagoon into the regional parks fold but the price of the property is too steep, says Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan.

Mr. Kiernan told the legislature Thursday night that negotiations between the government and the Witty family had broken down and there is little possibility of a settlement.

Questioned later, he said the Witty family had originally asked \$300,000 for their seashore property but had agreed to drop the asking price to \$250,000

after negotiations started.

\$160,000 APPRAISAL

"We had the property appraised and the value was set at \$160,000," Mr. Kiernan said. "We were prepared to go as high as \$175,000 but not higher. All the talks were held in the friendliest of circumstances."

Mr. Kiernan said he still had hopes negotiations could be resumed some time in the future and that an agreement could be reached. But he admitted a private offer meeting the Witty asking price could see the possible park lost forever.

'Only 403 Covered By Plan'

The four-month-old government plan to transfer chronic care patients from private hospital to \$1-per-day BCHIS wards is still lagging.

According to figures released Friday by Opposition Leader Robert Strachan only 403 patients have so far obtained beds under the plan, throughout the province.

Mr. Strachan said:

"The minister of health (Eric Martin) has consistently refused to give the figures as to the actual number of patients receiving coverage at \$1 per day under the chronic care plan . . .

"The minister has said it would be impossible to get the figures and he maintained this position all during his estimates . . .

"During the debate I indicated that I felt the minister's constant evasion . . . was because he wanted the public to believe that the 571 beds he told us about were covered effective Dec. 1 . . .

CONFIRMED FIGURE

"I have now confirmed . . . as of yesterday only 403 patients in the 571 beds were covered at \$1 a day. The balance

of 168 either were paying private fees or were there as welfare patients on a means test basis."

The 571 beds made available for chronics are mostly on the mainland but in Victoria 131 beds at Mount St. Mary Hospital have been earmarked under BCHIS for care of persons who previously were paying several hundred dollars a month for care in private institutions. At Colwood 24 beds were made available at the Priory.

To date, says Mr. Strachan, 86 patients have been moved into the \$1 per day beds at Mount St. Mary, while all 24 beds at the Priory now hold \$1 per day patients.

ELSEWHERE . . .

Elsewhere the situation is as follows:

Mount St. Joseph's, Vancouver, 63 beds, 41 patients; Mount St. Francis, Nelson, 98 beds, 60

patients; Menno, Abbotsford, 75 beds, 55 patients; Valley Haven Chilliwack, 38 beds, 23 patients, and Pearson, Vancouver, 142 beds, 114 patients.

Mr. Strachan added, "the minister of health had the staff, the authority and the duty to obtain these figures . . . any time he chose.

"Instead, he preferred deliberately to mislead the public and the legislature by maintaining the figures could not be obtained."

HEAVY ATTACK

The chronic care plan came under heavy fire in the legislature. The attack was highlighted by John Squire (NDP-Alberni) who said the qualifications for persons wishing to come under the \$1-a-day plan were so restrictive very few patients could look forward to this relief.

Patients must be so ill they require skilled nursing 24 hours per day.

Vote List Proposal Under Consideration

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black Friday told the legislature he will consider instituting an enumeration system to compile a voters' list when the next election is called.

He was responding to opposition demands that the Elections Act be changed as a result of the redistribution system which goes into effect the day an election call is made.

"We have what you might call an elastic band premier," commented Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby). "He likes to call snap elections."

But if the premier calls an early election, the present provision of seven days for persons to apply for registration on the voters' list will be insufficient for the wholesale changes involved in new ridings and an

increase from 52 to 55 seats, he said.

Therefore, the Elections Act should be changed to provide government-paid enumeration as is done for federal elections, Mr. Dowding argued.

"I will certainly take that under advisement if and when an election is called," said Mr. Black, the minister responsible for electoral machinery in the province.

Only One MLA Votes Against Assessment Bill

Only one opposition member took Premier Bennett's urging Friday and voted against legislation that would put a 5 per cent ceiling on assessment increases in any one year.

Tony Gargrave (NDP — Mackenzie) voted against the 47 other Socreds, NDP and Liberals in the house at the time.

He said Powell River, the largest community in his constituency which has a major pulp mill complex on its tax roll, is opposed to the bill.

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault slammed the legislation on the grounds that it would subsidize land speculators at the expense of homeowners.

He also said B.C. assessors are opposed to it "to a man" and were not consulted about its ramifications.

But Mr. Perrault and his colleagues voted in favor on a division called by Premier Bennett after Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said, with a laugh:

APPRECIATE ADVICE . . .

"I appreciate the premier's advice, but the premier will have a great difficulty in persuading me to vote against this bill.

"The Liberals can be opposed to the limitation of assessments if they want to but I'm not going to be, especially after getting up at this session and

complaining as I did about assessment increases of up to 900 per cent not on pulp mills or business but on ordinary homes."

Premier Bennett dared the opposition to vote against the bill.

He said he would not try to convince the opposition it should be passed because "this is government policy and the opposition is elected to oppose, not support the government."

CEILING

He said the 5 per cent assessment increase that would be allowed, beginning next year, would be a ceiling and municipal assessors would have to justify any increase at all.

The limitation only applies under the Assessment Equalization Act which controls school district assessments.

"The municipalities in their wisdom have used this (school district assessment rolls) for their own purpose but it is not required by legislation," he said.

"If these municipalities want to raise their assessments higher they can but that's their responsibility, not ours."

He said the limit would not apply to land values changed by zoning or new construction. The provincial assessment commission also would be empowered to order general re-assessment of areas "to protect the principle of assessment "equalization."

Mr. Bennett said the limit would protect the homeowner's grant from "taxes that go up and up" and would make it easier for all British Columbians to own their own homes by assuring them spiralling market values would not jeopardize their ability to pay taxes.

BACK WAGES PAYMENTS \$347,185

Arrears in payment of wages amounting to more than one-third of a million dollars was made by the Board of Industrial Relations last year.

The bulk of the back wages paid involved the Payment of Wages Act.

Industrial relations officers made 39,489 investigations last year compared with 36,082 in 1964. These covered the Annual Holidays Act, the Male and Female Minimum Wage Acts and the Payment of Wages Act.

Total adjustments amounted to \$347,185 compared with \$340,596 in 1964.

The annual report of the labor department said "it may be presumed" the amount actually paid to employees is much higher because of civil court action by individuals.

Arrears paid under the Payment of Wages Act were \$190,234 involving 1,558 companies and 2,879 employees.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1966

OPPOSITION MLAs:

'No Doubt' Election Coming Soon

By JOHN MIKA
Legislative Reporter

A snap spring election is a certainty, opposition MLAs claimed Monday night after the government introduced a bill to automatically re-register all present voters into the 55 new ridings provided by redistribution.

They mounted an unsuccessful two-hour floor fight in an effort to force the government to promise a complete house-by-house enumeration of eligible voters before the next vote.

The government's refusal brought repeated charges of "a denial of democracy" and, at one heated point, John Squire (NDP-Alberni) and Premier Bennett traded epithets of "Hitler" and "Communist."

CLEAR DECKS

Numerous opposition speakers said the government move obviously is intended to clear the decks for a snap election and one even suggested it meant a rare dissolution of a legislature while in session could be expected this week.

"With this amendment, there is no doubt about it — there is going to be an election in the spring of this year," said Frank Calder (NDP-Atlin).

"I would go further and say this definitely means we are not going to prorogue as we normally have done in the past.

"It looks to me now as if the premier is going to dissolve the House and call an immediate election."

Mr. Calder, who was the first MLA this session to call for full enumeration of voters if there was to be redistribution, said a snap election would be wrong because it would disfranchise thousands of voters who could not register within the seven-day deadline.

"It's absolutely impossible in the northern ridings," he said. "If the government calls a snap election even 14 days is not enough. I couldn't even get into my riding until May."

PUNISH GOVT

He said redistribution demands a complete enumeration and if it is not carried out, the voters would punish the government at the polls.

John Squire (NDP-Alberni) said Premier Bennett could have avoided the whole debate by merely assuring the house there would be enumeration.

"But just look at him," he cried. "There he sits like a Hitler."

"I'm not having any of these Communists call me a Hitler," snapped Mr. Bennett.

William Hartley (NDP-Yale)

demanding the premier withdraw his suggestion that opposition members were Communists but Mr. Bennett said he would but only after Mr. Squire retracted his statement.

Ernie LeCours (SC-Delta) said "people shouldn't be spoon-fed."

"If they haven't the intelligence to go out and register they haven't the intelligence to be on the voters' list."

Mr. Hartley responded that "Hitler said the right to vote is not important and that is what this government is saying in this amendment."

David Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) accused the government of a "devious reason" for refusing enumeration.

He said if there was no snap election in the offing, there would be plenty of time for enumeration.

Mr. Squire said Premier Bennett did not want to be bound by a compulsory enumeration "because then he can't bounce a snap election on the people because the minute he ordered enumeration everybody would know an election was coming."

Attorney-General Robert Bonner was asked to give an assurance that the government would use its cabinet powers to order an enumeration before the next vote.

He did not answer at first but when the question was repeated he rose and replied with one word: "No."

Later, he said the amendment "does not preclude" an enumeration which would involve adding new names to existing voters' lists.

He said it would be "impractical of fulfilment" because the minimum statutory 39-day election campaign would require complete enumeration of the entire population within about four weeks.

CAN BE DONE

Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) said Burrard riding was completely enumerated within the election campaign in 1963, proving it could be done.

He said the present procedure putting the onus on voters to have themselves registered within a limited period was not good enough and house-to-house enumeration by government

teams should be undertaken to find all eligible voters.

Mr. Dowding said the government move went only part way to meet his earlier warning that unless some legal method of transferring voters' names from present ridings to the new ridings was found, no early election could be undertaken legally because many of the redefined ridings would not have any registered voters.

DO JOB PROPERLY

"But I also said that you should have complete enumeration to do the job properly yet you did one and not the other. The government still is looking for political advantage," he stormed.

"You've tampered with redistribution. Okay, that was politics, but don't tamper with the right of free citizens over the age of . . . 19 to vote!"

Mr. Dowding introduced a sub-amendment ordering complete enumeration "to make it clear once and for all where this house stands on the right to vote."

OUT OF ORDER

Chairman William Speare (SC-Cariboo) ruled the sub-amendment out of order on the grounds it involved expenditure of public money. His ruling was challenged but upheld by the Sacred majority in a formal division.

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault said a systematic enumeration is vital because so many young persons have come of voting age and others have moved to new ridings or entered the province since the last election that thousands would be disenfranchised without it.

PUBLICITY DRIVE

Both he and Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) said the very least the government could do would be to launch a massive publicity campaign as soon as the session ended urging people to register and telling them how to get on the voters' lists.

Harry McKay (L-Fernie) added that the government also should print enough registration forms, recalling that in the last election the trade unions printed 10,000 forms and distributed them because the government did not supply the demand.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1966

FOR OIL FIRM IMPROVEMENTS

One Year Deadline Urged

The government should buy gasoline in bulk and re-sell it to independent service station operators if the oil industry doesn't "pull up its socks" within a year, the legislature was told Monday.

Cyril Shelford (SC — Omnica) — the man credited with pushing the government into ordering the Morrow Royal Commission study of gasoline prices — said it was unfortunate no deadline was suggested for implementation of the report.

"I think one year," he said.

"The government should step in in one year's time and not fool around any longer."

Mr. Shelford said Red Star Petroleum — a subsidiary of B.C. Electric Company which now is operated by B.C. Hydro to buy bulk gasoline and oil supplies — could be used "to break the oil companies' hold on this province."

"Red Star could be used in many ways," he said.

"It could buy gas from any company by bidding cheaply. The department stores can get gas for 14 cents a gallon. I'm convinced we could do better than this."

CHEAP BIDS

"Then Red Star could sell to independent gas stations across the province."

"Believe me, I think the companies would start to talk turkey then and motorists would start to get the break they deserve."

Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce Minister Ralph Loffmark said the government "intends to give this (Morrow report) the closest study."

He said it will be given "very high priority" in his own department.

Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East), son of Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald who produced an exhaustive royal commission report on the oil industry 30 years ago, said Judge Charles Morrow was hampered by his terms of reference.

He claimed Judge Morrow couldn't arrive at the cost of a single gallon of gasoline because his authority did not permit examination of advertising costs, head office expenses and crude oil production costs.

Mr. Macdonald said the government should start a pilot oil company as a crown corporation on a small scale, including wells, a refinery and a wholesale distribution system.

"In that way, and that way only, will you really find out what the profits of this industry are," said Mr. Macdonald.

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault accused Mr. Macdonald of advocating "socialization of industry."

He said judgment of the Morrow report should be reserved for study by all parties but he condemned the first recommendation of the report which called for a five-year "rest" in construction of new service stations.

"I don't think we can possibly

accept, in an expanding province like B.C., the straight-jacket proposed by this first recommendation of the Morrow report," said Mr. Perrault.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said most of the Morrow recommendations could be implemented "within a week" and 12 months is far too long to give the oil companies to decide whether or not they will fulfill the recommendations."

Leo Nimsick (NDP — Cranbrook) said if the government doesn't act within a year should the companies ignore the report, it would confirm the belief it only appointed the royal commission to appease Mr. Shelford.

Both Mr. Shelford and Mr. Macdonald specifically called for equalization of basic wholesale gasoline provinces across the province — saying Judge Morrow did not recommend.

Mr. Macdonald said the principle of equal prices was followed by B.C. Hydro, government liquor stores, department stores and many other concerns "and the time has come to do it for gasoline because it is an important public utility."

Mr. Shelford pointed out that 60 per cent of all energy production involves gasoline or oil, while electricity accounts for only 40 per cent.

"Why do we have 40 per cent of our energy equalized — as it is with B.C. Hydro — and yet we let the other 60 per cent run wild?" he demanded. "It just doesn't make sense."

B.C. TALKING FILM INDUSTRY

Trade Minister Loffmark said Monday he has had a "prolonged meeting" with the chairman of the National Film Board about the production of motion pictures in British Columbia.

Mr. Loffmark was answering a request in the legislature from Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) who called for direct government action in helping to set up such an industry in the province.

Mr. Loffmark said he had also met with a representative of the Bank of America in Los Angeles, which is one of the prime financiers of movies.

In a corridor interview later, Mr. Loffmark said, however, that government investment in motion pictures would be open to the same criticism levelled at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

He said if the provincial government was to consider any type of aid it would be in the form of a loan fund set up for all secondary industry—films included.

Mr. Macdonald said the federal government has started to move to help producers by setting up a \$10,000 fund, but Mr. Loffmark said the money had not yet materialized.

He said he preferred to wait for that money to come forward before British Columbia's position was considered.

FULL-SCALE DEPARTMENT

New Deal Asked For Fisheries

A legislative committee Tuesday night recommended the commercial fisheries branch be elevated to a full-scale department with its own minister.

But first, the committee report said, the provincial government should widen its authority in the field by assuming some of the responsibilities held by Ottawa.

Both recommendations follow the suggestion of about a dozen submissions.

The committee also recommended that an evaluation of the sports fishing be undertaken to establish its relative importance. It recommended that studies on the developing shell fish industry be continued.

"Your committee further

recommends that pollution control should become a prime matter of concern to the provincial fisheries department and that it should develop close contact with the pollution control board as well as with provincial and federal departments to protect provincial fisheries," it said.

Also recommended were negotiations with federal authorities to clarify the responsibilities between the two governments in relation to:

Limiting the number of commercial licences; control of quasi sport-commercial fishing activities; unregulated exploitation of B.C. coast fisheries by non-resident sport fishermen; and the licensing of tidal sport fishing.

The same committee also reported that it had studied present voluntary arrangements for giving the public access to private logging roads during non-working hours and found them satisfactory.

It urged present programs continue and that a further review be undertaken in two years.

Why Only Vancouver? Asks Smith

J. Donald Smith Tuesday opposed a government amendment to a bill which would alter the Vancouver City charter so that non-property owners could run for council.

The proposal to allow tenant-electors to stand for civic office was made by Vancouver city council but it was deleted by the private bills committee of the legislature.

However, a government amendment made by Attorney-General Robert Bonner put the proposal back into the legislation when it was brought before the house.

Mr. Smith argued against the government action on the grounds it was discriminatory.

He said there is no reason why Vancouver city alone should enjoy the relaxation of the candidate qualification requirements.

Mr. Smith said it should be extended to all municipalities or none but the amendment passed despite his objection.

Farm Wages Should Be Competitive

Farm worker should be brought under the protection of the Minimum Wage Act, a legislative committee on agriculture said Tuesday.

The committee reported it could not see an end to the farm labor problems in B.C. until wages are competitive with those in industry.

It said the problem is far too complex for detailed study in the time available but made the following recommendations for consideration at future federal

provincial conferences:

● Farm laborers be allowed to participate in the unemployment insurance scheme on a voluntary basis.

● The provincial agricultural manpower committee should compile an inventory of available farm labor.

● Determine the immediate and long-range farm labor needs on the province.

The report to the legislature also said the committee should sit again at the next session to continue its studies.

Easing Urged On Dental Mechanics

Legislative restrictions on dental mechanics dealing directly with the public should be relaxed, a legislative committee reported Tuesday night.

The committee findings were tabled in the legislature after a series of hearings.

The report said the present working agreement between dentists and dental mechanics is unsatisfactory and it recommended licensing of mechanics to take impressions, make plates and fit them should be considered under certain conditions.

It also recommended legislation to:

Permit mechanics to work directly with the public; license technicians to work only on requisitions from dentists; limiting mechanics to making dentures but not fitting them in cases where plates are to be inserted immediately after teeth are extracted; special educational qualifications for mechanics; and strict inspection of mechanics' working premises.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1966

'TAKE MY WIFE ON A VISIT TO OLD BATTLEFIELDS'

Shelford Gets \$5,000 for Gas Probe Efforts

All members of the legislature except Cyril Shelford (SC — Omineca) applauded vigorously Tuesday when Premier Bennett introduced a new bill.

The legislation would give \$5,000 to Mr. Shelford to reimburse him for personal expenses in appearing before the royal commission on gasoline prices.

Mr. Shelford badgered the government for two years until it created the commission and then he attended most of the 69 hearings across the province over a two-year period in a one-

man crusade against large oil company delegations.

The bill follows compliments on his efforts from all parties. Monday, Alex Matthew (SC — Vancouver Centre) proposed in the legislature that Mr. Shelford be recompensed for his expenses and Gordon Gibson (L — North Vancouver) said the government should make him a minister without portfolio.

Mr. Shelford said he was surprised by the move but he quickly figured out a use for the money.

He will take his wife on a tour

of Europe to visit battle-grounds over which fought as a Bofors gunner in the Canadian Army during the Second World War.

"My wife deserves it more than I do for looking after the farm and family" while he attended the commission hearings, he said.

All told, he estimated, he spent about \$6,000 in making appearances and preparing submissions.

SAME LOGS AROUND

Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver) Tuesday told the legislature he still recognizes driftwood in these waters that he knew as a youth 40 years ago.

The one-time logger and fish packer who became a millionaire said the provincial government should encourage a clean-up of the strait with a subsidy if necessary.

He said a barge could be fitted out to scoop up driftwood and grind it into chips for pulping or burning "so the little boats can travel with some sort of safety."

"I've been around this coast 30 to 40 years now and some logs I knew as a boy are still around. These logs, particularly the ones with iron bolts in them which nobody salvages, float forever."

\$140,000 FOR SEED COLLECTION

'Starving' Charge Denied

Forests Minister Ray Williston Tuesday told the legislature he can draw up to \$140,000 from a special fund if there is a good seed crop in the forests this year.

Replying to criticism in the legislature that the government was "starving" the reforestation budget, Mr. Williston said no seedlings could be grown in government nurseries for transplanting unless there was a seed drop to be collected in the woods.

"We have just gone through a period of eight years without a seed drop," he said, but if there is one this year money will be spent to collect it.

BACKLOG

David Stupich (NDP — Nanaimo and The Islands) criticized the department for only replanting 6,000 acres of logged land each year when there is a backlog of 26 million acres needing reforestation.

He said the private companies are doing a better job than the government.

But Mr. Williston said the government gave tree farm licence operators first call on its seedling stocks because they had obligations to fill. Last year, it supplied 17.8 million trees to the companies and planted 6.4 million itself.

PAID BY PEOPLE

Gordon Gibson (L — North

Vancouver) said that private companies should not be given the credit for their transplanting programs "because every tree they plant on crown land is generously paid for by the people of B.C."

Mr. Gibson maintained that government stumpage rates — royalties charged on a per-tree basis — are deliberately set low to ensure the companies can pay for transplanting, building logging roads and meeting other expenses "and still make a good profit."

This meant that the public and not the companies is actually paying for the roads and transplanting and the credit should not be given to the companies.

Spending Authority Ends Tonight

The provincial government runs out of its current spending authority at midnight tonight.

The deadline faces the legislature with two possibilities—complete the estimates or pass an interim supply motion.

The B.C. government has not had to ask for interim supply since the 1953 fiscal year was broken up by a run-off election.

Interim supply would authorize the government to meet its bills, including civil service salaries, falling due from April 1, the start of the new fiscal year, if the 1966-67 budget estimates are not fully approved in time.

The MLAs ran through two departmental estimates—Mines and Municipal Affairs totalling more than \$7.2 million—in about five hours Wednesday.

But they bogged down on Provincial Secretary Wesley Black's estimates and, after 2½ hours, it was withdrawn shortly after midnight this morning by house leader Attorney-General Robert Bonner.

"I would invite the house to finish the estimates before midnight (tonight), if that were possible, to avoid any unnecessary legislation," said Mr. Bonner.

"You want the whole thing wound up tomorrow night, is that what you are saying?" asked Opposition Leader Robert Strachan.

Mr. Bonner did not answer, but several opposition members were heard asking "what about private members' day?"

They were referring to 21 bills and 32 resolutions put on the order paper by opposition members. All have to be disposed of before prorogation.

Besides finishing the provincial secretary's estimates, the legislature still had the usually controversial social welfare budget and public works estimates facing it at the start of today's sitting.

Hearing Set For October

Attorney-General Robert Bonner Wednesday said the Supreme Court of Canada reference on off-shore mineral rights will be heard in October.

He said a tentative date has been set for that month.

Mr. Bonner was replying in the legislature to questions by Liberal Leader Ray Perrault regarding the constitutional reference ordered to decide the jurisdictional dispute between B.C. and the federal government.

MLA URGES:

Protect Public On Mining Stock

Two opposition MLAs locked horns Wednesday over whether the government should protect investors from speculating in penny mining stocks.

Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby) said the mines department should take steps to insure that drill core assays and stock promoters' claims coincided.

"The public seems to be going mad about buying shares in moose pastures," he said.

Gordon Gibson (L — North Vancouver) countered that no one knows when a moose pasture will produce a mine.

"Anybody who buys a mining

share at less than \$1 is buying a sweepstake ticket," he said.

But Mr. Gibson said the government should not try to interfere with the hazards of stock speculation because it would only stultify mining exploration and development.

Mines Minister Donald Brothers steered a middle course between the two positions.

He said his department has no intention of becoming a policing agency but mines department engineers who see suspicious circumstances in the field do report to the superintendent of brokers in the attorney general's department.

Grievances On Ferries May Be Heard

The provincial cabinet will consider appointing a board to hear grievances of B.C. Ferry Authority employees, the legislature was told Wednesday night.

But Provincial Secretary Wesley Black would not say when he will take the matter to the cabinet.

"Can the minister assure me a board of reference will be appointed immediately?" asked Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East).

Mr. Black would only reply that he realized "problems are taking place in the ferry service of a serious nature and I don't want to minimize this at all."

"I had hoped some of the dissatisfaction which exists there can be ironed out" by William T. McLaughlin who assumes the post of personnel officer for the authority Friday.

LONG HOURS

Ferry workers have petitioned for a board of reference to hear their complaints against a new shift system involving long hours during the summer season.

Mr. Macdonald said it appeared the cabinet was trying to ignore the request.

"You are courting trouble when you deny the limited appeal these people have," he warned.

"If labor relations deteriorate further, the sole responsibility will be on the government's shoulders."

VOTER REGISTRATION

Cabinet May Study Proposal

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black Wednesday said he was certain the cabinet will consider the desirability of a full-scale enumeration of provincial voters.

He was replying to criticisms by Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby) and David Barrett (NDP — Dewdney).

Mr. Dowding said the present system requiring provincial voters to register themselves creates a considerable amount of confusion and frustration, resulting in thousands being disfranchised.

Mr. Barrett said a recent survey of Vancouver showed that a large number of Greater Vancouver residents change their residence each year.

"That would seem to indicate that hundreds of thousands of people will not have the vote simply because they have moved since these registration cards will not be forwarded to their new addresses," he said.

Both said enumeration — as is done for federal elections — must be undertaken before the next provincial election.

"As far as I'm concerned, the cabinet will certainly consider enumeration," Mr. Black replied.

The Parking Lot

THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE considering the establishment of a mining townsite within Strathcona Park—the mine itself is already conceded — has come up with some nice recommendations for the future. It would like to see Forbidden Plateau added to the parklands of the province. It wants the company to be careful about polluting Butte Lake with its mine operation. It wants the pollution control board to keep an eye on things. And it hopes that what it has decided will not, of course, be considered as a precedent for similar decisions in the future.

And what did it decide? It decided to recommend that the mining company be allowed to build its town within Strathcona Park.

This decision is a shabby betrayal of the whole parks concept. To pretend that it will not be held up as a precedent by the next applicant for industrial exploitation within a park is poppycock.

To worry about safeguards against pollution and to insist that

the townsite must be removed some day when the mine is abandoned—these are just decorative gestures to try to obscure the fact that one of the finest natural wonderlands in the province has been thrown open to industrial development. It's like insisting that only a doctor of the highest qualifications shall be called to attend a rape case. It does nothing to stop the crime.

It is now up to the legislature to deal with the committee's report.

The government can claim, of course, that it is only a Class B park that is being commercialized. It can claim this because it had already reduced the area from Class A to B for this purpose. Under existing legislation, any park boundary can be re-drawn for any reason, any park can be eliminated almost overnight, any park or a part of it can be re-classified to remove its protective category.

All this adds up to what the provincial government calls a parks policy. But our parks are not sanctuaries. They're sitting ducks.

One NDP-er Against 5% Ceiling

The bill limiting school assessment increases to 5 per cent a year as a result of rising market values passed third reading in the legislature with only one dissenting vote Tuesday night.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) opposed the measure because the government did not agree to adjourn it so that Vancouver city council could have time to make a formal protest.

Mr. Macdonald said the council felt the limitation would increase homeowners' taxation because it would shift some of the burden from promoters, speculators and industrial property owners.

'Dangers of Marijuana Should Be Told Students'

The provincial government should spur more education among university and high school students of the dangers involved in taking marijuana for kicks, the legislature was told Wednesday.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) said that at the same time the attitude towards marijuana by society should be changed so it was not classed as a drug as dangerous as cocaine or heroin.

Mr. Dowding said the government should ask the Narcotics Foundation to pursue both matters.

He said more youths continually are taking marijuana and facing stiff penalties for what amounts to a fling.

Mr. Dowding said he heard of one case where a university

student faced a mandatory seven-year jail sentence because he received some marijuana in the mail from Mexico.

"I always hate to see students get into trouble because their whole careers are blasted by some folly in their youth," he said.

"The provincial secretary and attorney-general should give some thought to the use of the Narcotic Foundation for educating university and high school students of the dangers of getting involved with this thing."

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black said he agreed.

But he said the law should be more severe on drug pushers.

"I'm for capital punishment for these people. They are the lowest form of animal life that crawls upon the face of the earth."

Park Mining Revenue Urged for Recreation

Social Credit whip Bert Price Wednesday said any government revenue from mining in provincial parks should be turned over to the recreation and conservation department.

Mines Minister Donald Brothers made no comment on the proposal.

"It appears there will be some mining in the parks and I hope it will be as little as possible," Mr. Price said in the legislature.

"Any revenue from mining operations within a park area should become available to the

department of recreation and conservation. It seems to me that that department has little enough revenue."

Mr. Price was secretary of the special legislative committee which recommended that Western Mines Ltd. be given permission to build a townsite inside Strathcona Park.

ADD MORE TO MEDIC

Provincial Secretary said the B.C. Medical Plan more services as time goes on.

"This plan is progressive but we have never tried its zenith," he told the legislature.

"We know perfectly well that have to be considered

'66 Dec Termed

By BOB DONAHUE

Herb Bruch (SC—Esquimalt) Thursday urged the government to "take a second look" at centennial decorations on Legislative Buildings.

"Every time I come down causeway and see them I'm surprised," he told the house. "These buildings have a certain stature and anything that adds to them only detracts from it."

Other Social Credit backbenchers applauded his remarks as opposition members were quick to agree.

"This hideous adornment doesn't help a bit," said Rodolph Harding (NDP—Kaslokan). "If the minister responsible we should make it go out and pry them off with a bar—on his own time."

Pat McGeer (L—Vancouver Point Grey) said a more fitting thing would be to restore buildings to their former grandeur.

CLEAN THEM UP

"The minister should do proper thing," he said. "And proper way would be to clean them up. I think we should do this before putting lipstick on them."

He was referring to plywood and sail cloth red blue bunting which is to be placed not only on the legislature, but on all provincial public buildings in the province.

M A R

1 9 6 6

Tuesday, March 1, 1966

Rent-purchase plan

Home buyer help studied for B.C.

Grant 'cheap'

A \$4 increase in the provincial per capita grant to municipalities, approved in the legislature Monday, was described as cheap and picayune by Dr. Pat McGeer (Lib., Point Grey).

The Liberals and NDP voted for second reading of the bill, saying they did so on the principle that every little bit helps. Second reading gives approval in principle.

Said McGeer: "I support this bill. If a person is gasping for air, you don't deny him breath."

He said it is depressing year after year to rise and vote for "picayune measures such as this measure when we really should be thinking about what our cities will be like 10 years from now."

He charged that a \$4 increase is a pathetic way to approach the future and the challenge it will create.

NEW APPROACH

"Our cities are strangling. We have the heaviest municipal debt. The solution is a completely new approach to financing between the provincial government and the municipalities. A committee would do. Almost any start would do but certainly this is not satisfactory."

He claimed cities which have the highest cost per capita get the lower awards. Vancouver has the worst traffic jams yet it receives the lowest grants for streets and roads.

"We don't ask for special privileges, only equality," he said. "We want a complete overhaul of the whole relationship. When the cities ask for help, you throw them a bone—and a small bone at that."

Liberal Leader Perrault said the provincial government can move at the end of the present calendar year to negotiate a new arrangement with the federal government to allow homeowners to deduct property taxes from income tax.

NOT POSSIBLE

He read a letter from federal Finance Minister Sharp saying that such deductions are not

possible under the present arrangements between Ottawa and the provinces. But Sharp said this agreement runs out at the end of the present calendar year.

Said Perrault: "If this (provincial) government means what it says, let it move to negotiate arrangements that will let people take property tax from income taxes."

Perrault said the B.C. government should be the first to welcome a study of its treatment of the municipalities if it claims it treats them better than any other government.

Charles MacSorley (Socred Burnaby) got into a hassle with opposition members after he charged that royal commissions on taxation have proved a farce in other provinces.

There were cries of shame from the Opposition benches when MacSorley said: "Of 16 mayors and reeves who ran in the last election, only two got elected and this shows how much regard the people of B.C. have for mayors and reeves."

Opposition Leader Strachan said MacSorley should reconsider his remarks. "He is casting a slur on mayors and reeves of this province."

MacSorley: "Only the ones who got defeated."

In defending the increase, Premier Bennett said the aid to municipalities formula is changing all the time. (Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell had told the House the formula has been changed 27 times since the Socreds took power in 1952.)

Said Bennett: "We live in a changing world. The only things that don't change are the Liberals and the NDP."

"You must have dynamic policies for a dynamic society. I have said many times that this isn't the last increase the municipalities will receive from this government. From this government the municipalities and the people can always expect more each and every year. This is not a commitment for any particular grant."

The only member to vote against the bill was Dudley Little (Socred, Skeena). Outside the House, he said he voted against it on principle because he felt some consideration should be given to cities in the 8,000 to 12,000 population bracket.

Under the present formula,

cities between 3,500 and 8,000 get a \$20 per capita grant. He felt this should be extended to 3,500 to 12,500 because these cities have special growth problems.

Lake deposits lesser of two pollution evils

Pollution experts agreed Monday that pumping of fine tailings from Western Mines to the bottom of Buttle Lake in Strathcona Park would be the lesser of two evils.

Arthur Paget, deputy minister of water resources, told the legislative committee studying the question that the mine's daily output of 300 tons of fine tailings was an insignificant amount to dispose of in the manner proposed.

"If it became 3,000 or 30,000 tons daily then we would have to take another look," said Paget.

He suggested the mining company lose no time in applying for a water rights licence which would grant the necessary authority to pump finely-ground rock from the mill operation into the lake.

Provincial fisheries biologist I. L. Withler told the committee the alternative of dumping fine tailings onto land seemed more dangerous.

High rainfall, with the possibility of erosion, greatly increases the pollution danger, Withler said.

"If the fine tailings are pumped into the lake at depth and stay below 100 feet, the effect upon fish and other flora and fauna in the lake would be very small," he said.

Earlier, mine manager Charles Campbell said the company had sounded Buttle Lake and found a large section near the mine where the depth reached 180 feet. He said the fine tailings contain no toxic substances and could be pumped into this deep section for "100 years and still not come within 100 feet of the surface."

Howard Paish, secretary-manager of the B.C. Wildlife Federation, said he accepted Paget's assurance that the government had sufficient powers to control any pollution threat from the mine.

Former civil servants to get pension boost

The government plans to increase pensions for former B.C. civil servants who don't qualify for benefits under the Canada Pension Plan.

Provincial Secretary Black Monday introduced three bills in the legislature to integrate pensions contributions by civil servants, teachers and municipal employees. A fourth bill authorizes the government to enter into an agreement on pensions with the federal government.

Integration means contributions to the joint pensions schemes will remain at the same levels as before the national plan came in last Jan. 1.

Former civil servants who retired before March 31, 1955, will get an additional \$1 per month for each year of government service. The rates for widows in this category is 70 cents.

Those who retired from the government service between April 1, 1956, and March 31, 1957, get 90 cents a month for each year of service (widows 63 cents); April 1, 1957, to March 31, 1958, 70 cents (49 cents); April 1, 1958 to March 31, 1959, 60 cents (42 cents); April 1, 1959, to March 31, 1960, 50 cents (35 cents). Supplementary allowances amounting to 50 cents for each year of service (35 cents for widows) will be paid to civil servants who retired between April 1, 1960, and March 31, 1966.

Outlined in House

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government is studying the possibility of a rent-purchase plan to help more people buy their own homes.

In the legislature Monday, Premier Bennett claimed his homeowner grant system is being studied the world over and is already being emulated in other parts of Canada.

"But," he said, "there is a group of people who find it difficult to get the down payment to buy a home. We are looking to see if we can find a formula where we can enter into a rent-purchase plan and thereby help these people to secure a homeowner grant."

ANSWERS CRITICS

The premier was answering criticism that the homeowner grant discriminates against tenants in apartments or homes. The opposition voted for the bill to increase the grant from the present \$100 to \$110, but said the government should consider extending the benefit to tenants.

The premier said he has had staff working for some time on the problem of helping people who cannot get together enough money for a down payment on a home.

Said the premier: "I am not making any promises at this time. I am only reporting that this is being studied. A person struggling to raise a family has not got the money to get a down payment to get a home and it is to this group that the premier and minister of finance (the premier himself) has been giving thought."

"We are out to help the people who help themselves."

UNANIMOUS VOTE

The House voted unanimously to give second reading—agreement in principle—to the homeowner's grant bill after opposition members said the increase does no more than attempt to keep pace with taxation increases.

Opposition Leader Strachan said the grant is not adequate to compensate for the increasing difficulties of people in rural areas who are facing increasing tax assessments.

He said some rural areas have had assessment increases of 900 per cent and people are being forced to liquidate timber sections on their land. He said there is little inducement for people to try to preserve the rural atmosphere of their areas.

He said: "I suggest to the premier there must be a re-examination of the assessment policy because we are going to destroy the countryside."

Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) made a plea for government assistance for tenants who now receive no benefit from the homeowner grant.

The majority of apartment dwellers get no relief under the grant legislation and an apartment surely is as much a home as something sitting on a plot of ground, said Macdonald.

"Tenants are every bit as good as homeowners as people owning their own homes," he said. "The bill should be amended to allow tenants who have a yearly lease to receive benefit of the homeowner grant. They are keeping a home and bringing up families just like homeowners."

Liberal Leader Perrault said if, as the government has said, the homeowner grant is a dividend from natural resources, then it is a gross discrimination to deny a share to those who rent.

He said the Liberals supported the grant increase because "any tax relief, imperfect as it is, must be accepted."

Alan Macfarlane (Lib., Oak Bay) said people take the homeowner grant because it is the only way they can get some relief from very heavy taxation at the local level.

But the \$10 increase this year is not going to give as much help as municipal needs require, he claimed.

"The government is against helping tenants," said Macfarlane. "It is the policy of this government that they are not

prepared to help the little man. There is no reason why people who live in residential units, whether owner or rented, should not be entitled to a share of the funds coming from natural resources."

Ran. Harding (NDP, Kaslo-Slocan) called on Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell to convene a meeting with municipalities to see where provincial relief can best be provided.

"It is amusing to me to hear the Socreds in this House hammering Ottawa for not giving B.C. a fair deal," said Harding. "You are not giving the municipalities a fair deal."

Replying to the debate, Premier Bennett said the homeowner grant has had discussion all over the world following its introduction in B.C.

He said it is not assessments that send taxes up, but increases in costs and higher wages.

He said: "We looked very thoroughly for a way to help pensioners and people on low fixed incomes. We came up with the homeowner grant and it has helped them. This year it is \$110 and this grant will go up to \$150 and \$200 and if we are here long enough it will go up to \$300."

Worker rights denied, claim bill's opponents

The Professional Engineers' Association of B.C. was accused Monday of proposing a new bill to deny engineering technologists and technicians the right to join a union of their choice.

John McNevin, assistant secretary of the B.C. Federation of Labor, told the private bills committee of the legislature he objected to a proposal that would give the engineers' association the right to approve what was called an ancillary body to provide collective bargaining for professional employees.

The association has proposed that employees not have the right to strike, that disputes be settled by compulsory arbitration.

McNevin said that under the Labor Relations Act employees have the right to decide which association will represent them and whether they want to have the right to strike.

"I don't think you can have any true collective bargaining if you are going to limit the employees' freedom of association," he said.

"This act is not designed to protect the engineering profession. It is an attempt to get around the Labor Relations Act when these people are showing signs of wanting to get into a

Tuesday, March 1, 1966

Does end justify means?

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — There is no experience, more frustrating, according to Attorney-General Bonner, than attempting to pinpoint the major cause of traffic accidents.

So the government has chosen, perhaps because there is an election in the offing, to try to satisfy both sides in the perennial wrangle over alcohol versus mechanical defects.

Bonner told the House earlier that in some parts of B.C. the percentage of accidents caused by mechanical defects could run as high as 10 per cent.

In Vancouver, which has compulsory testing, the figure is between one and two per cent, he said.

Compulsory motor vehicle testing introduced throughout B.C. can be expected to reduce this factor in the rising highway toll.

But, though Bonner carefully avoided assessing this factor in his speech, another section of the same bill, permitting police to lift licences of motorists who have been drinking, is almost certain to have greater impact.

The 24-hour licence suspensions, according to Bonner, are designed to remove the doubtful driver from the road.

Opposition critics have pri-

vately voiced concern over the powers granted to police. They point out a driver who has taken a single drink can have his licence suspended on strength of the smell on his breath. It is up to the motorist to prove that his ability to drive isn't impaired.

Highways Minister Gagliardi makes it clear that he thinks the drinking driving section doesn't go far enough. He would like to see compulsory blood alcohol tests. However, this would require federal legislation because it is covered by the Criminal Code of Canada.

Bonner was careful to stress the new licence suspension law would not create a new offence.

Clearly the government, like everyone else concerned, is alarmed at the soaring toll on the highways.

It's difficult to make comparisons of accident statistics from one year to the next because the growing congestion on our highways increases both exposure and risk. But no amount of juggling of figures makes the 1965 death toll of 500 less horrifying.

Tougher enforcement and stricter licence suspensions don't appear to be getting results, according to Bonner. So the government is trying something new. The question remains: does the end justify the means?

union."

William Lowe, vice-president of the Office and Professional Employees International Union, opposed the proposal on the ground that the professional employees' organization defined in the act could be dominated or influenced by employers or employers representatives.

He said a section of the act gives the council of the engineers' association authority to limit or extend membership in the association, and it could determine what groups could be classed as professional employees.

Lowe said the engineers' proposal is like the B.C. Medical Association asking for the right to supervise collective bargaining for the Registered Nurses' Association as well as to licence doctors.

The Vancouver Board of Trade objected to the collective bargaining proposal because the definition of a professional member of the engineers' association is not adequately spelled out. This could lead to jurisdictional disputes.

It said the proposed act should not be implemented at this session until ambiguities are cleared up.

Socred defeat on medicare predicted

An opposition member charged in the legislature Monday that increased subsidies under the B.C. Medical Plan would delay national medicare in Canada.

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) also said that unless the premiums were removed, Social Credit would be defeated at the polls in the next election.

He made the charge during debate on the principle of the bill, which would increase subsidies from 50 to 90 per cent of premiums for subscribers with no taxable income and from the present 25 per cent to 50 per cent for those with less than \$1,000 taxable income.

Provincial Secretary Black told the House latest available figures show that just over 67 per cent of the 95,944 subscribers receive the government subsidies.

More than 51,700—53.5 per cent of subscribers—get the 50 per cent subsidy which is to be increased to 90 per cent, Black said. Another 12,646—13.18 per cent—get the 25 per cent grant which is to be doubled.

Black said 29.34 per cent of the 198,434, including dependents, who are covered by the plan are over 65.

Macdonald reminded the government that former premier Byron Johnson was defeated in 1952 over the issue of hospital insurance premiums.

He said: "Unless the premium system goes, it will destroy this government as well. You will never be elected again."

The NDP favors free medical treatment for all, Macdonald said.

"A national medicare scheme should be the greatest centennial gift to the people of Canada. But this picayune legislation, while it improves the B.C. plan in some little particulars, is only delaying and frustrating

the national medicare scheme."

Passage of this act will probably mean the national medicare plan can't become operational by the July 1, 1967, deadline, said Macdonald.

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) said answers to questions filed in the legislature show only about 42,500 of the more than 60,000 social welfare recipients last November qualified for free medical services.

These are the people who need coverage most, said Barrett, yet the government is denying them.

"They will be able to get coverage (under the B.C. Medical Plan) for \$1 a month," retorted Premier Bennett.

Barrett replied that welfare recipients can't afford even that small sum because allowances paid to them are 25 per cent below the accepted minimum living standard.

The vote on second reading of the bill was approved unanimously.

Tuesday, March 1, 1966

Morale low, House told

'Galley slaves' on ferries, says NDP

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The provincial government was accused Monday of treating its ferry employees like galley slaves.

During debate on second reading of a bill to give the government authority to pay the outstanding \$37 million debt of the B.C. Ferry Authority, opposition members claimed the government has allowed its relations with ferry workers to fall to low ebb. They claimed morale is low among workers.

Said Gordon Dowding (NDP, Burnaby): "This government has very little concern for human beings. When you examine the work schedules of the ferry service employees, you find them working 12 days with three off.

"You find this government completely ignoring the standards set by the Canada Labor Code of 1964-65 in hours of work. You may think you are living in the days of Rome when you look at the way they treat these galley slaves," he told the legislature.

Crews recently protested sailing schedules for 1966, complaining that they cut down the number of weekends employees can spend at home. The Civil Service Commission ruled against any change in the schedules because it is too late in the year and there is no guarantee that a new schedule would be an improvement.

Opposition Leader Strachan accused the government of denying ferry workers the protection of bargaining rights.

He said: "You deliberately destroyed the B.C. Government Employees' Association as an effective

negotiating force on behalf of the employees of this government. Ferry employees, along with other government employees, no longer have even a semblance of bargaining force or procedures so that they can hold their heads up high without fear that something may happen."

These attacks stung Premier Bennett into one of his typical thundering defences of government policy.

"We have the finest staff in any ferry fleet in the whole world," he shouted. "We have more applications to enter our fleet because no place else in the world are the conditions so good. We have applications from every other ferry fleet.

"And the reason is that in our ferries every single person sleeps on his own bed every night—or at least I hope so."

The premier said if they were not in their own beds they would be staying in hotels going about their business.

This raised roars of laughter and it was several seconds before the premier could continue.

He rejected opposition charges that he had misled the people by claiming Crown agencies were debt free.

From the time the government ferry was started the government has been paying a subsidy of 2½ per cent of the capital of the ferry authority.

"All over the province, the Opposition leader and the Liberal leader have been trying to mislead the province on this matter," he said.

He said the cash amount of \$37 million will cancel that subsidy and is aimed at preserving the present low rates on the ferries. The bill was given second reading (agreement in principle) by unanimous vote.

Election speech

CAT LET OUT?

Did Premier Bennett let the cat out of the bag Monday when he admitted in the legislature to making an election speech?

He was giving a spirited defence of the \$4 increase in the provincial per capita grant to municipalities when Liberal Leader Perrault interjected: "Is this a campaign speech?"

"Yes," retorted the premier sharply, with a broad smile on his face.

Questioned later by reporters on the possible date for an election, he merely smiled again and declined to comment.

Socreds in revolt on seats

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A debate on the government's redistribution bill was surprisingly adjourned Tuesday night after indications of the biggest revolt ever staged by Socred backbenchers on a government bill.

No explanation was given when Highways Minister Gaglardi adjourned the five-hour debate at 10:30 p.m. But earlier James Chabot (SC-Columbia) said he would vote against the bill unless changes were made in the Kootenays. At least three other government backbenchers were expected to oppose the bill in its present form.

At no other time since Premier Bennett came to power have more than two socreds voted against a government bill.

Opposition Leader Strachan charged the government with "discrimination of the rankest kind" against voters in the interior.

"This government has demonstrated it is just as bad or worse than any previous government in deliberately using the power of government to perpetuate itself in office," he said.

"I hope the people of the interior will rise in wrath and destroy this government."

Liberal Leader Perrault urged the government to turn the redistribution bill over to the Angus Royal Commission for immediate study and further recommendations.

"I'm happy the north has been given seven seats," Perrault said. "But let us maintain the principle of electoral balance by adding seats to other areas of B.C."

Will lose seat

Since the commission has done all the basic work its new recommendations could be delivered within 10 days, he said.

Ran Harding (NDP-Kaslo Slocan) said he is one of the members who will lose their riding but he added he didn't object so long as all the impartial recommendations of the Angus Commission were accepted.

"But when you increase the number of ridings in the north and take away seats from the Kootenays, I protest this is discrimination," Harding charged.

"There should be no difference in the way various regions are treated, and we are going to tell the people what you have done."

Attorney-General Bonner said the suggestion the government is discriminating against the Kootenays is ridiculous. He added: "I'm accepting the commission's recommendations on this score against my own better judgment."

"But I could not in all conscience support the type of recommendation — and I don't care who makes it — that proposes a riding of 28,000 square miles, 10 times the area of The Netherlands."

Bonner said it was the responsibility of the cabinet, "whether it has the support of government members or not" to bring before the House what it judges to be the best redistribution program.

"With seven members in the northern region the average number of voters will be 17,000 per riding, rising to 34,000 average by 1975."

Bonner said unless these additional seats are retained in the north "you will be redressing an imbalance in the south while maintaining an imbalance in the north."

Unlike the opposition, said Education Minister Peterson, the government isn't prepared to hide behind the recommendations of a royal commission.

'It's democracy'

"It is the essence of democracy when we as members of the legislature accept our responsibility to do what is fair and right and equitable to the people," Peterson said.

He said the Angus Commission was limited by the terms of reference but the government has no such limitations. (The terms were set by the Social Credit government last year.)

"We can't use cold and bloodless mathematics to divide the country," the minister said.

"The government is not discriminating against any area. It is taking no unfair political advantage."

"The government has made a sincere attempt to bring about a more equitable distribution of seats than B.C. has ever had before."

Frank Calder (NDP-Atlin) was applauded by members on both sides of the House when he said "I'm going to show some strength and support this bill."

No matter what commission was given the job of redrawing electoral boundaries, Calder said, the tremendous size of the northern section of the province must be taken into consideration.

Tony Gargrave (NDP-MacKenzie) said the principle established in the Angus Commission report is that each voter has a vote which should carry the same amount of political power.

"You should not gerrymander or Bennettmander the recommendations of this commission," he said.

Arthur Turner (NDP-Vancouver East) said it isn't possible to have fair redistribution "with a commission directly under the influence of the government."

"When the election comes — and I believe one isn't needed this year — these pigeons will come home to roost to the detriment and elimination of this government," Turner said.

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) said the redistribution bill should be amended to require a complete enumeration of all votes on the provincial lists starting immediately.

PREDICTION

He predicted the government will pull apart the old voters lists poll by poll and reassemble them to fit the new ridings. "We know very well that this way thousands and thousands will be denied the right to vote, but that is Social Credit," he said.

Resources Minister Williston said the government had made the only logical move by deciding to leave the northern boundaries untouched in their present form.

"If you move one boundary line you've got to consider moving them all," he said. "Start juggling with these lines and you're in serious trouble."

CRITICIZES PREMIER

Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) said Premier Bennett will go down in history as the man who was prepared to intercede with recommendations of a purely impartial commission when his own party was affected.

The NDP was prepared to take its losses under the Angus report, but not the government, Dowding said.

Mrs. Lois Hagen (NDP-Grand Forks-Greenwood) said she felt the commission did a very good job within its terms of reference. She would have preferred to see her riding maintained in its present form, but did not quarrel with the commission's decision that it should be made part of a larger riding.

Harry McKay (Lib.—Ferne) accused the government of leaving alone ridings where it felt it was not hurt.

He said: "It's easy to talk about the growth in the north. But what about the southeastern part of the province. You forget about it because it doesn't suit your political purpose."

"It is an insult to the member for Atlin (Frank Calder—NDP) to say you are going to preserve his riding."

"I agree royal commissions are no more than recommendations except when they are set up to keep gerrymandering fingers out."

McKay and Recreation Minister Kiernan became involved in some personal crossfire when McKay accused the government of using Calder and his race (he is a native Indian) as a political gimmick.

Retorted Kiernan: "I have said nothing in relation to the race or any other characteristics of the member. As far as I am concerned he is a member of the legislative assembly just the same as I, and on that basis we are on an equal footing and

on every other basis we are on an equal footing."

Alan Macfarlane (Lib., Oak Bay) accused the government of insulting the intelligence of Dr. Angus by setting the commission restrictive terms of reference and then ignoring those terms itself in the bill. It was just as important when the terms were made in August, 1965, as it is now to have seven ridings in the north.

"But you did not tell the commission there were to be seven ridings in the north," Macfarlane told the government.

He charged that two member ridings were in the government's mind from the beginning because it felt a strong cabinet minister could drag in a weak sister by his coat tails. That is why it is politically suitable for the government to have two-member ridings.

Wednesday, March 2, 1966

Victoria comment



By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Province-wide standards and regulations are often suggested as the solution to B.C.'s air pollution problems.

It's surprising therefore to hear Trade Minister Loffmark, who seems to have assumed the role of spokesman for a special cabinet committee set up to study the problem, champion the regional approach.

Why not establish levels of air pollution that are equal across the province?

These would have to be average in order to be fair, argues Loffmark, and would not take into account varying geographic conditions.

Air pollution standards which might be adequate in Kamloops, according to Loffmark, might not be high enough for Port Alberni.

He explains Kamloops has generally high winds and a very high cloud ceiling so that pulp mill odors or flyash are dispelled efficiently by the natural movement of air.

Pollution is a far more serious prob-

lem in a place like the Albernis where dirty air is trapped by a low cloud ceiling and hemmed in by mountains. Winds in the area, particularly early in the day, are extremely light, says Loffmark.

The minister claims the government feels the people of the area affected should have a major say in what controls are imposed through local authorities.

That is why the government to date has not undertaken to bring in province-wide air pollution control legislation, according to Loffmark.

What the government is saying, if this is to be taken at face value, is that by imposing standards of air pollution industries are being put to an expense which runs into hundred of thousands.

In these circumstances the argument goes, the people directly affected should have a say in how far they're willing to go in risking their pay cheques.

Loffmark stresses he's not suggesting MacMillan Bloedel and Powell River Co. would close down their Alberni operations.

But he does claim the probability that air pollution controls will continue to be a costly factor in future Alberni opera-

tions and may have contributed to the company's decision to expand their Powell River operation.

The opposition parties in the legislature, predictably enough, greeted the announcement of formation of a cabinet committee with cries that the government was sweeping what could be an embarrassing election issue under the rug.

Loffmark vigorously defends the cabinet action and says the committee (other members Resources Minister Williston, Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell) will quickly appoint technical advisors and probably hold public hearings during the current session.

The government is trying to fix the blame for its failure with a somewhat half-hearted attempt to bring air pollution problems before a legislative standing committee on what it terms opposition "obstructionist" tactics.

It seems to have been a purely political manoeuvre, however. The government probably feels the fracas in the House will give the opposition a claim to having forced its hand if deliberations result in effective controls or be able to claim "bulldozer tactics" if results are unsatisfactory.

Pollution control: One policy for B.C. . . .

The question of air pollution control in B.C. remains as murky as ever after its latest airing in the legislature.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell proposed a complex plan to put the control problem in the hands of new "regional districts." The plan included study by a House committee of classification of harmful pollution, establishment of bylaws and an outline of provincial pollution control.

The proposal was sidelined by a technicality, but since then a government MLA — Bert Price, Vancouver Burrard — has asked for provincial pollution controls. And

Mr. Campbell's plan is expected to again come up for discussion later in the session.

Perhaps Mr. Campbell's idea could lead to the kind of broad coverage necessary to take out the ambiguities and put the teeth in anti-pollution legislation. If so — and if the second debate reveals it — the minister should have support from both sides of the House.

Anthony Gargrave (NDP, MacKenzie) said in the House recently that the only way to control pollution is on a province-wide basis. Anything else will lead to regional conflicts and might leave some areas without effective controls.

The Union of B.C. Municipalities for several years has sought provincial pollution control, urging the provincial government to take the lead and the responsibility. Greater Vancouver, often subjected to air pollution from outside areas, has repeatedly urged the government to act. So has Victoria.

Perhaps Mr. Campbell can simplify his formula and make it clear just how wide the effects of his proposed legislation would be.

The sooner B.C. is protected by a provincial-wide anti-pollution policy, the better.

Loggers grumble, Big 6 talks back

The complaint

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The Big Six forest companies in B.C. were accused Tuesday of price-fixing in the purchase of pulp logs.

Pat Brennan, president of independent Squamish Logging Operators Ltd., told the legislative forestry committee there is no fair supply and demand system operating in the pulp industry in B.C. now.

"I don't see why we should be subjected to the whims of a few gentlemen to decide what to do with me," he said.

The committee chairman, Cyril Shelford, told him that if he thinks price-fixing is going on, he should take the question to the combines branch for an investigation.

Said Brennan: "Well, all I know is you can call any one of the six and you will get the same price quoted to you."

Brennan said the independent loggers should be given the same rights of export as their counterparts in Washington who are allowed to export.

Companies vague

If the markets of the world were opened up to the loggers, there would then be a true free enterprise system, he said.

Under present export regulations logs that have been in the water for 30 days may be exported if at least three mills have refused to take up offered sales.

But Brennan told the committee it is almost impossible to get companies to give unequivocal refusals.

F. S. McKinnon, deputy minister of forests, told the committee that if it had not been for the export regulations there would have been no pulp and sawmill industry in B.C.

Shelford told Brennan there is a strong move in the Pacific northwest states to stop export of logs to Japan.

Brennan said there is a glut of pulp logs on the market now and selling prices have dropped \$52.50 per thousand to \$40 per thousand. He said there are few logs being traded even at this price.

Smallwood logs cannot be sold and contracts arranged in 1965 are being cancelled.

Brennan said there is no market for pulp wood in B.C. and "it's just what the pulp mills want to pay you." He said no pulp sales should be given to anyone until all the salvage is off the ground.

It doesn't pay

He claimed it becomes uneconomical to log pulp logs at \$40 a thousand and while this situation prevails in B.C., Washington loggers are able to export logs to Japan at \$77.50 a thousand.

Brennan referred to the \$10 increase in the price of pulp recently announced by Crown Zellerbach and asked: "How can you put on an increase like this, when the price of logs has dropped \$12.50?"

He asked that any measure contemplated to force the logger to remove smallwood (under the government's new smallwood policy) should be counterbalanced by a similar force applied to the pulp mills to pay a minimum selling price and use a guaranteed minimum volume.

McKinnon told the committee that in view of the present surplus of pulp logs, it is the feeling of the forestry department that anybody applying for pulp timber must demonstrate need.

He said the government's close utilization program is purely voluntary. "There is nothing compulsory about it," he said.

The defence

By BOB McMURRAY

B.C.'s major forestry companies Tuesday denied categorically that there was any price-fixing in the buying of pulp wood logs and explained that the recent drop in prices was because firms had large inventories on hand.

Officials of the companies gave various reasons, but they all add up to the law of supply and demand. And some of them suggest that Pat Brennan, president of the Independent Squamish Logging Operators Ltd., has made a dramatic accusation which doesn't get to the bottom of the problem. (See story alongside.)

"If we were fixing prices as Mr. Brennan claims, then why would we let them get up to \$52.50 per thousand last year?" asked one official.

"It's like buying shares," said another. "You can phone six brokers and get the same market price quote." He said Brennan could phone 30 mills on the coast and get the same prices for logs.

In addition to the large inventory of logs on hand, it was pointed out that there is a bigger supply of chips, produced as waste-wood from sawmills available. Also there has been some logs bought in U.S., although this is declining, and some extra logs forced on the market as a result of liquidation of timber licences at government insistence.

A Rayonier Canada (B.C.) Ltd. spokesman said the company hasn't been buying pulp logs for three months because of high inventory. The supply built up when delays developed in the expansion of its Woodfibre mill.

Loggers cautioned

Canadian Forest Products Ltd. official said part of the situation had resulted from over-anxiety on the part of some companies who feared a material supply shortage caused by expansion of pulp mills on the coast. He pointed out that his company is now a net supplier of pulp logs.

He said CFP has always cautioned logging operators against being too optimistic about the immediate economics of smallwood. "Until all the new capacity comes in, this will be the least economic source of supply."

He said there was a substantial volume of interior chips being marketed on the coast and pointed out it made sense to use the chip waste from coastal sawmills as the first step in complete utilization.

A Crown Zellerbach spokesman said that up to the last three months of 1965 there had been a shortage of pulp logs, brought on partly by the cold weather in the early months of the year.

A MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Ltd. official said when a threat to supply appeared last year that some companies started curbing their chip exports to the U.S. With more chips, less pulp logs are needed.

He said that some firms had purchased logs in the U.S.

He said the log market in B.C. is anything but stable and pointed out that prices had increased 44 per cent since 1961.

A B.C. Forest Products Ltd. official said the price had been driven up last year by a brisk market for hemlock sawlogs. He also said that log production last year had been high. Present sawlog prices are about \$70 for No. 1 hemlock, \$65 for No. 2 and \$80 for No. 3.

Wednesday, March 2, 1966

Pulp mill assured for East Kootenays

Work will start in April on construction of a 350-ton per day pulp mill at Skookumchuck in the East Kootenays with production scheduled for January of 1968.

The project is being built under the name of Canal Development Co. Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Crestbrook Timber Ltd. of Cranbrook, which has as partners the Honshu Pulp and Paper Co. and Mitsubishi Co. of Japan.

A new joint venture name has not yet been chosen.

Progress on the mill was described in the legislature on Tuesday by Lands and Forests Minister Williston who has just returned from a five-day visit to Japan.

He said the Japanese part-

ners have yet to secure approval of the Japanese government before they participate. "I had a session with the minister of foreign affairs and he indicated that tight money policies in Japan and on the North American continent are making these projects more difficult.

"On the other hand, he indicated great interest on the part of the Japanese government and he assured me of their complete co-operation."

The mill will eventually be 700 tons per day with an investment of \$80 million. The second stage is expected to be completed by 1971. The Skookumchuck site is 34 miles north of Cranbrook.

Williston described the mill as a "tremendous breakthrough" in the B.C. forest industry.

He said the government had insisted on a performance bond in the past but in this case the performance is being established by the mill.

The company has been awarded no secured timber rights as in the form of a pulpwood harvesting licence or tree farm for the mill but plans to use its existing holdings and apply for pulp timber sales.

Williston, who took two B.C. dogwood trees to the Japanese royal family, said the visit last June of six B.C. cabinet ministers to Japan had a greater impact than any similar visits from other countries.

Thursday, March 3, 1966

Fly-by-night sales muzzle eyed for B.C.

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government is considering legislation to protect citizens from what have been called fast-talking, fly-by-night, door-to-door salesmen.

Attorney-General Bonner told the legislature Wednesday the government wants to have the benefit of experience of similar legislation in other jurisdictions before introducing such a law here.

He said this was the reason the government is not prepared to support a private member's bill proposed by Leo Nimsick (NDP-Cranbrook).

Nimsick said his bill is designed to give a person seven days to consider whether he wants to go ahead with an agreement he signs with a door-to-door salesman. He described this as a cooling-off period.

Bonner said the government has sympathy for the objective sought by Nimsick's bill and has been giving thought to legislation of this sort.

But he said there is legislation now which protects people who feel the cost of loans excessive and a transaction harsh and unconscionable. But people do not seem to want to rely on it.

"The cures are apparent and very often effective but they are often not relied upon. We have not completed our own view on these questions and if the member would leave it for the moment and not press it to a vote, I would move adjournment."

His motion was adopted, which means Nimsick's bill

probably will die on the order paper.

In supporting Nimsick, Alex MacDonald (NDP—Vancouver East) told of a man called Ted Salonyka who, he claimed, had been reduced to skidroad by a fly-by-night salesman.

MacDonald said the man signed an agreement with the salesman to have his house stuccoed for \$750, the contract to be performed by a firm called Inter-Provincial Building Credits.

Said MacDonald: "The salesman took the contract to the firm, sold the contract and walked away with something like \$500."

"Inter-Provincial sued the man for the money and the company garnisheed his bank account. He has lost his house, he has been charged as being in a state of intoxication in a public place. This is a case of a citizen being ruined by a fly-by-night salesman who did not do a tap of work."

Three bills ruled out of order

Private members bills to set up a legal aid system in B.C. and ensure that very young children are not sent to industrial training schools died in the legislature Wednesday when they were ruled out of order.

Speaker William Murray ruled that because they involved expenditure of public money they could not proceed.

Under House standing orders and the Constitutional Act only the government can bring in bills involving spending from the public purse.

The legal aid bill, proposed by Tony Gargrave (NDP-Mackenzie) would have given legal aid a statutory basis and extended it to civil as well as criminal cases.

SAFEGUARDS

The other bill, proposed by Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) would have prohibited sending children under 12 to industrial training schools and set up what he called safeguards for children sent to such institutions.

Another attempt by Alan Macfarlane (Lib.-Oak Bay) — the fourth in as many years — to make it possible by statute to sue the Crown fell by the wayside.

The Speaker ruled it out of order in a private member's hands.

Two other private members bills were adjourned on second reading on motions by cabinet ministers.

EXTEND POWER

These were designed to ensure that job discrimination by sex is eliminated by including a new section in the Fair Employment Practices Act and to extend the powers of the provincial pollution control board to cover air pollution.

Labor Minister Peterson said he wanted to study existing statutes dealing with fair employment to ensure there would be no conflict arising from the proposed bill.

Lands and Forests Minister Williston indicated the government prefers to wait for more comprehensive studies on pollution problems and said a national conference in Montreal in October would provide a lot of useful material.

NDP taunts premier over Socred MP vote

Premier Bennett said Wednesday the federal Socred MPs should vote the Liberal government out of office if it doesn't raise the old age pension to \$100.

He was being taunted in the legislature by the opposition about the fact that the five

federal Socreds have voted with the Liberals.

Said Bennett: "I cannot speak for them, but I hope they keep the Liberals in rope long enough to give them a chance to perform and if they don't perform I hope they will have the intestinal fortitude to kick them out."

Thursday, March 3, 1966

Discontent hurting force, private bills committee told

Vancouver policemen are being treated as second-class citizens and discontent is undermining efficiency, the legislative private bills committee was told Wednesday.

The police union is asking for a new procedure to appeal dismissals and demotions, and has proposed that appeals be directed to the Labor Relations Board rather than to a Supreme Court judge.

H. A. D. Oliver, counsel for the union, told the committee: "What we are asking for is not to have policemen treated as second-class citizens. They are citizens like everybody else and they ask to be treated like other workers."

Oliver said the policemen feel the Labor Relations Board, set up by the legislature to deal with questions of industrial relations, is a proper body to which they can appeal.

"Vancouver does not have a contented police force, and a discontented police force is not an efficient force," he said.

"This proposal would remove one of the main bones of contention worrying members of the force at the present time.

"Not too many chief constables in recent years have left in circumstances of honorable retirement. Over the past 20 years there is ample justification for the desire of members of the force for protection against the exercise of arbitrary

power. This is not an attack on the present chief constable, and it is not intended as such."

Russell Baker, corporation counsel for the city of Vancouver, denied Oliver's allegation.

Said Baker: "The police force is not discontented. There may be a few people who have been dismissed or demoted or disciplined who may be discontented. The force generally is contented."

Oliver said he didn't imply the force is in a state of rebellion, but members are unhappy about certain aspects of their employment and especially about their inability properly to appeal.

He said they've given up the right to strike or picket, and it would be unthinkable for the force to strike. But they "must look to their elected representatives to do their striking for them."

Oliver argued that legislation permitting an appeal to the Supreme Court is ineffective because it is restricted. The court cannot review the evidence on which the chief constable bases his decision, although it can hear new evidence.

Committee member Gordon Dowding (NDP, Burnaby) suggested that the union's proposal would give a man three bites at the same pie by allowing what would be, in effect, three separate trials before the chief

constable, the police commissioners and a judge.

Baker said it is not considered conducive to good discipline if the opinion of a judge is to be substituted for the body that is charged with the actual operation of the force. It is not for a judge to say: "If I were chief constable I would have acted differently."

Baker said the policemen are in a preferred position because they have an appeal procedure under the Vancouver charter. No other civic employee has an appeal.

A-G defends regulations

Attorney-General Bonner has answered complaints that civil liberties are being infringed by new legislation to curb borderline drinking drivers and those who leave the scene of an accident.

Bonner told the legislature Wednesday the requirement for a police sticker before garages can lawfully repair damage to the vehicle was added "with some regret."

"It is a fact, however, that in the last two years there has been an almost unbelievable rise in the number of hit-and-run accidents," he said. "In Vancouver alone this has run into more than 2,000 cases during the period under study."

He said he found the situation shocking but could offer no explanation.

The question of civil liberties, Bonner said, was a major reason for his opposition to compulsory breathalyzer tests.

There is a section in the new act which specifically bans evidence gathered by voluntary testing from being used if charges are to be laid.

Bonner added: "It is no part of anyone's civil liberties, however, to endanger the lives of others by careless driving habits."

Police powers queried

WAIT A MINUTE!

Vancouver's corporation counsel, Russell Baker, has promised to define limitations to a city proposal to give policemen authority to enter any premises with a licence inspector.

Baker told the legislative private bills committee the purpose is to allow a policeman to accompany an inspector in situations where his protection might be needed.

But committee member Gordon Dowding (NDP, Burnaby) said the proposal would give a policeman authority to enter a private house without a search warrant. He said this could lead to an infringement of the rights of citizens on their private property.

Another committee member, Bert Price (Social Credit, Burrard), said the measure would give the city powers against all citizens to get authority to deal with only a few situations.

Baker said he would be prepared to meet later with the committee to discuss possible restrictions.

Thursday, March 3, 1966

PGE not for sale, premier tells Gibson

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Premier Bennett Wednesday rejected a suggestion by Liberal Gordon Gibson that he sell the Pacific Great Eastern railway to the CPR or CNR.

He told the legislature: "As long as I am premier of the province I will never sell this railroad to the CNR or the CPR or any other railroad."

He made the comment during the debate on second reading—agreement in principle—of the bill to give the government authority to purchase outstanding shares of the PGE for \$25.2 million. The bill was approved unanimously.

Gibson (Lib.—North Vancouver) had suggested that now the government has got the PGE going it should sell it, recover its capital investment and use the money for other things.

Don Robinson (Socred—Lillooet) angrily condemned Gibson's suggestion.

He said the people of B.C. got behind the PGE to develop the northern areas of the province.

"If we ever sold the PGE we would lose control of the development of our province," he said.

Liberal leader Perrault accused the government of losing millions of dollars in federal grants for the PGE by fumbling and bumbling.

"I charge the premier with deliberately cheating the taxpayers on such federal grants by refusing to follow the established procedures," he said.

He said the government never admits that between 1949 and 1958 the federal government gave \$2.4 million to the PGE.

Premier Bennett said the provincial government went to the federal government when the Socreds took power to try to get some assistance for the PGE. The government discussed it fully with Ottawa and all Ottawa would do was provide a subsidy for a 50-mile extension from Prince George.

"And that took the line straight into muskeg," he said. "The federal Liberal government has treated this province worse than any other by saying we are in good financial shape in B.C."

No delay in ridings bill seen

The government's controversial bill to redistribute B.C. legislature seats is expected to come to a vote in the legislature today.

Despite a revolt among a few Social Credit backbenchers, Education Minister Peterson said there is no plan to delay the bill.

Debate on second reading was adjourned abruptly after five hours Tuesday.

Peterson told a Vancouver Centre Social Credit meeting Wednesday night the government hopes to start debate on departmental estimates at a night sitting tonight.

SURE INDICATION

This was considered a sure

indication that the government intends to push ahead with its redistribution bill today and bring it to a vote.

Peterson was asked why the government doesn't delay it to a more opportune time—and bring it up when the question of redistribution could be used as a benefit to the government?

"There is no benefit to the government one way or the other," Peterson said. "Redistribution, whenever it comes up, will be controversial. But I don't see anything to be gained by delay on this type of legislation."

SEES PROBLEMS

"Action is the best thing, come what may. Even though it will create problems on all sides of the House, we're better off to tackle it now."

"I think Vancouver and the Lower Mainland have been under-represented. I'm against postponement. The sooner we go ahead the better, and let the chips fall where they may."

His only reference to elections was this: He said he felt the federal government did the

wrong thing when it set up a redistribution commission, then went ahead and held an election before the proposals could be put into effect.

He defended the B.C. government's plan to reapportion seats and said there were not many changes from the plan proposed by the Angus Commission.

BELIEVES IT FAIR

"If I were doing it myself, I would make many more changes, but I think this is a fair distribution of seats."

He said that in the large northern areas where there are few people, it is hard to apply the principle of representation by population.

"We came to the conclusion that it was impossible for one person to give adequate representation for one large Northland constituency, so we had to take into account the area as well as the population."

He said it was natural that those whose ridings were being eliminated didn't think the redistribution was fair. But there are three ridings held by Social Credit and three held by the opposition that were being eliminated, he said.

Friday, March 4, 1966

Upsetting B.C.'s voting balance . . .

A whole field of philosophy is opened up by debate on whether a government is morally bound by the recommendations of a royal commission it appointed. On balance it is likely that governments have adapted or ignored at least as many commission recommendations as they have adopted unchanged.

Basically, of course, it is the business of a government to govern; that of a royal commission is to gather information and make a judgment on it. Other judgments, better or worse, are always possible.

The provincial government made an initial mistake in the restrictions it set on the Angus royal commission study of electoral boundaries. The government's actions and statements since the re-

port came in show that the government itself felt wider latitude had to be provided in allotting rural seats.

It may well be that the north will grow so fast that it will need more seats than it was allotted by Dr. Henry Angus and his colleagues. It may even be coincidence that the extra northern seats established by the government are virtually certain to be government seats.

But the government made a second mistake when it changed the northern boundaries. It says it left untouched all of B.C. south of Dr. Angus's proposed Northland riding. That is true. But the government's changes have automatically disturbed the balance of the province.

If special provision is to be made because of some potential growth

formula beyond what Dr. Angus was allowed to consider, then other parts of the province can reasonably ask why they were not similarly treated. Government MLAs for the Kootenays, where three major dams on the Columbia seem to ensure long-term growth, did ask.

As a result the government faced a back-bench revolt bigger than any since 1952. The backbenchers, it is true, objected basically to the recommendations of Dr. Angus. But the cabinet changes in the north armed these objectors well.

Discussion now is academic. But surely the government would have gained in stature by telling the royal commissioners it had changed its mind about the ground rules and asking them to make the changes impartially within the new framework.

Tax will come off books for libraries

Premier Bennett said Thursday the purchase of books for libraries will be exempted from the five per cent sales tax.

Miss Enid Dearing, vice-president of the B.C. Library Association, said her group had been pressing for this so more money would be available for books.

The premier said the government will also consider lifting the tax from all books.

He made the statements during the debate in the committee stage on the bill to lift the tax from candies, confections, all non-alcoholic drinks, school supplies, newspapers, magazines and periodicals and restaurant meals.

The tax now is paid on all meals over \$1.

Bennett said he will include library books in the schedule of articles to be exempted from the sales tax.

Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP) Grand Forks, Greenwood) had made a plea for removal of the tax from books.

She said: "In the days ahead, with the leisure that will come with automation, we should encourage our people to read more and more. There are some magazines and periodicals which should be taxed right out of existence. But I should like very much to see the tax taken off books."

Mrs. Haggen was critical of the exemption of candies and soft drinks.

"I don't want anyone to say that I am against children but I do not think it much of a kindness to give children more candies and soft drinks than at the present time," she said. "Children having their teeth destroyed by these so-called foods is not kind."

The bill was given third reading.

Crop plan termed just political tool

The government's new crop insurance legislation is designed to make B.C. look as if it is going to do something without saying what or when, says Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney).

He described it as a political tool because it puts the government in a position of being able to enter into a crop insurance agreement with Ottawa when federal legislation is amended to allow provincial participation.

Agriculture Minister Richter said B.C. has to wait for federal changes before introducing an insurance plan.

Barrett charged that, if the government was sincere in its intent, it need not wait for Ottawa.

"Set up your own plan and when Ottawa wants to share we can take their money."

Dave Stupich (NDP-Nanaimo) said all the bill does is enable the province to enter into an agreement with Ottawa. This could have been done when Richter was appointed minister of agriculture five years ago, he said. The bill was given unanimous third and final reading despite criticism from opposition MLAs.

Friday, March 4, 1966

Gov't accused of bid to sabotage medicare

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) Thursday accused the provincial government of stalling in an attempt to break the federal government's plan for a universal medicare program.

In the legislature, he challenged Welfare Minister Black to say categorically whether the government will participate in a federal medicare plan paid for out of general revenue rather than by the premium system operating in the B.C. plan.

Black refused to be drawn. He told Macdonald: "In discussing this bill, I am not going to answer this question."

He resisted further challenges on the same question by other MLAs by saying: "I am not required to answer that type of question."

The House gave third reading to changes in the provincial Medical Grants Act, increasing the government share of premiums for those with no taxable income from 50 to 90 per cent and for those with a taxable income up to \$1,000 from 25 to 50 per cent.

But before the changes were passed, Macdonald accused the government of shadow-boxing with Ottawa.

He said: "The minister knows perfectly well the federal position, and that is that medicare must be universal, which means you can't have premiums and you must pay for it through the general revenues of the provinces and the domin-

★ BILL WOULD SCRAP PLAN

The New Democratic Party proposed legislation Thursday which would scrap the existing B.C. Medical Plan in favor of comprehensive medicare.

Opposition Leader Strachan introduced the bill to amend the Medical Grants Act. It would abolish premiums and cover all medical services, including prescription drugs, for everyone in the province.

Strachan said later the plan would be financed out of general revenues.

"The minister is merely trying to twist the arm of the federal government to try to persuade it to the view of Premier Manning of Alberta, of this province and of the Sacred national leader Robert Thompson."

Black said Ottawa has not definitely decided on the basic rules of its medicare programs. But B.C. could not wait until it did before going ahead with its own plan.

He said a provincial plan must be in operation before the province could go into a federal plan. There are some provinces which do not yet have a basic plan and they are interesting themselves in the B.C. plan.

"If we had not gone along

with our plan we would have had exactly no place to start," he said. "At least we have a place to start."

Liberal Leader Perrault said he had filed with the House a letter from federal Health Minister MacEachen in which the B.C. plan does not conform to the proposed federal medicare program.

Perrault quoted MacEachen as saying B.C. has not replied to a federal request as to what terms it wanted to participate in a federal plan.

Perrault said B.C. is being dragged, kicking and struggling, into the federal scheme.

Premier Bennett charged that by wanting to treat everybody the same in its idea of a medicare program the opposition has shown itself to be against the poor people.

Curb proposed on fireworks once again

Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP-Grand Forks, Greenwood) re-introduced in the legislature Thursday the same fireworks regulation bill she has brought in for the last three years.

It would require written permission from the fire marshal for sale or discharge of fireworks anywhere in the province.

Support payments urged for needy new mothers

The government should consider support payments for needy new mothers, says Alex Macdonald (NDP - Vancouver East).

In the legislature Thursday, he protested one section of a new law that prevents mothers from returning to work for a period of six weeks after the birth of a child.

Labor Minister Peterson said the provision does not apply to those employed in agriculture or domestic service.

It is designed for the protection of women in commerce and industry, Peterson said.

He added that the government

acted on the best available medical advice.

Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP-Grand Forks, Greenwood) said the only reason a mother would wish to return to work while her baby was under six weeks of age was lack of money.

Arthur Turner (NDP-Vancouver East) suggested an amendment which would allow mothers to return to work earlier if their doctor issued a certificate.

Despite the objections by NDP members, the section and the bill were given unanimous approval on third and final reading.

Friday, March 4, 1966

Effective April 1

Bennett to reduce natural gas rates?

Blacklist claimed

The government will investigate charges by opposition Leader Strachan that 16 workers who quit their jobs on the Mica Creek damsite have been blacklisted on all B.C. Hydro projects for the next 10 years.

Strachan claimed the men left the damsites in protest of lack of safety procedures on the job.

He read a letter from William H. Priest of Williams Lake who said his son, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Kamloops local, started work at Mica last November and became a foreman a short time later.

The electrician claimed there were violations of the electrical code, the Workmen's Compensation Board safety regulations and his union agreement that were "so flagrant and excessive" that he had asked for a demotion to journeyman status.

Priest said in his letter the application was refused twice and finally his son resigned and 15 members of his crew quit with him.

★

Arrow area issue raised

Province Victoria Bureau
B.C. Hydro is being taken for

a ride in land-clearing costs in the Arrow Lakes area, Ran Harding (NDP-Kaslo Slocan) charged in the legislature Thursday night.

He said Hydro was being unfair by only offering farmers \$100 an acre for their cleared land when Hydro has to pay an average of \$400 to \$500 an acre for clearing.

Premier Bennett jumped to his feet and produced a figure from a department of agriculture report saying land clearing cost in the Kootenays is \$38.10 an acre.

Bennett said he didn't want to mislead the people. The reason Hydro has to pay \$400 to \$500 is that it is clearing land of a difficult nature with rock and such like. He said Hydro is not clearing land that might be suitable for agriculture.

No drop in power

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Natural gas users in the Lower Mainland are likely to get lower rates from March 31, but B.C. Hydro's electricity customers probably won't get any reduction this year, Premier Bennett told the legislature Thursday night.

The premier said that as fiscal agent for the Crown corporation, he would make a "strong recommendation" for reduction of natural gas rates when Hydro directors meet in Vancouver March 21. Rate reductions would become effective at the start of the next fiscal year, April 1.

BEING FRANK

But he added: "I'm going to be very frank with you and say that I'm not going to recommend further reductions in electricity rates."

Bennett was answering charges by Opposition Leader Strachan that Hydro was keeping gas rates artificially high in order to force people to use more electricity.

Strachan called the premier's reply "a natural gas outburst" and accused Hydro of "gouging the people of this province for the natural gas they own."

The premier said that from last year's total gas and electricity sales of \$153 million, Hydro's net profit was only \$13 million. On the basis of present figures, Bennett predicted Hydro's turnover will increase this year, but its net profit is expected to drop \$5 million to approximately \$8 million.

He said the profit margin has been drastically reduced by a \$20 million average annual reduction in electricity rates—"a great dividend to the people of B.C."

EXPORT SALE

Bennett said the recently-announced export sale of B.C. gas to the U.S. would have a tremendous effect on the economy of B.C.

"No one in this House can predict what that effect will be," he said. "But it will mean millions more in revenue to the government—more jobs, more industries like petro-chemicals."

Strachan challenged the premier to tell the legislature how the government now plans to finance the Columbia River power project.

The Opposition leader claimed at least \$150 million would have to be borrowed to complete the three dams.

Friday, March 4, 1966

Vancouver park plan unfair, CPR protests

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The city of Vancouver was accused Thursday of trying to impose a 10 per cent surtax on Canadian Pacific Railway property within the city.

The company, in a brief to the legislative private bills committee, strenuously opposed amendment to the city charter requiring land developers with parcels of more than 20 acres to turn over as much as 10 per cent to the city without compensation. The aim of the proposal is to provide park areas.

CPR lawyer N. C. Norton said the amendment was aimed di-

rectly at the CPR because it is the only owner of land in the city with parcels of the size stipulated.

COULD INTERFERE

He called the proposed amendment discriminatory and confiscatory.

Norton said the proposal raises a constitutional question because the amendment, if enacted, could interfere with a national railway.

He claimed that in the provisions of the proposed amendment, the city was setting itself up as judge and jury in its own cause.

"We haven't passed laws like this since the barons met King

John at Runnymede," said Norton.

NOT FAR APART

He said the true interests of the city and the CPR are not far apart because each contributes to the health of the other.

He stressed the CPR is vitally interested in beautification of the city.

But he claimed the provision of parks by the means proposed by the city is wrong and is prohibited by the Clyne Royal Commission report on expropriation procedures.

Norton said this report should be studied before any action is taken on the city's proposal.

Mid-summer weekend

HOLIDAY BID

J. Donald Smith (SC-Victoria) wants a provincial and civic holiday declared to provide a long weekend sometime during the months of July and August.

The people who would benefit most are those who must work during these fine summer months, he told the legislature Thursday.

Indians accuse city of illegally taxing land

The Musqueam Indian band has accused Vancouver of illegally taxing leased land on its reserve since 1939.

Willard Sparrow, spokesman for the band, told the legislative private bills committee Thursday the city has taken \$173,000 in taxes since 1939 and nothing has gone back to the band.

He said: "Notwithstanding the handsome revenue received by the city, the band has been forced to pay charges for scavenging, water rates, fire fighting, street lighting, drainage, oiling of roads, maintenance of parks and playgrounds, dyking costs and educational costs. Certainly this appears to be taxation without representation."

"The band proposes to petition the city for remuneration for taxes collected since 1939 or for an equitable portion thereof."

He said that in view of "these injustices" the band wants to exercise its own rights to assess and tax its lessees and is asking

for federal permission to do so.

Sparrow was opposing a measure, proposed by the city, to clarify the meaning of a section of the Vancouver charter dealing with taxation of Crown tenants.

But Sparrow argued that the laws of the country apply to Indians only if they are consistent with the federal Indian Act. He said the Musqueam band has never surrendered its aboriginal rights or title to its land.

He said the band proposes a 60-acre development and it will cost \$519,000 to put in the services. If the city taxes the lessees in the development, the Indians never would be able to recover the cost of putting in those services.

"It would be ludicrous to suggest that upon lease being entered into, the band would not be entitled to tax for that which it has provided."

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Saturday, March 5, 1966

Now to be merry!

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — British Columbians can eat and drink in beer parlors and cocktail lounges. But the question that has been asked of the government this session is: why can't they also be merry?

Suggestions offered by MLAs from both sides of the House range from complete revision of the liquor act introduction of English-style pubs and barmaids.

The government has remained silent on the issue in the legislature. But Attorney-General Bonner says the way people drink, generally, is determined by the way people are rather than by the places where they congregate to drink.

Among those who disagree with this view are Opposition leader Strachan, Liberal Harry McKay from Fernie and Dudley Little, the Socred backbencher from Skeena.

McKay argues that B.C. wouldn't have its first class restaurants today if they were not allowed to serve liquor. And he adds that fears expressed some years ago when drinking laws were made more liberal for cocktail and dining lounges have proved baseless.

So why not bring about a similar revolution in the cold, austere and dull beer parlors?

Allow beer parlors more latitude to compete among themselves and they will quickly make their establishments more pleasant, more relaxing and more entertaining, according to McKay's theory.

Bonner says the government doesn't rule out the possibility of any reasonable

development which would improve drinking establishments.

But it has no intention of encouraging more competition between beer parlors for customers. Bonner says this was the reason for B.C.'s refusal to introduce Ontario-style taverns here.

Tavern operators back east provided entertainment to lure customers and soon found their overhead so high they had to push drinks to make ends meet.

Bonner admits privately that barmaids would probably be popular with customers in drinking establishments. But officially he doesn't commit himself.

Little has two arguments in favor of women being able to serve drinks.

First, he claims, the present system is based on discrimination because any woman who has enough money to buy a bar can serve drinks in her own establishment.

Then there's a purely practical side, says Little, who thinks that the presence of bouncers in drinking places has led to unnecessary fights and several deaths.

"It is a well known fact, however, that women can lead a man who is intoxicated through a door without trouble," says Little.

Strachan wants to do away with beer parlors as we know them and create a new kind of establishment with lounge areas for those who want quiet conversation and "public areas" with piano and games like cribbage.

His philosophy: "If people want quiet they can go to the lounge; if they want to play the piano and sing, they should be allowed to do so. When people are singing, they are not drinking."

Bennett backs Gunderson

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Premier Bennett rejected an opposition challenge in the legislature Friday to make Einar M. Gunderson's dual role of public official and controller of Social Credit campaign funds the central issue in the next election.

"We'll go to the people on the full record of the government," the premier snapped.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault had earlier renewed charges that a conflict of interest existed in Gunderson's functions as director of provincial Crown corporations while he was, by his own admission, the "bag-man" for the Socred party.

Perrault said Gunderson must resign his Socred job or his public posts.

But it was some time later in the debate on estimates that the premier, in response to a question from Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay), gave a direct answer to demands for Gunderson's resignation.

LEGISLATURE

"Mr. Gunderson is going to stay," said Bennett.

Macfarlane retorted: "If you want an election issue in this province, that is it. But the premier wouldn't have the nerve."

Perrault said Gunderson's positions make possible misuses of political influence.

"I ask the premier would he sit by idly if the head of TCA or the CNR or the Bank of Canada collected funds for the

Liberal Party on a moonlight basis?" Perrault said.

"If you want to clean up—start with the Liberal Party," said Bennett.

"The prime minister said he recommended the appointment of certain men to the senate because they collected funds for the Liberal Party.

"In the Senate appointed by the Liberals it was the senators who collected funds for the Lib-

eral Party and who are directors of the chartered banks who vetoed the Bank of B.C."

Bennett predicted the defeat of the Liberals in the next federal election and said the national party will "not rise again for 20 years."

The premier was also involved in a heated exchange with Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver) who repeated his earlier demands that the government announce a new Burrard Inlet crossing before the next election.

"People don't want an election," said Gibson. "We don't need one this year and if we have one it will be a sign of weakness on the part of the government rather than strength."

"The government has an unfinished job to do, particularly on the Lower Mainland."

"The Liberals have got electionitis," retorted Bennett. "I think fear is gripping the Liberal Party. If the premier is a dictator, as they claim, controlled by an outside group, they should want an election tomorrow. Why should it be postponed?"

No to new terminal

FERRY TO STAY

The B.C. Ferry Authority should move its present Horseshoe Bay terminal to Iona Island at the mouth of the Fraser River, says Dr. Pat McGeer (L—Point Grey).

He told the Legislature a ferry route from Iona to Gabriola Island would cut the present two-hour crossing from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo to one hour.

This would mean the same number ferries could carry more passengers and the growing congestion at Horseshoe Bay with the attendant dangers to small craft would be reduced.

Premier Bennett said a change of this kind is not being considered at this time.

Saturday, March 5, 1966

Lower gas prices—five years late . . .

Last November Premier Bennett said he "hoped" B.C. Hydro would soon reduce its rates for natural gas. At that time Hydro co-chairman Dr. Gordon Shrum declined to make any price forecasts and said if anything were done it would not be until March, the customary time for rate reviews.

This week the premier's "hope" of last November had hardened into a "strong recommendation" for lower rates, a recommendation he is formally entitled to make as the fiscal agent for the Crown corporation.

There can be little doubt that Hydro management will get the message and that gas prices will go down. How big a reduction will be made is something else. During the last fiscal year Hydro showed a \$13 million profit (an increase of 48 per cent over the previous year). Most of the profit was from gas sales.

Hydro's 150,000-odd gas customers in the Lower Mainland expect a meaningful cut in their gas bills for they were entitled to lower rates several years ago. There have been three successive power rate

reductions to which Hydro points with pride but no substantial reductions in gas prices, although Hydro sold a record amount of gas last year.

It may be recalled that when the old B.C. Electric established its price structure for natural gas it explained that the rates were "introductory" and that when gas was sold in greater volume lower prices would be possible.

Use of gas is so widespread now that considerably lower prices are warranted, particularly since public ownership is supposed to provide service at cost, not for profit.

The many images of Premier W. A. C. Bennett

By PADDY SHERMAN
Editor of The Province

The public's image of a leader is usually doubtful as a guide and difficult to change.

Political history is full of men who worshipped rectitude in public and wrenched riotously in private. On a different scale, few have yet realized that "dear Uncle Louis" St. Laurent was, at his peak, one of Canada's strongest prime ministers, with a mind of steel.

Nearer home, the changing face of Premier Bennett over the years would make a good case-history for a student of the public image. Recent years have been full of deliberate changes on his own part, and attempts by his opposition to project even more.

There was, for example, the image the public derived as a result of the Columbia River battles, culminating in the P.C. Electric takeover. The composite visage, built block by block from intransigent word and deed, was one of ruthless and dominant arrogance.

But before the 1963 election, Mr. Bennett went far out of his way to change this. He bridled his tongue, fixed his smile and at times became positively avuncular.

The pattern continued as he reached his record tenure in office last year relaxed, affable, magnanimous in many ways.

That image shattered two weeks ago, though hardly by conscious intent, when he fought with Speaker William Murray.

Inside the Legislature and out, people saw in the broken pieces a pattern of petulance.

There was nothing contrived about his anger. It stayed with him for most of a week. Many watching him closely said they had never seen him so disturbed. To them, this was the real Bennett — a man who would brook no interference.

Like every man who exposes raw nerve ends, the premier became vulnerable to his foes. The NDP leaped in.

Being premier was a tremendous job, they said solicitously. The premier was working too hard. He needed a deputy.

In words of silk they tried to tell the public that the premier was at the end of his rope; he was over the hill. This could be a devastating ploy. It is the sort of thing that can quietly seep into a voter's subconscious and influence his judgment.

Earlier this week, it was obvious that the message had got through to the premier. He was once more relaxed and affable. No more tantrums took wing.

From his own point of view, it wasn't a moment too soon. The fundamental dignity and stature of our legislatures and parliament make up a subject that is shapeless in the minds of voters and rarely articulated by them.

But the defeat of the Liberals at Ottawa in 1957 indicated that the image of an arrogant government trampling over the rights of Parliament is one that

rather frightens or disgusts people — even those who have little idea how the system really works.

There is little doubt that the government's contempt for the rights of Parliament in the pipeline debate was the issue that finally broke the Liberals' long rule.

Premier Bennett stepped angrily into this same nebulous zone when he crossed with Speaker Murray, a quiet man not lacking in courage.

Had he forced the issue and called the election he threatened, he would have been fighting not his enemies, but the Legislature itself as represented by the Speaker.

I for one suspect the premier would have been disagreeably surprised by the enmity this would have engendered among his own MLAs and the voters.

However, the brooding anger — occasioned mainly by the fact that his pet aversion in the House, Liberal MLA Alan Macfarlane, had scored off him again — has gone.

The push is on once more to show that he is really a firm but friendly chap whose main aim is to protect everybody and everything.

It will be interesting, if he calls an early election, to see if the new image has replaced the one that was projected so quickly in that brief and angry exchange.

Saturday, March 5, 1966

B.C. bank first, then skyscraper

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Premier Bennett says nothing will be done about the government's proposed 55-storey skyscraper for downtown Vancouver until a charter is approved for the Bank of B.C.

The premier said during the debate on estimates in the legislature Friday he was sincere in expressing the hope that Ottawa would speedily approve the charter application.

"The government is anxious to get on with this building," said Bennett.

"The whole concept is based upon needs of the bank. The architects can't go ahead now. We must wait until the bank charter is received."

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) described the project as "a political castle in the air" and said the downtown block reserved for the government building was an eyesore in the heart of the city.

"Why should a bank charter hold up plans for a 55-storey building?" said MacDonal. "It will take at least two years to construct. Is this a government of action or isn't it?"

Premier Bennett earlier told another questioner the government "greatly regrets" Ottawa's decision not to permit B.C. to buy shares in the new bank.

Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) said he wanted to know if a single group of trust companies was to sell shares for the new bank when a federal charter is received.

"I hate to hear insidious remarks which are putting poison into the minds of the people," said Bennett.

The premier said although the government has no direct control he was assured by the provisional directors of the bank that shares would be offered "to the whole investment fraternity" in Canada. "Shares won't be offered to any little group but all over Canada," the premier said.

Budget boner admitted

Speaker William Murray told the legislature Friday he was in error in ruling the budget debate had been talked out two weeks earlier.

He went to the highest authority, Sir Barnett Cocks, clerk of the House of Commons at Westminster, and was advised that the budget debate takes precedence over all other business until disposed of.

The budget debate was not formally adjourned by 6 p.m. closure on Feb. 18 and after a two-hour recess it was restored to the order paper by unanimous consent of the House.

It was during the adjournment that Premier Bennett threatened to call an immediate election if the Speaker did not bow to Bennett's interpretation of the rules.

B.C. Hydro rejects ads for smokes

Premier Bennett says he has been assured that B.C. Hydro won't renew contracts for cigarette advertising carried on its buses.

He said during debate on estimates in the legislature Friday that transit authorities advised him some time ago that existing contracts could not be broken.

These contracts won't be renewed in future, Bennett told the House.

The premier wasn't in the House some time later when Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) asked what the government plans to do with its transit service when the franchises run out in Greater Vancouver at the end of this year.

Resources Minister Williston, a Hydro director, said he couldn't supply a direct answer to a question "which hasn't been resolved yet at the directors' level."

Referring to recent reports that Lower Mainland municipalities are willing to give up franchise rights if the government continue to operate the buses, Williston said so far as he was concerned this was "still a paper offer."

He added, however, "It makes no sense for Hydro to make franchise payments to municipalities if the transit system, despite increased fares, continues to operate at a yearly deficit of some millions of dollars."

Dr. Pat McGeer (L-Point Grey) asked the government to remove the ugly B.C. Hydro freight spurline which runs through his riding.

He called it "a revolting slash through the loveliest residential area in Vancouver."

Premier Bennett said if the member made his request in a letter he would see it was forwarded to Hydro directors.

New Gunderson attack by NDP

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The opposition launched a new attack on Einar M. Gunderson in the legislature Monday, using a statement from former B.C. purchasing commission chairman G. E. P. Jones.

Dave Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) read the House sections of the transcript of a radio interview with Jones, broadcast over a Vancouver station last July.

In it, Jones alleged Gunderson made inquiries about successful bidders on government contracts.

There had been complaints about Gunderson's inquiries and Jones said, according to the transcript, the complainants had asked him "to call the dogs off."

Barrett also read a portion of



Opposition wins promise

Premier Bennett has promised to study an opposition proposal for establishment of a B.C. commission on urban renewal and redevelopment.

The suggestion was made Monday by Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) who said progress in the field has been slow here compared with Manitoba and Alberta.

Businessmen and architects on the commission would put imagination into low-rental housing projects to make them more attractive, Macdonald said.

the transcript in which Jones told of an unidentified man who complained that he had contributed \$25,000 to the Social Credit education fund only to be brushed off by "some young buyer punk still wet behind the ears."

Jones told the man the purchasing commission was not guided by such contributions, according to the transcript.

Barrett asked Premier Bennett: "How does a person like Gunderson, who has admitted publicly he is chairman of the Social Credit Education Fund, get himself into a position where he can get information out of the purchasing commission?"

"These things have been said over the air. If they are false I would expect the government to deny them and immediately

launch a suit against Jones for making these statements. If they are true these are very serious allegations."

Bennett said he had already denied the statement, and added that Gunderson had no special rights.

Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay) asked whether the premier had ordered Attorney-General Bonner to investigate the allegations by Jones so that the Government could "lay the matter to rest."

The premier replied Bonner had taken the oath of office and was responsible for law enforcement in the province.

Bennett said: "The premier does not interfere in any way nor does he give instructions to the attorney-general."

"This is a disgrace," said Macfarlane. "The premier is leader of the government. It is his responsibility to see all important matters are taken care of, yet he turns his back."

"It leaves me to suspect that there is something seriously wrong with Gunderson being connected with this government and connected with the Crown agencies."

"As things stand, the people of this province can do no less than believe these serious allegations."

Jones was forced to resign last year from the post of chairman of the purchasing commission after the government said it had lost confidence in him.

LEGISLATURE

Stricter sport fishing control urged for B.C.

A Victoria sports fisherman bragged about catching 55 pink salmon, giving a couple away and burying the rest in his garden, according to a witness at special legislative fisheries committee hearing Monday.

Richard Larson of Sidney, an independent commercial fisherman, charged that a lot of sports fishermen are game hogs who take some of the best salmon. He said some even sell their fish on commercial licence.

Larson said the Victoria man bragged about taking his 55 fish in one day in Saanich inlet.

He told of talking to an American sport fisherman who, with a friend, took 67 Coho and Chinook salmon at Stewart Isle.

Said Larson: "He told me he really enjoyed his visit to our country. They took their salmon in two days and he said it had hardly cost him anything as he had a diesel power in his boat,

enabling him to fuel and provision up in Seattle for the whole trip and he said he didn't have to spend a cent in Canada."

"The same thing can be seen at Banfield where American yachts buy ice to take home 500 to 700 pounds of salmon with them. I question whether these fish ever see the sport fishing statistics."

Although he said he has no quarrel with what he called the true sports fishermen, he called for stricter control of sports fisheries in B.C.

The B.C. Wildlife Federation, in a brief to the committee, supported earlier proposals that a commercial fisheries department should be established within the provincial government. The purpose would be to ensure the adequate representation of the fishery interests in inter-resource conflicts arising from mining, forestry, industrial and domestic pollution, river basin development and other allocations of water resources.

83rd birthday

CLERK HONORED

Tributes were paid Monday to Ned Debeck, clerk of the B.C. Legislature, to mark his 83rd birthday.

Said Premier Bennett: "Not only has he served this House well, but he has been a great ambassador for the government and people of B.C. in conferences around the world in the Parliamentary Association. We hope he has many more birthdays to go."

Opposition Leader Strachan and Liberal Leader Perreault joined in the tribute.

Computers add to staff

The idea that computers reduce staff is completely false says Premier Bennett. They get more work fed to them," he said.

During debate on a \$345,264 vote for data processing in the provincial finance department, the premier said that far from decreasing staff through computers, the department is increasing its number of workers.

"The computers do the work with more dispatch and perhaps

Tree tax studied

Premier Bennett said Monday the provincial government is studying the possibility of removing property taxes from timber. He made the statement after Opposition Leader Strachan complained people are being assessed taxes on trees, which are a growing crop.

Tuesday, March 8, 1966

Chew up, clean up log plan aired

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Beachwood Recovery Company Ltd. Monday unveiled a scheme incorporating a floating chipper to use driftwood and logs abandoned along B.C.'s beaches. The company told the legislative forestry committee: "The principals of the company believe that a major operation could substantially solve the problem of beachwood and driftwood, and feasibility studies have substantiated this belief."

The estimated total cost of the scheme would be \$2.75 million, including chippers, barkers and all the machinery necessary.

The committee was told the floating chipper would pick up the logs, process them to chips and then load them onto barges to be transported to the market.

Alex Fisher, counsel for the company, told the committee the Forest Act would have to be changed to allow the company to process all the logs it takes, including those bearing the markings of specific companies. Under present law, marked logs must be returned to the original owners.

Fisher said it would not be economic for the company to have to sort the salvaged material and return it. He said the company has proposed that the owners be given 30 days in which to recover their own material after which it would be forfeited to the Crown.

Forest service counsel Clarence Cooper said the company proposal would require an amendment by the federal government of the Criminal Code. Fisher argued the change could be made under the Provincial Forest Act.

The company also wants the Forest Act changed to allow operation of a combined salvaging and converting scheme. Under present legislation salvaged logs are sold to Gulf Logging Salvage, a co-operative, non-profit organization which distributes the recovered logs to the various markets.

The company brief said: "It is economically essential to the success of the company's operation to process all suitable wood material into chips and the necessity for a clear legal right to all logs in any given operating area is imperative."

Tight money will topple Liberals, Bennett claims

Tight money policies will defeat the Liberal government in Ottawa within two years, says Premier Bennett.

He told the legislature Monday, during debate on finance estimates, that Prime Minister Pearson's administration isn't geared to the 20th Century.

"They don't know how to distribute abundance," he said. "All they know are their old-fashioned Liberal policies of scarcity."

Bennett told the House he has received no reply from Pearson to his letter asking for an easing of tight money, which

B.C. claims is hindering expansion of the forest industry.

The premier was asked by Liberal Leader Perrault for details of B.C. Hydro financing.

"I want to assure every citizen in B.C. that as long as this government stays in power we will have no difficult financing the Peace and Columbia projects," said Bennett.

He condemned all national governments in the past two decades for not taking advantage of the postwar economic upswing to reduce debt and build up a budgetary reserve.

Paper 'overkill' scored

Premier Bennett was accused Monday of employing "overkill" in distributing copies of the latest \$659 million provincial budget.

Dr. Pat McGeer (L—Point Grey) told the legislature he and his wife received six copies through the mails. Two were mailed to his home, McGeer

said. Two more reached him at the university laboratory where he works, and his wife also received two copies at work.

Instead of wasting government funds this way, McGeer said, a little of the money now being spent on distributing the budget should go into establishment of a Hansard.

Strachan submits auto insurance bill

Opposition Leader Strachan has proposed legislation for a government administered universal auto insurance plan.

He introduced the bill Monday.

It would allow the government to provide compensation for personal injuries and property losses arising from accidents, regardless of fault.

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) also submitted a revised bill to amend the Training Schools Act.

It would prohibit sending any child under 12 to a training school where he would mix with older children.

Barrett's first bill was ruled out of order because it involved spending public money. This time the section dealing with complete psychological and profit from training given in the mine whether youngsters can physical examinations to determine if schools was removed.

Tax appeal revision proposed

Opposition Leader Strachan Monday called for a complete revision of tax assessment appeal machinery.

In the legislature, he said that unless this is done, complaints about taxing and assessment will continue to grow.

He said few people appeal assessments because they feel they are "bucking a pretty big thing."

"There would be more appeals made if the public felt they would receive a fairer hearing before the court of revision," he said.

Strachan said the number of appeals is the largest in Vancouver where there are between 300 and 600 each year. For years the City of Vancouver has expressed dissatisfaction over the attitude and actions of the court of revision.

"Last year when the city appealed 176 cases — decisions of the court of revision — it won 175 cases. How can you be satisfied with the court of revision when one group, the City of Vancouver, appeals its decisions and won that many?"

"And these were cases involving fairly wealthy, fairly large land holders such as the CPR who have the money and lawyers to go to the court of revision."

Strachan said under present circumstances, it is almost impossible for any assessor in B.C. to make a proper classification. He said each assessor has his own ideas, and differences in classifications show up from district to district.

Tuesday, March 8, 1966

Some faces red, says premier

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Premier Bennett says the Canadian Tax Foundation must have a red face after producing figures purporting to show that B.C. has the highest provincial debt in Canada.

Liberal Leader Perrault, in the Legislature Monday, read a report dated Feb. 16 this year showing that the direct and indirect debt in B.C. is \$812 per capita, compared with Alberta's \$273, the lowest in Canada.

The report also showed that B.C.'s aid to municipalities was the lowest in Canada.

Said the premier: "The Canadian Tax Foundation got their figures from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. I don't want to say they were trying to get their figures wrong. But in the

last few days they have been in B.C. and they have been in the office of the department of finance.

"Their faces must be a little red because they did not know that the direct debt was completely offset by sinking funds and it was frozen that way by an act of the legislature. They didn't know the interest earnings on the sinking funds overbalanced the payment on the direct debt.

"They were asked where they showed the homeowner grant and they didn't show it at all.

"In a comparison of figures, they took the net budget of B.C. and the gross budget of the other provinces. When you compare gross expenditures against our net, they are completely wrong. I am glad they came out, they are being educated."

3 rebels vote no on seats

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier Bennett promised another redistribution by 1971 as party lines were broken Tuesday when the Legislature gave approval in principle to the government's controversial bill to redraw B.C. electoral boundaries.

The bill passed second reading 29 to 19 after seven hours of debate over two days.

Voting against the bill with the opposition were backbenchers Jim Chabot (SC-Columbia), Arvid Lundell (SC-Revelstoke) and Don Robinson (SC-Lillooet). Frank Calder (NDP-Atlin) supported the government.

A fourth backbencher, John Tisdalle (SC-Saanich) said he reluctantly supported the principle of the bill, but later indicated outside the House he would vote against the boundary changes on third reading.

Bennett challenged the claim by Soered rebels that the majority of people in their ridings opposed the bill, and predicted a clean sweep by Social Credit in the Kootenays in the next election.

However, in an apparent attempt to placate Kootenay residents who feel they have been unfairly treated, the premier said his government would not wait 10 or 20 years for another redistribution.

"We will have another redistribution in five years," said Bennett.

NONE SO FAIR

The principle of the bill, according to the premier, was to provide greater representation for the City of Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, which gained about eight new members.

But the government is not willing to sacrifice the north half of the province to build up the south, the premier said.

"No government has ever been so fair to Vancouver and the Lower Mainland in all history."

Bennett said the north, where the government decided to retain seven seats, represents 50 per cent of the province.

ALREADY SOLD

"If the north is not entitled to seven members, then let the opposition tell the people that. We will never sell out the great Peace River.

"Vancouver can only grow because of the great development in the north. Cut their representation and it will hurt Vancouver."

The government isn't selling out the Kootenays, he said. His voice was drowned out by opposition shouts of "You've already sold them out."

This government has built the

prosperity the Kootenays are now enjoying, Bennett claimed. Other governments let the area die on the vine after an earlier period of development at the turn of the century.

Provincial Secretary Black and Mines Minister Brothers, whose ridings of Nelson-Creston and Rossland-Trail were left virtually intact, came under strong opposition fire for refusing to speak out on behalf of the Kootenays.

"These two ministers are willing to let the Kootenays go down the drain," said Leo Nimsick (NDP-Cranbrook).

"They should have the courage to stand up and say something for the people of the Kootenays even if their own ridings aren't affected."

Lundell said he wasn't speaking as a disgruntled politician.

"I am opposing this bill because the majority of the people in my riding oppose the bill. I am one of that majority and the voice of that majority in the House."

He urged the government to take "one of its proverbial second looks" at the merger of three existing ridings into one vast new riding of Columbia River.

Lundell said Revelstoke, Kaslo-Slocan and Columbia have nothing in common geographically, socially or economically.

Robinson objected to the fact his 95-year-old Lillooet riding, which once had two members, and is still among the richest in natural resources and industrial potential, is being wiped off the map.

"This government has done more to open up access into Lillooet and encourage industry there than any other government in its who history," he said.

"Why tear it apart, now that it is starting to grow? My people in Lillooet want an answer."

Chabot, who spoke against the bill when debate was adjourned March 1, said he couldn't support any measure to reduce Kootenay representation by three MLAs.

Tisdalle said he agreed with the principle of redistribution but not the manner in which the government is carrying it out.

J. Donald Smith (SC-Victoria) said he didn't agree with some aspects of the bill.

"I don't think anyone could ever agree with all the details of a redistribution bill," Smith said. "But the bill has upgraded the (Angus) report and it takes courage for a government to do this sort of thing."

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) accused the Social Credit ministers of being judges in their own cause when they seek to tamper with the Angus commission recommendations.

"They are not impartial observers giving a second detached look at this problem. They are persons whose own political

futures are at stake, and the people have every right to be suspicious of that kind of interference."

Richter attacked on policy

Dave Stupich (NDP-Nanaimo) Tuesday called for the resignation of Agriculture Minister Richter.

During debate on agriculture estimates in the legislature, Stupich accused the minister of letting down the industry by failure to act on many fronts.

Said Stupich: "I think the minister doesn't know what services the agricultural industry requires. I think he gives figures and estimates and he doesn't know how to spend this money to the benefit of the agricultural industry. We need a new minister of agriculture."

SICK INDUSTRY

He claimed agriculture in B.C. is a sick industry. He referred to a comment made earlier by Richter that there are failures in other professions and industries. But Stupich claimed that failures were in the minority in these other areas, whereas in agriculture the number of people who fail are in the majority.

He said in 1964 the agriculture department underspent its estimate by more than \$300,000 in a budget of \$3.4 million. This was an error of 20 per cent.

He compared this to the education department, where the amount underspent was one quarter of one per cent.

"Why are we short of district agriculturists when we have a saving of \$500,000?" Asked Stupich.

MORE SERVICE

In his reply, Richter said: "I want to thank the member for Nanaimo for his critical remarks. If we are not giving services today, then we have never given service. We have more staff for a far greater amount of work and more specialists giving a greater amount of service."

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) suggested a novel solution to the labor problems of small fruit growers in the Lower Mainland. He said all it would take was a little bit of imagination on the part of Richter and some government money.

The government should hire buses to take women and their young children from urban centres to the small farms in the Fraser Valley, Barrett said.

He suggested church halls be hired to set up day care centres for the children while their mothers worked at picking fruits.

Votes not mandatory on sewer work orders

Changes in the Municipal Act introduced in the legislature Tuesday eliminate the need for municipalities to hold a vote on sewer programs ordered by the Pollution Control Board or dyking measures ordered by the inspector of dykes.

Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell said later the change doesn't prevent the municipality from holding a vote, but makes it no longer mandatory.

There is provision in the act to force a vote if 10 per cent of the ratepayers in the municipality petition for one.

Other proposed changes clarify the functions of regional dis-

tricts and specifically provide that any municipality which opts out of a joint service shall not have to share in direct administration costs.

The bill also requires that any revenues from a joint service like water be retained for use in connection with the function.

It will allow forest land within municipal boundaries to be treated for tax purposes in the same manner as farmland and makes it easier for a municipality to extend its boundaries to take in outlying industries for the purpose of broadening its tax base.

★

Hunting guide warning

A government and an NDP MLA Tuesday joined in warning the government against allowing non-resident hunters to hunt without licenced guides.

Cyril Shelford (S.C.—Omineca) said there are many people across the border waiting for an opportunity to come to B.C. and hunt without guides.

The Conservation of Wildlife Act, approved in principle Tuesday, allows the recreation min-

ister to waive a provision requiring all non-residents to have a guide with them.

Shelford said he thought the waiver was a bad move and doubted if it could be properly enforced. He urged the minister to take a second look at the section.

Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan) said the section should be taken out of the act. He claimed it could open the door to a lot of abuse.

★

Estate changes proposed

The rising value of estates in B.C. has prompted the government to bring in some changes in the covering legislation.

Attorney-General Bonner introduced a bill in the legislature Tuesday which will boost the widow's automatic sharing of an estate where there is no will from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

The bill, given first reading also empowers the official ad-

ministrator to arrange funerals and take care of other matters in connection with the estates of deceased persons before any letters of administration are issued.

It raises from \$1,000 to \$2,000 the amount of an estate which can be handled by the official administrator without need for a court order.

Corbett rules out move

NO YALE APPEAL

Special to The Province

HOPE—Irvine Corbett, defeated Social Credit candidate in the Yale riding, has decided not to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada the election of NDP candidate William Hartley.

The B.C. Court of Appeal earlier ruled in favor of Hartley. Corbett said Tuesday that according to the B.C. Election Act, this decision is final.

"Should I go ahead with the appeal it would have to be on constitutional grounds, and this could be a long and expensive battle," he said. "I don't want to put my supporters to this cost."

Corbett said even the judges who ruled against him agreed that 15 outsiders voted in the Yale riding in the 1963 election which Hartley won by six votes.

"The present member has the legal right to sit in the House, but he does not have the support of the majority of the voters in this riding," he said.

Dental college criticized

Dr. Gordon Shrum, former chairman of the dental technicians board, has criticized the College of Dental Surgeons for disciplining dentists who lawfully co-operated with dental mechanics.

"If there is an act set up to govern dental technicians and mechanics, I don't think the legislature should be overruled by a group disciplining dentists," he told a special legislative committee Tuesday.

Under the Dental Technicians Act, dental mechanics are entitled to deal directly with the public in making and fitting dentures provided the customer has been given a certificate of oral health from a physician or dentist.

TWO DISCIPLINED

Dental technicians are entitled to do more extensive work, but only with a prescription from the dentist.

"The dentists' co-operation with the mechanics was stopped because of the disciplining of dentists who co-operated," Schrum said. "There were two cases I know of where dentists were singled out because they got caught and they were made an example to the others."

Dentists must be protected against this kind of disciplinary action in any amendments to the act, he said.

"The work of the board was handicapped almost throughout the period of my experience (1958 to 1965) by lack of co-operation between the three groups — dentists, dental laboratory technicians and mechanics.

MUST COMPLY

"If an act authorizes a certain procedure, I think each of these groups should be compelled to comply with it. If an act requires a certificate of oral health, then the professional organization of physicians and dentists should not be in a position to discipline any of their members for complying with the provisions of the act."

Shrum said there is a shortage of dentists, dental school facilities and applicants for dental training.

But there are more than 100 mechanics already licenced to make dentures for the public, and probably another 100 or so technicians who work clandestinely and on a part-time basis.

NEED EVERYONE

Shrum said there is a demand for the services of dental mechanics and there is no well-documented evidence that their work jeopardizes the public's health.

He felt steps should be taken to use all available trained personnel for the most essential tasks to relieve the acute shortage of professional people.

In Vancouver, Dr. W. Ross Upton, executive secretary of the B.C. College of Dental Surgeons, said the college is annoyed that Shrum has left the impression it acted in a quasi-judicial authority outside the act.

"The case of disciplining that Dr. Shrum refers to concerned a dentist who was found guilty of unprofessional conduct at a college inquiry for co-operating with a mechanic to extract teeth," he said.

DECISION UPHELD

"The college decision was appealed to the Supreme Court of B.C. and also the Appeal Court, and in both cases the college decision was upheld.

"Dr. Shrum's accusation gives the impression we were acting in some unauthorized way, and we resent this.

"Is he attempting to set aside the decisions of the two high court bodies?"

Dr. Upton said the college hopes to be able to present its side of the story to the special legislative committee soon.

★

Bill approved in principal

A bill enabling people to purchase air space was given second reading in the legislature Tuesday.

The act to facilitate the subdivision of land in strata was approved in principle after Alex Macdonald (NDP - Vancouver East) said it stressed inequities in the government's home-owner grant legislation.

Macdonald said the Strata Act would give the home owner grant to certain types of tenants but not to tenants generally.

Thursday, March 10, 1966

Pesticide battle hears glory-seeking charge

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Agriculture Minister Richter was accused Wednesday of being more interested in glorifying his position than in helping farmers.

Richter and Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP — Grand Forks-Greenwood) exchanged angry words, in one of the hottest rows in the legislature this year, over the plight of three farmers in her area whose farms have been closed because of pesticide contamination in the soil.

She accused the minister of doing nothing to help the farmers, who have been left without funds to restore their businesses.

She said: "You tried to protect the government against the farmers and that is where you have failed. You have failed completely in looking after these farmers. You have been more concerned with glorifying your position as minister and showing a good picture to the cabinet and the premier than you have in looking after the farmers whose problems you should understand."

Richter shouted angrily into his microphone: "There is continuing liaison between the federal and provincial governments trying to resolve this problem. There is no place in the world where there is knowledge how to dissipate this from the soil. We have records of this in the soil for 13 years."

BIG PROBLEM

"How can I be a miracle man and resolve this thing overnight? This is a far bigger problem to me than to you because I have the responsibility. But all you have done is hack, hack, hack at me for the last 24 hours."

The three farms were closed in February, 1965, after traces of the pesticide Dieldrin were found in milk and fat from the cattle.

Mrs. Haggen said since then the farmers worked to restore their businesses and followed the directives given by the government. But last November the farms were shut down again after contamination was again found.

The pesticide had been recommended for years by both governments for the control of worms and grubs, she said. It was amazing that the farms were ordered closed a second time when very little was done to help the farmers other than to tell them to do certain things.

BITTER BLOW

It was a bitter blow to the farmers to hear the minister

say in an interview that they could have eased their plight if they had shown more initiative in acquiring pure feed, Mrs. Haggen added.

"Where would the farmers have the money to buy pure feed for their animals after the treatment they have had from the federal and provincial governments?"

She said the farmers had asked for money to help them carry on, for direction and help in getting re-established and for some compensation for loss of income.

She recalled that the federal and provincial governments had agreed to buy clean hay, but this was on a very temporary basis and each time the farmers ran short they had to reapply. Mrs. Haggen charged there has been no co-operation between the two governments in trying to solve the problem or help the farmers.

"The crowning insult has come this week. A form letter has been sent by both governments, asking farmers to sign these letters which would make them responsible for paying for the clean hay which was applied for to replace the contaminated hay. Payment must be made by the end of June."

IMMEDIATE PROBE

She read telegrams from various trade groups in the Grand Forks area demanding an immediate investigation of the contamination and assistance for the affected farmers.

Mrs. Haggen said she had discussed the problems privately with the minister during the 1965 legislature session and he had suggested she should not air them at that time. He had felt an airing then would not help.

She said she had kept quiet in the hope something would be done, but nothing had been done.

"Why did the minister tell me by phone that the provincial government was not going to stick its neck out when the problem of contamination prevails over the whole province?" he said. "Are these not our farmers?"

Richter said the federal and provincial governments are doing everything they can but there is not a great deal of information on removing the contamination from the soil.

He said: "I don't think an airing of it is going to help the farmers in that area one iota. I have my own opinion as to whether these levels of contamination are dangerous but I am not a technical expert."

"I would have to check with my department officials before answering some of the specific questions raised by the mem-

ber for Grand Forks. But I am not aware of anyone being given authority to guarantee compensation either at the federal or the provincial level."

Dave Stupich (NDP-Nanaimo), who demanded Richter's resignation Tuesday, said the minister's statement that he is doing everything he can adds up to exactly nothing.

"This minister has failed the agricultural industry because he has certainly failed the farmers in the Grand Forks area," Stupich said.

If it's feared that the contamination is widespread the best way to find out would be to make the area where it first showed up a research area, he said.

This stung Richter to accuse the NDP of "hammer, hammer, hammering at the poor farmer."

He said: "There is something being done. The farmers are not required to pay for this feed. It was a special understanding between the federal and provincial governments." Opposition Leader Strachan blamed the whole thing on the "pinchpenny attitude" of the Premier.

The government isn't willing to spend some of its surplus millions on finding a solution to what Strachan termed this "very human problem."

Dr. Pat McGeer (L-Point Grey) said as a research chemist he wanted to know how much money, staff and effort the government was prepared to put into the pesticide war.

He also suggested the Grand Forks dairy farmers are "victims of incomplete knowledge and inexact science" and therefore entitled to compensation from the government.

Trade Minister Loffmark said the problem is a continental one and added the U.S. government has put considerable money into general pesticide research by the B.C. Research Council.

Recreation Minister Kiernan, a former minister of agriculture, jumped into the fray but said he wasn't trying to carry the ball for Richter.

"I'm not going to sit here quietly and see this type of misinformed abuse heaped upon the minister," Kiernan said.

Mrs. Haggen objected that any information she presented to the House could be verified not only in her files but in those of the agriculture department.

"The minister is only telling the truth," said Kiernan. "Nobody has the answer to this question."

The agriculture department estimates, totalling \$6,026,574, were approved after a 6½-hour debate.



Bluntest critic a fellow Socred

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — According to Liberal Leader Perrault, the government didn't shift only the goalposts while the game of redistribution was in progress, it moved the whole field.

But the bluntest criticism of the government's action in ignoring the terms of reference given by the cabinet to the Angus Royal Commission came from one of its backbenchers.

John Tisdalle, Socred member for Saanich, complained that he had wasted his time in making a submission to the commission.

"My submission was voided by the powers that be . . . I

never could read minds very well," he said.

He was referring to the cabinet order last August which limited the commission in its recommendations to a maximum of 52 seats in the House.

When the government brought in its redistribution bill early in the current session it increased the seats to 54 in order to retain the present representation of seven members in the northern section of the province.

Tisdalle wasn't one of the three Socred backbenchers who voted against approval of the bill in principle. But he claims he will vote against it in committee.

Appeared to ignore Tisdalle

His reason: The removal of the new Victoria seat, which seemed logical under the 52-seat maximum rule, now appears unnecessary and undesirable.

After the vote on second reading of the bill was taken Tuesday, Premier Bennett moved around the chamber laughing and chatting with the members from the Kootenays who voted against it.

He appeared to pointedly ignore Tisdalle, which has led to opposition speculation that the member for Saanich touched a sore spot.

It was nearly a year ago that Bennett announced he had decided on the simplest method of redistributing provincial ridings.

The commonsense way to go about the task, the premier said at the time, was to build upon

the new federal riding map (then being drawn up by an independent commission headed by B.C. Supreme Court Justice Harold McInnis).

He wanted to make each federal riding a dual member provincial riding, which as it turned out would have made 46 members, then add two more MLAs in the far north for a total of 48.

Bennett didn't anticipate, however, the general unhappiness with the McInnis recommendations when they were brought down last spring.

Resources Minister Williston says the limitation of 48 to 52 seats placed by the cabinet upon the Angus Commission probably represents a carryover from this thinking.

Commission impartial, fair

But why should it? The McInnis recommendations were published May 19 and it wasn't until Aug. 5 that the provincial cabinet announced its terms of reference.

There is general agreement that, within the limitations imposed upon it, the Angus Commission did an impartial and fair job of redistribution.

But the opposition claims that having set up guidelines the government shouldn't tamper with the Angus recommendations at this stage, unless it's

willing to throw out the whole report and start again.

Education Minister Peterson sums up the government view: "The commission was limited to 52 members — we are not."

There have been grudging admissions by several other cabinet ministers that the terms of reference left much to be desired.

Who knows what changes the commission might have recommended if it had been given several more seats to play with?

MLAs polled for position on pollution

Special to The Province

PORT ALBERNI — A delegation will visit the legislature Monday with a 6,798-name petition protesting pollution.

Meanwhile, the committee behind the pollution protest has sent a letter to each MLA asking his stand on pollution.

The letter asks: "Let us know how you would vote if there were a free vote in the legislature to control and eliminate air, water and soil pollution during the 1966 session."

Colin Wilson, committee chairman, said that even failure of a MLA to reply will give an indication of his feelings.

"We will have to assume that the problems of ordinary people really don't matter to that particular member," he said.

More law research proposed

Lawyer MLA Tony Gargrave Wednesday said more money should be spent in B.C. on research into law and suggested a research institute be established.

Gargrave (NDP—Mackenzie), during debate on Attorney-General Bonner's estimates, said the institute might be run in connection with the UBC law school. He said the government should provide something like \$50,000 to assist the attorney-general in research into law.

He said with the tremendous expansion in the province there is a chronic shortage of lawyers, and research into law going on now in the U.S. might prove of value in B.C.

He appealed for a redesign of the Vancouver courthouse. He feels the old courthouse would be a fine building if its facilities were improved and some more facilities were provided close by.

"We can't get new plumbing but we get a new fountain out front," he commented.

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Forest policy factors queried

Regulations governing the provincial government's close utilization policy in the forest industry may impede forest production on the coast, according to the Truck Loggers' Association.

The association told the legislative forestry committee Wednesday it is fully in accord with a policy of improved utilization of trees in the woods, but the regulations will nullify incentives contemplated by the government.

Under the government's close utilization policy operators are permitted to take out smaller trees than have been permitted up to now. Much of it is pulp wood and the policy is to make more wood available for the expanding pulp industry.

Among the incentives will be increased timber quotas when annual allowable cuts are calculated in relation to close utilization.

The truck loggers claimed that much greater areas of usable forest material have become accessible because of improvements in logging and road building methods and in equipment improvements.

These are factors not related to close utilization, yet the government's proposed regulations will limit increased cuts to operators who can undertake close utilization, said the truck loggers.

"If this regulation is implemented, annual cuts in many areas will be maintained at the present low level until markets develop for the relatively minor proportion of smallwood," said the loggers. "Maintenance of the cut at this low level is detrimental to the forest industry and the province."

They proposed that the close utilization policy on the coast be delayed until a committee of representatives from the forest industry and the forest service can consider administrative procedures, scaling and stumpage appraisal methods.

Civilization 'threatened'

BOTTLE MENACE

Civilization is in danger of being inundated by bottles, says Vancouver-East MLA Alex Macdonald.

During debate on agriculture department estimates in the legislature Wednesday, Macdonald asked for greater use of disposable food containers.

Said Macdonald: "Khrushchev once said he was going to bury us. I don't think we are going to be buried by the Russians but we are going to be buried by bottles—pop bottles, jam jars, beer bottles, but especially pop bottles.

"Right now you can't go to the beaches without stumbling on empty bottles. I hate to see the accumulation of bottles or glass containers going on in our civilization."

Said Agriculture Minister Richter: "There isn't much I can do about the accumulation of bottles."

Fishermen protest loss of protection

Fishermen in B.C. will be deprived of mediation or arbitration procedures if a bill before the legislature is passed, the Fishermen's Union told a legislative committee Wednesday.

The union secretary, Homer Stevens, said a section of the bill repealing provisions for arbitration in the B.C. Fisheries Act should be retained.

Stevens said the question of jurisdiction over B.C. fisheries has not been settled and until it is fishermen must retain present protection under the act.

Recreation Minister Kiernan, in the House, has said the bill

has been brought forward because the provincial government believes fishermen operate under federal jurisdiction.

Stevens said fishermen now are not classed as employees and therefore do not come under the terms of the provincial Labor Relations Act.

When Resources Minister Williston said the fishermen apparently don't want to come under the Labor Relations Act, Stevens said they want to have their own act until the question of jurisdiction is settled.

He said the union doesn't like certain parts of the Labor Relations Act.

Oakalla unit 'crime school'

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) Thursday described the holding unit in the west wing of Oakalla Prison as a school for crime.

"Young men can only be led down the path to further crime because of contact with other criminals in this area," he said in the legislature.

Many drug addicts had their first experience with narcotics while at Oakalla. When they left the prison they simply continued to lead a life of drug addiction, he said.

The holding unit, where people await trial or appeal from convictions, houses an average of 175 to 200 inmates of all age groups and range of crime.

First offenders, homosexuals,

alcoholics, and drug addicts are mixed together indiscriminately and the atmosphere cannot be anything but negative, said Barrett.

He said a separate unit should be built away from the main jail for people held for trial and added that any descriptions he had given of conditions in Oakalla have been surpassed by the criticism of conditions contained in this year's annual report by Director of Corrections S. Rocksborough Smith.

Attorney-General Bonner has said that Oakalla will be replaced but Barrett said he is becoming "fed up with excuses."

"The matter rests on the conscience of the attorney-general," he said.

Jail costs outlined

The provincial government has spent \$2.6 million in the past two years on improvements to Oakalla Prison Farm, according to Attorney-General Bonner.

During the same period, he told the Legislature Thursday, a further \$6.3 million was spent on decentralization of the prison system to points throughout the province.

Bonner said this amount represents the capital cost of new facilities only.

Under construction or about to be constructed are an addition to the Prince George jail costing an estimated \$978,000, a new women's camp adjoining the Haney Correctional Institute costing \$135,000, and temporary jail quarters at Kamloops costing \$50,000.

Bonner said a new forest camp near Prince George is awaiting approval and the proposed permanent prison for Vancouver Island at Saltair is still in the planning stage.

New look at cabarets

The provincial government and Vancouver are moving to straighten out the tangled question of liquor licences for cabarets, according to Attorney-General Bonner.

He told the legislature Thursday the city proposes to alter its definition of a cabaret to bring it more into line with the Liquor Control Board definition.

Said Bonner: "We are seeking to put a definition into the Liquor Act which I hope will

move us toward a common ground to enable us to legislate on this situation.

"It will thereafter be the city's intention not to license as cabarets establishments which cannot be recognized by the provincial Liquor Control Board.

"Vancouver has proposed and we have welcomed the suggestion that it appoint a citizens' committee to review any applications which the LCB may not be prepared to grant."

Good news for waiters?

The provincial government is considering changes in the law for levying fines on beer parlor waiters who serve minors.

Opposition MLAs have been critical of the law which places the onus of bartenders and waiters to decide whether customers are under age or not.

Attorney-General Bonner said the area of most concern seems to be in the heavy fixed fine for waiters and the relatively small fine on offending minors. The present minimum fine for convicted waiters is \$300 but the

fines being levied on minors are much less.

Sid Bonner: "We have been looking into this and we may be able to deal with it at this session from the standpoint of removing the fixed fine and leaving the fines to the discretion of the courts.

"There has been a marked reluctance to levy fines against juveniles and indeed to find them guilty of the offence. But I may be able to recommend an amendment to the House before we rise."

Crime victim aid urged

Lawyer MLA Alex Macdonald has proposed establishment of a criminal injury compensation board to provide compensation for people hurt in criminal attacks.

"I don't think this should wait for another session," he told the House Thursday. "It should be done now."

He said thousands of dollars are spent by government in the rehabilitation of criminals, but nothing is spent in providing financial compensation for the victims of crime.

Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) said injuries to such victims can often be a very serious matter. In Vancouver corner grocery stores are often attacked several times and may result in injury and sometimes death to the person in the store.

Sexual attacks may lead to a loss of mental as well as physical health in the victim.

Macdonald said the criminals can be sued but it is impossible to recover judgments against these people. Any money they have usually goes for their defence against the criminal charge.

He said Britain has recently set up a criminal compensation board and has supplied it initially with \$300,000 in funds.

"We have this model to work from, let's get on with it now," said Macdonald.

Bingo tax proposed by Price

Laws governing bingo games are unfair, said Bert Price (SC-Burrard).

He told the House it is not good enough for Attorney-General Bonner to say that bingo is gambling and comes under the federal criminal code.

"Bingo is really entertainment rather than gambling and should be treated differently," he said.

He said the Mount Pleasant branch of the Canadian Legion has been operating bingo games for 25 years and people played there for amusement and as a past-time. The gambling aspect is secondary.

Yet this group has been subjected to a great deal of litigation and was closed by police action.

Price said the attorney-general should do something for the game. He said some years ago he had suggested a tax on games and he believes this would be a good way of bringing such games under some sort of control by the provincial government.

Friday, March 11, 1966

Bennett was right

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Call it knowledge of procedure or simply instinct born of 25 years of parliamentary experience but Premier Bennett has been proved technically correct in the battle over the budget debate.

This was confirmed by Speaker William Murray's ruling on a procedural point reversing the stand he took on Feb. 18, when for a short while it seemed the province tottered on the brink of an election.

Now, on no less authority than that of the clerk of the House of Commons in Westminster, it has been established that the budget debate in the legislature can't be talked out by a member who is still on his feet at the closing hour of 6 p.m.

The point is a technical one but, apart from underlining the premier's skill as a parliamentarian, it indicates the need for a complete revision of the rules of the procedure in the legislature.

The B.C. House takes its authority on matters of procedures not from Ottawa but directly from London.

That is why Sir Barnett Cocks, the highest authority on British parliamentary procedure, was consulted by the Speaker on this occasion.

According to the advice received, a simple change in wording would remove all ambiguity from the standing order which had been questioned. This was done, for the same reason, by the British Parliament in 1948, the Speaker advised.

There are apparently no immediate plans to make the suggested change here, but

those seeking procedural reform point out that many other ambiguities exist in the orders which were last revised in 1930.

The conduct of the legislature is governed by 40 pages of standing orders in conjunction with local precedents established by speakers' rulings and references to the British parliamentary authority.

Murray points out that the Speaker's job is made more difficult by the fact that while our orders have remained static for 36 years those of the Mother Parliament are being constantly revised.

He personally believes the legislature should stick with the British system but agrees with the suggestion that full-scale revision of procedures is probably overdue.

The job would be a big one to carry out in the space of an average eight-week session.

According to Murray, however, when the job is done it should be handled by a select standing committee of the House. He says: "Parliament should make its own laws through its own parliamentarians with advice from its own clerks."

Among the perennial issues which could be ironed out by such a study is the matter of oral questions in the House. At present two standing orders touch on this subject, and apparently contradict, so speakers in the past have held that all questions and answers must be written.

Keeping in mind what happened here Feb. 18, a committee set up to make needed revisions could also give consideration to adopting the system followed elsewhere in the Commonwealth of not permitting direct challenge of the Speaker's ruling.

Gibson wants lash

Cat-o'-nine next?

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Gordon Gibson (L-North Vancouver) demanded in the legislature Thursday that the lash be brought back for drunken drivers and habitual drunks.

He said during discussion of the attorney-general's department estimates that those who use liquor to excess should be hit first in the pocketbook.

But if that doesn't work, Gibson said, "I think we should bring back six lashes."

Persistent offenders should be given the lash and jailed, if necessary repeating the dose, Gibson said.

"I'm willing to say liquor does a lot of harm," he said.

Gibson added that prohibition proved a failure but he suggested a lot of the troubles caused by alcohol today arise from people not knowing how to cope with prosperity.

He proposed that the tax on hard liquor be tripled to reduce the amount of drinking.

Beer, which he termed "the poor man's drink, the working man's drink, the social drink," should not be included in proposed tax increases, Gibson said.

"I believe 90 per cent of those who really get into trouble driving cars and so on are on hard liquor," Gibson said.

Attorney-General Bonner replied that raising the price of liquor, judging by past experience, was unlikely to have the desired effect.

Instead, he suggested, it would probably result in increased activity by illegal "moonshiners" who are already flourishing as never before on other parts of the continent.

"In the U.S. today it is a fact that there has never been a larger volume of liquor illicitly produced and a good deal of the liquor in legitimate American outlets originates through this clandestine commerce," Bonner said.

Lady MLA

Beer parlor lament

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The only woman MLA in the legislature told all the men in the chamber Thursday she doesn't think much of beer parlors.

After listening to some of the men plead for relaxations in the law to make beer parlors more interesting places to go to, she rose and said: "I don't think anything can be done to improve beer parlors."

"The last time I was in one was with a former member of this legislature and it was a scene I shall never forget."

The scene she described was of a man falling out of his chair. When he was replaced in the chair, she said, he was still "emitting noises" and mumbling about not having enough beer, even though he had seven glasses in front of him.

Nobody likes a game hog . . .

Richard Larson of Sidney, a commercial fisherman, has asked for stricter control of sports fishing in B.C. He gave the legislative fisheries committee some shocking examples of "game-hogging" by people supposed to be angling for sport.

Since his livelihood depends on an abundance of salmon, it could be expected that Mr. Larson is prejudiced against sports fishing. And often the shoe is on the other foot — sports fishermen claim commercial boats are so numer-

ous and active that coastal waters may soon be barren.

It would be hard to dismiss the examples, however — a Victoria "sportsman" bragging about catching 55 pink salmon in Saaninch Inlet in one day; two tourists who took 67 coho and springs at Stuart Island in two days; pleasure craft calling at Bamfield for ice to carry home 500 to 700 pounds of salmon.

We leave to the experts the longstanding controversy between

commercial and sports fishermen over which side is the greater menace to the fishery.

But the practice of game-hogging is hard to swallow, whether it involves deer, pheasants or fish. Anyone who deliberately exceeds the legal game limit forfeits the title of "sportsman" and deserves a penalty.

The legislative committee should recommend that all possible measures be taken to catch the game hogs and persuade them to change their ways.

Pensioners rap oral test law

Old age pensioners' groups Thursday protested a government regulation requiring a medical certificate from a dentist or a doctor before they can have dentures made by a dental mechanic.

The Federated Legislative Council representing 14 old age groups, told a special committee of the legislature a certificate of oral health can cost between \$5 and \$25. It said this is a lot of money to people on low fixed incomes.

The legislature committee is studying the operation of the Dental Technicians Act to see if any amendments are necessary.

Under the act, dental mechanics are permitted to work directly for the public but before they can make dentures, the patient must receive an oral certificate. The act permits dental technicians to do a wider range of work than the mechanics but they must work through the dentists by prescription.

The old age groups' legislative council recommended abolition of the certificate requirement. It told the committee these certificates often amount to no more than a signature by a dentist or doctor and yet they increase the cost of dentures for old people.

The council said it is not aware of any health problem arising out of the work of the dental mechanics, who can make full dentures for \$50.

Fountain inspires letters

Attorney-General Bonner says he has been getting letters about the new fountain for in front of the Vancouver courthouse, but he won't say whether the public reaction was good or bad.

He was asked for details of the fountain during discussion of the attorney-general's department estimates in the Legislature.

"How is that fountain coming along — I understand it is pretty schmaltzy?" said Tony Gargrave (NDP-Mackenzie).

Bonner replied he had some correspondence on the question but the government plan is yet to be heard.

Works Minister Chant, whose department is building the fountain, has so far refused all requests for a sketch of the fountain on grounds that to show it to the public now might attract undue criticism.

Legal aid fees for year cost B.C. \$50,000

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Bonner says the government will have spent approximately \$50,000 in the fiscal year ending March 31 on legal aid for more than 400 persons charged with criminal offences.

He was answering Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) who said in the legislature Thursday he supported the earlier plea by fellow New Democrat Tony Gargrave for a comprehensive system of legal aid in the province.

Tax continues City lawyer denies charge by Indian band

Vancouver's corporation counsel, Russell Baker, said Thursday a proposed amendment in the city charter would allow Vancouver to continue taxes on Indian land leased to outsiders.

During a hearing by the legislative private bills committee Baker denied a charge by the Indian band that the city is trying to take away rights of the band to tax land it has not surrendered.

He said the Indians are already getting large sums of money for the land they have leased.

Musqueam Development Ltd., now planning a subdivision on the reserve, will pay the band \$60,000 through the federal citizenship minister, plus an annual fee of \$27,000, he said.

Alex Macdonald, an NDP member of the committee, wondered where this money went to. He said he could not understand how there could be run-down homes on the reserves if this money is available to the Indians.

Baker also said the city is prepared to fight the Canadian Pacific Railway through the courts over a proposed amendment to the charter requiring subdividers of more than 20 acres to donate 10 per cent of the land to the city for park purposes.

The CPR has claimed the proposal is aimed at the company because it is the largest private land holder in the city. It claimed the amendment would be an extra tax on the railway.

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Friday, March 11, 1966

House urged to abolish QC appointments

Province Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA—Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) Thursday called for the abolition of the appointment of lawyers to become Queen's Counsel.

He told the legislature the present system is interlarded with political considerations in appointments and the QC system has fallen into disrepute.

He said appointment to become a QC is an empty honor anyway and does not affect the disposition of cases.

The only advantage is when a case goes to the Supreme Court of Canada where a QC stands about 15 feet closer to the array of judges hearing the case, said Macdonald.

The only acceptable system of appointments would be through a committee of legal

authorities without the interposition of political considerations.

Macdonald made it clear he isn't bucking for such an appointment. "Under the present system I wouldn't accept one," he said.

Attorney-General Bonner said a change in legislation will permit the annual cumulative growth in the number of QCs to increase from five to 10.

He said he hopes by the end of this year to be able to recommend a list of new QCs for the province.

Compared with other jurisdictions, B.C. has fewer QCs.

The subject provoked a shouting match later in the House when Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) rose to support Macdonald's plea.

Government backbenchers shouted: "How about the Lib-

eral appointments to the senate?"

Macfarlane: "We do no better in the senate than this provincial government does in the appointment of QCs. As far as I am concerned the Senate of Canada should be an elective body and not an appointed body."

As the government backbenchers continued to heckle him, Macfarlane said the only appointment to the senate that he would approve would be that of Premier Bennett.

Macfarlane: "Let him rest in the haven of worn out old politicians."

Premier Bennett: "Would you take an appointment to the bench?"

Macfarlane: "I have no aspirations to the bench at the age of 42, or the senate." I want to stay right here."

Mysterious memo brings Opposition demand for probe

Attorney-General Bonner was accused in the legislature Thursday of trying to fob off Opposition attempts to obtain a copy of a mysterious government memo about Socred campaign funds.

Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) said he wasn't prepared to accept Bonner's explanation that the memo, if it ever existed, had been destroyed as a matter of routine.

He said there should be a serious investigation launched by the House into destruction of documents which were "supposed to be retained by act of this legislature."

The memo, according to the transcript of a radio interview with former B.C. purchasing commission chairman G. E. P. Jones, was written by Jones to the attorney-general some years ago.

In the interview, Jones described an incident in his office in which a prospective government supplier complained that he had not contributed \$25,000 to the Social Credit education fund to be "pushed around."

Jones said the supplier threatened to take the matter up with Bonner and said this was why he wrote the memo.

Dowding told the House that Louis Wener of Calgary was the man who allegedly said

he had paid \$25,000 into the Socred campaign fund and claimed he was entitled to "some consideration" in return.

He said Wener was connected with companies which had done \$1.2 million worth of business with this government since 1956.

Bonner said he had received a note covering the activities of one of these companies, Con-Force Construction Ltd., 1955 to 1957. Jones was appointed chairman of the purchasing commission in 1956.

But the attorney-general told the House he didn't recall ever receiving the memo referred to by Jones in the interview. He added: "I doubt frankly that it exists."

Bonner said his secretary remembers no such memo and a search of his files failed to turn it up.

"I'm advised the document of the purchasing commission are destroyed on a five-year basis," Bonner said.

Dowding asked by what authority such files could be destroyed.

"I don't know. That is the only information I have," said Bonner.

Dowding said the government should find out who was responsible for this action and take action against them.

TV beer plugs under attack in liquor advertising flare-up

Proposals by Liberal Leader Perrault for campaigns by the provincial government and the liquor interests quickly ran into trouble in the legislature.

Perrault condemned liquor advertising on radio and television beamed to B.C. from the U.S., when such advertising is prohibited by law here.

He said the government should launch a major campaign urging moderation in the use of alcohol. The Liquor Control Board and the attorney-general should "bring every influence on the Canadian distillers and brewers to have them encourage advertising and promotion of moderation."

Attorney-General Bonner said he is aware of certain conflicts in the legislative approval of liquor ads in newspapers when advertising isn't permitted in other media.

But he said any suggestion the government should launch an advertising campaign to promote moderate drinking could only be regarded "as a rather refined hoax on the public."

Bonner added, however, that the liquor ads he had seen on the Bellingham television station were "in the most extraordinary bad taste."

Opposition Leader Strachan said it would be the rankest hypocrisy for the people who produce alcohol to undertake any programs advertising moderation.

He said: "No advertising of liquor of any kind should be allowed, whether we are advocating moderation or anything else."

Perrault said he had tape recorded some of the ads beamed from the U.S. and quoted from them. One said

"Ours is the lion-hearted beer because it is not like all those tame beers." Another said "You are a real man when you drink our beer. Our beer is one of the few things in the world that won't be tamed."

Perrault said some of the people hearing this kind of advertising would be tame tabbies the day after drinking the beer.

Pesticide pall hangs heavy



By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The flowering plum trees outside the legislative buildings here are blossoming. The sun shines brightly, most days, but in the stuffy chamber where the lawmakers meet there are nagging doubts about the spring that will soon be coming to other parts of the province.

The concern is over what appears to be virtually uncontrolled use of pesticides in some areas and the affect that this can have on fish, birds, animals, and foodstuffs for human consumption.

Some MLAs showed undisguised alarm when Agriculture

Minister Richter admitted "we don't know where we're going" on the matter of pesticide controls. It seems that even those who said nothing, mainly on the government side, must have felt a twinge of concern.

It was the plight of three Grand Forks dairy farmers that sparked the debate in the legislature this week. But this purely local issue became secondary to the real question: If pesticides have been improperly used there on the advice of provincial and federal authorities, what of the rest of the province?

Compensation urged

Point Grey Liberal Dr. Pat McGeer said the Grand Forks farmers were the victims of incomplete knowledge and inexact science and therefore should receive compensation from the government.

As a research chemist McGeer assured the House that the best brains in the world don't know the answer to the pesticide problem. But he wanted to know in exact terms how much money, staff and effort this government is throwing into pesticide research.

The answers provided by the government failed to satisfy the critics of the agriculture minister.

Richter himself said soil tests will be made in the Grand Forks area as soon as the snow is off the ground. According to

the minister, at some unspecified date in the future this program will be extended to cover the whole province.

Trade Minister Loffmark told the House the U.S. government has provided funds for general research into pesticide use and control by the B.C. Research Council.

But Loffmark didn't contradict an earlier statement by Richter that there isn't any useful information available on pesticide residue in the province.

"We've still got to explore, do the basic research," Richter said.

Meanwhile no one knows how widespread the bad effects of pesticide use are, though there are indications that appear disquieting.

Fish also affected

The new Bull River fish hatcheries in the East Kootenays had no fish in its first year of operation because pesticides were sprayed onto trees in the watershed area. This led Leo Nimsick New Democratic from Cranbrook, to ask the government to ban all use of pesticides until the effects of their use can be accurately predicted.

Another NDP member, William Hartley, told the House he had found no fish in a favorite interior fishing stream since the area was sprayed with pesticides.

Charges of indiscriminate use of aerial pesticed sprays by the

forest biologist, which is now being studied by a special legislative committee.

An industry spokesman later told the committee that in 1965 only 95 acres of the 118 million acres of commercial forest in the province were sprayed. The five-year average for spraying is 2,600 acres according to this source.

It was left to Mrs. Lois Hagen, NDP member for Grand Forks, to sum up for critics of the government. She says: "We're attacking the minister not on his lack of knowledge but on the lack of work being done to determine the effects of pesticides."

Lawyer-MLA decries 'curbside' justice

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The proposed system of roadside suspensions for borderline drinking drivers was called a move toward a police state by one opposition critic in the legislature Friday.

Lawyer Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) said the government, by this section of the proposed highway safety legislation, is saying in effect to police: "Do what you will to get these people off the roads."

"Another lawyer, Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) said he would support the principle of the bill but added the government would be wise to admit that at this stage the whole thing was an experiment.

"Something must be done to stop people from driving on our highways when they've had too much to drink," Macfarlane said.

"This is the time when we do need a drastic step if the number of highway fatalities is to be reduced, and this proposal isn't as drastic as might be."

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) also a lawyer, felt the roadside suspensions are a very dangerous infringement of civil liberties.

"I would much rather have seen the attorney-general go the other way and made breathalyzer tests compulsory," he said.

He called the proposed system of 24-hour licence suspensions "instant curbside justice," outside the realm of the courts and with no appeal.

"It may be a little thing but it is very important," said Macdonald.

"For the first time a police officer is judge, jury and prosecutor. He has usurped the role of the courts. The person involved has no appeal against the lifting of his licence, which even for the short period of 24 hours certainly constitute a conviction."

Bert Price (SC-Burrard) said he objected to another section of the bill which required garage operators not to repair automobiles with more than \$100 damage unless the police have placed an "under investigation" sticker on the windshield.

This practice puts too much responsibility on the businessman who is trying to operate a garage, Price said.

He predicted it would lead to clandestine businesses which "bootleg" auto repairs.

Dowding said he supported the bill in principle but had to object to the section dealing with roadside suspensions because it appeared to violate the Canadian Bill of Rights.

He asked the government to try "the middle approach" before going into the field of a police state, by automatically suspending licences for one year for impaired driving. He said this was the modern yet stiff approach.

Townsite 'will set in park precedent'

Spokesmen for outdoors groups on Vancouver Island warned Friday that establishment of a proposed townsite in Strathcona Park would set a precedent for all other provincial parks.

Edward Mankelov of Chemainus told a special legislative committee studying the problem its decision would greatly influence future decisions of Recreation Minister Kiernan.

"It's unlikely future requests for townsites in parks will be referred to committee," said Mankelov. "The minister will probably take your findings on this study as the reflection of the views of the public."

Keith Morton of Courtenay said a townsite anywhere in the park would be detrimental to park values.

Resources Minister Williston, a member of the committee, told the outdoors group: "We're all emotionally charged in the same direction but we've got a practical problem to face up to."

A "fact of life" that cannot be ignored, Williston said, is that whatever the committee recommends Western Mines will go into operation this summer at Myra Creek on the south end of Buttle Lake, inside the park.

This means ore trucks will use 25 miles of access highway through the park and eventually three shifts of workers would travel back and forth daily to the mine.

Morton replied: "Evils will occur, we know, because the mine is there but we don't want to add to these evils."

Another Kootenay seat promised by Bennett

VICTORIA — Premier Bennett bowed a little to demands from both sides of the House Friday and promised to create a new legislature seat for the Kootenays, boosting the seat total to 55.

The debate on the government's controversial redistribution bill was droning along in committee when the premier jumped to his feet to announce the change.

"We live in a democracy," Bennett told the House. "It is the duty of the government to lead, but it is also the duty of the government to listen."

Bennett said he was particularly impressed by views expressed earlier by Harry McKay (L-Fernie). McKay called for better representation for the Kootenays, which stood

to lose three existing seats under the original government bill.

The premier promised to split the huge new Columbia River riding in two. It contained large chunks of three existing ridings, Revelstoke, Kaslo-Slocan and Columbia.

Earlier, McKay had said this might be the last chance he had to speak for the Kootenays.

"I am not even speaking of the new riding into which mine will be merged," he said. "I think that new riding can be serviced."

"But the new Columbia River riding is just too big, it is ridiculous. That particular riding can be cut in half and give the Kootenays one more riding."

"If the government will do nothing else, it should at least do that."

Timber rule under fire

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The government's new policy of close utilization of wood from the forests, aimed at helping pulp industry expansion, is going to reduce the timber available to the established logging, sawmill, plywood and shingle industry, says the Council of Forest Industries of B.C.

A brief by the council to the Legislature forestry committee on Friday said the government could increase the annual cut of saw timber in Crown forests on the B.C. coast by one-third with absolute safety at present standards of utilization.

This could be done instead of the reduction of one-third which will be the consequence of new control policies established by the B.C. Forest Service, the brief said.

BACK POLICY

The council supported the close utilization policy but said that government efforts to encourage pulp expansion should not be at the cost of established operators.

"We believe the government policies (on allowable cuts of timber) result from an incorrect estimate of the increased timber harvest available under close utilization."

The council recalled that the government's announced policy is to include as incentives enlarged annual allowable cuts and reduced stumpage charges for operators who go in for close utilization.

Said the council: "We deplore the fact that while making close utilization optional, the present and long-established salvage rates are being withdrawn on ordinary timber sales and cutting permits."

"This denies operators not electing to experiment with

close utilization any reduction in stumpage on small trees and chunks they have been recovering. Why penalize a logger who picks up all the small trees and chunks in one-pass logging.

"We believe that until close utilization procedures are developed and proven, no change to existing salvage logging provisions should be undertaken."

The salvage rate is 20 cents per 100 cubic feet.

Present Forest Service regulations state that an operator applying for increased quota must have a contract for sale of smallwood or chips.

NO DEDUCTIONS

Under the new smallwood rules, there will be no deductions from the scaled total for defects other than decay. Stumpage charges will be pro-rated to cover both the sawtimber and the smallwood.

The council brief said it felt the reduction in annual cut would come with the approved allowable. The council said in many coastal forests, total timber logged has been over the allowable for some years.

The council recommended a joint industry-Forest Service study team be appointed to develop data basic for the formation of administrative policy on close utilization. This was also recommended by the Truck Loggers Association.

STUDY URGED

Matters to be studied should include how much additional volume is made available by moving from present standards to close utilization, development of scaling procedures to handle depletion and study of stumpage appraisal procedures.

The council also urged that the Forest Service be directed to publish its calculations of the allowable cuts in public sustained yield units on the basis of 13-inch trees and, after making allowances for decay, waste and breakage, establish this as the new allowable cut for sawtimber.

It recommended that this cut be shared by present operators proportionately.

Later, when further data is available that revised allowances on the close utilization basis be established and that this further increase by shared between established operators and new quota holders.

Saturday, March 12, 1966

Seine group requests separate fisheries dept.

A special Legislative committee was asked Friday to establish a full-scale provincial department of fisheries.

Frank Buble, president of the Salmon Seine Vessel Owners Association, said one of the first jobs of the new department should be to correct the overwhelming advantage gillnetters and trollers now enjoy over seine fishermen in West Coast waters.

He told the committee some 3,000 seine fishermen must operate under deplorable conditions which don't affect the 4,000 gillnetters and 2,000 trollers on the coast.

Seiners are prohibited from fishing seven inlets where the most valuable varieties of

salmon are caught and have only partial access to five other areas, Buble said.

He told the committee these laws date back to the days when trolling and gillnetting was done by row boats and sail boats.

Buble said he didn't want to turn the clock back but he asked for six or seven areas on the coast to be set aside for the exclusive use of seine fishermen.

The committee was told that U.S. studies have shown that 27 per cent of fish taken by gillnet or troll can be lost under certain conditions.

This doesn't happen with seiners, Buble said, so increased seine fishing would mean better conservation.

Shares fiddle charged on eve of federal probe

The case of former B.C. Superintendent of Brokers J. Stewart Smith had been raised in the Legislature a few days before federal hearings into Northern Ontario Natural Gas Company share transactions are due to open in Vancouver.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said Smith obtained NONG shares at below market value while he was superintendent.

In addition, Macdonald said, he has documentary proof Smith granted a favor by allowing the sale of International African American Corporation shares here while the company was not registered in B.C.

These two cases indicate criminal charges should have been laid against Smith for accepting a benefit while a public official, Macdonald said.

Attorney General Bonner said he decided on the evidence available at the time that charges were not warranted. But he told the House knowledge that Smith was engaged in private market transactions was deeply distressing.

"Quite frankly this led to a parting of the ways for which I was personally grateful," Bonner said.

Smith left B.C. in 1962 and at last report was living in New Zealand.

Ottawa scandals echo in Victoria

The political scandals in Ottawa echoed in the B.C. Legislature Monday night when MLAs said politics are being hurt by public cynicism.

Liberal Leader Perrault said a disturbing cynicism is growing toward public life in general, politics and the institution of Parliament itself.

He said: "I say when it comes to general public mistrust of politics and politicians, legislatures and Parliament, no man is an island.

"If there is general public cynicism toward those in public life, we can't say it is a problem that belongs to some other part of Canada. It is a problem that deeply involves every member of this legislature and it touches on education.

"I am not satisfied with the general public attitude expressed in open-line radio programs. I am not pointing the finger at any one party. But we have a lot to do as public servants to improve our image. I think in many respects we are doing a terrible job.

"No party in Canada has a monopoly on virtue. I am freely willing to admit that the representatives that govern this legislature are trying to do the best they can for their province. But we have a positive responsibility to demonstrate that public life is worthy to be considered by the most idealistic

and high-minded of our young people. I have talked to many young people who say they don't want any part of politics because they think it is a dirty business."

He said there is room in the schools for a far more detailed examination and instruction in the workings of political parties. But he said in the school system now the thought of bringing in a political speaker to talk to students is considered "slightly worse than the bubonic plague."

Perrault said he sees no reason why the graduating classes in the schools should not be allowed to hear speakers from the various parties.

Education Minister Peterson said the schools should not be blamed for the political situation.

He said: "Our schools should not be responsible for the public image of politicians, especially the harm that politicians in another House are doing to the image of people in public life at this moment.

"I don't think it is fair to suggest that schools have this entire responsibility. They teach that public life is an honorable profession. We have the responsibility ourselves in this respect which I think is being completely ignored in other places today."

Smoke screen charged

A spokesman for the Alberni Citizens Committee on Pollution, which met three cabinet ministers in Victoria Monday, said later he didn't expect the government to enact legislation at the current session to deal with the problem.

Andrew Bigg of Port Alberni said his pessimistic outlook was based upon a comment by Resources Minister Williston that pollution control enforcement was up to the municipalities.

"This leaves me in no doubt that the government intends to put up a heavier smoke screen than the fog of pollution we are now battling in the Alberni Valley," said Bigg.

"I feel the provincial government doesn't intend to enact legislation to control this problem within the foreseeable future."

The brief—supported by a petition signed by 6,841 residents of the Alberni Valley—asked the government to set up an independent commission with the authority to shut down offending plants when climatic conditions promoted air pollution.

A-blast to open road urged

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A controlled atomic explosion has been suggested as a means of solving the question of road access to Western Mines Ltd. properties in Strathcona Park.

The shortest route would link the mine on Myra Creek at the south end of Buttle Lake to Courtenay—but the proposed 15-mile road from the mine to the head of Comox Lake would have to surmount a 4,000-foot rock barrier.

Courtenay real estate man D. W. Wensley, in a letter read to the special legislative committee studying the problem Monday, said there is a possibility an atomic blast could be used to shear off the top of the barrier so the road could be pushed through.

Wensley claimed the proposed townsite for mine employees could be located outside the park at the head of Comox Lake. He said this location would make

it necessary for workers to travel 15 miles to work and the same distance home again each day. The proposed townsite would be only 11 miles from Courtenay and within the existing school district, the committee was told.

Western Mines is now planning to spend approximately \$1 million on new bulk loading facilities at Campbell River 60 miles from the mine.

Wensley said existing bulk loading facilities at Union Bay would be suitable for loading concentrates from the mine and the road haul would be only half the distance to and from Campbell River.

The committee was also told, however, that mine manager Charles Campbell had rejected the Courtenay road link proposal after turning it over to consulting engineers.

Campbell said in a letter also read to the committee his engineers suggested

only two feasible routes, one down to the east shore of Buttle Lake and the other on the west shore, and his company had already undertaken to pay \$2.5 million towards the cost of building the access road within park boundaries.

Committee members agreed, however, that the provincial highways department should be asked to report on the proposed Courtenay to Myra Lake route.

Trade Minister Loffmark said he felt the committee shouldn't be put off by the suggestion that the rock barrier could be removed by the peaceful application of atomic energy.

"Let's not turn our back on Columbus," Loffmark said. "The suggested shorter route is perfect in every respect but one—the rock barrier."

The minister said he would gather the necessary data from the highways department engineers and the aerial survey branch before reporting back to the committee Wednesday.

Victoria comment



Salmon 'sports' flourish

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—He's a so-called sport fisherman, although those who truly fish for sport decry his activities the loudest. Commercial fishermen regard him as a moonlighter.

The fish-hog often boasts he has paid for his expensive camper, boat, motor and other gear out of profits from his fishing. He is frequently, though not always, a non-resident.

Howard Paish, spokesman for B.C. Wildlife Federation, claims this kind of sham saltwater sportsman can and does take up to 600 pounds of salmon in the space of a few days when fishing is hot.

For this privilege he requires no licence and is beset by few regulations.

There is a daily catch limit of four fish. Paish argues, however, this can be easily circumvented by spreading the catch around among members of his family.

Much more serious, he claims, is the lack of any limit on the number of saltwater fish in an angler's possession, which means a fish-hog is able to can or smoke literally dozens of choice B.C. salmon for sale later.

This kind of abuse of the

fisheries resource is far less likely to occur in B.C. rivers and lakes largely because of stricter regulations.

Saltwater fisheries, both commercial and sport, are a federal responsibility. Freshwater fisheries have been delegated by Ottawa to the provincial government.

Recreation Minister Kiernan admits the fisheries situation on the west coast is "just a little short of chaotic" but he indicates the province won't make any new move at present.

Recreationists are perhaps too inclined to blame this do-nothing-for-the-present attitude on the government's desire to attract more tourist dollars.

B.C. fisheries are greatly in need of improved conservation practices, but it cannot seriously be argued that the resource is being depleted to a significant extent by the fish-hogs.

There are now an estimated 100,000 saltwater sports fishermen in B.C. waters. According to various estimates given to the special legislative committee this session, perhaps one in 10,000, conservatively, is a fish-hog.

It must be remembered however, that salt water fishermen

are increasing at the rate of approximately 10 per cent per year. So the problem of fish-hogs, if left unchecked could become serious.

Paish would like to see B.C. salmon given the same status as big game trophies such as Rocky Mountain sheep and moose.

He points out that a visitor who comes to B.C. to collect a big game trophy has to pay something like \$1,500 in accommodation costs, trophy fees, and fees for hiring a licensed guide.

"A 15 pound coho or a 50 pound chinook salmon provides a recreational experience that's every bit as valid but the visitor has little or nothing to pay because there are no fees and he probably lives in his own camper and carries his own boat and gear," Paish argues.

Kiernan admits the growing popularity of B.C. fishing waters is creating a problem that didn't exist 10 years ago.

But the federal jurisdiction over fisheries is clear-cut, Kiernan says.

For the province to assume more responsibilities in this field without being delegated the necessary authority by Ottawa, according to Kiernan, would be asking to be made the whipping boy.

Ottawa education talks coming, says minister

A national conference will be held in Ottawa within the next few months to discuss implementation of the Bladen Report on higher education financing.

This was announced in the B.C. Legislature Monday by Education Minister Peterson during debate on education department estimates.

"I am hopeful that action will be taken this year providing additional money for university capital expansion," he said.

The Bladen Report recommended capital grants to universities on a basis of \$5 per student.

"If this recommendation is implemented I think we will be able to do even more than we have on capital expansion," he said.

Alan Macfarlane (Lib. Oak Bay) charged that the government's university capital grants formula discriminates against the University of Victoria.

He said the University of Victoria gets \$1,551 per student while Simon Fraser University gets \$2,571 per student. Calculated on the number of students at Victoria University, this means that Simon Fraser gets \$5 million more.

Peterson denied there is any discrimination. He said Simon Fraser, as an instant university, has to build from the ground up while Victoria University had existing building and campus.

He said Simon Fraser capital costs are higher, even though there may be many reasons for that.

Macfarlane countered that Victoria University faces the same kind of basic costs at its new Gordon Head campus that Simon Fraser faces.

He said they are both completely new and the only fair way is for the government to treat them the same.

Living costs

Bigger bursaries bandied

VICTORIA—Education Minister Peterson told the legislature Monday bursaries may be increased shortly to cover a portion of the living costs incurred by out-of-town students attending universities in B.C.

(Other legislature news on Pages 8 and 9.)

He said the change is still under consideration and indicated it may depend upon the willingness of the federal government to contribute a share of the increased bursaries.

The minister was answering opposition criticism during debate on his salary estimates that rising tuition fees are making it more difficult for youngsters from ordinary homes to reach university.

The government has also increased the number of scholarships available to university students with second class standing, the minister told the House.

Tuesday, March 15, 1966

Williston eyes temporary pulp log export

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Resources Minister Williston said Monday that a plan for temporary export of surplus pulp logs might be considered.

He made it clear, however, at a hearing of the legislature's forestry committee that he was not enunciating government policy.

"I am talking completely off the top of my head but I throw it out as a suggestion which the committee might consider in helping me with some of my problems."

Some groups which earlier presented briefs to the committee complained they cannot economically log pulp timber when there is no market for it in B.C., and said regulations prevent them from exporting as operators in Washington do.

Under present regulations, operators must offer their logs to three pulp companies and be rejected before they can go to the export advisory board for an export permit.

The independent Squamish Logging Operators Ltd. told the committee it has been impossible to get the big companies to put refusals in writing so that applications for export can be made.

Williston suggested export

might be allowed for a year or a year and a half to ease the surfeit of pulp logs. He said it would have to be restricted to those who cannot dispose of their logs in B.C. rather than throw the whole export market open.

"You could give some thought to this," said Williston. "Mind you, this is a very explosive question but under the present circumstances we are penalizing the small loggers who are dependent on a market for this material. I don't even know whether this is even practical but it might be considered."

Williston rejected pleas by some groups appearing before the committee for a delay in the introduction of the close utilization policy until a joint industry-forest service committee has made a thorough study to develop what is called "data basic to the formation of administrative policy."

Said Williston: "Even though there has been such a committee, there have been numerous long discussions between the industry association and my department over 18 months. We have not tried to evolve this program in a vacuum. As a result of these talks, various revisions to the original draft

were made and circulated. But each association represents regional interests and it is impossible to accept all the suggestions from each group.

"The Crown has to initiate policy as a starting point and then after experience changes, if necessary, must be made. We are attempting to do this in as fair and open a method as possible. But I don't accept the proposition that we have to stop and have somebody look at this very thoroughly before we try anything. We have to have definite experience on which to base policy. Unless we do this we are not going to be in a position to analyze what is going on and make changes. This committee would be a further delay in the implementation of the policy."

He also rejected a suggestion that close utilization — where much smaller wood is allowed to be taken out of the woods than before — would be detrimental to established sawlog, plywood and shingle operators.

Some groups had complained that close utilization would favor those going in for the new policy and the amount of timber available for sawlogs would be reduced.

More tuition considered for school counsellors

Education Minister Peterson said Monday consideration is being given to extending training programs for school counsellors.

But he rejected the idea they should work full-time at counselling.

During debate on education estimates in the legislature, Peterson said: "My department believes counsellors should also teach and never lose touch with the actual act of teaching. We favor the position of half-time counselling and half-time teaching."

"It is my feeling they should keep their hands in and be in close contact with students. Counselling is more important today than it has ever been before because of the complexity of the programs and the diversity of choices available to the students."

He said school districts have always had the right to employ full-time counsellors and some do. But the policy of the department is against that at the moment.

He admitted, however, that it is difficult for counsellors to keep pace with events and he added the department is always interested in providing oppor-

tunities for upgrading counselling services.

Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP, Grand Forks-Greenwood), said counselling was of such importance in this complex world it should be done on a full-time basis.

Mrs. Haggen was also critical of what she considered a lack of emphasis on the elementary level education.

She said: "Our lower grades have been neglected for years. I am not critical of the elementary teachers, I think they are doing a tremendous job. But their classes are much too large."

"They are not being granted the salaries, they should be. I think it's high time we did concentrate a great deal more on the primary and elementary grades."

She accused the department of living off the training programs of other countries in its teacher recruitment programs.

According to Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports, B.C. elementary teachers are better qualified than anywhere else in Canada. There are more elementary teachers with university degrees in B.C. than elsewhere, Peterson countered.

What's a Canadian?

JOE IN THE DARK

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) complained in the legislature Monday that his nine-year-old son Joe must use a dictionary which doesn't even tell him what a Canadian is.

Barrett said the book is called the Winston Canadian Dictionary. It duly describes an American as a citizen of America and particularly the U.S., he said.

But there is no reference to Canada or Canadians. "What is the point of all this expense if we haven't got some kind of national identity?" Barrett said.

He told the legislature it would be easy to be facetious and claim this indicates separatist leanings on the part of the government.

"But I'm afraid it really means people just aren't paying enough attention to what these books contain."

No boost in fees, maybe - Bennett

Premier Bennett said Tuesday there won't be any university fee increase this year—maybe.

He intervened in a row in the legislature over university operating grants to say: "As premier and minister of finance, I want to say I don't think there will be a fee increase this year."

Although pressed by opposition MLAs, the premier refused to say by how much the universities' requests exceeded the government's grants, or to say categorically that there would be no fee increase.

The education department's estimates—at \$166.9 million the largest of any department in the current session—were finally passed after 11½ hours of debate.

The premier's intervention came after the opposition accused the government of working under a veil of secrecy in deciding to give the three universities \$25 million in operating grants this year. There was no breakdown of how much each university will receive.

Both NDP and Liberal MLAs mounted a determined attack on Education Minister Peterson for refusing to tell the House just how much each university had requested.

Said Alan Macfarlane (Lib-Oak Bay): "This is information which the House must have to consider whether the amounts granted by the legislature are adequate or not."

"We were told last year the amounts from the government"

were not sufficient and the universities had to increase fees.

We had fee increases two years in a row. I want to know whether the government is paying any attention to this problem."

Said Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby): "I think it is a breach of every rule of Parliament that you come before this house and ask it to spend \$25 million of the taxpayers' money and not justify that expenditure. This is a cloaking or hiding of the basic justification of this expenditure."

"Before the universities get this money they should present to this House what they want the money for. Then we would be able to determine whether we are giving them enough. This is a completely mysterious method of disbursing public money."

Peterson said the government's responsibility is only to assist the universities. The government doesn't set fees or the size of the universities' budgets.

"It would not be proper for this legislature to encroach on the freedom of the universities in this manner," he said.

Peterson refused to divulge what the universities had requested as assistance.

This prompted Macfarlane to rise and point his finger at Peterson, saying: "If there is a fee increase, the responsibility will rest fully on the shoulders of this government and the minister of education."

Bill tightens control over B.C. doctors

The B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons will have tighter control over the 2,363 practising physicians in B.C.

Health Minister Martin introduced a bill in the legislature Tuesday which represents the first full-scale revision in 20 years of the statute governing the medical profession here.

The new act will allow the college to declare a doctor unfit to practise if he is found to be suffering from a mental ailment, emotional disturbance, or addicted to alcohol or drugs.

The college can order the doctor struck off the register or merely suspend him for a period.

Another new provision would compel a doctor to take an examination on the order of the college and allow the regulating body to restrict the scope of his practice if the results are unsatisfactory.

The maximum penalty for fraudulent registration with the college and unregistered persons who practice medicine, surgery or midwifery is raised from \$100 to \$500.

A second offence of unlawful practice carries a maximum fine that is to be increased from \$250 to \$1,000.

For third and subsequent offences the present mandatory jail term is lengthened from three to six months.

Victoria project

PINNACLE OF SIGHTSEEING

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A small group of local businessmen is planning to build a 300-foot observation tower on Victoria's inner harbor near the legislative buildings.

Tony Bristowe, spokesman for the group, said Tuesday the \$500,000 tower will be twice the height of the gold-plated statue of Captain Vancouver on top of the dome of the buildings.

Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell introduced a bill in the House Tuesday which permits the city of Victoria to lease waterfront land on Belleville Street, near the CPR ferry terminal to the private developers:

The proposed legislation allows the government's capital improvement district commission to approve any structure put on the harbor property.

Bristowe and his partner, Douglas Gage, say they have already shown rough plans for their project to Works Minister Chant, who liked it.

Plans call for a tower of fabricated aluminum, with a central enclosed elevator to the top observation deck and a view of the harbor, Esquimalt naval base and scenery as far away as Mount Baker.

A second deck will contain a coffee shop and souvenir stand, Bristowe said.

He hopes the tower will be built and in operation early in 1967.

Educational TV urged by Perrault

Liberal Leader Perrault Tuesday urged the government to study the feasibility of educational television in B.C.

In the legislature he said television, the greatest means of communication the world has ever known, is not being used adequately or even in the best way. It is a vast cultural desert now, he said.

Perrault said the medium would hold out hope for thousands of youngsters hungry for education. He suggested there is ample scope for assistance from commercial television stations and a program could be worked out in conjunction with the three universities in B.C.

Dentists opposing mechanic changes

The College of Dental Surgeons has called for repeal of legislation allowing dental mechanics to work directly for the public.

In a presentation to a special legislative committee Tuesday, the college made it clear that any further co-operation with the mechanics is unlikely.

Wesley P. Munsie, former president of the college, said the dentists believe the dental health of the public is not negotiable.

In its brief, the college said changes proposed by the mechanics for further co-operation would place the dentists in an untenable position.

It said: "The calculated effect of proposed changes would place dentists, whose training and ethics require them to accept total responsibility for the health of their patients, in a position which they would not be able to accept responsibility. They would be put in a position of accepting instructions from a mechanic as to the nature and degree of surgery to be performed on the jaws or teeth of a patient in order to permit insertion by the mechanic of an immediate or partial denture."

To suggest that a member of a dental team who is the most skilled can accept the dictation of surgical procedures from an unqualified person is clearly a complete breakdown of the most important principles of public health service, said the college.

Munsie said the question of the extent to which mechanics can provide dentures is a very bitter problem. He recalled that when it was suggested in 1962 that mechanics be allowed to do

immediate dentures and precluded from doing partial dentures, he rejected the idea.

Said Munsie: "My view is consistent. The dental health of the public is not negotiable. Yet the mechanics' proposals would allow them to act for the public without having the responsibility."

Under present legislation, mechanics are permitted to make only full dentures and must receive a certificate of oral health from either a dentist or doctor. They are not allowed to do immediate or partial dentures.

For immediate dentures mechanics take impressions of the teeth of a patient who then goes to a dentist to have his teeth extracted and his mouth treated in preparation for insertion of the dentures made by the mechanic.

Said the college: "Legislation permitting mechanics to deal directly with the public has been tried and found wanting in many countries and jurisdictions. The mechanics of this province have already encroached, without either adequate training or safeguards to the public, on a field which demands the highest order of professional competence. In the public interest they should not be permitted any further encroachment."

Discipline is denied

A former president of the College of Dental Surgeons has denied a charge that dentists have been disciplined for lawfully co-operating with dental mechanics.

The charge was made at a hearing of a special legislative committee last week by Dr. Gordon Shrum, former chairman of the Dental Technicians' Board.

Wesley P. Munsie filed a sworn affidavit with the committee Tuesday, categorically denying the accusation.

Shrum was board chairman from 1958 to 1965. Munsie said he was college president between 1961 and 1965.

In his affidavit, he said no dentist was ever disciplined or prosecuted for lawfully co-operating with a mechanic, whether by signing a certificate of oral health or in any other way.

He said prosecutions were only made when allegations were made that both a dentist and a mechanic or technician were in breach of the Dentistry Act and the Dental Technicians' Act.

Shrum claimed he knew of two cases where dentists had been disciplined.

HOWARD GREEN

UBC Senate appointment for Green

Education Minister Peterson announced Tuesday that former Conservative External Affairs Minister Howard Green has been appointed to the Senate of the University of B.C. The appointment is for three years.

Green, who represented Vancouver ridings in the Commons from 1935 to 1963, is a native of this province. He was born and attended school at Kaslo, attended the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School, and was called to the Bar in B.C. in 1922.

Compensation

Hint of delay provokes row

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An indication by Labor Minister Peterson that the government may not have new workmen's compensation legislation ready for this session provoked a bitter row in the legislature Tuesday night.

The comment was greeted with cries of "shame" from the opposition benches.

Said Peterson: "A lot of the recommendations of the Tysoe Royal Commission have already been implemented and the WCB benefits in B.C. are currently the highest in Canada."

"The report was nearly four years in the making and I think we have acted with dispatch. We are looking into untouched areas."

"I don't know if we will have legislation this session. I want it at the earliest moment. The remaining features are the sub-

ject of urgent and continuing studies by members of my department and the WCB."

Leo Nimsick (NDP, Cranbrook), a dogged critic of the government on compensation matters, bitterly condemned the government for what he called lack of action.

"What you have done out of the compensation report, you could have done four years ago," he shouted. "You put in a few measly increases in benefits when I have fought for years. You don't need a royal commission to bring in legislation at this session."

Wednesday, March 16, 1966

\$8.3 million increase in school aid

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government is to increase operating grants to school districts by \$8.3 million.

Education Minister Peterson said in the legislature Tuesday the overall cost of what is called the basic program, on which the government is committed to pay up to 50 percent, is to be revised upward.

The teacher salary grant schedule, one factor on which the program is calculated, is to be increased from a range of \$2,600-\$7,960 to \$2,800-\$8,460. It will cover the six teacher certificate classifications.

Peterson said the new range is approximately 90 per cent of actual teacher salaries in 1965. (The previous range was based on 95 per cent of the actual salaries of 1960).

The minister said the government believes that since school districts have a responsibility for operating the schools in

their districts they should also bear some of the financial responsibility.

In addition the government will increase the allowance for administrative and other operating costs by \$50 from \$2,560 to \$2,610 per approved teacher. This is also the first revision in this grant since 1960.

The basic program which the government is committed to share is based on a complicated formula comprising the grants under the salary grant schedule, the \$2,610 grant and a \$5 per pupil administration grant. From this is deducted revenue from a fixed mill rate set annually by the government.

This rate is not set until April when school district budgets are received by the department of education.

"I hope we will be able to strike a basic mill rate so that we will be paying even more than the half of the basic program," said the minister.

Peterson told the House direct grants to school districts are being increased by \$8.3 million or 19.7 per cent. The homeowner grant, which by legislation is to be used for school taxes, is being increased by \$10 to \$110.

"The \$86 million in direct grants and \$33.6 million in homeowner grants should mean that many homeowners will pay less in school taxes in 1966 than in 1965," he said.

Arthur Guttman, assistant general secretary of the B.C. School Trustees Association, who was in the public gallery when the announcements were made, said the improvements are welcome.

"But we don't know yet whether they will go far enough," he said. "We hope this is the signal that there will be periodic reviews, as the association has requested for many years."

Bill to ratify merger of BCE and B.C. Power

Five years after the B.C. Electric takeover the government has brought in a bill to ratify the merging of the private utility with the former B.C. Power Commission.

The move followed charges by Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) that due to an oversight, the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority had been operating illegally for more than a year up to last July 30.

Attorney-General Bonner would only say Tuesday, after the bill was given first reading in the House, that it places the effect of the formal merger agreement signed last August beyond question.

Bonner said the legislation is purely precautionary and added the merger was made in the belief the government had all necessary authority.

Dowding earlier charged the government had proclaimed the 1964 act granting powers to B.C. Hydro on March 23, 1964, but failed to make one key section operative.

This section, giving the authority power to generate and supply electricity and fulfil all its other services, was proclaimed only on July 30, 1965, according to Dowding.

"The interesting question arises as to what happens to all the powers exercised by B.C.

Hydro during the interim between March 23, 1964, and July 30, 1965," he said.

Dowding told the House during the budget debate that the government would be forced to bring in a validating statute.

Premier Bennett said at the time the government was looking into the possibility that this would be necessary.

Dowding argued it was necessary because the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority Act of 1962 and the Power Development Act of 1961 were both declared ultra vires by the courts.

The bill contains a schedule which sets out the formal merger agreement signed last August.

Thursday, March 17, 1966

Letters spark hot row

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An exchange of letters between Labor Minister Peterson and William Hartley (NDP—Yale) led to one of the bitterest hassles in the legislative session.

The letters arose out of the Craigmont Mines labor dispute where the Steelworkers Union has been on strike for several months.

Hartley, in the House Wednesday, charged that Peterson had overstepped the mark by sending a copy of his own reply to the letter to the defeated Socred candidate in Yale, Irvine Corbett.

"This letter in reply to mine was published in a newspaper and I ask the minister now if it is government policy to send copies of letters to an MLA to a defeated Socred candidate," he said.

"The minister had no right to send a copy to the defeated candidate."

Peterson jumped to his feet and accused Hartley of publishing his original letter to the minister.

"My letter to you was an open letter and it stated so at the top of the sheet," shouted Hartley. "I see nowhere on your reply that yours was an open letter."

"In that case I won't bother sending you any more letters," said Peterson.

Hartley: "Then you'll be like the premier. He doesn't answer my letters either. Are you electioneering?"

Peterson: "I think it's disgraceful conduct to publish such an open letter. Trying to play politics with the strike."

Hartley: "The letter the minister wrote was not an open letter."

Peterson: "It certainly was."

Premier Bennett intervened on what he called a point of personal privilege and shouted into his microphone: "When a person writes an open letter to any person, the answer is open as well."

Opposition Leader Strachan called the minister's action a "cheap political manoeuvre."

John Squire (NDP-Alberni) said: "How can we other MLAs be sure you won't do the same to us. You should be ashamed of yourself."

Peterson: "I will do the same if you send an open letter to me."

Hartley had the last word. He said: "The nervousness of this government indicates their shame at their failure to have a policy in the department of labor."



Gerda hard to match

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Nothing in this legislature can take the headlines from Gerda Munsinger. This session has become deadly dull.

When a member complained about slow progress on estimates Tuesday, Premier Bennett told the House: "Stay until June if you like. I live here."

It's a long-standing joke that those from up-country don't want to leave Victoria's balmy climate until the snow has gone from their ridings. This year they had a head start with the session opening Jan. 27, about a week later than usual.

But after the throne speech debate and the budget which lasted the allotted two weeks each, Bennett chose to break the usual pattern by putting legislation before the House.

After a week of bills as a steady diet the jaded MLAs got down to departmental estimates.

No one knows why the premier ordered the change. Usually he mixes up bills and estimates to break the monotony.

The House bogged down on criticism of Agriculture Minister Frank Richter's handling of pesticides and seems never to have recovered.



The same process was repeated on aid to universities. When Education Minister Peterson's estimates were done and the House moved on to labor the principal issue became Workmen's Compensation Board pensions.

Hours of debate were expended on each of these topics but the opposition produced little if anything that was new.

The optimists among MLAs are hoping for prorogation around March 31.

Some super-optimists feel that if all goes well the closing date could be March 26.

But the premier seems to be quite content to let the session run its course until April 6 or 7 if necessary.

Bennett's theory appears to be let the opposition talk itself out. Little that's new and damaging to the government's position which has been brought out this session, so why not let the opposition have every opportunity to express its views?

The government obviously feels secure in its position on most of the topics that have come in for the longest debate this session.

This kind of game—with the opposition doing all the talking but the government apparently holding all the cards—doesn't make for excitement.

Buttle . protest

Chemical killers queried

Chemicals used in mining operations may be killers if they are fed into Buttle Lake from a Western Mines operation in Strathcona Park on Vancouver Island, a special legislative committee was told Wednesday.

A group of biology students from Victoria University said they are concerned that fish and other life in Buttle Lake and other nearby lakes may be ruined by poisons in waste from the mine.

Western Mines is preparing a mine for production and is seeking authority to build a townsite within the park.

It has said it plans to divert tailings from the mine into the lake but has given assurances there will be no pollution.

Bob Hearst, spokesman for the student group, said poisons may be contained in the waste or tailings from the mine. He said there has been no proper biological study of the lake or the effects of pollution.

He said mine wastes contain three chemicals used in separating ore from mine material: Copper sulphate, sodium cyanide and zinc sulphate.

He said it is known that even trace amounts of cyanide or copper sulphate would kill living things. He claimed the algae on which other life feeds could be killed off.

"Until a 100 per cent guarantee is given that these poisons will not be permitted to enter the water, it must be assumed that they will accumulate in the lake," said Hearst.

Thursday, March 17, 1966

Back benchers urged to force WCB changes

The Opposition Wednesday night challenged the government back benches to force the government to bring in Compensation Act amendments in the same way that they helped force Premier Bennett to reconsider redistribution.

During an attack on the government for failure to bring in improvements in compensation, Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo Slocan) charged that government backbenchers fought for their ridings out of what he called self-preservation.

"But compensation is just as important as the Constitution Act, under which the redistribution bill was drawn, and more important," he shouted, waving his finger at the government side.

During debate on the redistribution bill, three Social Credit backbenchers voted against the government and joined the opposition in attacking it.

Premier Bennett later withdrew the bill and said he would split the proposed Columbia riding and add another seat, increasing the proposed number of ridings to 55.

Harding said Wednesday night: "We forced the government to change on redistribution and we can do the same with compensation."

"The minister of labor is derelict in his duty and I don't blame him directly. He is overloaded with his double portfolio and he is unable to handle labor. This is the reason for the delay in bringing in labor legislation."

Peterson, who is education minister as well as labor minister, has told the House he cannot give any assurance that amendments to the Compensation Act can be introduced at this session.

Tedious repetition

Throughout the debate on labor department estimates, the opposition has conducted a continuing campaign to try to force changes now. It has been accused by the government benches of tedious repetition.

Said Harding: "There is nothing more repetitious than people having trouble with the WCB, receiving letter after letter telling them the board cannot see its way to handling their claim. When your seats were at stake (on redistribution) you were screaming your heads off. Compensation is just as important."

Opposition members suggested the government introduce some kind of legislation now that would permit it to introduce changes between sessions.

But Peterson jumped to his feet and declined to accept what he called this kind of blanket authority to act. He said he was amazed it should even be offered.

He said the legislation now being considered involved certain "gray areas" arising from recommendations in the Tysoe Royal Commission report.

Last year the legislature gave Peterson authority to put into

force pension increases between sessions in line with recommendations in the Tysoe report.

Peterson earlier told the legislature the increased pensions may cost a lot more than the estimated \$20 million.

He said the figure could reach \$70 million, but added his department still has officials working on estimates.

Peterson said later the cost of living is responsible for the sharp increase.

The government set up a special fund to meet the pension increases recommended by the Tysoe Royal Commission on the Workmen's Compensation Act.

It agreed to contribute \$10 million over the next five years to the fund, provided industry did the same.

Peterson said outside the House there is no provision in the present scheme for the government to pick up a share of any increased cost if the special fund proves inadequate to the need of the pension scheme.

He gave the \$70 million cost estimate in answer to opposition pleas for further increases in pensions.

Won't be satisfied

Leo Nimsick (NDP - Cranbrook) earlier told the government: "Until we get a commitment out of the government that it is going to bring in legislation to deal with compensation problems, I'm not going to be satisfied."

He reminded the government that at the last session the House had given the government rights to introduce benefit increases between sessions.

The government had done so but in his opinion had done a bad job, Nimsick said.

Nimsick said Mr. Justice Tysoe had recognized some of the inequities in present legislation. Nimsick quoted him as saying in his report that he sympathized with those who must depend upon pensions but could not feel the extra cost should be loaded onto industry.

"Sympathy is no good," said Nimsick. "It won't buy milk, bread or butter to be put on the table. And why shouldn't the cost be put upon industry? It is the workers who make the wealth of industry in this province."

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) said the iron gate at the entrance to the WCB offices is mute testimony to the attitude adopted by the board.

Workmen have to go through this and past a commissioner before they can get in to the board, Barrett said.

"I know of no other public place except prisons where they have a guard and an iron gate to act as barriers to the people," he said.

At 10:30 p.m. a motion by the Opposition to reduce expenditure of the office of the minister of labor to \$1 was defeated by a vote of 27-16.

The motion was put after Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) said it was difficult to vote disapproval of the minister of labor since he receives no salary as labor minister. Peterson receives his salary as minister of education.

Thursday, March 17, 1966

Northern lumbermen voice fears for sawlog supplies

The Northern Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association is alarmed over the possibility that regulations under the government's close utilization forest policy will cut down sawlog supplies.

In a brief to the legislative forestry committee, it criticized a ruling that sales of pulp timber must not contain more than 40 per cent of material suitable for sawlogs.

The association said this regulation means pulp sales can contain significant and attractive sawlog stands of up to 39.9 per cent.

"Our membership is alarmed and frightened by the possibilities that exist for swallowing such stands. These volumes, while comprising less than 40 per cent of high pulpwood sale, could be of critical importance to the plans of the sawlog operation in the area. We strongly urge you to recom-

mend that pulpwood sales cannot contain more than 20 per cent sawlog timber," said the association.

R. G. Caine, chairman of the association's forestry committee, agreed with a suggestion by Gordon Gibson (L-North Vancouver), a member of the legislative committee, that sawlog operators are afraid the pulp complexes eventually might seek permission to put in a sawmill.

If the economic conditions are ripe for it, the pulp operators might consider it profitable to put in a sawmill to use sawlogs in their sales, he said. The sawlog operators want some protection unless they get assurance the pulp operators don't intend to put in sawmills at some future date.

The association also suggested that sawlog stands of more than 50 acres within pulpwood harvesting areas should be offered

to the sawmill industry.

A forest service official told the committee the government doesn't feel it practical to ask pulp operators to leave small stands of saw timber. In any case, regulations provide that pulp sales must be advertised for 30 days so that sawlog operators can protest if they consider there are too many sawlog stands in the pulpwood sales.

General strike threat seen as election issue

Premier Bennett said Wednesday night last year's general strike threat will be the big issue in the next election.

He made the comment in the middle of a shouting match in the legislature as the government was being attacked for its handling of labor relations problems.

Opposition Leader Strachan accused the premier of ruthlessly and arrogantly threatening the House with an election.

Labor Minister Peterson shouted that he was getting fed up with opposition charges that

he is not devoting enough attention to labor affairs.

He added that Strachan was an anarchist for supporting the threatened two-day general strike last fall in support of striking oil workers. The plan was dropped when the government introduced a settlement formula.

Opposition politicians have predicted Bennett will call an election late this spring.

Friday, March 18, 1966

Resign, howls opposition

Greedy next-of-kin at centre of chronic care fuss—Martin

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Health Minister Martin charged Thursday that much of the criticism of chronic care in private hospitals comes from people who see inheritances disappearing.

The remark, during debate on health department estimates in the legislature, provoked a stormy controversy and led to opposition demands for Martin's resignation.

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) called the remark "absolutely despicable."

'TOTAL FAILURE'

Said Martin: "If chronic care patients were not in private hospitals, many of them would be in boarding homes where they would still have to pay — although it would be less, of course. But many of them choose and prefer a room in a private hospital, even at higher rates. They really belong in boarding homes but many of them are very happy in private hospitals.

"But their next-of-kin don't like it. The next-of-kin get very angry because they see inheritances disappearing."

Said Barrett: "The minister has been a total failure in this area in his department. It is no longer a joke. It is not good enough for the minister to get up telling funny stories.

BIG SIGNS

"I have seen campaign posters with big signs saying 'chronic care for all.' But the most terrible statement by the minister of health in my hearing was the statement that the next-of-kin were trying to dodge their responsibility."

Martin: "I did not say anybody was trying to dodge

their responsibility."

Barrett: "This is the most absurd, ridiculous statement and if nothing else should happen, this minister should resign. I am fed up with having you get up in this House, avoid answering questions and giving giggling little stories that are absolutely meaningless."

Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo Slocan) launched a bitter attack on the government for the definition it is using to qualify people for care under its extended care program.

He quoted from the definition: "An eligible patient will be unable to walk or use a wheelchair without assistance and be completely unable or substantially unable to care for himself."

Said Harding: "The reason we have so many chronic sufferers in B.C. is because we have ministers like you sitting in office for too long.

"Chronic people today are people who did not have adequate hospital treatment years ago. This definition for extended care covers only a fraction of the chronic care patients of this province. You have been fooling the people and the members in your own party, trying to tell them you have given chronic care coverage to everybody.

"You should hang your head in shame. Your department should draft a different definition. If you say everybody can have chronic care, then draft material to give it to them."

Martin said the definition was laid down by the federal government and if the province did not accept it, there would be no contribution from Ottawa.

The mounting opposition attack prompted Premier Bennett to accuse the opposition of conducting a deliberate cam-

paign against the ministers personally.

NO WONDER

"No wonder we are going to the country and we are no longer going to stand for this kind of insult of ministers of a duly-elected government."

Opposition Leader Strachan said the premier would not be getting so jumpy if the opposition were not getting through chinks in the armor the ministers "put on so well."

He accused the premier of saying the opposition has no right to criticize ministers for their lack of policies and their inability to do the job.

"I can understand the premier wanting to protect the ministers," said Strachan. "After all, he appointed them. They stand exposed as political opportunists, indulging every cheap political trick, and they are getting a little jumpy."

Liberal Leader Perrault accused the government of bribing the people with the idea that it is greatly interested in chronic care. He called it "a cruel political hoax."

WIPED OUT

He said: "You held out hope to thousands of elderly people that you were going to help. Families have been wiped out financially because of the callous attitude of this government on chronic care. We have had enough of this deception in this House."

This prompted an angry Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell to jump to his feet and demand Perrault withdraw the word "deception."

"I leave it to the public to decide what it is," said Perrault.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch . . .

In politics, fortunately, something is always changing. A few years ago there was constant criticism of the performance of B.C.'s legislature. It was held up as an example of the kind of behavior that legislators should never indulge in—petty, bad tempered, violent, even vicious.

Ottawa was then held up as an example of a better way of handling things. No more. Recent events in Parliament have shaken public faith in that institution —

or at least in the people who presently compose it.

But its antics have been so fascinating, in a sick sort of way, that it is almost a surprise to realize that the legislature still grinds away in Victoria.

It had its moments of attention early in the sitting. There was a gigantic budget; and occasionally there were moments when Premier Bennett seemed about to pull an election.

The rest has been, if not silence, dullness. The premier did suggest

that an election call would depend on what happened during the sitting. There has been no sign of anything remotely approaching a genuine election issue.

Nothing that has happened in the last couple of months in Victoria merits consideration as the sort of issue that only the public can resolve. Therefore the premier should forget such notions and go quietly about his business, which is administration of the province's growth and development.



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Friday, March 18, 1966

Victoria comment



Wilderness to spare?

By IAN STREET

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — What price the preservation of our wilderness?

In this province with its huge park areas, according to recreation Minister Kiernan, the price shouldn't run too high.

By this he means the government isn't anxious to spend large sums of money on the purchase of Crown-granted mineral claims and timber berths just for the sake of preserving wilderness.



Kiernan doesn't place too much stock on the total park acreage in the province.

Nevertheless he did review our situation this week in relation to other provinces.

B.C. now has more wilderness within provincial boundaries than any province except Quebec. Add to this the federal parks in the province and we have 73 square miles of park for each 100,000 population. No other province comes close to matching this, Kiernan claims.

The minister was asked whether this meant he was advocating that nothing further be done to preserve wilderness. His reply: "I do say we don't need to pay a big price to preserve wilderness."

In making this claim, Kiernan is challenging the conservation-minded groups who argue that the government would be justified in buying up all alienations within park boundaries.

First of all, Kiernan argues, alienations only exist in half a dozen of the largest parks.

There are practical problems involved in setting a fair value on rights granted by the Crown in the past, he claims.

Timber berths are relatively easy to put a price on. But what about mineral claims?

The difference between a geologically

interesting mineral showing and an ore body worth mining can be hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars, Kiernan says.

And until an ore body is proven the value remains matter of opinion.

Kiernan hazarded a guess as to what the Myra Creek claims owned by Western Mines Ltd. in Strathcona Park might be worth if the government had to buy them out.

Mining company officials appearing before a special legislative committee which is currently studying the problem said approximately \$11 million had gone into development work so far.

But Kiernan said he thought an appraisal of the value of these claims could run between \$30 and \$40 million.

If the province had this kind of money to spend on park acquisition, and Kiernan made it clear that it doesn't, he told the committee "In my opinion it could be spent more advantageously elsewhere."

Kiernan claims several smaller and more strategically located park and recreational areas could be acquired for what it would cost to buy out Western Mines.



There are some pretty strong indications, however, that the government would like to trade Western Mines the property around the mine for a section of a new parkland on Forbidden Plateau.

The government has been eyeing 25,000 acres of this choice land adjoining the park for some time and there have even been some negotiations with the CPR for its purchase.

Western Mines could hardly be expected to buy the whole amount but even a section could increase the recreational value of Strathcona Park.

Mechanics

Dentists termed afraid

The Public Denturists Society Thursday accused dentists of opposing public dental mechanics because they fear competition.

Under present legislation, dental mechanics — or denturists, as they call themselves — are permitted to deal directly with the public in making dentures. But they must first receive a certificate of oral health from the patient, supplied by a dentist or a doctor.

In a brief presented earlier to a special legislative committee, the society said mechanics should be allowed to do certain other work.

REPEAL ASKED

The College of Dental Surgeons, in a later brief, called for repeal of the legislation and said the dental health of the public is not negotiable. If the law is not repealed, it wants present restrictions rigidly enforced and no new licences issued to mechanics.

In rebuttal, the mechanics told the committee Wednesday there is no evidence the public's dental health is being impaired under the present set up. It went on:

"If the public interest is best served under the present legislation, and if there is a true economic benefit by reason of independent competition, and if there is no evidence on which the committee could conclude that the public health has been endangered, then we ask why the college so vigorously opposes our right to serve the public.

'VERY SIMPLE'

"Our answer is very simple. It is the risk of economic competition and no other. We do not consider this a proper reason to protect the profession from the competence of other persons rendering a service to the public."

College officials at the committee hearing objected to the extent of the mechanics' rebuttal and asked permission to submit another brief. But they agreed instead to send a letter to the committee after members objected that a new brief would allow the argument to go on ad infinitum.

Bonner eases flow of liquor to more Vancouver cabarets

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The government is going to amend the Liquor Act to permit licensing of more cabarets and help solve Vancouver's trouble with illegal bottle-under-the-table nightspots.

Attorney-General Bonner Thursday night brought in amendments to the act which will create a new cabaret licence. The bill, given first reading, gives a broad definition of a cabaret as a place where liquor, food and entertainment are provided for the public.

Bonner said details of the new cabaret licence will be provided by regulation after Vancouver has had a chance

to draw up its new bylaw.

(Socred MLA attacks liquor policy. See Page 2. Legislature news on page 6).

City council has agreed to co-operate, the attorney-general said, by not granting civic cabaret licences to any establishment which doesn't meet standards set out in the Liquor Control Board regulations.

This would eliminate overlapping definitions of a cabaret which now are causing most of the enforcement troubles, Bonner said.

Now city council licenses a total of 35 cabarets but only 14 of these sell liquor.

Bonner said 14 of the civic-licensed cabarets have never applied to the Liquor Control

Board. Seven others have applied but were turned down.

The government has suggested to city council that an impartial citizens' committee be set up to review the operations of the seven cabarets which have been turned down. This would enable the board to give the best among them another chance to satisfy regulations.

Proposed amendments would also raise the maximum fine for minors found in licensed premises to \$150. It reduces the maximum fine for waiters and licencees on first offence from \$300 to \$150.

A licencee is liable to a maximum fine of \$2,000 on second and subsequent infractions.

Hospital problems blamed on Martin

Health Minister Martin was blamed in the legislature Thursday for what an opposition member termed a serious medical crisis in B.C.

Dr. Pat McGeer (L-Point Grey) made the charge during debate on health department estimates.

"The chain of events has been clearly laid before the minister year after year in this House," said McGeer. "Anyone would be foolish to deny that medical care has been seriously jeopardized as a result of this man being minister."

McGeer said a deplorable hospital situation is illustrated by Vancouver General Hospital

— the focus of medical activity in the province — where authorities have been forced to make some unprecedented moves.

Doctors were asked to get their patients out of VGH as soon as possible to free beds for those on the long waiting list. This didn't work, McGeer said, because sick people can't be moved until they are well.

General practitioners on the hospital's visiting list have also been warned by VGH authorities that they may be denied the use of emergency facilities in future for seriously ill patients who can't get a regular bed, he said.

Warnings ignored

McGeer said he quoted hospital authorities and doctors because in past years the government had chosen to ignore opposition warnings that this situation was developing. "Do you believe us now, Mr. Minister?" the Liberal member asked.

He added: "The crisis is not in hospital beds but in medical care. Medical standards in this province are in jeopardy."

"The doctors whose duty it is to guard our health are impaired in that function by the ineptitude of the minister and this government."

Martin replied: "The doctor member (McGeer) is out of the main stream of hospital life."

"He comes down out of his ivory tower at the university and mills around among people who don't know what they are talking about and dumps the information he has gathered in your laps — gentlemen, be very careful."

McGeer said the minister doesn't need initiative to correct the situation. "He just has to have the wits to take good advice," he said.

The government must lose no time in ordering a comprehensive report on acute, chronic, mental and other hospital needs throughout the province over the next 10 years, said McGeer.

It should also set up a hospital financing corporation — using the \$91 million which Liberals claim it has short-changed the hospital system on sales tax revenues since 1954.

Martin said in his reply the government's biggest mistake was to give too much leadership to local hospital boards.

"You get so far ahead they lose sight of you, and that is exactly what has happened," the minister said.

The government criticised VGH authorities for cutting back the Centennial Pavilion from the original 900 beds to 500 beds, Martin said. Then the hospital decided when the Centennial block opened to close down the Laurel Pavilion with its 200 beds.

"The result was a net gain of

300 beds after spending \$5 million," the minister said.

Martin told the House this was an example of the "great cloak of apathy that hangs over the hospital situation in Vancouver."

The growth of VGH into the largest general hospital in the Commonwealth is due to the fact that Vancouver city council until recently denied eight other city hospitals a share of money bylaw funds for hospital construction, said Martin.

He denied McGeer's charge that there is still a long waiting list for elective surgery at VGH.

The minister insisted the list was negligible but the Liberal member rose to give the House figures showing that on Feb. 22 there were 776 names on the list.

"I have discussed the situation with hospital administrators and I can report that none of them seem alarmed," said Martin.

Homeowners protected under bill

A bill protecting property owners against sharp increases in assessments was introduced in the legislature Thursday night.

Attorney-General Bonner said later the bill has widespread application but is of general interest to homeowners.

It would limit assessment increases in any one year to a maximum of five per cent.

Another section of the bill amending statute laws gives the attorney-general's department wider powers to investigate trading in securities.

The rate of interest on Pacific Great Eastern Railway sinking funds is to be increased from four to five per cent to counter the current tight money market.

Bennett just like 'hen with chicks'

Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP—Grand Forks—Greenwood), only woman MLA in the legislature, had a running battle Thursday night with Deputy Speaker Speare and opposition MLAs over charges by Premier Bennett that Agriculture Minister Richter was unfairly attacked.

Earlier in the day, the premier had accused the opposition of conducting personal campaigns against cabinet ministers.

Mrs. Haggen said the premier was behaving like a mother hen with her chicks, thinking her children could do no harm or wrong.

She recalled her criticism of Richter for what she called failure to act to help farmers whose farms have been closed because of pesticide contamination.

"If the minister felt that what I said was wrong, why did he go into my area and do exactly what we were asking him to do?" she said.

(The provincial government bought 400 head of cattle in the area.)

Speare ruled her out of order because she was making her comments during health department estimates. But Mrs. Haggen persisted against the gavel-banging of the deputy speaker and the shouts of the government backbenchers.

Recreation Minister Kiernan said her remarks were a violation of the rules of the House and "there was a limit to the special dispensation she could expect."

Friday, March 18, 1966

Don't you dare have fun!

The provincial government refuses to relax B.C.'s liquor laws because it is afraid of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, says Social Credit MLA Ernie LeCours.

"The WCTU has only 1,000 members in B.C., but it ignores the wishes of almost two million people to impose its own wishes," he told an audience of 19 students at UBC Thursday.

WCTU members "cause all the trouble," he said. "It is cowardly of the government to bend to the WCTU's de-

mands. And it's hypocritical because Victoria derives considerable revenue from liquor.

"Lots of people who oppose liquor do so because liquor makes people feel good—and they can't stand that."

The Socred cabinet sits in an ivory tower, he said. "If they got out and rubbed elbows with people in the streets, maybe there would be some changes."

LeCours advocated selling beer and wine in corner stores, "so the husband coming home isn't tempted to have a

few with the boys at a pub, only to end up staying all evening and being rolled out of the door."

He said a bill to be proposed in the legislature for compulsory breathalyzer tests of impaired drivers would make policemen both judge and jury.

"There's a great danger that over-enthusiastic young policeman—about whom I have received many complaints—would throw their weight around, particularly with young people."



What plug — and when?

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The corridor gossips have been enjoying a heyday around the legislature for the past week. They whisper conspiratorially: "The premier says he's going to pull the plug tonight." But ask what that means and they look blank and drift away.

What Premier Bennett has done on a couple of occasions is to make one of his arm-waving attacks on the opposition which include dark threats of an election.

This is his count of possible election issues as it now

stands: opposition obstruction (little has been said on this as the session progresses); the threat of a general strike last fall (outdated but still capable of arousing some resentments); and vicious and unfair attacks on cabinet ministers.

"No wonder we're going to the country," storms the premier, which immediately makes some opposition members seriously wonder whether there is going to be an election in the near future after all.

Socred popularity down — but NDP can't prove it

Opposition Leader Strachan has a theory that the government's public opinion polls show that the popularity of Social Credit is slipping. It must remain only a theory, he says, because the NDP has no money to carry out its own polls.

But this is the reason behind the premier's apparently unmotivated outbursts, Strachan claims. The opposition is deliberately, though not without some trepidation, sitting back to wait and see what comes of it all.

Is the government more vulnerable to opposition criticism this session? Strachan claims that it is, pointing to the holes torn by critics in the government's agriculture, labor and health programs in the debate on estimates.

These apparent gains, however, have been rendered less effective by the refusal of various ministers to answer key questions. Still, Strachan feels that time is on the side of the opposition because the facts will come to light in time, then, presumably, to be used against the government.

When opposition opposes, Bennett found to be touchy

The premier's recent outbursts in the House have been nothing more than an attempt to gloss over this vulnerability on the part of the government, according to Strachan.

He points out that Bennett is fond of saying it is the duty of the government to lead and the opposition to oppose. But when faced with opposition to government policies in the legislature this becomes obstruction and a vicious personal attack on ministers.

"The premier either believes in democracy or he doesn't," says Strachan, "and it's obvious from his behaviour in the House that he doesn't."

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault says he believes the premier's outbursts this week have been entirely spurious. But the Liberals have a hunch that the government is casting around for an excuse to dissolve the House and call an immediate election.

Open forests

Problems in play paradise

Forest areas opened up by logging roads are becoming a great new recreational paradise, according to figures produced before a legislative committee Friday.

Statistics presented by MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Ltd., Crown Zellerbach (Canada) Ltd. and Canadian Forests Products Ltd. showed that last year more than 111,000 people used the newly opened areas.

MacMillan, Bloedel alone has 3,016 miles of roads which it has opened to the general public under certain regulations designed to protect the forests against fire and workmen against injury. The company last year issued 56,861 road access permits for people wanting to hunt, fish, boat or simply camp.

GATES LIFTED

Crown Zellerbach issued 30,000 permits for people wanting to use the 600 miles of roads in timberlands under its control. Canadian Forest Products gave out 24,500.

All companies said opening the roads represented a cost item for them.

Said the Crown Zellerbach brief: "While we are continuing to grant access to private lands as a convenience to the public, it is only fair to state that it is being done at considerable expense and inconvenience to the company and in the face of constant threat of large scale fires, mounting irresponsibility by a small minority and the ever-present legal and statutory liabilities."

SOME SNAGS

MacMillan, Bloedel said its access program has not been achieved without some problems and listed thefts of power saws, operators' tools, fire extinguishers, gasoline and other equipment.

The brief recalled one incident where a hunter's rifle shot partly severed a guy-line on a tree. Had it not been noticed, the guy-line could have parted and killed workers. In another incident a bolt had been placed in the swing gears of a shovel loader. If the operator had not noticed it and started the machine there could have been a serious hazard.

A fire in the Kelsey Bay division, in which 27 million board feet of timber was destroyed, was attributed to an unknown hunter, the company said.

Saturday, March 19, 1966

Vote jitters grow

Redistribution debate over

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—MLAs on both sides of the House succumbed to electionitis Friday as the legislature completed the committee stage of debate on the government's controversial redistribution bill.

The opposition tried to pin down Soered election plans during discussion of a section of the bill which allows extension of the normal six months' time limit on calling a byelection to fill the vacant North Okanagan seat.

Opposition leader Strachan wanted to know why the government was willing to allow

the people of North Okanagan to go unrepresented until after Oct. 1 if there is no general election in the meantime.

NO COMMENT

Provincial Secretary Black refused to be drawn into hinting at the government's election plans. He said the section was merely to cover any eventuality which might arise in the next few months.

"I administer the Election Act," Black told the House. "I assure you that if there was to be an election I would be the first to know."

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the whole session has been a case of the government trying to goad the opposition into providing some good reason for an election call.

OLD CON GAME

Black retorted that it was the opposition that was playing the old con game and said that if legislative sessions had names this one would be called "the abuse session."

The redistribution bill was reported complete with amendment, ruling out all but a remote possibility of any further changes. It comes up for third and final reading at a later sitting of the House.

It went through Friday despite opposition demands that

changes proposed by the government adding two seats to the north and one extra for the Kootenays for a total of 55, should be referred to the Angus royal commission for further study.

Both Liberal and NDP members said the Lower Mainland should now get more seats to redress the balance contained in the original Angus recommendations.

The Angus report recommended redistribution based on 52 seats.

The government bill included 54 seats and gave more seats to the north than were recommended. During committee stage debate on the government bill, Harry McKay (Lib.-Ferne) said that if the government did nothing else it should cut in half the massive proposed riding of Columbia.

Premier Bennett accepted that suggestion and withdrew the bill to redraft the riding.

NOT FAIR

Macdonald charged the Soered government considers the people of the Lower Mainland expendable politically.

"You are not treating them fairly by giving two more seats to the north, one more to the Kootenays and then leaving the Lower Mainland with no more," he said.

Emergency ban fights woolly balsam aphid

The potential threat of the Balsam Woolly Aphid to 260 billion board feet of timber in B.C. has led to a province-wide ban on the sale and shipment of balsam trees.

Announcement of the ban was made by Resources Minister Williston Friday.

The pest, prevalent in Washington and Oregon and in the Maritimes, has only recently been found in parts of lower Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland.

Williston said a crash program was mounted by the forest service to prevent the spread of the pest to extensive natural stands of balsam in the Interior and along the north coast. Registered nurserymen in the seriously infected areas, have co-operated by not selling the tree.

Williston said the public is urged to assist the campaign against the Woolly Aphid by not purchasing balsam.

In addition to banning sales the new regulation prohibits transport or shipment of any living balsam fir tree species.

Williston said this is necessary because the Aphid is spread primarily by moving of live trees.

Provision is also made for the destruction of balsam nursery stock. Compensation will be made for destroyed stock. Details of this aspect of the control program will be announced.

Inspectors are being appointed under the Plant Protection Act and will immediately start checking sales outlets to enforce the regulation, Williston said.

Tuesday, March 22, 1966

Victoria comment



McGeer gamesmanship

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Physical fitness has been a favorite topic during the current session of the Legislature.

It cropped up first in the form of an accusation that most MLAs were 4F—flabby, fatigable, fussy (meaning soft and well-stuffed) and fossiliferous.

This and other remarks in similar vein were pounced on with glee by reporters—little knowing that in doing so they were laying a trap for themselves.

Liberal Dr. Pat McGeer, fitness buff and chief accuser of his fellow legislators, provided the bait for the trap.

The YMCA is doing the best it can to take up some of the slack by holding special fitness classes for MLAs during the session, according to McGeer.

"But the odds are impossible," he said. "The new YM-YWCA building in Victoria is two long blocks from the Legislature. Who is going to walk that far these days?"

McGeer even suggested the parliamentary dining room should be replaced by an exercise room.

Lulled into a false sense of security the members of the Press Gallery committed a cardinal sin for any reporter. They didn't check for themselves.

They found out, too late, that besides talking about physical fitness half a dozen or so of the hardcore MLAs were doing something about it by regular attendance at the Y.

The occasion was the annual volleyball contest between the Press and the Legislature. The end was mercifully quick. Three games, three victories for the MLAs and the Legislature had, for the second successive year, retained the sprains and strains trophy.

The score was such that not even the diehards among the losers wanted a judicial recount.

There was nothing left but to take refuge behind the retort of Attorney-General Bonner in the Legislature when he was being taunted as one of the "starch-raving mad" cabinet ministers. Said Bonner: "Beware of the flab that doesn't show."

McGeer's attack on flabby legislators and the general lack of physical fitness among Canadians was designed to bol-

ster his contention that governments should promote athletics.

He proposed the holding of the first annual Canadian summer games in B.C. as a centennial project.

Canada is to have its first winter games in Quebec City in February, 1967. McGeer noted that the federal government was underwriting the venture to the extent of \$367,000.

The summer games would also qualify for aid from Ottawa as an annual event, McGeer claimed, but it is up to this government to start the ball rolling.

B.C. has a bad reputation for isolationism, said McGeer. He added: "This is one tangible way in which we could contribute to a sense of national identity."

McGeer didn't go so far as to suggest there be an event in the annual summer games for members of provincial legislatures, much less for Press Gallery members.

Perhaps, for them, the answer lies in another suggestion made during the current session.

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) wants to see a program in B.C. modelled on Britain's rugged Outward Bound course.

Martin criticizes release of report on mental health

Province Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Health Minister Martin said Monday the Canadian Mental Health Association never bothered to consult him before criticizing the lack of treatment facilities for emotionally-disturbed children in B.C.

He said the association should have let him see the results of its two-year study before making the report public.

Community mental health centres in Burnaby, Victoria, Nanaimo, Kelowna and Trail are all providing important treatment facilities for the emotionally-disturbed youngster and his family, Martin said.

The minister added that his department is currently planning three new mental health facilities costing an estimated \$18 million which will contain generous provision for the care of the emotionally disturbed child.

In the advanced planning stage is a residential centre for adolescents in Burnaby and tenders for this \$1.7 million

project will probably be awarded in the fall, Martin said.

"In addition we are developing a treatment program at Riverview hospital which will provide care for adolescents in a separate clinical setting," he said.

A new mental health facility on which construction is about to begin, adjoining Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, will provide in-patient care for 20 emotionally disturbed youngsters and out-patient services for others, the minister said.

A new school for retarded children is also being planned, said Martin.

Later he claimed sewage lagoons pose no health threat. He was replying to a question

by Dr. Pat McGeer (L.-Vancouver Point Grey) about the government's long-term plans for getting rid of the lagoons and making B.C. communities replace them with regular sewer systems.

McGeer said it didn't follow cause there is no scientific proof at present that mosquitoes breeding in them carry diseases like encephalitis.

"Our health advisors recommend that sewage lagoons are perfectly safe," said the minister.

Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) said it appears the U.S. Public Health Service isn't quite sure this holds true any longer.

Tuesday, March 22, 1966

Too many charges laid, says Bonner

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Bonner says too many B.C. people are being given police records.

In the legislature Monday he said: "Our rate of prosecution in B.C. or Canada is really very high and out of line with comparable experience in the U.K. It seems to me we should deliberately seek methods of securing public order short of the easy methods which are available by prescribing offences."

Bonner was winding up debate on amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act.

The bill, given approval in principle on second reading, empowers a policeman to take away a driver's licence for 24 hours unless the driver agrees to take a blood alcohol test.

This section has been attacked as an infringement of civil liberties, but it was supported by most speakers during the debate.

Another section makes mechanical testing of motor vehicles compulsory. The bill also prohibits a garage from repairing a car with more than \$100 damage unless it has a sticker signifying the accident has been investigated by police.

Said Bonner: "We are giving too many

people too many records. I have every sympathy with the view that police officers find their reputations lowered in the eyes of the public simply because they have been made instruments of so much direction in this matter of offences. I have felt that efforts should be directed at permitting police officers to exercise greater jurisdiction short of charging.

"I am concerned with the extent to which charging has become part of the Canadian way of life. It is far too easy to take up a young person by charging him with hitchhiking or to cause a young person to have a record as a juvenile delinquent because he may not have a licence for his bicycle.

"This is setting too many people off on the wrong direction and as legislators we should be turning our mind to some new approaches in this thing.

"This is why I was anxious to see this legislation introduced not in the form of an offence but in the form of permitting police officers to be judicially firm with people whom they wish not to see fall into trouble or disrepute."

Liberal Leader Perrault produced figures indicating compulsory vehicle testing and the temporary licence suspensions may re-

duce highway fatalities by 25 per cent. If it succeeds, the new law will be well worth while.

"These measures deserve a fair test," said Perrault. "It may be that defects will be found and amendments may have to be made.

"But last year 500 people in B.C. were killed in car accidents and had their civil liberties removed permanently by drinking drivers."

Ernie Le Cours (Socred—Delta) also supported the bill but said the period during which a driver might be deprived of his licence should be reduced from 24 to 12 hours.

David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) said the government should take the lead in inducing automobile manufacturers to put proven safety designs in their cars.

He said it should insist on these designs in cars it purchases officially and then advertise these makes.

"Every other company would soon whip into line," he said.

On the question of civil liberties, Barrett said: "How do you tell the parents of a child killed by a car that you are protecting the driver's civil liberties."

More study for bill

POWER PROTEST

A bill which could affect every pet owner in B.C. was referred to committee for further study by the legislature Monday.

Several MLAs objected to the far-reaching powers the proposed legislation would give to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) said he opposed giving the society power to seize and destroy animals and to charge with obstruction anyone attempting to interfere.

"The idea that the SPCA should act as its own lawmaker and law enforcer to me is distasteful," said Dowding.

Bert Price (SC—Vancouver Burrard) said he objected to another section which gives the society power to sell or dispose of an animal within three days of sending written notice to the owner, if known.

Attorney-General Bonner said the powers that members were objecting to already exist in law but are spread over six statutes. However, he agreed to send the bill to the select committee on private bills for further study.

Before this could be done under standing orders of the House, members had to give the bill approval in principle.

NDP fails to delay seat vote

Last-ditch attempts by the opposition to delay the government's bill on redistribution of constituencies in B.C. were brushed aside by Monday night.

A motion by Opposition Leader Strachan that the whole question be referred back to the royal commission on redistribution was defeated 26 to 13.

Strachan's motion was that the bill not be read a third time and that the commission should reconsider redistribution and report back to the House

within 30 days.

The bill increases the number of seats from the present 52 to 55.

The commission's redistribution was on the basis of 52 seats as provided in the terms of reference given it. The original bill allocated 54 ridings but after strong opposition, some of it from the Socred back benches, Premier Bennett later gave the Kootenays one more seat by dividing the proposed Columbia riding in half.

Neither James Chabot (SC—Columbia) nor Don Robinson (SC—Lillooet), who voted against the original government bill, were in the House for Monday's vote. Arvid Lundell (SC—Revelstoke), who opposed the original bill, voted with the government Monday night.

The bill was later given third reading by a vote of 26 to 15.

Tuesday, March 22, 1966

House supports police bid for right to legal counsel

Vancouver policemen should have the right to legal counsel when they appear at discipline hearings and appeals against dismissal, the legislature decided Monday.

Otherwise, the House was told by the private bills committee, present appeal procedures for the Vancouver force are adequate.

MLAs accepted the committee report which recommended that the city police commission provide by regulation the right of policemen to be represented by counsel at hearings.

It said no charter amendment was necessary to bring this into force.

The committee rejected a Vancouver Police Union bid to amend the city charter so that appeals against dismissal would go to the Provincial Labor Relations Board as well as a judge.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver-East), one of 13 MLAs on the committee, told the House that in his view city policemen now don't have a genuine right of appeal to the courts.

He said at present a judge can only review whether the police commission acted in a proper manner, but the court

can't bring in a new finding.

"A policeman should have a full and untrammelled right of appeal to a judge," said Macdonald. "The judge should be able, if he so decides, to reverse the findings of the police commission and chief constable."

Committee Chairman Alex Matthew (SC - Vancouver Centre) said he agreed with Macdonald but had to abide by the majority decision in committee.

Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) said some other committee members also felt there should be a more adequate method of appeal in discipline cases.

But, he added, the committee was powerless to change the charter amendment proposed by the union.

The committee did recommend, however, that the police union be refunded the \$300 fee

it paid when submitting the charter amendment.

The private bills committee also rejected two other bills which would have given professional status to professional engineers in B.C. and to radiologists.

Alcoholic treatment bill

A bill giving magistrates authority to order treatment for chronic alcoholics appearing before them was given speedy approval in principle in the legislature Monday.

The bill defines a chronic alcoholic as a person convicted of three or more offences of being in a state of intoxication in a public place.

It gives a magistrate the op-

tion of suspending sentence, if the person agrees to go to an institution for treatment, or of ordering an indeterminate term of one to 12 months in an institution for treatment and rehabilitation.

The opposition welcomed the bill as a social advance in that it regards alcoholism as an illness rather than a crime.

Wednesday, March 23, 1966

'City of madness' plan criticized by Barrett

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government was accused Tuesday of building a city of madness by putting four mental health institutions in one area in Burnaby.

David Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) said that when the government builds a residence for emotionally-disturbed children and transfers the forensic clinic from Vancouver General Hospital to the Burnaby mental health centre, it will have bunched them close to the Willingdon school for girls in one area.

"You are creating a city of mental illness," he said.

During debate on health department estimates, Barrett and Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) appealed to the government not to go ahead with the residence for emotionally-disturbed children.

NOT BEST WAY

Both said it is not the best way of helping these children and would be perpetuating errors of the past.

They said decentralization of services and treatment provides the best hope of doing something for the emotionally-disturbed, and claimed the money for the building could better be used in providing more staff.

"Walls cannot reach out and love a child, Mr. Minister."

Barrett told Health Minister Martin.

He said it is impossible to gather under one roof 15 to 20 children and "in one community of madness expect to stir them around and hope they will come out sane."

LOVE AND TRUST

Services needed cannot be rendered in one big institution, he said. Love and trust between a psychiatrist or social worker and the disturbed child are among the best means of help.

"There is no reason why the money for the residence should not be used for the purchase of old houses in a community area, where the number could be limited to six or eight children," said Barrett. "These children could then receive treatment as part of a continual participation in the real world rather than in the institutional world."

Dowding said there should be a system of day school or nursery schools where children could be screened so emotional disturbance could be traced early and preventive treatment started before serious trouble of adolescence is reached.

DISHEARTENING

He said between 5 and 10 per cent of children in school are emotionally disturbed to some degree and added it's disheartening to find the government doing so little about the

problem.

Martin replied that emotionally-disturbed children present a very complex problem difficult to define, let alone solve.

Said Martin: "There is no consensus on treatment or treatment facilities. There is no common agreement as to what should be done. Society is moving forward with experimental programs and we have the most competent people in the world of psychiatry advising us."

GOING AHEAD

"No matter what is done, it will be criticized. So there is nothing left to do but to go ahead and do it. And that is what we are doing. Are the children deserving of broken-down old homes or the best that society can give them?"

Barrett: "The minister is either voluntarily or deliberately misconstruing my remarks. I said the use of an older home does not exclude the use of the therapy of love."

Martin: "We want things to be even better, good facilities along with love that these children definitely require."

After Martin declined to answer several questions posed by Alan Macfarlane (Lib.—Oak Bay) about mental health facilities on Vancouver Island, Macfarlane accused the government of being bankrupt in its policy "toward these very serious problems."

NDP fears boost in drinking driving

The government's proposed new law to curb drinking driving may in fact increase it, according to opposition MLAs.

Three NDP members in the legislature Tuesday voiced fears that the law permitting police to suspend a driver's licence if he suspects the driver has been drinking, may give drivers a certain sense of security.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) said the new law may widen the incidence of drinking driving because a policeman, who might otherwise have considered charging a man with impaired driving, might simply decide to take away his licence.

Tony Gargrave (NDP—MacKenzie) said a lot of people would say "Thank God that's all that happened to me," if a policeman simply removed their licence for 24 hours, as proposed in the bill.

"This will result in fewer

prosecutions for impaired driving," he said.

Leo Nimsick (NDP—Cranbrook) said the legislation might induce a feeling among some people that they can have an extra drink, thinking that the worst that can happen to them is removal of their licence for 24 hours.

Attorney-General Bonner replied: "From a practical point of view, it seems to me the question of interest to the general public is not whether prosecutions should go forward but whether we are being effective in discouraging people who drink and drive."

The bill was given third and final reading, but Bonner indicated it would not be put into effect until police are adequately equipped to carry out the tests prescribed in the bill. There was no indication when this would be.

Election expenses bill

\$50,000 LIMIT

A bill aimed at limiting election expenses was introduced in the legislature Tuesday by Gordon Dowding (NDP, Burnaby).

The private member's bill proposes amendments to the Elections Act which would put a \$50,000 ceiling on a political party's election spending.

It would also limit candidates to spending not more than 10 cents per voter in ridings of more than 20,000 electors. It makes no mention of limitations in ridings of less than 20,000.

The bill would also require a party to disclose the source of all contributions for election purposes and a candidate would have to do the same for contributions above \$25.

Wednesday, March 23, 1966

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Throughout the attack Martin remained seated and did not reply to the criticisms.

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"The first obligation of so-

Victoria comment



'They' is very efficient

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

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Thursday, March 24, 1966

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Rathie told The Province he considers the lack of a waterfront expressway the major block to Vancouver's downtown development.

Compared with this, a new First Narrows crossing and an east-west throughway linking with the Port Mann freeway are secondary considerations, he said.

The mayor added he will fly to Ottawa next week if necessary to secure federal co-operation.

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The waterfront route would run from the vicinity of the Bayshore Inn, over the CPR tracks and east to about Carrall. It might be designed to tie in with the new Georgia Viaduct.

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Victoria did not limit his offer to any particular plan.

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Premier Bennett replied: "You are two reports behind." (Several freeway plans, including Rathie's, have been proposed since the Stanford report came out in 1964.)

"You are 20 years behind the times, Mr. Premier, because the money just isn't available," retorted McGeer.

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Thursday, March 24, 1966

New span approaches can't be defined yet

Highways Minister Gaglardi said Wednesday the government can't define approaches to a new First Narrows bridge until plans for the span are more definite.

Premier Bennett has said the provincial government will build a new bridge but municipalities must build the approaches. He has said the government will take a liberal view of what constitutes approaches.

In the legislature Wednesday, Liberal Leader Perrault asked Gaglardi to define the government's view of approaches and what it means by "liberal."

"If the government wants the municipalities to share in the cost of the bridge system, it is logical for them to ask the government to define its terms," he said.

Said Gaglardi: "Everybody has added to the confusion over the bridge, me included. Some of my words have been mis-

construed. And there is bound to be confusion when there is no real policy on what we are going to do, and it is impossible to arrive at a definite policy until you have something in your hand that is accepted by everybody."

He said about 40 different submissions on the bridge are being studied by an engineering firm and, until this study is complete, his department can do nothing.

He repeated his stand that congestion on the present bridge at First Narrows is not comparable to that in other areas on the continent.

The bridge is highly utilized only for four hours of each day now, but according to engineers there will be intolerable congestion within five years, he said.

"We are trying to do what we can to have that problem eliminated by that time," said Gaglardi.

New crossing

Gaglardi told build bridge or resign

Highways Minister Gaglardi should resign if he can't get the support of his cabinet colleagues for construction of a new Burrard Inlet crossing, the legislature was told Wednesday.

Gordon Gibson (L-North Vancouver) said during the debate on highways estimates he believes the minister knows a bridge is needed now to serve the people of the Lower Mainland.

"When you believe a thing is right you must stand up or resign," said Gibson. "That's how big things are done."

Premier Bennett told the House he was shocked to learn when the government purchased the Lions Gate bridge that the former owners had spent \$397,000 on promotion.

"That was a terrible blunder," Bennett said. "It was to have been a four-lane bridge (instead of three) and this money could have gone towards providing a fourth lane."

Gaglardi said the new epoxy resin surface on the span has prevented hundreds of accidents.

"That's why we put it in," he said. "We have cut rear-enders almost to a minimum. But we have not solved all the problems yet."

Highways department estimates totalling \$95.6 million were approved after just over five hours of debate.

Friday, March 25, 1966

Nun battles at home and at House

Special to The Province

MILL BAY — Mother Cecilia Mary, B.C.'s animal-loving nun, battled on two fronts Thursday—at home and at the B.C. legislature.

The day started with complaints from neighbors that her Good Shepherd Animal Shelter—moved here from Victoria less than two weeks ago—looks like a shack town, the animals are not getting proper exercise and the dogs are not getting a balanced diet.

Mother Cecilia said: "Of course the place doesn't look nice. We've just moved in and haven't had time to clean up or erect our permanent buildings."

She brushed aside a claim by dog trainer Hunter Smith that her dogs are fed steak and

chocolate bars, saying: "That's ridiculous. Everyone should know we don't have the money to feed our animals food like that."

"I don't think I'll take these few complaints seriously. We've only been here a short time and I think those who have complained are being used by someone else. Perhaps some day I'll find out who is behind it."

A spokesman for RCMP who police the area said: "We've had no complaints about the shelter and it's not an eyesore as far as we are concerned."

Later, Mother Cecilia appeared before a legislative committee in Victoria to speak against vivisection and experiments on animals at UBC. The committee was conducting a

hearing redrafting new legislation dealing with regulations governing the operation of the SPCA.

She told the committee: "If the SPCA gives up dead animals for research, you will soon be giving up live animals. To breed animals and torture them, as they seem to be doing at the university, is sinful. I look upon vivisection as the blackest crime in the whole world and those doing it will have to suffer for what they are doing."

A committee member, Harry McKay (Liberal, Fernie) said UBC uses dead and live cats for experimentation and must spend a fair amount of money in raising cats.

Said McKay: "I can under-

stand the SPCA may be reluctant to get into a can of worms by giving live animals to the university. Yet we have this ridiculous situation where you are destroying cats and then throwing them away on a municipal dump."

David Beeching, manager of the Victoria branch of the SPCA, said the society is prevented by its constitution from giving dead animals to a university for experiment.

Cameron Webster, provincial president of the SPCA, said that if the society turned over dead animals for research, public confidence in its ability to look after all animals would be destroyed. This would affect the society's ability to raise funds to keep operating and look after live animals.

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Friday, March 25, 1966

Let's take chance with bogey

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Echoes of the 1911 federal election campaign, fought on the issue of reciprocity with the U.S. were heard in the Legislature this week.

Trade Minister Loffmark accused the Opposition of raising the same old bogeyman that led to the defeat of Sir Wilfred Laurier in that campaign nearly 55 years ago.

The Tories won with a slogan: "No truck or trade with the Yankees."

But this didn't mean, Loffmark argued, that Laurier was wrong when he said there should be closer economic ties with our neighbors to the south.

New Democrat Arthur Turner, MLA for Vancouver East, had taken the minister to task for claiming in an earlier speech, outside the Legislature that closer economic integration was worth the risk of further domination.

"This is a frightfully dangerous thing to say," Turner claimed.

But Loffmark said the chance that the kind of economic integration he was talking about would lead to political union between the two coun-

tries was so remote as to be improbable.

He argued that the mere fact such a chance does exist should not be allowed to overshadow the foreseeable advantages of a reduction of tariffs between Canada and the U.S.

It's much more likely, the minister claimed, that a stronger and more mature Canada would emerge from this closer relationship, with more independence than we now enjoy.

Any tariff deal with the U.S. should be on a regional basis, according to Loffmark.

He claims it's impossible to arrive at a uniform tariff agreement that will serve all five of the economic regions of Canada.

The regional tariff policies should begin on an experimental basis with the elimination of tariffs on one specific item on each side, he said.

Integration, in the sense Loffmark uses the term, occurs the moment the U.S. government reduces the tariff on one wood product and we allow into B.C. one machine that isn't made here.

This isn't a new theory but it did surprise some people to hear the response in the Legislature by Liberal Leader Ray Perrault.

He said he was tired of listening to the minister complain about unfair freight rates in Canada.

Even if we did have absolutely equal freight rates, Perrault claimed, it would be difficult for B.C. secondary industry to compete with Quebec and Ontario products in the eastern market.

B.C.'s biggest trading advantage is in its proximity to the huge market in California and the other Western states, he said.

Perrault said it might take years to convince eastern politicians that B.C. should get a better deal on freight rates.

"So why don't we bring some of our inventive genius to bear on marketing goods in California and the West Coast?" he said.

It seems there is a growing acceptance here of closer economic ties with abroad as a solution to the problems of establishing secondary industry in B.C.

Premier Bennett, perhaps to calm those who fear the bogeyman of American domination, is careful to point out, however, that we are seeking integration with Japan and European countries as well as the U.S.

B.C. hanging on to Garibaldi

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Recreation Minister Kiernan says he has informed the federal government that B.C. would welcome joint development of Garibaldi Park.

But he told the Legislature Thursday a condition of this proposal was that the province must retain title to the 600,000-acre park.

The offer was made in a letter to Northern Affairs Minister Laing dated March 23.

Kiernan said later the provincial government has always favored a joint development program with B.C. and Ottawa agreeing on a plan of action.

In his letter to Laing the minister reviewed the provincial government's "orderly and well-planned" program for Garibaldi development.

He said if the federal government insists upon owning the land to establish a national park on the West Coast he could suggest several suitable privately-owned parcels on tidewater.

One of these, 400 acres on the Sechart Peninsula, had 3,000 feet of waterfront and could be purchased

now for \$250,000, Kiernan said.

He was answering criticism by Liberal Leader Perrault of the province's refusal to negotiate with Ottawa on Laing's offer to spend \$10 million on Garibaldi over five years to develop it as a national park.

One of the main advantages of such a move, Perrault said, was the guarantee of protection it entailed for one of the great alpine paradises of North America.

He said the tough Federal Parks Act would protect Garibaldi far better against commercial exploitation than the present flexible B.C. parks policy.

The federal government was willing to adjust the park boundaries so all existing mineral claims and timber berths could be removed from Garibaldi, Perrault said, but it must have clear title to the park land.

The Liberal leader said Jasper and Banff National Parks are worth an estimated \$50 million a year to the economy of Alberta.

He estimated that Garibaldi could bring in an additional \$70 million in tourist revenue for B.C., attracting many thousands of tourists from the Western U.S. and beyond.

B.C. can't do the kind of develop-

ment job needed in Garibaldi on a "peanuts" park budget which this year amounts in total to \$2.6 million, Perrault said.

Premier Bennett told the House he received a letter from Laing some time ago on the subject of Garibaldi.

"We said this government would be glad to co-operate with federal engineers on a joint survey of Garibaldi — we would appoint the same number of provincial engineers. We never heard any more," the premier said.

Kiernan said his department had spent well over \$1 million on multiple-recreational-use development in the Golden Ears section of the park around Alouette Lake.

Access problems on the west side of Garibaldi have been eased by the spending of \$30 million on a highway link from North Vancouver to Pemberton.

This made possible a substantial recreational complex constructed with private capital just outside the boundaries of the park near Whistler Mountain, he said.

Friday, March 25, 1966

Strachan charges parks carve-up by Kiernan

Opposition Leader Strachan accused Recreation Minister Kiernan of carving up provincial park areas to allow mining interests to develop properties he gave them as minister of mines.

In the Legislature, he charged that a section of Strathcona Park on Vancouver Island was reclassified last year as a Class B area simply to allow Western Mines Ltd. to start an operation there.

Said Strachan: "Step by step the people of B.C. and the members of this House have been led down the garden path. The public of this province didn't know what was going on and the members of this House were never told what was going on."

The Opposition leader claimed that between 1959 and 1963 — during which time Kiernan was mines minister — 162 mining leases were granted in the Buttle Lake area around a tract of land covering 23 claims staked in 1924. These 162 leases, he said, have been taken up by Western Mines and associated companies.

He said an order in council of May 13 last issued by the cabinet, established three conservancy areas and two Class B park areas in Strathcona Park and one of the Class B areas covered the Buttle Lake properties.

On the same day, he claimed,

the government issued a park use permit to the company, permitting it to work the claims.

"They couldn't wait to get their grubby little fingers on it," he said.

"The whole purpose of creating that Class B section was to allow the minister, step by step, to give this company the right to anything he pleases in the park and that is why the park has been gutted as it has been.

"Every action of the minister has been directed toward giving the people with whom he dealt

as minister of mines everything they needed to utilize the properties he gave them as mines minister."

Strachan said that the Class B area at Buttle Lake is the area that would have been used for recreational purposes by the vast majority of people.

But Strachan said his main objection to what has happened at Buttle Lake is that it sets a precedent for what he called the many mining claims elsewhere in Strathcona and in other parks.

"What is the government going to do with these other claims staked in the area?" he asked. "It is obvious it is the intention of this government to operate behind a facade.

"I have always had a high regard for this minister because

he put his cards on the table. But I am going to have to revise that estimate because the cards were not put on the table about Buttle Lake.

"The B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines has said that there should be no restrictions on development of mining properties in parks. This government has the same policy, except that the Chamber of Mines is quite open about it.

"The continuation of the present policies of this government and this minister bode nothing but ill for the future of parks in B.C."

Kiernan called Strachan's charges nonsense, misrepresentation and distortion.

He recalled that last year the new park act was passed to clear up 40 years of contradictions, procrastinations and lack of direction in the operation of the province's parks.

"While they called some of these large parks Class A parks where there could be no alienation of land, this was the greatest bunch of malarky ever foisted on an unsuspecting public," he said.

"Last year I said I would have no part of continuing a policy of confusion. I said we were going to make our parks into proper Class A category and eliminate from them those areas where alienation already existed.

"How can you say this government is not park-minded when we have created over 180 new parks since we became the government. We have created eight marine parks.

"The Crown mineral claims on which Western Mines operation is based were granted in 1924."

Profitable mining ventures should be permitted in all provincial parks said Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver) supporting Kiernan.

"I'm tired of people going all haywire about the sacredness of park boundaries when 20 feet away they don't care about it at all," he said.

If in the minister's judgment there would be a greater return to the people of B.C. from mining development within park boundaries, he should not hesitate to give the green light.

"Not one out of one million acres in B.C. can be mined profitably," said Gibson. "In return for the loss of this acreage, there will be many millions of dollars returned to the economy for all of us.

"I'm not speaking for the (Liberal) group—I have no right to. I know I haven't made any friends by this speech, but this is my honest opinion.

"I bet not one person in 1,000 in B.C. last year walked two miles in any national park."

McGeer centre of storm

The legislature broke into the wildest and angriest scene of the session when Opposition Leader Strachan charged that Dr. Pat McGeer (L-Point Grey) is an interested party in the proposed mine development inside Strathcona Park on Vancouver Island.

McGeer had accused Strachan of earlier misleading the House when he said 250 pounds of copper sulphate would be dumped into Buttle Lake from the mine to be operated by Western Mines Ltd.

Said Strachan: "I am surprised that the member for Point Grey participated in this debate because, according to records in the registrar of companies' office, he is not a disinterested party."

The House exploded in a cacophony of shouting with Premier Bennett and Liberal Leader Perrault vying for use

of their microphones to rush to McGeer's defence.

'DISGRACED'

Shouted Perrault: "That's a disgraceful thing to say and we have been here for three hours nattering away about a legislative committee matter."

Said the premier: "As leader of the government and this House I must accept responsibility for the individual integrity of all the members of this House.

"The member for Point Grey has been attacked by the leader of the Opposition in a dastardly way and he was not here to defend himself. As leader of the government I do not want this House to be brought down to the same state as Ottawa."

(McGeer had left the chamber when Strachan made his remark but returned later).

'WITHDRAWS' CALL

Deputy Speaker William Speare called on Strachan to withdraw the statement.

Said Strachan: "What am I being asked to withdraw? I am telling you, Mr. Chairman (Speare) that you have allowed the premier to break the rules of this House. It is the rule that only the person who feels impugned can rise on a point of personal privilege.

"But the premier is deliberately trying to create chaos in this House so that public attention will be directed toward the chaos instead of the bankrupt park policies of this government.

"He is trying to create a great big uproar to point attention away from the terrible, terrible policies of this government to destroy parks in B.C."

'MISLED THE HOUSE'

The House quieted when McGeer rose to speak. He said: "An imputation has been made regarding remarks I made earlier in this House. As far as mining in the parks is concerned, I am opposed. I said so last year and I oppose the present park policy.

"When I rose to defend the government, the point I made was a point of scientific information. The leader of the Opposition, in my opinion, misled the House and when I closed my remarks I said there were better reasons for opposing mining in the parks.

"The leader of the opposition, by his imputation, has not added to the dignity and decorum of this House."

Interviewed later outside the House, McGeer said he is a minor shareholder in the company.

Laws to of beach

VICTORIA—The committee on forestry recommended measures to salvage on beaches.

Its report suggests log owners be given time to retrieve located along the shore. When this time-limited report said, drift revert to the crown.

It added that stumps should be drawn forest service to theft.

Before a clean-up could be launched, scale it would have lawful to process saw

The committee said smallwood utilization forests lies in present pulp mill construction of new

It recommended lumber sales be held in area until there is

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Martin—minister with lockjaw

By IAN STREET

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature was treated this week to the spectacle of the premier telling one of his cabinet ministers not to answer questions from the opposition.

On one occasion, Opposition Leader Strachan asked how many chronic care patients had come under BCHIS dollar-a-day care since the extended program began in December.

Health Minister Martin didn't answer that one or a couple of other follow-up questions on the same topic. Premier Bennett, who sits in front of Martin, turned to his minister with an audible stage whisper: "Don't answer, don't answer."

Information produced

The information requested, despite Martin's earlier protestations that it was unobtainable, has now been produced by Strachan who says he learned 403 out of original 570 beds are occupied by dollar-a-day patients.

How did he find out? Strachan says a member of his staff called the hospitals and asked for the information. It took roughly half an hour to get.

There is some difference of opinion among opposition parties on why Mar-

tin doesn't answer questions like this one.

Only make it worse

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault says Bennett is aware that any attempt by Martin to answer questions on contentious subjects can only make the government look worse.

It's all part of a deliberate government strategy, according to Strachan. He claims the premier hopes to goad the members across the floor into the kind of angry scene that has taken place on several occasions in the past few days.

Bennett is politically astute enough, says Strachan, to know that the resulting headlines will take some of the edge off opposition criticism of government policy weaknesses.

Dr. Pat McGeer, Liberal from Point Grey, believes the opposition reaction to Martin's performance in the House merely mirrors the state of frustration which besets hospital administrators throughout the province.

He claims that the minister, over the years, has shown a consistent inability to give a straight answer to any question put to him in or out of the House.

Criticism increased

Martin can't be blamed entirely for the lack of action on such programs as expansion of Vancouver General Hospital, according to McGeer.

Hospital authorities must accept part of the blame, but he argues that the minister's procrastination is at the root of all these troubles.

Over the 14 years that Martin has been minister of health the clamor of criticism directed at his shortcomings has increased steadily. This week three Sacred backbenchers led the attack on the minister. Demands that Martin resign also increased in frequency.

Fierce loyalty

It's apparent, however, Premier Bennett has a fierce loyalty for his colleague. Martin is fond of recalling, usually on party anniversaries, that he was once a Sacred voice in the B.C. wilderness and played a major role in setting up Bennett for the leadership in 1952.

In any event, the critics claim, Bennett has defended the minister for so long that it would be too embarrassing to find Martin another less taxing job.

Laws to speed salvage of beach wood urged

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The Legislature's committee on forestry Friday recommended measures to promote the salvage of driftwood on beaches.

Its report suggested original log owners be given a specified time to retrieve logs accumulated along the shoreline.

When this time-limit expires, the report said, drift logs should revert to the crown for re-sale.

It added that strict regulations should be drawn up by the forest service to prevent log theft.

Before a clean-up program could be launched on a large scale it would have to be made lawful to process salvage wood.

The committee said the key to smallwood utilization in coastal forests lies in expansion of present pulp mill capacity or construction of new plants.

It recommended no pulp timber sales be held in the coastal area until there is a market

for small wood presently being left in public sustained yield units.

The report also recommended that log exports be speeded up within the framework of present regulations to prevent economic loss through log deterioration. But it added this should be a temporary measure only.

The committee approved a forest service recommendation for the establishment of a public sustained yield unit north of the Fraser River from Harrison Lake to the Gulf of Georgia.

Reforestation in public sustained yield units should be speeded up, the report said.

The committee said it was pleased to see evidence that more money was already being spent on this phase of operations. But it noted that further acceleration would increase crown revenues because the annual cut is based on acreage of productive forest land.

Enumeration urged before any election

Opposition MLAs Friday called for a complete enumeration of voters before any provincial election is called.

They fear many voters may be denied a vote if an election is called this year because it would be fought on the basis of seats in the recently approved redistribution.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) said: "We have what you might call an elastic band premier. He likes to call a snap election. But under redistribution there would have to be a complete revision of voters' lists."

He said the Elections Act allows only seven days for registration of voters.

He suggested present voters' lists should be cancelled and machinery set up to draw new ones under the new boundaries.

Chief Electoral Officer Fred Hurley said later he has no more idea of when a provincial election will be called than anyone else—but he's getting ready anyhow.

"We're making preparations," Hurley said Friday. "I don't know when it is going to be but I'd be rather remiss if I wasn't ready."

Hurley said he has to have maps of 55 new electoral districts printed, polling divisions set up, and registrars of voters appointed in each district.



Saturday, March 26, 1966

Property tax limit approved

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Bill to limit increases in property tax assessments for schools purposes to five per cent a year was approved almost unanimously in the Legislature Friday.

Only Tony Gargrave (NDP—Mackenzie) voted against it. He said the municipality of Powell River in his riding opposes it because it would create hardships in the area.

The other 47 members in the House voted for it, even though Liberal Leader Perrault said it would cause inequities in taxation.

Perrault quoted municipal assessors as saying speculative purchasers of property will be subsidized by the homeowners and charging that the Bill was conceived without adequate research or consultation by Premier Bennett.

He said land in the north end of the premier's own riding of Kelowna was zoned for industrial purposes and until two years ago there was little demand for it. But interest in the land increased and speculation sales jumped from \$1,000 to \$10,000 an acre, said Perrault.

The premier said the bill is straight government policy and he isn't going to try to convince

the opposition about it.

He said: "We have given the municipalities 12 years to get their equalization of assessment into some order and now the government believes there should be no increases in assessments beyond the five per cent where need is proven and none at all where it is not proven," said the premier. "We don't want the municipalities or anyone else to take away the homeowners' grant from the people."

Bennett said a lot of municipalities have hidden behind the Equalization of Assessment Act, which is only for school purposes.

He charged municipalities have seen fit to use the same assessments for their general taxes and this was never required by the government.

He went on: "We want to encourage people to own their own homes and we want to give people some assurance that they won't see their taxes going up."

"We want the homeowner grant to be of great benefit to these people because a lot of the trouble in countries where there is instability is because people don't own anything."

Wolves, bears, endanger community pasture program

The government's community pasture program to aid farmers in northern B.C. is in danger of failing because predators are killing too many cattle, the legislature heard Friday.

Stan Carnell (SC—South Peace River) said unless the predator control division takes action against marauding wolves and bears farmer are going to remove their cattle from community pastures.

Recreation Minister Kiernan said if the MLA would provide copies of complaints by individuals and livestock associations he would investigate the

situation fully.

He said there was great concern in his area over the reduction of the game population since game reserves at Fording River and Morrisey were thrown open to hunting.

He complained that this action was taken without consulting local conservationists. He pleaded with the minister to consider closing at least one of the reserves again. McKay said he had 600 signatures on a petition to back his request.

Recreation and conservation department estimates totalling

\$6.4 million were passed as the House adjourned shortly before 6 p.m. Friday.

Kiernan leaves Sunday on a tourist promotion trip to the Los Angeles area where he will make several speeches and present an Indian mouse mask to Walt Disney.

Tuesday, March 29, 1966

Tenant amendment promised

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The government indicated Monday it would restore a section of a private bill to amend the Vancouver City Charter so tenants can run for civic office.

The section of the bill had been removed by the private bills committee over the objections of some of its members.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the commit-

tee's action violated one of the first principles of democracy, which calls for free elections.

Vancouver is becoming more and more a city of apartment dwellers, Macdonald said.

City council had decided tenants should be allowed to run for municipal office, yet the

committee had taken upon itself the responsibility of striking out this section, he said.

Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East) said he agreed with this stand.

It's all the more interesting, Turner said, that the proposal to allow tenants to run for of-

fice should have come from a city council which is regarded in some quarters as representing the wealthy property interests in Vancouver.

Attorney-General Bonner said he was pleased the subject had been raised and added that as a representative of the city he favored the original council recommendation.

Bonner indicated the government would bring in an amendment to the private bill when it comes up for committee discussion later this week.

In Vancouver, Ald. Bob Williams, who first proposed in council the amendment to give non-owners the right to run for office, said he was flabbergasted by the private bills committee action.

He said that only one alderman — Earle Adams — opposed the amendment and the committee's decision was "another example of Victoria's lack of concern for the city's wishes."

He said all people, owners and non-owners, have a democratic right to run for office. There is no property requirement for federal or provincial candidates.

The committee also turned down the city's request for an amendment requiring a deposit for civic elections of \$200 for mayor and \$100 for aldermen.

LEGISLATURE

Skyscraper, UBC project hinge on bank application

As the B.C. Bank charter application goes, so goes the government's downtown skyscraper project and the proposed research and technology park at the University of B.C.

Trade Minister Loffmark told the legislature Monday that with the progress being made on the bank charter application in Ottawa he was hopeful the government would soon be able to proceed with both its downtown and UBC endowment lands projects.

Last session legislation was passed to create a new crown corporation to develop real estate projects, beginning with the bank building, and pour the profits, if any, into expansion of the public universities in the province. So far nothing further has been done.

Loffmark was replying to a plea by Dr. Pat McGeer (L—

Point Grey) that the government invest in science.

"Use your resources to promote the B.C. Research Council so this province will open the door to the new technological age, with all the benefits this can bring," said McGeer.

He claimed the \$275,000 budget item for the research council could be increased 10 times, and added there should be three regional councils besides the

present one—one in the Interior, one in the North and another on Vancouver Island.

Loffmark repeated his earlier statement that the government is now negotiating with the university to shift the research council from its present one-acre site in the middle of the Point Grey campus to nine acres at a new location at UBC which has been earmarked for development as a research and technology park.

Shelford efforts praised on both sides of House

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—It was Cyril Shelford Day in the legislature Monday as MLAs on both sides of the House paid tribute to his part in the Morrow Royal Commission inquiry into gasoline prices.

Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver) said a man of Shelford's energy and ability should be taken into the provincial cabinet as minister without portfolio.

Alex Matthew (SC—Vancouver Centre) said the people of B.C. owe Shelford a debt of gratitude. He suggested the government repay the estimated \$6,000 out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Omineca MLA during the 18 months of commission hearings.

Members on both sides

thumped their desks in support of this proposal.

Premier Bennett rose a few minutes later but made no direct reference to Matthew's suggestion.

Instead he told the House he had recognized this "brilliant young man" 14 years ago, at which time, he recalled, he had urged Shelford to seek the Soared nomination in Omineca.

Bennett added: "I'm so happy the members are now agreed the premier's judgment was right again."

Shelford said he was well paid in experience for his part in the inquiry. But he added: "If anybody is to be paid for the gas probe perhaps it should be my wife—she did more work around the farm than I did in the commission."

Startling thump

SLIP OF FIST?

Premier Bennett may have dropped a hint in the legislature Monday on the government's feelings towards some of the major recommendations of the Morrow Royal Commission report on gasoline prices.

Liberal Leader Perrault was telling the House that in an expanding province no government could accept the Morrow recommendation that no further service stations be built for five years anywhere in B.C.

The premier startled some of his own members when he thumped his desk several times (a traditional sign of approval) as Perrault said: "We can't accept a straight-jacket on expansion. We should not impose any unnecessary restrictions on any phase of industry in this province."

Tuesday, March 29, 1966

Shelford urges one-year ultimatum for gas firms

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The government should lower the boom on B.C. oil companies if they don't comply with the recommendations of the royal commission on gasoline prices within 12 months, says the man who started it all.

(See also Page 14)

Cyril Shelford (SC—Omineca), who prompted the investigation of the industry, told the Legislature Monday he would be "mighty surprised" if government intervention of some kind isn't required to achieve the aims set out by Judge Morrow in his royal commission report.

Shelford told the House he is quite certain there is a way to break the hold the oil companies have over motorists in this province.

The government, through Red Star Petroleum, a gasoline distributing company acquired by B.C. Hydro at the time of the B.C. Electric takeover, could purchase gasoline in bulk from oil companies and sell it at a lower wholesale rate to independent service stations throughout the province, Shelford said.

"It's unfortunate the commissioner didn't say what he considered a reasonable length of time in which the industry could act on the recommendations contained in his report," he said.

"But if the oil companies don't give a break to the mo-

torists of this province I think the government should step in in 12 months time and take real strong action and not fool around any longer."

Shelford said some department stores now buy gas at a wholesale rate of 14 cents a gallon while some service stations pay 25 cents a gallon. He suggested the government could get an even better price and pass some of the savings along to the motorists.

'MOST POWERFUL'

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) urged the government to set up a pilot public industry starting from the well and ranging through a small government refinery to the level of the wholesale jobber.

This would keep the oil companies honest in the prices charged to the motorist, said Macdonald.

He said price controls recommended by Judge Morrow were the wrong approach to an industry which he described as "the greatest and most powerful cartel that exists in the world today."

The oil industry remains monopolistic, Macdonald said, even though companies compete in sales and service, because prices are non-competitive.

He claimed the commissioner should have criticized the industry for its advertising policies.

"Thousands and thousands of dollars are spent an ads saying this gas is better than that gas —it's ridiculous. You know darn

well both often come out of the same tank."

'DOESN'T MAKE SENSE'

He said the time has come to equalize the wholesale price of gasoline throughout B.C. He said this was desirable although it would mean Vancouver was subsidizing other parts of the province.

B.C. Hydro follows this principle for power and natural gas, he said, and this is justified by the fact that it is building a strong provincial economy.

Shelford said 40 per cent of all energy used in the province came from hydro sources while the remaining 60 per cent was petroleum energy.

"Why do we allow the equalization of hydro costs while the government is willing to sit back and let the petroleum industry, which supplies a much greater proportion of our energy needs, run wild? It just doesn't make sense to me."

Opposition Leader Strachan said the government should be able to decide within a few weeks whether it is willing to support the recommendations of the report.

It is simply a question of whether the government has confidence in the judgment of the commission, Strachan said.

He added that the NDP sees little possibility of the oil monopoly being broken until the government moves into the industry "up to and including the wholesale level."

LOFFMARK BACKS B.C. FILMLAND

Trade Minister Loffmark says he has been trying to help the struggling B.C. film industry.

He told the legislature Monday he has held discussions with the chairman of the National Film Board in Ottawa and some bankers in Los Angeles.

Loffmark said he couldn't say what the results might be but he indicated film makers couldn't expect more aid than any other type of

secondary industry the government is trying to attract.

Asked if the proposed Bank of B.C. would consider financing films, Loffmark said outside the House: "Being a show business angel is a risky business. I won't say any more."

Earlier Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) told the House the government should consider subsidizing film companies just as Spain did to attract the multi-million dollar production of "Dr. Zhivago".

This movie was made in Spain although Canada is far closer in geography to Russia where the story is set, Macdonald said.

Tuesday, March 29, 1966

Reds can't call me Hitler, says Bennett

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier Bennett was called a little Hitler in the legislature Monday night when the government and opposition clashed over re-enumeration of provincial voters' lists.

At one point in the debate John Squire (NDP - Alberni) pointed across the floor at the premier and said: "Look at him sitting there like a little Hitler."

Bennett jumped to his feet to protest: "I'm not having any of these Communists calling me a Hitler."

The row started when Attorney-General Bonner introduced an amendment to the Provincial Elections Act which would permit the transfer of names from one voters' list to another in the new ridings created by re-distribution.

The opposition argued that this would be doing only half of what was necessary to ensure that everyone who qualified would be on the voters' list when the election was called. This could only be achieved by complete re-enumeration, the opposition said.

The debate grew heated after Bonner refused to give an assurance the the government would order enumeration of all voters before the next election, as it now has power to do by Cabinet order.

The opposition accused the government of political trickery, prostituting of the existing voters' lists and denial of the basic democratic rights of all

citizens of the province.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) proposed an amendment to the government's amendment which would have required the holding of a complete re-enumeration of provincial voters' lists "forthwith," but he was ruled out of order.

Chairman William Speare's ruling was challenged but it was upheld by a 27 to 18 vote.

Bonner told the House he would give no assurance that he could not guarantee.

"Any time a minister stands in his place to give an assurance that he cannot absolutely guarantee, it is time that minister was out of this House," said Bonner.

The opposition interpreted the government's amendment as a further and much stronger sign that the government plans an early election.

Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East), filling in for absent Opposition Leader Strachan, said the NDP believes that more than 100,000 were denied the right to vote in the 1963 B.C. general election. He said the number will probably be greater this time.

"Why in the name of decency and honesty does the government not say clearly and fairly and cleanly that there will be a complete enumeration before the next election is held?" Turner asked.

Liberal Leader Ray Perrault said there is a super-saturation of television messages by Provincial Secretary Black which are another prelude to an elec-

tion. But he noted there were no commercials telling people how to get onto the voters' lists.

Alan Macfarlane (L—Oak Bay) earlier told the House that the only alternative to enumeration, if the government felt there wasn't time before the election is called, is a massive campaign to publicize ways in which people can get their names on the voters' list.

Dowding said the government had seized upon one of his suggestions in bringing in the amendment to allow transfer of names on the list. But it had deliberately refrained from carrying out the other which involved a province-wide enumeration.

The House approved the amendment to the Elections Act by a vote of 28 to 18 after nearly two hours of stormy debate.

The Hitler accusation came in the closing minutes of the debate.

William Hartley (NDP—Yale) said Hitler always maintained the right to vote wasn't important. He added: "That is what this government is saying with this amendment."

Hartley earlier asked that Bennett be made to withdraw his remark about Communists on the other side of the House. The premier replied: "If my friend (Squire) will withdraw his remark, I certainly will."

Squire retorted: "Considering where the remark comes from, I could care less."

Wednesday, March 30, 1966



Victoria comment

Away with deadheads!

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Gordon Gibson was at the wheel of the 130-foot Norsal. He slowed engines and jabbed the air with his cigar as a big piece of driftwood passed close to the bow. The waters of Victoria harbor and off Clover Point were littered with floating and, more dangerous, semi-submerged logs.

Gibson, who made his money in logging, was emphatic about the need for a clean-up. "Articles should be written about this," he said. "It's a public duty."

Federal responsibility, according to the North Vancouver Liberal MLA, is clearly defined in such trouble spots as Vancouver Harbor and the navigable portion of the Fraser River. But he claims sole responsibility must lie with the province owning the resource.

The clean-up should therefore be a joint effort, says Gibson, with Resources Minister Williston taking the initiative. He made it sound as if he did not really expect any action.

Williston, however, seems to have lost no time in attacking the problem at the source. Since the legislature's forestry

committee reported last Friday that log salvage from beaches should be promoted, there has been a good deal of behind-the-scenes activity.

The reason for the present lack of effective steps to clean up driftwood on beaches, according to Williston, lies in criminal law. Once the owner of a log puts his mark on it that ownership remains in force.

This law was passed to prevent log hijackers, says Williston. But this has created the more widespread problem of driftwood both on and off beaches.

The minister says he would have liked to bring in legislation to promote beach clearing this session. But the task proved too complicated. He will try some experimental project in the year ahead with legislation, if needed, brought in at the 1967 session.

Trial areas will be set up, according to Williston, in which log owners will probably be given a specified period of 30 or 60 days to claim their logs.

The special forestry committee recommended that after this any unclaimed logs should revert to the Crown for resale.

Williston can foresee some difficulties.

He underlines the committee's warning that strict regulations will have to be framed to prevent log theft. The minister says "very severe" penalties will be levied on anyone bringing hijacked logs into the experimental clearance areas.

If the beach clearing program works out, inroads will be made into the driftwood problem.

But harbors like Vancouver and Victoria and river mouths, particularly the Fraser and Skeena, must be swept clean as well. There seems to be general agreement that this is largely a federal matter.

In the past federal authorities haven't agreed, pointing out the root of the problem lies in a provincial resource. This has prompted provincial spokesmen to argue that Ottawa collects huge sums in income tax from the forest industry in B.C. and gives precious little in return.

Gibson says B.C. is quick to criticize Ottawa for inaction but in this case has never made a firm request for federal aid. The fellow that gets the most, according to Gibson, is the one that asks the oftenest.

Right to seek election given Vancouver tenants

The government has overruled the private bills committee and granted Vancouver tenants the right to stand for municipal office.

Attorney-General Bonner introduced an amendment to the private bill making changes in the Vancouver city charter which allows tenants with at least 12 months continuous residence in the city to qualify for civic office.

The private bills committee had earlier reported to the legislature that it delayed a request from city council that this be done because the Union

of B.C. Municipalities wanted more time to study the question.

The city sent a wire to the government earlier Tuesday asking for this action.

However, the government deleted another request by council that the city charter be amended to establish a \$200 deposit for all civic candidates.

J. Donald Smith (SC-Victoria) objected to the change in status of tenant electors on the grounds that it granted special privileges to Vancouver residents. He said the same right should be extended to tenants in other municipalities.

Bennett coy on election

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Premier Bennett said Tuesday night he hasn't made up his mind whether to call a provincial election this year or next.

Would he make the decision while the session is in progress?

"Not during the session, the premier said. "That is liable to last only a few days more."

Bennett added, however, there would be no quick trips to Government House to see Lieutenant-Governor Pearkes, presumably about dissolving the 27th legislative assembly so that an election could be called.

He told reporters: "You won't have to hang around on Saturday."

Bill aids speculators, claims MLA

The government was charged by an opposition MLA Tuesday night with helping promoters, speculators and industrial interests at the expense of the homeowner.

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) tried unsuccessfully to have debate adjourned on third reading of the bill limiting assessment increases on all property to five per cent annually starting in 1967.

He said the delay would allow Vancouver city council to put its opposition to the Bill before the government.

Any such measure should be restricted to helping the homeowner, Macdonald said.

SHIFTS BURDEN

Instead the bill in its present form would seem to help promoters, speculators and industrial properties by shifting some of their tax burden onto the homeowner, he said.

Macdonald was the only MLA to vote against the bill on third reading, final approval before the formality of royal assent at the session's end.

Earlier, Attorney-General Bonner, in an interview, defended the government's new assessment legislation.

He said the change doesn't take effect until 1967 and won't effect municipal plans for the

coming year.

CAN BE IGNORED

It doesn't prevent local assessors from making assessment changes if the use to which the property is put changes, Bonner said.

There is a further provision, he added, that allows local assessors to ignore the five per cent ceiling when it is found unjustified inequalities exist.

Bonner said the measure is designed to fight inflation where it affects the average citizen in extraordinary jumps in property assessments.

He said the effect of the change will probably be to increase provincial contributions towards education costs thus relieving the property owner of some of the burden.

STABLE LEVEL

This is due to the fact assessments will now be kept at what Bonner termed a fairly stable level while school costs are expected to rise.

In Vancouver, city council Tuesday urged the government to withdraw or at least postpone the new legislation.

Aldermen said it appeared the government had brought in the legislation without giving sufficient study to its ramifications, though Socred MLA Bert Price said later in a phone call to a city official that a great deal of study had gone into it.

Ald. Bob Williams said the new regulation was the result of pressure applied on the government by Vancouver real estate interests. He said the only people who will benefit from the proposal will be speculators.

HELPS BIG MAN

"The government once more

tries to cloak an act as something to help the little man, but this will help only the big man," Williams said.

City assessment and legal officials say the legislation could upset the purpose of assessments in B.C., which is equitableness on taxable property. Assessments, as dictated by provincial regulations, are based on 50 per cent of market value.

But the proposed legislation could destroy this.

"There will be distortions in assessments," Hector Urquhart, the city's chief land valuator told council, "there will be distortions lot-by-lot and block-by-block."

AIDS SPECULATORS

A report to council pointed out that when the city rezones land to a higher use, the value could jump by 100 per cent overnight. But until that land is actually developed to its higher use, the maximum annual assessment hike would be five per cent.

Once the land is developed to its new use, the five per cent restriction does not apply. However, it does apply as long as the land remains in its former state. Williams says this will encourage speculators to obtain large tracts of land and sit with them until they get the price they want.

Burnaby Reeve Emmott Tuesday urged the provincial government to confer with the Union of B.C. Municipalities before proceeding with the legislation.

Reeve Emmott, who is president of the UBCM, endorsed Vancouver's stand in opposing it.

Fisheries minister proposed

A provincial minister of fisheries was recommended Tuesday by a special legislative committee.

The report filed in the House said the creation of the new cabinet post would depend upon establishment of satisfactory provincial authority and jurisdiction over commercial fisheries in B.C. coast waters.

It urged negotiation of an agreement with Ottawa to grant B.C. greater jurisdiction in this field because of what the report termed the interlocking nature of resources, solely under provincial control, and fisheries,

which is partly provincial (fresh water and oysters) and partly federal.

As things now stand, the report said, jurisdiction and regulation of the important west coast fishing industry is confused by the lack of clear cut understanding between federal and provincial authorities.

It recommended provincial representation on the federal fisheries board and at federal conferences and listed areas in which jurisdictional guidelines should be clarified.

These include: Limiting the number of commercial licences; control of quasi-sport commercial fishing activities; unregulated exploitation of fisheries by non-resident sport fishermen; licencing of tidal sport fishing.

If B.C. is given more jurisdiction, the committee suggested, funds should be provided for establishment of a provincial fish culture branch to promote better spawning.

Farm labor ills complex

The select committee on agriculture said Tuesday it can't see an end to farm labor problems in B.C. until wages are competitive with those in industry.

Its report to the legislature said the problem was far too complex for detailed study in the time available, but it made the following recommendations for consideration at future federal-provincial conferences.

The committee said consideration should be given to bringing farm workers under the Minimum Wage Act.

It also suggested that farm labor be allowed to participate in the unemployment insurance scheme on a voluntary basis.

The provincial agricultural manpower committee should compile an inventory of available farm labor and try to find out what immediate and long term farm labor needs are in B.C.

The report said the committee should sit again at the next session to continue its studies.

Wednesday, March 30, 1966

Town in park

Strachan calls report a 'class A snowjob'

Opposition Leader Strachan branded as a "class A snowjob" the report of a special legislative committee which recommended establishment of a townsite in Strathcona Park.

The report, filed in the legislature Tuesday, said Western Mines Ltd., should be allowed to locate a townsite close to the mine on Myra Creek at the south end of Buttle Lake within the Vancouver Island provincial park.

The application by the company was opposed by parks planners and outdoors groups during hearings held by the special committee on the contentious townsite issue.

Strachan, a member of the committee, tried unsuccessfully to block filing of the report with the House.

He said: "I'm opposed to this report even being received and read." But in the vote that followed the Liberals supported the government against this NDP stand and the report was read.

Later Strachan said outside the House he considered the committee's report was nothing more than a public relations campaign on behalf of the government's park policy.

The report said the site of the proposed town for mining company employees should be as close as is practicable to the mine.

Conditions under which the

townsite is built and maintained, it added, must be within rigid controls determined by Recreation Minister Kiernan.

It is the responsibility of Western Mines, the report said, to prevent pollution of Buttle Lake either through operations of the mine or townsite.

The Pollution Control Board should exercise the most stringent controls with a continuing survey and inspection of Buttle Lake waters, it added.

The committee said its recommendation should not be interpreted as a precedent for future government policy in the multi-use concept of park lands.

It urged the government to try and negotiate the purchase of other existing mineral claims and timber berths in class A parks. The committee added the government should try to get more recreational land in the Forbidden Plateau area adjacent to Strathcona Park.

The report said: "Your committee recognizes the difficulty of administering a provincial parks policy which in the past permitted indiscriminate staking of mineral claims and allowance of timber berths within park boundaries.

"It concurs with the government policy which introduces a new concept preventing any further alienations of class A parklands and establishes totally inviolate conservancy areas."

Voluntary access program expansion urged in future

Voluntary access programs which allow recreation seekers to use logging roads and other forest industry facilities during non-working hours are functioning well, the legislature was told Tuesday.

The special committee reviewing the access program, said a spirit of co-operation exists between industry, recreation groups and the government.

It recommended present voluntary access programs be encouraged to continue and said a further review should be undertaken by a legislative committee in two years time. The new study should have specific reference to access problems in the interior of the province, the report said.

Special bill for Shelford

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The government has introduced a bill to reimburse Omineca MLA Cyril Shelford for \$5,000 of his personal expenses while rendering "extensive and exceptional services" in connection with the royal commission on gasoline prices.

Shelford was credited with getting the government to set up the commission late in 1963 and spent much of his time in the more than 18

months of hearings that followed. The commission report was tabled in the legislature last week.

Premier Bennett introduced the bill at the start of the Tuesday afternoon sitting and the legislature gave it first reading.

Shelford said later outside the House the government's action came as a complete surprise.

"I was amazed. I never dreamed of such a thing," he said. He added he would use the money to pay off some \$2,000 in accumulated debts and

would like to take his wife on a European vacation sometime in the near future.

Would he participate as fully in the recently-established royal commission on auto insurance which begins hearings in Victoria May 2.

Shelford replied that there were several MLAs more qualified to handle this subject. But he said he would try and convince some organizations he belonged to that they should make submissions.

Thursday, March 31, 1966

Campbell under heavy fire in Coquitlam land scandal

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Coquitlam council was instructed to straighten out a situation caused by a land scandal last year, the legislature was told Wednesday.

Municipal Affairs Minister Campbell, under heavy opposition criticism for his handling of the affair which resulted in a government inquiry, indicated that so far council hasn't seen fit to act.

Municipal Clerk Francis Leland Pobst and Assessor William James Joyce were suspended as a result of the inquiry later, after visiting the minister in Victoria, they were reinstated without loss of pay by a cabinet order-in-council.

Campbell denied opposition charges that the cabinet order was designed to "whitewash" the actions of the officials be-

cause one was a prominent Social Credit party member.

Opposition Leader Strachan, renewing charges he made during the throne debate at the start of the current session, said Campbell's action is proof that B.C. citizens don't have any recourse if they are wronged.

"There isn't much use of any citizen in this province complaining about any action by municipal employees no matter what they do because the minister will cover it up," Strachan said.

Campbell said the government took the view that the officials were guilty only of technical infractions of the Municipal Act. He added that an elected council was responsible for its own actions.

"We took the position that this was quite improper conduct

and the municipality was so informed and the municipality was in fact instructed to correct this situation," the minister said.

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) said if an error was made someone is suffering from that error and in this case the injured party was the original complainants.

"If ever there was a case for an ombudsman, this is it," said Barrett.

Attorney-General Bonner said it must first be determined whether damage had been suffered by any of the parties, how much, and at what level of government the damages should be discharged.

He said Campbell had indicated he would be quite willing to discuss the matter further with the original complainants.

Old power play

By IAN STREET
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Events the past few days in the legislature have led to renewed charges that Vancouver plans are being thwarted by a handful of minor provincial figures in the private bills committee.

Dr. Pat McGeer, MLA for Point Grey, claims the committee treats city council, which governs more than 400,000 people, like a group of juvenile delinquents.

He argues the long list of trivial requests that must come before the committee in the form of amendments to the city charter demeans the status of city council.

It's time the government gave some consideration to what might be termed repatriation of Vancouver's constitution, according to McGeer.

He wants broader powers for council and complete authority to govern within these powers.

A government spokesman, who asked that his name not be used because he doesn't want to be drawn into a slanging match with the opposition, said this is nonsense.

The city already has broad powers and complete authority, he argues, and if any broader powers are required then Vancouver should ask for them.

What brought the issue to a head this week was the government's action in restoring a section of the private bill containing city charter amendments which grants tenants the right to run for municipal office.

This section had previously been removed by the private bills committee.

In the eyes of critics like McGeer the trouble in private bills committee is largely due to the influence of two long-time Sacred backbenchers—Secretary Bert Price, MLA

for Burrard, and the chairman, Alex Mathew, MLA for Vancouver Centre.

Price, as the senior Vancouver member, for years has acted as sponsor for the city's private bills containing charter amendments.

He claims that Vancouver has in all important respects got the charter amendments it has requested, though he admits not always without some delays. Any hold-up, according to Price, has usually been due to the fact the city proposal would have "too much effect on the Municipal Act."

"It's the fact that Vancouver has its own charter, with some special powers to meet big city needs while the rest of the cities and municipalities in the province come under general legislation, that gives rise to complaints about special status.

The cry was taken up in the legislature again Tuesday by J. Donald Smith, MLA for Victoria. He argued that Vancouver tenants shouldn't enjoy the privilege of being able to run for council if those in other cities are denied.

Price says he is bothered by the kind of rural smalltown thinking that some "outside" MLAs apply to Vancouver problems.

But he admits a major factor in the committee's decision to reject the Vancouver charter request for tenant office-holders was the current province-wide study of this question by the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

Says McGeer: "I'm very resentful of the rurally-dominated legislature which tries to impose simple rural verities on policies of a metropolitan area."

Few would argue that there is room for improvement. But the government claims the notion of a civic authority that is law unto itself is basically a proposal to take Vancouver out of the province of B.C.

Thursday, March 31, 1966

Use revenue for parks

VICTORIA — All revenue received by the government from mines inside provincial parks should be used to improve the park system in B.C., the legislature was told Wednesday.

Bert Price (SC - Vancouver Burrard) said there is going to be some mining in provincial parks under park use permits granted by the department of recreation and conservation.

He suggested all revenue received from these operations, even if it is only the portion of the income tax returned to B.C.

by Ottawa, should be used to swell the budget of the parks branch.

Mines Minister Brothers earlier told the House he couldn't answer a question from Opposition Leader Strachan about the number of mining claims staked in provincial parks during the past year.

Brothers didn't comment on the idea put forward by the Socred backbencher.

Randolph Harding (NDP-Kaslo Slocan) called on the government to do something about idle

mining claims throughout the province.

Some have laid idle for up to 60 years, Harding said, and it is possible under existing regulations to keep title to these claims by paying the government as little as 25 cents an acre a year.

Harding said he had a claim on which he had done some work and wasn't particularly anxious to lose it, but felt something should be done to correct the situation.

Stewart-Cassiar road aid sought from Ottawa

B.C. will seek further federal aid shortly for completion of the Stewart-Cassiar Highway, Mines Minister Brothers told the legislature Wednesday.

Brothers said he will meet the federal Resources Minister Pe-pin in May or June to ask for aid on Stewart-Cassiar and other mining roads in B.C.

He was answering opposition complaints that little has been

done by the provincial government on the road in the past year.

The road was started under the federally-sponsored Roads to Resources program, but the Liberal government ended this cost sharing agreement. Premier Bennett has promised that if no further aid is forthcoming B.C. will finish the project alone.

Further study later

PET BILL LOST

The legislature's private bills committee has recommended no action be taken now on a controversial bill for operation of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

It reported to the legislature that provisions contained in the bill require further study and should not be proceeded with.

MPs on both sides of the House had criticized the bill when it was introduced by the government earlier in the session.

The main points of criticism dealt with wide powers it gave the SPCA to seize and destroy animals and charge anyone who attempted to interfere with obstruction.

Attorney-General Bonner said the powers members objected to were already contained in other provincial statutes and were simply being consolidated into this one act. However, he said the government agreed to further study of the bill in committee.

Arbitration powers kept

The government has decided, on the advice of a special legislative committee, to retain powers of arbitration in fish price disputes.

A bill introduced earlier in the current session proposed repeal of the section of the provincial Fisheries Act covering arbitration. The reason given for this action was that B.C. felt the matter came within federal jurisdiction.

The repeal proposal, however, was withdrawn by Attorney-General Bonner during committee debate on the bill in the House Wednesday.

During public hearings, the special committee on commercial fisheries was urged by fishermen to hang onto the law and ask Ottawa for wider control over the fishing industry on the west coast.

M A R

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TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1966

Judgment at the Curb-Side

Now that Attorney-General Bonner has spelled out his legislation to immobilize suspected borderline drinking drivers, initial reservations are confirmed.

Policemen are to be granted judge and jury power to rule off the road drivers whom they suspect may be impaired but not sufficiently so as to be convicted in proper courts under the proper law of the land.

Because blood alcohol testing devices are not universally available, the kangaroo curb-side courts at first will be held only in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island, thus making hardware inventory and geography the arbiter in determining two levels of justice, two degrees of police powers and civil rights.

Debate in the legislature when the amendments come up later this week is expected to be spirited. No one is likely to champion the impaired driver. But this is not the issue. What is at issue is the usurpation of court powers by the police, and what, in British jurisprudence, is the abhorrent principle that a man is guilty until proven innocent. Whether or not the wrong means are to be employed to gain the right end, however, it is expected that the amendments will become law.

It is well, then, to ask again what we are getting into.

The principal objection remains, of course, the transfer from the courts to the individual policeman of the authority to suspend a citizen's privileges. This is a dangerous path, as was recognized by Vancouver city prosecutor Stewart McMorran last week in his criticism of Victoria police chief Jack Gregory's request for wider police powers.

First of all, Mr. McMorran reaffirmed his belief in the role of the courts to judge guilt and innocence—a testimonial novel enough these days, it sometimes seems, to be downright refreshing. "We have to believe this," said Mr. McMorran, "if the law is to mean anything."

Then Mr. McMorran turned to Chief Gregory's request for easily obtainable search warrants. He thought this could get out of hand, "and some policemen might abuse this right." He said further, "we cannot allow the law authority to walk into a person's residence for no other reason than a hunch or whim."

Exactly. If the law is to mean anything, it is the courts which must judge guilt or innocence, not policemen who could abuse their power on a hunch or a whim. For householders simply read drivers.

One imagines the Bonner law will get an early test in the courts. Legal consensus now would indicate that it may prove hard to upset. There are precedents—not least of which is the arbitrary power of our own Motor Vehicles Branch to suspend drivers' licences even though the driver already has paid the penalties laid down by the courts.

But whatever the technical cleverness of the new legislation, the price to be paid, in erosion of liberty, deserves serious reckoning before these amendments become law. The public might indeed prefer trusting its fate to an over-zealous policeman than to a borderline impaired driver. Many will remain unconvinced, however, that within the framework of Anglo-Saxon judicial practice there is no better choice than this.

Pension Benefits Introduced

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government will pay supplementary allowances to retired civil servants who cannot qualify for the Canada Pension Plan, it was disclosed here Monday.

The extra pension benefits were provided in amendments to the Civil Service Superannuation Act, introduced to the legislature by Provincial Secretary Wesley Black.

Black also introduced bills to integrate future pensions for civil servants, teachers and municipal employees with the Canada Pension Plan.

MEDICARE ISSUE

Gov't Ruin Seen

By FRANK RUTTER

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — History will be repeated and the Socred government will be defeated because it charges premiums for medicare, an opposition MLA predicted Monday.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) recalled in the legislature that the coalition government, headed by Premier Byron ("Boss") Johnson was ousted in 1952, and, he said, the reason was the premium it charged for hospital insurance.

Now the present government is perpetuating health care through premiums in the B.C. Medical Plan, Macdonald said. "Unless the premium system goes, it will pull down this government at the polls as it pulled down Boss Johnson," he said.

He charged that B.C. is holding back national medicare by pursuing its own course—not the type of plan envisaged by the Hall royal commission or the federal government.

Macdonald was speaking during the second reading of a bill boosting subsidies to low wage earners for medicare.

It increases subsidies from 50 to 90 per cent of premiums for people with no taxable income and from 25 to 50 per cent for those with \$1,000 or less taxable income.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black said more than 67 per cent, or 64,362 of the plan's 95,944 subscribers qualify for the subsidies.

At present, 51,716, more than half, get a 50 per cent subsidy, he said.

The total number, he said, represent 198,434 people, when their dependents are counted.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said B.C.'s plan does not meet the requirements laid down by Ottawa for provinces to join a national medicare scheme by July 1, 1967, because it is not universal.

The bill was given a second reading unanimously.

LOW INTEREST LOANS STUDIED

Plans Considered to Help 'Hard-Pressed' Buy Home

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A plan to help hard-pressed families buy homes is being considered by the provincial government, Premier W. A. C. Bennett revealed Monday.

It would involve giving low-interest loans enabling people to make down payments and at the same time would qualify them immediately for the home-owner grant, he said.

Bennett disclosed during debate on a bill to raise the home-owner grant from \$100 to \$110 this year that the finance department has begun a study to see how the plan could be implemented.

"I'm making no promises at this time," Bennett said. "I'm just telling the house that his is being studied."

"A person who is struggling to raise his family and who doesn't have the money to buy his own home — that's the group we're giving thought to," he said. "We want to help people to help themselves."

Bennett later told The Sun the government wants to encourage people to own homes. That is why the home-owner grant was introduced in 1957.

He said that people who have money can decide for themselves whether they want to buy a home or rent one.

But people who are hard-pressed do not have that chance.

"This is the group of people we are now thinking about," he said.

Bennett said the proposed rental-purchase plan would be the first of its kind anywhere.

The premier said that the mechanics of the proposed plan

have to be worked out, but he guessed that some organization would be set up to make loans. It might be a government agency, he said.

AID PURCHASE

People without funds to make down payments could apply for perhaps \$500 or \$1000 to enable them to purchase small homes.

The loans would be repayable on low monthly payments so that the total home payment would not be much more than the people were paying as renters, Bennett explained.

For example, he said people paying \$40 a month rent might be able to move into a new house for \$75 a month, if it was within their earning power.

"We expect this to be our next move but I'm not making a promise when it will come into effect," said the premier.

"This shows you how young this government is, always coming up with new ideas," he added.

JUST STARTING

Bennett told the legislature that the home-owner grant is just beginning to rise.

"It will go to \$150 and \$200 and if we stay in power long enough it will go to \$300," he said.

"When you take off the home-owner grant people in B.C. are paying less increase in taxes than anywhere on the continent," he added.

The bill to increase the grant this year was given unanimous second reading — approval in principle — but not until several opposition MLAs attacked the program as being discriminatory and a political tool of the government.

Most of the opposition criti-

cism centered on the payment of the grant only to home owners.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said that if the grant is to be a dividend from B.C.'s natural resources it is rank discrimination to give it only to a segment of the population.

'ANY RELIEF'

"But any tax relief, even if it is imperfect, must be accepted," he said.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the grant should be paid to all apartment dwellers. He said an apartment is just as much a home as an ordinary dwelling.

Macdonald said that people who buy apartments get the grant, but these are only the wealthy who can afford the \$30,000 to \$50,000 units.

"Why neglect the tenant?" he said, urging an amendment to the bill to encompass apartment renters.

Gargrave Urges Change in Law

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An opposition MLA pressed ahead Monday with his own bid for laws controlling air pollution, despite earlier announcement of a cabinet committee to study the problem.

Tony Gargrave (NDP-Mackenzie) introduced his proposed amendments to the pollution control act to the legislature for first reading.

NOBODY TOLD BOSS

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The man in charge of the government department that has to decide if a mine can dump tailings into Buttle Lake said Monday that he found out about the waste disposal plan by reading a newspaper.

Deputy Water Resources Minister A. F. Paget made the disclosure during a special legislative committee hearing on the location of Western Mines within Strathcona Park and its proposed waste plan.

Paget said the water resources department has to approve the company's plan. He said he learned of the scheme to dump tailings into the lake by reading a newspaper report about an earlier committee meeting.

MPs CLASH OVER MAYORS

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Burnaby Secord MLA Charles MacSorley said Monday the people of B.C. didn't think much of their mayors and reeves.

He drew cries of "shame" in the legislature when he said: "Of 16 mayors and reeves who ran in the last (provincial) election only two were elected — that shows you the regard the people of B.C. have for them."

Opposition leader Robert Strachan, potesting, said: "He's casting a slur on the mayors and reeves." Back came MacSorley with: "Only the ones who got defeated."

James NESBITT

The liquor profits are now paying for the homeowner grants, if you care to look at it that way. Cabinet ministers say our natural resources pay these grants. It's all a matter of opinion.



NESBITT

The liquor profits are now running about \$37 million a year, and that is the total of the homeowner grants, now that they've gone up to \$110 this session.

So, every time you buy a bottle you may feel you are helping the home-owners, though if you rent you'll not be helping yourself, only the other fellow. This is Social Credit, special privileges to none, fairness to all.

The premier this week had the unalloyed political joy of seeing Liberal and New Democratic oppositionists stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Social Credit for these grants, Premier Bennett's

dream-come-true, pie-in-the-sky, a Social Credit dividend, a political gimmick of the first magnitude.

The Liberals used to vote against it, but have now changed their minds.

They have come to realize these grants are extremely popular with the people who receive them, and any MLA who votes against them is liable to face defeat in the polling booths.

NDP Leo Nimsick of Cranbrook does a slow burn whenever he writes to the premier, and, for his pains, is ignored from on high. The premier is famous for not answering letters.

Mr. Nimsick complained in the legislature this week about this seeming lack of good manners, and then he received a double affront.

As he complained, the premier turned his back on Mr. Nimsick and began to talk to cabinet ministers in the row behind.

This caused Mr. Nimsick to yell that it was bad enough to have his letter ignored, but when the premier would not listen to him in the legislature it was ten times worse.

The premier, hearing the yell, swung around, rose up and said, oh so politely, that while his back may have been turned, and he was talking, he was also listening to everything Mr. Nimsick was saying, and paying the greatest attention.

He said he had received Mr. Nimsick's letter, and had read it with the greatest interest.

Such attention from on high placated the wrathful Mr. Nimsick a little.

Oppositionists wept Monday for the municipalities, which now take the place of farmers when it comes to legislative tears.

Oppositionists say the municipalities are most shabbily treated by this government, which insists that B.C. municipalities are the best treated in all Canada. Neither side will give in an inch.

The legislature can never reach a conclusion on this subject. It seems to be a matter of political opinion.

The municipalities, of course, agree with the oppositionists.

Ferry Hike Given

Sun Victoria Bureau VICTORIA — A wage boost for every employee of the B.C. Ferry Authority was announced Monday by Premier W. A. C. Bennett.

He said it will be made possible by the government paying off the authority's \$37 million debts.

Bennett made his announcement shortly before the legislature gave second reading — approval in principle — to a bill authorizing the debt payoff from government funds or investments in the current budget year.

Later, outside the House, Bennett said he could not give details of the boost, but would

discuss it with ferry manager Monty Aldous.

Bennett said the raises will be effective this year.

It was later understood they will be from April 1 or retroactive to that date.

Bennett said the raise will be separate from the general civil service boost announced in his budget.

The premier in the legislature also told MLAs that present federal shipbuilding subsidies of 25 per cent should be returned to 40 per cent, the amount offered by the previous Conservative government.

He defended the ferry authority against opposition charges of slave labor.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1966

'Election' Speech Offers Cash Help

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett Monday promised more increases in provincial grants to municipalities in what he admitted was an election campaign speech.

It was the latest of many hints, threats and suggestions in the legislature that a 1966 provincial election is planned.

Bennett was in full oratorical flight about government aid to municipalities.

He was defending existing grants during second reading of a bill boosting per capital payments to municipalities by \$4.

"Certainly this isn't the final formula," he said.

"This isn't the last increase municipalities will receive by this government. From this government to the municipalities and people of the province we will expend more each and every year.

MORE MONEY

Bennett said he would give no commitment to increase any particular grant every year, but more money would be forthcoming.

"Is this a campaign speech?" shouted Liberal leader Ray Perrault.

"Yes," Bennett replied, and sat down grinning hugely.

Later, he would only smile when asked by The Sun to elaborate.

The increased per capita grants were approved in principle by all MLAs but one.

Skeena Socred Dudley Little was the lone opponent in a 46-1 vote.

TRIED TWICE

Little didn't speak during the debate on second reading of the bill. But he told reporters afterwards he had tried to get a

word in twice, but wasn't recognized by the speaker before Bennett formally closed the debate.

Little said he did not object to more aid to municipalities, but felt the per capita grants should be higher for areas with a population between 3,500 and 12,500. Little said the grants should be boosted to \$20, not \$4.

This is because municipalities are at their toughest period of expansion when their population is around 12,500, he said.

Although all opposition MLAs supported the bill, many of them attacked the government for not doing enough for municipalities.

ONE SUGGESTION

Liberal leader Ray Perrault offered the government one suggestion for more aid.

He said it could be done by exempting property taxes from provincial income tax levies. Perrault quoted a letter he received from federal Finance Minister Mitchell Sharp Feb. 18 which said this would be possible when existing federal-provincial tax sharing agreements expire at the end of the year and have to be renegotiated.

Pat McGeer (L.—Point Grey) said the \$4 per capita boost was "picayune" and "pathetic."

"If a person is gasping for air you don't deny him breath," McGeer said.

James NESBITT

VICTORIA — The premier and his cabinet ministers, says Liberal leader Ray Perrault, show a contempt for democracy.

The premier, and his cabinet ministers, said the NDP's Arthur Turner of Vancouver East, violate all the true principles of democracy.



NESBITT

All the big gun's were in full action, barking away. Redistribution, of course, always causes legislative uproar and bad feelings, name-calling and anguished howls. It always has and always will.

The premier and his cabinet ministers, hearing this, feigned shock and they uttered words which meant they are not the enemies of democracy, but in very truth its defenders. And with this sentiment the government's backbenchers, or most of them, were in full agreement.

Thus the legislature Tuesday got itself all involved, right up to its neck in politics, as the redistribution of legislative seats bill was banged around and tossed hither and thither with much shouting and pounding of Mr. Speaker's gavel.

Oppositionists are always suspicious of a government's motives, and a government is determined to do what it sees fit, and ride roughshod over the opposition, which, after all, is the only way to get things done.

This is a government responsibility and it's quite right.

The government, not the Opposition, was elected to do the governing, and that hard, cold fact of politics should not be forgotten by anybody, whether inside or outside the house.

Sure, there's some political hanky-panky in the premier's Redistribution Bill.

Under the watchful, sharp eye of that man Bennett, as the oppositionists call him, the government is looking after itself as best it can.

That is not dishonorable, as Mr. Perrault said:

It is only being, politically sensible, and down-to-the-polling-booths practical.

The Opposition would do the same if it had power equal to the government.

The Liberals need not feel so pure about redistribution.

All we have to do is look into redistributions of the past to learn that Liberal premiers engaged in political hanky-panky, too, and looked after themselves.

NDPers have never had a chance, in this province, or in Ottawa, to do any redistributing. If they had, I'd say they look after themselves quite adequately.

The premier's on quite a spot, I can hardly wait to see how he's going to get off it.

You see, he said he didn't wipe out Atlin constituency because it's represented by a native Indian, Frank Calder.

To wipe out Atlin, said the premier, tears in his political eyes at the mere possibility, would be an insult to all the natives, our first citizens, those people we have so shamefully neglected, and whom some people would now rob of their most precious heritage — their own native Indian MLA.

Disgraceful! The very negation of democracy!

Mr. Calder, naturally, is all for Atlin remaining a separate riding, though the Angus commission said it should be split up, and form part of a new and much bigger constituency.

I suppose Mr. Calder feels eternally grateful to the premier, but as yet I see no sign of these two playing political footsie, though the premier is evidently casting goo-goo eyes up Atlin way.

When Mr. Calder said he's for redistribution as the premier sees it, as far as Atlin's concerned anyway, the premier, naturally, pounded his desk and beamed upon Mr. Calder, and someone in the opposition wanted to know if the premier would run a Social Creditor against NDP Mr. Calder.

Up hopped the premier and said, quick as that and

coaxing charm, that he's hopeful Mr. Calder will see the great light, that it will bask upon him, that he will foresake those Socialists, and run under the Social Credit banner.

Please now, Mr. Calder. Please walk into our cozy parlor!

Hearing this invitation from the legislature's top man, quiet Mr. Calder looked somewhat stunned, and gave no indication what he'll do.

Such a thought as going Social Credit had never before popped into his head.

But the premier, of course, toys with all sorts of ideas, and he had it figured out that if only Mr. Calder would turn Social Credit and run in Atlin, the premier would be off that hot spot, in grace and victory, and all our true natives would love him forever more.

I'd say Mr. Calder won't be jumping out of the Strachan ranks, and so the premier will have to let him capture Atlin by acclamation.

The premier won't like doing that, but what else can he do?

However, you know our premier, when it comes to taking a Social Credit second look, has no hesitation if he thinks it will work out to his own political advantage.

That's why it'll soon be 14 years since that fateful August evening in 1952, when, to his astonishment, he was plummeted into the province's No. 1 seat.

Gov't Faces Soered Revolt

Clamps Lid on Fight Over New Riding Plan

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A new Soered redistribution rebellion rumbled in the legislature Tuesday.

It was prevented from flaring wide open, though, when the government yanked the rug, halting debate on its controversial bill to reapportion seats in the legislature.

Gaglardi Halts Debate

The move came when Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi, prompted by Premier W. A. C. Bennett, adjourned a five-hour debate on second reading of the bill.

It came only moments after Soered backbencher Jim Chabot of Columbia declared he would not support the bill unless it was changed to give more MLAs to the Kootenays.

At least three other backbenchers who indicated they

backed Chabot's stand were trying to get the floor to speak when the adjournment came.

One opposition MLA bucked an otherwise united front against the bill when Frank Calder (NDP-Alin) said he would support it. The bill preserves his riding.

Twenty-two MLAs took part in the marathon debate, longest so far in the session, which spread over two sittings until 10:30 p.m.

Eight Ministers Speak

Eight of them were cabinet ministers, bringing the charge by Oak Bay Liberal Alan Macfarlane that the government was trying to stave off objections from its own backbenchers.

Backbenchers whose applause for Chabot and for opposition speakers indicated they, too, oppose the bill, include Arvid Lundell of Revelstoke, Don Robinson of Lillooet and John Tisdalle of Saanich.

No reason was given for the sudden cut-off. Some opposition

MLAs later said hopefully it could be because the government intends to give in and change the bill, boosting Kootenay representation.

Others suggested it was to give cabinet ministers time to talk their backbenchers out of voting against the bill.

Never before in the Soered government's reign has the possibility of so many backbenchers opposing a bill arisen. The previous high was two rebels in a 1961 bill boosting the gasoline tax.

Threat of Election

The hot debate Tuesday was peppered with election talk and yet another cabinet threat, when Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark told the opposition: "If you vote against this, we're prepared to take this thing as an issue to the people of the province."

The opposition's attack on the bill was based on two major charges:

That the government was gerrymandering by altering the recommendations of the redistribution royal commission headed by Dr. Henry Angus.

That the government was discriminating against the Kootenays, whose representation would be cut from seven to four MLAs, while Northern B.C., a Soered stronghold, is being allowed to retain its present seven MLAs.

The opposition coined new phrases such as "Bennett-mandering" and "Bennett-boroughs" to describe the bill.

Cabinet ministers, led by Education Minister Leslie Peterson, claimed the bill was perfectly fair and non-political.

Gov't Defeat Envisaged

Macfarlane charged the government had changed the Angus Commission's recommendations to ward off a threatened rebellion by its northern mem-

bers, who had protested a commission proposal to trim their strength from seven to five.

He calculated that this opposition, plus that of at least two

eastern Soered MLAs, could possibly have toppled the government by a vote of 26 to 25 on the Angus recommendations. That was also assuming all the opposition MLAs except Calder voted against the Angus plan.

"That's why we've got this bill before us now," Macfarlane said. "It was to stem rebellion on the back benches. It was to save the government. It was political expediency. It was the premier's neck that was in jeopardy."

The government bill also departs from the Angus plan by proposing six two-member ridings for the city of Vancouver instead of the 12 single member ridings the commission recommended.

"Nowhere in the province did anyone recommend dual members," Macfarlane said. "This was in the back of the mind of the government because strong cabinet ministers can drag in weak sisters on their coattails."

Macfarlane said if the government did not like the Angus report it could have suggested changes and referred them back to the commission instead of making redistribution a political thing.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said the Soereds had followed the same course as every previous administration by bending redistribution to suit their own ends.

"To many people the honorable profession of politics is not considered honorable because politicians in office have continually used that office for their own aggrandizement or their own security," Strachan said.

OPPORTUNITY

"Here was an opportunity—a golden opportunity—to try to help restore the honorable profession of politics to a higher level in the eye of the people."

Yet, the Soereds had rejected an impartial commission report. "I hope the people in the next election rise up in their wrath and destroy the people who tried to discriminate against them."

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said the bill was "trampling democracy."

He said not one Vancouver cabinet minister had appeared before the commission and charged this was because they knew the real redistribution would be decided behind the doors of the cabinet room afterward.

This was denied by Waldo Skillings (SC—Victoria).

HAS TO RETRACT

Then, when Perrault called the bill "dishonorable," he was made to retract by Speaker William Murray.

Perrault said he would be perfectly happy if Northern B.C. even got eight seats as long as the balance of representation proposed by Angus was retained and more seats were given the Lower Mainland.

Peterson denied the bill was discriminatory or political.

"This is a sincere attempt by the government," he said. "It will give more equitable distribution of seats both in regard to people and areas than B.C. has ever had before."

Peterson said he had not appeared at royal commission hearings "because if I had in any way, they'd be saying I tried to influence the commission."

Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo Slocan) charged the bill was rank discrimination against the Kootenays.

'PLAY FAIR'

"I'm not against giving any seats to the north, but, boy, when you start handing out additional ridings in one section of the province, play fair with the rest of us."

Attorney-General Robert Bonner said if the north were reduced to five MLAs, as the commission proposed, by 1975 the average population per riding there would be 47,800—1,200 higher than the average for the rest of the ridings.

Resources Minister Ray Wiliston, who represents northern Fort George, said the north would have been disenfranchised by the Angus commission plan.

Harry McKay (Lib.-Fernie) charged the redistribution bill was evidence of one-man government of B.C. by Bennett.

"Those areas where you are strong you have preserved," he said. "Those areas where you're not being hurt, where the opposition will be hurt, you've left alone."

Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan said all the opposition's arguments were based on lack of knowledge.

Chabot made a brief but eloquent plea for the government to reconsider its bill.

"The bill neglects the rights and fair representation of the people of the Kootenays," he said.

"I ask the government to restore the existing ridings in the Kootenays in view of this being done in the north.

"Unless the bill is amended to reflect this, I cannot support it."

Dr. Pat McGeer (Lib.—Point Grey) rapped the premier for being absent through much of the debate.

Mamie MOLONEY

Occasional Diary:

As always, on my annual visit to the Legislature in Victoria, it is interesting to note the sense of shock which the



MOLONEY

behavior of what we euphemistically call the Servants of the People, our MLAs engenders in those who are seeing the provincial government in action for the first time.

It isn't only the high school students, brought from all over the province to see Democracy in action, who are appalled by the seeming rudeness of the proceedings. Adults too, watching the premier of the province turn his back and engage in laughter and persiflage with his attorney general, even when it is one of his own cabinet members who is addressing the House, find this

lack of basic good manners hard to stomach.

While deliberately seeming to pay no heed to what is going on may be an old parliamentary tradition, perhaps it's time to scrap a custom that serves only to instill in the spectators a sense of outrage and a lack of respect for their elected representatives.

Democracy could do with a better "image" than the one sometimes presented in Victoria and Ottawa.



Jim Nesbitt, The Sun's legislature columnist, is forever chiding the public for calling politics "dirty."

Well? Let's hope we're not so corrupt we can condone the scandals, like the "Dear Hal" case, or the "Rivard" affair, that have besmirched our federal and provincial politics over the past few years.

However, I don't think it's the scandals, any more than the childishness, that disgust the layman. With the world moving so rapidly on all fronts, the public just wishes the politicians would drop the hickering, the ham-acting and the time-wasting, and get down to the business of governing. While such important matters as pollution, ambulance services, hospitals, divorce reform and vital welfare matters are stalled, our politicians can spend weeks on a flag debate.

This is not to say that most politicians are not conscientious and that they don't work hard. When they are not engaged in amateur theatricals on the floor of the House the good ones keep up with their homework which includes reading voluminous reports, studying the budget and keeping themselves generally well-informed.

But it's bread, not circuses, we want.



Perhaps what our legislative bodies need is a professional time-motion study to bring the business of governing more in line with the 20th century.

Our parliamentary techniques were devised to deal with vastly different conditions than those prevailing today. Tradition is all very well, but when it delays the business at hand perhaps a streamlining of procedures would be a good thing.

Are all those long-winded speeches really necessary? Does every back-bencher have to describe in detail the beauties of the flora and fauna in his native riding?

The late Adlai Stevenson had this to say on the subject of political oratory, American style: "Most of the speeches remind me of that facetious explanation of the word 'auditorium'. It is said the word comes from two Latin words, 'audio' and 'taurus.' 'Audio' means 'I hear' and 'taurus' of course, means 'bull'."

When you come right down to it, though, we've no one to blame but ourselves for getting the kind of government we deserve. As Ogden Nash reminds us: "We have such refined and delicate talents that we can discover no one worthy of our ballots. And then when someone terrible gets elected we say, there, that's just what we expected."

Bill Termed Bid to Deny Labor Right

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature's private bills committee was told Monday that a bill put before it by the Professional Engineers Association of B.C. is an attempt to deny engineering technicians the right to join a union.

The claim was made by John McNevin, assistant secretary of the B.C. Federation of Labor.

The engineers, in seeking a new statute to replace the old engineering Profession Act, want authority to pass bylaws setting up an ancillary group of Engineering Profession Act, technologists, and to pass regulations for conditions and qualifications for admission to the group.

McNevin told the committee chaired by Alex Matthew (SC—Vancouver Centre) that this would give the association's council the right to set up a body to bargain collectively for the technicians.

Under the Labor Relations Act employees have a right to determine which association or union they want to represent them, he said.

Police Beef Aired

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Discontent among members of Vancouver's police force is impairing its efficiency, a lawyer told MLAs here today.

H. A. D. Oliver was appearing before the legislature's private bills committee to seek a new appeal procedure for officers who are fired or demoted.

Oliver, representing the Vancouver Police Union, said: "An efficient police force is a contented police force. This is something which the City of Vancouver does not have at the present time."

This is because the men are unhappy about lack of a fair hearing on disciplinary charges, he said.

Corporation counsel Russ Baker denied the force is discontented.

"There may be a few people dismissed or demoted who may be discontented," he said.

Baker, in answer to a question by lawyer Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby), agreed to seek instructions from the police commission on the possibility of allowing policemen to be represented by lawyers at departmental hearings.

Williston Denies 'Deal' With Mills

No Secret Agreements to Stop Pollution Legislation, He Says

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Forests Minister Ray Williston Wednesday denied a suggestion in the legislature that companies building new pulp mills have won secret agreements that the government will not legislate against air pollution.

The suggestion was made in a speech by Tony Gargrave (NDP-Mackenzie) who proposed amendment of the Pollution Control Act to establish government controls.

"People are saying the pulp industry of this province has been given secret understandings in the matter of air pollution," Gargrave told the legislature.

He did not elaborate in the house, but later told The Sun: "It has been suggested, and it is only a rumor, and cannot be substantiated, that the new pulp mills have been assured that they will not be saddled with expensive anti-pollution devices by legislation."

NOT RIGHT

Williston told MLAs this is not the case.

"The latest pulp mill agreements issued have a clause that wherever equipment is found that can do the job better, that equipment must be made part of that operation," he said.

He said this means pulp mills must install the latest type of odor-abatement equipment available.

Williston adjourned debate on Gargrave's bill over objections of Liberal and NDP members who demanded immediate government action on air pollution.

"This is a form of closure," complained Opposition leader Robert Strachan.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault predicted the move meant the government will delay action for another year because the debate will never be reopened by Williston.

Williston said the B.C. government has spent \$12,000 as its share of the cost of a federal-provincial study and conference on pollution.

The conference, composed of resource ministers, will reconvene in October in Montreal.

Williston said he is chairman of the conference and he is hopeful it will result in recommendations enabling cross-Canada laws on pollution.

MORE DUMPING

Two more opposition bills were dumped in the house Wednesday.

One was Gargrave's plan for government-subsidized legal aid for both criminal and civil cases, ruled out of order because it involved spending public money—a thing only the government can initiate.

The other, proposed by Oak Bay Liberal Alan MacFarlane, was to allow citizens to sue the government without first obtaining its permission through a fiat.

This bill, which MacFarlane has proposed for the past four years, was also ruled out of order.

UNDER 12

'No Jail For Child' Bill Lost

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An opposition bill for a law to prevent courts sending children under the age of 12 to jails or institutions was thrown out of the legislature Wednesday.

The bill, proposed by Dave Barrett (NDP — Dewdney) was ruled out of order by Speaker William Murray because it would have involved spending public funds.

Only the government, after approval by the lieutenant-governor, can bring in "money bills."

When Barrett asked the government if it would bring in a similar bill, there was no answer, and Murray ruled that the question was not in order.

Barrett said that last year there were 31 boys under 12 in Brannan Lake Industrial School. The youngest inmates have been nine years old in the past, he said.

"Many people do not believe it possible that boys of nine to 10 would go to such an institution," he said.

Yet not only has it happened, but it is also possible that such children could be sent to Oakalla jail as well, he added.

Barrett said this could happen in the case of a boy who escaped from Brannan Lake, the penalty for which would be jail.

He said he knew of cases where boys had been transferred to Oakalla without their parents' knowledge.

Barrett's bill would have prohibited any child under 12 from being sent to an institution where there were older children.

It would also have provided for medical and psychiatric examinations before any child was committed to an institution, notification of parents on any transfer and rehabilitation services after release.

Dumping Plan OK'd

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The water resources department has approved a plan of a mine in Strathcona Park to dump tailings into Buttle Lake.

Deputy water resources minister A. F. Paget made this clear to a committee of the legislature this week.

The committee was told that dumping of Western Mine tailings into the bottom of Buttle Lake would be less dangerous to fish than stockpiling the waste on land.

300 TONS

Fisheries biologist I. L. Withler said that dumping 300 tons of fine tailings daily into the bottom of the 180-foot deep lake would have very small effect on fish.

But if the waste was stockpiled on land, runoff of silt into upper layers of water would probably create a much greater hazard to fish.

"I don't know which system would be ideal but I think the lake system is the most satisfactory," he said.

LESSER EVIL

B.C. wildlife federation manager Howard Paish said the lake system appears to be the lesser of two evils.

If a choice has to be made it would be better to dump the waste into the lake under controlled conditions, he said.

The special committee is to report to the legislature after reaching a decision on whether the company should be allowed to establish a townsite within the park and on how waste disposal should be handled.

CPR Charges Discrimination In Vancouver Land Proposal

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Canadian Pacific Railway today voiced strong opposition to a Vancouver proposal that would require major land developers to donate 10 per cent of their property for park purposes.

CPR lawyer N. C. Norton, in a brief to the legislature's private bills committee, called the city's charter amendment discriminatory, arbitrary and confiscatory.

The amendment would require owners of land parcels exceeding 20 acres to turn over up to 10 per cent of the land,

without compensation, when subdividing.

This would be over and above the land required for streets.

Norton said the amendment is aimed directly at the CPR because it is the only land owner in the city with land parcels of that size that could be affected.

He called it a 10 per cent surtax on railway property.

Norton said the CPR is vitally interested in the development and beautification of the city.

"After all, the true interests of the city and those of Canadian Pacific are not far apart,

as each contributes to the health of the other," he said.

"My submission, therefore, is simply that this proposed amendment is not a proper means to further the true interests of either the city or Canadian Pacific," he said.

Norton also referred to the Clyne royal commission report on expropriation which said confiscation of land should be prohibited.

He said contents of that report should be carefully studied in relation to the city's application.

Bonner Defends New Road Laws

No Right Exists to Endanger Lives of Others, He Argues

By FRANK RUTTER

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Robert Bonner Wednesday said proposed new laws cracking down on hit-run and drinking drivers do not violate civil liberties.

"I think it is no part of anyone's civil liberty to endanger the lives of others," Bonner told the legislature.

"A licence is not a right but a privilege to be obtained upon examination," he added.

Bonner was defending amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act which came up for second reading in the House.

The major new laws would give power for police to make 24-hour roadside suspensions of licences of suspected drinking drivers and would require police stickers on vehicles with more than \$100 worth of damage in accidents.

CRITICISM

Both these proposals have been criticized on grounds they jeopardize civil rights, and debate on the motor vehicle bill was adjourned by Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) who said they require careful consideration on that issue.

Bonner said the government regrets having to propose the law requiring police stickers on damaged vehicles, but it was necessary because of an alarming increase in hit-and-run accidents.

He said he could not explain

the reasons for the increase, but there was a connection between hit-runs and alcohol.

Bonner also said that on the basis of reliable studies it can be assumed that between 50 and 60 per cent of fatal accidents involve people who have been drinking.

BIG PART

Alcohol plays a role in 15 per cent of all types of accidents, Bonner said.

He said the law which would allow police to suspend licences was a question of physical competence to drive, rather than one of civil liberty.

"I think no one is more conscious of the need of civil liberty," Bonner said.

"Frankly I am particularly sensitive about this subject and it is one of the reasons that I have objected to the use of breathalyzers for the purpose of adducing evidence."

However a motorist could take a breathalyzer test if he wished to challenge a policeman's decision to suspend his licence. Bonner said such equipment is in short supply and this will mean it will be some time before the new law can go into effect.

Gov't Spurns Reference To Fair Sex

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — They were just three little words but the government wouldn't accept them Wednesday.

New Democrat Alex Macdonald of Vancouver East wanted the legislature to approve a three-word amendment to the Fair Employment Practices Act.

The words: or sex or.

The insertion of the words would have prohibited any employer from discriminating against an employee on grounds of sex as well as other grounds, Macdonald explained.

Macdonald said this would "end second class citizen status for women."

But Labor Minister Leslie Peterson, who adjourned debate on the amendment, said he feared it might prove a detriment rather than a help to women.

The reason, he suggested, was possible conflict between federal and provincial laws covering the same principle. This had happened in the U.S., he said, where some state laws were found to be in conflict with the Civil Rights Act.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1966

Kick Out Gov't, Socred MPs Told

By IAN MacALPINE

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett said Wednesday federal Socreds should vote the Liberal government out of office if the next budget doesn't contain \$100-a-month pensions for the aged.

He made the statement in the legislature during discussion about the lack of federal subsidies for the B.C.-owned Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

The five Socred MPs in Ottawa saved Prime Minister Lester Pearson's government several weeks ago on a Tory non-confidence motion over present \$75 a month pensions.

RECEIVED PRAISE

Bennett then praised his Ottawa colleagues for saving the nation from another election.

He said the federal Socreds acted responsibly in keeping Pearson's government in office until the federal government's fiscal policies are revealed.

During a debate on a bill to pay \$25.2 million for unsold PGE shares, to strengthen the

railway's financial structure, an opposition MLA asked why the Socreds voted for the federal government when B.C. Socreds claim they are getting an unfair deal from Ottawa on PGE subsidies.

'VOTE THEM OUT'

"I don't speak for them," replied Bennett. "But if that \$100 isn't in there on budget day for pensions the Social Crediters should vote them out of office."

He added: "I hope they've just kept them (the Liberals) on the ropes long enough to let them perform. If they don't they (the Socreds) should kick them out."

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said the reason B.C. isn't getting federal subsidies for the PGE is because the railway does not adhere to regulations followed by the two national railways.

He said that \$2.4 million in construction grants was paid to the PGE by Ottawa between 1949 and 1958 but since then B.C. has not followed procedures to qualify the railway for grants.

"I charge the premier of

deliberately cheating the taxpayers of British Columbia out of federal government grants to the PGE," Perrault said.

COMMENT WITHDRAWN

He withdrew the comment on instructions of Speaker William Murray.

Perrault said the government would not have to bolster the PGE with \$25.2 million if federal grants were received.

"But you have to follow the regulations to get the aid," he said.

Perrault did not explain what the regulations are, and the premier said later he would like to know what they are.

"I'd like to hear the guide lines we didn't follow," he said.

Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver) said the government should consider selling the PGE to either the Canadian National Railways or the Canadian Pacific Railway.

He said the government might get \$100 million for the railway to use for other projects.

"As long as I'm premier of this province I'll never sell this railway to the CNR, the CPR, or any other railroad," Bennett replied.

Gov't Considers Door Sales Curb

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Robert Bonner announced Wednesday the provincial government is considering a law to curb unscrupulous door-to-door salesmen.

But he pleaded for more time to study the idea when New Democrat Leo Nimsick of Cranbrook proposed a bill to take action now.

Nimsick agreed to Bonner adjourning debate during second reading of the bill. This means it could come up again later in the current session, although frequently such a tactic means the bill simply dies.

'COOLING OFF'

Nimsick's bill would allow a seven-day "cooling off" period in which a person who signed up for a contract with a door-to-door salesman would have a chance to cancel.

The bill also would invalidate any such contract that was not followed up by a confirming

copy of the deal being mailed to the customer.

Nimsick said similar laws are already proving effective in England and in Saskatchewan. In the first six months of the Saskatchewan law, passed last summer, he said, 69 people had received refunds on such contracts worth a total of \$42,791.

LOST EVERYTHING

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) told MLAs he knew of a man who had lost everything through signing a contract offered by a salesman for putting stucco on his house.

The contract was for a \$750 job to be performed by a firm called Interprovincial Building Credits, Macdonald said. He identified the Vancouver customer as a Ted Salonyka.

Macdonald said the salesman sold the stucco contract to the building firm, then disappeared. The firm then sued Salonyka for the \$750 plus interest and won, Macdonald said.

Forest Firms 'Fixing Prices'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature's forestry committee was told Tuesday that B.C.'s big forest companies appear to be fixing prices on pulp logs.

The claim was made by Pat Brennan, president of the independent Squamish Logging Operators Ltd.

Brennan did not name the companies, but referred to them as the big six.

DECIDE PRICE

He said the big companies pay what they want for pulp logs because there isn't any proper supply and demand system in B.C.'s pulp industry.

"I don't see why we should be subjected to the whims of a few gentlemen to decide what to do with me," said Brennan.

Committee chairman Cyril Shelford (SC-Omineca) said Brennan should take his allegations to the federal combines investigation branch, if he feels

there is ground for the accusation.

"Well, all I know is you can call any one of the six and you will have the same price quoted to you," Brennan replied.

EXPORT FREELY

Brennan also said that B.C. loggers should be able to export freely to world markets to put the industry on a true free enterprise basis.

Deputy Forests Minister F. S. McKinnon disagreed. He said that if logs could be exported the pulp and sawmill industries of the province would not have been established here.

Instead logs would be exported to those plants in other areas, like the Puget Sound area of Washington State.

Expert to Probe Port Alberni Air

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A B.C. Research Council expert will be sent Monday to Port Alberni to investigate pulp mill pollution, a special cabinet committee announced here Thursday.

The announcement was made to a delegation from the Port Alberni and District Labor Council, headed by president Dan Connell, which met the committee.

The committee is composed of Resources Minister Ray Williston, Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark and Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell.

Alberni MLA John Squire of the New Democratic Party, who attended the meeting, said the cabinet trio promised an immediate investigation and future action if necessary to curb unwarranted pollution.

'DEPLORABLE'

The delegation told the committee the MacMillan, Bloedel and Powell River Co. pulp mill at Port Alberni is creating deplorable pollution conditions.

The problem: Flyash, smell and waste disposal.

The labor group said the problems have been accentuated by the mill's recent efforts to substantially boost production. Boilers which burn waste sawdust and bark are being overloaded, they said.

The effects: A high incidence of respiratory diseases in the Alberni Valley; corrosion of metal, especially on cars; damage to plants and trees; soiled clothing; a decline in property values.

The brief charged that upper respiratory diseases among citizens in the Alberni Valley is "four or five times higher" than among people from other parts of the province.

The brief quotes Dr. Gerald Bonham, former director of the Central Vancouver Island health unit at Nanaimo, as saying: "The Alberni Valley has four to five times as many hospital admissions for acute bronchitis as do other comparable areas in B.C."

INDEFINITE

He cites the acute air pollution problem as the principal reason for this occurrence.

The brief admits there is no definite or isolated relationship

between respiratory diseases and air pollution but says, "The fact that for two years the Albernis had the high rate of hospital admissions for respiratory diseases prompted a University of B.C. study."

The labor council said Dr. Donald Anderson, associate professor of preventive medicine at UBC, and Dr. John Smith, director of the division of occupational health in the B.C. health department, launched a three-year investigation last year into the health status of Alberni Valley residents.

"No conclusions have yet been formulated," said the brief, "but there is substantial evidence from other studies conducted in the United States and Great Britain to show that air pollution aggravates the condition of those people afflicted with chronic bronchial conditions."

In addition there are other unknown effects, the delegation suggested.

"How much industry stays away from the Alberni Valley because of unpleasant surroundings?" the labor men asked in a brief.

"It has been estimated that the price of air pollution in increased cleaning, painting and repair bills costs the average citizen nearly \$200 per year," the brief added.

Industrial pollution recently resulted in a 10 per cent reduction in assessment for several Port Alberni homeowners, the brief said.

NO PROMISES

The labor group urged the committee to recommend legislation giving the existing Pollution Control Board power to handle air pollution. At present the board deals with water.

Squire said the cabinet trio would not promise any immediate legislation.

"But we have been assured that any further occurrences of indiscriminate disregard for the residents of the Alberni Valley will result in immediate investigation by highly trained technical engineers," he added.

Crop Plan Called 'Tool'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government's new crop insurance bill was described in the legislature Thursday as a political tool.

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) said the legislation makes it look like the government is going to do something without saying what or when.

The bill was given unanimous third and final reading despite criticism from opposition MLAs.

It puts the government in a position of being able to enter into a crop insurance scheme with Ottawa when federal legislation is amended to allow provincial participation.

Agriculture Minister Frank Richter said B.C. has to wait for federal changes before introducing an insurance plan, but he promised the program will be implemented as soon as humanly possible.

Grants Urged For Mothers

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Special government cash allowances for mothers forced to take time off from work were urged by New Democrat Alex Macdonald in the legislature Thursday.

The Vancouver East MLA pointed out a new B.C. law, given final reading by the House, prohibits women from returning to work for six weeks after their children are born.

The law also says they may be given up to six weeks off before the birth of their babies.

"A mother may require those wages," Macdonald said. "If a doctor says she can return to work, depending on the type of work, employment should be allowed."

Labor Minister Leslie Peterson replied the new law was drawn up after consultation with doctors.

MLA URGES NEW HOLIDAY

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A new provincial summer holiday was advocated in the legislature Thursday by Victoria Socred J. Donald Smith.

Smith said the holiday would give working people a long weekend in either July or August.

"It would be very much appreciated by the people who are tied to their work during these fine months," Smith said.

Sales Tax Lifted For Library Books

Bennett Says Gov't Considering Bill to Exempt All Volumes

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Premier W. A. C. Bennett announced Thursday the provincial government will exempt library books from its five-per-cent sales tax and is considering lifting the tax from all books.

Bennett was answering questions by Lois Haggan (NDP-Grand Forks) as the legislature gave third reading to a bill removing the tax from meals, magazines, newspapers, candies, soft drinks and school supplies.

Bennett said the tax on library books can be lifted by regulations without amending legislation.

He also said the government will consider making all books tax-free, which would require a change in legislation, though not at the current session.

Only recently Bennett received a letter from Dean Halliwell, president of the B.C. Library Association asking for the book tax to be removed.

"I would like to see the tax off books because in the days ahead with the leisure that's going to come with automation we should encourage people to read more and more," Mrs. Haggan said.

But, she added:

"There are some magazines and periodicals that should be taxed right out of existence."

Mrs. Haggan said she was not too keen about removing the tax from candies and soft drinks because they were not good for children's teeth. However, she agreed that the tax could be termed a nuisance and supported the bill.

Bennett promised the government will give a broad interpretation of tax-free school supplies.

These will include pens, pencils, chalk, crayons, paints, ink, work books, atlases, dictionaries, bags and satchels, the premier said.

Perrault, speaking during the premier's estimates, said he hoped Bennett would give a definition of the approaches which the government has said will be the responsibility of the municipalities.

He also asked that Bennett disclose whether Highways Minister Phil Gagliardi has submitted bridge plans to him and whether the premier intends to ask Ottawa for financial help.

"I believe Ottawa is considering methods to help B.C. build this crossing," Perrault said.

He said there should be an end to "Trans-Canada name calling."

He added that the federal government should be more generous with grants to urban areas.

MAIL TALE

Bennett Denies He's Dictator

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett said Thursday the fact that he doesn't answer his mail proves he is not a dictator.

The premier gave a five-minute unsolicited testimonial in the legislature to answer longstanding opposition charges he is a dictator, although no one had accused him of this at Thursday's sitting.

He said it is true he does not answer all his mail. But this is because he passes it along to other cabinet ministers to deal with.

"If I did answer it all, our Premier could be said to bypass his ministers and defy the great principles of democracy," Bennett said.

Bennett said people call him names, but he doesn't mind because his mother taught him the old saying "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me."

"They can call me all the names they want, because that's a sign a person hasn't got an argument, hasn't got an answer. That's the last thing they fall back on," he said.

Bennett said as "the captain" of his government he is prepared to take responsibility and blame, but credit belongs to his ministers.

Bennett Mum On Plan for New Bridge

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett refused further comment Thursday on the government's plans for a new Burrard Inlet crossing in Vancouver.

He told Liberal leader Ray Perrault, who asked a series of questions about the proposed crossing:

"I made an announcement before. I've nothing further to add."

Ottawa Eyes PGE Grants

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The federal government is re-examining B.C.'s request for \$25,000 a mile construction grants to the B.C.-owned Pacific Great Eastern Railway, the legislature was told Thursday.

In making the announcement, Premier W. A. C. Bennett also said he is optimistic that Ottawa will pay its share of the Second Narrows bridge in Vancouver.

The premier, speaking during his estimates, did not give a reason for his optimism on getting a bridge contribution.

But he produced a letter from the federal deputy finance minister, R. B. Wright, saying his department would take another look at the province's request for PGE grants.

LOAN PLAN SEEN IN '67

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett promised Thursday his government will put forward at the 1967 session of the legislature a new low-interest loan plan to help people buy homes.

He made the pledge during debate on a bill to boost the provincial homeowner grant from \$100 to \$110. The bill was given third and final reading.

Bennett hinted at the loan scheme during an earlier debate on this bill last Monday.

STRACHAN'S OWN MEDICARE

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition leader Robert Strachan Thursday proposed his own medicare bill in the legislature.

Introduced for first reading, Strachan's bill would replace the existing B.C. Medical Plan, which provides government subsidies for low wage-earners.

Strachan's medicare would be comprehensive, universal and without premiums.

It would cover prescribed drugs as well as medical services and would be financed out of the province's general tax revenue.

B.C. Medical Plan Subsidies Boosted

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A government bill boosting subsidies paid for low-income subscribers to the B.C. Medical Plan was given third and final reading in the legislature Thursday.

Under the amendment to the Medical Grants Act, people with no taxable incomes will pay only 10 per cent of the regular premium and those with taxable incomes under \$1,000 will pay half.

The bill raises the subsidies from 50 per cent and 25 per cent respectively.

During debate on the legislation before it was passed, the government was accused of trying to break down the federal medicare program to a premium plan.

Provincial Secretary Wesley

Black, the minister in charge of the B.C. Medical Plan, said the federal government is moving slowly toward introduction of a national health scheme but he said he does not yet know what the plan will be.

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver-East) countered that Black is aware it will be a universal plan without premiums.

"The B.C. plan should also be universal," he said.

"It should be 100 per cent instead of 50 per cent and 90 per cent," he said.

The minister is just trying to twist the arm of the federal government to get them to follow the B.C. plan and the one in Alberta and Robert Thompson's idea," he added.

"I think this government is being dragged into the federal plan kicking and struggling," said Liberal leader Ray Perreault.

Columbia Clearing Cost Hit

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. Hydro and Power Authority is being sold down the river on land clearing cost along the Arrow Lakes, an MLA charged in the legislature Thursday.

Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan) made the charge after Premier W. A. C. Bennett disclosed government estimates place the cost of clearing an acre of Kootenay land at \$38.10.

Harding said that farmers spend \$400 or \$500 to clear an acre for agriculture and contractors clearing bush for B.C. Hydro for the Columbia River projects are being paid up to \$1,400 an acre.

"You're sure getting taken by the contractors," said Harding.

TREES AND ROCKS

Bennett said it costs Hydro more to clear the bushland because the country is treed and rocky.

"To compare the two is ridiculous," he said.

Harding bounced back, pointing out that the Hydro contractors simply chop down trees and burn them, while farmers have to clear the land completely and grub out roots.

"B.C. Hydro is being sold down the river," he said.

The MLA also complained that farmers along the Arrow Lakes who will have to be relocated when flooding behind the dams begins are being paid only \$100 an acre for their cleared land.

\$500 AN ACRE

The land cost up to \$500 an acre to clear, he said.

"No one should be five cents out of pocket through being forced to move," Harding said. "It angers me to see contractors coming in and right beside a farmer getting \$400 to \$1400 to clear off the bush."

"If it costs B.C. Hydro an average of \$400 or \$500 to clear along the waterway then by golly the farmer is entitled to that sum of money plus the original purchase of the land," Harding added.

The MLA also urged Hydro to give an itemized statement to residents whose properties have been bought by the crown agency.

He also urged the government to spend money now to clear the reservoir basins before flooding begins so they will become useful recreation areas.

Pension Plan Funds Aid Peace Power

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government has invested \$5 million worth of Canada Pension Plan funds in B.C. Hydro to aid the Peace River Project.

Announcing this Thursday, Premier W. A. C. Bennett also told the legislature the government may invest in Hydro all the money it gets from Ottawa from this fund.

The premier was answering questions by Opposition leader Robert Strachan during debate on his departmental estimates.

Strachan said he had noticed B.C.'s first instalment from Ottawa of pension funds will amount to \$5 million.

Bennett said Ottawa has agreed to return the money collected for the pension plan to the provinces in which it was raised.

The money is being loaned by Ottawa for provincial investments.

"The first \$5 million is invested in Hydro," Bennett said. "Perhaps the majority will be invested, perhaps all of it."

Exact amount which will be

available is not known, but the B.C. government expects between \$50 million and \$80 million.

Strachan asked Bennett if the money would be used to bail out the Columbia River projects which are going to cost more than original estimates.

Bennett replied: "This is for the Peace and other expenditures on transmission lines in the system."

The premier refused to answer Strachan's questions about the possibility of Hydro having to borrow money to pay for the Columbia projects.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1966

Bennett Forecasts Cut in Gas Rates

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett said Thursday he would recommend to the B.C. Hydro a reduction in natural gas rates this year.

At the same time, Bennett told the legislature he will recommend no cuts in electricity rates this year.

Bennett's announcements came after Opposition leader Robert Strachan charged: "The people of this province are being gouged for the natural gas they own."

Strachan said B.C. Hydro customers last year paid almost \$30 million for gas which cost the Crown agency only \$11.6 million.

Bennett said he will meet Hydro directors in Vancouver March 21.

"I'll strongly recommend a reduction in the rates of natural gas," he told the legislature.

Bennett is fiscal agent for Hydro, and it is considered certain the directors will accept his recommendation.

The premier said any rate cuts would be announced March 31, when Hydro's budget year ends.

He also said that Hydro estimates its profits will drop by \$5 million in the current year and this will make general rate reductions difficult.

Last year Hydro had a profit of \$13 million. This year the profit is expected to be \$8 million, the premier said.

RATES CUT

Electricity rates have been reduced by a total of \$20 million a year since the government took over the B.C. Electric Co. and set up B.C. Hydro. Strachan said gas rates have never been cut since the 1961 takeover.

Bennett said Hydro's reduction in profit is the result of previous electrical rate cuts and increased labor costs.

"If the profit is \$5 million less this year, in all honesty as fiscal agent — the premier's responsibility is raising capital for this great utility and further responsibility to protect the credit of this great province of B.C. — we must keep our guarantees in a good position and therefore our great utility must not operate at a loss," Bennett said.

Strachan had asked if gas rates were being kept at artificially high levels to try to force gas consumers to use more electricity.

Bennett said he had urged Hydro to reduce its electrical rates first so everyone would benefit. All gas users consume electricity as well, he said.

Strachan also renewed a long-standing opposition complaint that U.S. purchasers of B.C. gas pay lower rates than B.C. customers for their own resource.

Strachan said the export price to the U.S. is 22 cents at the border while B.C. Hydro charges its customers between 32 and 35 cents per thousand cubic feet.

"We were never satisfied with the 22 cents at the border," Bennett replied.

NO CONTROL

But, he said, Westcoast Transmission Co., the firm which exports the gas, is under federal jurisdiction "and we didn't have control in setting the rate."

Now Westcoast has negotiated a new gas export agreement with El Paso Natural Gas Co., Bennett said, which will mean the U.S. pays 29 to 30 cents for all B.C. gas.

He said he has been advised that using the same sales formula this will mean B.C. Hydro pays less for the gas it buys from Westcoast than the Americans.

Tax Rights Claimed

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A spokesman for the Musqueam Indian band said Thursday the group is attempting to take over the taxing of lessees on Musqueam reserve lands from Vancouver.

Willard Sparrow, in a submission to the legislature's private bills committee, opposed an amendment to the Vancouver charter that would give the city express rights to tax lessees of Crown property.

He said the Musqueam lands do not come within that classification because the Indians have never surrendered their aboriginal rights, including power to tax with federal approval.

Sparrow said the city has been taxing leased reserve

lands since 1939 without having authority, and that the Indian band has not benefited from revenue received by the city.

"Notwithstanding the handsome revenues received by the city (estimated at \$173,000), the band has been forced to pay charges for scavenging, water rates, fire fighting, street lighting, drainage, oiling of roads, maintenance of parks and playgrounds, diking costs, and education costs," Sparrow said.

"Certainly this appears to be taxation without representation from the benefit point of view."

Because of this situation the band has applied to federal authorities for approval to exercise its rights to assess and tax lessees, under provisions of the Indian Act.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1966

Hydro Man Claims Bid to 'Buy' Him

Offered Better Post When He Tried to Leave 'Unsafe' Job

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A B.C. Hydro electrician claims an attempt was made to "buy" him with a \$1,500-a-month job when he and 15 members of his crew tried to quit because of unsafe working conditions.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan made this disclosure in the legislature Thursday when he read extracts from a letter he received from the electrician's father.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett said it was the first he had heard of it, and promised an immediate investigation.

Strachan said the letter was from a Mr. Priest. He did not identify the man further, nor did he name the son.

MICA DAM SITE

The letter said the son was a member of the Kamloops local of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and was hired as a foreman on the Mica Creek dam site, part of the Columbia River power project.

"He claims violations of the electrical code, Workmen's Compensation Board safety regulations and even the union agreement were so flagrant and extensive that he subsequently asked for demotion to journeyman status," the letter said.

"This request was denied. A second application was made shortly after and again he was refused. Finally, in the closing days of January, he resigned from the job entirely and 15 members of his crew quit with him."

The letter added the son had written the father, saying: "My attempts (to resign) were rejected. Instead, an attempt was made to 'buy' my co-operation (a \$1,500-a-month position)."

CHARGES BLACKLISTING

Strachan said the father also quoted the son as writing: "Now we are all suspected of attempting an illegal walk-off. We are blacklisted from all B.C. Hydro Power scheme for the next 10 years."

"I have attempted to have this taken to arbitration but as the days go by I feel I won't even get the privilege of a fair hearing. The publicity would be too embarrassing to too many parties, it seems."

The father's letter said he later visited his son.

"He tells me an electrical control room at the site which he describes as definitely unsafe has never been entered by the visiting safety inspector, for when he arrives the door key can never be located," the letter related.

'SCRUBBERS RARITY'

"He claims the use of scrubbers on internal combustion equipment working at the dam is a rarity. He visited the Hydro safety man at Vancouver who is also an acquaintance of his, and gave him a list of unsafe practices which the man wrote down and planned to take off immediately for Mica. He never showed up. I wonder why?"

Strachan quoted the father as saying his son's termination of employment slip was endorsed "Not suitable for re-hire." This was despite an excellent recommendation from the electrical contractor on the job. The father said he believed the firm's name was Perrini Electric.

Liberal Challenges Bennett To Call Vote on Gunderson

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An opposition MLA has challenged Premier W. A. C. Bennett to call an election and make Einar Gunderson the issue.

The challenge was made Friday in the legislature by Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) after he accused Bennett of failing to face up to Gunderson's "conflict of interest" and followed an attack on Gunderson by Liberal leader Ray Perrault.

Perrault said Gunderson must either resign his Socred job of party fund controller or his public posts.

(Gunderson is a former Socred finance minister, friend of the premier, director of Crown agencies, head of the party's election fund, and a director of the Bank of B.C. proposed by Bennett.)

In the exchange with Perrault, Bennett said the Liberal Party would be defeated in the next federal election. "It will not rise again for 20 years," he declared.

Macfarlane said the premier had not yet come up with an adequate answer on what he intended to do about Gunderson.

ISSUE SIDESTEPED

"I'm sorry one man has to be mentioned so many times but this has become a matter of public interest," he said.

He said that every time the premier was asked about the matter he made a political speech and did not answer.

"I will," snapped Bennett.

"Mr. Gunderson is going to stay."

Macfarlane replied: "If you want an election issue in this province I say that's it."

"If that's the election issue you want, go to the people," said Macfarlane, adding: "The premier wouldn't have the nerve to go to the people on that issue and keep it through the whole campaign."

"We'll go to the people on the full record of the government," Bennett retorted.

Bennett asked if Macfarlane, as spokesman for the Liberals, wanted an election.

Before he answered Deputy Speaker William Speare instructed the opponents to get back onto the matter at hand — the premier's estimates.

Speaking again, Macfarlane said he objects to Gunderson

being a director of the Bank of B.C.

"I opposed the bank in the first place because people like Mr. Gunderson were directors and that's wrong," he said.

BANK FINANCING

"We want a bank with head offices in B.C. and we could have had one if you had been prepared to withdraw ownership in that bank."

Macfarlane asked the premier who was going to finance the bank now that the government had withdrawn participation. And how are the shares going to be offered.

Bennett said the bank directors "have given me to understand" that the shares would be offered to investors all over Canada.

GOV'T TO INVESTIGATE SPECIAL PHONE CHARGE

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The legislature was told Friday the government will try to have a special telephone charge for the hard-of-hearing eliminated in B.C.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said during debate on estimates of Premier W. A. C. Bennett's office that about 700 people in the province have to pay an extra \$1.25 a month for either hand volume sets or flashing-light telephones.

Bennett said a request to eliminate the charge will be made through the federal board of transport commissioners, which is responsible for rate setting.

MLAs Friday passed the premier's 1966-67 estimates of \$76,269, which includes Bennett's \$20,000 salary.

City Scheme Waits on OK for Bank

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett said Friday there will be no development of the government's downtown block in Vancouver until Ottawa approves a charter for a new Bank of B.C.

He told the legislature this is because the bank's head offices will be there and the 55-storey building will be designed around the bank.

He was answering questions by Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East).

The downtown block has been vacant for two years and there

is now a suggestion the government will grant the city a five-year lease to use for parking, Macdonald said.

"Not that I know of," Bennett replied.

Bennett said the block was originally bought from the city as the bank site and architectural designs will not be started until the bank charter is approved.

The bank will occupy the main lower portion, with government offices above, the premier said.

Bennett said he hopes Ottawa gives speedy approval to a charter.

"We're anxious to get on with it," he said.

"Surely you can make a start on the building now," Macdonald said. "We get a little bit concerned about all this passing the buck to Ottawa. I say the holdup is right here in Victoria."

B.C. ELECTION 'NOW, LATER'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett was asked point-blank in the legislature Friday if there will be a provincial election this year.

But the answer to the question put by Dave Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) wasn't as direct.

Said Bennett: "There'll either be an election this year, next year or the next year."

HYDRO REPLIES

'Buy-Off' Denied

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition leader Robert Strachan Friday dismissed as unsatisfactory B.C. Hydro answers to charges that an attempt was made to "buy" off and to blacklist an electrician who criticized safety measures.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett read the legislature a statement on the charges from Hydro co-chairman Dr. Hugh Keenleyside.

The charges were contained in a letter from the father of an electrician foreman who was working on the Mica Creek dam site.

Strachan said the letter, read to MLAs on Thursday, was from a Mr. Priest. He did not identify the man further, or name the son.

STRACHAN PUZZLED

Strachan said he was puzzled by Dr. Keenleyside's statement since it referred to a "Mr. R. Froese" a different name from the person involved in his letter.

Dr. Keenleyside said an immediate inquiry was made into a newspaper report about 16 men who quit the Mica Creek Dam project near Revelstoke.

"The 15 electrical workers quit without warning on Jan. 28," Dr. Keenleyside's statement said.

"They complained about the toilet conditions at the tunnel entrance and this the resident manager undertook to correct at once. They also demanded subsidies for living in trailers.

This was not provided in the agreement under which they were hired and was refused. They said nothing at the time about safety conditions.

"In addition to the 15 electrical workers, a foreman, a Mr. R. Froese, was fired on Jan. 27.

"The cause of his dismissal was his continued refusal to obey instructions regarding the parking of his automobile.

"The firing of the foreman was not at any time used as an explanation for the subsequent refusal of the men to continue their work.

"As the men in question had proved themselves unreliable and had violated their agreement they will not, for the present time at least, be considered for re-employment."

'NO MENTION'

Dr. Keenleyside said no mention had been made of a 10-year period for this situation.

(The letter said the men had been blacklisted for 10 years).

Dr. Keenleyside said the Mica Creek project has been inspected by the provincial inspector of electrical energy and there is no record of unsatisfactory installations.

The Hydro co-chairman also said the Workmen's Compensation Board accident prevention supervisor had told Hydro the Mica job is well controlled.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 933 representative told Hydro Friday no grievances had been put on his desk up to the time the men quit, Dr. Keenleyside said.

SAYS AUTHORITY

Speaker's Rule 'Wrong'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The foremost authority on parliamentary law and procedure says the Speaker of the B.C. legislature was wrong in ruling two weeks ago that the budget debate had been talked out.

The error was admitted in the legislature Friday by Speaker William Murray, who sought higher opinion on his own ruling.

He referred the matter to Sir Barnett Cocks, clerk of the House of Commons at Westminster.

Cocks is editor of Erskine May's treatise of The Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament, and as such is considered the top-ranking authority on parliamentary law and procedure.

Murray said the clerk of the British Commons advised him the budget debate takes precedence over all other business until it is disposed of.

FERRY DOCK

Berth Plan Killed

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Four little words Friday shattered an MLA's plan for relocating the provincial government's Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal.

Dr. Patrick McGeer (Lib - Point Grey) told the legislature the ferry authority terminal at Horseshoe Bay is taking up more and more space in an area heavily used for recreation and sport fishing.

As a means of getting the big ferries away from small pleasure craft in the area, he suggested the terminal could be relocated on Iona Island at the mouth of the Fraser River.

McGeer asked Premier W. A. C. Bennett if any thought had been given to this idea, which

would reroute ferries to Gabriola Island instead of Nanaimo.

Vehicles would have to get across to Vancouver Island, presumably by a new bridge linking Gabriola and the main island, or smaller short-distance ferries.

CUT TIME

This would cut the crossing distance from 36 miles to 14 miles and the time from two hours to one.

The same number of ferries could carry more passengers in a day and make the service more economical, McGeer said.

"It's not being considered," replied Bennett.

McGeer had more luck when he asked the premier if he had had any success in persuading B.C. Hydro to discontinue cigarette advertising on transit buses, a step Bennett promised last year.

Bennett, who like McGeer is against smoking, said he had taken the matter up with Hydro and had been assured that when present advertising contracts expire, they will not be renewed.

McGeer also asked the pre-

mier to get rid of the B.C. Hydro railway's spur line through Point Grey. He called it a revolting slash through the loveliest residential area in Vancouver.

Bennett asked McGeer to give him a letter on the subject and promised to turn it over to Hydro, of which he is fiscal agent.

NOT DECIDED

Bennett was asked by Alan Macfarlane (Lib - Oak Bay) whether B.C. Hydro will continue to operate the transit system in Vancouver and Victoria when the franchises expire this year and next in the two cities.

The question was answered by Resources Minister Ray Williston, a Hydro director, who said the transit system's future has not been decided by the directors.

"Certainly I can say as a director that from the standpoint of B.C. Hydro, you're not going to pay to municipalities a franchise payment to operate a transit system which even with changed rate schedules is going to lose a lot of money," Williston said.

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1966

Fiat Justitia . . .

The Queen can do no wrong. But her servants, from ministers of the Crown right down to truck drivers for public works, can and frequently do. And when this happens in Britain, and in most parts of Canada and the Commonwealth, an injured citizen (injured in person or purse) can sue the government just as if it were another citizen.

But not in British Columbia. Why not? This "why not" is something that has never been explained by the Social Credit government. It obstinately refuses to budge from the ancient system by which anyone wishing to sue the Crown must first secure a "fiat" from the attorney-general.

Such fiats are very rarely given.

The government had its chance to modernize itself in this session of the legislature when Liberal MLA Alan Macfarlane introduced—for the fourth time in five years—a bill to abolish the fiat system.

It was ruled out of order by Speaker Murray on what appear to be excellent constitutional grounds. A bill in the hands of a private member (which Mr. Macfarlane is) purporting to interfere with the Crown's prerogatives must have the sanction of the Crown.

In other words, Mr. Macfarlane should first have obtained a "fiat" for his bill.

Crown prerogative is important. It no longer belongs exclusively, if at all, to the monarch, but is exercised by the ministers in the monarch's name — usually

for the government's interest or to mask undemocratic procedures.

Most royal prerogatives have been abolished. It is time this one was.

Speaker Murray's words read almost like an appeal to the government to abolish it by adopting Mr. Macfarlane's bill.

Nearly 400 years ago the English lawyer, William Watson, proclaimed: "Fiat justitia et ruant coeli" — "Let justice be done though the heavens fall." This is what a fiat means in effect. "Let it (justice) be done." It should no longer be necessary to go up cap in hand for this, only to have it refused. Surely B.C.'s government is not afraid the heavens will fall upon it?

The Sun has been urging this reform for years. So have the B.C. Law Society, Vancouver Board of Trade, the opposition parties, and numerous others.

Two sessions ago, the whole legislature unanimously approved a resolution urging abolition of fiats, offered by NDP MLA Gordon Dowding. When the government agreed to consider the matter reformers rejoiced.

The government has been silent since. Hardest to understand is the attitude of Attorney-General Bonner. He is no medievalist. Surely he can take Mr. Macfarlane's bill and convert it into a government measure, even now.

It would be assured of unanimous passage in the House and unanimous approval in the province.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1966

Campaign Fund Probe Demanded

Jones Firing Revived as Opposition Lashes Gov't

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—An inquiry into allegations that people who won government contracts have been dunned for Social Credit campaign funds was demanded Monday in the legislature.

The demand was made by Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) in a dramatic revival of the case of George E. P. Jones, ousted by the government last year as chairman of the provincial purchasing commission.

Linked by Barrett with the allegations was Social Credit campaign fund chief Einar M. Gunderson.

FALLING OUT?

At one stage, Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) asked if Jones was ousted because of a falling out with Gunderson over campaign funds.

The allegations about a connection between campaign funds and government purchasing awards were made, Barrett said, in a series of radio broadcasts by Jones last summer.

Barrett demanded a denial confirmation of the information, or an inquiry by the government.

Social worker Barrett donned a lawyer's mantle as he cross-examined Bennett during debate on his departmental estimates.

At one stage Bennett protested: "This isn't a courtroom, surely?"

And Barrett replied: "The legislature is the courtroom of the people."

JONES REMOVED

Jones was removed from office by an act of the legislature last year despite furious objections from the opposition. The only reason given by the government was that it had no confidence in Jones.

Barrett said Jones was interviewed in a series of Vancouver broadcasts last July 6 and 7.

In the interviews, Jones related how Gunderson called him to his office July 15, 1960, Barrett said.

Reading from what he said was a transcript of the interviews, Barrett quoted Jones as saying: "The suggestion was made that large contracts — I shouldn't say contracts — awards, awards being made by the purchasing commission

should be relayed or cleared through his office."

SUPPLIERS ANGRY

Then Barrett quoted Jones as saying: "Subsequently I was phoned and contacted in person by people — suppliers — who were somewhat outraged. They asked if I was aware of the Social Credit Free Enterprise Education Fund. It didn't take too long to find . . . it was applied to the extent that some companies asked me what I could do about having the dogs called off."

Barrett read another quote from Jones concerning a man who appeared in his office in Victoria and badgered a junior buyer.

"He said he had not contributed \$25,000 to the Social Credit fund just to be brushed off by some young punk wet behind the ears and I better do something about it."

WRITTEN BONNER

Jones told his interviewer he had written a memorandum to Attorney-General Robert Bonner about his incident, Barrett said.

But Bonner told the house he could not recall having received such a memo.

Bennett said Jones had never complained either to him, as his chief, or to the deputy finance minister about any incidents.

"Are you aware of Mr. Gunderson having conversations with Mr. Jones?" asked Barrett.

"I have no understanding and no knowledge that any person had a discussion with the purchasing commission at any time," Bennett replied.

Barrett asked if Gunderson had any special privileges to review the business of the commission.

"No special rights over Tom Jones or Bill Henry," Bennett said.

Barrett said if Jones's radio statements were untrue the government should have taken legal action against him.

'NOT SAYING'

"I think every person in a free society can make any statements he wishes," Bennett said.

"Is he telling the truth or isn't he?" Barrett asked.

"I'm not saying," Bennett replied.

"These are serious allegations," Barrett said. "Do you think it is a good thing that Mr. Gunderson is involved in these kind of things? Is he permitted to sniff around these files? Have you given Mr. Gunderson this permission?"

"The answer is no," snapped Bennett.

Barrett said if Jones's allegations are false, the government should deny them all immediately and sue Jones.

Said Bennett: "If these allegations are not denied this house should call a commission to investigate just exactly what happened."

Dowding said Jones made other allegations, one of which concerned interference by Highways Minister Phil Gagliardi in government purchasing of highway guard rails.

He did not elaborate.

"Surely you must set the fears of the public at rest," Dowding said.

CALLED 'BAGMAN'

Dowding said Gunderson should not be allowed to carry on his activity as a Sacred "bagman" as well as his public duties as a director of Crown corporations.

Bennett, earlier in the session, had refused to accept opposition demands that Gunderson quit one or the other.

Dowding recalled that Jones had got his government job as a result of Gunderson's recommendation almost 10 years ago.

"I'd like to know just what this Mr. Jones's reasons were for disappearing from the scene and his abrupt retirement. Was it due to he and Mr. Gunderson having a falling out over campaign funds or something?" Dowding asked.

'Game Hogs' Under Fire For Raids on B.C. Salmon

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — "Game hog" sportsmen are skimming some of the cream off B.C.'s valuable salmon harvest, an independent Vancouver Island fisherman charged Monday.

Richard Larson of Sidney made the charge before the legislature's special committee on fisheries.

Larson said some so-called sportsmen sell their catch under terms of a cheaply-obtained commercial licence. Others throw fish away, or bear them off to the U.S.

Larson said he believes commercial fishermen are adequately policed, but tougher policing of sportsmen is needed.

He did not recommend any specific action.

Larson said sportsmen take advantage of commercial closures to gather fish that might otherwise be conserved.

Larson charged that U.S. yachts which come to Bamfield on the west coast of the island take home as many as 700 pounds of "free" salmon.

"I have also talked to a Yank who stated he really enjoyed his visit to our country as he and one other man on his yacht had caught 67 coho and chinook salmon in two days at Stewart Isle and also that it had hardly cost him anything as he had diesel fuel power in his boat enabling him to fuel and provision up in Seattle for the whole trip."

Larson said he also had talked recently to a Victoria man who bragged about catching 55 pink salmon in one day in Saanich Inlet.

Larson's brief was followed by a submission from the B.C. Wildlife Federation, which urged the committee to rec-

ommend a proper provincial fisheries department, earlier suggested by representatives of both the Fisheries Association and the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union.

The federation also suggested some form of licensing for sports fishermen, possibly through boat registration.

However, the federation, represented by secretary-manager Howard Paish, said it felt conservation and management are the key to proper regulation.

The licensing of sport anglers should be only to obtain information, not to restrict their activities, Paish said.

Home Board Urged

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Creation of an urban renewal and housing commission and more provincial money for social and cultural centres were urged in the legislature Monday.

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) said that some low-rental housing projects are not satisfactory.

He cited as an example the Skeena terrace development as "a disgraceful feat of imagination."

Some 350 children live there but there are practically no recreation facilities, he said.

Macdonald said that development of that kind should have recreation areas and be located close to shopping facilities.

He said a housing commission, composed of architects, planners and businessmen, would be able to plan housing projects properly.

Macdonald also said the gov-

ernment should bring in legislation to provide funds for social and cultural centres.

The government money would help groups like the Vancouver Chinese community to build social centres, he said.

Premier and Finance Minister W. A. C. Bennett said he would study Macdonald's observations.

'SCANDALOUS,' PERRAULT SAYS

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The B.C. government's attitude to alcohol is scandalous, Liberal leader Ray Perrault charged Monday.

Perrault said in the legislature the provincial government raises taxes worth \$19 per person from alcohol.

Yet the government spends only 10 cents per capita on alcoholic rehabilitation, he said.

Tree Taxes Under Study

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The provincial government is studying elimination of property taxes from trees, Premier W. A. C. Bennett said Monday.

The announcement came in answer to a complaint in the legislature by Opposition leader Robert Strachan.

Strachan said people are being charged taxes for trees, as a growing crop, when B.C. laws make no provision for such charges.

"The question of timber is under study now," Bennett replied.

"There may be some changes made, I can't say. The matter is under study."

Bill Urges Insurance

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Opposition leader Robert Stachan Monday introduced his own bill to set up government auto insurance in B.C.

The bill gives broad powers to the government to set up a comprehensive system of public insurance.

It provides for the cabinet to appoint one of its ministers and one other person to administer an insurance scheme.

It would allow a government insurance office to set policies and premiums and to provide compensation for accident victims.

Federal Tax Men 'Leave Red-Faced'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett said Monday a group of Canadian tax experts are red-faced because their published figures on B.C. were wrong.

Bennett was answering questions in the legislature from Liberal leader Ray Perrault, who quoted the February publication of the Canadian Tax Foundation as saying B.C.'s per capita debt was the highest in Canada and that B.C. government aid to municipalities was well behind Ontario, which led the country with 38 per cent of its budget.

Bennett said that in the last few days officials of the foundation had been touring B.C.

"To put it mildly their faces must have been a little red," the premier said.

"They didn't know our direct debt was completely offset by sinking funds."

They also didn't take into account B.C.'s homeowner grant in computing aid to municipalities, the premier said.

They also had been comparing B.C.'s net budget, exclusive of federal aid, with other province's gross budgets, which include Ottawa contributions, Bennett said.

Clerk, 83, Given Gov't Tribute

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature Monday paid a special tribute to its veteran clerk E. K. (Ned) DeBeck on his 83rd birthday.

"I'm always refreshed seeing the smiling face and spirit of my friend Mr. DeBeck," said Premier W. A. C. Bennett.

Added Liberal leader Ray Perrault: "We haven't been unanimous on very many issues at this session, but we're unanimous on this."

ASSESSMENTS

Revision Courts Rapped

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition leader Robert Strachan Monday charged that B.C.'s property assessment appeal procedure is a mess.

"For years Vancouver city council has expressed dissatisfaction with the attitude and activities of the court of revision," he told the legislature.

Last year, Strachan said, the city won 175 of 176 appeals it made to the assessment appeal board against decisions of the courts of revision.

"The court is wrong somewhere if that percentage carries on," he said.

Strachan also said that many members of the public are afraid to make assessment appeals.

The number of appeals in Vancouver ranges from 300 to 600 a year, he said.

"There would be many, many more if the public received what they felt was a fairer hearing before the court of revision," Strachan added.

He said it is mainly the wealthy and large landholders, such as the Canadian Pacific Railway, who appeal because they can afford the legal expense.

Strachan asked Premier W. A. C. Bennett to review the appointments and qualifications of people to the courts of revision and assessment appeal boards. The appointments are made by the cabinet.

Bennett replied: "I'd like to pay tribute to the private citizens who work on the appeal boards."

He said the members were picked because good judgment was their number one quality. He also said his finance department receives very few protests about assessment appeals.

O'Neal Raps Drink-Drive Legislation

VICTORIA (CP) — E. P. O'Neal, secretary-treasurer of the B.C. Federation of Labor, Tuesday termed proposed government legislation on drinking drivers "an infringement of civil liberties."

Under the law a policeman would have the power to suspend for 24 hours the licence of a driver considered to have been drinking too much. The licence would be returned if the driver registered less than .08 per cent blood-alcohol content on a voluntary breathalyzer test.

Refusal to hand over the licence would automatically invalidate it for 24 hours.

O'Neal said in an interview the "most compelling" argument against the law is that it is contrary to the basic premise of British law that a man is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Support for the law was expressed by president Walter Owen of the B.C. Law Society, who said "cars are dangerous implements," and President Earle Adams of the B.C. Automobile Association, who said:

"The public has to be protected in any manner deemed advisable."

ON FARM LABOR

Spend More In Valley, Gov't Urged

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — If Agriculture Minister Frank Richter would use his imagination and spend a little money he could solve the farm labor problem in the Fraser Valley, MLA Dave Barnett said Tuesday.

Barnett, who represents the Lower Mainland riding of Dewdney, even threw out a suggestion for the minister's consideration.

The NDP MLA said in the legislature the government could support a program to recruit Vancouver housewives for day work picking berries out in the valley.

"Lots of housewives are bored to tears," said Barnett. "This would be a relief for a lot of women who would like to get out of their homes."

Barnett said the government could set up temporary day-care centres and provide supervision for children while their mothers picked berries.

It could also hire buses to transport the city women back and forth.

Richter said the farm labor problem in B.C. is being investigated by the legislature's agriculture committee and could be expected to come up with some recommendations.

Bill Raises Automatic Will Share

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Legislation that will double a widow's share of her husband's estate in the hands of an administrator was introduced Tuesday by Attorney-General Robert Bonner.

The bill amending the Administration Act will boost a widow's automatic sharing of an estate where there is no will from a maximum of \$20,000 to a maximum of \$20,000.

Bonner later explained that the change is being made in recognition of the rising value of estates in B.C.

The bill, given first reading, also empowers the official administrator to arrange for funerals and make other arrangements in connection with the estate of a deceased person before any letters of administration are issued.

And it raises from \$1,000 to \$2,000 the amount of an estate that can be handled by the official administrator, without having to be appointed administrator by court order.

Bonner said this change is intended to keep costs at a minimum in estates of small value.

A bill introduced by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell will iron out a few problems encountered in regional district legislation passed at the last session of the legislature.

Campbell said the 13-page bill amending the Municipal Act spells out more clearly the functions of the new districts, how their costs for capital works and administration will be shared, and the method of dissolving regional districts.

3 Insurance Bills Okayed

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature's private bills committee has approved three bills for incorporation of insurance companies.

They were received by the legislature Tuesday from committee chairman Alex Mathew (SC-Vancouver Centre) and now require full house approval.

The bills will incorporate the Fraser Valley Mutual Insurance Co., the Heritage Life Assurance Corp., and the Southwest Mortgage Indemnity Corp. Ltd.

The committee also approved bills amending the Seaboard Assurance Company Act and the Victoria Foundation Act.

A bill for incorporation of the Major Life and Casualty Co. was withdrawn.

Fees Stand, Richter Says

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A plea by farmers to remove fees for testing animals for disease at the government's animal pathology laboratory is to be ignored, the legislature was told Tuesday.

The Agriculture Federation recently informed the provincial cabinet that charges levied on farmers at the lab near Abbotsford is discouraging them from having their animals checked.

Many farmers are unable to afford to pay for the health tests, the federation said.

Dave Barnett (NDP-Dewdney) asked Agriculture Minister Frank Richter if he has considered removing the fees.

"There is no plan to eliminate the fees," Richter replied.

MINISTER GOES UNPAID

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Agriculture Minister Frank Richter had to retire unpaid from the legislature Tuesday night.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett withdrew Richter's estimates, including the minister's salary vote, after three hours of debate.

The debate ranged from potato chips to hay freight rates, most of it minor needling of Richter. The agriculture estimates will come up again in the house today.

Three Socred MLAs Revolt Against Redistribution Bill

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Three Socred rebels voted against the government Tuesday despite a last-minute promise by Premier W. A. C. Bennett that there will be another redistribution of seats in the B.C. legislature in five years.

The government's controversial redistribution bill was given second reading — approval in principle — by a 29 to 19 vote.

The vote came after a fierce two-hour debate in which opposition members predicted government gerrymandering would come home to defeat Social Credit in the next election.

The three Socred rebels were Jim Chabot of Columbia, Arvid Lundell of Revelstoke and Don Robinson of Lillooet.

A fourth Socred, John Tisdalle of Saanich, said he was in favor of the principle of redistribution, but opposed the government's method of achieving it. He said he would vote against the riding changes on third reading later in the session.

CALDER IN FAVOR

A lone opposition defector was Frank Calder of the New Democratic Party, who sided with the government. The bill will preserve his far-north riding of Atlin.

The break-up of party lines came over the government's decision to alter a redistribution plan proposed by a royal commission headed by Dr. Henry Angus.

The Socreds have preserved seven northern ridings which the commission would have cut to five; they have boosted membership in the legislature from

the commission's 52 to 54, and they have created six dual-member ridings in Vancouver instead of 12 separate seats.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) charged the government made the changes in Vancouver to prevent losing seats to his party.

'FRIGHTENED'

"They are frightened in their boots of the NDP," he said.

Macdonald said that under the redistribution proposed by Dr. Angus the NDP would have gained three seats in new city ridings. The doubling up will tend to preserve Socred teams in two-member ridings.

In the north, Macdonald said, the government altered the Angus plan to save the Socred seats of Skeena and Prince Rupert, which would have been merged with Atlin and which the NDP would have won.

"It is only for politics you interfered with this report and if you go ahead you will be punished at the polls," he predicted.

The rebellious Socreds complained the government had added two northern seats but was prepared to allow the Kootenays to lose three MLAs, giving that region only four members.

Opposition MLAs renewed a challenge to Mines Minister Don Brothers and Provincial Secretary Wesley Black, who represent the Kootenay ridings of Trail and Nelson, to stand up for their area.

Neither minister spoke, not even Black, who as pilot of the bill was expected to wind up debate.

Bennett's answer was that the people of the Kootenays would

endorse his government at the next election, returning Socred members in all four Kootenay ridings.

Lundell's riding of Revelstoke will be eliminated by the bill, which lumps it into a huge new constituency to be called Columbia River.

"I for one am not laboring under any illusion that we own these seats, but I can assure you when we speak against this bill we are not doing it for personal reasons," Lundell said.

"I'm opposing it because a majority of my people oppose it and I am the voice of that majority."

Lundell said the combined Kootenay areas have nothing in common, geographically, socially or economically.

ABOLISHED TOO

Robinson's Lillooet riding will also be abolished by the redistribution.

He said the riding is 85 years old, and wealthy in such natural resources as minerals, timber, hydro power and coal. It will have 20,000 people by 1975, he said.

"When we have a constituency that's starting to grow with people going in and developing it, why tear it apart?" Robinson asked.

Bennett insisted the government was doing the right thing.

"If this government didn't have courage it wouldn't come in with a redistribution bill at all," he said.

Bennett maintained the major purpose of the government bill is to give Vancouver and the Lower Mainland more MLAs — it adds eight.

Withdraw Bill, Fishermen Plead

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The fishermen's union today asked the B.C. government to withdraw a bill before the legislature which would eliminate provincial arbitration of fishing disputes.

Homer Stevens, secretary of the United Fishermen's and Allied Workers' Union, told a legislative committee that if the bill is approved, fishermen will be left without any legal mediation or arbitration procedures.

REPEAL SECTION

The bill would repeal an existing section of the B.C. Fisheries Act which provides for arbitration.

Stevens said the section should be retained and strengthened to include provision for conciliation procedures as well.

When the bill was introduced, Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan said the reason was that B.C. considers fishermen fall under federal jurisdiction.

Stevens told the committee today the question of jurisdiction has not been settled.

He said fishermen cannot use the provincial labor relations act because it does not classify them as employees.

Their only legal status at the moment is under the Fisheries Act, he said.

'AVOID ACT'

Resources Minister Ray Wil-

liston suggested the fishermen want to avoid the Labor Relations Act.

"Do you want the best of both worlds?" committee member Harry McKay (Lib. — Fernie) asked Stevens. "You're in the position of taking anything that suits you in the Labor Relations Act but anything that restricts you, you don't want it."

Stevens admitted his union does not like certain elements of the Labor Relations Act. But, he said, the fishermen want their own act until someone decides the whole question of jurisdiction.

The committee agreed to consider the union's request, but made no commitment.

Dentists Punished 'For Obeying Law'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A special legislative committee was told Tuesday the College of Dental Surgeons is taking disciplinary action against members for obeying the law relating to dental mechanics.

The statement was made by Dr. Gordon Shrum, co-chairman of B.C. Hydro and Power Authority, chancellor of Simon Fraser University, and for seven years chairman of the dental technicians' board.

Shrum criticized the college's actions in an appearance before the committee which is reviewing the operations of the board, set up by the Dental Technician's Act.

The statute allows mechanics to make full upper and lower dentures if they obtain a certificate of oral health from a doctor or dentist.

WIDER RANGE

They can deal directly with the public.

Technicians work through the dentists and with prescriptions can perform a wider range of dental work.

Both mechanics and technicians work in co-operation with

dentists.

But Shrum told the committee that co-operation between the groups has been halted because the college took disciplinary action against dentists complying with the law.

He said that in two cases dentists were singled out from their colleagues because they co-operated with technicians and mechanics. They were set out as examples.

OBEY ACT

"If an act of the legislature authorizes a certain procedure I think each of these groups should be compelled to comply with it," Shrum said.

"If an act requires a certificate of oral health then the professional organization of physicians and dentists should not be in a position to discipline any members for complying with the provisions of the act."

In stronger terms, Shrum

FARMERS MISS GRAVY WITH POTATO CHIPS

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—B.C. farmers are getting gypped on chips, according to a city MLA.

Arthur Turner, New Democratic Party member for Vancouver East, complained to the legislature that farmers get a very small share of the profits on sale of potato chips.

A Fraser Valley farmer gets between \$80 and \$100 per ton for potato crops used for the chips, Turner said. The chips sell in stores for 25 cents per 3 1/2-ounce bag. Turner calculated that this works out to \$2,666 per ton.

added: "If there is an act set up to govern the dental technicians and mechanics, I don't think the legislature should be overruled by a group of disciplining dentists."

'USE SERVICES'

He said the present shortage of dentists in B.C. is another reason why the professional and the non-professional groups should get along.

Every effort should be made, he said, to use the services of the technicians and mechanics so that dentists can perform their essential tasks.

Non-Resident Hunt Law Hit

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A section of the government's proposed new wildlife act that gives the minister of recreation and conservation authority to let non-residents hunt without guides was criticized Tuesday in the legislature.

The bill setting out new regulations for hunting and fishing in B.C. was approved in principle by MLAs.

But three of them singled out provisions they claim will be detrimental to game management.

Cyril Shelford (SC-Omineca) and Randolph Harding (NDP-Kaslo-Slocan) objected to the section giving the minister, Ken Kiernan, power to let out-of-province hunters hunt without a duly licenced guide.

CAN BE WAIVED

The bill retains a provision in the old Game Act that no non-resident can hunt big game without a guide.

But an addition says that Kiernan, through the cabinet,

can waive that law.

He will be given discretion to designate any area of the province, or persons, as exempt from the guide section.

"Many people today are sitting right across the border waiting for this change," said Shelford.

"This is like an open book," he added. "I trust the minister but I don't trust his successor and I don't think this should be in the act."

GAME 'HARVEST'

Shelford added: "I don't want to see this department changed from a department of game management to a department of game harvest, and when you let in non-residents like this it is game harvest."

Harding also said the department of recreation and conservation should sharply increase its staff of game biologists and others skilled in wildlife.

Leo Nimsick (NDP - Cranbrook) said there should be stringent controls over the use of aircraft for hunting.

Replace Richter, Farm Critic Urges

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. needs a new minister of agriculture because the present one, Frank Richter, isn't doing his job, the Opposition's chief farm spokesman said Tuesday.

"I think the minister has let down the agricultural industry," Dave Stupich (NDP-Nanaimo) told the legislature.

"I'm getting just a little fed up with the minister," he said.

\$500,000 UNSPENT

Stupich said the provincial agriculture budget last year was \$3.4 million. Yet Richter spent only \$2.9 million of his allocation. This left over \$500,000 unspent—an error of 20 per cent in estimating.

"I think the minister just doesn't know how to spend the money for the benefit of the agriculture industry," Stupich said. "We need a new minister."

Stupich said Richter has also failed to come to grips with a pressing manpower shortage on B.C. farms.

The whole industry is sliding with the majority of B.C. farmers having trouble making a living, Stupich added.

BARELY MARGINAL

"The majority of people operate at sub-marginal or barely marginal levels," he added.

"This government has not taken the problem seriously because the government has assumed the problem does not exist," he said.

Richter replied that his department is providing a service to farmers never equalled in B.C.'s history.

"We have more staff doing a greater amount of work and more specialists than ever before," he said.

Richter said officials of his department will meet federal manpower experts at an Ottawa conference next week to discuss farm labor.

HE'S HACKED, HACKED, HACKED

Pesticide Bomb Sprays Richter

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C.'s lone woman MLA Wednesday led a splashing opposition attack on Agriculture Minister Frank Richter for failing to grapple with the problem of poison pesticides.

Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP-Grand Forks-Greenwood) demanded provincial government compensation for farmers in her area who, she said, have been ruined by pesticide contamination of dairy herds.

Leo Nimsick (NDP-Cranbrook) called for a complete halt on use of agricultural pesticides until the government finds out how dangerous they are.

Richter, who lost his temper, and shouted, "I'm not a miracle man," admitted he knew nothing about pesticides.

He said the plight of the Grand Forks farmers was Ottawa's responsibility.

'Rare Display Of Violence'

But this only brought him more scorn from the opposition.

Richter's \$6 million departmental estimates, including his salary, were finally passed after 6½ hours of debate. The agriculture department's spending program is usually one of the quickest to be approved by MLAs.

Two other cabinet ministers attempted to come to Richter's rescue. Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan accused Mrs. Haggen of not knowing what she was talking about. Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark said agriculture pollution was a continent-wide problem.

The Haggen-Richter battle was a rare display of violence, and obviously just a curtain-raiser to an election contest between the two, likely opponents because redistribution will merge much of their present ridings.

Mrs. Haggen triggered the angry debate by relating the trials of three Grand Forks farmers who lost their stock a year ago when it was found to be contaminated by the pesticide Dieldrin, previously on both provincial and federal government approved lists for farm use.

Mrs. Haggen said the farmers faithfully followed the government orders to use non-contaminated imported hay feed for new stock, but were

forced to revert to contaminated supplies when imports ran out.

She said the farmers were promised compensation by provincial officials, but nothing has been forthcoming.

'Nothing Done To Aid Farmers'

She said Richter told her a year ago to "keep quiet" about the pesticide scare because publicity might harm the whole farming community. But as nothing had been done either to solve the problem or help the farmers, she said, she had decided to speak up now.

Mrs. Haggen said Richter personally told her later that "he was not going to stick his neck out because it was a province-wide problem."

Now the farmers involved are going broke, she added.

"I can only hold the minister fully responsible for what has happened," Mrs. Haggen said.

"You have tried to protect the government against the farmers. You have been more concerned with glorifying your own position in the cabinet than with the plight of the farmers."

She read a handful of telegrams from people and organizations in her riding pleading for government aid.

Amid opposition cries of "answer, answer," Richter at first sat still, head bowed.

When he did get up, he said: "We are doing everything we can in assisting at this stage."

He said the pesticide question was really a federal matter.

"I have an opinion but I'm not a technical person and no one needs to pay attention to my opinion."

He promised to consult with his departmental officials and later to give Mrs. Haggen written answers to her questions.

Dave Stupich (NDP — Nanaimo) who Tuesday had said Richter should be replaced, commented: "You have said you have done everything you could — this adds up to practically nothing."

Stupich said the government must conduct extensive research before pesticide contamination becomes a problem everywhere in B.C.

Stupich said Richter's attitude had been to urge Mrs. Haggen to keep quiet in the hope the problem would disappear.

Richter sprang to his feet, shouting angrily: "It's not

right — you've made allegations against me that are completely unfair. All you do is hammer, hammer, hammer at the poor farmer."

Richter said no one knows how to solve pesticide problems.

"How can I be a miracle man and resolve this overnight?" he cried. "All you've done is hack, hack, hack at me for the last 24 hours."

Mrs. Haggen replied everyone knew it was a federal problem but the farmers are suffering in B.C. "You have been in touch with the federal government — but you haven't been in touch with the farmers," she said.

"You have failed."

As pressure mounted with opposition demands to know what research is being carried on, Richter replied that a soil conservation committee was set up last fall but hasn't been able to start tests until the frost thaws in Grand Forks.

"We don't know where we're going on this thing," he confessed.

"If you were in my boots you wouldn't know either."

Richter Rapped For Inaction

Randolph Harding (NDP — Kaslo-Slocan) said the opposition has been warning about pesticide pollution for years and Richter had been derelict in his duty.

This brought Kiernan into the fray.

"I'm not going to carry the ball for the minister of agriculture," he said, "but I'm not going to sit here and see this kind of misinformed abuse heaped on the minister. Much of what has been offered is not only misinformed and inaccurate but it is also totally incompetent in terms of debate," he said.

Mrs. Haggen objected, saying she could substantiate everything she said.

Shouted Kiernan: "I realize you don't wish to listen because if you listen you have to think."

Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby) resumed the attack, saying Richter and his department had been groping without knowing what it was doing.

The government has been aware of a "remorseless buildup" of pesticide poisons since 1957, when the problem became generally known to the public, he said.

"It's no use trying to get off the hook," he said.

When Pat McGeer (L-Point

Grey) asked Richter for detailed information on the number of scientists working on pollution for the government, the minister said he didn't know exactly, but some work was being done at the University of B.C.

'Dark Cloud' Cast Over Area

Loffmark added that the B.C. Research Council was looking into pesticides, and it was receiving some financial aid from the U.S. government.

Richter then accused Mrs. Haggen of "casting a dark cloud on the Grand Forks area."

But Stupich pointed out that people are afraid to buy farm products from the area already because of the pesticide scare. The only way to avoid this was for the government to clear up the problem.

Said Nimsick: "The premier talks glibly about this wonderful movement looking after the poor people—you've got millions of dollars surplus and you can't look after these farmers."

"If there's any danger at all we should stop the use of pesticide until we know all about it."

Richter again said it is up to Ottawa to act, because it was a federal order that closed down Grand Forks dairy farms.

"I can do nothing," he said. "I have been pressing it for two years."

"It's all right to laugh at me. I admit I don't have the technical knowledge."

The Real Issue 'Being Dodged'

That was not good enough, replied Opposition leader Robert Strachan "If Ottawa won't accept its responsibility we must."

"Obviously this department has not been doing its job."

"It has been a shocking display today by the minister at stake and it's disgraceful."

Perrault said the opposition wants a better deal for farmers and that is why MLAs were pressing the minister of agriculture concerning the Grand Forks pesticides problem.

"What we are concerned about is the economic devastation wrought on a group of farmers in the Grand Forks area," he said.

Perrault said he realizes that a scientific problem is involved.

"But compensation for farmers is the issue at stake," he said.

The Liberal leader noted the provincial government teamed up with Ottawa to provide aid to Okanagan fruit growers hard hit by frost.

"This Act of God in the Okanagan is fully equal to the situation in Grand Forks," he said.

WORLD LOADED

Bottles Bug MLA

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The world is in danger of being buried by bottles, Vancouver East New Democrat Alex Macdonald said Wednesday.

Beer bottles, pop bottles and jam jars are piling up in basements and on back porches everywhere, Macdonald warned the legislature.

Macdonald recalled that former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev once warned the West that Russia was going to bury it.

"But we are going to be buried by bottles," he added.

The state of Washington has recognized the threat, Macdonald said, and is conducting a plebiscite on whether all bottles should be returned to stores for a refund or not.

MLA URGES LAW REVIEW

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An institute of law reform should be established in the University of B.C. law faculty to review laws in B.C. and elsewhere, a lawyer-MLA said Wednesday.

Tony Gargrave (NDP-Mackenzie) told the legislature B.C. laws should be studied and statutes in other parts of the world should also be looked at so the government knows what is going on elsewhere.

The MLA also called for a complete legal aid program for civil and criminal cases, and urged better facilities for Vancouver Courthouse.

B.C. CARROTS WANTED

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A government MLA said Wednesday something is wrong when B.C. consumers have to buy carrots grown in California and Mexico.

Bert Price (SC—Vancouver-Burrard) told the legislature during examination of agriculture department estimates that carrots and other imported vegetables grow just as well in the province.

He said the department's markets and statistics branch should be trying to create more markets for home-grown foods.

QC Honor Tied to Politics, Lawyer Macdonald Charges

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Queen's Counsel honor bestowed on certain lawyers has fallen into disrepute in B.C. because political considerations are involved, a lawyer-MLA told the legislature Thursday.

"Until this institution is put on a proper footing it should be abolished," said Alex Macdonald (NDP -Vancouver East).

He brought up the subject during review of the attorney-general's department estimates for the coming fiscal year.

He said the title of QC was intended as an honor for outstanding members of the bar.

'HEAVILY LARDED'

But it has become heavily, though not wholly, interlarded with political considerations, he said.

"There was one recent appointee to the Supreme Court bench who never did quite get it

before going to the bench," Macdonald said.

He said he was referring to Mr. Justice George Gregory.

Macdonald also said the government should not use the Queen's Counsel Act until the appointments are made on a proper basis.

The act allows the appointment of five QCs in any calendar year. In B.C., however, the titles are bestowed every two or three years.

Anyone appointed attorney-general automatically receives the title.

Other appointees are recommended by the attorney-general after he consults with the chief justices of the Appeal Court and B.C. Supreme Court and two members of the Law Society of B.C.

The cabinet bestows the title. The lawyers concerned must have at least five years' membership in the B.C. bar.

Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) said Bonner is ignoring recom-

mended lists for the honor of QC from judges and the Law Society.

"I challenge you to get out the last list of recommendations which came from the Bench and Law Society, and compare it with the list of appointments you actually made," Macfarlane said.

'TOO EMBARRASSING'

Attorney-General Robert Bonner made no reply.

"I know he won't do it," Macfarlane said. "It's just too embarrassing."

He said too many QCs were just "political hacks."

"Name one," government backbenchers asked.

"It would rather embarrass some members of the house and cabinet if I did," Macfarlane said.

"The person in question knows who I mean," he added, looking at the cabinet benches.

But he refused to name the man.

Crime Victims' Fund Urged

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government was urged Thursday to set up a fund for compensating crime victims.

"We spend thousands of dollars on the rehabilitation of criminals, and no one objects to that, but we don't give anything to victims of crimes," said Alex Macdonald (NDP -Vancouver East).

Macdonald told the legislature victims of criminal acts can sue

offenders in civil actions but this seldom results in financial recovery.

Criminals, if they have any money, usually use it all for their defence, he said.

Macdonald said Great Britain has established a five-man criminal injuries compensation board which administers a \$300,000 fund.

"You should bring in legislation to help victims of crime at

this session," Macdonald said to Attorney-General Robert Bonner.

"It wouldn't be complicated. We have the model of the English legislation to guide us, he added.

Macdonald said that later the program could be extended to provide compensation to people who suffer injury or loss while taking part in rescue operations, like searches for lost hunters.

The city of Vancouver has made a good move in planning to compensate people who are hurt while aiding policemen, he said.

Macdonald supported a request made Wednesday by Tony Gargrave (NDP -Mackenzie) that a full civil and criminal legal aid plan be established in the province.

Later Bonner said the crime fund scheme was really a matter for federal law.

"I question the desirability of provinces going into this notion piecemeal," he said.

Bonner said this is because it would be unfair for one group of citizens to be treated differently from another.

Water Feud Peace Sought

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature Thursday gave first reading to a bill aimed at settling a water feud between the city of Victoria and Central Saanich municipality.

The bill will return ownership of water in the region to the Crown and all users will have to pay the provincial government, Resources Minister Ray Williston explained later.

The city has held jurisdiction

over lakes in the area since 1873.

The dispute with Central Saanich began about seven years ago when the city announced it would negotiate a new price schedule with the municipality.

Williston said the bill would not have been brought in if Victoria had settled its dispute with Central Saanich and taken the initiative to service the Saanich Peninsula.

ELECTED SENATE URGED

VICTORIA — A Liberal MLA Thursday said federal Senate appointments are disgraceful and the Senate should be elected.

Alan Macfarlane (Oak Bay) told the legislature: "I'm the first to advocate Senate appointments in this country should be reformed."

He made the comments when he attacked the provincial government for appointing political friends to the status of Queen's Counsel, an honorary legal accolade.

"The only Senate appointment I could be in favor of is that of W. A. C. Bennett," he said.

Bonner Forecasts Cabaret Solution

Talks With Vancouver Result In Plan to Change Liquor Act

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Robert Bonner announced Thursday he hopes to introduce legislation at the current session to end the cabaret licensing controversy in Vancouver.

The city also plans to set up a "blue ribbon committee" of impartial citizens to screen cabaret licence applications, Bonner told the legislature.

Bonner said his announcements follow discussions he has held during the session with Corporation Counsel Russell Baker.

The legislation will be an amendment to the Liquor Act defining a cabaret, Bonner said.

It will be an alteration or addition to existing Liquor Control Board definitions.

CITY TO CO-OPERATE

The city, in turn, will license only cabarets which fall within the new definition, said Bonner.

"This is what the city has been asking for," Bonner added.

Bonner said he has also urged the LCB to review rejection of previous cabaret licences.

"The attorney-general said at present there are 47 city-licensed cabarets.

'RIDICULOUS'

Fourteen of these are approved cabarets under existing LCB standards; another 14 have never applied for an LCB licence; seven have been refused LCB approval, and the rest, including such places as the Stanley Park tearoom, could not ever be intended to be cabarets.

Bonner's announcements came in answer to questions by

Liberal Pat McGeer of Point Grey who said the existing confused situation in Vancouver is ridiculous and impossible to police.

Dr. McGeer said patrons of so-called cabarets have been forced to buy bottles of liquor and smuggle them onto the premises in brown paper bags.

Bonner replied that recent negotiations, which began last fall, between the city, LCB and himself should soon resolve all problems.

"The city proposes to alter its definition of cabarets," Bonner said.

"We will introduce a definition of cabarets into the Liquor Act and I'm hopeful to have sufficient common ground to introduce the legislation at this session."

REVIEW PLANNED

Bonner said the citizens' committee to be set up by Vancouver will review cabaret applications which the LCB may not be prepared to accept.

He said the city has already suggested that the LCB take a second look at its turndown of six cabaret applications.

"I said I would urge the LCB to review applications at the city's request," Bonner added.

"We are anxious to move to fuller recognition of the point of view expressed in Vancouver. I don't think we will have a great deal of difficulty."

FOR BAR WAITERS

\$300 Fine Doomed

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government is about to do away with a law that calls for an automatic \$300 fine for waiters who serve beer to minors, Attorney-General Robert Bonner hinted Thursday.

The law that puts the onus for determining a customer's age on beer waiters has been frequently criticized by beer parlor employees and opposition MLAs.

The minimum fine for such an offence is \$300, while the minors involved are usually fined only a small amount.

John Squire (NDP-Alberni) told the legislature it is not right that employees should be held responsible. If anybody has to bear the responsibility it should be their employers, he said.

Bonner later told the House

his department has been studying the situation.

"We may be able to deal with it at this session from the standpoint of removing the fixed fine and leaving the fines to the discretion of the courts," he said.

He added: "There has been a marked reluctance to levy fines against juveniles and indeed to find them guilty of the offence. But I may be able to recommend an amendment to the House before we rise."

Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP-Grand Forks-Greenwood) called beer parlors "dens of iniquity" and said that nothing can be done to improve them.

She said she is opposed to suggestions that pubs be allowed to employ barmaids.

After the men have a few drinks under their belts they would forget to go home to their wives, she said.

Law Halting Insurance Cut-Off Due

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Robert Bonner said Thursday he expects to introduce a law curbing cancellation of auto insurance policies without notice.

Bonner said the law would probably come before the current session of the legislature.

He was answering questions from MLAs who complained that insurance firms are unfairly cancelling policies, sometimes when clients are away on holiday.

Alex Matthew (S.C.—Vancouver Centre) said he withdrew a private member's amendment to the Insurance Act to halt this practice last year because Bonner assured him he would take action.

"Since then I haven't heard anything," Matthew said.

Alan Macfarlane (Lib.—Oak Bay) added that it was not right to let insurance firms have the power to cancel without notice.

"I expect to have something in the House before we rise," Bonner replied.

A-G SPENDING GIVEN OKAY

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The \$19.4 million estimates of the attorney-general's department were approved by the legislature Thursday night.

MLAs also whistled through the commercial transport department's votes totalling \$715,408.

The money is for operation of the departments in the fiscal year which starts April 1.

Education department spending is scheduled to come up for consideration next.

GOV'T GIVES TO LEGAL AID

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government has contributed approximately \$50,000 toward more than 400 cases of legal aid in the current budget year, Attorney-General Robert Bonner said Thursday.

Bonner said the Law Society administers the present legal aid system, helped by a government grant toward criminal cases.

The society itself provided aid for 494 civil cases last year, he said.

Forest Industry Raps New Controls

Council Claims Available Timber Supply Would Be Cut One-Third

By PAT CARNEY
Sun Business Columnist

VICTORIA—The annual cut of sawtimber in the coastal crown forests can be increased by more than one-third with absolute safety at present standards of utilization, the forest industry claimed today.

Instead, new cut control policies initiated by the Forest Service will reduce the supply of sawtimber available annually to established operators by about one-third, the industry said.

The points were made by the Council of Forest Industries of B.C. appearing before the standing committee on forestry.

The council supported the principles of close utilization aimed at increasing recovery of wood from each forest acre.

But it argued that government efforts to encourage pulp mill expansion should not, and need not, be at the expense of the established wood products industry.

The council said any increase in the amount of sawtimber available annually should be distributed to established operators before allocations are made to new pulp mills.

JOINT STUDY

It suggested that a joint industry-Forest Service study team be appointed to develop the data needed to formulate close utilization policies.

The study would determine the amount of extra wood generated by moving to close utilization, the scaling procedures required and the stumpage appraisal methods most likely to provide incentive for close utilization.

The call for a study team backed up a similar request Thursday by the Truck Loggers' Association. The TLA suggested that the Forest Service's smallwood policy be deferred until the work of the committee had been completed.

The TLA said the present

policy may nullify the incentives offered to encourage operators to move toward close utilization. It was also concerned over the proposal that only operators who adopt close utilization may share in the increased amount of wood available annually.

The incentives offered by the Forest Service include: a low flat rate stumpage charge for smallwood; provision for smallwood logging costs in appraising timber sales; and increased quotas for operators in crown forests when the new allowable annual cuts have been completed.

The regulations proposed by the Forest Service state that: operators applying for increased quota must have a contract for the sale of smallwood or chips; no deductions for defects other than decay will be made in scaling smallwood; and stumpage charges will be pro-rated to cover both the sawtimber and the smallwood on a sale.

In addition, an increase in an operator's quota will be limited to one-third of his present quota. The balance of the additional quota made available by increased annual cuts will be allocated to the pulp industry or held in Forest Service reserve.

The council also opposed the Forest Service proposal to withdraw the present salvage rate on ordinary timber sales, except where the operator relogs the claim after prime logging has been completed. The salvage rate is 20 cents per 100 cubic feet.

'ONE PASS' SYSTEM

The withdrawal of the rate penalizes operators who adopt the "one pass" system, picking

up chunks and small trees along with the prime logs. It also discriminates against operators who "prelog", removing small trees before prime logging to prevent breakage.

"We believe that until close utilization procedures are developed and proven, no change to existing salvage logging provisions should be undertaken," the brief said.

The council said that close utilization, by itself, is not a significant factor in narrowing the gap between the theoretical and the practical volume of wood available in the forest.

This gap is estimated to be about 88 per cent. However, the indicated increase in recoverable wood resulting from moving from present standards to close utilization is about five to eight per cent.

NEW RULES

While close utilization is optional, the council added, there is nothing optional about the new cut control rules which accompany the program.

It claimed the cut control policies will: decrease the timber supply available to the established logging, sawmilling, plywood and shingle industry relying on the crown forests; impose a serious and unnecessary economic burden on them and allocate timber which "in reasonable logic and in equity" should go to them to pulp mills instead.

The council said it believed the policies resulted from an incorrect estimate by the Forest Service of the increased timber harvest available under closed utilization.

WHAT TELESIGN?

Bonner Not Keeping Up With News

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Critics of the government's proposed fountain outside the Vancouver courthouse might do well to turn their fire on The Sun's telesign on the nearby Hotel Vancouver, Attorney-General Robert Bonner said Thursday.

Bonner admitted in the legislature he has been getting letters about the fountain.

"How is that fountain coming along? I understand it is pretty schmaltsy," said Tony Gargrave (NDP-Mackenzie).

Bonner replied that the public works department has yet to unveil the actual design.

"I understand the Hotel Vancouver is quite concerned," Gargrave said.

Replied Bonner: "They might start by removing that Sun sign which is quite inappropriate."

(The Sun telesign was removed from Hotel Vancouver Dec. 10).

GOV'T WILL BUY CLAIMS

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government will pay \$50,000 to buy up gold claims at Barkerville, Recreation and Conservation Minister Ken Kiernan announced Thursday. The purchase of placer claims, leases and mining

reservations in and adjacent to the old mining town, now a major tourist attraction, will protect the park from damage by commercial mining operations, he said.

Kiernan also said Beaumont Park on Fraser Lake, 80 miles west of Prince George, will be enlarged by 37 acres to provide space for a water reservoir and an improved entrance.

James NESBITT

VICTORIA—Only three present New Democrat ridings are affected by this session's legislative redistribution — Kaslo-Slocan, Cranbrook and Grand Forks-Greenwood.

Each one of these will disappear into much larger ridings. New Democrats are reasonably certain Leo Nimsick of Cranbrook and Randolph Harding of Kaslo-Slocan will be able to hold their own in the increased flood of ballots.



NESBITT

They are worried, however, about the chances of Mrs. Lois Haggen of Grand Forks-Greenwood, who'll have to fight the Social Credit minister of agriculture, Hon. Frank Richter of Similkameen, one of the least spectacular of the cabinet ministers, but a cabinet minister nonetheless.

Cabinet ministers are supposed to get lots done for their constituents, whereas an oppositionist is almost entirely helpless when it comes to getting government plums.

A woman running for the legislature has a rough enough time

being elected under the most favorable of circumstances; but when she's in opposition, and up against a cabinet minister, it's almost an impossible task.

No woman MLA in our history ever beat a cabinet minister.

Opposition political parties take good care to keep women out of cabinet ministers' ridings.

Next election, willy-nilly, because of redistribution, Mrs. Haggen must face Frank Richter, assuming, that is, they get their party nominations, which they will.

The NDP will stand by Mrs. Haggen, and if she wants the nomination in the new riding of Boundary-Similkameen she can have it, and she does want it.

The Angus report recommended this new riding be called Boundary, but the premier made it Boundary-Similkameen, so that Mr. Richter wouldn't lose too much of his identity.

This is called looking after your own, and this the premier knows how to do, defiantly, stubbornly.

I know, of course, they weren't thinking of politics, but a mighty battle raged this week in the legislature between Mrs. Haggen and Mr. Richter. It was as if they were out on the hustings.

Mrs. Haggen has been depressed of late, having convinced herself she won't be back after the next election. Now she has changed her mind. She'll fight for it, anyway, and in this week's battle she showed surprising punch, for her.

She started quietly enough, saying the agriculture minister lets the farmers down, but the minister couldn't see it that way, insisting he's doing all he can for the farmers.

This was one of the rare times I have heard Mrs. Haggen raise her voice and speak off-the-cuff. She got real mad, and in so doing must have quite shocked herself, for she's not the mad type.

She actually trembled, and doubled up her fist; for a moment I feared she might cry in her rage at what she thought the minister's injustices to the poor farmers.

I might add the thought that she might lose her seat gave her no comfort at all, such thought only causing her to throw another log on her fire of indignation.

The good lady's socialist colleagues rallied right around her. They fought for her, with her, and they gave her strength, and she beamed her thanks at "the boys," as she calls them.

It seemed as if they were serving notice on Mr. Richter that they're not going to sleep, are not going to permit him to snow under Mrs. Haggen.

Mr. Richter at first was more or less silent, so silent that a few of his cabinet ministers rushed to his rescue. He doesn't like fighting with ladies, not even lady politicians.

The socialists, full of admiration for the new-found fight in Mrs. Haggen, goaded the minister, scolded him, wallowed in his misery.

They engaged in delaying tactics, wanting to put the minister right on the political hot spot, so that all the farmers in the new riding of Boundary-Similkameen might get the impression he's the worst minister of agriculture British Columbia ever had, that he's allowing farmers to be ruined.

I'm not saying the socialists were not sincere about the farmers. They gave no broad

hint they had their eyes on the voters, but they had.

They were heaving a sprat, you might say, in the hope of catching a mackerel. What fatter, more succulent mackerel for them than Mr. Richter out next time and Mrs. Haggen still in? What sweet victory!

A sample of the delaying tactics was perfectly typified by NDP Alex Macdonald of Vancouver East. What it had to do with agriculture no one knew, but in the midst of the Haggen-Richter fray, he made a speech about the glut of bottles in today's civilization.

Mr. Macdonald said we are in danger of being crushed and cut to pieces by an avalanche of bottles. They clutter lawns and beaches and the woods, and back porches, said he, and cupboards, and in sheer desperation some people take to throwing bottles out of cars.

Something should be done about bottles, said Mr. Macdonald; drinks from milk to beer, and jellies and jams and things like that should come in disposable containers.

His fellow socialists, having rested during this pleasant little homily, delivered in whimsical Macdonald style, found themselves refreshed, and they got up again to whale the tar out of Mr. Richter who, poor fellow, scratched his head and mildly said he did not know what he could do about the threat of bottles that so worries Mr. Macdonald.

Well, there we saw it: the opening round in the coming electoral battle between Lois Haggen, with her new and surprising ferocity, and Frank Richter, who didn't quite know what to make of it all.

MLA URGES 6 LASHES FOR DRINKING DRIVERS

VICTORIA—Six strokes of the lash were proposed Thursday as a cure for habitual drunks and impaired drivers by North Vancouver Liberal MLA Gordon Gibson.

"I'd give them six lashes and keep them in jail for a week," Gibson said.

"If that didn't do any good after you'd let them out for a week, I'd put them back and give them six more."

Gibson also suggested in the legislature tripling provincial taxes on hard liquor, which he said causes most of the trouble for motorists.

"I'd leave the poor man's drink—beer—as it is," he said.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner predicted it would only lead to massive illicit production of moonshine.

Fri., Mar. 11, 1966

MLAs Grill A-G On Missing Memo

Bonner Denies Seeing Note From Ex-Purchasing Boss

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — MLAs played political ping-pong Thursday with the mystery of the missing memorandum.

The memo allegedly contained an account of a clash between former government purchasing commission chairman George E. P. Jones and a Calgary man who expected consideration for giving \$25,000 to a Sacred campaign fund.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan and New Democrat Gordon Dowding of Burnaby asked Attorney-General Robert Bonner to produce the memo, which they said Jones sent to Bonner in 1956.

FILES DESTROYED

Bonner said he had never seen the memo and files concerning the Calgary man's companies had been destroyed.

The New Democrats challenged Bonner to produce proof of the destruction of the files.

Bonner refused to answer.

Dowding maintained the files were destroyed illegally and demanded an inquiry with prosecution of the person responsible.

The exchange continued throughout afternoon and night sittings of the legislature, which was discussing Bonner's estimates.

The memo was first referred to on Monday when Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) read from a transcript of a radio interview given by Jones last summer.

In the interview Jones told of a visit from a prospective supplier of government purchases who complained he had not given \$25,000 to the campaign fund to be "pushed around."

MEMO 'SENT'

When the buyer threatened to go to see Bonner, Jones said he sent a memo to the attorney-general.

Dowding identified the supplier as Louis Wener of Calgary.

He said Wener was associated with several companies, including Concrete Constructors Ltd., Con-Force Construction Ltd., Pre-Cast Concrete Ltd. and Hercules Co. Ltd., which between 1955 and 1965 did more than \$1.2 million worth of business with the B.C. government.

Dowding said Wener, according to Jones, knew Bonner, Premier W. A. C. Bennett and Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi.

"He may just be name-dropping but he claims he had you as his guests at Phoenix," Dowding went on.

"I was never his guest,"

Bennett said.

"I've never been to Phoenix," added Gaglardi.

Bonner said his secretary did not recall ever seeing the Jones memo, nor did he. A search of his files also failed to turn it up, he said.

"I doubt frankly that it exists," Bonner added.

Dowding then asked if Bonner knew anything about purchasing commission files on the companies with which Wener was involved.

"I am advised that documents of the purchasing commission are destroyed on a five-year basis," Bonner replied.

Dowding asked on whose authority the files were destroyed.

"I don't know. That's the only information I have," Bonner said.

Dowding said government documents could not be destroyed until they were 10 years old and until approval had been given either by the legislature's public accounts committee or the public documents disposal committee composed of civil servants.

NO RECORD

Dowding said he had checked with both and there was no record of any purchasing commission documents being destroyed with their approval.

He said he was also informed that the files in question, which would contain a copy of the memo, were intact up to the time Jones was suspended from office by the government in November 1964.

When Strachan raised the question again at a night sitting, Bonner replied that the files were destroyed in 1963 by authority of the public documents disposal committee.

The rules for destruction of government documents are contained in an act of the legislature.

Strachan and Dowding both pointed out the act was specific in ruling documents must be 10 years old before being destroyed, and the missing memo was only seven years old in 1963.

"This is a ping-pong game of missing files," Strachan said.

"The records still don't show an application was made to destroy the files . . . under Section Five of the act there must be an application made."

When he challenged Bonner to produce such an application, the attorney-general made no answer.

ACT HIT

Denturist Changes Urged

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Removal of artificial and unjustified barriers that prevent direct dealings between the public and dental mechanics was urged Thursday on a legislative committee.

"These inhibitions are designed not for the public benefit but for professional protection" the Dental Mechanics and Public Denturists Society of B.C. charged before the committee reviewing operation of the Dental Technicians' Act.

The group said a requirement that people obtain a certificate of oral health from a dentist before going to a dental mechanic should be eliminated.

"It is our belief that the certificate was included in the present act as a direct result of representations on the part of the College of Dental Surgeons to frustrate public denturists in their services to the public," said the society's brief.

It also sought a change to allow mechanics to fit and construct partial dentures, rather than just full upper and lower plates, asked that they be allowed to perform denture services for social assistance cases, and the right to advertise their services.

The group also wants to change its official name from dental mechanics to public denturists.

With a continuing serious shortage of qualified dentists in B.C., the committee should ensure that an authorized group of skilled persons be encouraged to perform intermediate dental tasks, the brief stated.

These should include taking impressions, construction and fitting dentures.

"Our major proposition is that anything that prevents the public denturists from dealing directly and effectively with the public which that group has served for many years, is artificial and contrary to the intent of the original legislation" said the brief.

Fri., Mar. 11, 1966

NONG Securities Case Raised Again

No Ground for Charges Prior To Smith Quitting—Bonner

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Attorney-General Robert Bonner told the legislature Thursday he was deeply disturbed by the private transactions of former B.C. superintendent of brokers J. Stewart Smith.

But there was no basis for charging Smith with a criminal offence, Bonner said.

Bonner made the statement after Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver-East) accused him of allowing a criminal offence to take place without doing anything about it.

Smith resigned his post in June, 1962, at the height of a police probe into his personal securities holdings.

Smith left B.C. to reside in New Zealand.

BOUGHT SHARES

It was learned that Smith had bought shares in Northern Ontario Natural Gas for \$2.50 each at a time when they were worth about \$12. The shares later rose to about \$38.

Macdonald said he has proof Smith granted a special favor to International African-American Corporation by permitting the company to sell shares in B.C.

without being registered in the province.

Macdonald raised the subject in noting that federal hearings into NONG transactions are to open in Vancouver shortly.

NOT WARRANTED

He said that Smith should have been charged under Section 102 of the Criminal Code, which deals with acceptance of benefits by public officials.

Bonner replied that prosecution was not warranted prior to the time that Smith left the department.

"When this matter came to our attention we were deeply disturbed that he would be involved in these private transactions and this came to a parting of the ways for which I was personally grateful," he said.

But he added: "There were no grounds for a charge at the time."

Time to Act On Oakalla, Bonner Told

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Robert Bonner was warned Thursday that time is running out on his 1959 promise to replace Oakalla jail within 10 years.

Bonner has already defaulted on a pledge to "pull out of Colquitz jail near Victoria within six months. Dave Barrett (NDP - Dewdney) told the legislature.

The Colquitz promise was made in 1964, Barrett said.

"Now I see they've just finished building a new gate and

fence," he said.

Barrett renewed perennial charges that the government, through inaction, is running a school for crime at Oakalla, where young first offenders learn unpleasant tricks from hardened inmates.

"I'm fed up with excuses," Barrett said. "The matter rests on your conscience."

Bonner replied that the government is taking steps to decentralize B.C.'s prison system.

It has spent \$6.3 million in capital costs for new facilities, which have stemmed the growth of the Oakalla jail population, he said.

Bonner said he had hoped to be able to vacate Colquitz, a turn-of-the-century former mental hospital, but had run into difficulties in obtaining the site for a replacement unit on the Island.

BEAMED FROM U.S.

Beer Ads Rapped

By IAN MacALPINE

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Liquor Control Board regulations are being circumvented in the bombardment of B.C. by beer commercials carried on U.S. television channels, Liberal leader Ray Perrault said Thursday.

Eighty per cent of the province's people are exposed to the advertising campaigns, he told the legislature.

To argue that beer ads on U.S. TV are intended to encourage Americans to drink Canadian beer is an insult to public intelligence, he said.

The intensive commercial campaign is a deliberate flouting of B.C. regulations, he said. "A mockery is being made of all the rules and regulations established by the board."

LAWS ATTACKED

Perrault's criticism came during an attack in the legislature on B.C. laws that permit beer and liquor advertising in newspapers and magazines but not on radio and television.

The Liberal leader said the law should be changed to allow "brand advertising" on B.C. stations.

Perrault noted that severely controlled liquor advertising on radio and television is now permitted in Montreal and Toronto.

Stations in those cities can show "label identification," he said.

The Liberal leader said also that because alcohol is largely responsible for traffic accidents, the government should launch a major advertising campaign urging moderation in the use of alcohol.

And he said Attorney-General Robert Bonner and the Liquor Control Board should influence breweries and distilleries to advertise moderation.

STRACHAN COMMENTS

Opposition leader Robert Strachan agreed with Perrault that liquor is a major cause of accidents.

But he disagreed with the Liberal leader's proposal to have breweries advocate moderation.

"No advertising of liquor of any kind should be allowed, whether it advertises moderation or anything else," said Strachan.

Bonner, replying later to the MLAs, said he is aware that certain anomalies exist in the liquor advertising laws.

Bonner said he intends to watch American TV to see what the beer ads are like.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1966

Bonner Blamed For Bingo Law

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Socred MLA Thursday refused to accept Attorney-General Robert Bonner's claim that the bingo law is a federal matter.

Bonner said during discussion of his department's estimates that the law governing bingo is "a vexing section of the Criminal Code."

But he said he understands the federal government is considering amending the section.

Bert Price (SC—Vancouver Burrard) called the law unfair.

He said the Canadian Legion branch in his riding operated bingo games for the amusement of citizens for 25 years and then was closed by the police.

"They were not running a gambling establishment, they were selling entertainment," Price said.

He said games of that kind should be treated on a different basis.

"I think the chief law enforcement officer (Bonner) must take upon himself the responsibility of deciding what is a public benefit and what is a game of chance, and I'd suggest he do something about it," said Price.

When Bonner jokingly referred to the Legion branch, Mount Pleasant No. 177, as "a little Las Vegas," Price got even more huffy.

"Be serious," he asked.

Bonner replied that his department had tried to indicate to the Legion that it would be allowed to promote "occasional" bingo games.

But the Legion was operating games "occasionally every afternoon, and evening except Sunday."

Asked to define occasional games, Bonner replied: "Twenty-five times a year."

Hoffmeister Calls Bluff On Charges

Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Operators who claim that log prices are rigged by major forest companies were told to put up or shut up at today's session of the legislature forestry committee.

B. M. Hoffmeister, president of the Council of Forest Industries of B.C., said he is not aware of a single shred of evidence to support claims of a cartel in the forest industry. Charges of price fixing were made before the committee earlier this year by Squamish operator Patrick Brennan.

Hoffmeister, former head of MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Ltd., said, "if in fact people think there is price fixing, my advice is to contact Mr. Henry, director of the combines branch in Ottawa and get on with it. Let's not have a lot of gossip around this room."

"Prices are controlled by supply and demand, and if at any time they aren't, it is the job of the boys in Ottawa. Believe me, they are ready and willing to do it."

The issue was raised by Waldo Skillings (SC — Victoria) who referred to claims by the Squamish operators that the major companies ran the price of chips up to keep Price Bros. from establishing a pulp mill at Squamish. Price later backed out of the proposed mill.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1966

Seiners Seek Rules

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. salmon seiners Friday appealed to the provincial government to halt a major waste of fish for which they blame strikes, sportsmen and rival commercial fishermen.

Frank Buble, president of the salmon section of the B.C. Vessel Owners' Association, said the provincial government should set up its own department of fisheries to regulate all aspects of fishing.

In a brief to the legislature's fisheries committee, Buble also asked for a permanent fisheries arbitration board.

He said there must be machinery to prevent strikes from tying up the industry at the height of the annual salmon season.

"The fish can't wait," he said. Buble said present restrictions are so rigid seiners can fish only 32 days of the year and are forced to take only less valuable fish.

Prize salmon are caught by trollers and gillnetters which have longer seasons and can fish wider areas, he said.

Buble said more than half the sports catch consists of grilse, which if protected would grow into mature salmon for commercial harvesting.

He also said the federal government, snarled by policy decisions having to be made thousands of miles away in Ottawa, is failing to exercise proper fisheries management.

Bennett Gives In, Adds 55th Seat

Government Splits Kootenay Riding After Sharp Debate

By IAN MacALPINE and FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Premier W. A. C. Bennett capitulated to Social Credit rebels and a persistent opposition by agreeing Friday to change the government's redistribution plan.

In a sudden and unexpected move, Bennett interrupted debate on the controversial bill to realign electoral seats with an announcement that another seat will be given to the Kootenays.

He said the proposed vast Columbia River riding, which lumps together three existing constituencies, will be cut in half to create another seat in the legislature.

The amendment will bring the total of seats to 55, three more than at present.

Bennett's action is certain to head off any further opposition to the plan by his Kootenay backbenchers, Jim Chabot of Columbia, and Arvid Lundell of Revelstoke.

LOUD APPLAUSE

The House thundered with applause when the premier announced the change and withdrew the bill to make the amendment.

He credited Liberal MLA Harry McKay, of Fernie, for giving him the advice that led to the sudden decision.

"We live in a democracy, we live in a legislature representing all the people and all the parts of British Columbia," the premier said, rising midway through the debate.

"It is the duty of the government to lead and the duty of the government to listen. We have heard some good advice today, especially from the member for Fernie."

Bennett was referring to McKay's statement a few minutes earlier that the Kootenays would be well represented under the proposed plan, except in the vast Columbia River riding.

TWO RIDINGS

"The government proposes to divide that riding and we'll withdraw the bill and make two ridings in what is now Columbia River," he said.

The change promised by Bennett was the second one made Friday.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black earlier amended the bill to change the name of one riding.

In an apparent effort to win over rebel Don Robinson (SCLilloet) Black changed the name of the new Yale riding to Yale-Lilloet.

But Robinson, speaking later in the debate, said the change

does not affect the carving up of his constituency and he still intends to vote against the plan.

HEAVY CRITICISM

The government was again heavily criticized Friday for altering the redistribution plan drafted by the Angus Royal Commission.

NDP Opposition leader Robert Strachan demanded an explanation from Black of why the government had upset the balance of representation recommended in the report by adding two northern seats.

"Government policy was clearly enunciated in previous debate," Black said.

"The minister gave us no explanation of anything at any time," Strachan protested.

Black is responsible for the bill and it was up to him to give the explanation, he added.

Black replied he was in a peculiar situation. As minister responsible for the Constitution Act, he said, he was a hero when it was amended to boost the salaries of MLAs, but a bum when it came to redistribution.

NO COMMENT

"At no time did I make to the press any comment," Black said. "I felt it was the responsible thing to do to make no comment."

But, he said, he was quite happy with the redistribution.

Strachan said he would not object to adding two northern seats if the representational balance was maintained by adding seats elsewhere in the province.

"If the north is the yardstick, let's keep that yardstick and apply it to the rest of the province," he said.

Randolph Harding (NDP-Kaslo-Slocan) said he was amazed to hear Black say he was pleased with the redistribution plan, since Black is a Kootenay MLA representing Nelson-Creston.

The Kootenays were to lose four MLAs while the north keeps all its seven in the government redistribution.

"I'm ashamed of you," Harding told Black.

"You should be up fighting for the Kootenays," he said.

Harding said the same applied to Mines Minister Don Brothers, from Rossland-Trail.

"You're afraid the premier will pick you up by the scruff of your neck and boot you out of

the cabinet," said Harding.

Harding said the Kootenays have a comparable population to the north.

"There is absolutely no standard the provincial secretary or the government can set up anywhere to tell us the eastern part of B.C. is less important than the north or any other part. We're demanding equal treatment," he said.

Harding's riding, Columbia and Revelstoke, were to be lumped together to form the huge riding of Columbia River.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said the government has sacrificed the Angus commission on the altar of political expediency.

"This is cowardly and totally unworthy of the government if you want to preserve the democratic process," he said.

FIVE EXTRA SEATS

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) accused the government of adopting a pseudo-sanctimonious attitude about redistribution.

"If you believed in an impartial inquiry, you wouldn't have changed one single boundary," he said.

Dr. Pat McGeer (Lib.—Point Grey) said the bill ensured the Socreds of winning five extra seats in the legislature—three in Vancouver by doubling up single ridings and two in the north.

"It's a despicable game of politics," he said.

"I understand why they changed Vancouver's boundaries," said Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby). "They were not prepared to lose three ridings which they undoubtedly would have done if the Angus report had been followed."

Trip Costs \$11,516

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A government-sponsored trade mission to Europe last year cost the province \$11,516, it was disclosed Wednesday.

The cost of the trip for 13 businessmen, Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark, an economist and an official in the department was given in answer to a question by Liberal leader Ray Perrault.

Perrault's question seeking information about overseas trade missions last year did not produce any details about cost of the cabinet trip to Japan last spring.

That jaunt was described as a goodwill mission rather than a trade trip.

'Sticker Law Would Create Auto Repair Bootlegger'

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Soered Friday accused the government of creating a new type of criminal in B.C. — the auto repair bootlegger.

Bert Price of Vancouver-Burrard asked Attorney-General Robert Bonner to reconsider a new law requiring police stickers on damaged cars taken to garages for repair.

The new law, an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act, would make it an offence to repair a vehicle without a sticker in cases where damage exceeded \$100.

The law, Bonner said, is aimed at hit-and-run drivers.

Price said it is wrong to put the onus on garage men to

observe such a law. They are not connected with the accident or the driver or victim involved, he said.

"This is going to lead to bootlegging in auto repairs," Price told the legislature.

"There is nothing worse than creating a business that will operate outside the law."

His request came during debate on second reading of a number of changes in the act.

The debate was adjourned by Liberal leader Ray Perrault before Bonner had a chance to reply.

But other opposition MLAs criticized other proposed amendments.

Alex Macdonald (NDP - Vancouver East) charged another section, giving police the power to make roadside licence suspensions of suspected impaired drivers, was an infringement on

civil liberties.

"This is wholly unprecedented in British law," Macdonald said.

"The policeman will be able to act as judge, jury and prosecutor."

The suspected driver would either have to wait 24 hours for the return of his licence, or take a test to prove he had less than .08 per cent of alcohol in his blood.

Macdonald said the new law will not work because drivers will refuse the test.

But the policeman's power to take away licences will be finding someone guilty outside the courts, he said.

Macdonald said if the government wants to crack down on drinking drivers, he would prefer to see compulsory breath tests. Then the results of the tests could be used in court to convict impaired drivers, he

said.

Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) suggested stiffening the penalty for impaired driving to a year's licence suspension, instead of present fines and often brief suspensions.

He said the roadside suspension was a move towards the police state as it is known in eastern Europe.

Alan Macfarlane (L.—Oak Bay) disagreed.

He said he did not regard the roadside suspension law as a violation of civil liberties.

However, the government might do well to regard it as an experiment in justice, he said. If it did not work after a year, he suggested, the government should review its legislation.

"We have come to the point where we do have to take drastic steps," Macfarlane said. "In fact I don't think this is as drastic as it might have been."

GLUT ON MARKET

Forestry Executives Urge Low Grade Log Export

By PAT CARNEY
Sun Business Columnist

VICTORIA — Two top forestry executives Friday supported a proposal to expedite exports of low grade pulp logs to ease the current glut on the log market.

B. M. Hoffmeister, president of the Council of Forest Industries of B.C., told the standing committee on forestry: "If there are logs in the water that can't be used in our mills, then by all means export."

Asked to comment, MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Ltd.'s chief forester Angus MacBean said: "Fair enough."

10 YEARS NEEDED

Council vice-president Ian Mahood estimated it would be five to 10 years before all the wood in the coastal forests, including small wood and drift wood, is required by the industry.

He denied a suggestion by Gordon Gibson (Lib. North Vancouver) that the pulp glut had been caused by the

withdrawal from the log market of companies which had received increases in their allowable cuts.

The forest industry generally is supporting the principle of close utilization of wood in the coast forests. However, it is opposing the methods proposed by the Forest Service to achieve higher recovery of wood from each forest acre.

The industry is arguing that Forest Service estimates of the amount of extra wood available by moving to close utilization are inflated. The Forest Service estimates are based on standards of rough utilization, while the industry generally is practising intermediate utilization.

PROPOSAL HIT

MacBean said MB & PR has been practising recovery standards similar to close utilization since 1955.

The Council of Forest Industry is also objecting to a proposal that reverses increases in the allowable cut of the coastal forests for pulp mills or the Forest Service. The council claims that a share of the increase in

sawtimber should go to established operators in the crown forests.

Hoffmeister told the committee that a major part of the increase will have nothing to do with utilization, but involves improved inventory, and modernized technical data.

"The established operator is to be denied any share of this increase whatsoever, unless he volunteers to harvest to close utilization standards," he said.

He said that past Forest Service principles have implied an understanding that increases in the approved annual cut would be shared among established quota holders and new operators as fast as technical data warranted it.

CUT SURPASSED

He cited the fact that the actual cut in the crown forests in the Vancouver Forest District has been permitted to exceed the approved allowable cut by 15 to 23 per cent in recent years.

This rate of overcut has

been accepted by the Forest Service because industry recovery includes trees not presently on the sawtimber inventory and because allowable cuts were calculated on preliminary data.

Hoffmeister also noted the fact that the Forest Service understates the data produced by the inventory division in setting allowable cuts. In the Dean forest, he said, the allowable cut is set at 50 per cent of the inventory calculation, while the allowable cuts in the Redonda and Yale forests understate the inventory by 30 and 43 per cent respectively.

In suggesting that increased sawtimber be made available to the established operators, Hoffmeister said he was talking about present inventory data and current industry standards, not the ultimate yield.

"The inventory is available to the Forest Service," he said. "They do not have to deal with hazardous guesses about the future. They can rely on facts as these exist today."

Bursaries Boosted At Universities

Education Minister Announces Extra Aid for B.C. Students

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — More financial help for university students was announced in the legislature Monday by Education Minister Leslie Peterson.

He said the value of bursaries will be boosted by \$50,000 and the one-third tuition fee grant will be extended to another 1,000 students.

Peterson disclosed the extra aid during consideration of his departmental estimates and after Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the children from average families are having a tough time paying for higher education.

Peterson said later, outside the house, that the increase in bursaries will raise the total amount in the next fiscal year to \$290,000.

OUT-OF-TOWN

He said he hopes the increase will be of particular help to out-of-town students who have to pay accommodation costs.

The provincial government now pays half the university tuition fees for students who graduate from high school with first-class standings. The aid was given to 1,041 students last year.

It also pays a third of tuition

costs for the top 2,500 students who get second-class standings.

Peterson said this will be extended to cover the top 3,500 students who achieve second-class marks.

But not all second-class standing students will benefit, however.

CLAIM REJECTED

The minister rejected Macdonald's claim that the province's universities are becoming, to a greater extent, sanctuaries for children of privileged families.

Macdonald, a lawyer, said that it is becoming harder for children from working families to get degrees because of high tuition fees.

"The only people who can graduate in law are kids of well-to-do families, and we're not drawing on the best talent," he said.

University fees should be abolished, he said, if there are to be equal educational opportunities for all.

"We subscribe to the principle of equal educational opportunities and the extension of that principle to higher education, and I don't think anyone here would want to see a university education denied for lack of funds," Peterson said.

Anybody can afford to go through university in B.C., he said. If he really wants to.

There are scholarships, bursaries and loans available to students who can't afford higher education on their own.

In the current fiscal year, he said, 6,751 students have government loans totalling more than \$4 million.

Peterson said his records refute Macdonald's claim that most law graduates are from wealthy families. But he did not give details.

Boarding Grants Up

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A \$10-a-month boost in government grants for public school students who have to board away from home was announced Monday by Education Minister Leslie Peterson.

Peterson told the legislature boarding grants will be increased to \$40 a month this year.

Peterson was answering complaints by John Squire (NDP—Alberni) that the government does not provide enough for the keep of students who are forced to pay board because they live too far from school for daily transportation.

Indian Help Urged

VICTORIA — The standard of living for B.C. Indians is a disgrace, Socred MLA Cyril Shelford said Monday.

One area where the provincial government could help, the member for Omineca told the legislature, is in education.

Shelford proposed a northern industrial school to be established by co-operation between the provincial and federal governments and industry.

He said the school could teach Indians how to be pulp-mill workers because skilled help is

needed.

"If given the chance, these people can be equal or better than anyone in the province," Shelford said.

Shelford said during the Second World War he had three Fort St. James Indians on his Bofors gun team in Italy. They had only Grade 2 education, yet were the equal of any man.

One of the three who had a training course after the war is now a top man on heavy equipment at the Peace River power project.

TRIAL PERIOD

'Eliminate Report Cards'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Elimination of public school report cards on an experimental basis was advocated in the legislature Monday by Dewdney New Democrat Dave Barrett.

"I wonder about report cards," Barrett said. "I wonder if they're really valid."

Barrett suggested a trial program where report cards would be eliminated for a group of students.

He said it was worth trying as long as the students involved were not penalized if they moved to another area.

Barrett suggested this sort of project should be part of an increased research program in the education department.

"Let's be daring," he said.

Barrett said Education Minister Leslie Peterson's budget estimates showed only \$135,000 allocated for research by three officers.

"When we're spending \$166 million on education, we should have at least 25 officers. We should be constantly evaluating our education system."

Barrett also complained "hundreds" of young Canadians are attending Western Washington College at Bellingham because the fees are cheaper than B.C. university rates.

"I'd like to find out why they are going and if they're staying there," he said. "We are losing the cream of the crop."

NOTRE DAME 'RECOGNIZED'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Sympathetic consideration will be given to Notre Dame private university graduates seeking advanced teaching certificates, Education Minister Leslie Peterson promised Monday.

He was answering Lois Hagen (NDP-Grand Forks) who told the legislature there appears to be discrimination in recognition of graduates from other universities.

Peterson said Notre Dame graduates from a three-year course are currently recognized for an "Elementary A" certificate.

He said he was not aware of any other Notre Dame teacher applications pending.

Money Needed, Peterson Agrees

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Education Minister Leslie Peterson said Monday the government will give consideration to boosting capital grants to B.C. universities — but he made no promises.

"More money is going to be required for expenditures of the universities," Peterson told the legislature.

"We'll have to give continuing consideration to the capital needs."

Peterson noted that the Bladen Commission earlier recommended increased federal aid to higher education, including a \$5 per capita grant for capital costs.

A national conference to discuss the report of the commission will be held next month, he added.

"We're hopeful action will be taken this year," Peterson said.

Peterson made the statement after Dr. Pat McGeer (L-Vancouver-Point Grey) said the province should be giving more money to university students.

McGeer claimed that the per capita investment in higher education in B.C. lags woefully behind other areas of the continent.

The figure here is \$10.60 per person, compared to \$24.30 in Hawaii, \$24 in Alaska, \$22.40 in Arizona, and \$11.60 in Alabama, he said.

'FAR BEHIND'

"We are far, far behind these areas that are competing with us for the future," said McGeer.

The MLA said B.C.'s per-student grant to universities last year was \$777, while in neighboring Alberta the grant this year will be \$1,600.

B.C. ranks fifth among the Canadian provinces in per-student grants, McGeer said.

He said more aid to universities would enable them to offer higher salaries to professors and instal up to date facilities.

Together, these measures would encourage more outstanding people to come to the province.

"We've got an important job in bringing outstanding men to B.C.," said McGeer.

To illustrate his point, McGeer said that a Nobel prize-winning scientist recently had a choice of coming to University of B.C. or going to a Chicago university.

CHOSE CHICAGO

He chose the Chicago posting. "Had we been able to offer him the facilities, had we started our building program six months earlier, he would have come to B.C.," McGeer said.

The MLA said there is a significant formula — graduate study plus scientific research, equals jobs — that hasn't been recognized here.

"Politicians have failed to grasp the meaning of this equation but it has been grasped across the line and recognized by the Economic Council of Canada, . . . and it hasn't been translated into political action," he said.

McGeer said that in California, where the formula is recognized, universities are attracting top educators and scientists.

As a result industry is setting up there and most of the big defence contracts are being awarded to California companies.

"In California they realize that for every dollar put into research, it gains back several dollars in industry," he said.

Rural Socred Urges Help For Students

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Socred Cyril Shelford Monday called on the government to do something to give rural children a better chance of getting a university education.

B.C.'s rural youngsters have to battle two major problems, the Omineca MLA told the legislature: low standards and travel expenses.

The rancher-MLA said he checked a recent University of B.C. list of graduates and found only two came from his home riding.

He also quoted a university study which found only three in 1,000 rural B.C. children get to university, compared to a national average of 20 per thousand.

The survey, conducted by the University of Victoria Alma Mater Society, also showed 76 per cent of UBC students come from the Lower Mainland and 68 per cent of Victoria's students come from this city.

The same survey showed a hometown student paid \$800 a year while an out-of-towner had to pay \$1,500, Shelford said.

"If this is true then it's an extremely bad situation," Shelford said.

"If it's only half as bad as this, it's still bad."

Shelford also said rural secondary school graduates are lost when they get to the big cities to attend university. Many who have taken Grade 13 or junior college courses at home find they are far behind the city students who have started university earlier, he said.

Shelford asked Education Minister Leslie Peterson to make a study of his information and report to the next session of the legislature.

Class Size Rapped

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C.'s primary and elementary school children are being neglected, Lois Haggen, the opposition's education critic, charged Monday.

"I'm not criticizing elementary teachers," the Grand Forks New Democrat told the legislature.

"But I feel the classes are much too large."

Mrs. Haggen said teachers of the lower grades are not paid enough and do not have sufficient professional status.

"Our lower grades are being neglected," she said.

Mrs. Haggen said she was also concerned about the shortage of teachers.

"We've been living off the training programs and facilities of other countries for too many years," she added.

The government, she said, is not paying enough attention to teacher recruitment within B.C. Education Minister Leslie Peterson, answering Mrs. Haggen during debate on his estimates, said he thinks B.C. is devoting "major attention" to elementary and primary education, but all levels deserve consideration.

He agreed that the pupil-teacher ratio is too high, and said some steps have been taken to correct the situation, though he did not promise further action.

School Boundary Change Debated

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Education Minister Leslie Peterson said Monday his department is considering a change in school district boundaries sought by Skeena Socred Dudley Little.

Little complained that a new \$150 million pulp mill project is located at Port Edward, in Prince Rupert school district, but 65 per cent of its workers live and send their children to school in Terrace.

The tax revenue from the mill goes to Prince Rupert, he said, but Terrace district has to pay the school costs.

Peterson said discussions have already been held with the school districts involved and a change is being considered.

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Pitted Door Knob Pollution Exhibit

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Paintless pieces of boards and gutters and a pitted bronze door knob were lugged into Resources Minister Ray Williston's office Monday to dramatize the Alberni Valley's air pollution problem.

A nine-member delegation from the Valley's Citizens' Committee on Pollution also brought in a 6,841-name petition demanding government action.

The group spent an hour with Williston, Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell and Industry Minister Ralph Loffmark, members of a cabinet committee set up to probe pollution.

They said they are tired of the constant string of "18th century excuses that flow from various administrative officials and industrial organizations" that always side-step the problem.

Industry elsewhere on the continent, including Pittsburgh, has largely overcome pollution so why not the big Macmillan, Bloedel and Powell River Company complex at Alberni, the delegation asked.

The group asked for legislation to give municipalities power to enact and enforce air and water pollution control measures, to prevent pollution by industry on Crown lands, and creation of an independent research council to intensify research into new methods of curbing pollution.

BLACK PLAGUE

Their chief concern is a fly ash problem in the twin cities of Alberni and Port Alberni which residents call the Black Plague.

Colin Wilson, chairman of the citizen's committee, described an investigation of the problem last week by Dr. Frank Murray, chief chemist for the B.C. Research Council, as a white-wash job.

He complained Dr. Murray, who made his investigation at the request of the cabinet committee, had not even called on the citizens' organization while he was in Port Alberni.

Dr. Murray said after his visit the fly-ash problem had been alleviated and he felt the MacMillan, Bloedel firm was doing everything that could be reasonably expected to combat pollution generally.

Loffmark told the delegation

he would ask Dr. Murray to consult the citizens' committee next time he is in the area. Dr. Murray has filed a preliminary report to Loffmark and Williston but it is being kept confidential until it has been shown to the cabinet.

The committee's brief said "personal property including homes, automobiles, boats, floor covering, household linen, paintwork on houses and business premises, chrome, brass and metal hardware, equipment, gutters, drain tile and clothing have all been subject to gross deterioration in the heavy 'fall-out' areas of this community.

"Many people in the Alberni Valley are aware of these facts, and no longer are they prepared to accept the excuses which have been trotted out with monotonous repetition that 'everything is being done locally to correct the problem of pollution, by the industrial organizations concerned,'" the brief stated.

PITTED KNOB

The delegates produced the pitted door knob, the result of fumes in the air, and a letter from the manufacturer saying that the company could not guarantee its hardware against "unusual conditions" found in the Alberni area.

They also produced a two-by-four taken from a porch and told the ministers that it was given two coats of paint last September.

There was hardly any paint left on the board.

Williston told the group that legislation will be drafted to cope with the pollution problem generally in B.C.

But he said the legislation will not be brought in this year because the government is still fact-finding.

Williston took exception to the group's statement that B.C. should grab on to a new pulp and paper mill anti-pollution measure used in the United States by the Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

He said he is aware of the waste treatment plan but said that much more advanced techniques have already been installed by three B.C. pulp mills.

Williston said that oxidation lagoons and draining pits at two Prince George mills and a new Kamloops mill are "the most advanced in the world."

GOV'T AID

SFU Getting Lion's Share

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Simon Fraser University is getting an unfair share of provincial government aid, Oak Bay Liberal MLA Alan Macfarlane charged Monday.

Macfarlane said the University of Victoria is getting considerably less proportionally and as a result faces a \$6.5 million shortage in building funds by 1970.

The government's aid to Simon Fraser, Macfarlane told the legislature, will work out to \$2,571 per student by 1970. The projected comparison for the Victoria University is \$1,551 per student, he said.

Victoria's building requirements by 1970 will total \$16.2 million.

A-Blast Road Plan Favored By Loffmark

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Trade and Industry Minister Ralph Loffmark said Monday a proposal to use a peaceful atom bomb to blast a new road on Vancouver Island deserves consideration.

Loffmark was commenting on a suggestion in a letter from Courtenay realty man D. W. Wenseley to the legislature's special committee on a Strathcona Park mining townsite.

Earlier the committee was told a Western Mines townsite could be located at Comox Lake, 16 miles east of the park, and its mine, if a new road link were built.

But the road would have to circumvent a 4,000-foot barrier of rock.

COUNSELLORS' TRAINING PLAN

VICTORIA — Education Minister Leslie Peterson announced Monday his department is considering expanding training programs for school counsellors.

Peterson was answering a plea by Lois Haggen (NDP—Grand Forks) for additional counselling services in B.C. schools. However, he said he did not agree with Mrs. Haggen that counselling should be a full-time job.

MLAs TOLD 'PUBLIC DISTURBED' Scandal-mongering MPs Flayed

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. politicians Monday denounced scandal-mongering Ottawa colleagues for degrading the honor of their profession.

Indignation at the current sordid state of federal politics was expressed in the legislature by Liberal Leader Ray Perrault and Education Minister Leslie Peterson.

The trouble is, Perrault said, all politicians—both federal and provincial—have become tainted and victims of general public mistrust and cynicism.

"There is a disturbing public cynicism with some justification with respect to public life and politics and Parliament itself," Perrault said.

"When it comes to general public mistrust of politicians, in

the legislature and in Parliament, no man is an island.

"It is a problem which deeply involves every member in this legislature.

"We've a lot to do to improve our public image—and in many respects we're doing a dreadful job."

"A la Cardin," chipped in Mines Minister Don Brothers.

"No party in this house, no party in Canada has a monopoly on virtue," Perrault replied.

Perrault said young people have told him they won't go into politics because "it's a dirty job."

He said he was concerned to hear from one youngster that social studies are being cut by one hour a week at school.

The education department, Perrault said, should ensure there are good courses on

government and talks at schools by politicians.

Peterson replied there has been no specific reduction in social studies. The department sets a maximum and minimum requirement.

The present curriculum is under revision, he added.

"The school should not be held responsible for the public image of politicians — especially the politicians in another house," Peterson said.

"Certainly they (schools) teach public life is an honorable profession, but we have some responsibilities ourselves, responsibilities, I suggest, that are being completely ignored in other places today."

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby), calling for sex education in public schools, said: "After all if Parliament can have it, why can't we?"

PULP SURPLUS

Export Possible

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Resources Minister Ray Williston said Monday he is willing to consider recommendations for export of pulp logs to ease a current surplus of pulp material in B.C.

Williston said during an appearance before the legislature's forestry committee that the committee itself might give some thought to the idea to determine if it is practical.

"I'm talking right from here," he said, patting his head, "right off the top of my head, but I'd like the committee to give thought to a recommendation that might help me."

NO MARKETS

The committee was told during earlier meetings that some operators can't find markets for pulp timber, nor can they export the material freely.

They have to offer the timber to three companies and obtain refusals before they can apply to the export advisory board. But some companies won't sign refusals, blocking export chances.

Williston said he realizes that small loggers are being penalized because they can't find markets for their material.

The situation might be corrected by permitting exports for between a year and 18 months, he said.

"I don't know if this is practical but it might be considered," he said.

DEFENDS POLICY

The minister, in a review of departmental policy, also defended the government's early start on a close utilization program.

"The crown has to initiate policy as a starting point and then after gaining some experience changes must be made, if necessary," he said.

Williston said his forestry department is trying to implement the scheme as openly and fairly as possible.

"I don't accept the proposition that we have to stop and have somebody look at this thoroughly before we try anything," he said. "We have to have definite experience on which to base policy."

The Vancouver section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, in a brief to the committee Monday, called for increased restocking in the six public sustained yield units in the Vancouver forest district.

The group's brief said the forest service now plants only about 7,000 of the 50,000 acres cut each year.

It said that 15,000 acres should be planted and a backlog of 160,000 acres denuded by past logging and fires should be stocked.

O CANADA, NO CANADA

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An MLA complained Monday that a dictionary his son has to buy for school doesn't contain the word Canada.

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) told the legislature the only mention of this country is in the title — the Winston Canadian dictionary for schools. He said his son Joseph, 9, a grade four student, was told to buy the dictionary for class.

New Legislation To Curb Doctors

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C.'s 2,400 practising physicians will be subject to greater professional control and tougher disciplinary action when new laws come into effect May 1.

The measures were contained in legislation introduced Tuesday by Health Minister Eric Martin to amend the province's Medical Act for the first time in 20 years.

The act is the statute governing the medical profession in B.C. and places the responsibility of regulating the profession in the hands of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

ORDER EXAMINATIONS

New provisions contained in the amending bill will give the college council power to compel a member to submit to an examination and to restrict the doctor's scope of practice if his skill or knowledge is "found wanting."

The bill also makes emotional disturbance and addiction to alcohol or drugs grounds for suspending doctors and broadens the penalties that can be imposed.

Besides removing a doctor's name from the register for infamous or unprofessional conduct, or because of a mental ailment, emotional disturbance or addiction that might constitute a danger to the public, the college will be able to impose a fine up to \$1,000 or place the doctor on probation on the council's terms.

FULL SUSPENSION

Another amendment provides for the immediate suspension of a doctor pending outcome of a council inquiry into his conduct. Members suspended from practice will not be allowed, without written approval, to maintain an office or clinic, or display their names in connection with the practice of medicine.

The maximum penalty for a person who by fraud tries to be registered with the college is raised from \$100 to \$500, and top fines for unregistered persons who practice medicine, surgery or midwifery are similarly increased.

The maximum fine for a second offence of unlawful practice will go up from \$250 to \$1,000, and for third and subsequent offence the mandatory jail term is lengthened from three to six months.

The bill also provides for the

setting up of a temporary register and temporary certificates that can be granted to doctors to solve the problem of availability of medical services in remote areas.

OTTAWA PAYS \$27 MILLION

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The federal government will contribute \$27,419,150 towards B.C.'s \$166.9 million education budget this year, Education Minister Leslie Peterson said Tuesday.

Peterson gave the figure in answer to a question by Opposition leader Robert Strachan in the Legislature.

Peterson said \$21 million of the federal aid will be capital grants toward building technical and vocational schools.

Bill Seeks To Legalize B.C. Hydro

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government is trying to legalize four years of illegal activity by B.C. Hydro.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett Tuesday introduced a bill to the legislature which makes everything the Crown corporation has done quite legal.

Nobody is challenging the legality of Hydro's operations in court, but the possibility exists until Bennett's clean-up bill is approved.

It is the fourth attempt the government has made to legalize its takeover of the B.C. Electric Co. in 1961 and the subsequent creation of B.C. Hydro.

The new bill is retroactive to the creation of B.C. Hydro in 1962.

It says that everything Hydro has done—issuing bonds, buying property and building projects—shall be deemed to be legal.

The legal doubt about Hydro's status has been in question since the B.C. Supreme Court declared in 1963 that the statute setting it up was ultra vires.

An attempt was made the following year to clear up the status but part of that legislation was left without official proclamation until July 30, 1965.

Greater Aid Urged for Handicapped

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Socred MLA Tuesday criticized the government for being too tight to take proper care of handicapped children.

"I can't understand how any government would go on feeding Skid Road bums, sometimes buying them wine, I suppose, and spending large sums of money on keeping people in prison who perhaps shouldn't be, while it is overlooking its responsibility as far as handicapped children are concerned," Ernie LeCours of Delta told the legislature.

Lecours said the government should provide all necessary facilities for care and training of emotionally disturbed, blind and deaf children.

The necessary facilities would cost only "a few measly dollars," which would be "peanuts" compared with overall education spending, he said.

Education Minister Leslie Peterson said his department is prepared to assume its full responsibility for educating handicapped children, but LeCours should realize that treatment is another matter, and does not come within this responsibility, he said.

AT AGE 15

Dropouts Defended

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Education Minister Leslie Peterson Tuesday defended B.C.'s school leaving age of 15. He said he'd rather see students with desire than "seat-warmers" in high school. Leo Nimsick (NDP-Cranbrook) objected to the present option for children to quit school at 15.

"We have parents in this province anxious that a boy get to 15 so he won't have to go to school any longer," he said. "We should see that boy continue some form of education."

Peterson said he would like to encourage young people to stay in school beyond 15.

But, he added: "If a student isn't properly motivated perhaps he is better off going out into a mine or something and perhaps later on returning to school."

Deadlock on Labor Policy Keeps House Sitting Late

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The latest sitting this year of the B.C. legislature was called off shortly before midnight in a government-opposition deadlock on labor policy.

A fiery debate was cut off by Attorney-General Robert Bonner, the government house leader, at 11:40 p.m.

The opposition's target was Labor-Education Minister Leslie Peterson, who failed to get his labor department estimates approved after a 3¼-hour night debate.

Opposition members demanded Peterson take action on new

workmen's compensation laws recommended by a royal commission.

Peterson refused to say if action would be taken.

Peterson was also accused of being unable to handle the two big cabinet portfolios of labor and education.

Randolph Harding (NDP-Kaslo-Slocan) said labor was just "a hobby" for Peterson and challenged the minister to get up and tell Premier W. A. C. Bennett he wanted to be relieved of the labor job.

Rae Eddie (NDP—New Westminster) said labor unrest is growing and one of the reasons is that Peterson is unable to

devote his full time to the job.

Bonner cut off debate by withdrawing the labor department estimates as member after member pressed for action on the recommendations of the Tysoe Royal Commission on Compensation.

The commission was appointed four years ago and its recommendations turned in last year, and there was no excuse for government delay in implementing them, the opposition contended.

"I cannot honestly give you an answer at this time," Peterson said when asked about the recommendations.

"I can't promise anything."

"Some of the recommendations are pretty far-reaching. As far as we are concerned the remaining recommendations are under serious and urgent study."

47 RECOMMENDATIONS

The government last year announced increases in compensation pensions on the basis of the Tysoe report. But there are still 47 recommendations on which the government has not acted, including those concerning appeals and definitions of industrial accidents.

The opposition itself tried to call off the late debate, but an adjournment motion by Leo Nimsick (NDP—Cranbrook) was ruled out of order by Deputy Speaker William Speare.

Moments later, however, Speare accepted Bonner's withdrawal of the estimates until today.

'Unholy Wedlock'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Labor Minister Leslie Peterson Tuesday charged labor unrest is caused by an "unholy wedlock" of trade unions and the New Democratic Party in B.C.

Peterson predicted working men will vote against the NDP in the next election because they are disturbed about this political alliance.

The labor minister was hitting back in the legislature at opposition criticism of a B.C. law which prohibits union contributions being used for political purposes.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said it was only fair play to make business subject to a similar law.

"The companies are free to give secretly," Macdonald said.

"This is an underlying and festering cause of unrest. Any government that treats the companies with a generous hand and uses an iron fist as far as trade unions are concerned is not going to last," he added.

Peterson said political contributions are not the cause of labor unrest.

"Unrest is caused by this unholy wedlock between the NDP and the unions," he said.

"You won't get the union man's vote and working man's vote in the next election."

Peterson said he was surprised that the Opposition is still trying to "get its hands in the pockets of the working men."

Election Challenge Allowed by Bill

Defeated Candidate Protests Coquitlam School Board Ballot

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Legislation enabling a defeated candidate to challenge the validity of last year's election of school trustees in Coquitlam was introduced Tuesday in the legislature.

The legislation, introduced by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell follows a complaint by Mrs. Eileen Ripley that incorrect ballots were used in the election.

It would allow her to file a petition within 10 days of passage of the bill asking the courts to declare the election invalid. Ordinarily the period for such a petition expires 10 days after the election.

Mrs. Ripley, of 1528 Marine Crescent, Coquitlam, ran third in the election with 2,775 votes. Henry Monk, now chairman of the school board, and Mrs. Doreen York were elected with 3,975 and 3,011 votes respectively.

The legislation, an amendment to the Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act, was given first reading in the House Tuesday.

Campbell told The Sun today it was sought by Mrs. Ripley and followed the use of ballots which stated that only one school trustee was to be elected, instead of two.

He said there were delays which resulted in Mrs. Ripley being unable to file a petition in the original 10-day period.

In an interview today Coquitlam municipal clerk Francis Pobst said the time elapsed during discussions about what action should be taken.

Mrs. Ripley, however, said Pobst told her the day after the election he would seek a judicial ruling on its validity.

Pobst, returning officer for the election, said the ballot was incorrect because printers followed the wording of a specimen ballot he sent them from the previous year, when only one trustee was elected.

When the error was discovered, he instructed the deputy returning officer to place placards in each polling booth telling voters two trustees were to be elected.

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The DROs were also told to change the ballots to read "two" instead of "one" and to inform voters verbally of the change if they did not want their ballots altered.

Mrs. Ripley said about 260 ballots were rejected in the election, and this was an unusually high number for the district.

She said she saw about eight different versions of the corrected ballot, with the word "two" misspelled in some of them.

"I wasn't concerned about the results," she said. "But there is no need for the public or candidates to be faced with an incorrect ballot."

"If every ballot had been changed to read the same, I'd have said nothing."

UNIVERSITY TV URGED

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A government-financed university television channel for B.C. was advocated Tuesday by Liberal Leader Ray Perrault.

Perrault suggested in the legislature that the three public universities combine their academic resources to produce adult higher education programs.

Perrault said the government could negotiate with the federal Board of Broadcast Governors for an unused TV channel and it could call on technical assistance and advice from existing TV stations in B.C.

University Grants 'Secrecy' Rapped

Bennett Gives Assurance Fees Won't Be Boosted

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The government ran into strong criticism Tuesday over its refusal to disclose how a \$25 million grant is to be allocated to B.C.'s three public universities.

A prolonged attack on Education Minister Leslie Peterson, led by Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) and Alan Macfarlane (Lib.—Oak Bay) finally brought a statement from Premier W. A. C. Bennett that university fees will not have to be boosted this year.

But it did not produce answers to questions about how the money will be shared, or whether it is enough to meet the universities' requests.

Macfarlane accused the government of asking MLAs to vote for a blank cheque, and Dowding charged that university spending is being conducted under a veil of secrecy.

OPERATING GRANTS

The opposition protests were over the allocation of operating grants to University of B.C., Simon Fraser University, and University of Victoria.

Education estimates set out in

detail the amounts that will be paid to each in capital grants.

But the operating grants of \$25 million are shown as a 'lump sum.'

"I think it is a breach of every rule of Parliament that you come before this House and ask us to spend \$25 million of the taxpayers' money and not justify that expenditure," Dowding said.

'WRITTEN INTO LAW'

"It should be written into the law that budgets be presented to this House before they get their money."

"You want to control the universities," government MLAs shouted.

"You want to run them in secret," Dowding retorted.

Peterson said the universities can publish their budgets if they wish.

"The responsibility of the government is to assist them

through grants," he said.

"I can understand why the government doesn't want the budgets to be published," said Dowding. "Because the government would be under pressure to increase funds to universities and so it is done in silence."

'TELL HOUSE'

"If the minister doesn't know what the budgets are he's completely derelict in his duty and if he does know he should tell this House."

"We're not here to issue blank cheques," said Macfarlane.

"This is information which the House must have to consider whether the amounts granted by the legislature are adequate or not."

"If there is a fee increase this year, the responsibility will rest fully on the shoulders of the government and on the minister of education."

Bennett joined the debate saying: "I don't think there'll be an increase this year."

Opposition MLA asked him for an assurance.

"In my considered opinion there will not be a fee increase this year," Bennett said.

The education department estimates totalling \$166.9 million were approved after 1½ hours.

Peterson Predicts Cut in School Tax

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Education Minister Leslie Peterson announced Tuesday details of increased government school grants which he said will cut taxes for many B.C. homeowners.

He told the legislature the grant boost will mean the government this year will pay more than half the total cost of operating schools.

The increased grants will come from an \$8.3 million boost in the government's allocation for public school aid, which totals \$86 million.

Peterson said the exact amount will not be known until school board budgets are reviewed April 15.

NEW FORMULA

The grants are being boosted by two changes in the financing formula: An increase of \$50 in the flat rate paid to school boards for every teacher; and a revision of teacher salary scales on which additional aid is based.

Peterson also indicated there will be a third change—a cut in

the mill rate which school districts must raise before they are entitled to government operating grants.

This would result in the government sharing a greater proportion of school budgets.

The minister said the increases are an attempt to put grants on a more realistic basis compared with actual costs. The previous formula was based on 1960 costs.

TEACHER GRANT

The straight grant for each teacher will be boosted to \$2,610 from \$2,560. This money is to pay for administration, supplies, operation and maintenance of schools.

The grants, which are based on teacher salaries will be brought into line with 1965 wages, Peterson said.

Grants will now be based on a salary range of \$2,800 to \$8,460 a year, a range which covers six teaching certificate classifications.

The range was formerly \$2,600 to \$7,960.

Peterson said the new salary range is slightly more than 90

per cent of actual salaries paid last year.

"The grants should be somewhat less than actual costs if there is going to be some financial responsibility on the part of the school districts," he said.

Peterson said there will be no change in the government's 50 per cent grants toward school capital costs, for which \$13 million has been allocated this year.

APPLIES TO BUDGET

The operating grant formula is used to apply to school budgets after deduction of a fixed mill rate which all districts must raise on their own.

This mill rate was 15.95 last year, but Peterson indicated it will be reduced this year.

At present the government is committed to pay up to half of the total province-wide schooling cost.

But the new grant formula plus a change in the mill rate should mean the government will pay more than half, Peterson said.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1966

BENNETT WARNING:

'I'll Fight Next Election On General Strike Issue'

By IAN MacALPINE
and FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett announced Wednesday he will fight the next provincial election on the issue of labor's threat to call a general strike in British Columbia.

This disclosure—at the climax of an 11-hour labor debate in the legislature — strengthened reports here that the government plans to outlaw general strikes.

NDP BLAMED

It followed charges by Bennett and Labor Minister Leslie Peterson that the New Democratic Party was behind last fall's threatened two-day province-wide walk-out.

The charges and opposition counter attacks culminated a day-long battle that took the legislature into its first morning sitting of the session.

During the angry exchanges, Peterson was called a fake minister and a liar, Bennett was branded a dictator and his government phoney, Opposition leader Robert Strachan was labelled an anarchist, and the entire opposition was accused of obstruction.

PETERSON SAVED

The government majority saved Peterson in a vote after he refused to bring in reforms in workmen's compensation laws.

It was the government's failure to implement further recommendations of the Tysoe Royal Commission on Compensation that sparked the bedlam.

Peterson exploded after opposition charges that he was only a part-time minister and unable to handle the province's labor problems.

"You're an advocate of anarchy, that's what you are," Peterson shouted at Strachan.

"You supported the strike. You violated your oath of office."

Bennett then leaped to his feet to add: "That's the big issue of the election—the general strike."

Bennett said the NDP will soon hear much more about that strike and the party's role in it.

'HEAR MORE'

"You'll hear a lot more. We're going to have lots to say about that," said the premier.

Strachan said the NDP knew absolutely nothing about the threatened strike and Peterson had been spreading untruths about the NDP being involved.

"I did not tell an untruth," Peterson replied. "I said it was instigated by the political bedfellows of the NDP. I stand by it and say it's true."

"That statement is an outright lie," protested John Squire (NDP—Alberni).

"Call yourself a minister of labor? You should resign right now. You're not fit to hold office," added Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan).

Squire said it was the Socred government's anti-labor policies that led to the strike threat and predicted they would precipitate more labor unrest this year.

SHUTDOWN SEEN

"Unless you change the rules and regulations for the ferries those ferries will be shutdown this summer," Squire predicted.

"I'll remember that threat," answered Bennett. "You're inciting them."

"That's not a threat. I'm telling you," shot back Squire.

"You call that strike and we'll know who's responsible," Bennett retorted.

The charges of opposition obstruction were made by Peterson, pleading for House approval of his departmental estimates, and by House supply committee chairman Bill Speare (SC—Cariboo) who said the marathon debate was repetitious and tedious.

BRANDED DICTATOR

Bennett, who was absent for much of the early wrangling on compensation benefits, was branded a dictator by Dave Barrett (NDP—Dewdney).

"You sleep all day then come back and ram things through this House," he said.

Peterson's estimates of \$6.1 million were finally passed just after midnight and the House adjourned at 12:12 a.m. with Bennett wishing everyone happy St. Patrick's Day.

The Opposition moved twice to have the minister's office

vote tabled until Peterson had drawn up changes in the compensation act.

Strachan also tried to boost the allocation for compensation benefits from \$2.5 million to \$7.5 million.

All three efforts were crushed by the government majority vote.

But on the first move Strachan caught the government with only 14 members in their seats against 17 opposition MLAs.

However, Socreds came scurrying from the parliamentary dining room in time for the standing vote, which was 24 to 18 against his motion.

The second time, the vote was 28 to 16.

Peterson told the Opposition he could not definitely say whether there would be compensation legislation this session.

Pressed again and again for a promise to make changes in the laws, Peterson said a special committee of civil servants is still studying the Tysoe commission report but added:

"The answer is no at this time."

"It doesn't matter how long you obstruct the passage of my estimates, it won't change that no into a yes. The only thing that will change that no into a yes is progress in this committee."

'RUNNING AWAY'

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) said the government was running away from the issue.

"You're flying in the face of prudence, conscience and compassion," Dowding said.

Leo Nimsick (NDP—Cranbrook) the most persistent pleader for a better compensation deal, said pension increases granted last fall were inadequate.

Nimsick said in some cases the increases amounted to only 69 cents a month. This was an extra allowance supposed to meet recent increases in the cost of living.

Harding said government MLAs and ministers had been quick to protect their political survival during earlier debates on redistribution.

"Why aren't you up on your feet now? This is more important," Harding said.

3 Farmers Aided

Sun Staff Reporter

GRAND FORKS — Agriculture Minister Frank Richter has come to the aid of three Grand Forks farmers following a bitter attack on him by B.C.'s lone woman MLA.

LETTER FLAP

Peterson Criticized

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Labor Minister Leslie Peterson was accused Wednesday of playing cheap politics by using a defeated Socred candidate as an information channel.

Peterson and Bill Hartley (NDP-Yale) yelled at each other across the floor of the legislature about a letter which was released to a newspaper by Irvine Corbett, Hartley's defeated Socred rival.

Hartley said he had written a letter to Peterson about the steelworkers' strike at Craigmont Mine.

Peterson, he said, sent a copy of his reply to Corbett, who released it to the press.

Peterson replied that Hartley's original letter had been an open letter which was also published in a newspaper.

Hartley said Peterson was guilty of contemptible politics.

Legislation Allows Tax On Pulp Mill

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Legislation to allow Squamish to tax Rayonier Canada Ltd.'s Woodfibre pulp mill was introduced in the legislature Tuesday.

Under an amendment to the Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act introduced by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell, the district will be able to charge the company up to one mill for diking and flood control.

The amendment also provides that if the firm is charged a business tax, the money will go into a special fund to help pay for construction of a road from Squamish to Woodfibre.

Premature municipal elections held last year in Invermere and Masset are also validated by provisions in the bill.

Richter announced Wednesday the provincial government has purchased 150 head of contaminated cattle from the farmers.

A year ago the stock was found to be contaminated by the pesticide Dieldrin.

Mrs. Lois Haggen (NDP-Grand Forks-Greenwood) charged in the legislature March 9 that the agriculture minister was failing to grapple with the problem of poison pesticides.

She demanded provincial government compensation for farmers in her area who, she said, have been ruined by pesticide contamination of dairy herds.

Richter and agriculture officials Roy Wilkinson and S. B. Peterson held talks Wednesday with the three farmers — Ricky de Vries, Peter de Haan and John Schiller.

"I can't disclose what we paid for the cattle, but I know the farmers were satisfied," Richter said.

Richter also said he had contacted the federal department of agriculture on Monday and proposed that its representatives meet with the farmers to discuss compensation for damages to the farms.

The farms were shut down about a year ago when high concentrations of the pesticide were found in meat and milk products from them.

Later they started producing again but were shut down a second time.

Kindergarten Plea Fails

VICTORIA — Education Minister Leslie Peterson said Tuesday B.C. cannot afford to have compulsory kindergartens because of a teacher shortage.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan pressed in the legislature for more kindergartens in public schools.

Peterson said last year 12,210 pupils in 26 school districts went to public kindergartens. This compares to an estimated Grade 1 enrolment in all schools of up to 40,000.

However, many children attend private kindergartens, Peterson added.

Peterson said providing kindergartens in all schools would take too many teachers.

Martin Slammed On Chronic Care

'Families Wiped Out Financially,' Perrault Accuses Minister

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Much of the criticism of the government's chronic care program comes from people who see their inheritance disappearing in private hospital bills, Health Minister Eric Martin said Thursday.

He made the statement in the legislature at the height of an opposition storm of criticism over the high cost of extended care in private hospitals and the government's failure to make \$1-a-day care available to all.

Several NDP and Liberal MLAs charged Martin has done nothing but make promises during the past 14 years while the problem of caring for chronically-ill patients worsened.

"Thousands of families have been wiped out financially because of the callous indifference of this government to chronic care," said Liberal leader Ray Perrault.

'NO INDICATION'

"There is no indication that you are even trying to meet one of the most serious problems in B.C."

Dave Barrett (NDP — Dewdney) said Martin is trying to fool MLAs by saying B.C. has one of the best chronic care plans in Canada.

Opposition MLAs said they have thick files of letters from people complaining about costs of caring for patients in private hospitals.

"The next-of-kin get angry because they see an inheritance disappearing," Martin replied. "I've experienced it personally."

His statement brought shouts of "shocking" from opposition benches.

PAYING THEIR WAY

Martin continued: "If they weren't in private hospitals they might be in boarding homes but they would still have to pay their way."

"But many prefer a room in a private hospital, even at higher rates, and they're not even hospital patients. They should be in a boarding home."

"But their next-of-kin don't like it," Martin added.

Barrett said Martin has been a total failure in dealing with chronic care.

"I don't agree," Martin said. "You're the only one who doesn't," said Barrett.

"I know of resentment that exists in your backbenches."

'TERRIBLE STATEMENT'

"That's the most terrible statement ever made in this house by a minister that next-of-kin are trying to dodge their responsibility and protect their inheritance."

"You are a failure, Mr. Minister, and you should hang your head in shame."

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the government should have been providing a program of non-profit chronic care beds rather than encouraging expansion of private hospitals.

Earlier, William Hartley (NDP—Yale) said the profit motive must be removed from chronic care.

The only way to do this, he said, is to buy out or expropriate all approved private, profit-making hospitals and place them under B.C. Hospital Insurance Service.

'DODGING ISSUE'

"The minister has been dodging this issue for years and if he can't take the necessary action then he should resign and admit that he is powerless to help the thousands who are paying through the nose for chronic care," he said.

"He should admit that Social Credit policy is that chronic care is a free enterprise business."

Macdonald said it will cost the government about \$37 million to buy the 3,695 beds in private hospitals, twice what they cost to build.

"I'm sure they welcome your offer to buy them out," he told Martin.

'RESIGN' CALL

Macdonald said he agreed that Martin has no alternative but to resign.

Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan) also said Martin should resign.

He said the minister announced that chronic care was available to all chronically ill.

But the health department's definition of a chronic patient is a person who can't walk or use a wheel chair, and who needs the constant aid of a graduate nurse.

"You'd have to be an Egyptian mummy to qualify for extended care," Barrett interjected.

'CRUEL HOAX'

Perrault accused Martin of conducting a cruel political hoax on the public by promising chronic care and not delivering.

"That's the old political guff and nonsense you've been peddling since 1952," Perrault said.

Martin protested that the federal government was a major obstacle in the way of B.C.'s chronic care program, because it wouldn't include extended care in the hospital insurance scheme.

DRESSED DOWN

Heckler Disciplined For Insult

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Backbench Socred sniper Waldo Skillings was disciplined for insulting the legislature's only woman member Tuesday.

The Victoria Socred makes few speeches, but is fond of heckling from his seat.

He tried it Thursday on Lois Hagen (NDP—Grand Forks).

Mrs. Hagen said Premier W. A. C. Bennett had been acting like a mother hen with her chicks by an indignant defence earlier of his cabinet ministers, one of whom was Agriculture Minister Frank Richter.

She recalled Richter had promised help to farmers who were losing money because of pesticide contamination after she had given him a raking in the house.

House chairman Bill Speare (SC—Cariboo) ticked her off for talking about agriculture during a debate on health.

Chipped in Skillings: "You are hiding behind your skirts."

There was a moment of shocked silence, then Speare turned on Skillings, jumping to his feet in anger and ordered the Socred backbencher to withdraw the remark in apology.

"If you order me, I withdraw," Skillings conceded.

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Assessment Curbs Planned, Plus Cash for Home-Buying

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government plans to curb soaring assessments and is considering a special cash grant to people who want to buy homes, Premier W. A. C. Bennett announced Thursday.

Limits on annual assessment increases are set in a bill introduced to the legislature.

Bennett disclosed his radical plan to help people of modest means to buy homes in an interview.

The bill would prohibit assessments on land and buildings from being boosted more than five per cent a year.

The limit would apply so long as there is no change in the

characteristics of the land or improvements or new construction.

"This is one of the most important things of this session," Bennett said. "We're not going to let taxes be raised 50 per cent and assessments 50 per cent. This is to give people a little security."

Bennett also disclosed that what started out as an idea to offer loans to people who cannot afford a down payment now may turn into a straight cash gift.

The idea, which Bennett floated earlier in the session was to encourage rent-to-purchase schemes, so people now forced to rent would get a chance to benefit from the \$110 home-owner grant.

Bennett said in the interview he has been mulling it over in an attempt to find a practical way to assist such people.

"It may be an outright grant," he said.

"Not a loan?" he was asked.

"A non-repayable grant," the premier replied.

Bennett said he had planned to take some action on the idea next year.

"I shouldn't say next year," he said Thursday. "The announcement might come next month or in the next few weeks."

Pressed for more details, Bennett smiled and said: "Don't quote me too much."

Then he sped off.

Dentists Accused Of Profiteering

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Dentists have been making as much as \$120 profit on false teeth they bought for only \$30 a set, a special legislative committee was told Thursday.

The statement was made by George Connolly, of Vancouver, president of the Dental Mechanics and Public Denturists Society.

An affidavit sworn by Connolly was presented to MLAs on a committee considering the whole legal question of mechanics and technicians being able to fit and make teeth in direct dealings with the public.

Accompanying the affidavit was a brief from Connolly's society which charged that dentists are opposing the mechanics because they fear competition.

LIMITED

At present mechanics are permitted to deal with the public only if a dentist or doctor supplies a patient with a certificate. The College of Dental Surgeons has told the committee it wants this practice discontinued and if not, then a freeze on licensing of mechanics.

Connolly said in his affidavit he had been employed as a

technician in a major dental laboratory in Vancouver between 1939 and 1954.

He made false teeth for dentists on "an assembly line basis."

"At the time of my leaving that employment in 1954, I was in receipt of a wage of \$75 per week," Connolly's affidavit said.

50 PER WEEK

"At that time the laboratory by which I was employed was constructing approximately 50 dentures per week.

"The average paid to the laboratory by the dentists at that time was \$30 per complete denture.

"The average price at which the dentures were sold by the dentists to the public was \$150 per complete denture."

Connolly's affidavit said that since 1963 when the dental college issued new regulations, dentists have only rarely cooperated with mechanics and he believes the reason is threats of discipline and of pressure.

B.C. Widens Stock Probe Ground Rules

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The B.C. government intends to get around a court defeat by changing its Securities Act to permit wide powers for investigating stock trading.

A change in the act, introduced in the legislature by Attorney-General Robert Bonner Thursday, allows him to appoint any person to make an investigation of any matter relating to trading in securities.

Bonner said the move follows a ruling of the B.C. Court of Appeal which said the present wording of the act does not permit certain types of inquiry.

The ruling was on an appeal by International Claim Brokers Ltd., against an investigation by William Kinsey, as agent for the attorney-general in 1964.

Bonner said his department has not yet decided what to do in this particular case.

Bonner also said, in an interview, he has asked for copies of a bill introduced to the Ontario legislature this week changing that province's Securities Act.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1966

Resignation of Martin Demanded by Six MLAs

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Six MLAs Thursday demanded the resignation of Health Minister Eric Martin.

A seventh charged Martin is responsible for a medical crisis in B.C. which threatens the health of the public.

Martin was told in the legislature he is inept and incapable. MLAs spent six hours debating his salary estimates.

He got his salary at the end of a late night sitting — but only after promising he would do his best to give answers and information on more questions when the rest of his departmental estimates come before the house, probably next Monday.

CHRONIC CARE

Martin was attacked for failing to provide adequate chronic care and for refusing to help solve an acute hospital bed shortage in Vancouver.

The MLAs who demanded his resignation were: Opposition leader Robert Strachan, Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby, Randolph Harding (NDP-Kaslo-Slocan), Bill Hartley (NDP-Yale), Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) and Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East).

Dr. Pat McGeer (L-Point Grey) accused Martin of creating a medical crisis.

"There's a serious medical crisis in B.C. which is a

spending in line with a 1954 commitment that two points of the five-per-cent sales tax be used for hospitals.

Martin replied that Dr. McGeer is "out of the main stream of hospital life."

"He is a very respected and admired research doctor and does valuable work and I respect him for it," Martin said. "But when he comes down out of his ivory tower and gets milling around among people who don't know what they're talking about he brings information in here and just dumps it."

Martin said the government has tremendous co-operation with the medical profession.

"It is a mistake to give too much leadership because you get so far ahead they lose sight of you — that's precisely what's happened," Martin said.

He said he realized there had been "a great cloak of apathy" over the Vancouver hospital situation.

"Why has VGH become such a large hospital — the largest in Canada, the largest in the Commonwealth?"

"The answer is disturbing and we only found out a short time ago. Vancouver council would recognize only VGH for grants in aid of construction and renovation. The eight other hospitals in the city were deprived."

Martin said this situation was recognized only 18 months to two years ago.

consequence of the chain of events which has been clearly laid before the minister year after year in this house," Dr. McGeer said.

"Anyone would be foolish to deny medical care in this province is being jeopardized as a result of this man holding the position of minister."

BRINGS UP COMPLAINTS

Dr. McGeer then related documented complaints and problems at Vancouver General Hospital, many of them reported recently in The Sun.

Doctors at VGH have been told they must either limit the time patients stay in the hospital, cut off use of the emergency ward to general practitioners known as "visiting staff" or close the emergency ward, Dr. McGeer said.

Dr. McGeer blamed Martin for the fact that B.C. has slipped from No. 1 spender on hospital care per patient in Canada to seventh in the past six years.

"It is the doctors, whose duty it is to guard our health, who are being impaired in this function by the ineptitude of the minister and his government," Dr. McGeer said.

"He just has to have the wits to take advice."

Dr. McGeer called for a comprehensive province-wide study of hospital needs for the next 10 years; creation of a provincial hospital financing authority and more government

'Refund' for Anyone Paying Over \$140 for False Teeth

Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA — Anyone who pays more than \$140 for false teeth without a prior understanding with his dentist is entitled to a refund, the president of the College of Dental Surgeons of B.C. said today.

D. W. P. Munsie of Vancouver told this to MLAs on a special committee of the legislature which is studying the right of dental mechanics to deal directly with the public in fitting and supplying teeth.

The schedule of fees laid down by the college is \$140 for a set of dentures, Dr. Munsie said.

Members of the public who

are charged more than this are entitled to money back "unless the dentist has told them beforehand," Dr. Munsie said.

APPLY FOR REFUND

"There must be an understanding or an estimate," he said.

The public can apply for a refund to the registrar of the college, Dr. Munsie said.

He said the college has a procedure for taxing dentists similar to the scheme used by the legal profession when fees are protested.

MLAs on the committee were amazed at Dr. Munsie's disclosure.

"You'd better get your cheque books out," said Cyril Shelford (SC-Omineca).

"I know there are lots of people who have paid more," said chairman Jim Chabot (SC-Columbia).

FEW COMPLAIN

Dr. Munsie said there have in fact been only a few applications for refunds.

"That is because the average fee is just about \$140 or \$150," he said.

Shelford said perhaps the public was unaware of the college rule which entitles it to refunds.

He said he knew of someone who had paid \$1,250 for a set of false teeth.

Dr. Munsie said that if there had been no prior agreement, then that person would be entitled to get back \$1,110.

James NESBITT

VICTORIA—Arthur Turner of Vancouver East, who has never changed his political stripes, only his label from CCF to NDP, said in the legislature the other day this Bennett government that calls itself Social Credit is just like the Coalition government of Liberals and Conservatives from 1941 to 1952.

Mr. Turner ought to know. He has been in the House under both Coalition and Social Credit. He should have a clearer view than the premier, who has been in the House as long as Mr. Turner, but Mr. Bennett has jumped around, changing both his political stripes and his label, taking second looks, saying one thing and doing the opposite.

Mr. Turner has been an observer of both Coalition and Social Credit. It's the spectator, you know, who really sees the game much better than the players.

The Social Credit government, said Mr. Turner, after due thought and much weighing of the scales, has the identical attitudes, the very same approach, the wily methods and the worn-out techniques of those Liberals and Conservatives who formed a coalition because they were afraid of the socialists.

Why, he said, this Social Credit government even has a hatchet man, just like the Coalition. He recalled, deadpan, that he used to see Coalition hatchet men in action. He didn't say who they were, but he did name the one who, to him, is Social Credit's chief hatchet-man: Education-Labor Minister Leslie Peterson.

Hearing this, himself thus dubbed, Mr. Peterson, a little pale, because oppositionists were giving him a bad drubbing, looked astonished. He a hatchet-man? Of all the nonsense!

He gagged a bit, but said nothing, because he feels sure he's a hatchet-man for nobody, not even himself. A hatchet-man? His incredulous looks did not discourage Mr. Turner. Yes, a hatchet-man, that's what Mr. Peterson is.

I think Mr. Turner meant by this that Mr. Peterson takes out his little sharp axe, in other words a smooth tongue, and tries to chop down oppositionists when they get too noisy and tough. I further interpreted Mr. Turner's remarks to mean that Mr. Peterson always has that little axe ready, and when the premier gives him a nod he gets up and swings it, making excuses for government sins as he does so.

Well, in Mr. Turner's view, Mr. Peterson need not look so innocent and pretend he's not

a hatchet-man for the government, because he is. Mr. Turner, you see, is an old hand hereabouts, and he's quite sure he knows a hatchet-man when he sees one, and to him Mr. Peterson has all the signs.

Somehow, Mr. Peterson doesn't look like a hatchet-man, but then, you know, you never can tell. There's some truth in the old saying that you can't judge a book by its cover.

Anyway, as far as Mr. Turner's concerned, the Social Credit government treads, stubbornly, sloppily, along the same old Liberal-Conservative pathway, which statement irritated both Liberals and Social Crediters.

These two camps have a deadly political hate, the one for the other, and there was that Mr. Turner lumping them all together — in their view a most terrible insult, which is just what Mr. T. intended.

Parental Cruelty Seen B.C. Problem

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Parental cruelty to children is becoming so common in B.C. that doctors and coroners are expressing concern, the legislature was told Thursday.

"Child abuse is far more common than people realize," said Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East).

He said more and more defenseless youngsters are being beaten by parents who are either mean or mentally defective.

"Doctors and coroners in

Ontario are discussing it, and in B.C., too," he said.

Macdonald, speaking during review of health department estimates, asked Health Minister Eric Martin if the government is considering legislation that would make it mandatory for doctors to report cases of child abuse, and laws to protect doctors from libel and slander in making such reports.

"I have no comment at the moment," Martin replied.

When pressed for an assurance that the minister recognizes the problem, Martin replied: "All these things are under study day by day."

"The time may come very shortly when we in the legislature must act," said Macdonald, a lawyer.

Fluoridate Our Water, Gov't Urged

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government should be taking steps to provide for fluoridation of drinking water, Dr. Pat McGeer (L—Vancouver-Point Grey) told the legislature Thursday night.

The MLA, speaking during review of health department estimates, said one in three U.S. residents and one in six Canadians drink fluoridated water.

But in B.C. only one in 25 people drinks water that has been treated with fluorides to help prevent dental decay, he said.

In the state of Connecticut it is mandatory that water be fluoridated, McGeer said.

"The minister (Health Minister Eric Martin) needs some guidance on this," said the MLA.

McGeer said that 14 B.C. municipalities have rejected fluoridation in the past two years.

"When this kind of thing is going on, we are moving in the opposite direction to the world," he said.

"Nothing but benefit comes from this and we don't seem able to progress."

He asked if the government is prepared to do anything, but Martin did not reply.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1966

CABARET PROBLEM

Bonner Eases Liquor Laws

Bill Wipes Out Minimum Fines

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Robert Bonner Thursday introduced changes in the Liquor Act to meet Vancouver's cabaret problem and to ease fines for people who serve drinks to minors.

Bonner's bill, given first reading in the legislature, sets out a definition of cabarets and also wipes out minimum fines.

The cabaret definition is a very broad one that allows for later modification through Liquor Control Board regulations.

Bonner said this is because the city has agreed to alter its cabaret licensing bylaw to conform with the government definition and the details have still to be worked out.

The definition in the bill: "Part of an establishment or an establishment provided with special accommodation, facilities and equipment as prescribed by the regulations where, in consideration of payment therefore, food and such special services as may be prescribed by the regulations are regularly furnished to the public and liquor is served."

Bonner said entertainment will be a key factor in approval of cabaret licences.

Entertainment could include dancing, music or a show, he said.

"Vancouver and ourselves will work it out," he added.

"We want to establish a fairly widespread public entertainment community that is of a good and acceptable standard not only to local patrons but to tourists."

Bonner said the licensing move will enable authorities to halt what he called "clandestine competitors" to bona fide cabarets.

These are places which cannot get a licence from the LCB but are now permitting under-the-table drinking.

Bonner said seven Vancouver

night clubs which have been refused LCB licences will be reviewed by a city committee, but some of the 14 clubs now operating which have never sought an LCB licence and probably don't want one, could be closed down.

The attorney-general said fines for offences involving serving liquor to minors have been sharply criticized and this is the reason he is eliminating the minimums and reducing maximums.

At present, minors caught on licensed premises face a fine of from \$50 to \$300. Under the change, the fine would be up to \$150.

Bartenders or waiters who serve liquor to minors are currently liable to a fine from \$300 to \$1,000.

This will be reduced to a maximum of \$150.

Fines for owners of premises where minors are served liquor are now \$1,000 to \$4,000.

These will be limited to a maximum of \$150 for a first offence and \$2,000 for a subsequent offence.

Bennett Charges 'Personal Attacks'

He Hints at B.C. Election As He Defends Ministers

By IAN MACALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett angrily charged in the legislature Thursday that the opposition has mounted a deliberate campaign of personal attacks on his ministers.

During a sudden outburst, Bennett dropped another broad hint that British Columbians are not far from a general election.

He exploded during House consideration of health department spending estimates.

Health Minister Eric Martin had been under heavy fire from the opposition benches and five MLAs had demanded his resignation. A sixth made the demand later.

"I've noticed a deliberate campaign," said Bennett. "First against one minister and then against another. In all the years I've been here I've never heard such attacks."

"Here with the minister of

agriculture, the best we've ever had, then an attack on the attorney-general, that he should resign, then on the minister of education and labor, the best that any country ever had.

"No wonder we're going to the country. We're not going to stand for the insults and personal attacks on the duly-elected ministers of the province."

Opposition MLAs shouted that Bennett was making more threats.

"I make no threats," the premier said. "I make commitments."

Cooling off, Bennett said: "And now the leader of the Opposition wants to make a speech."

"The only difference between my speech and yours is that my speech will be factual," NDP leader Robert Strachan said.

"Obviously the ministers and the premier are now living in fear and trembling. Otherwise they would not be so jumpy, if we were not getting through the chinks in the armor they put on so well."

Strachan charged that Bennett was saying the opposition has no right to criticize the ministers — "their policies, their lack of policies and their inability to do their jobs."

But the Opposition leader said MLAs on his side of the House will continue to point out errors and weaknesses of the government.

"The premier can resent all he likes — he can threaten us, but he'll never intimidate us," Strachan said.

"We are going to continue to expose the shallowness of this government and its hoaxes on the people year after year."

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Gov't Stays Mum On Election Date

Opposition Goads Ministers In Legislature 'Con Game'

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—The legislature played election games again Friday, with the opposition trying to smoke out a date from the government.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black called it a con game.

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) accused the government of trying to goad the opposition into giving it an excuse for calling a provincial election.

"This election has been planned all along," Macdonald said.

BLAME OPPOSITION

"You want an election this year and you want to blame it on us."

The occasion was committee debate — clause by clause study — on the government's Redistribution Bill.

The bill was approved in committee stage, but still has to be given third and final reading. A vote will disclose then if Socred rebels, who opposed the bill earlier, are satisfied with an amendment which gives the Kootenays an extra seat.

The bill provides for 55 seats in the legislature, three more than at present.

Opposition MLAs, who have charged the government was gerrymandering, failed to persuade the government to pull back the bill and send it to the Angus Royal Commission for review.

ALTERED PLAN

The government altered the redistribution plan proposed earlier by the commission, by giving northern B.C. two extra seats and the Kootenays one more. It also adjusted electoral boundaries in Vancouver to create six two-member ridings instead of 12 one-MLA ridings.

Macdonald suggested that if the government insists on calling an election, it should get new recommendations from the Angus commission and call a special session of the legislature to approve them later in the year.

Then the election could be based on new boundaries drawn up impartially, he said.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan tangled with Black over a section of the bill which changes the legal rules for a byelection.

Normally a byelection would have to be held early this year to fill the vacancy caused in

December by the death of North Okanagan Socred George McLeod. The bill allows the government to wait until November or leave the seat vacant until there is a general election, whichever is sooner.

Strachan said this means a general election is planned.

NO INFORMATION

"I have no information from any source or anyone about an election," Black replied.

When Strachan pressed the point, Black refused to answer. Black said the opposition was playing a con game. He said the opposition was pursuing a course of personal abuse at the session.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said the redistribution had become a comic opera because of all the changes made by the government.

He said Premier W. A. C. Bennett might suddenly decide to add another two or three seats next week.

"It's like a bingo game," said John Squire (NDP-Alberni). "It's like double or nothing," added Perrault.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner said the redistribution plan was as good as could be expected.

NOT BAD DEAL

It gives 26 seats to the Lower Mainland, he said — "not a bad representation when you have much of that whole area also served by municipal government."

Dr. Pat McGeer (L.—Point Grey) said adding seats in the North and Kootenays had destroyed the electoral balance achieved by the royal commission.

It had made the new two-member riding of Point Grey equal in the number of voters to the seven proposed ridings of Kaslo-Revelstoke, Columbia River, North Peace, Omineca, Prince Rupert and Skeena.

John Tisdalle (SC—Saanich), who earlier said he would oppose the bill on third reading, did a turnabout. He said he had decided to support it because the general public did not seem concerned and had not complained.

100,000 Use Private Forest Roads

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Forest companies opened their private roads to more than 100,000 British Columbians last year, a legislative committee was told Friday.

The program of allowing the general public on to private lands worked out well generally, but there was a problem of theft and vandalism, five firms said in briefs reviewing the program, which started in 1960.

MacMillan, Bloedel and Powell River Co. reported that 56,861 people travelled over its 3,016 miles of logging roads to fish, hunt, pick berries and sightsee.

Crown Zellerbach Ltd. said about 27,000 people used its roads, and another 24,000 travelled over roads owned by Canadian Forest Products Ltd.

Most of the roads are on Vancouver Island.

MB&PR said chain saws, tools, fire extinguishers, gasoline and other equipment were stolen.

In one incident, a hunter's bullet struck a guy wire on a spar tree. The company said if the damage had not been noticed the wire could have snapped, killing workmen.

A 1,700-acre fire at Kelsey Bay last fall, started by a hunter, cost the company \$15,000 to suppress and destroyed 27 million board feet of timber.

Hydro to Consider End of Rail Spur

Elimination of a B.C. Hydro railway spur through Burnaby's Central Park will be considered by company directors.

Resources Minister Ray Williston, who is also a director of B.C. Hydro, has agreed to raise the matter with the company at the request of the park's development committee.

Committee chairman Ebbie Bowering reported to a committee meeting Thursday that he has received written agreement from Williston to raise the matter with B.C. Hydro.

"This is the first positive progress we have made towards

elimination of this railway," commented Bowering.

The railway right-of-way, about 150 feet wide, cuts across the northeast corner of the park which is being developed jointly by Burnaby and Vancouver.

The committee accepted a low bid of \$14,690 by Terra Irrigation Ltd. of Burnaby for construction of an irrigation system in the park's 18-hole, 24-acre, pitch and putt course now under construction.

Only other bid received was from G. J. Plumbing and Heating Ltd. of Vancouver for \$19,412.

James NESBITT

VICTORIA—When Premier W. A. C. Bennett is out of the house for long spells, as he has been of late, everyone wonders what he's dreaming up in the quiet of his big office that looks out over the capital's Inner Harbor scene of beauty and bustle.

For instance, one day he went into seclusion, and then bobbed back into the house to announce two seats in Columbia riding, so as to placate two of his backbench rebels, though he didn't admit the latter, of course.

Mr. Bennett never lets on in public that he ever figures out anything on a political basis.

As far as he's concerned it's always what's best for the people, or that's what he says for public consumption. That's his theme song, and, rigidly, he stays with the tune.

This session is nearing its end, but anything could happen before prorogation day, anything except an announcement by the premier of an election date.

The rest of the session depends on which of the premier's dreams he chooses to make come true, and take form in the way of last-minute legislation.

It's this last-minute stuff that really makes a shambles of the legislature.

MLAs take opposite views of the premier's absences. Oppositionists are sure he's hatching sinister plots against them and the people.

Government men are sure the premier's formulating wise and statesmanlike policies that will redound to the benefit of all, even his political enemies, who are always hoping he'll be pitched out of the premier's chair, so that British Columbia may be saved from Social Credit ruination.

I only know, though in no detail, that the premier always dreams his dreams, and plans his plans with one definite thought in mind—the perpetuation of himself and his Social Crediters in office, because he's convinced that

without them British Columbia would fall flat on its face. The premier always says it's the government that sets the legislative opening day, but that it's the opposition which rules when prorogation day will come.

This is true to a very great extent, but when last-minute legislation comes rolling in, what's the poor opposition going to do? Sit in stunned silence?

The premier hopes so, but in this he usually fails.

The opposition rallies when it deems it necessary; there'll be no opposition silence if the



NESBITT

Jack

WASSERMAN

NEWS TO YOU — Victoria

Socred Waldo Skillings, who got nailed by fellow Socred William Speare for shooting from the lip in the Legislature this week, has been even more outspoken outside the House. A debate that started on TV with Liberal Pat McGeer ended in a hotel room with Waldo screaming that McGeer wanted more money for UBC so that he could get a personal raise in pay. Waldo then blurted, "You were nearly fired for your political activity but (UBC president) Macdonald saved your job." McGeer, who probably takes home less pay than any highly-qualified doctor in B.C. despite his job at UBC and his political stipend, blew his stack and demanded a written apology. The exchange took place in front of at least 10 people. Waldo was slightly wrong. Not even the government would get a UBC prof fired for political activity. But shortly after McGeer's successful anti-government campaign in a Point Grey byelection a move was made to block his promotion from assistant to associate professor and his appointment as director of the Kinsmen Lab. For shame!

government jams in legislation in the dying hours. Oppositionists will then prolong the dying hours, and that's all there is to it.

Perhaps, on the other hand, the Premier stays out of the house in the hope of speeding the session. When he's there, oppositionists waste time trying to needle him, and he's always up against an almost compulsive temptation to spring up and make a loud, political speech — and while it's always first-class entertainment, it's usually time-consuming, and mostly political.

Time to Jump the Traces

The public hearings into mining in Strathcona Park will have been largely meaningless unless the special legislative committee oversteps its terms of reference, dares the wrath of Recreation Minister Kiernan, and translates what it has learned into some sort of guidelines to control park exploitation in general.

It can, of course, recommend stiff controls for the operation at Buttle Lake; it could hardly do less. But it is in a most frustrating position. It was presented with what amounted to a fait accompli and it hardly can do better than make the best of a bad job.

However it can be assumed that the committee has learned a good deal that can and should be applied to the whole park-industry picture.

The first lesson learned, surely, is that the time to curb exploitation is before, not after, private enterprise has spent millions of dollars within a park's boundaries. The second, just as surely, is that pollution, grievous enough when it fouls its own industrial nest, is a tragedy compounded when inflicted on parkland supposedly pledged to all people in perpetuity.

It would, understandably, be painful for this government-dominated committee to tick off its masters. There already are signs that members are torn between what they know is right and what the cabinet clearly expects—a welcome mat for parkland industry. Now that Mr. Kiernan has dismissed suggestions that the government buy up timber or mineral alienations in remaining parkland, members might even feel the whole subject to be academic.

It isn't. Mr. Kiernan's argument is faulty. He cites the \$11 million already invested in the Strathcona Park mine, and the probable total appraisal of \$30 to \$40 million, as an example of the sort of money the government would have to pay for acquisition. Of course the government hasn't got that sort of money to buy up one claim. That is why it should be told—and from whom better than this legislative committee—to buy up claims and rights before a prohibitive price tag can be put on them.

The real challenge to this committee is to prevent the history of Buttle Lake from repeating itself. Its best recommendation would be one guaranteeing it would never sit again.

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MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1966

MET IN 1940

Shelford Catches Royal Eye

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The rugged rancher from Wistaria had a royal reunion here Saturday.

When Queen Mother Elizabeth met MLAs in the flower-bedecked legislative chamber there was one in particular who caught her eye.

"Didn't I meet you before," she asked Cyril Shelford, the Socred member for northern Omineca riding.

"Yes, in an army hospital," the 44-year-old Shelford replied.

When they met the royal visitor, MLAs' wives curtsied and the men shook hands—with one exception. Waldo Skillings, the Socred from Victoria, did a little curtsy as well.

Shelford reminded the Queen Mother they met in 1940 at Bramshot army hospital near Aldershot, Eng.

"She had quite a chat with me then," he recalled. "I told her I was from Wistaria."

"She said 'my husband and I went all across Canada — but where's that?'"

Shelford's home town is the tiny farm community near Burns Lake.

The Queen Mother told Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi he built "beautiful roads," she joked with Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East) and she thanked Works Minister W. N. Chant for the decorations on the Parliament Buildings.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1966

Gov't Decides City Police Have Full Appeal Rights

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature Monday decided Vancouver city policemen have adequate rights of appeal against dismissal as long as they are granted legal counsel.

The right to counsel, MLAs decided, is provided for in existing police commission regulations.

The House accepted a report to this effect from its private bills committee.

The committee threw out a Vancouver Police Union bid to amend the City Charter, ensuring appeals against dismissal to the provincial Labor Relations Board as well as to a judge.

But the committee did vote to return to the union the \$13000 deposit it paid when it applied for the charter change.

One of the 13 MLAs on the

committee, Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) said he feels the present appeal system is inadequate. At present, he said, appeals, heard by a judge, consist only of a review of police commission decisions.

"The judge can only review whether the police commission acted in a proper manner, he can't make a new finding," Macdonald said.

Alex Matthew (SC-Vancouver Centre) and chairman of the committee, said he agreed with Macdonald, but he had to abide by the majority decision of the committee members.

Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) said other committee members had seemed to be in agreement that existing appeal measures were inadequate, but were not in a position to change the charter amendment proposed by the union.

However, the committee felt

that policemen were entitled to legal counsel under existing regulations, although the union earlier told MLAs that its members were not given this consideration.

The committee also rejected a bill which would have set up a special act granting professional status to the professional engineers in B.C.

The committee said in its report that there was insufficient support for the bill from within the profession and from allied groups.

A similar bill giving a professional status to radiologists was also rejected.

TALKATHON GOING STRONG

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature went into its eighth week Monday with no indication that the annual political talkathon is about to unwind.

There had been high hopes the current session, which began Jan. 27, would end by Friday or Saturday. But MLAs now are more frequently predicting prorogation next week, possibly on Wednesday.

'Too Many Given Police Records'

Bonner Defends Bill to Permit Lifting Licences Without Charges

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Attorney-General Robert Bonner told the legislature Monday the police should be given greater freedom to maintain law and order without formally charging individuals with offences.

He made the statement as MLAs gave approval in principle to a bill that will allow officers to suspend drivers' licences of motorists suspected of being borderline impaired drivers for up to 24 hours.

No charges are to be laid against drivers who have their licences lifted. The intent of the legislation is to get drinking drivers off the road.

OUT OF LINE

Bonner said too many people in B.C. and in Canada are being given police records.

"Our rate of prosecutions is very high and really out of line with comparable experience in the United Kingdom," he said.

"It seems to me we should deliberately seek methods of securing public order short of the easy methods which are available by prescribing offences."

Something should be done to permit police officers to exercise greater jurisdiction short of charging people, he said.

WAY OF LIFE

Bonner added: "I'm concerned with the extent to which charging has become part of the Canadian way of life. It's far too easy to take up a young person by charging him with hitch-hiking or to cause a young person to have a record as a juvenile delinquent because he may not have a licence for his bicycle.

"This is setting too many people off on the wrong direction and as legislators we should be turning our minds to some new approaches in this thing.

"This is why I was anxious to see this legislation introduced, not in the form of an offence, but in a form permitting police officers to be judicially firm with people whom they wish not to see fall into trouble or disrepute."

Bonner agreed with observations that the new law giving police discretionary powers in drinking driver cases could be abused.

"I would anticipate that as breathalyzer equipment is made available, road surveillance will be in the hands of only those who have special instructions in how this section is to be applied," he said.

BILL DEFENDED

Previous protests that the new section, one of several Motor Vehicle Act changes, is an infringement on civil liberties were shot down by seven opposition and government MLAs who spoke on second reading of the bill Monday.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said applicants for driver's licences have to submit to physical tests to determine their competence and that is not considered a violation of civil liberties.

"I don't think it is wrong to demand that when people take cars and motorcycles onto the highways that they be free of alcohol in their blood," he said.

EMERGENCY

Perrault said the alarming accident rate in B.C. is an emergency that demands immediate action.

"You're substituting a policeman for the courts, and that's wrong," cut in Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby).

"I'm not suggesting this is a perfect measure," replied Perrault. "It's a stopgap measure until we get action at the federal level."

Ernie LeCours (SC—Delta) said the drinking driver is as dangerous as a person who fires a rifle in a residential area.

He said, however, that the proposed 24-hour suspension period should be changed to 12 hours.

Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan) said the breathalyzer testing should be compulsory.

The bill does not require a person to submit to a breath test. But to get back their driver's licences during the 24-hour suspension period, people will have to take a test to prove that their blood alcohol content is under .08 per cent.

Both Harding and Dave Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) said the government should bring in laws requiring safety features on automobiles.

Harry McKay (L—Ferne) said the federal government should pass a law making it compulsory for drinking drivers to take breathalyzer tests and the provinces should lift licences of offenders for — a good long time."

He urged Bonner to watch for abuses by the police under the new provincial section.

John Squire (NDP—Alberni) cautioned Bonner, to keep confidential any information about drivers who have their keys taken away by police.

"I know the insurance companies," he said. "This will be an excuse for them to raise the premiums on someone who has had his keys taken away. That information should be strictly confidential."

Law Gives Alcoholics Court Break

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A new law which gives the courts power to order treatment of alcoholics instead of sending them to jail was given a speedy second reading in the legislature Monday.

An amendment to the Summary Convictions Act allows the courts to sentence chronic alcoholics to from one to 12 months treatment in an institution, or to give them a suspended sentence on condition they obtain treatment.

A chronic alcoholic is defined in the law as someone guilty of three or more previous offences or anyone who needs treatment in the opinion of a magistrate.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner, sponsor of the law, said B.C.'s Alouette River treatment unit has a very high rate of success in handling alcoholic offenders.

In its first year of operation, he said, a check on a seven-month period showed 35 per cent of those released had not been convicted of another offence.

MARTIN SHIFTS INTO NEUTRAL

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Health Minister Eric Martin refused to say Monday whether he is in favor of fluoridating B.C. drinking water.

His non-answer came in response to a plea from Dr. Pat McGeer (L—Point Grey) for a clear statement that would provide leadership in an important health field.

"This is amazing," McGeer said. "Public health officials recommend something but he himself must remain neutral. How on earth could we ever get anything done?"

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Sun VICTORIA

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By FRANK RUTTE

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A united Credit majority rammed

tribulation through the legis Monday night.

Not a single Soerred against the bill reappear seats in the legislatur though four previously

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The bill, which boost seats in the house from 55, was given third and

reading by a vote of 26

Only royal assent from

MLAs Want Curb On SPCA Powers

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — MLAs Monday balked at a bill giving wide powers to the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Attorney-General Robert Bonner tossed it to a committee to handle.

Bonner's decision came after both government and opposition members protested the bill made it too easy for the SPCA to destroy animals.

The bill was a consolidation of five existing laws concerning the SPCA, dating back to 1895.

One of the most contentious sections of the new bill says the SPCA may sell or "dispose of" — in other words destroy — an animal after giving only three days notice to its owner.

PRICE OBJECTS

Bert Price (SC—Vancouver Burrard) said he took great exception to that section.

"It will be a real shame and disgrace if any organization is given such power," Price said.

The animal's owner might be away when the three-day notice was delivered, he said.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burraby) and Arthur Turner

(NDP—Vancouver East) objected to blanket power being given SPCA officials to draw up regulations and bylaws.

IDEA DISTASTEFUL

"The idea that the SPCA should act as its own lawmaker and law enforcer is to me distasteful," said Dowding.

"Those presently in control would seem to have unlimited power to do what they wish without any say for the membership," said Turner.

Bonner said the powers MLAs protested were actually already scattered through the five existing and overlapping SPCA laws.

(However a check of the most recent one in the 1960 statute book showed the society had the power only to destroy animals which were diseased beyond cure, injured so badly they could not be led away or "unfit for any useful purpose.")

Bonner agreed with a suggestion by Dowding that the whole matter be referred to a legislative committee for study and hearings attended by SPCA officials.

The legislature endorsed Bonner's motion to refer the bill to the private bills committee.

BY BENNETT

Socred Praises Sung

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett kept the provincial election pot boiling Monday with a prediction of Social Credit victory.

Bennett praised B.C. Hydro and his government's policies in general during second reading of a bill which is aimed at sewing up the Crown agency's legal status.

The bill, which was approved in principle, declares that all acts of Hydro in the past four years are legal, although there is some doubt about past legislation being completely correct.

Bennett said only "the bill is to clear up certain legal aspects of B.C. Hydro."

"It is the last round in the take-over battle," said Liberal leader Ray Perrault, referring to the court dispute over the government's seizure of the B.C. Electric Co. in 1961.

Then Bennett took off:

"We used to say the shining jewel in the Crown was the Pacific Great Eastern Railway," he said. "But this (Hydro) is the great diamond of this government."

"The people supported us in two elections. They'll continue to support us because this creates the great development of this province."

Redistribution Bill Passes, Three Seats Added to House

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A united Social Credit majority rammed redistribution through the legislature Monday night.

Not a single Socred voted against the bill reappportioning seats in the legislature, although four previously indicated they would do so.

The bill, which boosts the seats in the house from 52 to 55, was given third and final reading by a vote of 26 to 15.

Only royal assent from Lt.

Gov. George Pearkes is now required for the bill to become law and in effect for the next provincial election.

Three of the four former Socred rebels were absent when the roll was called — Jim Chabot of Columbia, Don Robinson of Lillooet and John Tisdalle of Saanich.

The fourth, Arvid Lundell of Revelstoke, voted with the government.

Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin) also voted with the government. Opposition leader Robert

Strachan made a vain attempt to sidetrack the bill by referring it to the Angus royal commission, but this was defeated by 26 to 13.

Strachan said the government had made substantial changes in the redistribution plan recommended by the commission for 52 seats.

The government added two seats in the north, one in the Kootenays and doubled up 12 Vancouver city ridings into six two-member constituencies.

Strachan's motion was to refer the government changes back to the commission with instructions for a return with recommendations within 30 days.

The latest change — addition of the Kootenay seat — was made by Premier W. A. C. Bennett last week.

What was to have been one vast new riding of Columbia River has been split into two to be called Kaslo-Revelstoke and Columbia River.

Provincial Control Of Oil, Gas Urged

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition leader Robert Strachan moved Monday to bring into effect a 1940 act of the legislature which would allow the provincial government to take over B.C.'s oil and gas industry.

The 1940 law has never been used. It was passed by the legislature but one clause said it would not come into effect until proclaimed by the cabinet. That proclamation has not been made.

Strachan introduced a bill Monday which would repeal the proclamation section. This would have the effect of making the original Petroleum Sales Act into law.

The act allows the government to take over refineries, pipelines, and to retail oil and gas products.

AFTER BLOCKADE

It was originally passed under a wartime government shortly after oil companies staged a 10-day blockade on B.C. by withholding supplies to the province. At that time the Supreme Court of Canada issued a ruling declaring the provincial government had the power to regulate gas and oil prices.

Strachan introduced a second bill Monday which would force full disclosure of all interest, carrying or other extra charges on any credit deal involving a sale of more than \$50.

AMEND ACT

The New Democratic Party leader put a similar bill to the house in 1963, but agreed to withdraw it when Attorney General Robert Bonner promised the government would consider legislation.

Point Grey Liberal Dr. Pat

McGeer introduced another opposition bill, this one amending the Municipal Act to allow approval of fluoridation votes by a straight majority — over 50 per cent instead of the present 60 per cent.

He said this would make it easier for municipalities to fluoridate their water supplies.

Leo Nimsick (NDP — Cranbrook) proposed an amendment to the Holidays Act which would ensure that all employees in B.C. were eligible for three weeks holiday after five years.

Sewage Lagoons Defended

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Sewage lagoons are perfectly safe, healthy fixtures on the B.C. scene, says Health Minister Eric Martin.

There are 40 such lagoons scattered across the province. Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) informed the legislature Monday.

"What does the minister know about sewage lagoons and what is he doing about them?" Dowding asked.

"These sleepy lagoons are a permanent fixture," added Dr. Pat McGeer (L—Point Grey). "What are you doing about them?"

Replied Martin: "Our health advisers recommend that sewage lagoons are perfectly safe."

He said the only way they could be wiped out was by municipal referendum for new sewage systems.

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By IAN MA
Sun Victori

VICTORIA — went to bat sing fight for fairer motorists, said generally pleased ings of the Commission on B.C.

"I certainly th in the right d Cyril Shelford, Court Judge Ch row's 164-page tabled in the legis

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His threat t ranks just be general election was taken led ment's appointm commission.

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MLA Who Led Gas Battle Happy With Probe Findings

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The man who went to bat single-handed in a fight for fairer gas prices for motorists, said Tuesday he is generally pleased with the findings of the Morrow Royal Commission on gas prices in B.C.

"I certainly think it is a step in the right direction," said Cyril Shelford, after County Court Judge Charles W. Morrow's 164-page report was tabled in the legislature.

Shelford, the outspoken Social Credit MLA for Omineca, had long pressed for an inquiry into what he said were inequitable gas prices in the province.

His threat to bolt Socred ranks just before the 1963 general election unless action was taken led to the government's appointment of the royal commission.

The rugged rancher from remote Wistaria then turned his full attention to the year and a half of hearings, often facing batteries of top city lawyers representing the big oil companies.

He delved deeply into his personal funds to conduct his crusade and maintained a hectic pace that once put him in bed with pneumonia.

To get to the 40-odd hearings he attended, it was not unusual for Shelford to work his ranch during the day, catch a bus for Vancouver at supper time, and ride all night to attend an afternoon hearing in Vancouver.

Then he would board a return bus in the city at supper time after the hearing, ride all night and get back to his ranch in

time for the next day's chores.

While he admits he didn't score on all points, he considers some of Commissioner Morrow's recommendations a major victory.

"One thing I should have liked to have seen in the report is one wholesale price. This was a very necessary measure so that all service station operators buy at one price," said Shelford.

"At the present time Simpsons-Sears can buy at 14.9 cents a gallon and across the road they have to pay 25.9 cents. This to me is unfair competition where one station has to pay 11 cents more at the wholesale level than the other station," he said.

But Shelford said he is happy that Commissioner Morrow urged government intervention in the industry unless the companies take corrective steps voluntarily.

"This report is directed squarely at the industry and if they don't accept the responsibility of giving the people of British Columbia a fair deal in many of the things that he recommends then of course it will be up to the government to step in and either place them under the Public Utilities Commission or proclaim the Petroleum Sales Act."

The Petroleum Sales Act gives the government power to engage in the petroleum industry, but the statute, passed in 1940, has never been proclaimed.

Shelford said the industry should be given time to implement changes as recommended by the commission.

"They argued many times before the commission that if there was anything wrong then

the machinery was there that they could correct it. So I would suggest they start correcting it right now," he said.

NDP leader Robert Strachan said the Morrow report makes recommendations that will bring improvement to the gas price situation if they are implemented.

"The oil industry have in the past shown themselves little concerned with public opinion so I doubt that any changes brought about in the oil industry will be of lasting duration," he added.

"It is my opinion that only the full implementation of the Petroleum Sales Act will bring real change in the oil industry of B.C. and real benefit to the motorist," he said.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said his party hopes it will not be necessary to resort to any enlargement of section three of the act, which gives the government power to engage in the petroleum industry, or to any amendments of the Public Utilities Act.

He said some of the commission's recommendations are controversial and it will be interesting to see whether the gas and oil industry is prepared to accept them.

"Our members have not had full opportunity to study the Morrow report, consequently we are unwilling to pronounce judgment on it at this early time," Perrault said.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner said the initial onus is on the industry to consider their marketing policies.

He would not comment on the proposal to implement the Petroleum Sales Act.

Co-operation Urged With Healers

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Socred MLA Tuesday objected to a bill which he said prevents doctors from co-operating with naturopaths and chiropractors.

Bert Price, (Vancouver-Burrard), told the legislature it was wrong to limit such co-operation.

He protested a section of a bill amending the Medical Act, which strengthens regulations imposed on doctors by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C.

The section prohibits doctors from practising in partnership, contract, or business association with any person not qualified to practise medicine, surgery, or midwifery.

Doctors who violate this are liable to a fine of from \$100 to \$250 and to lose their licences.

"I don't think this should be done," Price said. "If a doctor sees fit to co-operate with a chiropractor, naturopath or one of the other trained people in healing, he should be able to do it."

"It's an imposition on the members (of the college) and an imposition on the general public."

But Price had no answer to his plea to Health Minister Eric Martin to change the bill and it was approved on a voice vote, Price remaining silent.

NEW CENTRE GIVEN NOD

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Health Minister Eric Martin said Tuesday he has approved plans for a University of B.C. health sciences centre so construction can meet a summer deadline.

The Woodward Foundation has made available a \$4.5 million bequest for the centre, provided construction begins in July.

The first unit of the centre will include psychiatric clinical facilities.

Prober Asks Cuts In Gasoline Prices

Gov't Would Enforce Controls If Industry Failed to Act

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government should move to regulate the petroleum industry if the companies don't voluntarily lower gasoline prices and abandon marketing policies that give them control over retail outlets, a royal commission recommended

Tuesday.

The action was urged in the 164-page report of the commissioner, Judge Charles W. Morrow, tabled in the legislature by Provincial Secretary Wesley Black.

CUT DIFFERENTIAL

After a year and a half of hearings, the commissioner recommended:

The five-cent differential between the wholesale prices of premium and regular gas should be dropped two cents a gallon at a cost to the companies of \$2 million a year.

The mark-up of gas should be about the same throughout the province to eliminate unfair high prices that exist in some areas.

A cash discount for drivers who pay cash for gas, so the cost of credit is borne only by credit card holders.

No more service stations should be built for at least five years.

An immediate end to consignment selling, which unfairly allows the supplier to set the gas price.

Complete separation of the jobber and retailer.

Sale of tankwagon gas to independent major brand dealers at two cents a gallon less than to lessee operators.

Provisions to allow service station operators to repay loans from suppliers any time after five years so the operator can buy gas wherever he wants.

CLUB OVER HEADS

The commissioner's report places the onus for action squarely on the petroleum industry.

But it also holds a club over the heads of the companies.

"If these changes are not implemented within a reasonable time, I would recommend that Section 3 of the Petroleum Sales Act . . . be enlarged and the act proclaimed," the commission said.

"Regulations could then be promulgated to enforce such of the foregoing as the (cabinet) deems advisable," he said, adding:

"Alternatively, consideration could be given to suitable

amendments to the Public Utilities Act . . ."

The Petroleum Sales Act, passed in 1940 but never proclaimed, would give the government power to engage in the petroleum industry.

In an interview after the report was released, the commissioner said he is not proposing the government should enter the gas business.

(He said he is suggesting it should if necessary pass and enforce regulations.)

MARK-UP UNFAIR

Morrow found that the present high retail mark-up of gas in some areas is unfair.

There is little or no reason for this and the mark-up should be about the same throughout the province, he said.

He said that consignment selling also is unfair and those agreements should be withdrawn immediately.

Dealers enjoy the advantage of not having to pay for their bulk supplies until all the gas is sold.

"The disadvantage to the public is that the companies are setting the price in what constitutes a very large area of B.C. and regardless of the views held by the theorists this fact emerges, that the dealers have no say in what the price is going to be," the commissioner said.

LOSE INDEPENDENCE

"Also I cannot follow the argument that dealers are independent under consignment," he added. "There is no doubt in my mind that when they are operating under consignment there is a loss of independence that the ordinary dealer enjoys."

The commission report said that B.C. has more gasoline outlets than required.

This results in an excessive quantity of resources being employed in the distribution of gas.

"The oil companies have invested considerable sums of money not only in lessee-operated service stations but also in advances to independents.

"Bearing in mind the low average gas sales of many of

the lessee dealers and of the independents financed by oil companies, my view is that there is over-investment in retail facilities," said the commissioner.

FULL DIVORCE

He added that complete divorce of the jobber and retailer is something to be desired but will take a long time to accomplish.

"I believe the subsidization of the lessee-operated outlets is against the public interest and constitutes an unfair practice at the wholesale level," he said.

Judge Morrow said the tankwagon price to independent major brand dealers should be two cents less than the price to lessee operators.

The effect of this lowering should not be negated by the oil companies lowering rents paid by their lessee dealers or any other measures, he added.

The commissioner said there is no doubt that non-brand outlets have been a significant factor on the Lower Mainland during the period from 1959 to 1963, the last year on which the report computes its findings.

10 PER CENT

He said their sales volume accounted for about 10 per cent of the total gas sold in Metropolitan Vancouver.

"The motorist has benefitted from the entrance of non-brand outlets as the major brand companies have had to reduce their prices in the price war areas to meet the price competition of the non-brand outlets," he said.

He added: "If consignment selling is terminated, as recommended, the way would be clear for non-brand operators and department stores to enter the market where dealer markups are excessive and provide price competition which should reduce the (profit) margin to a more reasonable amount."

The commissioner said that service station operators financed by oil companies should be able to pay off their loans after five years, even though the mortgage is for a longer period.

FREE TO CHOOSE

This would allow the operators independence to select their products.

He said operators now sign product agreements with the financing companies that usually run for the same period as the mortgages.

Consequently it is not in the interest of the oil companies to accept prepayment of the mortgage because this would allow the operator to change to other brands.

"While technically a lessee dealer is independent, in practice one might wonder how independent he really is," said the commissioner. "Some lessee dealers are on monthly tenancies while others operate on leases that can be terminated by either party on 24 hours' notice."

CREDIT CAR

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He said the cost of cred half a cent a sales and ab cents a gall sales.

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CREDIT CARDS

He noted that during the hearings the Canadian Association of Consumers attacked credit cards on grounds the expense was borne by the cash customers as well.

He said the weighted average cost of credit cards is about half a cent a gallon of total gas sales and about one and a half cents a gallon for credit card sales.

"It would be wrong to single out the oil companies, however, as the sole practitioners of what I call an unfair practice," he said. "On the other hand the billing costs of gasoline credit cards is a high percentage of the value of the sale, net of tax.

"It may well be higher than the cost of credit incurred in retailing any other kind of merchandise."

DISCOUNT FOR CASH

"The ideal solution to my way of thinking, and the one that would be least offensive, would be to give a discount to those who pay cash for their gasoline, but this might be impractical," said the commissioner.

But no matter how his recommendation is implemented, the cost of credit card buying should be borne only by those who seek credit, he said.

The commissioner, whose assignment was to inquire into the fairness of the gasoline price structure at the refinery, wholesale and retail levels, said he could not recommend a change in the overall price system.

"I have reached the conclusion that in the petroleum industry there is no known method of calculating product costs which would provide an accurate base for establishing the selling price of individual petroleum products," he said.

NO COST BASIS

"For this reason I am unable to recommend a change in the price system to one based on costs of production."

He said also he could not go along with suggestions that there be a single tankwagon (wholesale) price in all parts of the province.

He rejected several other submissions as well.

The commissioner said there is no need to restrict gasoline sales promotions because they are accepted by the public and are not objectionable.

He said that further control over service station hours and sanitation are not necessary.

And he said a proposal for a government-operated refinery could not be considered without much greater study.

COSTS WOULD RISE

Elimination of discounts to industrial, commercial and government accounts would result in increased costs to the public and would therefore not be in the public interest, he said.

Compulsory f.o.b. pricing, also

suggested during hearings, would not be justified because the government would have to impose regulations on a system not developed through ordinary economic forces.

He said he could not accept a submission to discontinue lower gas prices to non-brand dealers and department stores because this practice is not unfair.

The commissioner accepted industry statements that their returns on investments in refining and marketing facilities have declined since 1956.

COMPETITION

This was due mainly to excess refinery capacity and to competition from non-brand stations on the Lower Mainland and entry of additional major brands.

But he said it is essential that the profitability from every part of a company's integrated operations be taken into account, including the lucrative crude oil business.

"The over-all return on the companies' investment in 1963 would therefore indicate that although the figures for their refining and marketing operations in B.C. show a minimum return, if any, this fact itself is not proof that the price of gas in B.C. is too low," he said.

"With that in mind, I am satisfied that the companies are operating over-all to the advantage of their shareholders and when the reduction in the price of premium gasoline, as indicated in the report, is established, the return to the shareholders will still be considered 'bright,'" said the commissioner.

\$2 MILLION

He estimated the two-cent a gallon cut in the wholesale price of premium gas would cost the companies about \$2 million a year.

The royal commission was established in the fall of 1963 and hearings ended last July.

Judge Morrow heard submissions from 134 people and organizations, filling 7,473 pages of transcript with 1.8 million words.

He delivered his report to the government at the end of last week and returned to his Vernon home to resume his duties on the county court bench.

running boards and gear shifts on the floor, Mr. Justice Macdonald found the oil companies had a firm grip on all branches of the industry, from refinery to retailer.

Judge Charles W. Morrow's report tabled in the legislature Tuesday came to the same conclusion, and recommended changes to end this control.

Mr. Justice Macdonald said there were five times too many service stations in the province.

NO MORE

Judge Morrow, in more moderate terms, said the province now has more than enough outlets and shouldn't build any more service stations for at least five years.

Mr. Justice Macdonald said the price of gas to consumers at Interior points was excessive and unwarranted.

Judge Morrow said the high mark-up of gas out of major consignment areas is unfairly high, and proposed a uniform mark-up throughout the province.

NOT TRUE

Judge Macdonald said the method of cost accounting followed by the oil companies did not reveal true costs of the various petroleum products.

Judge Morrow reached the conclusion that in the petroleum industry there is no known method of calculating product costs.

The two commissions were set up with similar terms of reference: to determine the cost of gasoline at the refinery and retail levels.

Mr. Justice Macdonald's report filled three volumes, Judge Morrow's one.

The appeal court judge, like Judge Morrow recommended gas price reductions.

**Burnaby
Called
Mad City,
B.C.**

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government is turning Burnaby into Mad City, B.C., the legislature was told Tuesday.

A massive concentration of mental health facilities in the municipality was protested by Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney).

The government, he said, is planning a big institution in 1968 to care for emotionally disturbed children in Burnaby. It will join the existing Willingdon

**Oil Probe
An Echo
Of Past**

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The first major investigation of gasoline prices in B.C. in almost 30 years made public its findings Tuesday, and the results were surprisingly similar to those reported in 1937 by the late Appeal Court Justice M. A. Macdonald.

Long ago when all cars had

School for Girls, the Burnaby Mental Health Centre and a planned forensic clinic for sexual deviates.

LIKE ESSONDALE

"You have created another city of mental illness," Barrett said. "Just as Essondale was once the 17th largest city in the province, this area will become another city."

Barrett termed a plan to set up a provincial forensic clinic at the Mental Health Centre a potentially dangerous move.

It would be right beside the institution for emotionally disturbed children, he said, creating the danger that a disturbed child would be molested by a sexual offender since both would be undergoing treatment in the same area.

SMALLER UNITS

Barrett and Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) said Health Minister Eric Martin is pursuing the wrong policy in treatment of emotionally disturbed children.

Instead of putting them in a costly institution, they said, Martin should be setting up a series of smaller units across the province.

Dowding suggested the government could buy up some old houses and install homemakers and trained psychiatric workers to care for small groups of children.

Barrett said this would be a relatively cheap method of handling the problem and suggested a maximum of six to eight children in each house.

James NESBITT

VICTORIA—Are the minister of health, the Hon. Mr. Martin, and the minister of public works, the Hon. Mr. Chant, not talking to each other any more?

That's the way it looks to Liberal Alan Macfarlane of Oak Bay. That's what he wanted to know in the legislature. Are those two talking to each other? He asked the question a dozen

times, but he did not learn for sure.

Mr. Macfarlane tried to find out as he asked Mr. Martin when Victoria's new mental health building will be started.

Mr. Martin said that's up to the minister of public works, who, however, said nothing about the building, and he did not, either say whether he and Mr. Martin are talking or are not on speaking terms.

The way Mr. Martin put it, I must say, made it appear that mental health does not depend upon the minister of health but upon the minister of public works, which is strange, indeed.

There were catcalls during this odd interlude, and when Mr. Macfarlane, sarcastic, asked, with almost a sneer:

"Aren't these two ministers talking to each other?" I thought three teen-age boys in the public galleries would bust, as the saying is. It was, to them, the best and funniest show in town.

And, when Liberal leader

Ray Perrault observed that, to him, Messrs. Chant and Martin represent what he called the muscle-bound democracy that is the Social Credit government, I was sure the teen-agers would go hurtling over the gallery railings, so hilarious did they consider the whole situation.

They were not shocked, I was glad to see, only relieved that the legislature had suddenly come to life after hours of quiet plodding, which always bores the public, though when there are shoutings and rudenesses the public says MLAs should not behave like undisciplined brats.

The MLAs did not think this little encounter as amusing as the teen-agers. Mr. Martin looked sour; the premier scowled and made some political utterances, which oppositionists said were snarly; Mr. Macfarlane looked grim in his determination to hang on.

NDP David Barrett of Dewdney kept yammering "the answer is no," because the premier is given to saying that. Hearing "the answer is no" from Mr. Barrett, Social Credit's Herb Bruch of Esquimalt called out "little sir echo," and NDP Gordon Dowding of Burnaby said to the government side "you're going down the drain," to which the premier replied to Mr. Dowding: "You've gone." The teen-agers had a wonderful time.

Soon now (April 1) we'll be blessing Premier Bennett for pitching out some of the petty

nuisances of our life—the sales tax on restaurant meals, on newspapers and magazines.

Those who are parents of teen-agers will be thankful for further exemptions in the sales tax on children's clothing.

For this they can thank NDP Mrs. Lois Haggen of Grand Forks-Greenwood, because it was her lady-like shouting through the years that finally got through to premier, and he acted.

He was, too, gallant enough to acknowledge in public it was Mrs. Haggen who really did the good work and she was duly grateful, for oppositionists don't expect such courtesy from the Social Credit side. However, our premier can now and then be as courteous as he is sometimes brusque.

Some members of the opposition say the premier won't tell the total loss to the treasury because of the abolition of these nuisance taxes. Ungraciously, they insist the total is so small that the premier's ashamed of giving the people so little, when his government is rolling in gold.

No matter this political view, it'll be great to buy a meal, or a newspaper and magazines without that little extra, not a great deal in itself, but a constant annoyance, a pesky, daily irritation.

I don't know what the restaurant and newsstand people are going to say to their public when they can't say: "And two cents (or whatever) for Mr. Bennett."

It's the kind of publicity our premier can do without.

Socreds, Opposition Gang Up on Martin
Debate Rages Past Midnight As Health Policies Attacked

By FRANK RUTER
 Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Health Minister Eric Martin was kicked verbally around the legislature by Socreds and opposition alike as the roughest debate in recent years raged until after midnight.

Martin's face was alternately bright red and dead white as attackers pounded him from all sides in the 13-hour battle.

Three Socreds raked him for refusing to answer questions.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett, who kept whispering to Martin "don't answer" popped up and down himself, charging the opposition was abusing his cabinet ministers in personal attacks.

Opposition leader Robert

Strachan called Bennett a cry-baby, adding: "It is a whimpering, snivelling, crybaby government."

At one stage Bennett threatened to keep MLAs sitting until 5 a.m.

The sitting ended at 12:25 a.m. with approval of Martin's departmental estimates, which first came before the House last week. But the questions asked by the opposition and the three Socreds were still unanswered.

LECOURS ATT
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full well that pressing proble which he flatly answers — is handicapped ch "I don't thin sible elected house, should kind of treat minister," LeC

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He proposed cabinet post human relatio would have retarded, emo and Indians, he

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Smith said different cabi involved with tionally distu welfare, ec works, financ general.

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He said he with Martin provide faci Vancouver l tarded and truded.

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LECOURS ATTACKS

Ernie Lecours (SC-Delta) was the sharpest critic of his own ministers.

"The minister stands firmly with both feet in mid-air and goes into a song and dance to avoid giving an answer," LeCours said angrily. "I for one am sick and tired of being treated this way."

LeCours said Martin knows full well that one of the most pressing problems — and one on which he flatly refused to give answers — is that of care for handicapped children.

"I don't think we, as responsible elected members of this house, should have to take this kind of treatment from the minister," LeCours said.

NEW POST URGED

Victoria Socred J. Donald Smith said Martin obviously could not devote enough time to his job.

He proposed creation of a new cabinet post — minister of human relations. This minister would have charge of the retarded, emotionally disturbed and Indians, he said.

Smith issued a special plea for government action to help emotionally disturbed children.

"It is obvious there is a great deal to be desired," he said. "I don't take the position that the minister is incapable. I take the position the minister just hasn't time to give attention to this."

Smith said that there are six different cabinet ministers involved with care of the emotionally disturbed — health, welfare, education, public works, finance and attorney-general.

"We have made tremendous advances economically and otherwise, but we have not in my opinion — and if we can be criticized it's in this area — in human relations."

PEOPLE NEED HELP

Smith said there is little or no service available for emotionally disturbed children. There are an estimated 600 such children in Victoria alone, and thousands more in the rest of B.C. in need of care, he said.

"These people are entitled to more consideration. They are indeed in great trouble. They don't know what to do. It's up to us as MLAs to propose or advance solutions."

Smith, to the accompaniment of heavy backbench Socred applause, added: "We're interested in the gross national product — we must be equally concerned with the human product."

John Tisdalle of Saanich was the third Socred to tackle Martin.

He said he had been pleading with Martin for 13 years to provide facilities on Southern Vancouver Island for the retarded and emotionally disturbed.

NO ANSWER

"They need it now and the parents need it now," he said. "I had hoped the minister tonight would come out with some positive pronouncement."

"Can't we hear their cry?"

Where is our heart?"

But there was no answer from Martin.

Alan Macfarlane (L-Oak Bay) hammered question after question at Martin for details of his policy on mental health and some indication of long-promised action on facilities in the Victoria area.

Martin kept pointing at Works Minister W. N. Chant and indicating construction of new facilities was up to him.

A new mental health centre was promised in 1963 for Victoria, Macfarlane recalled.

"Not my department," Martin replied, pointing again at Chant.

"This government and this minister is bankrupt on its policies and its outlooks on these problems," Macfarlane said.

Martin did reply after a supper break. But the reply was an attack on Macfarlane, accusing him of masterminding the defeat last December of a Greater Victoria hospital construction bylaw.

"He brought a stop to all hospital construction and expansion in this area," Martin charged. "St. Joseph's Hospital was to have psychiatric beds — you'll not have those beds now."

"You're out of your mind," Macfarlane said.

CHARGES DECEIT

He said he had been out of the country on a holiday until five days before the hospital bylaw vote. The reason for its defeat, he added, was that the public felt it should be the provincial government's responsibility to provide new hospital facilities, rather than a tax levy on homeowners.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said Martin's attack had been disgusting. "This is deceit, distortion and outright falsehood."

Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) said Martin's statement had convinced him the minister should resign. He, too, asked a string of questions about mental health, all of which went unanswered.

When the attack switched to B.C. Hospital Insurance and demands for ambulance service, Bennett answered in place of Martin.

AMBULANCES COSTLY

"The local municipalities have some responsibility," he said.

John Squire (NDP-Alberni) said that wasn't a proper answer, and that the question was directed at Martin.

"I favor hospital-based ambulances," Martin replied. "But it's going to be very costly."

He still didn't say if the government would include ambulances in BCHIS.

Then Strachan exploded, charging Martin deserved all the abuse he got. "He doesn't get enough of it," he added.

"I'm now of the opinion the ministers during their estimates have had orders from the premier not to answer questions," he shouted.

"Then the premier gets up in

crybaby style and complains we are abusing the ministers. This is a whimpering, snivelling, crybaby government."

"I do my best to answer questions," Martin said. "I can't possibly have statistical information at my fingertips."

"Your own backbenchers are fed up with you," yelled Barrett.

COMMITMENT DENIED

Perrault said Martin was guilty of a breach of faith.

He recalled that last week, when the health debate began, Martin was given his salary after promising to do his best to answer questions.

Martin and Bennett both denied the commitment.

Perrault pressed more questions about chronic care. He said Martin had promised to try to find out how many patients were occupying the beds available for chronic care coverage under BCHIS.

Martin again refused to answer.

"This looks to me like operation cover-up," Perrault said. The government doesn't want anyone to know about the chronic care program he charged.

SMOKESCREEN CHARGED

Alex MacDonald (NDP-Vancouver East) said Martin's refusal was deplorable.

"The whole extended chronic care program is completely a myth," he said. "No new beds have been opened up for new patients in Vancouver."

The patients occupying the so-called \$1-a-day chronic care beds are just welfare recipients who received such care free before the government plan began last December, he added.

"It's a smokescreen," MacDonald charged.

When Harding protested that it was midnight and the MLAs were being forced to carry on, Bennett replied: "We'll carry on until five o'clock if the opposition continues."

"You're bulldozing legislation through the House," Harding said.

But the questions and Martin's non-answers continued until, a few minutes later, the opposition gave up and approved the last of Martin's estimates — 13 hours after the whole debate began.

BUT SOME FEARS EXPRESSED

Licence-Suspension Law Passed to Curb Drinking

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Fears that a new roadside licence suspension law will result in more drinking drivers on B.C. highways were expressed in the legislature Tuesday.

Despite the fears, however, MLAs gave unanimous approval to third and final reading of changes in the Motor Vehicle Act to give police the power to suspend the licences of suspected drinking drivers.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner questioned whether any previous efforts to discourage drinking and driving had been effective and said the new law should be tried.

But some MLAs suggested that instead of charging drivers with being impaired, policemen might take the easier course of suspending licences for 24 hours as the new law would provide.

WIDEN INCIDENCE

"This may widen the incidence of impaired driving," said

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby).

"I think it will result in less prosecutions for impairment," added Tony Gargrave (NDP—Mackenzie).

"A lot of people will say, 'Thank God, that's all that happened to me' and stagger off and get into a taxi," he said.

"I think the legislation may give people a feeling they can have an extra drink and then drive and if they do get stopped you would only take away their keys for 24 hours," said Leo Nimsick (NDP—Cranbrook).

PROSECUTION EASY

"From a practical point of view the question of information for the public is not whether or not prosecutions will go forward," Bonner said.

"That is easy. It is easy to prosecute. The question is whether we are being effective in discouraging people from drinking while driving."

Bonner said the present sys-

tem of impaired charges under the Criminal Code has not

proved effective as a deterrent. Bonner also said he thought it would be possible to remove some inconvenience by arranging to let motorists get their licences returned before 24 hours as long as they didn't drive until the full day was up.

TAKE TEST

If a driver thought there was no justification for the suspension, the new law would include a section providing for him to take a blood alcohol test. If the driver's blood contains more than .08 per cent of alcohol, the suspension stands.

However, the law will not come into effect, Bonner said, until proclaimed by the cabinet. One reason for the delay is to ensure police are equipped with testing equipment and facilities.

Bonner did not indicate when that proclamation would come.

THRUW Ro

Mayor Bill jumped with del by Premier W. to pay one-third major Vancouver

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THRUWAY BID DELIGHTS

Rathie Takes to Road

Mayor Bill Rathie today jumped with delight on an offer by Premier W. A. C. Bennett to pay one-third the cost of a major Vancouver thruway.

The mayor said as a result of the offer the city will start the wheels moving to build the vital waterfront thruway.

In Victoria Bennett said his offer was conditional on the city and Ottawa matching his one-third offer.

This proviso did not dampen Rathie's delight.

He said the city would put up its share of the total cost of between \$21 and \$26 million.

In addition, he said in an interview he will go to Ottawa shortly to ask for federal government assistance.

"We have always received co-operation there," he said.

Rathie described the Bennett offer made in the legislature Wednesday as a major breakthrough for the city.

He said it also represents a major policy change by Victoria.

"It shows we have a place in B.C.," he said. "The premier is joining us."

He said for the first time the provincial government was offering aid for roads within Vancouver.

"Victoria will say they have spent \$125 million on roads around Vancouver," he said.

"In fact, they have done practically nothing in Vancouver."

Brief Stressed Aid Needed

Rathie last Wednesday presented to the provincial government a magazine-style brief entitled Vancouver Has A Place in B.C. It outlined Vancouver development possibilities and the need for financial help to push them through.

"Perhaps I should put in a brief every week," said Rathie.

He said the waterfront thruway is the most vital plan for Vancouver's development.

Rathie said it would spur downtown development.

He said the waterfront route would run from the vicinity of the Bayshore Inn, over the CPR tracks and east to about Columbia.

Then it would likely link up with a new Georgia Viaduct on an eastward route to the Port Mann Freeway.

Only last week Rathie said a \$200 million waterfront development was in the making for Vancouver.

Today he said Transport Minister Jack Pickersgill was advised of the city's needs on the waterfront when the federal minister visited the city.

Bennett told the legislature his offer was conditional on the city taking the initiative in

approaching the federal government.

His Pledge Not Detailed

He would not elaborate on the pledge, made in the legislature. He would not say whether the offer includes a new Burrard Inlet crossing nor would he say what type of thruway would be involved — waterfront or cross-town.

But he did appear to rule out any deal including rerouting of the Trans-Canada Highway from Second Narrows, by saying the provincial government would not apply to Ottawa for such a move.

"Any arrangement the City of Vancouver makes with the federal government in a major city thruway, as far as construction costs, we will pay one-third," Bennett said.

"It must be thruways not freeways," he added. (Bennett did not explain the difference.)

Bennett's announcement came after Greater Vancouver New Democrats and Liberals pressed Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi for answers to traffic problems.

Gordon Gibson (L-North Vancouver), pressing for action on another inlet crossing, said Gaglardi should take a strong stand on the bridge issue.

He said that if Gaglardi sincerely believes that another crossing is not needed now he will accept the minister's view.

But if Gaglardi realizes a third crossing is required and won't move because he can't get his colleagues' support, he should resign, said Gibson.

"Let someone else do it," said Gibson. "That's how big jobs get done."

Traffic Flow To Increase

Gibson told the government to take into account the increased volume of traffic that will be using the inlet crossings due to development of mountain resorts on the North Shore and adjacent to Garibaldi Park.

Point Grey Liberal Dr. Pat McGeer said it would be beyond the capacity of the city to raise \$113 million for such a project, based on a Stanford research team's estimate that a major traffic plan would cost \$340 million.

"Confer with my friend Mr. Rathie (Vancouver Mayor Bill Rathie) on what's intended," said Attorney-General Robert Bonner.

Bennett added that the Stanford report was "two reports behind" current thinking.

"That offer you just made is five offers behind," commented

Tony Gargrave (NDP-Mackenzie).

"It's better than nothing," McGeer said. "At least we've made a start."

Bennett's announcement came after Gaglardi made a vaguer commitment of provincial help.

Gaglardi told the house B.C. would only participate if the federal government laid down an urban highway building policy.

"If the federal government wishes to participate in a freeway system through Vancouver let them write me a letter telling me," said Gaglardi. "They should stop gerrymandering around with this thing."

Aid to City Criticized

The minister spoke in reply to questions by Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) who said Vancouver is being unfairly treated by the province in road building grants.

The highways department has built freeways leading right up to the city's boundaries but won't do anything to help handle the traffic that is brought into the city, Macdonald said.

"In rural areas you pay all highway costs, in small cities and villages you pay 50 per cent, in the city of Vancouver you pay practically nothing," said Macdonald.

The MLA said the government gives the city about \$350,000 a year for roads and gets back close to \$14 million in gas tax and vehicle licence fees from Vancouver drivers.

This means that for every dollar given to the city, the government gets back \$25.

"We have been shortchanged in highways budgets for 14 years," said Macdonald.

The MLA said he does not favor a number of expressways through the city but the province should help build the proposed east-west thruway and connecting waterfront link over the CPR property.

Federal Cash Available

If the provincial government would designate the route part of the Trans-Canada Highway there would be \$14 million in federal funds available for the \$56 million project, Macdonald said.

"Why should we slam the door on Ottawa's help?" Macdonald asked.

"To date Mr. Minister, you have been the spanner in the wheels of progress," he added.

Macdonald asked for an assurance that the Trans-Can-

ada Highway will be rerouted through the city.

"The time for decision has arrived," he said. "We want to know if the government is for Vancouver or against it."

Gaglardi said it is up to Ottawa to come up with a highway policy for urban areas.

"We spent \$26 million on the Second Narrows bridge and the federal government won't give us a nickel," he said. "They said they would pay but they didn't."

"You're the minister of highways for this province," Macdonald interjected.

Phil Worked On Problem

Gaglardi replied that he has done a lot of things confidentially concerning a Vancouver freeway.

"I've certainly been working on this problem," he said.

Macdonald accused Gaglardi of passing the buck by not taking the initiative.

"I can see further procrastination and bickering between yourself and Ottawa and no action," he said. "You're not the solution to the problem, you are the problem."

Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East) said the highways department and Vancouver area municipalities should get together to decide where another crossing is going to be built.

He said the municipalities can't plan construction of the approaches until they know where the crossing will be.

Turner said he favors building a tunnel somewhere between the First and Second Narrows bridges, possibly from the foot of Nanaimo street.

Gaglardi promised Dave Barrett (NDP—Dewdney) that he would look into the possibility of reducing the speed limit on the Pitt River section of Lougheed Highway, where 10 people died in traffic accidents last year.

The minister also said he will see whether reflector lights should be imbedded in the centre line along that portion of the road.

EMPLOYMENT 'NO PROBLEM'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. doesn't have to worry about unemployment because its economy is going to continue expanding for at least another 20 years, Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark said Wednesday.

"The rate of unemployment in B.C. is the lowest in Canada and has been for some time," Loffmark told the legislature.

"I don't think tight money is going to change the situation either — if it doesn't get much worse than it is now," he added.

Rural Slums Developing, Says Barrett

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Lack of secondary industry is creating "rural slums" in B.C., Dewdney New Democrat Dave Barrett said Wednesday.

"In the Fraser Valley we're having a difficult time getting secondary industry," Barrett told the legislature.

He said Mission is an example of a fading community.

The trouble began when the Eddy Match Co. closed down its factory there a few years ago, he said.

"Every third or fourth store on the once-busy main street is now closing up," Barrett said.

"A very serious problem of rural slums is developing."

Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark said B.C. has \$395 million worth of manufacturing by secondary industry — 2½ times as much as Manitoba and Saskatchewan put together.

VIVISECTION

UBC Acts Sinful, Says Nun

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Mother Cecilia Mary said today the University of B.C. is doing a sinful thing by breeding animals for medical experiments.

The animal-loving nun, who operates the Good Shepherd Animal shelter near Duncan made the statement before a legislative committee considering a new bill setting out regulations for the Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"I look upon vivisection as the blackest crime in the whole world," Mother Cecilia told the MLAs.

"Those doing it will have to suffer for what they are doing."

"To breed animals and torture them as they appear to do at the university is a sinful thing."

Her statement came after Harry McKay asked SPCA officials if they could turn over the corpses of animals to the university for research.

"You have the ridiculous situation in Vancouver where a fair amount of money is being spent by the university in raising cats," McKay said.

"They use dead cats and live cats. They have to raise them for experiments."

"I can understand you might be getting into a can of worms by giving up live cats, but dead cats are thrown on the dump (city dump)," McKay said.

BY LOFFMARK

2 Socredits Rebuked

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark Wednesday asked two chattering Socredit colleagues to leave the legislature.

Loffmark was nettled by the distracting chatter as he started to speak during debate on his estimates.

Sitting beside him deep in discussion were Works Minister W. N. Chant and Victoria MLA J. Donald Smith.

"Would you mind going outside?" Loffmark said.

"It is not often one speaks to one's colleagues like this, but in this case it was most unseemly."

Chant blinked and waved a hand and Smith departed to the corridor outside the chamber.

Bridge Deck Damage Cost \$150,000

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The highways department spent \$150,000 to repair damage to the new deck surface on Lions Gate Bridge, the legislature was told Wednesday.

The epoxy resin surface, an anti-skid material, had cost \$250,000 to put down when the resurfacing was done in 1964.

Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi disclosed the figures in answer to questions from Opposition leader Robert Strachan during review of departmental spending estimates.

Gaglardi also said he is not satisfied the patch job will solve the problem.

"But if we've saved one life we've spent it well, and we have saved hundreds of accidents," Gaglardi said.

The surface material was gouged by tire chains during the winter.

Gaglardi also told MLAs that plans have been prepared for a new bridge at Mission, but it will be from seven months to a year before construction begins.

Span 'Unbearable' In 5 Years—Phil

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi admitted Wednesday traffic congestion on Lions Gate Bridge will be unbearable within five years, but said the government can build a new crossing within four years.

However, Gaglardi refused to be pinned down to a firm commitment on the crossing under opposition cross-examination in the legislature.

"The premier has stated very emphatically he's prepared to pay for the bridge," Gaglardi said. "There will be a definite proposal at the proper time."

That time, he indicated is still at least a month away. It will come after he presents a special engineering report, with recommendations, to the cabinet, he said.

HELD UP

The engineers' report is held up until Norm Lea, head of N. D. Lea and Associates of Vancouver, returns from a trip to Bangkok, Gaglardi said.

"I haven't anything to present to anybody and until I do it is impossible to define approaches or anything else," Gaglardi added.

Gaglardi said Lions Gate is not really congested at present.

"The bridge is highly used four hours a day, two in the morning and two in the evening," he said.

NO PLACE

"But this is a correct statement when I say that there is no place on the North American continent of a like population where you can travel from A to B in the same time.

"This doesn't say there isn't some congestion, because there is.

"Engineers tell me that within five years it will be unbearably congested, and we're doing everything we can to avoid this."

40 PLANS

Gaglardi said the Lea firm is studying about 40 different crossing plans.

"It is no use getting together with any municipalities until we have something concrete to put before them," he said.

Gordon Gibson (L-North Vancouver) suggested a method of making Lions Gate safer for traffic after Liberal leader Ray Perrault claimed the present three nine-foot lanes were below accepted standards.

Gibson suggested eliminating the four-foot six-inch walkways on either side of the bridge deck.

Perrault Looks South for Trade

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — B.C. should give up trying to crack Eastern Canada markets and look to California for trade, Liberal leader Ray Perrault said Wednesday.

"Even if we did have absolutely equal freight rates, would you not agree we would still have a difficult time competing with many, many companies in Eastern Canada?" Perrault asked.

"While we are worrying about trying to ship so many B.C. goods back to Ontario and Quebec, it may take us years to persuade the eastern politicians to alter freight rates.

"Why don't we bring some inventive genius to bear on marketing goods in California and on the West Coast?"

ANSWERS LOFFMARK

Perrault was countering arguments by Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark for freight rate reductions during debate on Loffmark's estimates in the legislature.

The House was adjourned at 11:30 p.m. without approval of the trade vote, but MLAs did dispose of the \$95.6 million worth of highways department spending in three hours rapid debate.

Perrault said B.C. could establish a free trade area for lumber products with the U.S.

He suggested establishment of a B.C. design council which would seek out good products for trading. The council, he said, could be financed by the provincial government.

TARIFF DEAL

Loffmark agreed that B.C. should seek some kind of tariff deal with the U.S.

He said it could be done on an experimental basis with elimination of tariffs on one specific item on each side.

It could then be extended, if successful, to other items and to other regions of Canada.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett interjected, just before the adjournment, that B.C. is looking for integration of trade with other areas, such as Europe and Japan, as well as the U.S.

Phil Straightens Snake Hill Kink

Sun Staff Reporter

NORTH VANCOUVER — Highways Minister Phil Gaglardi has finally straightened out the last big kink in plans to rebuild East Keith Road's notorious Snake Hill.

Gaglardi, speaking in the B.C. legislature Wednesday during the debate on his department's 1966 estimates, said they include an allocation that will back the offer he made earlier this year to pay 50 per cent of the estimated \$875,000 cost of rebuilding East Keith's Snake Hill section.

He was replying to a question

from North Shore MLA Ray Perrault.

Gaglardi repeated his assurance the estimates contained matching amount after the Liberal leader pointed out North Vancouver district accepted his offer last month and voted its 50 per cent share.

The provincial-municipal agreement, ending negotiations that have dragged on for more than seven years, will re-align Snake Hill as the first phase of a three-phase project to rebuild East Keith from Dollarton Highway to Mount Seymour Park at a cost of \$1.54 million.

Please Note - For Friday, Mar. 25, Turn Over ->

Gargrave a Lone Opponent To Tax Increase Rate Bill

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — A lone New Democrat Friday opposed a bill limiting increases in school tax assessments to five per cent a year.

The change in the Equalization assessment Act was approved on second reading by a vote of 47-1 in the legislature.

The one holdout was Tony Gargrave (NDP—Mackenzie).

Gargrave said the municipality of Powell River, which is the population centre of his riding, was opposed to the assessment limit.

LETTER READ

He read a letter from the municipality saying the limit would cause it great hardships. Its assessing is done on a five-year basis and to reflect true market values it would have to be speeded up, meaning considerable expense in hiring additional staff.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett,

who insisted on Gargrave's no-vote going into the official record, said the aim of the bill was to prevent big increases in school taxes for homeowners.

It will, in effect, put the onus on municipalities. If they want to raise more taxes they will have to boost levies for other purposes.

Bennett said up to now the municipalities have used the Equalization Assessment Act formula, which applies only to schools, as the basis for calculating their own tax levies.

HOMEOWNER GRANT

"A lot of municipalities have hid behind this," Bennett said.

But now the people will know their homeowner grant is not going to be eaten up by big increases in school taxes, he said.

"The government does not want the municipalities or anyone else to take away the homeowner grant from the people," Bennett said.

"We want to encourage people to own their own homes. We want to give people some assurance.

"We expect to have further legislation next session to deal with this matter."

"THEIR RESPONSIBILITY"

Bennett was referring to a plan to make outright grants or loans to homebuyers.

Bennett made it clear Friday that next year, when the assessment limit comes into effect, any major tax increases should be blamed on the municipalities.

"If they want to raise higher assessments (for other than school purposes) that's their responsibility, not ours," Bennett said.

He also said the limit on school assessments will mean the provincial government will have to pay higher grants to school districts.

"You'll see in the next budget," he said.

PULPWOOD GLUT

Boost Log Exports, Gov't Urged

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The legislature's forestry commission has recommended a temporary acceleration of log exports from B.C. to eliminate a surplus of pulpwood in the province.

The committee headed by Cyril Sheford (SC—Omineca), tabled its report Friday in the legislature following eight weeks of meetings.

At one stage of the hearings, Resources Minister Ray Willis said the committee might consider expanding log exports for a year or up to 18 months so markets could be found for available timber.

The committee said log exports should be speeded up under existing regulations to prevent economic loss from deterioration of the logs.

But it specified this should only be a temporary move.

The committee also agreed with a recommendation that reforestation in public sustained yield units be stepped up; that a sustained yield unit be established north of the Fraser River from Harrison Lake to the Gulf of Georgia if it is in the public interest; and that no pulp timber sales be held in coastal areas until a market is available for smallwood now in public sustained yield units.

The committee also said the government should introduce measures to encourage driftwood salvage on beaches.

Log owners should be given time to recover lost logs, but after that, ownership would revert to the Crown so they could be sold again.

Wolf, Bear Threat to Gov't Pasture

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The government's community pasture program in northern B.C. will collapse unless the government steps up its predator control program, an MLA said Friday.

Stan Carnell (SC—South Peace River) said timber wolves and black bears are becoming such a hazard to livestock pastured in the areas that farmers are going to remove their animals.

There are four major community pastures in the constituency, covering thousands of acres. Farmers put their cattle in the pastures from May until October, while they are at work on their grain farms.

Carnell said during consideration of recreation and conservation department estimates in the legislature that many people have complained to him that the game department is not doing enough to control predators.

He urged Recreation and Conservation Minister Ken Kiernan to send in conservation officers to set poison traps.

"If you don't the farmers will pull their cattle out and community pastures will fail for lack of support," he said.

Departmental spending estimates of \$6.4 million were approved.

Vote Lists Worry MLA

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — An opposition MLA expressed fear Friday that many persons will lose their vote if Premier W. A. C. Bennett calls a sudden election this year.

Reason for the fears is the redistribution bill awaiting royal assent. Once an election is called, redistribution, which boosts seats to 55 from 52, takes effect.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby) reminded the house the existing Elections Act gives only seven days for voter registration. But under redistribution, there would have to be a complete revision of the voters' lists.

Dowding said the government could take advance action by cabinet order to cancel existing voters' lists and prepare new ones under the new electoral boundaries.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black, in charge of election matters, answered: "I will certainly take that under advisement if and when an election is called."

Sun Victoria
VICTORIA — election campaign introduced to Tuesday by Democrat Gordon Dowding's bill a political party more than \$50,000 each year.

It would limit ridings of 20,000 to spending a r

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1966

James NESBITT

VICTORIA—This week has now gone and proration of the legislature has not come.

Two weeks ago everyone expected it would be all over by now, but cabinet ministers are being a bit stubborn, and that makes opposition members talk and talk.

General rumor is now that proration will come next Wednesday, but nobody knows for sure. It's something like a bingo game: Anything can happen.

When there are three more members in the House after the next election a session will last even longer, for give three MLAs each 12 hours to talk and you have three days.

It's quite a merry-go-round the Legislature gets on each session. Such tactics have been going for years.

Premier Bennett and his Social Crediters date all progress in British Columbia from 1952, when they came to power. Before then, if we are to believe them, all was chaos and gloom.

Opposition members say the premier and his crowd have been, and are now, engaged in putting British Columbia into the same state of ruination the government side says existed before the Social Credit light shone down and

missed this fair province, with equal treatment for all and special favors for none, as our premier puts it.

Well, that's the way it goes in politics.

Cranbrook New Democrat Leo Nimsick, scrappy type that he is, is quite sure Recreation-Conservation Minister Kenneth Kiernan is desecrating our provincial parks and ignoring our wild life, so that one of these fine days there'll be no birds and beasts and pretty deer.

Mr. Nimsick, of course, will never be really happy until the NDP is the government and he's the minister in charge of wild life and parks. When that happens, if it ever does, which is highly unlikely, all will be well, in Mr. Nimsick's opinion, and nobody will have anything to worry about, parks and wild life being in such good hands as his.

However that may be, as far as Mr. Kiernan's concerned, Mr. Nimsick, not knowing much, talks nothing but nonsense. That's what Mr. Kiernan said, Mr. Nimsick, in his ignorance, talks nothing but nonsense and rubbish. In other words Mr. N. bores Mr. K.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1966

Campaign Fund Limit Sought

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A bill limiting election campaign spending was introduced to the legislature Tuesday by Burnaby New Democrat Gordon Dowding.

Dowding's bill would prohibit a political party from spending more than \$50,000 on elections each year.

It would limit candidates in ridings of 20,000 or more voters to spending a maximum of 10

cents per voter.

Parties would have to issue a statutory declaration each year disclosing the source of all election funds.

Candidates would have to file a similar declaration showing the source of all amounts over \$25.

The declarations would be given to the provincial chief electoral officer.

Dowding's bill, in the form of

amendments to the Provincial Elections Act, was given first reading, and will come up for debate later in the session.

Dowding also introduced a bill which would establish an ombudsman in B.C.

The ombudsman would be called the commissioner of grievances, and appointed by the cabinet.

He would investigate complaints against the administration of government.

Starting a New Ball Game

Premier Bennett's offer to share the cost of a Vancouver cross-town arterial road, as spontaneous and vague and hedged with cranky conditions as it is, has significance beyond any specific project. It amounts to nothing less than a reversal of two of his government's most negative and city-crippling policies — the first restricting government aid to the road-building programs of the province's three largest cities to a set \$500,000 a year, the second opposing urban freeways in principle.

As usual, Mr. Bennett scatters confusion in his retreat. His government will pay one-third of the cost of a thruway, not a freeway—a meaningless, harmless, facesaving bit of semantics that an appreciative city can afford to indulge. The federal government must match the provincial contribution, without the device of re-routing the Trans-Canada Highway. Not a word from the premier on the length, the location, or the cost of the route which his government would approve.

It is a grudging about-face. But it must be remembered this is the man who in 1962 said his government was "firmly opposed to saddling Vancouver with a network of freeways which not only deprive the city of valuable taxable land but do nothing to solve the basic problem of traffic congestion."

This is the man who said "it is stupid to take traffic downtown." This is the man who scoffed at arguments that government has a responsibility toward city highways which serve national-pro-

vincial purposes, that city property taxes couldn't and shouldn't be expected to pay for urban extensions of the province's highway system, that adequate access was essential if the city was to attract business and capital investment. That Mr. Bennett turned about-face at all is what's important—and he will be respected for it.

The one-third cost sharing formula pledged by Mr. Bennett, revolutionary as it may seem to British Columbia city-dwellers, still is considerably below the 50 per cent provincial contribution to urban arterial roads that is standard in Alberta, and most other provinces. Yet its improvement over the present set grant is so vast that few—and certainly not Mayor Rathie—will stop to quibble.

The main thing is that the government has admitted at last that movement of traffic through its cities is a joint responsibility.

Now Mayor Rathie has room to negotiate. With the principle conceded, surely no obstacles remain that cannot be resolved by the three levels of government meeting in good faith.

We are told that hundreds of millions of dollars of capital investment will follow the construction of Mr. Rathie's proposed waterfront freeway. If Premier Bennett is sincere — and a government run-around on the freeway similar to that on the new First Narrows crossing would be incomprehensible — the entire province will benefit.

Mayor Rathie could be right when he says that Vancouver at last has been accepted as part of B.C.

Use Park Wealth, Says MLA

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Liberal MLA told the legislature Thursday the provincial government should ignore park boundaries in the search for minerals and timber stands.

"I'm tired of people going all haywire about the sacredness of (park) boundaries and 20 feet away they don't care about it at all," said Gordon Gibson, of North Vancouver.

He said there are not that many mineral deposits in the province that can be profitably mined so those that are economic should be developed whether inside parks or not.

NOT SACRED

And he added: "Timber in parks is no more sacred than anything else."

A Sacred backbencher asked him if he was stating the Liberal party's policy.

"No he isn't," said Liberal

leader Ray Perrault.

Gibson said the government certainly should allow development of all existing mineral claims within parks.

"We can't afford to go out and buy out all those prospectors. There's too much money involved," he said.

IMAGINARY LINES

"It's absolutely absurd," Gibson added. "People want all this welfare service and hospitals yet they will stand in the road of some company that's not really a company but a group mainly from B.C."

Gibson said park boundaries are invisible, just imaginary lines that aren't even blazed out.

"I'm not speaking for this group (the Liberal MLAs). I have no right to, but I want every dollar of federal money. This is all one Canada and I want them to pay the bill," he said.

MLA Admits Shares

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition leader Robert Strachan Thursday challenged a Liberal MLA's right to take part in a debate on mining in a park because he has an interest in a company involved.

Strachan's statement about Point Grey Liberal Dr. Pat McGeer sparked a furious shouting-match in the legislature during discussion of Western Mines Ltd. development in Strathcona provincial park.

McGeer did not deny the suggestion in the house, but said he was opposed to mining in parks.

Later, outside the legislature, McGeer told The Sun he is a minor shareholder in Western Mines. The company office here shows McGeer as holding 500 shares.

The row in the legislature

came over possible pollution of Buttle Lake by activities at the mine. Strachan had claimed an ore processing solution containing 250 pounds of poisonous copper sulphate would be dumped into the lake each day.

McGeer, a chemist, said this was not correct. He said the 250 pounds of copper sulphate would be consumed in the processing. "I am surprised that the member for Point Grey should take part in this debate because he is not a disinterested person," Strachan said.

McGeer was out of the house when Strachan said this, but Premier W. A. C. Bennett sprang to the Liberal member's defence.

Bennett said this was a dastardly attack and Strachan should charge McGeer to his face.

Strachan repeated the charge when the Liberal returned.

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The government promised Thursday full pollution tests will be before a mine is allowed to start operations in Strathcona Park.

The promise came after hours of debate on Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan's salary vote, almost all about Strathcona, a huge area on Central Vancouver Island.

The opposition was dead against any mining in the park.

Kiernan maintained the government couldn't oust Western Mines Ltd. from its City-granted claims inside the provincial park boundaries.

ASSURANCE GIVEN

But the Opposition pressed assurance of pollution con-

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BATTLE OF STRATHCONA

Strachan Slams Kiernan For Parkland 'Give-Away'

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Opposition leader Robert Strachan Thursday accused Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan of a deliberate give-away of mining rights which has gutted beautiful provincial parkland.

Strachan told the legislature "the sad story of Strathcona Park" which he said has set a precedent that could wreck more huge areas of parkland.

The Opposition leader charged Kiernan had begun the give-away of Strathcona Park in 1959 when he was minister of mines, and had continued when he took over recreation in 1964.

Establishment of mining claims within the park has gone on as recently as December, 1965, Strachan disclosed.

LONG AGO

Kiernan said Strachan's charges were nonsense, misinformation, misinterpretation and distortion and blamed the alienation of parkland on actions of previous governments as long ago as 1924.

Strachan said in 1924 there were 23 Crown-granted mineral claims near Buttle Lake inside the park, which was designated a Class A park.

The claims were never developed because they were owned by a number of different people and the area was not big enough for an economically-feasible mine, he said.

But in 1959, Kiernan as mines

minister allowed a spate of mine staking to begin all around the area of the 23 original claims, said Strachan. These new claims were made under mining leases, not grants.

162 CLAIMS

Altogether a total of 162 claims were staked in the area between 1959 and 1964, when Kiernan switched his cabinet portfolio to recreation, said the Opposition leader.

In 1962, Western Mines Ltd., issued a prospectus which showed it had acquired the rights to all the claims, old and new, either by ownership or through associated companies, Strachan continued.

In the same year, the provincial cabinet passed an order which excluded Strathcona Park from the jurisdiction of the provincial pollution control board.

SWITCHED

Then, last year, Kiernan as recreation minister, put a new Parks Act through the legislature. This act prohibits mining in Class A parks, Strachan recalled.

But on May 13, 1965, the cabinet passed another order, which switched the designation of sections of Strathcona Park, including the mining-claims, from Class A to Class B.

Industrial development is allowed in a Class B park if a

permit is issued by the recreation minister.

A permit allowing Western Mines and its associated companies to mine within the new Class B area was issued by Kiernan the very same day, Strachan said.

'HARDLY WAIT'

"They could hardly wait to get their hot little hands on it," he said.

Strachan said of Kiernan: "His every action since (1964) has been directed towards giving the people he dealt with as minister of mines everything they needed to utilize the property he gave them.

"The whole purpose of creating a Class B section was to let the minister, step by step, give this company the right to do anything it pleases in the park.

"The government has been operating behind a facade," Strachan said.

Kiernan's answer was to attack.

"For the past hour and 10 minutes I've listened to nonsense, misinformation, misinterpretation and distortion," he said.

"We stand head and shoulders above the rest of Canada in terms of park policy," he said. "We have created over 180 new parks since we became government. We have created eight marine parks where there were none before."

Pollution Tests Promised in Park

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The government promised Thursday that full pollution tests will be made before a mine is allowed to start operations in Strathcona Park.

The promise came after six hours of debate on Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan's salary vote, almost all of it about Strathcona, a huge wild area on Central Vancouver Island.

The opposition was dead set against any mining in any park.

Kiernan maintained the government couldn't oust Western Mines Ltd. from its Crown-granted claims inside the provincial park boundaries.

ASSURANCE GIVEN

But the Opposition pressed for assurance of pollution controls

and finally got it — first from Resources Minister Ray Williston.

"The lake will not be allowed to be polluted," Williston said.

He said the pollution control board, under his department, will make tests of every level of Buttle Lake before the mine starts production.

Kiernan said a firm called Wright Engineering is conducting studies which will be passed on to the water controller in Williston's department, and then to the recreation department.

Kiernan also promised that if it was found, after the mine began operations, that chemicals from it were polluting the lake, changes would have to be made in the mine.

MACDONALD'S CLAIM

Earlier Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said the whole Strathcona problem could have

been avoided if the government had bought up Western Mines' claim.

He referred to figures given by Opposition leader Robert Strachan about additional claims purchased by Western Mines in 1962 which Strachan said made the mine venture worthwhile. The additional claims cost the company \$193,000.

"That was a trifling sum which would have enabled us to clear out the mining claims so the people of B.C. could have claimed the park for their own," Macdonald said.

'LOST OUR CHANCE'

He charged that Kiernan a year ago said it would have cost a great deal to buy up claims in the park.

"We lost our chance to save Strathcona Park," Macdonald said. "What a piddling sum."

Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo Slocan) said he was amazed that the government had given way to mining interests.

"If you let one mine in, you've got to let all in," he said.

Bert Price (SC—Vancouver Burrard) said the mine is estimated to produce \$100 million worth of ore in six years.

He suggested an exchange of property to create a park in some other choice area on Vancouver Island.

John Squire (NDP—Alberni) pointed out: "This (Buttle) is the last lake on Vancouver Island saved from complete logging."

Kiernan's salary was finally approved on the understanding that more questions could be asked during later debate on detailed spending by his department.

B.C. Gives Ottawa Garibaldi Okay

Joint Park Scheme Acceptable If Title Retained, Says Kiernan

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—B.C. is prepared to develop 619,000-acre Garibaldi Park as a federal-provincial park, Recreation and Conservation Minister Kenneth Kiernan announced Thursday.

He told the legislature the provincial government will welcome Ottawa's participation in the park development but B.C. must retain title to the land.

Kiernan told MLAs he sent a letter to federal Northern Affairs Minister Art Laing Wednesday advising him of the province's attitude.

The minister was replying to criticism from Liberal leader Ray Perrault for failing to act on Ottawa's offer to develop Garibaldi as a national park.

Laing previously offered \$10 million to develop Garibaldi over a five to 10-year period, if the province would relinquish the big park north of Vancouver.

FEUD CLAIMED

Perrault accused Kiernan of inaction on the offer because of a personal feud between the two ministers.

He said the park should be given over to Ottawa because the federal government would develop it as a major tourist area that eventually could bring in \$70 million a year.

Besides this, Perrault said he would rather see the alpine paradise under control of the tough National Parks Act than the province's park policy which is subject to pressure by commercial exploiters.

Perrault also said that Ottawa is prepared to redraw the boundaries of Garibaldi to eliminate the areas the province believes contain mineral deposits.

COUNTER ARGUMENT

This would counter B.C.'s argument that Ottawa made the park takeover offer only to get its hands on provincial resources, he said.

Perrault was backed by Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver) and Dr. Pat McGeer (L—Vancouver-Point Grey).

McGeer said Garibaldi deserves the prestige of a national park.

Perrault said Garibaldi could

be properly developed with the kind of money offered by the national government, but not on a provincial parks budget of only \$2.3 million, the amount to be spent in the coming year.

"You can't do the job on those kind of peanuts," he said.

MOVING AHEAD

Kiernan, reading from the letter sent to Lang, said the province's overall development of Garibaldi is moving ahead in "an orderly and well-planned manner."

The minister said the province has established a nature conservation area in the Black Tusk-Garibaldi Meadows region, a multiple-use recreation area adjacent to the Golden Ears section, near Haney, and is allowing development of a commercial complex near Whistler Mountain.

Some remote areas of the park are as yet untouched but they probably would not interest the federal government, Kiernan said.

However, he added: "We're prepared to welcome joint development propositions for the people of the province but if this is predicted on giving up title to the land, we respectfully decline."

OTHER CHOICES

Kiernan said that if Ottawa wants to establish a national park on the West Coast it should buy some tidewater property and create a unique park.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett denied that the provincial government has ignored the Ottawa offer.

He said that about two years ago Laing said he wanted to send in Federal engineers to survey the park.

"We said we'd be glad to have their engineers make a survey of the park and said we'd give an equal number of provincial engineers, but this was never carried out," the premier said.

James NESBITT

VICTORIA—Cabinet ministers are so used to oppositionists' brick-bats that they look astonished and simper a little when there's a compliment for them from across the crimson-carpeted floor of the legislative chamber.

They beam, hearing a well-turned compliment, and then they nod their appreciation. But they're suspicious, too, knowing that the compliment is mostly followed by a good swift kick. The compliment, you see, is so often designed as a softening process.



NESBITT

It was this way in the house the other day. Alex Macdonald (NDP, Vancouver East) looked over to Phil Gaglardi, and with all the manners of a courtly justice, almost bowing, said: "I take off my hat to the minister for the job he's doing generally on the highways of this province."

Mr. G. looked mighty pleased, but, wise man, he did not wrap himself in a sense of false security. He had a suspicion something was coming—and it did.

And so Mr. Macdonald let Mr. Gaglardi have it. Where roads in Vancouver are concerned, he said, Mr. Gaglardi's nothing but a spanner in the wheels of progress, with a horse-and-buggy mentality. He said Mr. Gaglardi neglects Vancouver and passes the buck to the federal government, and he bickers with Ottawa and procrastinates, and Vancouver suffers terribly. He said Mr. Gaglardi has the audacity to offer \$300 million for roads if the Yukon will join British Columbia, and at the same time he pretends Vancouver either doesn't exist or can get along very well on its own.

Mr. Gaglardi didn't feel particularly sorry for Vancouver and blames Ottawa because there's no arterial highway through our biggest and richest and most exciting and beautiful metropolis.

It has a great future, everybody says, if the provincial government will only do its bit—which it is doing, say government supporters, but which it is not, say the oppositionists. Ah! politics!

Liberal leader Ray Perrault, who, when mad, delivers most telling punches, and NDP David Barrett of Dewdney feel highway speed limits should be reduced after dark.

This makes good sense, but Highways Minister Gaglardi, a stubborn type, won't listen to this, and certainly doesn't agree with it, because he has convinced himself that as long as drivers remain sober they can manage in darkness just as safely and competently as in daylight.

This cannot be so, because darkness in itself is a hazard—and the blinding lights that darkness requires. The combination makes for pure murder and suicide, especially when high speed is added.

If 60 m.p.h. is safe in broad daylight, it definitely is not after dark; the limit should go down 10 m.p.h. when darkness falls, except possibly on divided highways.

No highway is really safe un-

less it is divided, and even then there are idiots who deliberately cause trouble.

Part of the reason for British Columbia's bad record on the roads is a division of opinion, perhaps some kind of jealousy between the highways and the attorney-general's departments.

There is some evidence that such exists. Premier W. A. C. Bennett, as the big boss of both, should bang their heads together and tell them to work in unison for the good of the public.

Well, here's hoping Messrs. Perrault and Barrett and other MLAs who agree with them keep pounding away at Mr. Gaglardi until he drops speed limits 10 m.p.h. after dark.

Mr. Barrett also had a good idea of cats' eyes along the centre line. As he says, you very often cannot see those all-important life-saving lines in the rain.

Speaking of rain, I'm not so sure it shouldn't be an offence to drive full speed in a down-pour—another natural hazard, which so many drivers completely ignore.

When I hear MLAs debating highway problems, and other problems, too, eschewing politics, I am convinced that we have a pretty good system of legislation, even though there are many abuses, and it can become mighty tiresome.

WHEN MINISTER It's 'Mr.

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett strolled into the legislative chamber a few days back as MLAs were deliberating spending estimates and an opposition member, noticing his return, cracked: "Well, I see the government is back."

The quip was one of many over the years by Secret critics who believe that Bennett is a one-man band calling the tune for the entire cabinet.

Bennett smiled off the remark and took his seat, but he has taken exception in the past to statements that he is supreme commander of the cabinet.

HE RARELY MISSES A chance on the public platform to tell his audience how easy the premier's job is — the ministers do all the work and the premier gets all the credit.

To hear him tell it, as he often has, being premier is like being on a permanent vacation. He doesn't have to worry about who's minding the shop because he's got so many capable helpers.

But those of us who peep down from the press gallery like being on a permanent vacation. He doesn't have to worry about who's minding the shop because he's got so many capable helpers.

From our narrow perch above the Speaker's dais we've got a birds-eye view of the cabinet benches and a frequent witness to the whispered orders issued by Bennett to ministers fencing with the opposition.

SOMETIMES, WHEN THE noise level on the floor is too high, we can hear the premier's instructions to his colleagues.

Bennett sits quite at ease when men like Attorney

Films By Lot

Sun Victoria
VICTORIA - ter Ralph Loff met with executives to arrange industry to arrive in B.C.

He said in has met with the National with American who are involved in the industry.

WHEN MINISTERS FALTER

It's 'Mr. Government' to the Rescue

By IAN MacALPINE
Sun Victoria Bureau

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But those of us who peer down from the press gallery loft in the legislature think somewhat differently.

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SOMETIMES, WHEN THE noise level on the floor isn't too high, we can hear the premier's instructions to his colleagues.

Bennett sits quite at ease when men like Attorney-



General Robert Bonner and Labor-Education Minister Leslie Peterson have the floor.

They are among his strongest ministers and are regarded by him as completely capable. Only occasionally does he interfere.

It's when the weaker members of the cabinet find themselves in hot water that Bennett begins to squirm, and swivels around in his padded leather chair to coach.

THE MOST AUDIBLE IN-structions he has issued of late were those he gave to Health Minister Eric Martin, who found himself in very hot water not only with the opposition but some of the government MLAs as well.

Martin has great difficulty standing up to public criticism — in public — as he was forced to do when his departmental estimates came up for consideration.

He usually has a pretty tough time of it anyway when the House gives examination to the millions of dollars allocated for health and hospitals.

This year the roof caved in, and the health minister sat in stubborn silence as MLAs on both sides of the House pressed him for information about the government's program for emotionally disturbed and retarded children.

As Sacred Ernie LeCours put it, "the minister stands firmly with both feet in mid-air and goes into a song and dance to avoid giving an answer."

If Martin couldn't take it, neither could Bennett.

The premier attempted to stave off further assault on the minister but finally turned and counselled Martin: "Don't answer. Don't answer."

Martin obediently complied. Bennett tried to take the

heat off his ministers several days ago by accusing the opposition of making personal attacks against them.

HE APPARENTLY wasn't too pleased, because some of the ministers had not stood up well to the political buffeting.

Usually when a minister isn't measuring up, the premier turns in his chair and tells them what to say and what to do. He runs the show.

Or he'll take the floor himself to rescue one of his colleagues who, in Bennett's mind at least, isn't faring too well.

He did that recently when Peterson was being pressed for details about sharing of operating grants to the three public universities, to assure the opposition there wouldn't be a tuition fee increase this year.

And again, when Industry Minister Ralph Loffmark was trying to explain his theories on economic union with the United States, Bennett rose to straighten out the situation lest there be a mistaken impression.

WHEN THE QUESTION OF Bennett's domineering role has been raised in friendly and private chats with cabinet ministers, they quickly deny that they don't have a chance to have their say exactly as they choose to say it.

That is probably so, but Bennett certainly has the last word.

The premier recently told the legislature: "I do not deny I'm the leader, the captain of this group for the past 14 years. As captain, I'll take the blame for failures, but these people," he said, motioning to the Sacreds, "will take the credit for success because they are a team."

His statement didn't do anything to deflate the widely-held belief that he is the government.

Films Wooed By Loffmark

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Industry Minister Ralph Loffmark said he has met with executives of the film industry to arouse their interest in B.C.

He said in the legislature he has met with the chairman of the National Film Board and with American banking officials who are involved in the industry.

Loffmark told of the meetings after Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) asked the government to help the industry.

The MLA said B.C. is ideally suited for movie-making because it has a good climate and varied scenery.

He said the film *Dr. Zhivago* should have been filmed in B.C. rather than Spain because this province's countryside is more like Russia's.

Macdonald said there is a growing demand for television films and this aspect of the business could be pursued in the province.

TRADE MISSION TO WOO ITALY

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Trade Minister Ralph Loffmark said Monday a mission to Italy is in the cards for the provincial government this year.

Loffmark told the legislature: "We'll spend a little more time in Italy in the next year or two."

Later, he told reporters that a trade mission to Italy is likely this year although details have not been arranged.

James NESBITT

VICTORIA—Monday saw the start of the last, wearying week of the 1966 session for your legislature. Even a weekend out of the legislative chamber didn't make your MLAs feel much fresher, but back they all came to do their duty by the public.



NESBITT

Lt. Gov. George Pearkes awaits at Government House the call that will go out to him in a few days to hurry to the buildings to give royal assent to all the bills, turning them into laws, and then His Honor will read the prorogation speech, after which MLAs are free to do as they choose.

It will be all over for another year, unless the premier should decide to call a special session to take over something or other, and run it as a government enterprise.

Monday we heard some of the old Socialism vs. Private Enterprise argument, about which we don't hear so much any more, this Social Credit government being almost as socialistic as the New Democratic Party.

Some of the Socialists came right out and said the government should take over the oil companies, but, hearing this, the Liberals expressed horror, feeling that some competition should be left in British Columbia.

The Liberals appear to be the last bulwark of free enterprise, though our premier, up to his neck in socialism, says there'd be nothing so terrible as the state socialism Robert Strachan and his crowd would give to British Columbia if ever the people were foolish enough to vote them into power.

However, that won't stop our premier from stealing a Socialist plank and parading it as his very own. That's called taking a Social Credit second look.

In the last week of a session you'd think members would let down a bit. But they never do. They may humdrum along for hours on end, and then can come an explosion. There's as much fire and brimstone breathed into it as into the explosions early in the session, when everyone is fresh and peppy.

The premier exuded charm upon Opposition Leader Robert Strachan, who Monday evening made a public speech outside the House. The premier wished Mr. Strachan well in his public utterance, and also a safe and speedy return to the legislature. It was most pleasant, and Mr. Strachan beamed, for while he sometimes roars at the premier, he is always happy to have the premier's good wishes.

Oppositionists dearly love reminding this Social Credit government how well it looks after its own.

Monday, MLAs were debating the department of trade and industry, with the minister, Mr. Loffmark, up and down answering questions.

The votes for British Columbia offices in London and San Francisco were approved, whereupon NDP David Barrett, an innocent look upon his face, asked the minister who's the agent-general for British Columbia in London.

"Mr. Westwood," replied Mr. Loffmark.

"Who's the agent-general in San Francisco?" asked Mr. Barrett.

"Mr. Steacey," said Mr. Loffmark.

Mr. Barrett knew, of course, that Messrs. Earle Westwood and Newton Steacey have these positions, that they had been cabinet ministers who were defeated, and that the premier found good jobs for them.

Thus Mr. Barrett had his little joke, and in so doing comforted cabinet ministers, reminding them, though not in words, that should they ever be defeated Mr. Bennett will find them jobs. That is, if he's still Mr. Premier; I can see no sign that he'll be out after the next election.

NO OIL CURB

Bennett Endorses Perrault

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett thumped his desk enthusiastically Monday when Liberal leader Ray Perrault told the legislature the government should not place unnecessary restrictions on the oil industry.

Perrault was commenting on the Morrow royal commission report which recommended the industry voluntarily give up its refinery-to-retail control over the gas business. Judge Charles W. Morrow also said no more service stations should be built for five years.

Perrault said he is opposed to the proposed holdup of station construction.

"We shouldn't have to put a straitjacket on industry in this expanding province," he said.

He added: "There shouldn't be unnecessary government restrictions on any phase of industry in B.C."

Bennett pounded his desk at Perrault's last remark.

Industry Minister Ralph Loffmark, whose departmental estimates were under review, said the report is under active consideration and "it has high priority on my work schedule."

Bowl Plan 'Monstrous Blunder'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — An MLA accused the government Monday of making a monstrous blunder in allowing private development of Cypress Bowl in West Vancouver.

"It could have been a provincial park and now we're throwing it away," said Dave Barrett (NDP)-Dewdney.

Barrett said the government is going to allow the developers to create a gravel pit in the park, destroying the natural beauty of the area.

"We're creating a monstrous blunder and I regret it. And regret it deeply," he said during debate on lands department spending estimates.

Resources Minister Ray Williston whose salary vote was passed, confirmed that his department has received an application for a gravel pit, although it has not been granted.

He said it must be studied also by the highways department and approved by West Vancouver municipal planners.

Williston said the developers need gravel for road construction in the area and for a parking lot.

By FRANK Sun Victor

VICTORIA — C. Bennett was b and accused of the right to legislature beca battlefield Mond

Bennett retali the New Den Communists in bate during whic was beaten ba tempts to ensur ation of voters B.C. election.

The cause of MLAs first th innocent amen Provincial Elec viding for regis in the new cons redistribution.

SECOND LOOK

But a second the amendment for transfer of voters' lists of and does not procedure for a haul.

Arthur Turn couver East) s ment was a de complete count new ridings. voters' lists ar lessly inadequat

Alex Macdo Vancouver East the move was a government p election this ye "They're mo calling a snap own purposes doing the b province," he s

TUESDAY, MAR. 29, 1966

Bennett Branded 'Hitler' in Vote Row

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett was branded a Hitler and accused of denying people the right to vote as the legislature became an election battlefield Monday.

Bennett retaliated by calling the New Democratic Party Communists in a two-hour debate during which the opposition was beaten back on two attempts to ensure a full enumeration of voters before the next B.C. election.

The cause of it all was what MLAs first thought was an innocent amendment to the Provincial Elections Act, providing for registration of voters in the new constituencies under redistribution.

SECOND LOOK

But a second look disclosed the amendment only provides for transfer of names from voters' lists of existing ridings and does not contain any procedure for a complete overhaul.

Arthur Turner (NDP—Vancouver East) said the amendment was a device to avoid a complete count of voters in the new ridings. The existing voters' lists are already hopelessly inadequate, he added.

Alex Macdonald, Turner's Vancouver East partner, said the move was an indication the government plans an early election this year.

"They're more interested in calling a snap election for their own purposes than they are in doing the business of the province," he said.

ASSURANCE ASKED

Randolph Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan) asked government house leader Robert Bonner for an assurance there would be a complete enumeration before the next election.

Bonner said he could not give it.

Then Harding pressed Bennett for an answer.

Bennett sat silent.

"He sits there like a little

Hitler, just look at the man," said John Squire (NDP—Alberni).

"I'm not having any of these

Communists calling me a Hitler," Bennett snorted angrily.

When Bill Hartley (NDP—Yale) called on Bennett to withdraw the remark, Squire said: "Considering where the remark came from I could not care less."

Later when Ernie LeCours (SC—Delta) said the debate was a waste of time, the Socred government was again accused of being Hitler-like.

LeCours said voters didn't need spoon-feeding.

"Anyone with enough intelligence to vote has enough intelligence to put their name on the voters' list," he said.

Replied Hartley: "The second member for Delta and the members of the government think debate on the right of the people of B.C. to vote is a waste of time. Hitler thought democracy was a waste of time, too."

"This makes a shame and shambles of democracy in B.C."

TWO VOTES

"Hitler said the right to vote was not important and that's what this government says in

this amendment."

The government majority beat back opposition protests in two votes.

The first vote, 27-18, upheld a ruling by chairman Bill Speare (SC—Cariboo) that an opposition amendment calling for enumeration by a door-to-door count of voters was out of order.

The second vote, by the same margin, approved the transfer of voters' lists over opposition objections.

Frank Calder (NDP—Atlin) said he had been convinced there wouldn't be an election until next year.

"I've changed my mind," Calder said. "There's going to be an election this spring. I'll even go further and say this — I don't think this house is going to be prorogued as normally has been done. It looks to me as though the premier is going to dissolve the house and call an immediate election."

Liberal leader Ray Perrault said the effect of the simple transfer of names would disenfranchise thousands of eligible voters.

Harding said he estimated at least 100,000 people who could have voted were left off the existing lists, drawn up for the 1963 election.

"I've never seen a complete enumeration since I've been in this house (17 years)," said Leo Nimsick (NDP—Cranbrook).

YOUNG INELIGIBLE

He said there are many young people who have reached the voting age of 19 since 1963 who wouldn't be eligible for a vote this year by the transfer of lists.

Reward Urged For Shelford

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Government and opposition MLAs Monday both proposed a special reward for gasoline price crusader Cyril Shelford, but Premier W. A. C. Bennett didn't bite.

The Omineca Socred was praised in the legislature for the time, effort and expense he personally devoted to fighting for equalized gas prices and his constant appearance during a year and a half of public hearings by the Morrow royal commission.

"The people of B.C. are under a debt of gratitude to our member," said Alex Matthew (SC—Vancouver Centre). "We should do something to recoup him for the tremendous expense the inquiry put him to."

Skeena Socred Dudley Little agreed, saying Shelford should be reimbursed for his expenses.

Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver) said Shelford has been doing a fine job as well on other subjects, including his role as chairman of the House committee on forestry.

"I would make him a Minister without Portfolio," Gibson said. "This would be the best thing for the people of B.C."

Election Change Gets Second Look

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—A Vancouver charter amendment that would give non-property owners the right to run for civic office is going to be brought before the legislature despite its rejection by the private bills committee.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner told the house Monday the section will be re-introduced when the bill comes up for clause-by-clause study in committee of the whole house.

THROWN OUT

The amendment, which would entitle any person resident in the city for a year to seek office, was thrown out by the committee headed by Alex Matthew (S.C.-Vancouver Centre).

The action was taken because the Union of B.C. Municipalities thought the move should be given further study.

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East) criticized the committee's action, pointing out that the amendment had city council's approval.

"The committee, in turning its back on a recommendation of the city council, has done a great disservice to the city of Vancouver," he said.

He said he intended to move an amendment later to reinstate the section.

FREE TO RUN

Arthur Turner (NDP-Vancouver East) said a person who does not own property is free to run for provincial or federal seats and theoretically, at least, can become prime minister.

"This (amendment) came from a council accused of being a council of wealthy people, of representing property interests, and this makes it all the more interesting," he said.

Bonner said: "As a representative from Vancouver I was struck with the desirability of the recommendation proposed by Vancouver city council as far as a tenant having the right to run for civic office is concerned. We are giving consideration to this and more will be raised in committee."

Gov't Action Urged To Push Oil Firms

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Soered. Cyril Shelford said Monday if the oil companies don't act on recommendations of the Morrow royal commission within a year the provincial government should step in with "strong action."

The Omineca MLA, whose crusade against high gasoline prices led to appointment of the commission, also told the legislature how the government could step in.

It could be done, he said, through the government-owned Red Star Petroleum Company, a subsidiary of B.C. Hydro.

"Red Star could be used in many ways," Shelford said.

"It could buy gas from any company by bid, cheaply. The department stores can get gas for 14 cents (a gallon). I'm convinced we could do better than this. Then Red Star could sell to independent gas stations across the province."

BREAK FOR MOTORISTS

"Believe me, the companies would start to talk turkey and motorists would start to get the break they deserve."

By selling gas cheaply to independent dealers, the government petroleum firm could undercut the retail prices charged by the big companies, which the Morrow commission said were unfair.

The commission, in a report released last week, said government action should be taken within a reasonable time if the oil firms do not adopt a number of recommendations, including a two-cent reduction in the price of premium gas, a moratorium on building new service stations and more equitable retail prices across the province.

"Unfortunately the commission (Judge C. W. Morrow) didn't say what he considered a reasonable period of time," Shelford said.

NO NEED TO WAIT

"I think one year. Then I would say the government should step in in one year's time and not fool around any

longer."

Red Star was acquired by B.C. Hydro when the government took over the B.C. Electric Co. in 1961. It now buys wholesale gas for use on Hydro projects such as the Peace River dam.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan said the Morrow recommendations would be fairly easy to implement and he didn't see why it would be necessary to wait a year.

The oil companies could make up their minds within a week on such a proposal as the two-cent cut in the price of premium gas, he said.

Leo Nimsick (NDP-Cranbrook) said if the government doesn't take any action on the Morrow report within a year, it will prove that the commission was only appointed to appease Shelford and public opinion.

Alex Macdonald (NDP-Vancouver East), whose father headed a B.C. gas price commission 30 years ago, said he has high praise for Judge Morrow.

But he said the judge was unable to determine the cost of producing a gallon of gas. This was because the commission wasn't given wide enough terms of reference, Macdonald said.

ADVERTISING RAPPED

The MLA said the commission should have criticized gas advertising.

"To spend thousands and thousands of dollars in advertising that this gas is better than that gas is ridiculous," he said. "We know darn well it often comes right out of the same tank."

Macdonald said the time has come to equalize gas prices throughout B.C.

"We accept that principle with Hydro and natural gas, and the Liquor Control Board and department stores. Why not do it with gas?" he asked.

Macdonald claimed the oil companies are "the most powerful cartel that exists today."

Strat By L

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Buttle Lake area Tuesday.

A special commission legislature proposing a mining company allowed to build a site with its employees with provincial park Vancouver Island.

Western Mines has Crown-grant claims within the build its townsite the mine site as committee proposed.

"This is a class Opposition leader

Strachan should committee's received by the legislature. Conservationist and park-lovers

Fishes Propo

The provincial should also consider funds for a fish culture to improve spawning and access to committee said.

Briefs to the public hearings at exception recommendation B.C. fisheries present there is commercial fisher within the recreation.

The committee mended that the withdraw a bill legislature which section of the B.C. Act allowing for a fish price disputes.

Recreation Minister Kiernan earlier said was sought because Ottawa was responsive matters.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1966

Strathcona Townsite Okayed By Legislature Committee

By FRANK RUTTER
Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — The battle of Buttle Lake appeared over Tuesday.

A special committee of the legislature proposed that a mining company should be allowed to build a townsite for its employees within Strathcona provincial park in Central Vancouver Island.

Western Mines Ltd., which has Crown-granted mineral claims within the park, can build its townsite "as close to the mine site as practical" the committee proposed.

"This is a class A snow job," Opposition leader Robert Strachan shouted, as the committee's report was received by the legislature.

Conservationists, outdoorsmen and park-lovers fought against

the townsite through a series of public hearings held by the committee.

FOUGHT IT

They warned that beautiful Buttle Lake, the choice recreational area of the park, would be ruined by the mine and its townsite.

Strachan made a vain final attempt to block the committee report in the House.

Although the House only received the report, which does not mean its approval is required, it is expected a certainty the government will follow its recommendations.

DISAPPROVAL

Strachan said the only way he and fellow New Democrat MLAs could register their disapproval was to try to prevent the House from hearing and receiving the report from a

committee headed by Cariboo Socred Bill Speare and loaded with a government majority.

But the Socreds and Liberals combined against the NDP to vote in the report 32-10.

Speare's report said Western Mines claims were granted before B.C. laws prohibited industrial activity within class A parks. In order to get around the problem the present government had declared portions of Strathcona including the claims a class B park.

"It recognizes that the principals have a previously existing legal right to continue the proposed mining operation," the committee report said.

The townsite and the conditions under which it is built and maintained should be rigidly controlled by Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan, Speare continued.

Fisheries Minister Proposed for B.C.

The provincial government should also consider providing funds for a fish culture branch to improve spawning channels and access to them, the committee said.

Briefs to the committee at public hearings almost without exception recommended a full-time B.C. fisheries minister. At present there is only a small commercial fisheries division within the recreation department.

The committee also recommended that the government withdraw a bill before the legislature which would repeal a section of the B.C. Fisheries Act allowing for arbitration of fish price disputes.

Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan earlier said the repeal was sought because B.C. felt Ottawa was responsible for such matters.

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A new cabinet post of commercial fisheries minister was proposed Tuesday by a special legislative committee.

The committee, in its report to the House, said B.C. should set up the cabinet portfolio after establishing a case with Ottawa for proper and satisfactory provincial jurisdiction over fisheries matters.

The committee, headed by Cariboo Socred Bill Speare, also proposed B.C. enter negotiations with Ottawa on limiting the number of commercial fishing licences to be issued, exploitation of B.C. coast fisheries by non-resident sports fishermen, licensing of tidal sport fishing and control of what it called quasi-sport commercial fishing activities.

Bill Setting SPCA Powers Needs Study

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The legislature's private bills committee has recommended shelving a controversial bill setting out powers under which the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals operates.

The committee headed by Alex Matthew (SC — Vancouver Centre) said in a report filed Tuesday that the bill requires further study and investigation of the provisions it contains.

The bill would consolidate powers given the SPCA to protect animals and police animal laws.

When the principle of the bill was being debated in the house, members on both sides objected to powers that it would give the society.

Among them were rights to seize and destroy animals within a specified time and to charge anyone who attempted to interfere.

At the time, Attorney-General Robert Bonner said the society would obtain no new powers and the bill would merely consolidate into one act the powers which it now has under several provincial statutes.

James NESBITT

VICTORIA—It is a very bad principle, and could lead to all sorts of abuse, that an MLA should be paid more than his sessional indemnity, even though a job he does be considered above and beyond the call of duty.

Everyone in the legislature agrees that Social Credit MLA Cyril Shelford of Omineca worked hard for many months, hoping to trim the wings of the gas companies, so that the people of British Columbia might get a better deal when it comes to running their cars. He may just succeed in doing that.



NESBITT

When he set out on this job he certainly was not thinking of extra money for himself. It was not he who eventually

brought up the matter in the house. Members on all sides, forgetting party differences, said he should receive monetary thanks.

This, however, good as it may be in this case, leaves the way open to give any or all MLAs handouts if special jobs are done by them; if this were followed through, MLAs would have the edge, could well be in on the plums.

Where an MLA is concerned, it's difficult to figure out what's the daily grind, which the extra work. Actually no work should be called extra—it's all part of an MLA's lot.

This bad principle that has been set could also work in reverse; if an MLA did not see some extra money for himself he might sit down on the job, not bestirring himself to get out of his own home block, or to take an interest in any but his own constituents.

David Stupich (NDP—Nanaimo) specializes in forests. Like most members of his party he's quite sure the present government is ruining our forests, but the government is sure the NDP would really ruin the forests by socializing them. It all depends on which side of the political fence you hang your legs.

Mr. Stupich made a long speech on forests this week. He went into great detail, showing he had been doing much homework.

All well and good, until the minister of forests, Hon. Ray Williston, rose up to say he found it extremely difficult to know what Mr. Stupich had been talking about for an hour or so.

Well, said Mr. Stupich, genuinely surprised and not a

little stunned by what he took to be an insult; well, there he'd gone and prepared a speech on forests, and made it, as carefully as he could, and the minister didn't know what it was all about. A fine situation! Who's dumb, anyway.

That being the case, said Mr. Stupich, coldly, he could make that speech all over again, right then and there.

The premier looked shocked, fearing this could well be so, and so he smiled upon Mr. Stupich coaxingly and said "next year." The premier, you see is anxious to get going — he wants the session over as soon as possible, though he would not say so out loud. The premier makes as if there's all the time in the world, and he would not, for worlds, or even for votes, hurry the oppositionists when they think they have something to say that will redound to the good of all.

However, Mr. Stupich, took the hint and didn't make his speech all over again. That Bennett smile won him over completely. Besides, he hopes to be here again next year, and by then his speech will sound fresh, whereas if he had made it a second time in a row it would have sounded stale, no matter how good.

Mr. Williston went through such an opposition barrage that there were times he put his head in his hands, and rested his elbows on the desk, so that he might have some surcease from the endless voices, which, no matter how mellifluous they may be, wear thin, become harsh and discordant, as they drone on and on their monotonous way.

Tenants Escape Deposit

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Vancouver residents who don't own property were put back in the running for civic election Tuesday without having to put up a deposit.

The government over-ruled a recommendation from the legislature's private bills committee and proposed an amendment to the city charter giving tenants the right to run for office.

The committee had tossed out a city request for the amendment on the ground that the Union of B.C. Municipalities wanted to study the idea.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner not only reversed that recommendation, but even went one better than the city's original proposal. His amendment to the charter, which was approved by the House, wiped out a city requirement for a \$200 deposit by tenant-candidates.

At present only property-owners can run for civic office in Vancouver.

Only one MLA opposed Bonner's amendment — Victoria Sacred J. Donald Smith. He said it was unfair for Vancouver to get a concession which other cities and municipalities were not allowed.

"This is discriminating against other areas of the province," Smith said. "Once again the City of Vancouver is getting extra privileges."

Bonner said the government would not necessarily object to all municipalities being allowed to have tenants run for office, but it is awaiting an opinion from the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

Help Pledged On Dike Plan

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett Tuesday promised to press for a solution to money problems snarling a plan for protection of the Lower Fraser Valley against flooding.

Dave Barrett (NDP — Dewdney) had charged the provincial government with failing to reach an agreement with the municipalities on the estimated cost of \$4.8 million to build the dikes to a safe level.

Barrett said smaller municipalities like Pitt Meadows cannot afford their proposed share and suggested the province should pick up the tab to expedite the program.

Resources Minister Ray Williston said he has been negotiating with the municipalities.

'Farm Labor

VICTORIA — A shortage as long as other industries, Tuesday.

This was the main the agriculture which admitted it come up with a solution.

The committee, Willis Jefcoat (SC Arm), was assigned the availability of far

It reported that evidence was presented its four meetings that imported labor answer to the problem

CANNOT COMPETE

This had been the B.C. Federation of Agriculture, the farm organization.

The committee said that farm wages to compete with wages paid in other especially in tim industrial activity.

"The ways and improving farm beyond the terms of this committee, to be a necessary basic fact that farm wages cannot competition of other a continuing undefined magnitude, undoubtedly exist," it

MLA Aids

Sun Victoria

VICTORIA — A MLA's bid to stall a school tax assessment until city council chance to discuss government was defeated legislature Tuesday

Alex Macdonald (Couver East) was opponent of the bill given its third reading.

Macdonald said he on a telegram from Ron Thompson Vancouver council to the bill and deferred.

The bill limits increases to five year.

'Farm Pay Causes Labor Shortage'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—B.C. will continue to face a farm labor shortage as long as wages lag behind those offered by other industries, a legislative committee reported Tuesday.

This was the main finding of the agriculture committee, which admitted it could not come up with a solution.

The committee, headed by Willis Jefcoat (SC—Salmon Arm), was assigned to review the availability of farm labor.

It reported that insufficient evidence was presented during its four meetings to indicate that imported labor is the answer to the problem.

CANNOT COMPETE

This had been suggested by the B.C. Federation of Agriculture, the province's main farm organization.

The committee said it appears that farm wages are not able to compete with the higher wages paid in other industries, especially in times of high industrial activity.

"The ways and means of improving farm income, while beyond the terms of reference of this committee, would appear to be a necessary approach to the basic fact that, as long as farm wages cannot meet the competition of other industries, a continuing problem of undefined magnitude will undoubtedly exist," it reported.

'CONTINUE INQUIRY'

However, the committee said the subject of farm labor is far too complex to bring in a detailed report at present and the committee should be reconvened at the next session to continue its inquiry.

It urged that some measures should be given consideration.

Among these were suggestions that the government look into the possibility of bringing farm labor under the Minimum Wage Act.

That thought be given to making unemployment insurance available to the agriculture industry on a voluntary basis;

That the provincial agricultural manpower committee undertake a continuing study with commodity groups to compile an inventory of farm help.

The committee said the manpower committee should ascertain labor requirements for B.C. farms, both in the immediate future and on a long-term basis, and hand over the findings to the federal agricultural manpower committee in Ottawa.

NEW FORESTS

Williston Waits for Seed-Drop

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government is ready to spend \$140,000 at the drop of a seed, Forests Minister Ray Williston said Tuesday.

The problem is waiting for the seeds to drop from the trees so it can be collected, he told the legislature.

Williston was answering opposition critics who charged he was not doing a proper job of re-forestation in B.C.

Dave Stupich (NDP — Nanaimo) said the forest service is planting only 6,000 acres of new forest each year, while there is a backlog of 26 million acres which need re-forestation.

"The government is falling down badly on this job," Stupich said. "Apparently it is only because we have not given it enough money."

Stupich said Williston is letting down the whole economy of the province now and in the future by failing to order adequate re-forestation.

"Certainly we'd like to expand our program," Williston said.

He said the government has a number of nurseries and plans to open more this year.

"But one of our biggest problems is we have to seed before the nurseries work," he said.

"We have just gone through a period of eight years without a seed-drop."

As soon as the right kind of seeds drop, Williston said, his department will spend \$140,000 to collect them.

MLA Claims Bill Aids Speculators

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Vancouver MLA's bid to stall a bill limiting school tax assessment increases until city council has had a chance to discuss it with the government was defeated in the legislature Tuesday.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) was the lone opponent of the bill as it was given its third and final reading.

Macdonald said he was acting on a telegram from city clerk Ron Thompson which said Vancouver council was opposed to the bill and wanted it deferred.

The bill limits assessment increases to five per cent a year.

"There is real concern that this limitation may hurt rather than help the residential homeowner," Macdonald said.

"It will help the promoter, the land speculator, and industrial land owners and the taxes they save will be a new burden on the residential homeowner."

Macdonald suggested the bill should be amended to ensure that it was the homeowner who benefitted and that the limit would not apply to other taxpayers.

At first he tried to adjourn debate on the bill, but this was defeated on a voice vote. And on the third reading, all other MLAs from all parties voted against Macdonald.

VOLUNTARY ACCESS TO PARKLAND WORKS

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA—Public access to privately-owned recreational areas is working well on a voluntary basis, a legislative committee reported Tuesday.

The committee, under Sacred Bill Speare, MLA for Cariboo, made no recommendations for changes in the present relationship between industry and the public. Industry is making access available on a voluntary basis.

"A spirit of co-operation exists between industry, recreation groups and government," the committee reported.

Non-Profit Forests Rapped by MLA

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — An MLA said Tuesday that B.C. doesn't have enough trees — of the merchantable kind.

Ran Harding (NDP—Kaslo-Slocan) said he is concerned over the amount of forest land that has not been properly reforested.

There are roughly two million acres in coastal areas that could be returning revenue of \$6 million a year if they were restocked, he said during review of forestry department spending estimates.

INTERIOR ALSO

There are another 6.4 million acres in the Interior that are not satisfactorily restocked and about 18 million acres of non-commercial forest cover, he said.

"It seems exceptionally silly for any kind of government whose economy is based on growing trees and selling their products that we have so much forest land not in a position of growing trees at this time," said Harding.

"I'm not blaming you, Mr. Minister," he told Resources Minister Ray Williston, "but this government has a policy that won't give you the kind of money you need."

Harding said he is not happy with the \$22.6 million allocated to the fores service in the 1966-67 fiscal year.

LOSING GROUND

"Service after service under the care of the minister is being starved by a lack of money," he said, adding: "We cannot afford any longer to ignore the fact that we are losing ground in this particular respect."

He also asked whether the department is looking into the future to determine what species of trees should be grown to meet the needs of 80 to 100 years hence.

"Many people in the cropping end of the forestry business are concerned that we might not be growing the right kind of trees on the right land," he said.

Williston said he can't forecast what the favored species will be in the future.

GAS PRICE FIGHT

MLA Given \$5,000 'Expenses'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Premier W. A. C. Bennett moved Tuesday to pay Omineca Sacred Cyril Shelford a \$5,000 government grant for the MLA's expenses during the Morrow Commission on gasoline prices.

Shelford said he hopes to use the money to take his wife on a trip to Europe.

Bennett introduced a special bill to provide the money.

Both government and opposition MLAs Monday urged the government to reward Shelford for his efforts and expense, but Bennett gave no hint then that he accepted the idea.

Bennett's bill would pay the \$5,000 out of the general revenue of the province because of the "special circumstances."

At the same time, the bill contains a clause protecting Shelford's position, because MLAs are not normally allowed to accept payments from the public funds except for their annual \$8,000 salary.

Shelford said his work on the gas price hearings over the past two years actually cost him about \$6,000.

"But I was well-paid in experience," he added.

He said he plans to go to Italy, Holland, Belgium and France to revisit places he saw during war service.

James NES

VICTORIA
Victoria City
 permits non-council in province.

This makes no sense and, indeed, it does not make sense at all, except for the Vancouver city council.

It's the same Sunday entertainment movies are open everywhere in British Columbia.

This silly state has to do with a — the Vancouver council. This places Vancouver from every other province.

If Sunday movies are sinful in Vancouver they be sinful in other parts of the province. Ask any cabinet member about this and he will tell you something about how that commercialization is not allowed to be peace and calm of the province.

This government's conscience of even British Columbia is covered. It's no wonder that Mr. Smith where some laws are concerned, doesn't seem at all concerned about this province. It is itself.

★ ★

It was noted here that the difficulties of the tennial committee finding a typical

'RISKS' CLAIM REFUTED

Timber Concerns Accused

Sun Victoria Bureau
VICTORIA — Lumberman-MLA Gordon Gibson Tuesday accused the big timber companies of making false claims about the risks they take and public services they perform.

He read to the legislature from a MacMillan, Bloedel and Powell River Co. promotion pamphlet which said the company takes "all the risks" in developing the tree farm licences it acquires from the government.

"That is not a true statement," the North Vancouver Liberal said.

Gibson said the company pays the government stumpage rates — so much per tree — for the timber it acquires.

Included in the calculation, he said, is a "very generous allowance" to ensure the company can make a profit.

He also attacked the big timber companies for claiming they perform such public services as re-forestation, building roads, insect control and fire-fighting.

"Make no mistake about it, the people pay for every bit of this work," said Gibson. "The stumpage profit includes allowances for all these things."

Gibson said the public should know that the managements of the big companies are in business for one reason only — to make a profit for shareholders.

His speech came during

debate on the spending estimates of Forests Minister Ray Williston.

The minister's only answer to Gibson was: "We get the best use possible of Crown land under these arrangements."

House

Sun Victoria
VICTORIA — I Robert Bonner asked the legislature Wednesday through approval of the departmental estimates so it won't to call the lieutenant into the legislature an interim supply bill. The legislature, ninth week, is about

James NESBITT

VICTORIA—Social Credit MLA Donald Smith says Victoria City doesn't understand why the government permits non-property-owner residents to run for city council in Vancouver but not anywhere else in the province.

This makes no sense to him, and, indeed, it does make no sense at all, except to Vancouver city council.

It's the same with paid Sunday entertainment. The movies are open in Vancouver, but not in Victoria, or elsewhere in British Columbia.

This silly state of affairs has to do with a sacred cow — the Vancouver city charter. This places Vancouver apart from every other area in the province.

If Sunday movies are not sinful in Vancouver, how can they be sinful in other places. Ask any cabinet minister about this and he'll mumble something about how nice it is that commercialization should not be allowed to overrun the peace and calm of Sunday.

This government is the conscience of everywhere in British Columbia but Vancouver. It's no wonder Victoria's Mr. Smith is baffled where some laws and rules are concerned. Vancouver doesn't seem at all part of this province. It is a law unto itself.

* * *

It was noted here the other day the difficulties the centennial committee had in finding a typically British

Columbia song. Finally, because of scarcity of local talent, they imported songs and singers from the United States.

Some wag now sends me what he says might be the words to a centennial song if only some composer can be found to put them to a lively tune that will set us all singing, humming, whistling and tapping our feet, a song so entirely fetching that all of California will come running to see us, and spending their dollars.

The words are:
*An election, an election, oh goody, an election,
You can say an election we're always expectin'.
But when, he won't say, not now, anyway.*

*This year is good, our Centennial should
Stand him in good stead at the polls.
But next year's good, too,
For there'll be another Centennial 'do'.*

*And '68 could be even better for W. A. C.
For he says, by then, we'll have great fat riches
That'll bring the world to B.C.*

FERRY FLEET

Gov't Told To Avert Strife

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government was warned Wednesday to do something to avert serious labor strife in B.C.'s ferry fleet.

Employees failed to win action from the civil service commission on their complaints about working shift conditions, and have requested appointment of a board of reference to hear an appeal.

Alex Macdonald (NDP Vancouver East) told the legislature it is now up to the Cabinet to appoint a chairman of a board.

"There is great unrest among the employees," he said.

Macdonald said the government has procrastinated and hesitated about making an appointment.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black said he realized ferry problems are serious.

But, he said, the civil service commission has appointed former labor department conciliation officer W. T. McLaughlin as ferry personnel officer.

"We're hoping some of the dissatisfaction that exists there can be ironed out," Black said.

He added the Cabinet will consider the board of reference appointment "when I place it before them."

B.C. Seeks Road Aid

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Mines Minister Donald Brothers said Wednesday he plans to go to Ottawa soon to seek federal aid for completion of the northern B.C. road between Stewart and Cassiar.

He was answering opposition complaints in the legislature that little was done on the road last year by the provincial government.

Brothers said he will meet federal Resources Minister Pepin in May or June to ask for aid for the Stewart-Cassiar and other B.C. mining roads.

The Stewart-Cassiar road was launched under a federal-provincial cost-sharing program which was cut off by the Liberal government.

House Prodded

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — House leader Robert Bonner asked the legislature Wednesday to speed through approval of the remaining departmental spending estimates so it won't be necessary to call the lieutenant-governor into the legislature to approve an interim supply bill.

The legislature, now in its ninth week, is about to prorogue

within a day or two, probably Friday.

The government's fiscal year begins April 1.

If the house is not finished its business before the start of the fiscal year, the government would invite Lt.-Gov. George Pearkes to approve a bill giving money to the government to finance the start of its year.

The MLAs have yet to give approval to estimates of the provincial secretary's department, the department of welfare and the public works department.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1966

Campbell Attacked Over Land Deal

By IAN MacALPINE

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Three Opposition MLAs rained strong criticism on Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell Wednesday for his handling of last year's Coquitlam land deal involving municipal officials.

He was accused of absolving the officials involved while ignoring the plight of a Coquitlam couple who suffered damages as a result of the land deal.

The attack was mounted by Opposition leader Robert Strachan and supported by Dave Barrett (NDP — Dewdney) and Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby).

During the throne speech debate eight weeks ago Strachan claimed Campbell had smoothed over the case because one of the Coquitlam officials involved was an active member of the Social Credit Party.

BLOCKED VIEW

The land deal came to light when Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Stepp, of 965 Leland, complained that municipal assessor William James Joyce was erecting a house that extended onto municipal property and blocked their view of Burrard Inlet.

It was alleged the municipal council later passed a bylaw allowing sale of the land to Joyce for about \$300, even though the Stepps offered about \$1,000 for the property.

The case led to appointment of a commission to investigate

the transaction and the commissioner ordered that Joyce and municipal clerk Francis Leland Pobst be suspended.

The cabinet later passed an order-in-council reinstating the officials. Strachan claimed earlier this action was taken because Pobst was a Secred.

Pobst admitted he was a member of the Secred Party, but said this had nothing to do with the reinstatement.

RENEWS ATTACK

Renewing his attack Wednesday, during review of municipal affairs department spending estimates, Strachan said the action taken by Campbell is proof that B.C. citizens do not have recourse if they are wronged.

"There isn't much use any citizen in this province complaining about any actions of municipal employees in this province, no matter what they do, because this minister will cover it up," Strachan charged.

Referring to the Coquitlam case, the NDP leader said: "Why didn't the minister take some action to compensate the people really hurt in this thing? This should have been his prime concern."

Campbell replied that the matter was not his responsibility, but the responsibility of the municipal council.

"We took the position that this was quite improper conduct and the municipality was so informed and in fact the

municipality was instructed to correct the situation," he said.

'GUILTY'

Campbell said it is clear that the municipal officials were guilty of technical infractions of the Municipal Act, but the elected council was responsible for its own actions.

"It was the view of this minister that the council should provide the penalty for what was already a stated case of indiscretion and a very marked display of technical inability," he said.

"I say and continue to say to this council that these were improper actions and they are in a position to correct these improper actions, and there the matter rests," Campbell added.

Strachan repeated that the people hurt by the transaction were left without compensation.

'NO CONCERN'

"You sit there smug and self-righteous, ignoring the problems of the two people who have been hurt," said Strachan. "He (Campbell) has no concern for the aggrieved citizens of this province and when that happens we are in trouble."

"Will the minister see Mr. and Mrs. Stepp in his office and explain why he passed the order-in-council?" Barrett asked.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner, speaking for Campbell, said the municipal affairs minister would be "quite happy to see the Stepps in his office."

FISH PRICE POWERS KEPT

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government has decided to retain powers of arbitration in fish price disputes.

The government earlier had proposed repeal of a section of the Provincial Fisheries Act which provided for arbitration, because it felt this was a matter for federal jurisdiction.

Attorney-General Robert Bonner Wednesday withdrew the repeal proposal in the legislature after fishermen urged wider provincial jurisdiction over the fishing industry.

'Too Moderate'

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Liberal leader Ray Perrault said Wednesday it is a scandal that the B.C. government does not spend more money on promotion of moderation in drinking.

Perrault pointed out to the legislature that the government is getting about \$39 million a year in liquor sale profits, yet it

gives only \$200,000 to the B.C. Alcoholism Foundation.

"I see an absolute absence of any advertising in B.C. that promotes moderation. I think we should be ashamed of ourselves," Perrault said.

Perrault said other provinces are conducting moderation campaigns.

Ontario is committed to spend \$100 million over 10 years on such a program, Perrault said.

"There is a moral responsibility to try to educate people to use this lethal weapon of alcohol in moderation," said Perrault.

"It's reached the stage of a scandal in B.C. that we're not doing more about this problem."

Perrault said the government must grant more money to the Alcoholism Foundation.

Hang Pushers — Black

By FRANK RUT

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Provincial Attorney Wesley Black Wednesday he favors capital punishment for drug pushers.

"I'm all for capital punishment when it comes to people, because the lowest form of animal crawls upon the face of the earth," Black told the legislature.

Black also said the government will ask Ottawa for federal studies on marijuana, B.C. Narcotic Addiction, which operate on a grant.

B.C. Medical Plan Enlists 200,884

Black Claims Gov't Scheme Overcoming Growing Pains

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The provincial government's subsidized medical care plan came under scrutiny of the legislature Wednesday for the first time since it was established last year.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black, who is in charge of the B.C. Medical Plan, admitted it is feeling the effects of growing pains, but said these are being overcome.

The plan now covers 200,884 persons, he said.

The plan was approved by the legislature at the last session and launched Sept. 1.

Opposition leader Robert Strachan complained it does not cover prescription drugs, and asked when it will be made a comprehensive scheme.

CAN'T AFFORD PREMIUMS

He also said there are about 18,000 unemployed employables in B.C. who can't afford the premiums, despite subsidies.

He said many poor risks have transferred to BCMP from other plans, and claimed that 15,000 have switched from Medical Insurance Incorporated and about 800 from Fraser Valley Medical Plan.

Strachan estimated that close to 250,000 have no medical

coverage, blaming cost of BCMP as the main factor.

He also complained that administration costs of the plan are eight per cent.

He said that is too high and is due to the number of poor risks and the cost of advertising.

LOW-INCOME EARNERS

Black replied the government is giving thought to the number of unemployed employables who can't afford the plan.

He pointed out that increased subsidies for low-income earners come into effect Friday.

From April 1, the government will pay 90 per cent of premiums for persons with no taxable incomes and half of premiums of those with taxable incomes under \$1,000.

Liberal leader Ray Perrault asked if B.C. was one of the six provinces which have indicated they are willing to participate in a national medicare plan.

Black replied B.C. was not among them, "but that doesn't mean we have rejected the plan."

Hang Pushers — Black

By FRANK RUTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Provincial Secretary Wesley Black said Wednesday he favors capital punishment for drug pushers.

"I'm all for capital punishment when it comes to these people, because they are the lowest form of animal life that crawls upon the face of the earth," Black told the legislature.

Black also said the provincial government will approach Ottawa for federal aid toward studies on marijuana by the B.C. Narcotic Addiction Foundation, which operates under a B.C. grant.

Black was answering questions by Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby) who expressed concern about the use of marijuana by young people.

"It seems to me something should be done about testing marijuana, and seeing the difference between it and other drugs," Dowding said.

Dowding said there should be a distinction between the severity of court sentences for use of marijuana and such drugs as cocaine and heroin.

He said this did not mean he felt marijuana was not harmful.

"The trouble is marijuana is becoming a social problem," Dowding said.

Dowding said "pot parties" of young people are becoming fashionable.

One of the answers, Dowding said, would be an education program.

Black said the Narcotic Foundation will be asked to do this.

Plow Back Park Profits, MLA Urges

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — A Social Credit MLA Wednesday proposed that any government revenue from mines inside parks should be used to improve other parks in the province.

The suggestion was made in the legislature by Bert Price, MLA for Vancouver-Burrard, who was a member of a special committee which recommended earlier that Western Mines Ltd. be allowed to build a townsite inside Strathcona Park.

Price spoke during debate on the estimates of Mines Minister Donald Brothers.

"There is going to be some mining under park-use permits in the province, though I hope it's as little as possible," Price said.

"Any revenue should become available to the parks department," he said.

Brothers did not comment on the idea.

However, he told Opposition leader Robert Strachan he did not know how many mining claims had been granted within park boundaries last year.