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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1970

## Vote Upholds Mines' Right

# Bid to Halt Land Sale Fails

Opposition parties failed Wednesday to get the government to end the right of mining companies to buy land which they have developed for mining operations.

New Democrats and Liberals were defeated 35 to 16 when they voted against a section of government amendments to the Mineral Act which set down new procedures for purchase of surface rights by the owner of a mineral claim.

Opposition leader David Barrett said: "We do not believe that mining promoters should get ownership of land under the guise of mining development."

He added that "Once a mine is over (ended), that land should belong to the people of British Columbia."

He said he was concerned about people going into crown land and staking "phony" mining claims with the intention of acquiring the land at low per-acre rates, then selling it at speculation prices.

Lands Minister Ray Williston called the possibility a "figment of your imagination" and said "you don't have to worry about legitimate mining companies doing it."

Williston said that the opposition's argument meant that they

wanted to put an end to the practice of acquiring land from the crown by fee-simple.

Williston said the government's policy is to have mining companies lease land for mining purposes, then develop it and finally buy the land.

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver-Howe Sound) said the new amendments would actually take away the ability of a company to lease land for a temporary purpose. "Let them use and occupy the land, but don't give it to them forever."

Robert Strachan (NDP—Cowichan-Malahat) said that the government should end the

granting of surface rights in perpetuity since it has already done the same to forest and mineral rights.

## MLAs Debate Rehabilitation

# Welfare Alters Name

By CLEMENT CHAPPLE  
"What's in a name?" was asked Wednesday by several members of the B.C. Legislature when it came time to approve a name change for the government's social welfare department.

Rehabilitation and Social Improvement is the new name, a

title that coincided with the appointment of Phil Gaglardi to the cabinet post, which was in turn the fulfilment of a promise made last summer to voters of Kamloops by Premier Bennett on the condition that they return the former highways minister to his seat in the Legislature.

The change in the minister's

title became official April 1, the date upon which certain sections of an earlier bill became effective. MLAs still had to pass the amendments necessary to effect the name change to the body of the Department of Social Welfare Act, and all documents similarly affected.

As written, this section of the omnibus bill also came into effect Wednesday. The bill itself was given third and final reading during the evening sitting.

### CONFIRMS NAME

The omnibus bill is titled An Act to Amend and Repeal Certain Provisions of the Statute Law.

Upon confirming the change of name some time ago, Premier Bennett said he wanted to get rid of the handout stigma associated with the word "welfare."

But Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) rose Wednesday to say that the new

name was "discriminatory, insulting and even derogatory" because it implied that mothers who raise families without the benefit of a husband wage earner and therefore receive welfare payments were being labelled as needing rehabilitation and improvement of some kind.

### NO FAULT

These and other people in similar circumstances through no fault of their own make valuable contributions to the community, said Macdonald, and should not be thus termed.

Gaglardi, who has already been the subject of criticism for his use of the word "deadbeat" in connection with some of the people allegedly on welfare, said that the word rehabilitation is for people who can be rehabilitated and the words social improvement show that "what we want to do is improve the status of everybody."

## If You Retain Seized Goods, Pay Sales Tax

The government succeeded Wednesday night in passing a measure that will require the repossessor of goods sold by contract to pay the 5 per cent sales tax if he plans to keep the goods.

Contained in the government's omnibus bill, this amendment to the Social Services Tax Act gave several members, including Attorney-General Leslie Peterson, a moment of confusion when the section came up for debate during the afternoon sitting.

Peterson said that if the measure was unclear, this would be corrected in regulations.

But Peterson said after the

supper break, and after consultations in the corridor with members of his department, that the wording of the amendment is clear as it stands. The tax is payable, he said, during ordinary sale and when goods are repossessed through failure to complete payments and then kept by the repossessor.

Several members, including Social Credit backbencher Herb Capozzi (Vancouver Centre) complained that the measure would penalize a repossessor when he was unable to resell the goods.

But Capozzi voted for the section, which was opposed in a vote by New Democrats and Liberals, the vote being defeated 33 to 16.

**Barrett, Wallace:**

# Private Hospital Care Needs Government Aid

Welfare Minister Philip Gaglardi said Wednesday night in the Legislature he knew nothing of the closure May 1 of Oak Lodge Private Hospital, 4036 Quadra in Saanich, and the uncertain future of its 41 patients, 21 of them supported by the welfare department.

"This has never been brought to my attention," said Gaglardi responding to questions, "so I can't consider something that hasn't been brought before me."

Gaglardi's comment came after opposition leader David Barrett and Dr. Scott Wallace (SC—Oak Bay) complained that the kind of health care given by private hospitals like Oak Lodge should be provided by the government under a general health scheme.

They also asked for a reassurance about the patients who will shortly find themselves without health care.

## Subsidies for Poor

Private health care by private hospitals is subsidized by the welfare department when recipients cannot pay themselves. The comments arose during consideration of the estimates of Gaglardi's welfare department.

Gaglardi said, however, that "when it is brought to my attention I will take a look at it."

Barrett said that the story of the closing of Oak Lodge has been in the newspapers "all week" and that if Gaglardi had not heard about it by now, there should be a procedure established in his office to prevent him from again missing such information.

Wallace, repeating a theme he has raised several times in the House, said the lack of government-sponsored health care for patients with health care requirements falling between acute and chronic is "unjust and unreasonable."

Wallace said that people who have saved money to take care of their old age requirements have all their savings taken away by private hospital fees. Then they are deprived of their "dignity" when they run out of money and must accept welfare payments.

## 'Extreme Injustice'

"It is an extreme injustice in our affluent society," he said, when an acutely-ill person pays \$1 a day, a chronically ill person pays \$1 a day, and those in between pay the "full exorbitant cost" of private hospital care.

Barrett said there are "thousands" of people who need this care and this responsibility belongs with the health department. As it stands, "one department is sponging off the other," he said.

Barrett complained that a member of the welfare office in Saanich had been quoted as saying the plight of the 21 Oak Lodge patients was not the responsibility of the welfare department.

Gaglardi replied that he did not know of the employee.

## Gaglardi Sparks Another Uproar

Tempers flared on both sides of the Legislature Wednesday night as the \$500,000 spending allocation for the Provincial Alliance of Businessmen was approved over the opposition of NDP and Liberal members.

Opposition Leader David Barrett repeated his earlier "pork barrel" charges, producing a letter from a Civil Service Commission spokesman which he said was proof that Welfare Minister Phil Gaglardi handled all hiring for the program designed to get hard core jobless back to work.

In the confusion that followed Gaglardi jumped up to reply and at least one other opposition member, Leo Nimsick (NDP-Kootenay), was on his feet waiting to be recognized by James Chabot (SC—Columbia River).

### STANDING VOTE

Barrett called for a standing vote on the PAB spending allocation and despite protests from NDP members that he was out of order, and his own admission that such was the case, the division bells were rung.

Premier Bennett insisted the vote could not be discussed after a division had been called.

Robert Strachan (NDP—Cowichan-Malahat) jumped up and pointed at the premier shouting: "You stand exposed tonight with fear in your heart. You are trying to cover up for that minister. You've been

stabbed in the back again — that minister will bring your whole government down."

When the standing vote was taken, 15 opposition members opposed the PAB allocation of \$500,000 for the coming year but the vote was passed by 35 government members.

The House rose at 11:10 p.m. after approving the \$108,000,000 spending estimates of the social welfare department.

## University

## Economy Meddling Charged

A government measure that will prohibit universities from granting honorariums to teachers who take student teachers into their classrooms came under fire in the Legislature Wednesday.

Eileen Dailly (NDP — Burnaby North), deputy leader and her party's education critic, said the move, contained in amendments to the Public Schools Act, interferes with the autonomy of universities by prohibiting the granting of such honorariums.

### STUDENTS TEACH

Mrs. Dailly cited the case at Simon Fraser University, which sends students from its faculty of education into classrooms in the community and in effect "uses the regular teachers as faculty members."

She said the qualified teachers often spend months with the students and "face quite an extra load."

She asked Education Minister Donald Brothers why the government made the move.

He replied that he will "welcome your comments next year when we see how it works."

## Hospital Board Vote

# Socred Supports Opposition

By IAN STREET  
Legislative Reporter

Dr. Scott Wallace (SC-Oak Bay) voted with the opposition in the Legislature Wednesday in an unsuccessful attempt to defeat a government move which he described as a threat to local autonomy of hospital boards throughout B.C.

The Socred backbencher opposed Section 9 of the amendments to the Hospital Act, which gives the government the power to appoint a public trustee to run any hospital which is in administrative difficulties.

### STRENGTHEN HAND

Wallace told the House during consideration of the bill in committee that he felt in view of the public financing of hospitals the government was "well-intentioned" in seeking always make me very un-some new power to control local administrations. But he added "in all conscience I must vote against it."

He suggested the government could remove his main objection and at the same strengthen its own hand when such action was necessary by only appointing a



## IN THE LEGISLATURE

public trustee on the recommendation of an examining board, which would include at least one non-political figure.

Wallace rejected the argument that the government is seeking the power to take over administration of hospitals only in cases of dire necessity. He said: "No matter what party I belong to now or in the future, legislation of this kind will always make me very unhappy."

The section passed on a standing vote in which the Oak Bay member joined 16 opposition members against the government's 34 votes.

When Opposition Leader David Barrett rose to request consent to record the results of

the vote in the journals of the House, permission was denied. An obviously angry Trade Minister Waldo Skillings led the chorus of "no" from the government side.

Wallace voted for the Hospital Act amendments on second reading, which is the stage at which the Legislature gives approval in principle to proposed legislation, but he said then that he was uneasy about the powers it conferred on government.

He said Wednesday that "on reconsideration" of his previous stand he had decided he must vote against the bill in committee.

Since coming to Canada, Wallace said, he has felt one of

the strengths of the hospital system in this country was the degree of local autonomy enjoyed by hospital boards. He said by comparison in Britain, bureaucracy "chokes the life" out of hospitals.

"I agree there are better ways to constitute a hospital board," the Socred member said. "But the present local autonomy must be preserved."

The only other speaker in the brief debate was Dennis Cocke (NDP—New Westminster) who said he believed the section was aimed directly at the board of Royal Columbian Hospital. He warned, however, that "the same big club" is poised over the heads of all hospital boards in the province.

### POINTS RAISED

Health Minister Ralph Lofmark rose to say he wanted to answer "a number of important points" which had been raised in the debate. He was cut off, however, by chairman Herb Bruch (SC—Esquimalt) who ruled that the section had already been passed on a voice vote. The opposition then requested a standing vote.

## Relax, Don't Panic Over Smelter, Richter Tells Mines

The mining industry in B.C. has needlessly "pushed the panic button" in its assessment of the effects of new legislation designed to promote establishment of a copper smelter, Mines Minister Frank Richter said Wednesday.

The minister was commenting on a telegram received from the B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines expressing concern over the government's action which the chamber said could have a "very adverse" effect on the province's mineral industry.

The wire, signed by chamber manager Thomas Elliott, said B.C.'s mineral trade with Japan is now valued at \$200,000,000 a year and could reach \$500,000,000 annually within five years.

### INDUSTRY WARNED

However, Richter said in an interview he felt the industry was "looking for the worst" in the legislation and had failed to take into consideration the many complex factors which prompted the action by the government.

"I am confident this legislation will not be so detrimental as some mining people are saying it will be at this time," the minister said.

Richter noted that in a speech to the Legislature in 1969 he warned the B.C. mining industry the government expected it "as a responsible body" to take steps to secure the establishment of a copper smelter. Nothing happened, the minister added, so legislation was

partnership will provide the ultimate solution to this problem."

brought in at this session to make a smelter operation viable.

The Mineral Processing Act, which has already been passed by the Legislature and is expected to get royal assent this weekend, empowers the minister to order any producing mine in the province to divert up to 50 per cent of its production to a designated smelter for processing.

Trade and Industry Minister Waldo Skillings said he was asked to explain the intent of the legislation while in Japan last month for the opening of Expo 70. He told Japanese interests, who expressed concern, it would be at least five years before a smelter could come into production in B.C. and therefore its effect upon the mining industry would be gradual.

### ULTIMATE SOLUTION

"The Japanese are ultra conservative people," Skillings said. "They have known for many years this was coming because it was always government policy to have at least a portion of our raw materials processed in B.C."

"We would like to get the Japanese interested in taking an equity position in the smelter just as they are our partners today in pulp mills and mines. And I think this sort of

## Rail Intent Riles NDP

Opposition members in the Legislature Wednesday accused the government of planning to move quantities of Kootenay coal by American railroads and thus lose jobs for Canadian workers.

Opposition Leader David Barrett said he believes an amendment which would allow the B.C. Harbors Board to "construct, own and operate" a railway was connected with the province's support of a move to ship coal from the Fernie area via the Great Northern through the U.S.

It was disclosed last week the government was supporting an application by the Kootenay and

Elk Railway, currently before the Canadian Transport Board, for the right to build tracks from Natal-Michel to the U.S. border, where it would link up with the GN.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson, who wrote on behalf of the government to the CTC, denied Barrett's charges. He said the proposed amendment, which was approved by a vote of 35 to 15, was designed only to confirm the authority of the harbors board to negotiate running rights to Roberts Bank with major railway companies.

### TRACKS BUILT

The crown corporation has built the tracks from Abbotsford over which CPR unit trains carrying coal will travel to Roberts Bank.

Robert Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) said he felt the amendment was actually intended to authorize the transfer of B.C. Hydro's rail freight operation, which makes a profit, to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway. He said the harbors board would receive only the actual trackage serving Roberts Bank.

Premier Bennett rose briefly to say "this bill has nothing to do with that at all" and sat down.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1970

## Safeguarding Our Future

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT deserves support for its policy of retaining control of all the natural resources of this province, no matter whether water, forests, or minerals are involved.

Without that control, the province would lose its most precious asset, and because of that the recently approved B.C. Mineral Processing Act has much to commend it.

The act provides a safeguard against long-term export sales of minerals in ore or concentrate form that might deprive the province of the future ability to process its own natural resources.

Of immediate concern is the copper situation. Vast new low-grade ore deposits are being opened up all over the province — one of the biggest is on Vancouver Island — and in practically every case there is in Japan a guaranteed market for the product.

In some cases contracts for as long as 10 and 12 years have been signed giving the foreign buyer exclusive rights to the output of the mining company.

What this has done is to tie up the quantity of raw material that would be necessary if this province is going to have a copper smelter of its own.

The new act will give the province the right to divert up to 50 per cent of all mining production to domestic refining use, a situation that on the face of it seems only right and proper.

It will not deprive the local mining companies of potential sales, because the diversion will not be required unless there is an immediate market.

It is unfortunate, therefore, that the exploration

and development companies planning the biggest copper milling plant in the province should find that the new act is jeopardizing its plans to get into production.

Lornex Mines has made a deal with a Japanese consortium and a group of Canadian banks to lend it money towards the construction of a 38,000 tons a day copper mining development in the Highland Valley of British Columbia.

President, R. D. Armstrong, backed by the B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines, says the deal is being threatened by the new act, and that if its 12-year contract with Japanese firms to take all the production is not allowed to stand, then the lenders may withdraw, and the development of the mine will not proceed.

Such would be extremely unfortunate, but Lornex, itself an internationally-owned company, can hardly expect, unrestricted rights to a long-term tie-up of its product to the exclusion of the provincial interests.

Copper ore, unlike water — debarred by B.C. from export completely, or the trees in the forest, is not replaceable. Once gone it is gone forever.

It is thus essential that the government should retain control over mineral exports. The copper in the Highland Valley will not rot. If Lornex has to make new contracts to suit the occasion, only a matter of time will be involved.

On the other hand if the prospect is not good enough to merit financing on the reasonable terms imposed by the new act, then it is certainly not worth the \$135,000,000 the company plans to spend on it.

The British Columbia government should stand firm on its principles. A heritage is at stake.

### Money Brought Deal, Says MLA

## Hunting Promise Causes Resignation

The B.C. Legislature was told Thursday night that a provincial conservation officer was forced into resignation in 1968 when he was suspected of offering special hunting rights to American hunters buying a lodge in the Vanderhoof area.

Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East), describing

what he called "pressure" on the recreation and conservation department by wealthy Americans, said that the unnamed conservation officer received money for his "connivance" in promising hunting rights to the Americans.

Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan confirmed the story,

saying there was not sufficient evidence to warrant prosecution, so the officer was offered the choice between a transfer and resignation.

The officer chose to resign, said Kiernan.

American hunters "are ready to spend thousands of dollars" for the "obscure and psychological reasons" that they have for hunting big game.

Macdonald said the recreation department should be "properly budgeted by the minister of finance" to help avoid such temptations.

"His department has succumbed on one occasion in 1968, and I hope it doesn't succumb again."

Kiernan also described the case of a guide whose licence was withheld by his department's officials because of unacceptable behavior. The minister said he was told by the guide that there would be trouble for him during the last election, but Kiernan ignored the threat.

Kiernan added that non-residents take out 5 per cent of the hunting licences in B.C., providing one-third of the total licence revenue, and they take 7½ per cent of the game killed.

### Kiernan's Pledge:

## White Paper Soon On Park Program

Recreation Minister Kenneth Kiernan announced Thursday night in the Legislature his

department is preparing a white paper outlining "a total park program" for Vancouver Island.

The minister said during discussion of his salary vote the work is still in progress and gave no details of the contents or release date of the white paper.

He told Robert Williams (NDP—Vancouver East): "I think we'll be able to recommend a pretty comprehensive parks program" for the Island.

Kiernan also said he was prepared to make available to Williams in his office this morning documents connected with the exchange last September of 5,260 acres of timber rights in Strathcona Park for 576 acres of property to establish a new provincial park at Cape Scott near the northern tip of Vancouver Island.

He assured the NDP member the parks branch plans no further exchange of property or timber rights in parks on the Island until the white paper is published.

# Kiernan Predicts Ban On DDT Within Year

By CLEMENT CHAPLLE  
Recreation Minister Ken  
Kiernan said Thursday night in  
the legislature he expects a  
total ban on DDT by this time  
next year.  
Replying to opposition ques-  
tions during his department's

estimates, Kiernan said that  
DDT has become a world-wide  
problem, and some of the worst  
concentrations found in birds  
are traced to "massive"  
amounts of the pesticide used  
by the national defence depart-  
ment against mosquitoes in the  
Arctic.

"I think we have reached the  
point when an outright ban"  
should be effected, said Kier-  
nan. "And I will be very  
surprised if that doesn't come in  
12 months."

Kiernan also said that a 67-  
acre campsite at Gordon Bay on  
southern Vancouver Island will  
be in operation by July 1.

## CAMPSITE ENLARGED

Replying to Robert Strachan  
(NDP — Cowichan-Malahat),  
Kiernan also said a campsite at  
Cottonwood Creek is to be  
enlarged to park size, following  
acquisition of more land and  
solution to the access problem.

## Sitting Today May End First Session of House

By IAN STREET  
Legislative Reporter

The first session of the  
29th B.C. legislative as-  
sembly is expected to  
prorogue later today af-  
ter a total of 74 sittings.

The session has been slight-  
ly longer than the one in  
1969 but falls short of 80  
sittings in 1968.

Members will collect their  
paychecks, which this session  
are increased from \$8,000 to  
\$10,000, as soon as the House  
rises for the last time.

This session marks the first  
occasion since 1951 that the  
Legislature has had an Easter  
recess. When MLAs returned  
to work Wednesday, after a  
five-day rest, one member  
was absent. Barrie Clark  
(Liberal — North Vancouver-  
Seymour) is in Mexico.

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Among resolutions remain-  
ing on the order paper to be  
dealt with this afternoon is  
one by Provincial Secretary  
Wesley Black proposing that  
Trade Minister Waldo Skill-  
ings receive his full sessional  
allowance and expenses.

Skillings was absent for six  
days in March when he flew  
to Japan as B.C.'s official  
representative at the opening  
of Expo 70 in Osaka.

Members are allowed to be

absent for five days during a  
session without losing any  
money, but for any longer  
period have \$12 a day  
deducted from their living  
expenses.

## Cleanup Urged For Long Beach

The government should pre-  
pare emergency work forces  
for cleaning up Long Beach

during the coming summer,  
an MLA said Thursday in the  
Legislature.

Dr. Howard McDiarmid (SC  
— Alberni) said that publicity  
about the eventual national  
park in the Long Beach area  
will only increase the number  
of visitors to the area before  
adequate facilities are estab-  
lished to cope with the load.

★ ★ ★

There are not enough gar-  
bage can or toilet facilities  
along the beach to handle the  
traffic as it is, McDiarmid  
said.

The MLA also requested  
that curbs be placed on the  
use of motorcycles on the  
beach, which are the cause of  
great "noise pollution"  
throughout the summer.

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McDiarmid also warned  
against burning of the logs  
which have accumulated on  
the beach, which he said  
would erode without the logs'  
protection. The MLA asked  
for assurance that when the  
new road to the west coast  
of the island is constructed  
along the side of Sproat Lake  
at water level, it would be  
constructed on reserved land  
with tourist facilities.

## MLAs Stay On

British Columbia's three  
women ministers without por-  
tfolio missed their only chance to  
justify their jobs Thursday night  
in the Legislature by a fast-  
moving opposition that turned  
an embarrassment into a pro-  
cedural victory.

When the \$48,876 vote for the  
salaries and department ex-  
penses of Pat Jordan, Isabel  
Dawson and Grace McCarthy  
came up for debate, Dennis  
Cocke (NDP — New Westmin-  
ster) opened with the statement  
that B.C.'s people are "picking  
up the tab for three PR people  
for the Social Credit party."

Cocke went on "I see no  
evidence of any justification for  
this vote and I call for division  
now."

The three women leapt to  
their feet in an attempt to  
prevent closure of the debate  
but it was too late and the  
division bells were rung.

With government support the  
three women's jobs were  
secured by 35 to 16 count.

## B.C. Allows Milking Of Bereaved—Liberal

A Liberal member in the Legislature Thursday accused the government of allowing American-owned Vancouver funeral companies to milk the bereaved.

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver-Howe Sound) said the Public Utilities Commission is failing in its responsibility to see that perpetual care funds are properly used.

He said correspondence with the attorney-general's department last month suggests "complicity" between the government and seven Vancouver companies, owned by Service Corp. International of Houston, Texas, which is using more than \$2,000,000 in perpetual care

funds acquired in the 1969 purchase, to make a profit for its shareholders.

Williams said shares in the companies which were worth 77 cents before a public issue was authorized jumped to \$3.10 "without the companies turning a wheel." He said the perpetual care funds were used as public assets in the share issue.

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"This government has a serious responsibility to see that people who are bereaved, at a time particularly trying for them, are not made the victims of this kind of profit making. If these companies wish to conduct their business in B.C., then so be it. But let it be known that we have a proper and responsible way for the commitment of the dead — a way that does not try the resources of those who survive. The bereaved must not be milked," he said.

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The government made no reply to Williams and before the PUC vote was passed, Liberal leader Patrick McGeer rose to say the commission was nothing more than a repository for defeated politicians and not worth the \$229,000 it will cost in the coming year.

## McGeer Opposes Raise

Liberal leader Pat McGeer voted against the MLA's salary increase when it came up in the Legislature just before midnight Thursday.

He was the lone opponent of the \$743,786 legislation vote, which includes members' salaries and expenses for the session. The vote was 48 to 1.

McGeer voted against the salary because it contained an increase from \$8,000 to \$10,000 for MLAs, which was announced in the budget Feb. 6. He said at the time that salary increases for members should be turned down because of the general fight against inflation.

He has said he would not turn down the money but has spoken out several times against the principle of a salary increase.

The house adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

## Kiernan Raps Davis On Park Idea

Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan said Thursday in the Legislature he was willing to discuss the possibility of an underwater park in the Gulf Islands area with the federal government.

The minister expressed annoyance, however, with the fact that he first learned the federal government might be interested in such a park when he read a statement in newspapers by Fisheries Minister Jack Davis.

Kiernan made the statement during debate on his salary vote when the Legislature was considering his departmental estimates.

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More than one MLA had criticized Kiernan for showing no interest in such a park when the minister said "so far there has been no communication to this minister or any other . . ."

"Surely it would be common courtesy to discuss this with someone other than with the newspapers."

Asked whether he would agree to such a park, Kiernan

said: "I am prepared to sit down and discuss it with the federal government any time," adding that "it's a little awkward" to just gloss over the newspaper reports.

David Brousson (L—North Vancouver-Capilano) suggested that the government offer two or three islands for inclusion in the park, should it materialize, saying it would be "one of the most unusual and exciting recreational areas in North America."

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"Or would the government rather drill for oil" in the Gulf Islands, asked Brousson.

Also during the debate, Harold Merillees (SC—Vancouver-Burrard) asked the government to get together with members of the Washington State Legislature over pollution fighting programs for the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Gulf of Georgia and Puget Sound.

He also renewed a warning against the alleged imminent shipment of nerve gas by American ships through the Juan de Fuca waters.

**'Real Guts' Left Out****NDP Leaves House  
In Hansard Debate**

By CLEMENT CHAPPLE

The New Democratic Party walked out of the Legislature Friday after learning that the debates of most of the session will not be published.

Opposition leader David Barrett said following the walk-out that the decision by the government not to record and print all the debates was "designed to frustrate democracy."

A motion that has stood on the order paper throughout the session was called in the dying hours of the session by Provincial Secretary Wesley Black, who said only transcripts of debates of the House will be printed from the magnetic tapes which recorded all proceedings. The debates of the House in most cases are set speeches read by the members from notes or full texts.

**SPENDING DEBATE**

What Barrett called "the real guts" of debate will not be published. This includes debate on spending estimates and detailed debate of bills.

"What a farce, what a mockery," said Barrett. It was particularly important since the province has been without its two largest circulation newspapers to record debates on their news pages.

The government "has gone mad with its overwhelming majority" and has begun to believe "that myth that you are

somehow plugged into God," Barrett said.

**INSULT TO PEOPLE**

"We don't buy it," he continued, "It's sick and it's an insult to the people of this province."

Liberal leader Pat McGeer followed Barrett, saying that the announcement was an "insult" to the Legislature and added that "any premier or any cabinet minister or any member ashamed to see his words in full ... should not be sitting in this Legislature."

Several amendments proposed by Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby-Edmonds) which would have resulted in fully-published debates were ruled out of order.

Ernest Hall (NDP — Surrey)

said the government has forgotten what democracy is all about.

Just before 5 p.m., Robert Williams (NDP — Vancouver East) stood up and said: "Once again, the man who plays God" had stifled information and "we refuse to take part in this debate."

Then the NDP members walked out of the chamber.

**DIVINE RIGHT**

Outside the House, Barrett said "We refuse to take part in a debate that has obviously been designed to frustrate democracy. To sit there and be used as pawns in a denigrating game played under government that thinks it has "a divine right to rule" is unacceptable," he said.

**Benguet Meet  
'Unbelievable'**

NDP leader David Barrett reacted strongly Friday to the news that Resources Minister Ray Williston may meet today with a representative of the Benguet Corp., which was the major financial backer of the Cypress Bowl recreational development.

Barrett said it was "un-

believable" that Benguet called such a meeting, which is apparently to include West Vancouver Mayor Alex Forst.

Williston said Friday he would attend the meeting if he is invited.

"What power has Benguet got to pull a cabinet minister over to Vancouver for a meeting?" asked Barrett.

## NDP Caucus

# Barrett Wins Favor

The British Columbia New Democratic Party caucus Friday unanimously endorsed opposition Leader Dave Barrett's bid for the leadership of the party.

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Caucus chairman Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) said the endorsement by the 12 MLAs was made in accordance with the party's constitution. The decision will be forwarded to the party's leadership convention in June at Chilliwack.

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The 39-year-old social worker from Coquitlam, near Vancouver, was named house leader of the party by the caucus following defeat of Tom Berger in the Aug. 27 provincial election.

★ ★ ★

Berger had won the leadership at an April, 1969, convention, defeating Barrett by 36 votes. Williams was also a contender at that convention but ran third.

Barrett was first elected to the legislature in 1969.



## Something Extra This Spring

It was payday in Legislature shortly after 5:30 p.m. Friday when first session of 29th Legislative Assembly ended and MLAs lined up for heavier than usual pay cheques. During session they voted themselves pay raise to \$10,000 from \$8,000. From

left are: Burton Campbell (SC—Revelstoke), James Chabot (SC—Columbia River), Public Works Minister W. M. Chant, Alex Fraser (SC—Caribco), Agriculture Minister Cyril Shelford, Opposition Leader Dave Barrett, Attorney-General Leslie Peterson. —(Jim Ryan)

# Twist! Goes B.C.'s Tourniquet

By JOHN MATTERS

"And if this doesn't stop the flow of blood, I am going to apply the tourniquet somewhere else."

The words are those of B.C. Health Minister Ralph Loffmark, spoken last fall when he was discussing salaries of hospital employees.

On Friday, the minister applied the tourniquet and some hospital authorities wondered if it's around their necks. And he might be tightening it, too.

Loffmark announced that B.C. Hospital Insurance Service, the government agency that distributes taxpayers' money to hospitals, will pay only 70 per cent of salary increases awarded employees.

Each hospital would have to find the remaining 30 per cent, or slash costs. In the case of St. Joseph's (Royal Jubilee) is still negotiating with most of its staff this will mean the hospital will have to find about another \$200,000 a year.

Across the province, it means general hospitals will have to tighten their belts to the extent of about \$10,000,000 before the end of 1971.

And what will happen if those hospitals are in desperate financial trouble by then or earlier?

Some hospital authorities wondered Friday night whether it was just a coincidence that the government only days ago adopted legislation that would allow it to appoint an administrator to run any hospital in trouble.

It is possible, a spokesman pointed out, that some B.C. hospitals will not be able to avoid such a predicament.

"This is inconceivable," said Dorwin Baird, chairman of the board of Lions Gate Hospital in North Vancouver after he was told of Loffmark's announcement in the Legislature.

"We already are on a bare-bones budget. Are we supposed to send sick people home? A 30 per cent cutback is simply not possible."

D. H. Lawson, chairman of the board of Royal Jubilee, said he had no details of the minister's announcement and until he was better informed he had no comment.

"But if it is 30 per cent, it is a sizeable thing."

Jubilee resumes negotiations on April 20 with its employees' association.

However, most general hospitals in B.C. have already settled new contracts with the Hospital Employees' Union. The award represents increases of between eight and 10 per cent this year and during 1971.

In addition, all hospitals have new contracts with the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. that give those employees an increase of eight per cent this year.

The settlements in both cases involved the intervention of the B.C. Mediation Commission.

If staff cuts are necessary, said one hospital spokesman, they'll start as far as possible from patient areas.

However, he wondered what staff cuts would be possible. Hospitals already are on minimum staff and are handling more patients than ever.

Cost-cutting is a theme that has been gathering momentum among hospital authorities, particularly those in government, during the past three years.

It has been taken on a relatively strident tone since B.C. registered nurses won salary increases in 1968 that made them among the highest-paid of their profession in Canada.

Federal authorities have recently joined the battle. They are involved because Ottawa pays about 52 per cent of the money BCHIS dispenses.

The most significant decisions on hospital costs likely were made in Victoria about one month ago.

The Colonist learned Friday night that C. M. Drury, chairman of the federal treasury board, and at least one senior official of the federal department of health and welfare at that time had a talk with Premier Bennett about health costs in this province.

That meeting, when the federal freeze on health spending likely was set out in detail, probably precipitated Loffmark's announcement to the Legislature.

In any case, the governments of B.C. and Canada clearly have two things in mind:

Hospitals no longer are bottomless wells into which public funds can be poured and the old idea that sick persons should get nothing but the best just isn't economically feasible nowadays.

# Limit Reached In Financing Hospital Care

By IAN STREET  
Colonist Legislative Reporter

Health Minister Ralph Loffmark announced Friday the provincial government has reached the limit of its ability to finance the spiralling cost of patient care in B.C. hospitals.

Loffmark also warned the limit for financing the rapidly-increasing cost of medical care in the province would be reached "very shortly."

The \$175,000,000 to be spent on B.C. Hospital Insurance Service during the coming year, an increase of \$25,000,000 over 1969, will be sufficient only to meet 70 per cent of the total increase in salaries for hospital personnel, the minister said.

Therefore, Loffmark added, "in order to avoid serious financial problems" hospitals throughout the province will have to take immediate action to reduce costs by an amount sufficient to meet the 30 per cent of salary increases that will not be met by BCHIS.

Loffmark said the cuts will have to come in staff and services but he added it will be left up to individual hospitals to decide exactly what cuts are required.

BCHIS payments will be allocated to hospitals "on as fair and equitable basis as possible" but the minister said no government can go on indefinitely absorbing wage increases of the magnitude experienced in this province in recent years.

The cost of patient care in B.C. hospitals has increased 126 per cent over the past five years, Loffmark said, and the same rate of increase over the next five years would push the BCHIS bill to about \$370,000,000 by 1975.

He warned the cuts ordered now will be "nothing compared to what hospitals can expect in the next few years" if salary costs keep rising.

"It is clear," Loffmark said, "that a continuation of

the cost escalation could, within a relatively few years, bankrupt any government. That is why the government of Canada stated positively that increases in the cost of health services must be held within satisfactory limits."

He said the B.C. cuts were part of a nation-wide campaign to keep hospital costs "in act" of this government.

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"The federal government asked us to exercise restraint," the minister said. "Ottawa is concerned about costs in B.C. — they say our costs are too high now. We are prepared to co-operate in efforts to bring these costs down."

Loffmark said the decision not to approve additional hospital spending for the coming year was made about noon Friday. The announcement followed immediately, he said, because "every day that goes by without hospitals reducing their expenses will make it more difficult to come within their budget for the year ahead."

The minister added: "Coming events cast their shadows before."

"We can expect to see the same stringent standards to bring under control the rising cost of medical care in the province. There are limits beyond which no government can go. We have reached that limit in hospitals."

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"We will probably reach the stage very soon where the amount of money made available by the government for medical care will have to be limited."

Loffmark said hospitals of the province have agreed to pay approximately \$16,000,000 during the coming year rising to \$32,000,000 during 1971 for salary increases and added fringe benefits.

## Marijuana Legalization Quotes

# House Censures Trudeau, Munro

A concerted attempt by opposition MLAs and a number of Soerred backbenchers failed to amend and even ruled out of Friday to prevent approval of a order, but was sustained by a 34 motion by the Legislature to 17 vote at the insistence of censuring Prime Minister Premier Bennett. Trudeau and Health Minister Dudley Little (SC — Skeena) John Munro for their state-voted along with the New Democrats and Liberals.

egalization of marijuana. **'IRRESPONSIBLE'**  
The motion, introduced earlier Mrs. McCarthy introduced her in the session by Minister motion after Munro was quoted

January 29 in newspapers as saying that "if we find that a significant minority of Canadian people smoke marijuana we would be totally irresponsible if we didn't legalize it."

The statement regarding the possibility of legalization allegedly made by the prime minister was not spelled out.

Speaker William Murray appeared to be about to rule the motion out of order, after he was told that Munro had later denied the statement on more than one occasion.

### MUNRO'S QUOTE

Liberal leader Pat McGeer said that "Munro telegraphed me personally" to say he was incorrectly quoted.

But Premier Bennett, who did not take part directly in the debate, repeatedly said "he didn't deny it, he didn't deny it."

Ernie LeCours (SC — Richmond) also said he had heard Munro deny the statement during a radio program but he voted with the government.

### 'CHEAP POLITICS'

Opposition leader David Barrett said his party would not support the motion because "this is a motion made to condemn a federal minister." He said he wanted to make it clear that he is not in favor of legalization of marijuana.

He called Mrs. McCarthy's action "nothing but a political move. It's just playing cheap politics."

Instead of slapping the wrists of the federal government, the B.C. government ought to be slapping the wrists of the "Mafia" for its connection with drug trafficking.

### 'DEADLY ENEMY'

Health Minister Ralph Loffmark said that marijuana is unequivocally a "deadly enemy of this community."

When Loffmark said that it is "immaterial" whether or not Munro made the statement, Murray said it was of "considerable moment." He added that if Munro withdrew it, "then I feel the motion is not in order."

After an hour of debate, Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) suddenly moved adjournment of the debate which, if agreed to, would have allowed the motion to die on the order paper.

But a roll-call vote kept the debate open. The Liberals

meanwhile were so busy drafting an amendment to the motion that they did not realize a vote was being taken, and nearly missed voting along with the NDP to have the debate adjourned. Little voted with the opposition.

### VOTE ON MOTION

Before Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver-Howe Sound) could introduce his amendment, Ernest Hall (NDP—Surrey) called for a vote on the motion itself, saying "I think that no purpose will be served by continuing the debate."

McGeer tried to have the amendment introduced by arguing that Hall's motion to call the vote was out of order but he was unsuccessful. The final decision was taken and the motion passed.

The whole debate, which lasted approximately an hour and 20 minutes, ate up the only time allotted during the session for business introduced by private members.

### DEAD MOTIONS

Among motions that died on the order paper:

- To reinvest the legislative committee on education and welfare with the power to investigate drug use.

- To form a new legislative committee to review legislative machinery.

- To require the government to make public all its correspondence with the federal government on Indian policy.

- To protest nuclear testing on Amchitka Island.

- To disallow any offshore oil drilling in the Straits of Georgia.

- To form a legislative committee to investigate the collapse of the Commonwealth Trust Company.

- To make the Legislature a conciliator in the Pacific Press shutdown labor dispute at Vancouver.

### PRIVATE BILLS

The House managed to dispose of 13 private members bills, all of which were not accepted, and a further seven were not discussed. Two government bills were allowed to die.

Included in the private members bills were one to ban all tobacco advertising, one to allow television coverage of the legislative debates, one to require the government to recognize private schools.

# Royal Assent Given 57 Bills

● NDP walks out of House in Hansard debate. Page 37.

● Trudeau, Munro censured despite opposition. Page 37.

The first session of the 29th B.C. legislature became history Friday when Lieutenant-Governor John Nicholson prorogued the House after giving royal assent to 57 government bills.

The government's legislative program placed emphasis on the so-called disadvantaged section of society in the province — those finding it difficult to purchase their own homes, who are forced to rent accommodation, victims of unscrupulous selling practices, unpaid workers and those in correctional institutions.

The New Democratic and Liberal opposition parties in

the House concentrated their attacks on the government in the fields of pollution control, charging the government with failure to enforce its own laws.

They attacked the Social Credit administration of land policies, particularly in reference to the moribund development of Cypress Bowl near West Vancouver. The opposition said the new Land Act doesn't go far enough in protecting crown lands from falling under foreign ownership.

The opposition criticized the government for its handling of the Commonwealth Trust affair where they said many investors lost their life savings because authorities were negligent.

They also charged Welfare Minister Philip Gaglardi with

making patronage appointments of known Socialists to the Provincial Alliance of Businessmen, which is designed to find jobs for hardcore unemployed, and criticized Gaglardi's claims there are "deadbeats" on the welfare rolls.

★ ★ ★  
Government legislation approved this session included:

● New aid to purchasers of older homes in the form of outright \$500 grants or a \$2,500 second mortgage.

● The per capita grant to municipalities was increased \$2 to \$30 to help meet the increased local cost of welfare services.

● Unsolicited distribution of credit cards and goods will be discouraged by removing the obligation of an individual to accept such goods or credit.

● Tenancy agreements were placed under general contract laws, removing many of the landlords' powers such as distress for rent, requiring that three months notice be given for rent increases and the freezing of rents in the province until the bill comes into effect.

● The age of majority is also to be lowered from 21 to 19 for all purposes including the right to enter marriages and other contracts and to drink liquor.

● It is now at the right of any arrested person to make at least one phone call within the first 12 hours following his arrest.

● Laws dealing with the corrections service were also reformed to broaden parole and probation opportunities.

● A completely rewritten Land Act establishes that only Canadian citizens will be able to acquire crown land by purchase and gives the government increased power to remove increased power to crown land by squatters.

● New measures in the field of pollution control for the first time place regulation of air pollution under the jurisdiction of the Pollution Control Board. It also sets specific deadlines for industry, municipalities and individuals to report to the PCB on the location and extent of emissions into the air or discharges onto land or into water in the province.

● The Litter Act requires a two-cent refund to be paid on all soft drink and beer containers and prohibits littering and discharge of sewage on land or into water bodies from trailers, campers and boats.

● An amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act gives the government the power to require at some future date that exhaust control devices be fitted to all new vehicles sold in the province.

● A new Municipal

Financing Authority is to be set up to pool the \$6 billion property taxation base of the province's municipalities and unorganized territories as credit for borrowing for water, sewer and pollution control and abatement facilities.

● The government has new powers to place under public trusteeship any hospital board or society experiencing administrative difficulties or failing to pursue proper financial procedures.

● A new Motion Picture Act places emphasis on classification rather than censorship of films.

● Amendments to the Succession Duty Act exempt family homes from death tax, increase exemptions for pensions or annuities from \$1,200 to \$3,000 a year and exempt from taxation 10 per cent of estates going to charities.

● The name of the social welfare department was changed to the rehabilitation and social improvement department.

● MLAs salaries were increased by \$2,000 to \$10,000 a year.

During the session the Morrow royal commission on B.C. drinking laws presented its report recommending liberalization of drinking practices including Sunday drinking with meals, extended hours of sale, neighborhood pubs, fewer restrictions on drinking in public places, and establishment of a three-member liquor board.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson indicated many of the recommendations contained in the commission's report can be implemented by cabinet order and therefore do not require amendments to the Government Liquor Act.

★ ★ ★  
The legislature's special committee on automobile insurance recommended establishment of an Automobile Insurance Board by the government to review premiums now being charged by private carriers under the provincial compulsory no-fault scheme. The committee suggested that if present premiums aren't realistic in relation to the costs of the package the government should move to bring costs into line.

## Opposition Hard-Hit by Perfectly Timed Vancouver Situation

# News Blackout Bonus for Bennett

There were sounds of laughter and applause behind the closed doors of the Social Credit caucus room last Thursday afternoon. The occasion was Premier Bennett's end-of-session pep rally and in keeping with the rah-rah atmosphere on these occasions he told government members this was the most successful session in his 18 years as premier.

Was the premier kidding or merely trying to impress new government members who have grown weary alongside the veterans during the past 11 weeks? I'll say not—when Mr. Bennett says successful, he means successful.

After all, wasn't the opposition — NDP leader Dave Barrett's claim to the contrary — almost totally ineffective? They faced not only an overwhelming government majority of 38 in a 55-seat House, which was expected, but also the entirely unexpected lack of coverage from Vancouver's two major daily newspapers.

Mr. Bennett couldn't have invented a better ploy if he had lain awake many sleepless nights. Even his worst enemies didn't try to blame the government for the shutdown yet he was able to reap undoubted benefits from it.

The timing of the shutdown, from the viewpoint of the government, was just about perfect. The *Vancouver Daily* published all through the throne debate and most of the budget debate before

shutting down Feb. 15. They have been silent throughout discussion of estimates and debate on major legislation which have provided the major springboard for opposition criticism this session.

Undoubtedly, the general lacklustre behavior of the opposition in the latter stages of the session has been due to a sinking feeling they are just not getting through in print to the 400,000 daily combined circulation of the *Sun* and the *Province*.

So the NDP, in particular, are taking what comfort they can from the fact they were lucky to come out of this session relatively unscathed.

Mr. Barrett, after a shaky start, has emerged as the unquestioned choice of the NDP 12-member caucus for the leadership of the party which will be decided at Chilliwack in June.

NDP members who began the session exploding like firecrackers in all directions, according to their individual interests and ambitions, now show at least a semblance of discipline. They now obviously realize their main task is just to keep the party alive after the disaster it suffered at the hands of B.C. voters last August.

The five-member Liberal group, under the leadership of Pat McGeer, shows every sign of clinging to its role as the "next-time" party in the Legislature.

There seems to be, however, a growing realization that the party must build now if it hopes to achieve any significant measure of success in the next provincial election.

Mr. Bennett's trouble this session has been trying to hide the power of a huge majority behind his government's mailed fist. Mr. Barrett has exerted control over his own individualistic group of NDP members with a pretty impressive iron fist of his own. But in his attacks on the government, with rare exceptions, he has worn a velvet glove.

Dr. McGeer once again is guiding the Liberals, if that is the correct expression, with a velvet fist inside a velvet glove.

No one, I suppose, really expected this to be a very exciting session, and no one was disappointed. It is, after all, the first after an election. With the next confrontation at the polls still about three years away that means it is time to get a few unpleasant tasks squared away for the government and regrouping time for the opposition.

Mr. Bennett lost no time in keeping his election promises. He raised social assistance payments by \$5 a month, provided new help for homeowners and prospective homeowners, threw a bone or two to local government, and handed out a number of other goodies.

With MLAs he was more generous, giving them a 25 per cent pay raise, but pointing out they hadn't had an increase for five years. But I'm still not satisfied the majority of members are worth \$10,000 a year under the present legislative system and neither are a lot of other people.

Then the premier turned to other legislative tasks which needed to be done but which are calculated to annoy some vested interests and therefore are better accomplished when an election is somewhere in the remote future.

These include a new anti-litter law, added protection for tenants, powers that allow the government to divert up to 50 per cent of the production of any mine in the province to a designated B.C. smelter, and a credit pooling system to back local government borrowing.

In doing so the government has raised the ire of the bottling industry, some landlords, the mining industry, and powerful Lower Mainland municipal leaders. But it doesn't care at this stage, confident that by 1973 all will be forgotten and it can do something nice to court the favor of these and other groups in the province.

Mr. Bennett claims there is even an authentic stroke of his own genius in the government's legislative program.

The amendments to the Succession Duty Act, which include total exemption for the family home, also make farm homesteads duty free on the death of the owner. The effect, Mr. Bennett says, will be to encourage farmers to hang onto their property in order to create an estate to pass down to their family.

So instead of proliferating subdivisions if everything works as planned, we'll retain

the greenbelts that allow our cities to breathe. It's the old saw — the carrot instead of the stick — and that Mr. Bennett argues is what success is really all about.

# Cutback on Spending Hurts' Nursing Care

By JOHN MATTERS

The government's cutback on hospital spending will adversely affect the care given sick people, the president of the B.C. Registered Nurses' Association said Saturday.

Mrs. Monica Angus also suggested that the provincial government apply restraint to the private sector of the economy if it is freezing services in the public sector.

Health Minister Ralph Loffmark told the Legislature Friday that B.C. Hospital Insurance Service will pay only 70 per cent of the salary increases that recently have been awarded hospital employees.

Individual hospitals will have to find the remaining 30 percent or cut back, he said.

He also said the \$175,000,000 that the B.C. government will distribute among the province's publicly-owned hospitals during the coming year is the most that can be afforded in this province.

D. A. J. Wood, chairman of the board of St. Joseph's Hospital, said a meeting of the hospital's executive committee on Wednesday will discuss how the cutbacks will apply to that institution's budget.

"We will see if there are any areas where we can reduce service, but we must be extremely careful," he added.

He said the restraint measures enunciated by Loffmark could have been expected because all public services now are trying to trim their spending.

"It is a chronic thing. The taxpayer says he wants no more spending but at the same time he wants the level of services maintained."

Dr. Wood said St. Joseph's officials will be sharpening their pencils but a hospital budget is a complex thing and any post-cutting would have to be executed with extreme care.

He mentioned that hospital employees have received salary increases recently and he suggested the time may have arrived when more effort is required if those employees want to maintain their level of income.

Mrs. Angus, interviewed from Port Coquitlam, said hospital employees "are stretched as far as they can go."

If they're stretched any further, the level of care will decline and that will harm patients, she said.

She said she feared that one result could be the takeover of registered nurses' duties by less-qualified workers who are paid less than registered nurses.

She said if RNs were not being permitted to get near patients, the standards of care would radically decline. Already a number of procedures were not being done by nurses that should be performed by them, added Mrs. Angus.

If the registered nurse is not more actively involved in the treatment of the patient all that can be expected in a hospital is "a minimal level of custodial care," said the RNABC president.

Mrs. Angus said federal statistics show the standards of hospital care and public health service in B.C. are declining and she blamed this on provincial policies.

The public health service does not have enough registered nurses and hospital services in places like Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and Prince George were "extremely critical" with thousands of persons on waiting lists, she said.

## Saving Path Shown

There are many ways of cutting hospital costs without cutting back on staff, says Oak Bay MLA Dr. Scott Wallace.

"I've been talking about these things all session," he said Saturday.

"I'm beginning to wonder how effective I've been as a Social Credit backbencher when the minister makes the kind of announcement he made on Friday."

Wallace said that while he is shocked and worried about the announced cutback in hospital funds, he has no intention of leaving the party.

Wallace said money can be saved in hospitals in many ways — most of them recommended in a recent federal task force report.

"There were 160 recommendations in that federal report on hospitals, many of them dealing with economics," said Wallace, "not one of them mentioned the way the minister chose."

Wallace repeated that better use of acute-care beds could be achieved by moving patients out into post-acute beds as soon as possible.

"These types of beds cost half as much to build and need half the staff to care for them," he said.

He said hospital stays could be cut by building up cheaper home-care services.

"If you can reduce a hospital stay by just one day, that's \$47 a patient," he said. "Home care is far cheaper and all that many would need by the end of the recovery period."

He advocated standardization of hospital equipment, with the regional hospital districts taking over the bulk buying of drugs, linens and cutlery and operation of a central laundry to look after all local hospitals.

"I'm not at all sure that we would even need to build any more acute-care beds in this district if we built up all the necessary adjuncts, such as out-patient, or one-day surgery, and out-patient care," said Wallace.

"These forms of care are much cheaper in operation than the urgent acute-care areas and they are cheaper to establish. They should be established before we build more expensive beds."

Wallace said the minister's edict can only result in a reduction of hospital staffs.

"This can only lead to a reduction in the standard of care, and the only losers will be the patients," he said.

"We shall build up a poor atmosphere in the hospitals, with the staff worrying about who will get fired next — and we can't afford to cut staff."

Wallace said that a 30-patient surgery ward in Royal Jubilee has a staff of five for the evening shift — one graduate nurse, two students, an aide and an orderly. At night the staff is reduced by one student nurse.

"You just can't cut back there," said Wallace.

Wallace said the net effect of Loffmark's ruling is to try to enforce wage restraint on a particular segment of the economy — the hospital workers.

**A P R**

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THURSDAY

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# Port garbage hits beaches

VICTORIA — Liberal MLAs disclosed in the legislature Wednesday that garbage from Vancouver harbor tour ships is being dumped just outside the harbor, polluting beaches in the Vancouver area and the Gulf Islands.

Liberal MLA Alan Williams (West Vancouver-Howe Sound) charged that the Harbor Exodus takes garbage from the Princess touring vessels in Vancouver harbor and dumps it in Manson Deep.

He said the garbage does not sink and demanded to know why the provincial Pollution Control Board does not stop the practice.

Resources Minister Williston, who has responsibility for the PCB, said that under the Canada Water Act pollution control outside the harbor area is a federal responsibility.

This appeared to be in direct conflict with the provincial government's position that the exploitation of minerals or oil in the Gulf of Georgia is a provincial responsibility and not Ottawa's.

The debate arose during discussion to amend the Pollution Control Act which place air pollution control under the juris-

diction of the board. Air pollution was formerly regulated by the provincial health department.

Liberal leader McGeer said this bill means that Health Minister Lofmark no longer has the power to regulate the discharge of sewage from pleasure craft in B.C. waters.

"I can't see the difference between pleasure craft discharging sewage and a boat loading up with garbage and dumping it just outside the harbor," McGeer said.

During debate on the bill an amendment by Ernie Hall (NDP-Surrey) to make it an offence for pollution control permit holders to violate the terms of their permits was defeated 35-15.

# Socred opposes hospital bill

VICTORIA — A Social Credit backbencher voted against a section of a government bill which was described in the legislature as a threat against autonomy of B.C. hospitals.

Dr. Scott Wallace (Oak Bay) said he is unhappy about a section of a bill amending the Hospital Act empowering the government to place under public trusteeship hospital boards and societies and be in control of all hospital assets.

Dr. Wallace said the attractive features of B.C. hospitals is their autonomy "compared to Britain where bureaucracy chokes up hospitals and cuts off progress."

He criticized what he called the sweeping power given to cabinet in the bill to step into hospital administration and proposed in its place authority to set up an examining board, including at least one non-political person, to investigate hospital administration policies.

"No matter what party I belong to now or may belong to in the future I will always be unhappy about this type of legislation — I suggest that with due respect though the section was included with good intentions, in all conscience I cannot support it," Dr. Wallace said.

Alan Williams (Liberal-West Vancouver - Howe Sound) said there is no obligation under the bill, for Health Minister Ralph

Loffmark to act on recommendations of the examining board, listed as a step toward any possible public trusteeship of any hospital.

He said the Social Credit government extends to local areas the right to pay, but keeps for itself the power "to swoop down and destroy all local autonomy."

A number of Socred cabinet ministers were visibly displeased with Dr. Wallace's statements and Socred committee chairman Herb Bruch was more than once criticized for trying to stop debate on the section.

# 'U.S. profiteering' in B.C. burials

VICTORIA — A Liberal M.L.A. charged in the legislature Thursday that U.S. interests are profiteering in the cemetery business in B.C. with the complicity of Attorney-General Ies Peterson.

Alan Williams (L. - West Vancouver-Howe Sound) appealed to the government to see that the Public Utilities Commission closely controls the cemetery business in the province.

He noted that a U.S. firm, Service Corp. International, has taken over the following B.C. undertaking and cemetery firms:

Forest Lawn Development Ltd., Bronze Memorials Ltd., Ocean View Development Ltd., Ocean View Abbey (1928) Ltd., Simmons and McBride, Forest Lawn Memorial Services Ltd., Forest Lawn Cemetery Co., Ocean View Burial Park Co., Mount Pleasant Undertaking and Mount Pleasant Chapel Ltd.

Williams withdrew, on the order of the house chairman, the word "complicity" with which he referred to the role of Peterson in the takeover, substituting the word "co-operation."

But he read to the house a letter from Arnold F. C. Hean, solicitor for the takeover company, to T. G. Bowen-Colthurst, special counsel in Peterson's department, to back up his accusations.

The letter, written on March 6 of this year, acknowledged Service Corp. International's takeover of the company.

"I am pleased that after my talk with the attorney-general he asked you to meet with me to discuss the matter of the above noted companies," Hean wrote to Colthurst.

"I talked with the attorney-general in my capacity as solicitor to the above noted companies and upon the instructions of my clients. My instructions were received as the result of a statement or series of statements, made by H. P. Capozzi, M.L.A. in the legislative assembly on the nineteenth day of February, 1970," Hean said.

He was referring to remarks by Capozzi that a U.S. company had purchased mortuaries in B.C. and that the service charges thereafter had become too high. He also referred to later remarks by Bob Williams (NDP-Vancouver East) that "the Mafia was in some way involved with certain cemeteries in the United States."

William charged that Service Corp., of Houston, Tex., had

shares valued at 77 cents before offering to the public, which realized a capital gain to \$3.10 when they went public.

"If these companies wish to conduct their business in B.C. let it be known that we have a proper and responsible way for the commitment of the dead that does not try the resources of those who are survivors. The bereaved must not be milked."

## BENNETT SET FOR SEQUEL TO 'GOOD LIFE'

VICTORIA—The Good Life in B.C. is going to get better.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett, dubbed Cecil B. de Bennett for his production of the film, "The Good Life," before last year's provincial election campaign, told the legislature Thursday that he is planning a sequel called "The Better Life."

Opposition MLAs said the proposed film sounds like another propaganda production similar to The Good Life.

Gordon Dowding (NDP-Burnaby-Edmonds) suggests that if the premier's face is featured prominently, the film may be classed as obscene.

## BARRETT BACKED BY NDP CAUCUS

VICTORIA — The 12-member New Democratic Party provincial caucus has unanimously endorsed Opposition Leader Dave Barrett in his bid for leadership of the party.

The MLAs decided Friday to recommend to the party's leadership convention in Chilliwack in June that Barrett, the 39-year-old social worker from Coquitlam, be chosen leader.

Barrett was defeated by 36 votes by Tom Berger at last year's NDP convention in Vancouver, but has been de facto leader of the party since Berger's defeat in the Aug. 27 election last year.

# A look at the legislature

## HOW MUCH MORE COULD SESSION HAVE ACHIEVED?

The recently-concluded session of the provincial legislature was unusual for its lack of sensational politics and for the amount of legislative business accomplished by the government. But so it should have been, because the government had just received an unusually powerful mandate to conduct business on behalf of British Columbia.

There was nothing spectacular about the government's program, but it was an attempt at least to catch up with the times, albeit in somewhat old-fashioned style.

This was reflected particularly in the government's approach to pollution and liquor reform.

The three major pieces of anti-pollution legislation — tackling automobiles, litter and the over-all problem of control — are all excellent in principle. Whether they will be so in practice remains to be seen. The greatest weakness of any anti-pollution law can lie in its enforcement. The government has allowed considerable leeway for discretion and delay which undermine what seem to be good intentions. There is no date, for example, for proclamation of the law requiring automobiles to be equipped with anti-pollution devices. The new Pollution

Control Act requires a permit FOR pollution, rather than a prohibition AGAINST it.

The government was wise to amend the age of majority to nineteen, at least bringing some consistency to the rights of young British Columbians. The only wonder is that it took the advice of a royal commission on liquor laws to persuade the government to do something rather obviously necessary.

The report of the Morrow Commission was a major social document, recommending a host of long overdue reforms in liquor laws. It did, however, disappointingly omit a recommendation for sale of beer and wine in grocery stores, thus leaving the government firmly in control of all liquor business. The government itself has not yet moved to implement most of the Morrow recommendations, if it ever will, on the assumption that most can be handled by regulation rather than legislation. Once again it remains for the government to prove its good intentions by action.

Another report, this one from the legislative committee on automobile insurance, did attempt to straighten out some of the more ludicrous aspects of last year's legislation, especially Section 79, which in effect would make all accidents deductible and which may now never be proclaimed.

The new Landlord and Tenant Act certainly seems well-motivated and there were a number of useful amendments updating the law regarding property, credit and civil rights. The homeowner grant was increased again, and municipalities granted an extra \$2 per capita to offset loss of money the government had previously withdrawn for social services aid.

One of the most curious pieces of legislation was that requiring mining procedures to process half of their production within the province. There is some question about the effect this could have on development and investment, although it seems clearly aimed at establishing a long dreamed-of copper smelter in B.C.

The \$1.1 billion budget was, by Premier W. A. C. Bennett's standards, somewhat restrained. It was lean on highways and unspectacular on education, though there was an increase for universities. (However, the government probably sealed the fate of the junior college system by nailing it firmly down to local school board and regional control.) It is significant that the biggest sum of really new spending should go to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, showing that the government still prefers to emphasize economic priorities.

However, it was a pretty good session for Mr. Bennett and the government — a pretty tame one for the Opposition. That it achieved progress in the social field is undeniable. But with such a majority in the legislature, with such a mandate from the electorate, how much more could have been accomplished.

TUES APRIL 7, 1970

# This is what they did

VICTORIA — There were statutes passed and expenditures approved in the first session of the province's 29th legislature to benefit all sections of society in B.C.

There was special emphasis on measures to improve the lot of disadvantaged groups — the poor, unwary consumers, tenants, exploited laborers, youth, native Indians and inmates of correctional institutions.

The effect of many measures passed, because they are no more than expressions of government intent, will not be felt for some time. And there is no guarantee that the approved legislation and expenditures will live up to expectations.

Premier and Finance Minister W. A. C. Bennett's record \$1.16 billion budget provided for a seven per cent raise in old age pension allowances, an average 8.5 per cent increase in allowances to welfare recipients and dependents, and a raise for civil servants in the six to eight per cent range.

These increases are not so impressive beside other measures in the budget — an overall 14 per cent spending increase for all purposes in 1970-71, and a whopping 25 per cent increase in salaries which the MLAs awarded themselves — to \$10,000 a session.

Cabinet ministers' salaries were raised to \$20,000 a year.

The legislature extended to purchasers of older homes a \$500 grant or \$2,500 second mortgage, which is half the financial assistance available to those buying new homes.

It increased the per capita grant to municipalities by \$2, to \$30 per head, to cover increased welfare costs at the local

level — increases largely caused by the province's insistence that municipalities pay 20 per cent of welfare costs, up from 10 per cent in 1968.

It extended to workmen in all occupations procedures for recovery of wages owing by employers, but specifically exempted farm laborers and domestic servants.

It legislated to discourage the distribution of unsolicited goods and credit cards by removing the obligation of consumers receiving such goods or credit.

It placed tenancy agreements under general contract laws, removing many of the landlords' powers such as distress for rent, requiring that three months notice be given for rent increases and freezing all rents in the province until this legislation comes into effect.

But the House was told that some landlords in B.C. seemed to know in advance of the pending legislation, pushing up rents in anticipation of the freeze, and negating the immediate effect of the bill.

The House also lowered the age of majority in the province from 21 to 19 years for all purposes, including the right to enter marriage and other contracts and to drink liquor, measures which have been urged on the Social Credit government by the opposition for many years.

Laws dealing with the Correctional Service also were reformed to give statutory approval to broader probation and parole opportunities which have been

practised on an experimental basis.

Amendments to municipal legislation were passed to facilitate the incorporation of Indian reservations as municipalities, which would qualify them for full government aid for local services.

One of the major bills of the session was a completely rewritten Land Act to ensure that only Canadian citizens be given title by the government to Crown lands, although the opposition insisted that the bill did not go far enough to ensure this.

The act also allows the government greater power to crack down on hippies and others squatting on Crown lands, and simplifies procedures for acquiring title to Crown lands.

It gives the government greater powers to investigate the background of interests seeking to develop Crown land — a measure resulting from the controversy over the Cypress Bowl development above West Vancouver.

There were new measures in the field of pollution control.

Responsibility for regulation of air quality was placed under the Pollution Control Board. This removes air pollution control from Health Minister Ralph Loffmark, the minister who has been strongest in his determination to control pollution.

Specific deadlines were set for industry, municipalities and individuals to report to the board on the location and extent of emission into the air or discharges onto land or into water.

A provincial Litter Act, in an effort to halt pollution caused by non-returnable beverage bottles and cans, requires a two-cent refund per container to be paid by those selling them, and prohibits littering on waters and land in B.C. and the discharge of sewage from trailers, campers and boats.

An amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act requires that exhaust control devices be fitted to all new vehicles sold in B.C., although U.S. and Ontario legislation requires that the devices be built into new cars manufactured under those jurisdictions.

The legislature set up a municipal financing authority to pool the \$6 billion property taxation base of municipalities and unorganized territories as credit for borrowing for water, sewer and pollution abatement facilities.

There was no provision for provincial guarantee of the borrowing.

Other major pieces of legislation include a new Motion Pictures Act placing the emphasis on classification rather than censorship of films, and removing restrictions on films shown by societies or at educational institutions, and amendments to the Succession Duty Act, exempting family homes from death tax, increasing exemptions for pensions or annuities from \$1,200 to \$3,000 a year, and exempting from taxation 10 per cent of estate going to charity.

But the succession duty legislation also gave retroactive approval to a decision by Bennett to tax the Woodward Foundation — preventing the foundation from appealing his decision to the courts.

Many of the new measures passed at the session do not come into effect until proclaimed by the cabinet at dates yet to be set.

Legislation in this category includes consumer protection amendments, those for more tenant rights, the exhaust emission requirements for cars, and the Land, Age of Majority and Litter Acts.

During the session the Royal Commission on liquor presented its report recommending liberalization of liquor laws in B.C., including Sunday drinking with meals, extending hours of sale, neighborhood pubs, fewer restrictions on drinking in public places and replacement of the one-man liquor board by three commissioners.

The Royal Commission report was presented in plenty of time for Liquor Act amendments this session, but none was proposed. However, most of the recommendations of the Royal Commission can be implemented by the cabinet without legislative approval.

Many MLAs acknowledged that the shutdown of Vancouver's two daily newspapers affected their performance during the session and this may have been the reason for what Opposition members charged was the arrogance of the government in ignoring criticism fired at it.

Only the set form speeches of MLAs in the throne and budget debates and debate on principles of bills are to be made available to the public.

## Canadians deprived of jobs at superport

Opposition MLAs have accused the provincial government of depriving Canadian workers of jobs

by supporting the carrying of Kootenay coal over American railways to the Roberts Bank Superport.

The MLAs opposed a section of a government bill which allows the B.C. Harbors Board to own and operate a railway system. The section was passed in a standing vote of 35 to 15.

Bob Williams (NDP—Van East) charged there are memorandums of intent between B.C. Hydro, builder of the Superport railway, and major railway companies in the area, which the legislation is attempting to make legal.

He referred to an application by the Kootenay and Elk Railway to carry coal to the Great Northern Railway south of Natal Michel on the U.S. border for shipment through the U.S., to the superport.

"This will mean there will not be jobs for Canadians at our own superport in B.C. — you will turn it all over to the Great Northern Railway and you will allow American trains to go through using American workers," he charged.

Attorney-General Les Peterson said the legislation is necessary to allow the Harbors Board to negotiate with railway companies bringing materials to the port

**A P R**

**1970**

# Already He's Mr. Maverick

He Voted  
Against  
His Own  
Leaders  
Twice  
In One Day



WALLACE  
... an impatient M.L.A.

By VIC PARSONS

Rookie legislators generally don't get a name for themselves as maverick politicians, but novice Dr. Scott Wallace (SC—Oak Bay) is rapidly coming to be regarded as a man unafraid to vote against the government.

Last week in the legislature, Wallace voted twice in one day with the opposition, and hinted he would not support sections of proposed amendments to the Hospital Act that would give the cabinet power to appoint administrators over hospitals.

However, most of the time he casts his lot with the government.

Wallace is afraid that sometimes his voting with the opposition might be misinterpreted. He made clear his position in his maiden speech to the legislature earlier in the session.

"I am a supporter of the

Social Credit party, because this party most closely represents the political beliefs which I now hold."

But he added that for anyone to suggest a politician can agree with everything his party states is as ridiculous as to suggest that a man can agree with everything his wife says.

"I would not remain passive to see any new progressive policies I might offer sacrificed on the altar of party unity," Wallace declared. However, threw in a warning to the opposition not to take comfort in his remarks.

## Stepped on Several Toes

Since then the Oak Bay doctor has stepped on the toes of the government on several occasions, and there are reports that he has been asked by government members to tone down his remarks.

Wallace made his first mark in the house by suggesting that the name of the Social Credit party should be changed to the Social Reform party and by urging that the hospital coverage rate should be raised from \$1 to \$3 per day.

After Premier Bennett rejected the suggestion of the hospital coverage hike, Wallace—during the budget debate—asked if he might "be so bold as to suggest the premier is wrong."

In the same speech he

called for greater efforts to close the gap of needed intermediate hospital care, and charged that money was being wasted in the way hospital beds are being utilized.

Wallace took another swipe at the government over the matter of the Succession Duty Act recently passed in the legislature.

It would be a tragedy for B.C. if charitable gifts to art galleries and museums were taxed, Wallace said, expressing fear that much art would be sold outside the province to raise money to pay taxes.

"I think this is an oversight on the premier's part, and I hope it will be amended before it gets to second reading."

## Efforts Not All in Vain

Wallace's efforts were not in vain. When second reading of the bill was made, Bennett announced that art objects will be valued at a nominal \$1 when bequeathed to libraries, galleries or museums and displayed within B.C.

In the chamber Wallace has expressed his displeasure at procedure several times, impatiently heckling repetitious members and, on one occasion, challenging a ruling against him by supply committee chairman Herb Bruch.

Bruch had ruled him out of order for trying to speak about the housing problems of the elderly under the provincial home owner assistance grant. Wallace was defeated, but won the support of two

other Soerod backbenchers, three Liberals and three NDP.

The doctor's concern for the problems of the elderly has also brought him in conflict with official government policy. While bus rates are going up, Wallace has thrown his support behind the attempts of the Silver Threads organization to get \$10 annual passes for those over 65.

Bus rates should be reduced or the government should be prepared to increase the subsidy, Wallace said recently when he was asked to present a 5,000-word petition to the government. The elderly should be encouraged to get out and move around, he added.

## 'Scream Loudest, Longest'

Although he voted for second reading of the amendment to the Hospital Act giving the cabinet power to appoint a public administrator in hospitals having "administrative difficulties," Wallace voiced uneasiness at the bill.

The government "might well use the power in a subtle way to take over every hospital in the province," Wallace said though he added that he didn't see it as a first step in that direction.

"If in future the government proceeds in a manner that suggests this bill is a subtle means of controlling all hospitals I will be the first to scream loudest and longest."

The government should have the power to take action against irresponsible hospitals but he said he did not realize in voting for the bill that the cabinet could appoint an administrator without requiring the report of an examining board.

Wallace said he would consider voting against that section unless it is altered.

Wallace's reluctant love affair with the opposition reached a climax last Tuesday when he supported two NDP motions.

One would have made a

rent freeze retroactive to Jan. 22—the date of the throne speech—instead of Feb. 25

the day an amendment to the Landlord and Tenant Act was introduced into the legislature.

The opposition charged that a leak had been made which tipped off landlords in the Vancouver area that rent increases could not be made without three months written notice. Wallace indicated he had received similar complaints from people in Oak Bay.

The other motion Wallace supported was one made by NDP leader Dave Barrett calling for mandatory mental and physical examinations of children sent to training schools.

Both motions were voted down by the government side.

Whether Wallace, the political maverick, is on the road to a cabinet post—a cynic might say he will get one just to keep him quiet—or whether he will become an isolated, and gradually, perhaps, less energetic backbencher, remains to be seen.

Whatever the case, at present the self-confessed "naive" rookie adds spice to the often bland legislative scene.

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## GOVERNMENT ACTION DEMANDED

## Chronic Bed Lack Said Critical

Welfare Minister Phil Gagliardi told the legislature Wednesday night he hadn't heard about the impending closure of Oak Lodge Private Hospital and the crisis it could create for 21 welfare recipients with nowhere to go.

"This has never been brought to my attention," Gagliardi said of the case which has been widely publicized in Victoria newspapers in the past week.

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett, speaking slowly, said he wasn't aware whether Gagliardi reads the newspapers but suggested the minister "find out how your department failed to bring this matter to your attention."

## AID UNFAIR

He said it wasn't "fair" to Gagliardi for his department to keep from him the "crisis situation" facing the 21 welfare recipients currently in the Victoria hospital which will close because of financial problems.

Barrett was joined by Scott Wallace (SC—Oak Bay) in an appeal for government action to solve the specific problem and the wider problem of lack of nursing home care.

Waiting lists for other Victoria nursing homes, some of them also reported threatened with financial problems, mean the welfare recipients have nowhere to go. Wallace said 50 or 60 patients in acute hospital beds are awaiting nursing home beds in Victoria.

"The welfare department should be concerned about finding facilities for these people," he said.

Wallace agreed with Barrett that the system of requiring nursing home patients to use up acquired savings before qualifying for welfare assistance is "most unjust and unreasonable."

Gagliardi said the question of expanded nursing home care is a matter for the health department, not the welfare department.

The \$108 million welfare department estimates were approved by the legislature at 11 p.m. after a frayed-temper shouting match over procedure, one of the wildest rhubarbs this session.

New Democrats claimed chairman James Chabot (SC—Columbia River) had improperly shut off debate on a vote of \$500,000 to the Provin-



BARRETT  
"... crisis situation"

cial Alliance of Businessmen, the job-finding agency set up by Gagliardi last year.

"You're trying to cover up for that minister," shouted Robert

Strachan (NDP—Cowichan-Malahat) to Premier Bennett who was accused by Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) of manipulating the rules of the House.

## OPPOSITION JOINED

New Democrats and Liberals joined forces to vote against the expenditure which was approved 35-15.

Barrett repeated earlier charges that the alliance was a "political pork barrel" which was set up outside the Civil Service Commission.

The shouting match, featuring Premier Bennett on the Socred side against Williams, Strachan, Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby-Edmonds) and Leo Nim-sick (NDP—Kootenay) may have been linked to tangles during the afternoon sitting.

Industry Minister Waldo Skilling had several times refused to allow unanimous consent to have opposition votes recorded in the House journals and the NDP retaliated by calling formal divisions on three sections of bills and then voting with the government in favor — a delaying tactic.

During the welfare debate,

Barrett charged that the \$94 million spent on social assistance by the government reflected a waste of money and human resources by the government. The government policy was to hand out cheques to recipients without any involvement in the community, he added.

The department operated as a bureaucracy in Victoria without any concept of local conditions and needs, Barrett, a social worker, said.

He demanded to know what the plans, philosophy and action of the department under Gagliardi would be.

Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer said if the experience found in Alberta proved to be similar to that in B.C. a total of 83 per cent of those on welfare would be receiving assistance because they were physically or socially handicapped, or because they were deserted mothers or widows.

## CHILD CARE

On this basis, the \$211,000 that Gagliardi said the government spent on day care centres to look after the children of women who work should be increased ten-fold, McGeer said. Some groups had approached the government for assistance in this sphere, he added, but had been turned down.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) asked that none of the \$94 million in social assistance wind up in the hands of a funeral home "combine" owned by American interests in Vancouver. He said the interests operated a monopoly in Vancouver with a low price of \$478.

B.C. SALES TAX  
3 TIMES LUCKY!

If you buy a new piano, you pay the five per cent provincial sales tax.

Later, if you sell it to someone else, they pay the five per cent provincial sales tax too.

If they fail to keep up their payments or the deal otherwise falls through and you repossess the piano and decide to keep it for your own use after all, guess what?

You pay the five per cent provincial sales tax, again.

This was the opposition's interpretation of an amendment to the Social Services Tax Act in the legislature Wednesday night and it wasn't denied by the government.

★ ★ ★

Herb Capozzi (SC—Vancouver Centre) said he was "concerned" if that interpretation was correct because it didn't sound like such a good idea.

Garde Gardom (L—Vancouver-Point Grey) said the provision was not only a bad idea for individuals selling household effects but would be a tremendous source of confusion in business where repossessions are common.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said the tax applies only to repossessions when the goods are subsequently used personally by the person repossessing them. If they are re-sold, the new purchaser pays the tax.

All the New Democrats and Liberals voted against the amendment and all the government MLAs voted for it, but some looked puzzled.

# Mine Interests Said Pushing Panic Button

Mining interests in the province have "pushed the panic button" and are looking for the worst in the new B.C. Mineral Processing Act, Mines Minister Frank Richter said Wednesday.

Richter was commenting on concern expressed by the B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines that the new act might jeopardize the export of minerals to Japan.

The act gives the minister the authority to order any producing mine in B.C. to send up to 50 per cent of its production to a designated smelter.

The chamber said Tuesday that the provision would jeopardize development of Lornex Mining Corp.'s Highland Valley copper holdings about 125 miles northeast of Vancouver. They particularly referred to sales and financing agreements with Japanese interests.

Richter said Wednesday that the mining interests in the province knew the government was interested in having a smelter in B.C. The government was responsible for the protection of the public interest, he added, and when the companies did not take the initiative to establish a smelter, the government did.

He felt that minerals should be processed in B.C. "to the maximum" in the light of world markets and economic conditions.

The government had encouraged the Japanese to come here, Richter added, and several companies indicated their interest.

Richter said that he did not think the question of ensuring a supply of ore for any copper smelter that might be built in the province was as difficult a matter to overcome as some mining people have indicated.

## Legislature Pushes Bills Through

It was a busy day in the legislature Wednesday: A total of 19 bills were given third reading and five other bills passed through section by section examination in committee of the whole.

Among the bills considered and passed were amendments to the Pollution Control Act that apply to air pollution; the amendment to the Hospital Act that gives the cabinet power to appoint a public administrator over hospitals in "administrative difficulties"; the Land Act; an act establishing a municipal financing authority to raise funds through sale of bonds for the construction of sewer, water and pollution control facilities; and amendments to the Landlord and Tenant Act.

The legislative program of the government is thus near completion with only five bills to be reported, although there are 20 private members bills, and an Act Respecting Hearing Aid Dealers that has yet to be given second reading.

The private members bills are mostly from the opposition.

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## NDP BIDS TO PLUG POLLUTION ACT'S LOOPHOLES

Loopholes in the present Pollution Control Act allow those issued government permits to litter beaches and dump waste in water, opposition MLAs charged Wednesday.

An attempt by Ernest Hall (NDP—Surrey) to plug the "loophole" was turned down by a vote of 35 to 15 with the NDP and Liberals supporting his amendment to the government's pollution control bill.

Hall wished to have written into the act a clause that would

give the government authority to fine permit-holders who break the requirements of pollution control board permits.

### DUMP GARBAGE

Hall said there was nothing written in the anti-pollution laws that stopped permit-holders from violating the conditions of their permits. It is not now an offence to contravene the permit, Hall added, calling for tougher action against polluters by the government.

Liberal leader Dr. Pat

McGeer also said he would like to see the government take a tough line against permit-holders who dump garbage into B.C.'s coastal waters.

Though Hall's amendment was defeated, the bill passed third reading unanimously.

The bill gives the government power to take action to prevent air pollution and puts the onus to report pollution on the polluter. The government already has control over land and water pollution under previously passed legislation.

## Railway Amendment Said Costing Jobs

A government move to give the B.C. Harbors Board statutory power to own railways was described in the House Wednesday as a device to allow shipment of Fernie coal to Roberts Bank superport on U.S. rail lines.

"This amendment will allow the remaining jobs (from the Kaiser coal operation) to go to the Great Northern Railway instead of to Canadian rail workers," charged Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver East).

Opposition MLAs asked repeatedly if the bill, giving the harbors board the authority to build, own and operate a railway, was intended to facilitate the carrying of coal on the U.S. line to the B.C. port, but received no answer.

### SECRET DEALS

They also charged the bill, amending the B.C. Harbors Board Act, is being pushed through to "legalize" agreements already made in secret by the board which controls access to the superport.

Peterson said the harbors board already has been given the authority to run railroads through cabinet order-in-council.

The opposition has pressed for all-Canadian rail routes for the Japan-bound coal.

New Democrats and Liberals were outvoted 35-15 on the amendment.

### LEASES URGED

They were also unsuccessful in a 35-16 vote aimed against allowing the government to give Crown grants of land to mining companies which require the surface rights for their operation.

The opposition charged the government is failing to crack down hard enough on promoters who use mining claims as a dodge to acquire non-competi-

tive land rights. Land should be leased rather than alienated permanently for mining purposes, New Democrats said.

## Hospital Takeover Power Approved

Dr. Scott Wallace (SC—Oak Bay) joined with the opposition in a vote against giving the minister of health the power to take over any hospital in the province in the legislature Wednesday.

"Whatever party I might belong to now or in the future," Wallace said, he could never be happy about bills giving cabinet ministers such sweeping powers, even if they are described as unlikely ever to be used.

Wallace said the bill, amending the Hospital Act, should be rewritten to make clear the minister could take over a

hospital only after a committee of inquiry, including at least one "non-political" person, had reported on the administrative situation at the hospital in question.

### AUTONOMY GOOD

If such committees could bring in a unanimous decision for a takeover, it would be clear to the public that a wise decision had been made, Wallace said, adding that the autonomy of local hospital boards is one of the good features of Canadian hospital administration.

Dennis Cocke (NDP—New Westminster) said he feared the bill is aimed directly at a New Westminster hospital (Royal Columbian) which has been in conflict with the government and Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver-Howe Sound) said Health Minister Ralph Loffmark had failed to be candid with the House about the purpose of the bill.

It passed 34-17. An NDP request that the vote be recorded in the House journals, requiring unanimous consent, was denied by Industry Minister Waldo Skillings who called out, "No."

# Kiernan Favors Underwater Park in Strait

By BRUCE YEMEN  
and VIC PARSONS

Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan said Thursday he is "quite favorably inclined" toward a proposed underwater park in the Strait of Georgia.

But he was critical of the federal government for failing to approach him directly with the proposal instead of promoting it through the press.

"Would you add some land to an underwater park?" asked Dave Brousson (L—North Vancouver-Capilano) in reference to a suggestion that a few islands might be included.

"I'm prepared to sit down and discuss it with federal ministers at any time," said Kiernan, who was asked by MLAs to give his views on oil drilling in the straits. He did not reply.

The park proposal, suggested by Fisheries Minister Jack Davis and reportedly gaining a wave of public support, was raised by Brousson during debate on Kiernan's departmental estimates which were approved shortly after 10 p.m. after six hours of debate.

During the long debate, MLAs rose up to speak on everything from tourist facilities and hunting licences to pollution and nerve gas shipments.

## Nerve Gas Precautions Urged

Harold Merilees (SC—Vancouver Burrard) warned the government to take precautions to prevent accidents involving the shipment of nerve gas or oil through the Gulf of Georgia.

He asked that the government take steps to co-operate with Washington State to fight pollution in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Gulf of Georgia and Puget Sound.

Facilities for tourists in B.C. should be improved,

Herb Capozzi (SC—Vancouver Centre) said. There should be grading of accommodation and improvement in services.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said that pressure was being brought against the recreation and conservation department by Americans to get special privileges for hunting. He asked that the minister take precautions to ensure that regulations are being kept and that game be preserved for the people of the province.

## Action Taken On Hunting Abuse

Kiernan replied that when officials or guides are suspected of wrongdoing, action is taken to prevent abuse of the rules.

He also told Macdonald that although only five per cent of the hunting licences are issued to non-residents, they provide one-third of the direct revenue from hunting yet take about 7.5 per cent of the kill. The proportion of non-residents getting licences has remained at about the same figure for a decade.

Leo Nimsick (NDP—Kootenay) said the recreation and conservation department was being shortchanged by being allowed only less than one per

cent of the budget. Wilderness areas should receive top priority and be protected against misuse.

Nimsick warned that the number of game animals taken by hunters in the Kootenays since the antlerless hunting was brought in is a signal the government might have to cut back the bag limit there.

William Hartley (NDP—Yale-Lillooet) said that killing off antlerless animals will destroy next year's crop because mothers carrying calves are being slain.

He advised a committee to study wildlife and environmental effects on animals.

## End of Man in 40 Years

NDP leader Dave Barrett referred to the magazine Wildlife Review published by the department as a "rational" publication that publishes articles related to conservation and pollution.

He read parts of one copy which stated in part that misunderstanding of the environment had led to the demise of all other civilizations, and that if the present rates of pollution continue it would mean the end of man in 40 years.

Barrett wondered if Kiernan would repudiate statements by Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell that teachers who made similar statements to their pupils were "unethical."

The NDP leader also said that in 1958 the province had about 8.3 million acres of parks, but this figure had been reduced to 6.4 million acres by 1968. "If you want to play a numbers game, you look bad."

## NDP Caucus Backs Barrett for Chief

The New Democratic Party caucus today unanimously endorsed Opposition Leader Dave Barrett in his bid for the leadership of the party.

Caucus Chariman Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) said the endorsement by the 12 MLAs was made in accordance with the party's constitution. The decision will be forwarded to the party's leadership convention in June at Chilliwack where Barrett is expected to win the leadership.

The 39-year-old social worker from Coquitlam was named house leader of the party by the caucus following defeat of Tom Berger in the Aug. 27 election.

Berger also resigned as

party leader effective as soon as the party could elect a new leader. Berger had won the leadership at an April, 1969, convention, defeating Barrett by 36 votes.

Williams was also a contender at that convention but ran third to Berger and Barrett. Former party leader Robert Strachan, who had previously defeated a Berger leadership bid in caucus in 1967, backed Williams at the convention.

With Barrett making a credible showing as opposition leader in his first session, he received the support of Williams, Strachan and Alex Macdonald, former deputy leader who was also considered a possible candidate.

## 47 CHEATERS HIT WELFARE

A total of 47 persons was convicted of defrauding the department of social welfare during 1969, Welfare Minister Phil Gagliardi reported Thursday in answers to written questions on the legislative order paper.

The total amount involved was \$27,430, he replied to Ernest Hall (NDP—Surrey).

The question apparently was placed on the order paper as a result of claims by Gagliardi that welfare recipients were "falling like flies" from the rolls in a crackdown on cheating following his takeover of the department in October.

A total of 63 persons was charged. There were 47 convictions.

The welfare rolls have numbered about 90,000 in recent months.

## DEVELOPMENT WHITE PAPER COMING

## Minister Freezes Park Deals

A white paper on parks development on Vancouver Island is being prepared by the provincial government, Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan said Thursday night.

And until the report is completed at an undetermined time, no further trades of parkland or parkland timber rights will be made, Kiernan told the legislature.

## DEAL CRITICIZED

He was replying to Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) who had asked if Kiernan planned any more trades similar to one last September in which the government acquired 576 acres of parkland at Cape Scott on the northern tip of Vancouver Island for the timber rights to 5,260 acres of Strathcona Park.

The deal with a lumber company was widely criticized at the time but the government defended it as the most economical and sensible means of acquiring the land to be included in a proposed 38,000-acre park at Cape Scott.

Kiernan said staff members in his department are working on "comprehensive" assessment of parks potential on the Vancouver Island at the present time but gave no indication when it might be completed.

## SKI PARK

Kiernan said a look will be taken at the possibility of the Cathedral Grove-Mt. Arrow-smith areas being made into a park as requested by a 7,000-signature petition recently, but he warned that the costs

of land acquisition in the area, near Port Alberni, would be high.

Dr. H. R. McDiarmid (SC—Alberni) said he would do all he could to promote a park at the site which he said offers the best skiing on Vancouver Island as well as excellent hiking.

McDiarmid also called for a ban on motorcycles and other unmuffled vehicles on Long Beach and also for extra staff to clean up garbage and empty pit toilets during the summer rush.

He said adequate park reserves should be established at Sproat Lake in readiness for the increase in traffic flow to Long Beach when the Alberni-Tofino road is completed.

Frank Ney (SC—Nanaimo) said Green Mountain should

be considered as a park site and John Tisdalle (SC—Saanich) asked for expansion of McDonald Park to serve more campers.



McDIARMID

... promoting ski park

## Funeral Plans Under Attack

American funeral service companies are milking the bereaved of the province with the complicity of the government and Attorney-General Leslie Peterson, Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver-Howe Sound) said Thursday in the legislature.

People who are bereaved should not be made victims of those who profit out of their bereavement, Williams said, contending that the Public Utilities Commission is failing in its responsibility to see that public trust funds are being properly used.

Williams said the complicity was revealed in correspondence between the attorney-general's department and legal representatives of Vancouver funeral operations owned by Service Corporation International of Houston, Tex. About \$2 million of perpetual care funds are invested to make a profit for shareholders, the MLA added.

## 'OPPORTUNITIES'

Investors in the company had made from the trust funds more than double the amount earned from the business, with shares increasing in value from 77 cents to \$3.10 without the companies doing "one tap of work."

He asked that the PUC ensure the companies do not make more than their proper share.

Williams said the companies had a slick promotional pamphlet out called Opportunities in Death. "It should be called Opportunities in Death because that is where they are making their money."

The PUC should let it be known that there are facilities in the province for the responsible commitment of the dead in a way that does not milk the living, Williams said.

## USELESS

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby-Edmonds) said the PUC had a valuable role in the past as a supervisory body over B.C. Hydro, and asked that the commission be restored to its role.

Liberal Leader Pat McGeer said the commission is useless and should be abolished.

The \$534,000 estimate of the PUC was passed after about a half-hour of discussion.

## GORDON BAY CAMPSITE OPENS IN JULY

A 67-acre campsite at Gordon Bay on Lake Cowichan should be operational by July 1, Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan said Thursday.

Kiernan made the announcement when replying to a question from Robert Strachan (NDP—Cowichan-Malahat). Strachan had asked what plans the government had for the development of more parks close to Victoria.

Kiernan also said that a campsite at Cottonwood Creek will be a bigger park in the long term but additional acreage had yet to be acquired, and access problems had to be solved.

## B.C. Legislature Session Ending

The legislative session was expected to end later this afternoon after mopping up resolutions and private members' bills, the only business left on the order paper following more than eight hours of sittings Thursday.

Spending estimates for the recreation and conservation department, the ministers without portfolio, the Public Utilities Commission and the legislature were approved Thursday along with third reading of five bills.

The bills included amendments to the Public Schools Act, an omnibus bill, and an act to establish a municipal financing authority to raise money through the sale of bonds for water, sewerage and pollution control facilities needed by municipalities and regional districts.

An act which would have regulated the practice of hearing-aid dealers and consultants introduced by Minister without Portfolio Isabel Dawson was not proceeded with.

## McGEER TAKES PAY RAISE —ANYHOW

The vote was 48 to 1 in the legislature Thursday night when MLAs approved increases in their combined salary and sessional allowances from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

The lone dissenter was Liberal Leader Pat McGeer, who has argued that this is an inappropriate time for MLAs to raise their salaries.

McGeer was challenged by Social MLAs to refuse to take the salary increase or give it to charity but he indicated he would accept the raise.

## DDT Total Ban Seen By Kiernan

Conservation Minister Ken Kiernan said Thursday he will be "very surprised" if the insecticide DDT isn't banned totally in B.C. within a year.

"I think we've reached a point where an outright ban is needed," he told the legislature. "It's too dangerous to fool around with."

Kiernan also said a bill regulating use of snowmobiles and other off-highway vehicles may be placed before the legislature next year. It might even include regulation of helicopters used in hunting, he said, but there will have to be study of possible conflict with federal department of transport jurisdiction.

## WOLFISH RHETORIC BITES THAT HAND

The punch-line of the legislative session was delivered Thursday night at the expense of Frank Ney (SC — Nanaimo).

Speaking during debate on recreation and conservation estimates, the new MLA started off full-speed ahead by boasting that timber wolves had once been used as "lapdogs" in Nanaimo but lately they were dwindling alarmingly.

"Where are the wolves of Vancouver Island?" asked the dapper real estate man, rhetorically.

"In the real estate business," replied Gordon Dowding (NDP — Burnaby-Edmonds) as MLAs burst out in laughter.

"Quit while you're behind," shouted a heckler to Ney. He continued, but quickly changed the topic from wolves to cougars.

## Williston-Benguet Meeting 'Incredible'

By BRUCE YEMEN

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett today described as "incredible" and "unbelievable" a meeting which may take place Saturday in Vancouver between Resources Minister Ray Williston and a lawyer for Benguet Corp.

"What power has Benguet got to pull a cabinet minister over to Vancouver for a meeting?" Barrett asked of the foreign company whose gambling interests in the Bahamas have led to the

provincial government stalling a proposed development of recreation facilities in the Cypress Bowl area of West Vancouver.

Williston said today he will attend the meeting if he is invited. It is understood that West Vancouver Mayor Alex Forst is also expected to attend.

### ALLEGED LINKS

The opposition has asked repeatedly for the government to say clearly that Benguet is unwelcome in B.C. because of its gambling connections and other alleged links with organized crime including bribing of government officials in the Bahamas.

Benguet took over a B.C. company called Alpine Outdoor Recreation Resources last fall for \$1 million in the controversial ski development on leased Crown land.

After a public uproar over the Benguet firm's reputation and apparent plans for a huge residential subdivision in the bowl, Williston and Premier Bennett announced the project was being suspended.

### AWAITS REPORT

Williston has said in the legislature he has had no reason so far to change his view that Benguet is not welcome in the project but maintained that a report on the company had not yet been given to him by the attorney-general's department.

He said the promoters of the Cypress Bowl project have been given until May to arrange acceptable financing but also said that, as far as the government is concerned, the promoters don't own any leases in the Bowl because of an administrative oversight in the lands department.

## 'Now Casting For Son Of Good Life'

You've heard about "The Good Life."

Now W. A. C. Bennett Productions Inc. announce "The Son of Good Life." Read on.

The premier threw the legislature into turmoil Thursday night with an announcement that the controversial government film will have a sequel before the next election.

He made the disclosure in a shouting, arm-waving defence of the B.C. promotion film which was made at taxpayers' expense and shown widely before the 1969 election.

"Before the next election, I want to announce there will be another one—"The Better Life,"" Bennett shouted.

The matter came up during recreation department estimates when Opposition Leader Dave Barrett said the \$50,000 "The Good Life" was made for political propaganda purposes with the taxpayers' money.

He charged that the government had cheated the people of B.C.

Robert Strachan (NDP—Cowichan-Malahat) suggested a sequel of his own: "The Full Life." The film would show the province as it is, including pollution, welfare and poverty to depict a balanced view of life, he said.

The premier replied that the film had brought "millions of dollars" into B.C. and "created hundreds and hundreds of jobs." The opposition just couldn't take the election defeat, he added.

## OPPOSITION CRITICAL OF 'DOLLIES'

The "dollies" of the legislature got their salary Thursday night, but not before the opposition gave them a run for the money.

The women in question are the three government ministers without portfolio who are often criticized by NDP and Liberal MLAs as not earning their keep.

The vote for their estimate totalling \$48,000 sparked a division in the house which the government MLAs, rallying to the defence of the trio, put down 35 to 16.

Dennis Cocke (NDP—New Westminster) started the debate on the salary off—and finished it—by telling the house that the taxpayers of B.C. were picking up the tab for three public relations people for the Social Credit party.

### CUT OFF

Cocke announced that he would vote against their salary and immediately called for a division to take advantage of a ruling by the chair Wednesday in which debate was cut off when a division was called. The NDP had protested the ruling when they wanted to speak longer on the vote in regard to the Provincial Alliance of Businessmen.

All three ministers—Isabel Dawson, Pat Jordan and Grace McCarthy—rose to speak after Cocke, but chairman Herb Bruch maintained the ruling, preventing the women from having their say.

Through the uproar that ensued, Premier Bennett claimed that the opposition was trying to stop the "dollies" from speaking, while opposition MLAs charged the ministers were receiving a form of welfare.

Garde G a r d o m (L—Vancouver-Point Grey) asked on a point of order what one would do if he wanted to vote for the salary of one of the ministers, but not for the remuneration of the other two.

### AS WOMEN DO

However, though they were blocked from speaking on the vote for their salary, they did get their word in as women usually do.

Mrs. McCarthy later rose during debate on salaries for MLAs to defend her performance as a minister and tangled several times with Chairman Herb Bruch (SC—Esquimalt) for straying off the subject of debate. Opposition MLAs accused her of giving the speech she hadn't been able to give earlier.

Mrs. Jordan also rose to attack the opposition. Both women were greeted by opposition groans, expressions of disbelief and general merriment.

Mrs. Dawson was absent from the house while the other two spoke.

## Some Promising Steps

A GOOD DEAL OF THE LEGISLATION passed at the session which prorogued yesterday appears to be of the "sleepy" variety. Either it will remain in limbo until proclaimed by the government, or it is of a nature whose effects will not be fully discernible until some time in the future. But in keeping with Mr. Bennett's claims that his government is — at long last — becoming interested in people as well as things, there were some progressive and valuable measures which should result in general public approval. Some of them, while acceptable, should be viewed in the light of preliminary steps which will have to be followed by further legislation in order to achieve the maximum benefit.

In the latter category were the amendments to the Pollution Control Act which will restrict backyard burning, regulate sewage systems and in general tighten up control of all sources of pollution. The increasing threat to our environment indicates that much more will have to be done in this field, but British Columbia has at least recognized the problem and stepped up the requirements which must be met by individuals and industries. Allied with these measures are the new litter regulations, covering disposable containers, garbage in parks, and other necessary moves.

Reduction of the legal age from 21 years to 19 may have interesting repercussions. It is difficult to predict the extent to which younger citizens will use their new powers, but the legislation — which will not become effective until the government decrees it — is at least a gesture to the times.

The landlord-and-tenant measure, with its required three-month notice of increased rentals, its freeze on increases for the first year of occupancy, and other safeguards for tenants will, when implemented, create better condi-

tions in this field, although the Greater Victoria area has escaped the excesses seen in some centres.

The government's intentions regarding the long-awaited liquor recommendations are still unknown. Beyond the 19-year age limit for drinkers consequent on the new age of majority, there were no changes during the session. The royal commission's recommendations included sweeping changes in hours and conditions of sale, and made special mention of entertainment, room service, and neighborhood outlets patterned on the traditional English pub. The government has power to implement changes by means of orders-in-council, but remains silent on what it evidently regards as an important moral issue.

Official recognition of the right of arrested persons to make a telephone call merely formalized what has usually been the practice. Film censorship will assume more of an advisory function than one of deletion. Restrictions on foreign ownership of Crown lands, and a new ministerial right to require that a percentage of ore from any mine be smelted within British Columbia, were steps in the right direction.

Much of the legislation, however, awaits proclamation; much of it will mean little unless firmly implemented. As with parks control, for instance, the whole significance depends on the government's use of its powers — and experience has shown that there can be a vast difference between enactment of laws and their proper enforcement.

It was in general a quiet session. There could have been much more fireworks and more controversial policies. Does this suggest a tiring government becoming bogged down in the staggering number of new political problems presented by the growing concern for man's environment and man's life; or a tiring opposition, frustrated by 18 years of struggle against a firmly entrenched political machine; or both?

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## NDP WALKS OUT OF HOUSE

# Opposition Protests Parliamentary 'Farce'

The opposition finished off the business part of the 1970 legislative session Friday indignant at the "farce and mockery" the Social Credit government was allegedly making of parliament.

As the last business item—a motion by Provincial Secretary Wesley Black to provide for recording of the throne and budget debates—was concluded, the NDP walked out of the chamber.

The NDP and Liberals blasted the government for not including the discussions in committee in the portions that are to be recorded. Only the debates will be available in printed transcript to the public after the prorogation of the house.

## 'A MOCKERY'

"It is a farce and a mockery to allow the people of the province to think they are getting a complete debate," NDP leader Dave Barrett charged. "The real meat of the debates is being buried and kept hidden from the public."

Barrett suggested that the government was ashamed to let the people of the province know what was said in the house. He charged that the government had "gone mad with their overwhelming majority . . . believed the myth that they are plugged into God . . . and were not being responsible to the people."

It was sick and an insult to the people of B.C. to keep secrets from them, he added.

Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer said the resolution by Black was a shame on the premier, the cabinet ministers and on the backbenchers.

## 'TRANSCRIPT NEEDED'

Gordon Dowding (NDP—Burnaby-Edmonds) said a daily transcript of proceedings was necessary, and proposed an amendment that all debates and statements in the legislature be recorded. It was just a mockery to have the formal debates recorded, he added, because the really interesting discussions in the house were denied to the public.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said the amendment was out of order because it would involve the expenditure of public funds. The NDP challenged the ruling of deputy speaker Herb Bruch but were defeated 35 to 15, with the Liberals supporting the challenge.

After several other NDP MLAs had charged the government with violation of the rights of parliament and a dictatorial

attitude, the official opposition party walked out of the legislature.

## POLITICAL GAME

Outside, Barrett said he refused to sit in the chamber and be used as a "pawn in a political game played under the

concept of the divine right to rule. We believe in the right of the public to be informed."

Following the walkout the Lieutenant-Governor John R. Nicholson arrived to give royal assent to the government legislation. The 1970 session ended at 5:30 p.m.

# Government Spent \$180,000 on Ads

Government advertising during the period July 1, 1969, to August 31, 1969, totalled nearly \$180,000, excluding the department of industrial development, trade and commerce.

Special cabinet warrants for \$50,000 over-expenditure in advertising by the industry department were approved following the election. Skillings confirmed at the time that the department had placed ads on behalf of other government departments. The original advertising budget for the department had been \$75,000.

The information was given by the various government departments in answer to questions from the opposition about the amount of government advertising around the time of the provincial election last August.

Only the industry department, headed by minister Waldo Skillings, did not answer the questions.

Of the \$180,000, however, about one-quarter — \$45,000 — was spent for out of province advertising to attract tourists from western Canada and the United States by the travel industry department.

The largest expenditures were by the travel industry department, \$49,000; labor, \$45,500; highways, \$35,000; provincial secretary, \$11,100 — of which \$10,100 was for civil service positions; education, \$13,200; and municipal affairs \$10,750 — of which \$9,300 was spent on a pamphlet "A Home of Your Own."

# Hearing Aid Bill Delayed For Year

A bill designed to regulate the hearing aid business is being held back for a year to give ample time for the public and the industry to study it, Minister Without Portfolio Isabel Dawson said Friday.

She said in a press release that the delay would also enable a study on hearing aids currently being carried out by the federal consumer affairs department to be considered by the provincial government.

The bill, which would have set up a government-appointed board to set standards, licence and police the industry, was introduced in the legislature this session but did not proceed to second reading.

# Anti-Marijuana Resolution Scored as Cheap Politics

The government called it a vote against marijuana and the opposition called it "cheap politics" as MLAs got all "hung up" on drugs in the legislature Thursday.

By a 35-17 vote the government passed a resolution expressing "concern" over statements about marijuana attributed to federal Health Minister John Munro in January.

Munro was quoted at the time as saying it would be irresponsible to continue outlawing marijuana if studies showed a significant minority of Canadians using it.

Minister Without Portfolio Grace McCarthy who placed the resolution before the House said there is too much encouragement for drug experimentation by young people.

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett said he wanted to make clear he is against the use of marijuana but described the resolution as "cheap politics."

Liberal Leader Pat McGeer told the House Munro had described the reports of his marijuana comments as inaccurate in a telegram to McGeer shortly after the incident and had publicly denied this.

Health Minister Ralph Loffmark, an avowed opponent of drugs and alcohol too, said it doesn't matter whether Munro said it, the important thing is to make clear what the legislature thinks about drugs.

Speaker William Murray interrupted to say it is indeed important whether Munro said it because the resolution was based on statements attributed to him.

Garde Gardom (L—Vancouver-Point Grey) said he "admired" Mrs. McCarthy's attitude to marijuana but he couldn't accept a resolution based on "third-rate hearsay."

Ernie LeCours (SC—Richmond) indicated he agreed with the opposition but

absented himself from the legislature when it came time to vote. He was "paired" with Barrie Clark (L—North Vancouver-Seymour) who missed the last three days of the session because he is in Mexico.

Dudley Little (SC—Skeena) voted with the opposition against the resolution.

Gordon Dowding (NDP—

hazards of marijuana and alcohol," he said, suggesting that if the use of alcohol were just now beginning to take hold in society instead of being a long-standing practice, it should be fought as hard as marijuana is being fought.

"Young people say to adults that if marijuana is bad, why don't you stop drinking alco-

As the vote was being taken, Barrett called over to the government benches, "You've slandered a federal minister."

Earlier a private member's bill introduced by Barrett calling for the establishment of an inquiry board to look into the availability of illegal drugs such as heroin, marijuana and LSD was ruled out of order on the grounds that it would involve the expenditure of public funds.

Barrett criticized persons who take rigid and extreme positions either for or against the use of drugs, adding that such stances would not result in solutions to the drug abuse. A committee could get on with the job and end the "hysteria" of some politicians, he said.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson said that there was no doubt in his mind that the drugs should not be legalized. The kind of statements made by Barrett hurt, he added. Peterson said the problem of illegal drug use was national in scope, and the report of the federal government's Le Dain Royal Commission should be studied before action is taken.

## 'Slap Wrists' of Pushers Not Federal Minister Opposition Tells McCarthy

Burnaby-Edmonds) warned the legislature it would be in effect libelling Munro by passing a resolution containing statements not proved to have been made by the federal minister.

Premier Bennett, anxious to move the business of the House quickly along to a conclusion, sat through the first part of the debate looking interested and occasionally banging his desk in support of anti-drug statements, but later left the House as the debate wore on.

Barrett said he agreed with Mrs. McCarthy that more research must be done into the effects of marijuana but the lack of provincial government initiative in such research was proof that the resolution was purely political, he said.

Barrett said it is wrong to "slap the wrists" of a federal minister without adequate evidence, but even more wrong in view of the real targets for action — organized crime.

"Corporations like Benguet, the Grand Bahama Port Authority and the Mafia are the ones whose wrists should be slapped," he said, referring generally to the link between organized crime and drug-pushers.

Loffmark attacked the use of marijuana, barbiturates, amphetamines and other drugs as "deadly enemies" of society and young people in particular.

"My personal view is that there is very little difference between the debilitating

hol? ... We have no answer for them," Loffmark said.

The legislature should make clear there is "no room for equivocation" on the subject of drugs, he said.

Murray intervened at a few intervals to caution members against leaving the impression that the resolution was worded in such a way as to be a condemnation of Munro. It was no such thing, he said.

The government appeared to be in the process of drafting a new resolution which might meet unanimous approval of the House when the New Democrats called for a vote on the original resolution to bring the debate to a close.

Mrs. McCarthy read a letter from American television personality Art Linkletter in support of her stand. He has been an anti-drug campaigner since the death of his daughter last year in a drug-related incident.

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## INCREASINGLY STRONG PERFORMANCE

# Barrett Proves Capable Leading NDP

By VIC PARSONS

While MLAs on all sides of the legislature sat in judgment, new NDP house leader Dave Barrett had to prove that he was the right man for the job of party leader during the 1970 session.

Barrett, unexpectedly placed in the role of effective party leader following the August election, reacted to the pressure by showing any doubters an increasingly strong performance toward the end of the ten-week sitting.

His stint as parliamentary leader of the 12-member NDP group has probably made the MLA for Coquitlam a shoo-in for the top party job in B.C. when the New Democrats meet at Chilliwack in June to pick a replacement for unseated party chieft Tom Berger.

## Caucus Unanimous

The fact that the parliamentary caucus of the NDP Friday unanimously endorsed Barrett as their choice for party leader, is ample proof that the 39-year old social worker has satisfied the official opposition MLAs with his performance this session.

Barrett had earlier won the support of two prominent members of the caucus — Robert Williams, MLA for Vancouver East, and former opposition leader Robert Strachan. When Berger was chosen NDP chief over Barrett last spring, Williams finished last in the three-way race for the leadership. And Strachan was at that time a Williams supporter.

Now the other member for Vancouver East, Alex MacDonald, himself considered as a potential candidate for the party leadership, has expressed his support for Barrett.

With no other challengers to Barrett yet in the contest, the house leader is far ahead of others who might enter as would-be tortois to the Barrett hare.

Whether Barrett would be the next leader of the opposition party was not so clear at the beginning of the session.

Government backbenchers taunted the NDP members with queries about the identity of the "real leader" of the party, and referred to the NDP's "Diefenbaker", likening Strachan to the former prime minister and Barrett to Robert Stanfield, the Nova Scotian national PC leader.

## Overcame Ghost

Barrett has in fact had to overcome his own ghost of sessions-past — the Scots-born former leader of the opposition who served in that capacity for 13 years. But as the session proceeded, Strachan less and less assumed the role as leader and Barrett gradually began to fill it.

Certainly Strachan maintained his role as a well-prepared, vocal MLA and could always be counted on to give a rousing

performance, and confessed that he still felt the urge to rise and speak on every subject.

And when the name-calling began, it was often between Strachan and Premier Bennett. "I'm the lightning rod," Strachan said once, "Bennett attacks me as a Pavlovian reaction."

Barrett's relationship to the premier this session has been noticeably more polite.

Strachan, who says he moved two seats away from Barrett at his own insistence, felt that the house leader's performance was "getting much better... He has to handle things on his own and get himself out of problems."

## New Man Held Own

Though Barrett sometimes took a back seat to other NDP members on various subjects — for example, to Williams on lands and resources and to Gordon Dowding on the intricate question of the West Vancouver Cypress Bowl recreational project — he usually more than held his own.

He is best understandable, on human problems. When these subjects arise he fires his comments with confidence at the government benches, perpetrating his brand of humour — sometimes sarcastic, sometimes gentle — on them, blasting what he considers inefficiency and waste of human and monetary resources. His remarks are to the point, his questions incisive, his knowledge and experience useful.

Viewed by many government MLAs as a ham actor, he nevertheless is acquiring an ability to a stirring and believable performance at times, and is improving on those issues where he was weak.

Now, with a session as party leader under his belt, and the affirmed support of several influential MLAs, Barrett looks like the sure choice for the NDP leadership.

When he made his opening address in the legislature this year, Barrett said a reporter had called his home and asked for "the house leader". One of his children answering the phone shut the door," bellows George C. Scott. "It's cold out there."

Apparently Barrett has come a long way since then to be recognized as a leader.

## FRUITS OF THEIR LABORS

Following are some of the changes in law approved at the 1970 session of the legislature, most of them in effect as of Friday, but a few important ones awaiting future proclamation by the cabinet:

- Reduction of the legal age for adulthood from 21 to 19, to come into effect at a date to be set by the cabinet, probably in a few months. The bill will enable 19-year-olds to drink alcohol, get married without parental consent and to exercise the full range of rights of adults.

- Mandatory two-cent refunds for drink containers of glass, tin or other materials, subject to ministerial discretion and coming into effect at a later date when the bill, the new Litter Act, is proclaimed. Stricter controls on dumping of sewage and other trash on public property are also provided.

- New protection for tenants against landlords by putting their relationship on a standard contract basis, thus removing many special landlord privileges such as that of seizing furniture for unpaid rent. Three-month notice required for rent increases under a tenancy agreements and a freeze on rents between Feb. 25 and the coming into effect of the legislation on proclamation by the cabinet at a time yet to be announced.

- Employers' organizations permitted to be accredited for collective bargaining purposes under the Labor Relations Act.

- An overhaul of the Land Act preventing foreign citizens from buying crown land directly from the government and giving new power to remove hippies living on crown land.

- Estate tax exemptions raised to leave most estates tax-free under a value of \$160,000 but with charitable estates' 90 per cent taxable for the first time and retroactive denial of appeal to organizations declared non-charitable by Premier Bennett in the past two years.

- Change of emphasis in the Motion Pictures Act from censorship to classification but retention of the censorship power. Films will continue to be classified as general, adult (suitable for those over 16 years of age) and restricted (18 years or over).

- More protection for employees seeking unpaid wages, giving such debts priority over all other debts.

- Broad power for the minister of mines to order any mine in the province to ship up to half of its production to a designated B.C. processing plant, a measure aimed at guaranteeing a supply of ore for any copper smelter which might be built in B.C.

- Changes in the Municipal Act to facilitate formation of Indian reserves into municipalities.

- Lifting of the ban against formation of medical corporations by doctors.

- Tightening up sale of crown land to people with prior rights because of mining claims by requiring market value be paid rather than the traditional \$5 an acre.

- Incorporation of air pollution into the Pollution Control Act and a deadline of Dec. 31, 1970 for all land and water polluters to report details of their pollution, with a Dec. 31, 1971 deadline for air polluters.

- New powers enabling the Minister of Health to take over any hospital in the province in the public interest.

# Melody Lingers As Session's Song Fades Out

By BRUCE YEMEN

The song is over, but how much of the melody will linger on?

That's the question left over from the 1970 legislative session which ended Friday.

The Social Credit government brought in a number of bills with a social reform theme in an obvious effort to get more in tune with modern society.

But it was a cautious, loosely-knit composition with a considerable amount of scope for the government to alter the melody by order-in-council.

## 'Experimental' Bills

There were "experimental" bills aimed at controlling pollution caused by littering, at making adults out of 19-year-olds and at controlling credit card distribution.

There were shifts in "emphasis" to less film censorship, more humane and productive treatment of prison inmates and greater reliance on individuals as the first line of defence against pollution which was by far the most popular topic of MLAs in all parties.

But there was also a continuing reluctance to spend money against pollution.

Perhaps the most certain improvement in social legislation was the overhaul in the Landlord and Tenant Act giving tenants a fighting chance against landlords.

## Wide Impact

The reduction of the age of majority to 19 was a simple bill that could have profound impact on life in British Columbia.

But there was a tendency for government ministers to be cautious about their reforms, to say they "hoped" they would work out.

The opposition complained frequently that the government's legislation was loosely drafted, leaving scope for ministerial inaction or discretion or cabinet decision to alter not only the effect of legislation but to defeat its very purpose.

It was more than legislation that could be described as loose.

## Played it Cool

In this post-election session, the MLAs played their politics a little looser than they will as the next election gets closer.

Like hockey players in the early season, the politicians often skated around with their heads down and eyes on the puck instead of on the opponents. Nobody got "creamed" this time around.

The most intense, persistent and roughest attacks of the session came from Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) who appeared to come into his own as a fighter who can hurt the government.

Showing a singular lack of trust in the government's ability to guard the public interest, Williams launched a broad attack on "special privilege" which he sees as a cancer in government.

## Bonner a Target

He went after former attorney-general Robert Bonner for what he saw as a conflict of interest in Bonner's relationship with liquor and horse-racing interests during his time as a minister.

He slugged toe-to-toe with Resources Minister Ray Wiliston on his relations with the "forest giants," with people seeking crown land privileges such as in Cypress Bowl, the controversial West Vancouver recreational development.

Williams more than any other opposition member symbolized the perennial gap between the government and the opposition — he just couldn't bring himself to accept the measure of faith that every government pleads for — or simply demands — in carrying on so much public business in secrecy and semi-secrecy.

## Enjoyed Insults

For his efforts, Williams was systematically insulted by a battery of cabinet ministers and backbenchers. He appeared to enjoy it.

Oddly enough, it was another Williams whose star rose highest among the five-member Liberal group.

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver—Howe Sound, looking distinguished, sounding reasonable, doing his homework, kept the pressure on the government with a low-key style that made him almost immune to counter-attack.

He and Dave Brousson (L—North Vancouver—Capilano) scored well throughout the session, with Brousson leading the battle against proposed flooding of the Skagit Valley to provide power for Seattle.

## Led Attack

Garde Gardom (L—Vancouver—Point Grey) made the rafters rock with his forays against the government's handling of the Commonwealth Trust collapse in 1968.

Robert Strachan (NDP—Cowichan—Malahat), enjoying his first session in 13 years as an ordinary MLA instead of as opposition leader, proved that he is able to bring

philosophy into the house and make it relevant to the details of politics.

The traditional issues of recent years were still there, with Opposition Leader Dave Barrett perhaps getting the prize for the most original twist aimed at expressing exasperation with Education Minister Donald Brothers' education policy.

## \$1.49 Bargain Day

Barrett tried to reduce Brothers' salary to \$1.49 in a variation of the usual non-confidence motion reducing a minister's salary by \$1.

But Barrett kept his well-known sense of humor under control for the most part during the session, perhaps in an effort to avoid being labelled by Premier Bennett as a "joker."

Bennett made only sporadic stabs at the opposition in a session that was clearly a time for enjoying the fruits of his huge personal victory in the Aug. 27 election.

Just how much wheeling and dealing was going on behind the Sacred scenes among candidates for Bennett's job, when it becomes available, is difficult to say.

## 'Minister of Defence'

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson and Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell were playing it cool for the most part in the legislature. Herb Capozzi (SC—Vancouver Centre) was again heckled as "the minister of defence" for his frequent attacks on the opposition in support of various cabinet ministers, some of whom needed his help.

Welfare Minister Phil Gagliardi seemed to have more than enough to worry about in his own department.

**THIRTEEN FAIL**

# Private Bills Don't Pass

Thirteen of twenty private members' bills on the order paper of the legislature were briefly considered Friday by the assembly, and, as usual, none were passed.

Private bills are generally given low priority in the legislature and rarely is one accepted by the government.

Seven of the bills were ruled out of order, three were adjourned by government ministers at second reading, two were defeated, and one was withdrawn.

**ADJOURNS BILL**

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson adjourned a bill introduced by Garde Gardom (Lib.—Vancouver-Point Grey) that would have made the annual report of the Inspector of Trust Companies available to the legislature, rather than just to the finance minister and the attorney-general.

Peterson also adjourned discussion on a bill introduced by Gardom that would make the Law Reform Commission

answerable to the legislature "rather than just to the attorney-general."

Two separate bills that would have raised the hourly minimum wage for men and women to \$2 were ruled out of order, though the opposition unsuccessfully challenged the speaker's ruling.

A bill that would have increased the annual holidays for employees from two to three

weeks was ruled out of order.

The bill was introduced by Leo Nimsick (NDP—Kootenay).

Gardom's bill that would have given citizens of B.C. the right to sue the government was also ruled out of order.

A bill calling for a \$1-a-ton royalty on coal shipped from B.C. was ruled out of order after Opposition Leader Dave Barrett spoke briefly in support of his proposal which he said

would raise \$18 million a year for the government from an undertaxed resource.