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Flying Phil flits around answers

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Flying Phil Gaglardi flashed through the legislature in a blaze of confusion Thursday as Opposition members tried vainly to pin him down on the question of who pays for his many speaking trips outside B.C.

The Opposition battled the clock all day in an effort to check out Gaglardi's version of where he goes and what he does, but finally passed the spending estimates of the government's most famous travelling man just hours before the legislature prorogued.

The debate centred around two points — a speaking trip Gaglardi made to South Bend, Indiana, in 1970, and Gaglardi's own assertion that he likes to visit San Francisco as often as possible to investigate alcoholic treatment programs there.

Liberal leader Pat McGeer said Gaglardi submitted a bill to the government for \$382 for the trip to South Bend, ostensibly to address a "transport convention."

On investigation, McGeer said, it turned out to be a convention of "Transport for Christ," an organization that arranges religious services for long distance truck drivers.

FEES PAID?

McGeer, who had argued the issue for two days in the legislature's public accounts committee, tried to find out whether Gaglardi received a speaking fee from the convention organizers or had any of his expenses paid by the organizers before he billed the government.

Gaglardi said he thought some of his expenses may have been paid for by his hosts, but he couldn't remember the details.

Asked by McGeer to be more specific, he said: "If I remember correctly, they had a block of hotel rooms and when I went to pay my bill for the hotel I was told it had been taken care of."

Gaglardi said all the accounting of his travel expenses is handled by his secretary and departmental comptrollers, and if any part of his costs are paid by the organizers of an event he attends "it must go into the office and I don't see it at all."

Meanwhile, the coordinator of the 1970 South Bend conference confirmed Friday night that his organization had indeed taken care of at least some of Gaglardi's bills.

"It's so long also, it's hard to remember fully," said Ron Whiteford in a telephone interview.

"We invited three or four speakers. We pay all expenses ourselves."

Asked to be specific, Whiteford said the organizers paid a \$36 hotel bill for Gaglardi. They also provided free meals during the conference.

Asked who paid Gaglardi's air fare, Whiteford said: "I don't know how that was taken care of. Why do you want to know?"

Told that the matter had been raised in the legislature, he considered the question and then answered:

"He paid the plane fare himself. Then we took up an offering."

Asked what this meant, Whiteford said: "He asked for nothing."

Pressed whether money was in fact turned over to Gaglardi to be used against the cost of his air fare, he replied: "You're pushing me. We gave it to him."

Whiteford was unable to recall how much they gave the minister.

Gaglardi said he likes to go to San Francisco "every few months" to check up on the "social activities — I mean social welfare activities," and particularly an alcoholism foundation there.

Asked to give the names of the people he talks to at the foundation, he said he has had discussions with a man and a woman, but could not remember their names.

He then groped in his pockets and searched through papers on his desk in an effort to find the names and finally had to dispatch an assistant to his hotel room to get them.

Before the assistant returned, NDP leader Dave Barrett said he had just telephoned San Francisco and talked to the director of social welfare for the San Francisco Bay area, to officers of the Bay Area Council on Alcoholism and to the operators of the only alcohol treatment clinic there that was run by both a man and a woman.

None of these people had ever heard of Gaglardi or had ever spoken to him.

"The last time I was in San Francisco I spent two hours on a telephone talking to these people and told them who I was and where I was from," Gaglardi said.

"I don't care what anyone says — I state categorically that's what I did."

Barrett said Gaglardi was trying to misinform the legislature.

"They haven't even heard of him down there—who's he trying to kid," Barrett said.

Gaglardi eventually produced the names of a man and woman in San Francisco who he said he had talked to.

Barrett returned to the legislature a few minutes later to say he had again phoned to contact the people whose names Gaglardi had given him.

One of them, he said, was Mrs. Floretta Pomeroy, executive director of an alcoholism foundation centre in San Francisco. Although she was not available, Barrett said, members of her staff said they had never heard of Gaglardi.

The second name was a Mr. Escher, whom Barrett said is now retired but was formerly an investigator for the government department that issues licences for taverns.

Barrett said he doesn't think Escher has anything to do with the treatment of alcoholics — "he was in the delivery business."

"Nice try, but you're constantly making things up as you go along," Barrett told Gaglardi.

"When they're checked out it turns out you're telling fibs — not big fibs, just little ones."

He reminded Gaglardi of an earlier statement he had made to the legislature, in which he said "if I'm telling a lie, it's only because I think it's the truth."

In the public accounts committee Thursday morning, McGeer presented two motions asking for strict rules on expenses for cabinet ministers and an assurance that the government would only pay for trips that are made on government business.

At the insistence of the government majority in the committee, McGeer's motions were withdrawn and replaced with one drawn up by Evan Wolfe (SG—Vancouver Centre), which read:

"The public accounts committee confirms the present policy that a cabinet minister when travelling on behalf of or representing the province of B.C., either within or outside, shall be reimbursed only by the Crown."

Session shows legislature costlly antique

VICTORIA — Every year, as another legislative session gasps to a close, it becomes increasingly obvious that the B.C. legislature is as much of an antique as the building that houses it.

As it is now constituted, the legislature should properly sit during the summer. That's Victoria's tourist season, when travellers jam the city to look at the quaint remnants of an earlier way of life. The legislature is fast becoming one of the quaintest of them all.

It's not the old-fashioned procedural elements that make it that way — the strange costumes, the mace, the page boys, the lieutenant-governor and all the other paraphernalia that has accumulated over the centuries of the British parliamentary system. Those are part of living history, symbols of principles that are essential to our way of government.

What is truly antique about this legislature is the way in which it is run. The real function of the legislature is to shape and control the activities of government, and this it can no longer do.

In the coming fiscal year Premier Bennett's government will spend 10 times as much as it did 20 years ago. Not only is the amount of money much larger, but the range of government activities has expanded greatly.

Days of debate are now spent on subjects that weren't even dreamed of 20 years ago — medicare, pollution control, public housing, homeowners' subsidies, perpetual funds and B.C. Hydro, to name a few.

At the same time, the legislature itself has expanded. There are more cabinet ministers controlling more activities and more MLAs to discuss what those ministers do.

Yet the legislative function is still crammed into an annual session that is as short as humanly possible. For the people involved in it — the MLAs, the press, and all the government employees caught up in the legislative rat race — it is 2½ months of physical and mental punishment.

During that time the reasonably conscientious MLA, particularly on the opposition side, can work 16 hours a day and still not keep up with all he has to do. Newsmen covering the session have to work even harder, pumping out an enormous volume of news, interpretation and comment. They do it in the virtual certainty that only a very few dedicated members of the public have the interest and stamina to wade through it all.

The MLAs work under ridiculous handicaps. This year, for example, they were finally provided some semblance of reasonable office space, although they are still working two to an office.

Until this year, however the opposition parties simply had common rooms, with all their MLA's working off a single large table as an excuse for a desk. The government backbenchers lacked even that crude amenity.

But the office space, while it was welcomed, is hardly an adequate answer to their problems. To debate the government's past performance and future plans in an intelligent way, they must have access to basic information.

This government systematically denies them as much information as it possibly can. When they do finally drag some facts out, it is often too late to do them any good. On the last day of this session, for example, the \$150 million spending estimates of the department of rehabilitation were up for debate. It wasn't until the sitting had begun that the MLAs received the department's annual report — for the fiscal year that ended March 3, 1971. Nobody could expect an intelligent, searching debate under those circumstances.

The conclusion is inescapable — the government doesn't want that kind of debate. It wants to keep the opposition overworked and frustrated, striving in a few short weeks with outdated information to keep up with a government that now spends more than \$1.5 billion a year.

What makes this attitude indefensible is the fact that it is the opposition, not the government, that really reflects the will of the people. Although it's getting closer with each election, Premier Bennett's government has never commanded 50 per cent of the popular vote in B.C. The government is elected by a minority, and it is the opposition that receives the majority vote.

Under those circumstances, the opposition and the people who vote for them deserve far better than they are getting from the legislative process. They deserve changes that will help redress the vast and growing imbalance of power between the government and the opposition MLAs.

There are a number of reforms that could easily be made to the existing process — a daily question period, a proper record of debate and faster and more complete re-

porting by the government of its activities. But these are really nothing more than tinkering with a machine that's basically obsolete.

What B.C. needs, and needs badly, is a fulltime opposition with a year-round function. That would have to involve two legislative sessions a year and an increase in MLAs' salaries. They now get \$10,000 a year, and most of them earn it. They should probably be getting \$20,000, and a system that gives them a chance to do twice as much work.

Government in B.C. is a big, year-round business, and it's time the legislative process was elevated to the same status.



Election Act amendments lost in shuffle

By BOB McCONNELL
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The B.C. legislature wound up its 1972 session Thursday night and its members headed back to their constituencies still wondering when Premier Bennett will call the election expected later this year.

The only thing they knew for sure is that the election won't be fought under the changes in the Elections Act that were proposed for this session.

The government let the Election Act amendments die on the order paper, apparently because of a further change proposed by Herb Capozzi (SC—Vancouver Centre) that would have denied the right to vote to British subjects who are not Canadian citizens.

Bennett refused to give reporters a reason for dropping the proposed amendments. He simply said the bill died "because the House leader didn't call it for debate."

But Capozzi said he had no doubt the bill was dropped because Bennett didn't want a debate about the voting rights granted to ethnic groups in B.C.

He said he was disappointed that Bennett dropped the bill, but has no intention of backing off from the principle that only Canadian citizens should be allowed to vote in provincial elections.

"The government's failure to call this bill must be a disappointment to every ethnic group in this province," Capozzi said.

His amendment, based on recent changes to the federal Elections Act, would give British subjects now living in B.C. seven years to become citizens before they lose their voting rights.

Capozzi argues that it is discriminatory to allow non-citizens from Commonwealth countries to vote in B.C. while non-citizens from other countries are denied that right.

The main changes proposed by the government for the new Elections Act were:

- A political party must run at least 20 candidates in an election before their party affiliation will be recorded on the ballots.
- A ballot would be valid if marked by pen and with a mark other than a cross.
- (At present, ballots are invalid unless the voter's preference is indicated with a cross marked by a lead pencil.)
- Students must vote in their home ridings and not in the area where they are attending school or university.

The legislature prorogued just before midnight Thursday after MLAs passed the spending estimates for the department of rehabilitation, the

three women ministers without portfolio, and the Public Utilities Commission.

The session was a generally quiet one, without any controversial major legislation from the government.

However, it was marked by two rarities — a record all-night sitting, and the defection of Don Marshall (South Peace River) from the government side to the Progressive Conservative party.

The legislature approved record expenditures of \$1.45 billion for the fiscal year that starts today.

The estimates include a number of programs that were taken by the opposition as a tip-off for an election later in the year. These include a \$15 increase in the homeowner's grant, an extra \$50 for pensioners who own their own homes and a special \$50 annual grant to pensioners who rent accommodation.

The government also set aside \$25 million for special reforestation and park development projects.

It also provided compensation for crime victims through the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Gaglardi accused of delay tactics

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Rehabilitation Minister Gaglardi was accused by the Opposition Thursday of deliberately withholding information needed to debate his department's activities.

Ernie Hall (NDP—Surrey) said the department's annual report for the 1970-71 fiscal year had been presented to Gaglardi last November, but wasn't given to MLAs until debate began on Gaglardi's estimates.

"It's a petty, arrogant gesture by the minister to put this report in front of us for these last few votes of the session," Hall said.

"There is \$150 million being spent in your department and you've got the almighty cheek to give us these figures only today."

NDP leader Dave Barrett said the government is ignoring a crisis in social welfare administration brought on by its failure to expand staff to meet the rapid increase in social assistance rolls. He warned that the welfare rolls

contain a high proportion of well-educated young people who could easily resort to violence as an outlet for their frustration at the failure of the economic system to meet their needs.

The government should be spending money on a major program to provide jobs for such people in reforestation, pollution control and similar work.

"We can't afford not to find these youngsters jobs because if they remain unemployed we are going to find ourselves faced with the same kind of social upheaval that has already struck Quebec," Barrett said.

Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) accused the government of failing to provide the facilities needed to treat youngsters with severe emotional disturbances.

He cited a number of case histories of teenagers for whom no treatment facilities exist and who will be a menace to themselves or society without proper treatment.

3 cemeteries 'going broke'

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Cemeteries run by three financially-troubled Victoria companies may have to be placed in bankruptcy, Premier Bennett told the legislature Thursday.

He made the statement in reply to charges from Liberal MLAs that the Public Utilities Commission had been incompetent in regulating the cemeteries.

The three companies, all controlled by Robert Hagel of Victoria, operate cemeteries near Victoria, Nanaimo, Port Alberni and Kelowna.

A government administrator was appointed to take over operation of the cemeteries in 1970 after the PUC learned that the perpetual care funds of the three companies were short by more than \$150,000.

Under PUC regulations, part of the revenue of a cemetery must be put into a fund to pay for perpetual maintenance of grave sites.

Bennett read the legislature a letter from PUC chairman Dr. J. F. K. English that said the shortage in the care funds has been reduced by only \$4,000 in the last 18 months.

The letter said Hagel had proposed ways of supplying the money needed to build up the care funds, but the PUC was "not impressed with the methods proposed".

Instead, Hagel has been ordered to sell property owned by the companies to raise the necessary amount.

"If present efforts to liquidate the debt to the care fund are not successful within a short time, the commission may recommend more stringent action such as placing the companies in bankruptcy," the letter said.

However, it indicated the PUC may be prepared to write off part of the liability in the fund.

English also reported that the government had paid \$32,000 in salaries to the trustee

administrator and a supervisor appointed earlier.

The letter said there is only "some chance" that the government will be able to recover the money.

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver - Howe Sound) said the PUC had shown "a complete lack of disclosure and a shocking absence of candor" in its handling of the situation.

Although there was obvious financial mismanagement in Hagel's operation of the cemeteries, he said, the PUC still awarded Hagel a licence to open a crematorium at Nanaimo last year despite applications from two other groups.

"The PUC is allowing a form of grave robbing such as was once enjoyed in days long since past," Williams said.

He called English's letter to Bennett "some kind of idiocy" and demanded to know why Attorney-General Leslie Peterson hasn't made public a report prepared by the PUC on the ownership of cemeteries and other aspects of the funeral industry.

Peterson said the report will be made public in due course.

Barrie Clark (L—North Vancouver - Seymour) complained that the PUC estimates are always rushed through in the dying hours of the session when there isn't time to debate them properly. "If the PUC vote took place at the beginning rather than the end of the session we would have a full-scale debate and a fair sized scandal," Clark said.

He asked how the government expects the PUC to deal with complex matters such as the proposed natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island when it can't handle a simple matter like the regulation of cemeteries.

The NDP and Conservative MLAs joined the Liberals in voting against the estimates for the commission. But the vote was approved 30-17.

'I'm fantastic' admits Gagliardi

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — "I'm fantastic because I'm with a fantastic government and that's fantastic," says Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gagliardi of his ability to find work for the unemployed.

He told the House on Thursday that his job-creating record in the past year is better than that of other agencies entrusted with trying to find work for the unemployed and his success figures are "fabulous."

Alex Macdonald (NDP — Vancouver East) had started Gagliardi off by bringing up the minister's earlier statements that his Provincial Alliance of Businessmen has created work for 30,000 persons in the past year.

This was better than Premier Bennett himself did with his promise last year of 25,000 new jobs and Canada Manpower in its efforts. Macdonald said he found the minister's success "incredible . . . completely incredible, totally incredible."

Gagliardi said the figures were "100 per cent correct." In the first three months of this year he has found 6,000 jobs and 80 per cent of those hired are still working.

He said 22,412 jobs were also found by the other provincial government agencies than the Alliance.

Questioned about his figures, the minister said that when he makes a statement it is not a lie, even if untrue, because "I believe in it and that doesn't mean that I've lied. I believe that I am right."

Macdonald also read a confidential letter from the welfare department sent last fall to welfare directors saying they must watch male boarders because they might be living common-law with female welfare recipients.

If the government "is going to pry into the bedroom and put boarders under suspicion . . . at least don't engage in male chauvinism," Macdonald said as he asked if such a rule shouldn't apply also to female boarders.

He raised the case of an unidentified 34-year-old Victoria woman who he said last week was told to get rid of a 19-year-old male boarder or lose her welfare payments. He said she was being penalized for having the initiative to make a little money by having a boarder.

He also suggested that some sort of homesteading arrangement be worked out with those on welfare who want to get away from the city and try to establish a living away from urban living. They could be given assistance until they become self-sufficient.

Fraser urges more funds to towns for welfare

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Alex Fraser (SC—Cariboo) wants the provincial government to turn over a higher share of welfare funds to municipal governments.

He told the legislature Thursday, during debate on the departmental estimates of Rehabilitation Minister Gagliardi, that the province can afford to give towns more than the 35-per-cent share it does now.

It should revert to the financing formula that existed several years ago, under which municipalities paid only 10 per cent of welfare costs while the province paid 40 per cent and the federal government 50 per cent, he said.

Gagliardi said he was not prepared at this stage to change the financing formula. Fraser is a former mayor of Quesnel and a frequent champion of municipalities.

A-G won't report small gifts

Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Attorney-General Leslie Peterson won't be making out gift tax returns for any low-priced gifts, despite the suggestions of opposition members and the province's lawyers that they will be necessary because of what

they call sloppy wording of Premier and Finance Minister Bennett's new gift tax.

Bennett said when the legislation was being debated a week ago that he would not change the mistakes in wording, although he would interpret the legislation "in a broad way."

"The attorney-general won't be filing on any \$10 gifts," Peterson said on Thursday in response to the legal criticisms. He would not say what sort of gifts he would file returns on and said he did not "know what gifts I will be giving away."



Charitable interpretation not good enough . . .

Premier Bennett's assurance that he will interpret the new provincial Gift Tax Act "in a broad way" and Attorney General Peterson's assertion that he won't file any returns for low-priced gifts surely miss the point.

Their statements will hardly lessen the fears of B.C. lawyers about the scope of the legislation. Indeed they tend to give credence to the claim, implicit in the assessment of the B.C. section of the Canadian Bar Association, that it is bad legislation.

Policy is capable of "broad" interpretation and politicians can give such undertakings. But legislation, particularly legislation of this kind, should not be open to the wide-ranging interpretation the lawyers have been able to put upon it.

Premier Bennett, who is also finance minister, will not be around indefinitely and his successor may take a different view of "broad" interpretation.

Mr. Bennett should not take refuge in the excuse that all the errors and ambiguities were the fault of the federal government, which, he said, sent him the main draft. This is a provincial act and it was his duty to ensure, as far as possible, that there were no mistakes or ambiguities.

His assurances do not inspire public confidence in the act in the face of the lawyers' doubts about it. The section requiring reporting of all gifts seems, on its face, to be unworkable. Mr. Peterson's statement suggests that it may be ignored by many who receive

small gifts but the act doesn't say so.

As the lawyers say, even if it is unworkable, it could be "open to the abuse of harassment." Failure to report a gift of any size could, according to the act, bring a penalty of \$10 a day.

The section on charity donations is equally confusing. It says such gifts shall be taxable unless the charities are fully operational in B.C. Yet who's to know when a church donation is to be used provincially, nationally or even in foreign missions?

Sufficient doubt has been raised about the act for the government to delay royal assent that would make it law. Premier Bennett should be prepared to take one of his famous second looks and take time to write a law that is not so open to wide interpretation.

Mr. Gaglardi doesn't seem to learn . . .

Governments are made up of men, not archangels. Thus it is imperative for cabinet ministers scrupulously to observe the rules of propriety that are the symbols of unquestionable probity in public life.

Philip Arthur Gaglardi has once more exhibited ignorance and carelessness about these rules and has brought the government and himself under opposition fire in the last hours of the legislative session.

The opposition (whose job it is) tried to make Mr. Gaglardi look bad about a \$382 bill to the government for a trip to South Bend on a speaking engagement, and the minister's trips to San Francisco to investigate alcoholic treatment programs there.

Mr. Gaglardi co-operated with the opposition by offering an unconvincing performance full of evasions and appearing to ignore the principles that all those in our democratic processes are supposed to uphold.

Gaglardi said he thought some of his expenses may have been

paid by his hosts in South Bend. But he explained that all accounting of his travel expenses is handled by people in his department. If any part of his costs are paid by the organizers of an event "it must go into the office and I don't see it at all."

Obviously he did not comprehend that he should be scrupulously careful to make sure that nobody could have grounds for accusing him of anything but uncompromising and unimpeachable adherence to rules of parliamentary integrity. He has been guilty of carelessness and poor judgment in a highly sensitive area, a situation that reflects on his competence in other areas of government where judgment is indispensable.

Mr. Gaglardi should have learned his lesson long before this. He resigned his highways ministership in 1968 after intense and prolonged opposition allegations of misuse of a government jet aircraft, of land development along highways involving his sons, and

of work done by highways department employees on ranches leased by Gaglardi and his sons.

Eight years before the then highways minister was fined \$1,000 after being found guilty of contempt of court for disobeying a court order. The judge said the minister had put the government ahead of the courts. Mr. Gaglardi appealed the decision but the appeal was rejected by the Court of Appeal.

All this adds up to a picture of a man in a hurry, a man unable to believe that his actions may be questioned by those who do not understand his honesty and sincerity. A man who does not fully comprehend that public representatives must always be able to show clearly and publicly that they are performing correctly. Otherwise the whole public concept of governmental use of power degenerates into ugly public cynicism.

Mr. Gaglardi must think on these things. Premier Bennett is no doubt already doing so.

What's it all about? Gaglardi

By NATE SMITH

Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi said on Monday night he doesn't "know what all the hullabaloo is about" in the controversy surrounding his government expense account.

Responding to Liberal leader Pat McGeer's call for his resignation, Gaglardi told The Province:

"If I had done something wrong I would be feeling something about it, but I don't know what this roar is about."

In the legislature last week, Gaglardi was questioned by Opposition members about a 1970 trip to South Bend, Ind., to address a Transport for Christ Conference, for which the government paid a \$382 bill.

He was also questioned about expenses for a stay in San Francisco on Oct. 31 and one in Portland on Dec. 9.

"GOOD WORD"

"I've travelled all over the U.S. as a speaker and a representative from B.C. and wherever I go I tell the good word about B.C.," Gaglardi said.

"I'm known almost all over the world as a speaker and have been making speaking tours since 1949.

"These fellows (the Opposition leaders) are jealous that they don't have anyone who is accepted on that basis."

Gaglardi said he has visited San Francisco for such speaking engagements "on a number of occasions", the last time for a television interview.

PHONE TALKS

He said that while in San Francisco he has had telephone conversations with alcoholism rehabilitation authorities, but these were not the major purpose of the trip.

Opposition members have said the persons to whom Gaglardi said he spoke have no recollection of the conversations.

"A person in that position must talk to 50 people a day," Gaglardi said.

"I know I did these things and that is what I said when I was asked about it."

Gaglardi said he has done nothing improper and doesn't know what the "hullabaloo" is about.

"Actually, I do know what it's about. It's just a speck of politics and I've been up against that all my life."

NEXT MOVE

Opposition leader Dave Barrett said the next move is up to Gaglardi and Premier Bennett.

"The premier is responsible for his cabinet," Barrett said.

Asked if he would agree with McGeer's demand for Gaglardi's resignation, Barrett said: "That's up to the premier."

Provincial Conservative leader Derril Warren said he does not agree with the resignation demand because the matter has not been "properly explored."

"The question was discussed in a matter of minutes, there were quick phone calls made to check statements and statements were made from hazy memory," Warren said.

"It isn't my impression that Gaglardi has admitted to the allegations or that they are

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1972

**CAMPAIGN TALK FADES
AND SOCREDS SMOTHER BILL**

**Elections Act
changes die as
house ends session**

By IAIN HUNTER
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA —The B.C. legislature ended a session full of election talk Thursday by smothering a bill to reform electoral procedures.

For a while it appeared the 55 MLAs would have to return after the Easter weekend, but after a two-hour adjournment for dinner, the opposition appeared to have sworn its more stubborn members to comparative silence.

When the third session of B.C.'s 29th legislature opened Jan. 20 Premier W. A. C. Bennett was making noises about another election.

In the first few days MLAs greeted cabinet ministers' speeches with the old Social Credit election chant: "Go, go, go."

But on the last day of the session there was no chanting. There weren't even the Elections Act changes to chant about.

Bennett, as government house leader, in previous sessions has allowed private members' bills to die on the order paper without having them passed, but major government bills are a different matter.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black had introduced the bill to amend the Elections Act early in the session. It would have allowed the marking of ballots with ballpoint pens and other forms of pen and pencil, would have required a party to run 20 candidates before they could describe themselves as running for a political party, and provided for students to vote in constituencies where their family homes are located.

But Herb Capozzi (SC — Vancouver Centre) moved an amendment to phase out the right of British subjects under the act, so that only Canadian citizens could vote.

It was learned that Capozzi had been asked by a number of Social Credit members to agree to withdraw his amendment so the bill could go through, but the MLA refused.

Other bills which weren't passed before the end of the session were Bill 88—the bill which would have outlawed restrictive clauses in union contracts — and a new Companies Act, which Attorney-General Les Peterson said would be proceeded with next year.

Asked why the Elections Act was not called before the end of the session, Bennett replied:

"The house leader didn't call it, I guess." Bennett is house leader.

He denied suggestions the Capozzi amendments had anything to do with the bill's fail-

ure, but when asked if the MLA said he would withdraw the amendments under certain conditions, he answered: "Not to me."

Had Capozzi given this commitment to anyone else?, he was asked.

"Not that I know of," Bennett snapped.

"There is no doubt that the reason the bill was not called is that the premier didn't want any debate on the amendments, including the citizenship clause," Capozzi said.

During the dying hours of the session, the government majority killed motions by opposition members calling for:

Co-operation between Washington state legislators and the B.C. legislature on combatting pollution in coastal waters and the atmosphere, and correction of the 1971 record of debates in the house to correspond to what was said.

The NDP has charged that the Speaker's office edited the transcript of debate in the 1971 session to remove references to Bennett's abuses of the rules of the house.

Toward the end of Thursday's session Leo Nimsick (NDP — Kootenay) appeared to be the only MLA who wanted to debate on the votes which came up for discussion.

He recapitulated arguments which MLAs raised during debate on estimates of Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi, the last major minister to come up for cross-examination.

Bennett appeared angry as the house rose at 6 p.m. and declared that, although Socreds had accused the NDP of "filibuster" and "Commie tactics," he was not trying to stifle debate even though the Easter weekend was fast approaching. The house traditionally rises at the Easter weekend.

"I believe in democracy," Bennett declared. "I do not believe in closure (of debate)."

Among major measures passed during the session were bills to:

Set up a \$25-million fund for purchase of farmland and other undeveloped lands around communities to create green belts;

Establish a \$10-million fund to help finance underground installation of power and phone lines.

Set up a \$10-million fund for accelerated park development and another \$10 million to speed reforestation;

Offer to pay 50 per cent of the operating deficit of any money-losing rapid transit system operated by municipalities;

require that soft drink merchants make refunds for containers of the type and brand which they sell;

Speed up settlement of claims under B.C.'s no-fault automobile insurance scheme;

Increase benefits for disabled workmen and widows and dependents under the Workmen's Compensation Act;

Provide compensation for victims of crime and for persons injured while on voluntary rescue missions;

Empower municipalities to lift the licences of merchants who sell dangerous substances, such as glue, to persons under 16;

Allow courts to sentence prisoners to broken periods in jail, so that prisoners may work during the week, and spend only weekends in custody;

Provide a \$50 annual bonus to home-owners and renters over the age of 65 and increase the annual homeowner grant by \$15 to \$185;

Place salary increase limitations on MLAs, cabinet ministers, teachers, and elected municipal and regional district politicians, similar to those placed on civil service salary increases;

Increase the borrowing authority of B.C. Hydro and the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, renamed the British Columbia Railway Company, by \$500 million each and purchase another \$25 million in PGE shares.

**James K.
NESBITT**

CABINET MINISTER'S travel expenses are always fair game for oppositionists. In B.C., in this regard, P. A. Gaglardi is usually chief target.

Everytime a cabinet minister goes travelling on a public expense account eyebrows are raised and suspicions are aroused that it's only a whopping big vacation, with the public picking up the tab.

However, I guess it's the same everywhere.

The Ontario legislature is in uproar about a recent trip made by a cabinet minister to Cuba.

He took along, in an Ontario government plane, his wife and two children, and his deputy, with his wife and one child.

Bert Lawrence classified his paid trip as "commercial diplomacy."

Adding fuel to the fire was the fact Lawrence had not announced the trip in advance.

It only came to light when an enterprising Ontario reporter came across him and his party in Havana.

Lawrence said "the presence of our wives enhanced the trip, and the Cubans were very flattered that we had our children with us."

The Toronto Globe and Mail reported that as Lawrence defended his Havana trip he appeared "tanned and in an angry mood."

One wonders why provincial cabinet ministers have to do so much travelling abroad.

Canada has ambassadors and trade commissioners in foreign places.

What are they there for? Are they not there to do Canada's business?

MLA SAYS:

**Road start
this year**

Special to The Sun

FORT ST. JOHN — North Peace MLA Ed Smith said here Thursday construction will start this year on a road between Fort Nelson and Fort Simpson.

Smith said Premier W. A. C. Bennett and Highways Minister Wesley Black have agreed to fund the project through provincial channels.

The road, when completed, will provide a second major transportation link to residents of the western Northwest Territories.

About 90 miles of the road are inside B.C. The federal government already started construction on the 120 miles inside the Northwest Territories, but abandoned it when B.C. did not proceed with the project.

GOVERNMENT BILLED FOR TRIP BUT — Gaglardi's hotel room 'pre-paid'

by JOHN MIKA
and MARJORIE NICHOLS
Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Rehabilitation Minister P. A. Gaglardi admitted Thursday in the legislature his hotel bill was pre-paid during a trip in which he charged the government for expenses.

He revealed it after having acknowledged he knew it was long-standing government policy that cabinet ministers not allow any non-government organization pay any part of a minister's travel expenses.

The admission was included in an involved and halting series of responses he made to opposition probes for more details on several cryptic travel vouchers he charged to the Crown during 1970.

While he spoke, three cabinet ministers pointedly left the chamber and the government backbenchers maintained a grim silence.

Premier W. A. C. Bennett missed almost all of the tense and at times barely comprehensible, exchanges because he left immediately after bringing Gaglardi's salary appropriation to the house for approval.

The grilling came after Gaglardi's vouchers had brought a surprisingly sharp report from the public accounts committee Thursday morning "confirming" the long-standing policy that he was accused of violating.

The statement said: "The public accounts committee confirms the present policy that a cabinet minister when travelling on behalf of, or representing the province of B.C., either within or outside, shall be reimbursed only by the Crown."

At one point, Gaglardi told the legislature he was unable to give the names of social welfare contacts he met on trips "every three or four months" to San Francisco.

After he finally supplied two names, phone calls were made to San Francisco and NDP leader Dave Barrett told the house that Gaglardi had given it "fibs."

But the hotel bill admission came during questioning about a May 2, 1970, address he made to a religious convention in South Bend, Ind., for which he collected \$382.15 in expenses from the government.

Gaglardi submitted the 1970 bill for "travel" only, without detailing a breakdown for meals and accommodation. But a Sun check Thursday revealed the current round trip fare to South Bend, Ind., is as low as \$258 and rates were lower two years ago.

Organizers of the Transport for Christ conference in South

Bend confirmed they had picked up expenses for Gaglardi.

Conference organizer Ron Whiteford said his group had paid Gaglardi's \$36 hotel bill and provided free meals.

Whiteford said Gaglardi paid his own plane fare, but an offering was taken among the delegates.

He could not recall the amount.

Asked whether this money covered the cost of the air fare, Whiteford said: "I don't know how that was taken care of — why do you want to know?"

Told the reason, Whiteford said: "He paid for the plane fare himself."

Asked directly if the money was used for the air fare, Whiteford retorted: "You're pushing me."

When he was asked if any part of his expenses from the government had been covered by the private organization, Gaglardi did not reply directly but did say that he thought his hotel bill was pre-paid.

The voucher questioning began with Liberal leader Pat McGeer asking Gaglardi if he agreed with a public accounts committee statement that long-term government policy prohibited ministers from accepting expenses from outside organizations.

Gaglardi nodded affirmatively.

He also nodded when McGeer asked him if he had been guest speaker at a "Transport for Christ" convention in South Bend, Ind., May 2, 1970, and that was the sole purpose of his trip there for which he billed the government for \$382.

McGeer then asked him to explain that trip and whether he had accepted non-government expense assistance.

While he was at it, McGeer said, Gaglardi should also tell the house about government expense accounts for the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco Oct. 31, the Benson Hotel in Portland Dec. 9, and the Men's Fellowship meeting in Edmonton Sept. 30, all in 1970.

"I ask the same series of questions of all of these vouchers," said McGeer.

"Was it on government business? What was the purpose of the trip? Did the sponsoring group in any of these places pay any part of your expenses?"

"The group that invited me to South Bend were laymen," replied Gaglardi some time later.

"It's a group of truckers who also are involved in religious activities as well."

"I remember I was there talking to a group of truckers from many parts of the United States."

"But many of these things aren't clear to me at this particular moment."

Gaglardi said all his travels "are reported completely, on my return, to my secretary and my (department) controller."

"So far as I'm concerned, it's all reported."

Gaglardi, with a rising voice, said his service to the province in travelling was hard on his pocket book and health.

"I particularly am out of pocket that I can never get back because you cannot reimburse a minister for everything."

"I have to travel all over the States and the world and the wear and tear sometimes makes me think I have to travel excessively."

"Now the St. Francis Hotel in Portland," he continued, until corrected it was in San Francisco.

"I don't remember if it was a convention there, but it was a speaking engagement of some kind."

Gaglardi said he went to San Francisco "about every three or four months" and that's why he couldn't quite remember the particular event.

"I usually go to check up on the social (welfare) activities and particularly the work on alcoholism rehabilitation."

Barrett asked him to name the officials he met there regularly.

Gaglardi rummaged on his desk a moment and then searched his pockets for a slip in my pocket from the last time I was there," he said.

"If I remember correctly, it was the name of a lady as well as a gentleman."

At this point, Resources Minister Ray Williston, Recreation Minister Ken Kiernan and Industrial Development Minister Waldo Skillings got up from their seats near Gaglardi and walked out of the chamber.

Bennett missed the whole episode because he left immediately after introducing Gaglardi's salary vote in the House at the beginning of Thursday's sitting.

"I've only been there (San Francisco) on government business or on government order," Gaglardi continued after promising to send to his office for the names.

McGeer asked him if he had charged all his expenses for the South Bend trip to the government and if he had also collected any expenses from the religious convention.

"If I remember correctly the hotel bill — they have a block of rooms they kept for their speakers — if I remember correctly, I don't believe

the hotel bill," said Gaglardi with pauses between the phrases.

"When I went to pay it, they said it had already been taken care of."

McGeer asked if the government had also paid for motel expenses on the trip and if he returned them.

"As far as I know, any monies, if they are received, they are never given to me," said Gaglardi.

"If any money is for reimbursing it goes into the office, not to me."

"Now about Portland. If I remember correctly, it was a group of auto dealers."

"In Edmonton, it was a businessmen's group associated with one of the assemblies, one of the churches, down there."

McGeer observed that "the minister, and understandably so, is a little vague on which groups he has addressed, but I wonder if he could give a little more detail."

Gaglardi replied that it was difficult because he's in great demand as a speaker "and I receive up to 200 applications, requests for speaking engagements, in a month and I just can't accept them all."

Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver-East) challenged Gaglardi to table all the requests he received last month to prove his claim.

"No," retorted Gaglardi angrily. "I won't give you the pleasure of seeing who invites me — particularly you."

"When I make a statement, I think the statement is true."

A burst of laughter from opposition MLAs brought an answering shout from Gaglardi, "In fact, I know it is true."

"You're almost positive it's true, aren't you?" quipped Barrett.

Gaglardi replied that his speaking trips were a service to the province that could never be adequately recompensed.

"If you have the time and can go and your department is being well looked after, then I think these things are an honor for British Columbia," he said.

"But all these things wear out clothes, wear out yourself and wear out your energy — you can't get that back."

"But I've got lots of energy," he said sitting down.

"I think the members of the opposition have brought in a little red herring because they're just jealous they aren't in the same position," said Alex Fraser (SC—Cariboo).

A half-hour later, Barrett returned to the voucher question.

He said the NDP in the in-

Wal had contacted the social welfare agency in San Francisco "where the minister says he went for talks every three or four months and you know what they told us?"

"They've never heard of Phil."

Barrett said Gaglardi during the interval had sent across a note "giving me the name of the man and woman he couldn't remember."

"He identified them as Mrs. Floretta Pomeroy, executive director of the Bay Area Council on Alcohol, and the second name is the man, Escher," said Barrett.

He said Mrs. Pomeroy was not at home or at her office when called, but her staff "told us they never heard of a Mr. Gaglardi."

The man identified only as Escher "is now retired but he was an investigator for the department of alcohol beverage control," continued Barrett.

"And his job was working with the department that issues licences to taverns."

Barrett accused Gaglardi of "constantly making things up as you go along but we find on checking that these are all fibs — little fibs but still fibs."

Gaglardi jumped up and demanded Barrett withdraw "any suggestion that I told untruths."

Barrett agreed to withdraw it, "if I can put it in the framework of what he tells the people: 'If I tell a lie it's only because I think it's the truth.'"

Gaglardi said he was misquoted.

"What I said was that if I say something wrong it is because I did not know and thought it was true."

"How can you make people believe if you don't believe yourself?"

Barrett continued to press Gaglardi on the San Francisco trip and the minister's assertion that he was checking up on social work programs, "particularly the work on alcohol rehabilitation."

The opposition leader, a social worker, told the house he had called the San Francisco area council on alcoholism and no one there could recall any phone calls or visits from Gaglardi.

Barrett explained that the council was a sort of central registry for all alcohol programs in the entire San Francisco area. He said the council had given him the name of a particular program run by a man and woman, which seemed to fit the description given by Gaglardi.

The opposition leader said, however, that "they had never heard of (Gaglardi) either."

Gaglardi rose to defend himself. He said that while staying at the St. Francis Hotel he had spent "two solid hours on the telephone" talking to persons involved in the alcohol rehabilitation program.

He said adamantly that he had told them exactly who he was and why he was calling. He added that it had taken him about one hour on the telephone to locate the organization he was interested in.

Gaglardi then altered slightly his earlier version about how many times he had contacted the organization in question. He disclosed he had contacted the particular group only once, but did not name it.

Barrett said he found it astounding that Gaglardi couldn't remember the name of the program, or the individuals.

"He (Gaglardi) is misinforming this house again," Barrett said. "They haven't even heard of him down there."

Who's he trying to kid?"

Gaglardi rose again and insisted that he had the phone number of the San Francisco organization but had not been able to locate it. The minister said he had dispatched an aide to his hotel room to search for the phone number.

"I thought I had it in my pocket," he said, again rummaging through his pockets.

Women in cabinet cost \$53,726

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — The Opposition members of the legislature are against women — women without portfolios, that is.

Spending estimates of \$53,726 for salaries and operation of the office of the government's three ministers — without-portfolio were passed Thursday.

The estimates were opposed on a recorded vote of a united opposition of NDP, Liberals and Conservatives after virtually no debate. The ministers are Grace McCarthy, Pat Jordan and Isabel Dawson.

Eileen Dailly (NDP—Burnaby North) said that "as a believer in equal rights for women I reject the philosophy that there should be special privileges for women."

"Oh, that's a good one, we'll have this one recorded," said Premier W. A. C. Bennett.

Mrs. Jordan and Opposition leader Dave Barrett engaged in a brief argument across the floor.

"You didn't stand up and say a word to defend yourself," Barrett said.

"We didn't have to," Mrs. Jordan retorted.

MALE BOARDERS OUT

'Don't halt welfare'

VICTORIA (CP) — Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) asked Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi on Thursday to withdraw a department regulation which states that anyone who is keeping a male boarder in their home will be cut off from welfare money.

Macdonald said a memo to that effect went out to all district supervisors in the Van-

couver Island welfare region last Nov. 16.

The NDP member told the legislature of the case of a 35-year-old woman in the Victoria area who was told to get rid of a 14-year-old boy boarding at her home or her welfare cheque would be cut off.

He told Gaglardi that if he is going to keep the regulation he should at least "not engage in male chauvinism" and extend it to include female boarders."

Hall slams Gaglardi

VICTORIA (CP) — Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi was chastised Thursday by a New Democratic Party member for not giving opposition members a copy of his department's annual report until the day his spending estimates were being debated in the legislature.

Ernie Hall (NDP—Surrey) said the minister was given a draft copy of the report last Nov. 29. It was then given to the cabinet for study and "has

taken four months to print," he said.

He termed the action "a little arrogant gesture on the part of the minister" not to provide the members of the legislature with copies of the report until Thursday, the day his spending estimates were being debated.

Hall closed his attack by stating: "I feel sick and I feel sorry for the people on social welfare in this province who have this minister in charge of their affairs."

Allan FOTHERINGHAM

VICTORIA—IN THE VERY LAST seat of the first row of Social Credit members sits Harold Peter Capozzi with his huge shaggy Roman head and his wide ties and his flares and his two-tone suede boots. From his position he must swivel his chair about to face Mr. Speaker and so is able to survey the entire sweep of the government benches. It is an appropriate stance because 'Herb,' as he was dubbed at Vancouver College long ago, has had the entire 1972 legislative session to figure out whether he has a future any longer in the Social Credit party. He is a most intriguing figure at the moment because he is involved in an attempted exercise of the leverage of power—the whole basis of politics.



Herb Capozzi has been a prominent—if perhaps over-publicized—public figure in B.C. for nearly 20 years. But he is 46 now, not exactly a boy wonder any longer, and it's clear his career is ripe for a change. He has never craved anonymity. The popular theory is that he is now toying with yet two more choices in the many-faceted Capozzi life: that he will jump to another party if Mr. Bennett does not give him a cabinet post or he will make a flamboyant, moneyed dash for the Vancouver mayoralty.

If one may butt into the argument, there is a contrary theory: that Mr. Bennett has Harold Peter trapped, that Harold Peter is having his bluff called and that it is Harold Peter who has been trapped by events, rather than the other way around.

Capozzi has been a backbench MLA for six years now, impatiently waiting for the cabinet post that his obvious intelligence and drive would indicate. Even those on opposition benches who despise him for his big mouth do not question his native intelligence. Even those who resent him for his family wealth do not knock his energy and drive—although they query whether he sticks at any one thing long enough to prove his sincerity. "If I had a choice of any one man for committee work," says an MLA from an opposition party, "I'd take Herb. And of course he's bright—brighter than half those guys in the cabinet."

Herb's biggest problem seems to be his father's early connections with Mr. Bennett. When Cap Capozzi, the immigrant railway worker, needed financing to put together a winery in Kelowna 40 years ago, it was teetotaller W. A. C. Bennett who put up some of the cash. The Bennetts and the Capozzis prospered over the years in Kelowna. Now Mr. Bennett seems embarrassed by the presence of a Capozzi on the fringe of his government and seems to be leaning over backwards to avoid charges of favoritism.

This session, shifted in the seating arrangement away from his raucous companions in the back row, Capozzi has taken on a more

mature, if maverick, stance. "I told him," says a friend, "that above all he had to shake that 'kook' image." Capozzi defied the party line on giving the vote to tenants and on certain concessions to private school students. In both cases, the premier gave in. Capozzi voted against his party on the Gift Tax Act and he so embarrassed the premier with his Election Act amendment that would take the vote from non-citizens that the bill was dropped.

His voting record this session has set up the inevitable speculation that he is the next one ready to cross the floor. But where would he go? The NDP is out of the question. The Tories? Herb likes winners and the prospect of joining a party that might have no members at all next time around (and someone else leading it) is not the type of thing he relishes. The Liberals? A Liberal MLA says, "I've thought about it and to be honest, it is something you would view as a mixed blessing. You'd like the defection, but Herb wouldn't be an easy one to handle. He'd want to be leader of course."

Capozzi himself backs away a bit when it is suggested he seems set to leave the Socreds. He maintains his differences with the party have been on matters of personal conscience and that they haven't been enough to jump ship.

The mayor's chair? Capozzi is first to admit it would be more difficult than it sounds. He says a number of substantial Vancouver people have come to him, guaranteeing support and money if he wants to go. But a millionaire from the North Shore suddenly announcing he wants to march in and assume the votes that Ald. Art Phillips, who has put in his apprenticeship at city hall, has been courting? What he would like, of course, is for Phillips to withdraw unselfishly to allow Capozzi to be the free enterprise champion against the possible ogre of Harry Rankin.

The point is that the mercurial 46-year-old is still at the mercy of the premier. I put it to Mr. Bennett, "When are you going to take advantage of the talents of my friend Capozzi and put him in the cabinet?" Mr. Bennett: "I was a backbencher for 10 years myself before I ever got into government. Of course, not everyone is as stupid as I was." Pressed further, he maintained that Capozzi has "his private interests . . . his family . . . they're buying new businesses all the time."

There's a game of bluff going on. Herb's implied threats to be the next significant one to bolt. The premier's bluff that he has yet to prove himself. A shrewd MLA points out that Socred maverick Cyril Shelford raged and ranted in the backbenches for years over the disgraceful gasoline cartel and other outrages. When he was finally tamed, only when he finally tempered his criticisms, was he taken into the cabinet and defused. Who has heard sacrilege from Agriculture Minister Shelford lately? Mr. Bennett uses the years to mold tame critics. There is no doubt that before Mr. Bennett is to face the electorate again, he must bring into that moldy cabinet some over-due talent such as Grace McCarthy. There are others who won't wait around much longer if he doesn't reward some backbench loyalty. The exclusion of Capozzi this time would be an insult too obvious to abide. Mr. Bennett is daring him to jump elsewhere—when he knows Herb hasn't that much landing ground. It's intriguing, because the succession to the premiership and the leadership of Vancouver are involved. It will be interesting to see who sustains the bluff the longest.

Last-minute appeals to Bennett fail to block B.C. gift tax law

Last-minute appeals to Premier W. A. C. Bennett, seeking a delay of royal assent for new gift tax legislation, failed Thursday to prevent the law coming into effect.

The Gift Tax Act was one of those given royal assent by Lt.-Gov. Jack Nicholson as the session ended. The new law is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1972.

Brian D. Carter, president of United Community Services of Greater Vancouver, sent a telegram to the premier on Thursday warning that the gift tax could endanger the society's fund-raising activities, and asking him to delay the legislation until it could be clarified.

Earlier, a committee of the B.C. branch of the Canadian Bar Association made a similar request.

Just prior to the final day's sitting of the legislative session the premier told reporters he would not hold back the bill.

"I am a democrat — I believe in democracy — the legislature has passed it — it's no longer up to the premier," Bennett said.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson refused to comment when asked whether the bar association interpreted the statute correctly when it warned people to use care in making gifts.

"It's not my bill," Peterson stated, "and the attorney-general will not be filing a \$10 gift to his son or daughter as far as I know."

Lawyer John G. Smith, chairman of the branch's taxation subsection, said the main impact of the gift tax law will be on charities, but added: "The act complicates the giving of even the simplest gift between members of a family."

The lawyer explained that the law, as written, says the gift, no matter how big or small, has to be reported to the government.

The provincial government introduced the gift tax legislation after the federal government vacated that field in its new tax reform. Under provincial law, an individual will be subject to tax on annual gifts totalling more than \$10,000.

In the case of most individuals, this \$10,000 must be given out in separate sums of \$2,000 or less to escape the tax.

Carter, in his telegram to Bennett, said:

"UCS and its member agencies are gravely concerned over the possible implications of the new provincial tax act for the future of voluntary charitable effort.

"We are also concerned that the lack of clarification of the act is having a negative effect on persons otherwise disposed to support many important charitable activities.

"We urge that you withhold seeking royal assent for this bill until the regulations are drawn up."

Welfare share cut urged

— Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi told the legislature Thursday that he has recommended to Premier W. A. C. Bennett that the provincial municipal welfare cost sharing formula be changed.

But he indicated that municipalities shouldn't expect much of a reduction in their share.

"I'm not pushing it too hard because we feel that if municipalities have a heavy responsibility they do a better job," Gaglardi declared.

Alex Fraser (SC—Cariboo) had stated during debate on Gaglardi's estimates that the local share of welfare costs should be reduced from the present 15 per cent to the original 10 per cent.

The former Quesnel mayor calculated that the present formula means that welfare is using up 10 per cent of the local tax levy, and "this is too high to expect any community or town to carry."

"And if you won't ask the minister of finance to do it (reduce the local share), I'll do it on your behalf, Mr. Minister," Fraser snapped at Gaglardi.

Gaglardi, after stating that he is making representations to Bennett, noted that over-all welfare costs have been reduced because of his appeal to mayors to improve policing and keep a check on expenditures.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Debate on TV barred

VICTORIA (CP) — A Liberal member's motion calling on the Speaker of the legislature to allow persons to daily televise or broadcast debates of the house at their expense was ruled out of order Thursday night.

Speaker William Murray made the ruling on the motion of Garde Gardom (L — Vancouver-Point Grey) because it also called for typewritten transcripts of house debates

to be prepared daily under the supervision of the Speaker, and copies of the transcripts to be certified under oath to be correct and distributed to each member free.

The Speaker said this proposal would require an increase in the Speaker's staff and thus use of additional public funds.

Private members cannot introduce bills requiring expenditure of public funds, Murray said.

Barrett urges Gaglardi to resign

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi was equated with white supremacist George Wallace and urged to resign for the good of the province Thursday night.

The demands for Gaglardi's resignation were made by Opposition leader Dave Barrett as the house debated the spending estimates for the Department of Rehabilitation and Social Improvement.

The estimates total a net \$138.8 million, including \$43,820 for the minister's salary and office expenses, were later passed.

Gaglardi, the Opposition leader charged, "uses the right-wing tactics of a George Wallace."

"I earnestly hope for the sake of the province that at the next election the people will turn that man (Gaglardi) out of office and allow us to breathe a breath of fresh air," Barrett said.

Debate on Gaglardi's estimates also prompted an attack by Liberal leader Dr. Pat McGeer on the NDP. McGeer accused the NDP of having launched "a senseless filibuster" during Gaglardi's estimates.

"As much as we need a new government we need a new leader of the Opposition," McGeer said, adding that Barrett had behaved like a clown.

Barrett noted the minister's annual report for last year showed there was an increase of 2,000 welfare cases during the year in the Vancouver Island and McKenzie constituency regions.

"I'd say this ranks as a crisis in the social work field," said Barrett.

Gaglardi denied there is or ever has been a crisis in the numbers of people on welfare in this or other welfare regions and said the caseload between 1971 and 1972 has declined from 148,000 to 118,000.

Barrett said a major problem is the number of well-educated single young people on welfare who are victims of conditioning by the current "acquisitive society," which encourages young people to get an education so they will get a good job.

"We have got here the stuff that radical social upheavals are made of," he warned. "These are people who are most prone to find violence as the outlet of their frustrations."

Quebec, the Opposition leader added, has shown an example of the result of this problem.

Barrett also criticized the government for having only about 30 to 40 beds in the whole province, insufficient for 375 emotionally-disturbed

children who require treatment at present. He said there are no residential treatment centres with full-time psychiatrists on staff for this group.

Gaglardi replied that alcoholism is one of the main problems in society today. He said one out of 14 people in the U.S. is considered an alcoholic "and that it's probably higher in Canada."

He said there are more psychiatrists available today than ever before "and society has never been crazier."

A P R

1972

Expense Account Grilling Has Gaglardi on the Ropes

By BRUCE YEMEN
and PETER MCNELLEY
Times Staff

Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi Thursday failed to satisfy the opposition that he abides by the government's own ethical standards on travel expenses.

Gaglardi, squirming under repeated cross-examination in the legislature, said a hotel bill was paid on his behalf at a convention in South Bend, Indiana, in 1970, but added he wasn't too clear about all the financial details.

A few minutes earlier Gaglardi had nodded his head in agreement when Liberal Leader Pat McGeer said he presumed the minister understood the government's policy on expense payments to cabinet ministers.

FIBBING CHARGED

The policy, "confirmed" earlier Thursday by the public accounts committee, is that ministers accept no expense money from private groups inviting them to attend events such as conventions.

Gaglardi was also accused of "fibbing" about visits to San Francisco where he said he always checked on alcoholism rehabilitation programs.

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett made the charge after his staff telephoned San Francisco to check out statements by Gaglardi.

At one point in the grilling by opposition members, Gaglardi threw the house into laughter by saying: "When I make a statement I usually think it is true."

McGeer raised the issue in the house by recalling the morning public accounts committee meeting which had passed a motion confirming that cabinet ministers shouldn't accept expense money from private organizations.

He said he wanted to ask Gaglardi for more details about some of his travels in the 1970-71 fiscal year because details were lacking on his expense claims.

He said he wanted to ask in particular about what was described as a "transport convention" in South Bend, Indiana which had turned out to be a "Transport for Christ" convention, a laymen's non-denominational group interested in the trucking industry.

McGeer asked if Gaglardi had received payment from the convention for his expenses. Earlier, McGeer had told the public accounts com-

mittee Gaglardi received \$382 from the government for travel expense on the trip.

Gaglardi replied that the "financial activities" weren't all clear to him "at this particular moment" but said "all affairs are reported to my secretary and the comptroller."

BLOCK OF ROOMS

Asked again about the convention, he recalled that there was a block of hotel rooms set aside for guest speakers and he didn't have to pay the hotel bill.

"As far as I know any monies if they are received are never given to me — and reimbursements are forwarded to my office," he said.

Pressed about why he was in San Francisco in 1970, Gaglardi said, "It was a speaking engagement of some kind." He added he visits San Francisco "every three or four months" to check up on "social (welfare) activities" and alcoholism rehabilitation in particular.

Asked what organization's program he was checking on, he said it was the "department of rehabilitation and alcoholism" and said he recalled "the name of the man as well as a lady" whom he used to be in touch with.

He undertook to find out the names after being unable to remember them.

Asked where the office of the welfare organization was, Gaglardi said he had never visited the office.

"I always talk to them on the telephone."

TWO CONTACTED

Barrett said later his staff had contacted the director of social welfare in San Francisco as well as the head of the Bay Area Council of Alcoholism. Both men said they had never heard of Gaglardi.

Barrett said this was surprising in light of the minister's earlier remarks that he is in touch with these people every three or four months.

Gaglardi said across the floor he was only in contact once over the phone and it took him an hour to get through because they were so disorganized. He didn't say who he was trying to call.

Pressing the issue, Barrett said his staff had asked the alcohol council director if there were a couple with a special treatment program whom Gaglardi might have contacted.

The caller was referred to Mr. and Mrs. Duffy in Myrtle Dale Hot Springs. They also denied ever having heard of

Gaglardi, Barrett said.

"When I was in the St. Francis Hotel, I spent two hours on the telephone. I told them who I was, what I was doing and why I was there," Gaglardi said.

He walked out of the house, but returned a few minutes later saying he would produce the name and number of the person he called.

Barrett said later that Gaglardi informed him that he had phoned Mrs. Floretta Pomeroy, executive director of the Bay Area Council on Alcoholism.

NOT AT WORK

His staff then checked this and learned that Mrs. Pomeroy was not at work and couldn't be reached. Her co-workers, Barrett said, had never heard of Gaglardi.

Barrett said the other name Gaglardi gave him was a Mr. Escher who is an investigator for the department of alcoholic beverage control.

"That, for the record, is all you could tell us about your trip to San Francisco," Barrett said.

"Nice try, Mr. Minister. Nice try. But you are constantly making things up as you go along, but when it is checked out, it turns out you are fibbing."

Barrett said the taxpayers had to pay Gaglardi's bill at the Hotel Vancouver for 17 days last February, while the house was in session, at the rate of \$10.50 a day.

Gaglardi said the government didn't mind because it was a special rate.

"That's more money for you just paying for your hotel room than a mother with one child gets to live on for one month," Barrett said.

McGeer asked on what basis Gaglardi decides to accept invitations for speaking engagements. He replied he gets about 200 invitations a month and turns down most of them.

Gaglardi refused to table last month's invitations when asked to do so by Bob Williams (NDP—Vancouver East).

When someone doubted the accuracy of Gaglardi's estimate of invitations, he said: "When I make a statement I usually think it's true." Then he added: "I know it's true."

Gaglardi said no cabinet minister can ever come out ahead on travelling expenses because the costs outweigh expense payments.

Robert Strachan (NDP—Cowichan-Malahat) said Gaglar-

di's record of use of his quarters at the Hotel Vancouver — paid by the government when he is there on government business. — shows how little time he spends on his department's business.

Vouchers from the public accounts show Gaglardi stayed at the hotel 212 nights in an 11-month period from May, 1970, to April, 1971, Strachan said.

Gaglardi replied that he telephones deputy minister E. R. Rickinson regularly when out of town.

Punishing Session Points to Polls

By BRUCE YEMEN
Times Staff

A physical and psychological endurance test ended for 55 members of the legislature Thursday night when the third session of the 29th provincial parliament prorogued at 11:50 p.m.

The session was a punishing prelude to an election test that Premier Bennett apparently plans some time this year.

Among government moves indicating an election ahead were increases in welfare rates, workmen's compensation and homeowner grants, including a special \$50 grant for elderly renters as well as elderly homeowners.

Other moves that hinted election strategy included restrictive legislation increasing government powers in the social welfare and education fields. These followed closely on last years controversial cabinet attempts to strengthen the government's control in the health field.

VARIED CRITICS

Although alternately criticized by teachers, civil servants, school trustees, doctors, social workers and the poor, the measures were sold to the public as attempts to control inflation and rising government costs.

Late in the session a bill was introduced by Labor Minister James Chabot to limit restrictive clauses in labor contracts but was withdrawn after an alarmed and angry labor movement promised to study inter-union warfare in an effort to end jurisdictional work stoppages.

The unions said the bill amounted to "right-to-seab" legislation because of the extent of its restrictions. The government promised to bring in the bill next year if necessary.

The session lacked much of the bitterness expected of a likely pre-election legislature.

STARCH LOST

One possible reason was that MLAs lost a lot of their starch in a record-shattering, 17-hour overnight sitting Feb. 24-25 during Attorney-General Leslie Peterson's estimates. It was a protest against Bennett's use of the threat of marathon sittings to speed house business.

After that, Bennett as house leader appeared to present a more co-operative attitude to the opposition in organizing the business of the house. But the opposition had less stamina with which to make use of its legislative opportunities.

In the end, fatigue and frustration appeared to grind down MLAs on both sides of the house and the public's business was completed in a desperation-tinged drive to the finish.

Frustration played a part in the decision by Don Marshall, the MLA from Peace River South, to leave the Social Credit Party for the Progressive Conservatives 10 days ago.

He joined Scott Wallace (PC — Oak Bay) in the back row between the 12-member New Democrat group and the five Liberals. There are 36 Socreds.

Marshall said government inaction on the problems of farmers and small business were his main reasons for crossing the floor, but he said the Bennett era is nearing an end.

TWO ISSUES

The opposition limited its non-confidence motions to two issues — government car insurance sought by the NDP and a wide-ranging program of aid to the elderly proposed by the Liberals in the form of a confidence test for the Socreds.

Both moves were turned back by the big government majority. Shortly before the insurance debate, the B.C. Automobile Insurance board had ordered reductions in no-fault car insurance premiums. Shortly after the aid-to-elderly debate, \$50 renter grants were announced.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell took the toughest beating of any cabinet minister early in the session as Bob Williams (NDP — Vancouver East) hammered him for allowing Charlie Bennett, a friend of Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi, to be appointed first mayor of the newly-created municipality of Dufferin in which Bennett, a land developer, had large holdings.

LET OFF

Campbell was let off easily in his estimates this week as MLAs headed for the finish line. But they paused long enough Thursday to give Gaglardi serious quizzing on his expense account practices and the reasons for his extensive travels in North America.

During the session cabinet ministers made a number of seemingly conflicting statements about the state of the Moran Dam power generation proposal.

The government appeared to be backing away from suggesting the dam be built on the Fraser for economic reasons, but a potentially serious flood threat to the Fraser Valley from heavy mountain snow packs appeared to be a factor in increased cabinet level suggestions that a Fraser dam might be needed for flood control.

The Moran took over the role of top environmental issue at a time when expressed public concern on pollution control matters appeared to level off.

The most contentious bills were Bill 3, to force referendums on teacher salary increases above a percentage to be set by the cabinet, and Bill 49, to give the cabinet and Gaglardi power to limit welfare payments and the right of appeal on those payments.

One of the most widely-acclaimed bills was the Family Relations Act, streamlining much of family law.

Other bills empowered the government to pay compensation to victims of crime, to spend money on green-belt protection and on putting power lines underground and to put \$25 million into the Pacific Great Eastern Railway.

RECORD BUDGET

Premier Bennett's \$1.45 billion budget was a record and he put another \$116 million of accumulated surpluses into a number of special and perpetual funds which earn interest in what he calls his policy of "re-cycling" B.C.'s money.

Decorum and respect for the rules in the Legislature didn't fare any better than usual but the screaming procedural rages of past years were fewer and farther between.

The quote of the session may have been made by Premier Bennett, on being told during a partisan attack to stick to the principle of a particular bill being debated by the legislature.

"The principle of the bill, Mr. Speaker, is who's for it and who's against it," said Bennett, and continued.

Grave Robbing Laid to Socreds

By BRUCE YEMEN
Times Staff

The provincial government was accused Thursday of operating a form of financial "grave-robbing" in its regulation of cemeteries in British Columbia.

Allan Williams (L—West Vancouver-Howe Sound) made the charge after describing a "shocking state of affairs" in which a Colwood cemetery company and related firms were allowed to pile up huge trust fund deficiencies.

FINANCES DETAILED

At the same time, Premier Bennett made public a March 23, 1972 letter from the Public Utilities Commission giving new details about the financial state of the companies.

The companies, operated by Robert Hagel of Victoria, involve cemeteries at Colwood (Hatley Memorial Gardens and Colwood Burial Park), near Nanaimo and Port Alberni and in Kelowna.

The letter, signed by PUC chairman J. F. K. English, reveals that deficiencies in trust funds at the cemeteries rose from \$152,000 in 1968 to \$174,000 at the end of last year.

A further \$32,600 in liabilities are owed to the government by the companies for costs of PUC supervision and trusteeship in the three-year period. Trusteeship ended Dec. 31, 1971.

But the commission stated that financial affairs in the companies have improved and a proposal to sell off some assets to make up part of the debt has been accepted.

If that doesn't work, bankruptcy will be considered as a more "stringent" way of liquidating the debts.

But the letter also reveals the commission is considering asking the cabinet in effect to forgive \$120,000 of the deficiency by accepting a like amount of interest income earned by and re-invested in the trust funds as an "offset" to the debt.

PUC REGULATIONS

The regulations of the PUC require that both a set percentage of cemetery plot sales and the earned income be placed in the funds.

"The commission has the power to amend regulations or exempt companies from its regulations based on the circumstances in any particular case," the letter to Bennett states.

Bennett made no comment on the letter in the house. He read parts of it to the legislature.

The letter says the \$174,000 in unpaid allocations were "of necessity used by the companies for maintenance of the cemeteries." The trust funds are intended to provide perpetual maintenance.

The amount actually declared as a current liability to the trust funds is listed by the commission as \$38,754.

This figure was calculated by reducing the \$174,215 unpaid balance by \$120,412 of re-invested income and a further \$15,049 described as a "deferred total."

The letter states that profits from a crematorium at Cedar Valley near Nanaimo are helping the companies' financial state considerably. The crematorium is grossing \$1,000 a month.

The right to run the crematorium was awarded to one of Hagel's firms last year while the PUC was in effect operating the companies through a trustee.

The proposal to liquidate the \$38,754 current liability consists of selling the Kelowna cemetery (Greencrest Memorial Gardens Ltd.) and surplus cemetery land at Port Alberni and Cedar Valley near Nanaimo.

The letter from English to Bennett states that the purpose of trusteeship and supervision was to keep the companies out of bankruptcy by continuing their operation.

Of the \$32,000 in supervision and trusteeship expenses, the letter states: "There is some chance of recovery by the government but in any case the expenditure is considered to have been worthwhile."

The commission described the operations of the companies as still "marginal" but likely to continue improving.

Williams said the PUC was guilty of failure to disclose the true state of affairs at the cemeteries in its annual reports.

He said it was shocking that the companies should have been allowed to defy PUC regulations for years to build up trust fund shortages and then to be given a licence to establish a profitable crematorium over applications from other groups.

He said it amounted to encouragement of a form of "grave-robbing."

Williams said it was difficult to understand how the PUC could say publicly that the Hagel application was from the most "businesslike" operation.

The MLA said the case "clearly indicates" the PUC isn't competent to handle the job of deciding which company if any, will get the right to build a natural gas pipeline to Vancouver Island.

Barrie Clark (L—North Vancouver-Seymour) said the house would have seen a full-scale debate on the PUC had its vote come up earlier in the session.

"This is some kind of idiocy," said Williams.

Then he asked if Peterson would table the PUC study of the funeral homes business undertaken last year.

Peterson said he would have tabled it had the opposition asked for it earlier this session, and he promised to make it public later this year.

Violence Predicted If Jobs Unavailable

By PETER McNELLY
Times Staff

British Columbia needs a crash program of jobs for young people on welfare to prevent future social unrest, Opposition Leader Dave Barrett said Thursday.

He said Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi's annual report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1971, showed there were 34,660 single unemployed persons on welfare — up 8,500 from the previous year.

Barrett said the unemployed single person today is, on the average, in his late 20s, fairly well educated and capable of working.

He estimated about 50 per cent of the single unemployed in B.C. are under 25 years old.

"These people are in the

normal range with normal expectations," Barrett said.

Unless society creates jobs for these people, Barrett said, they can turn to violence to express their frustrations.

"These youngsters came into the job market wanting their piece of success and it's not there for them."

Barrett said until recently single welfare recipients were usually men in their 40s with debilitating emotional or physical problems. The change away from this state has become particularly evident in Quebec where an increasing number of young people can't find work and are expressing their anger in violence.

Barrett called for a "crash program" of jobs in reforestation, parks development, municipal clean up work and anti-pollution projects.

"We cannot afford not to do this," Barrett said.

Gaglardi said the leader of the opposition knows a lot about welfare administration because he used to be a social worker, but doesn't know what he's talking about when it comes to solutions.

But then Gaglardi said the government is trying to find as many jobs as it can for unemployed people.

He said part of the problem is the lack of skilled labor. The government is working against this situation with an on-the-job training program, Gaglardi said.

In other remarks, Barrett said Gaglardi's annual report shows an "alarming" increase in the number of children coming into care.

As of last March, said Barrett there were 9,975 children being cared for by the depart-



BARRETT
... crash program

ment and children's aid societies.

Of this group, 5,825 persons were either new admissions or transfers from one agency to another. But Barrett said Gaglardi hasn't instituted one new treatment program for care of emotionally disturbed children.

CENTRES UNDERSTAFFED

He said there are no more than 30 to 40 residential treatment beds for these children, and he challenged Gaglardi to name one centre with a staff psychiatrist and with weekly visits by a psychologist.

According to the minister's report, Barrett said, 370 disturbed children needed treatment last year and there were 622 cases of delinquency defined under the juvenile delinquents act.

Barrett said it won't do to talk about Brannan Lake and Willingdon Schools for Girls because they are not treatment centres, they're "holding centres."

There's no resident psychologist and psychiatrist at these institutions, Barrett said. He also charged the basic level of staffing for social workers is 30 per cent below what it should be.

Bennett Prevents Vote On Pollution Control

Premier Bennett wouldn't let the legislature vote Thursday on a resolution calling for joint pollution control efforts between British Columbia and the State of Washington.

In the dying moments of the 1972 session, the government called debate on a motion introduced by Opposition Leader Dave Barrett calling for the mutual co-operation.

Barrett's motion corre-

sponded to a resolution which has been passed by the Washington legislature. His attempt to get the house here to approve the motion is partly the result of visits exchanged between B.C. and Washington by the New Democrats and American legislators from Olympia.

After Barrett read his resolution to the House, Attorney-General Leslie Peterson argued that it was out of order

because it was a communication from a foreign jurisdiction and as such, should have been presented to the house through the federal external affairs department.

Speaker William Murray ruled the motion in order, despite Peterson's argument.

ADJOURNMENT MOVED

But immediately after that, Premier Bennett jumped up and moved adjournment of the debate. All government MLAs voted with Bennett's motion which had the effect of killing the issue without committing the government to taking a stand on it.

A resolution by Liberal Leader Pat McGeer calling for house support of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline as an alternative to West Coast oil tanker shipments from Alaska was also prevented from reaching a vote.

Ed Smith (SC—North Peace River) said there was little doubt that the idea was sound but adjourned the debate on the grounds B.C. couldn't communicate its views directly to the U.S. government.

WELFARE MEMO CALLED 'PRYING'

Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi was criticized in the legislature Thursday for his department's suspicions about male boarders in female welfare recipients' homes.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) attacked Gaglardi for a departmental memorandum warning staff that "male boarders" are difficult to distinguish from common-law husbands.

He said a 35-year-old woman in Victoria was told Wednesday to get rid of her 19-year-old boarder or she

would lose her welfare assistance.

Macdonald said the government should stop "prying" into the status of the "star boarder" in these situations and said the memorandum was disgraceful and should be withdrawn. Women who take boarders while on welfare are simply showing some initiative, he said.

Macdonald said the secret memorandum amounted to male chauvinism because it made no mention of female "housekeepers" in male welfare recipients' homes.

Island Welfare Service 'Ranks as a Crisis'

Welfare services on Vancouver Island are in a state of crisis, opposition MLAs told Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi Thursday.

Opposition Leader Dave Barrett said the number of welfare cases on the Island and in the Mackenzie district during the fiscal year ending last March increased from 13,979 in 1970 to 16,673.

"This ranks as a crisis. Region number one has to be considered a crisis area," Barrett said.

He said these increases have been met with only a "handful" of additional field workers.

Gaglardi said Barrett should know that the report he is quoting is a year old and caseloads have declined since last March.

Eileen Dailly (NDP-Burnaby North) said information in a report from the Greater Victoria Low Income Group shows that the Provincial Alliance of Businessmen is not doing a good job here.

Mrs. Dailly said case histories revealed in the report show that the PAB has been referring people to jobs which don't exist or which don't meet the conditions outlined at the time of referral.

"They're shocking reports

and I hope you would meet with them to discuss the problems outlined in their report," Mrs. Dailly said.

She charged that the Island's regional director has instituted a "get tough" policy with welfare recipients in Sooke, and said Gaglardi's response was "I don't care what they do."

Mrs. Dailly said people cut off welfare in Sooke who move to Victoria must wait a month before becoming eligible for welfare again.

This is simply a case of making poor people suffer indignities, Mrs. Dailly said.

Government Rejects Bid For Hansard Corrections

The provincial government defeated an opposition motion Thursday which asked for recall and correction of the Hansard of B.C.'s 1971 legislative session.

The motion was put before the legislature by Opposition Leader Dave Barrett after the Victoria Times disclosed last year that the Hansard had been censored.

Attorney-General Leslie Peterson told the house he had checked with the electronic tapes of the proceedings and had found no omissions.

Peterson said many statements made across the floor of the house might be heard by the press but would not be picked up on the official tape recordings of the debates.

Barrett said Peterson didn't check the tapes thoroughly. If he had done so, Barrett said, he would have known that material reflecting on the behavior of Premier Bennett in the legislature had been deleted.

A motion by Garde Gardom (L—Vancouver-Point Grey) calling for televised and radio

broadcasts of the proceedings in the house was ruled out of order by Speaker William Murray because another section of the motion asked the government to spend some money.

Opposition MLAs are not allowed to introduce motions calling for expenditure by the government.

JUST INCREDIBLE

Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi's job placement efforts were described as totally incredible in the legislature Thursday.

Gaglardi replied that they were fabulous.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) challenged Gaglardi's claim of finding

30,000 jobs for welfare recipients through his department.

"That's an incredible success," Macdonald said.

"Quite incredible. Completely incredible. Totally incredible."

"With all due respect, your figures are incredible and fictitious," he added.

Gaglardi replied that the

figures are "100 per cent correct" and added: "The statistics are quite fabulous. I recognize that."

He said "some ingenious methods" were used in finding jobs.

Later he said he agreed he was "fantastic" but he had to be because he was in a fantastic government.



POLITICAL FRUSTRATIONS were released Thursday night in a shower of paper as members of the press gallery joined in the traditional end-of-session paper fight with the 55 members of the legislature. The third session of the 29th legislature

wrapped up after 51 sitting days which included 25 night sessions. Political observers are predicting another paper war later this year — to be waged with ballots in a provincial election. — (John McKay Photo).

No Changes This Year Formula Unchanged

Proposed changes to the Provincial Elections Act died on the order paper Thursday night as the legislature ended its 1972 session.

Premier Bennett gave no specific reason for abandoning the bill but Robert Strachan (NDP—Cowichan-Malahat) said Bennett wanted to avoid a debate over voting rights of ethnic groups.

Herb Capozzi (SC—Vancouver Centre) had proposed amendments to the bill limiting the right to vote in provincial elections to Canadian citizens — ending the rights for "British subjects."

Capozzi said he believes Bennett didn't want the issue discussed this year.

The bill, which contained mostly housekeeping amendments, would have forced political parties to field at least 20 candidates in a general election in order to have the party name listed on ballots.

Rehabilitation Minister Phil Gaglardi indicated Thursday there will be no decrease in the municipal share of welfare costs.

He was responding in the legislature to a plea from Alex Fraser (SC — Cariboo) for reduction in the municipal share to 10 per cent of total social assistance costs.

Gaglardi said he's discussed the matter with Premier Bennett but isn't pushing it too hard because he believes municipalities will do a better job administering welfare if they have a greater financial responsibility.

The federal government

pays 50 per cent of provincial welfare costs, the province pays 35 per cent and the municipalities pick up the rest.