



Wolfe commits B.C. to controls program



CRTC MEMBERS . . . chairman Harry Boyle, members M. R. Therrein, Patricia Pearce, listen to arguments

Export levy is still opposed

 By JOHN SAWATSKY
Sun Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA — B.C. will officially join the federal government's anti-inflation program within two weeks, B.C. Finance Minister Evan Wolfe said today.

Wolfe, in Ottawa for the federal-provincial finance ministers conference on the anti-inflation program, confirmed that B.C. will shortly sign an agreement committing the province to the program outlined by the Trudeau government.

The agreement from B.C. will expire well before the 39-month term of the federal

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al program ends. Wolfe indicated that B.C.'s participation would last something like 18 months.

Wolfe gave no reason for B.C.'s short-term approach.

But Ontario has already announced a similar position, claiming that it wants to review the situation at the end of that time and may possibly set up its own program if it finds the federal one is not working effectively.

B.C. has yet to decide whether it will follow the lead of Quebec and set up its own provincial anti-inflation board to deal with areas of provincial jurisdiction or copy Ontario and allow the federal board to have complete control.

"The B.C. position is that we really want to co-operate with the federal government on fighting inflation," Wolfe said before entering the closed conference room.

"Perhaps more than any other province, B.C. has been really affected by inflation, having observed double-digit inflation during the past year. Therefore we want to

"Macdonald" page 2

DAMAGE \$5,700

Mountie faces traffic charge after collision

An RCMP constable has been charged with driving without due care and attention after he apparently fell asleep behind the wheel of his cruiser and smashed into a parked car early Saturday in the Arbutus area.

Constable Terence Gordon Smith, 24, of the University of B.C. detachment, will be assessed six demerit points on his driver's licence unless he successfully contests the charge, a Vancouver police spokesman said today.

The spokesman said Smith told city police investigators that he fell asleep in the 2200 block West Sixteenth. Investigators said it was a case of "extreme fatigue."

No further action will be taken against Smith, the spokesman said.

Sgt. Larry Pearson of the UBC detachment refused to comment. He would only identify the constable and said the matter was under investigation by city police. The damaged RCMP cruiser was towed to the UBC police garage, he said.

He said Smith was on duty at the time, but he would not specify what the duty was.

In the accident, which occurred at about 6:10 a.m., the westbound police cruiser crashed into the rear of a 1966 Chevrolet Impala and sent it crashing into an earlier model Impala.

The second Impala bumped into a 1972 Chevrolet Vega, which in turn, hit a 1969 Cadillac. The city police spokesman said total damage of all five vehicles was estimated at \$5,700.

Smith was treated in hospital for minor head injuries and released.

FLU-LIKE SICKNESS HITS 3 CENTRES

Outbreaks of flu-like illness have hit three B.C. communities, it was announced today.

Provincial epidemiologist Dr. Anthony Larsen said that medical health officers in Nelson, Vernon and Bella Coola are reporting up to 50-per-cent absenteeism in schools.

Throat swabs from affected children have been sent to the provincial laboratory in Vancouver and are being analysed in an attempt to isolate the virus.

"We won't know a hundred per cent until the checks are done that it's influenza, but it sounds very much like a true bill," said Dr. Larsen.

Type A Victoria influenza, a new strain which took several hundred lives last fall in New Guinea, has been identified in California, Oregon and Minnesota.

Horn-blowing motorists attend rally to protest Autoplan rate increases

By KARENN KRANGLE

About 10,000 indignant motorists jammed the Agrodome and spilled out its doors Sunday to join opposition and labor leaders in protesting Autoplan rate increases.

The rally was the largest demonstration against Insurance Corporation of B.C. premium hikes since the Social Credit government announced this year's rates will be boosted as much as 3½ times those of 1975.

Prior to the meeting, a convoy of what police estimated to be 200 cars drove the length of Hastings as drivers blasted their horns, waved placards and shouted to applauding onlookers.

Speakers at the rally lambasted Premier Bill Bennett, Education Minister Pat McGeer and the rest of the cabinet for being "insensitive, inconsiderate and indifferent" to the needs of B.C. motorists.

No Socred representatives showed up at the meeting but Bennett sent a telegram

asking for a meeting between the B.C. Federation of Labor and the Concerned Citizens Association of B.C., who jointly organized the rally, and ICBC directors.

The government was taken to task for its absence by Conservative leader Scott

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Rally organizers, page 35

Wallace and Liberal leader Gordon Gibson, who both offered alternatives to the enormous increases.

Wallace told the crowd it was "absolutely reprehensible" that there was no government representative on the speakers' platform.

"We may say all we want in criticism of the former (NDP) government, but their leaders never shirked facing the public on issues such as this," he said.

And he added that McGeer's suggestion that drivers who can't afford the Autoplan rates sell their cars "must rank in the his-

tory of this province as the most inconsiderate and elitist statement."

Wallace said that, although he did not agree with the NDP government's means of financing ICBC, the recently-announced 1976 rates must be reassessed.

"There's no desperate haste needed to try and solve (ICBC's) problem . . . an interim raise could have been applied now," he said.

"We, as opposition representatives, should have had the fullest, complete, possible opportunity of having all facts and figures on ICBC for a full debate in the house. Then you, the person paying the shot, would have been given a better opportunity to see what has to be done."

Wallace charged the new rates reflected "an arrogance which took the former Socred government a few years to develop."

"But it's been developed by this group in a week or two. They're saying: 'You folks elected us as government, so we'll do

"Angry" page 2

Petitions against French TV dumped before CRTC hearing

By DAVID BAINES

Two mail bags containing petitions bearing 118,000 names were dumped before the Canadian Radio-Television Commission today in a bid to defeat a proposal for a new French-language television station.

They arrived in front of CRTC chairman Harry Boyle while Mayor Art Phillips delivered a sharply-worded criticism of CRTC policy.

Phillips said that CRTC policy giving priority to Canadian TV stations, whether French or English, will force U.S. stations off the dial.

"This prospect has resulted in what has been seen as an anti-French backlash in this community," he said.

"It is really a protest against the loss of existing viewing options and a protest against being dictated to by an unfeeling and unapproachable Ottawa bureaucracy," the mayor said.

Phillips said he was expressing his personal point of view, but that it was ob-

viously representative of a substantial number of Vancouver area residents.

The petitions were prepared by radio station CKNW and are expected to be combined with the protest of 28,000 more petitions collected by Conservative John Reynolds, MP for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta.

Phillips also said the CRTC will fail to strengthen the Canadian broadcast industry by restricting competition from U.S. stations.

Established viewing patterns should not be interrupted if possible and people should not be forced to pay \$75 to \$100 for a converter to continue to receive the programs they get now.

He suggested that the CRTC consider use of the three channels which are currently unoccupied.

Marke Raines, MP for Burnaby-Seymour, backed this idea.

He said the CBC's proposed French-

"CRTC" page 2

PICASSO PAINTINGS TAKEN

Sun News Dispatches

AVIGNON, France — Police say they have only two "very thin" leads to three hooded men who stole 119 unsigned Picasso paintings from an exhibition of 201 late works by the artist in the 14th-century Palace of the Popes.

It was one of the biggest thefts in art history.

The police said one of the three armed and hooded robbers had a Spanish accent, and a tourist reported seeing a rented white van in the vicinity at the time of the theft Saturday night. The thieves may have been hired by a "nouveau riche" art collector, detectives said.

The gunmen beat and bound three guards and loaded the paintings into a van in the palace courtyard, leaving 17 Picassos stacked by the stairs in their haste, officials said. One of the guards freed himself and called for help; the other two guards were seriously injured.

The paintings in the exhibit were unsigned because the artist customarily did not sign a work until he was ready to sell it. The 201 paintings were insured for a total of \$2.47 million, but police said they are worth more than that. Works from Picasso's later years have been valued at \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Bungling charge irks Canadian Games head

Sun News Dispatches

INNSBRUCK, Austria — Roger Rousseau, president of the Canadian Olympic Organizing Committee, lost his temper at a news conference today when a reporter suggested Montreal had bungled the organization of the summer games.

Rousseau, with Lord Killanin, president of the International Olympic Committee, sitting on his left, snapped: "I object very strongly to the suggestion that Montreal has bungled the job of preparing for the Olympics. We have 19 competition sites ready, is that bungling?"

"We are behind with two sites, the biggest of the sites. Is that bungling?"

Rousseau and other members of the Montreal organizing committee appeared

Games pitch fails, page 6

at a news conference after reporting to the IOC congress about the state of preparedness of the sites for the July 17 opening of the games.

Killanin, puffing on his pipe and smiling as he spoke, said: "The IOC wishes to confirm the summer games will open July 17. All the sports will be held and there

are no plans to shift any of the sites from Montreal."

However, Montreal officials admitted for the first time today that there are contingency plans for the Games, but vowed they will not be needed.

Victor Goldbloom, the Quebec provincial minister responsible for Olympic installations, said Olympic planners have looked at the possibility of building an open-air swimming pool at the Claude Robillard Centre, about two miles north of the main stadium complex now under construction.

He added that the swimming pool at the "Olympic" page 2

Mrs. Trudeau steals spotlight again

Sun News Dispatches

CARACAS — Margaret Trudeau did it again Saturday.

Tossing aside protocol as she did in Mexico City at the beginning of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's Latin American tour, she abandoned her husband as he entered an official banquet.

When the Canadian national anthem was played she stopped and gave a mock salute.

When photographers began taking pictures of the receiving line, she left it and appeared to sulk against a wall.

Later at the banquet she proposed a toast to Mrs. Carlos Andres Perez, wife of the Venezuelan president, and sang a song she wrote herself in honor of the president's wife.

Reporters were not invited to the dinner, held in the Caracas Hilton Hotel, but officials who attended said Mrs. Trudeau's voice was strong, though untrained, and

carried to all parts of the hall. She sang unaccompanied.

Mrs. Perez was reported so moved by Margaret's tribute that she jumped to her feet almost in tears and embraced Mrs. Trudeau.

The incident was reminiscent of one a week ago in Mexico City when the prime minister's wife proposed an impromptu

Picture, page 3

toast to Mrs. Luis Echeverria, wife of the Mexican president. That time she linked it to the recently-concluded International Women's Year.

Trudeau, ending his 11-day tour of Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela today, declared that he wouldn't change his controversial speech in Cuba if he were to do it again.

He stated at a final news conference here that while there were "no breakthroughs" in discussions with the leaders

of the three countries on multilateral issues — nuclear non-proliferation, the Law of the Sea conference and the new economic world order — he was pleased with his progress on bilateral issues.

The prime minister said that he and the other members of the Canadian delegation were given a lot of new ideas to sift over on their return to Ottawa.

One subject to be sorted out is Canada's future role in relation to the Organization of American States. Trudeau noted that while the Mexicans advised Canada against becoming a full-fledged OAS member — it is only an observer now — the Cubans were indifferent and the Venezuelans strongly urged Canada to join.

The prime minister agreed that some criticism about his enthusiastic praise for Prime Minister Fidel Castro while in Cuba may be waiting for him when he returns to Canada, but says he doesn't see

why he would adopt a more formal posture if he were able to do it again.

"Nothing incorrect happened between us, I assure you," Trudeau said of his relationships with Castro during the visit.

He noted that the Cuban people were extremely friendly toward the Canadians. "They reacted with warmth and we responded," he said.

But he added that during his talks with the Cuban leader he was "brutally frank" in his criticism of Cuban involvement in the Angolan civil war.

Referring to criticism in the Venezuelan press about his performance in Cuba, Trudeau acknowledged that because Venezuela is closer to Cuba than to Canada "their fears perhaps are greater than ours" about what might happen as a result of Cuban involvement in Angola.

Asked about his choice of the three "PM criticized" page 2

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WEATHER: Sunny Tuesday. Low: zero. High: 4-6. Extensive fog and low cloud over southern B.C. will begin to break up with the approach of a new frontal system, only to be replaced by higher level cloud and a few showers. Passage of the front will bring clearing skies and cooler temperatures for Tuesday. Details, Page 3.

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