

Angry drivers jam Agrodome

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what we think is right, not what the people want."

Gibson reminisced about the last political meeting on the Agrodome stage, a four-party debate on morality during the election campaign.

"Now one party is missing—unfortunately they're the one that was elected as government," he said. "McGeer called last week's rally (at Surrey high school which was attended by about 4,000 people) 'hysteria'—I don't call it that."

Gibson suggested that, in order for ICBC "to stand on its own feet," funds should either be taken from other government programs or gasoline tax should be raised and funnelled into ICBC.

"But the answer is to raise the extra money we need—not take from the social programs—and put a special tax on gas, plus only moderate premium increases," he said.

Gibson urged drivers to write, call or visit their MLAs to discuss the hikes if they want "to get something done."

"It's not too late to change—the government claims it is, but it's not," he said. "Three or four weeks ago they said it was administratively impossible to make term payments but now they've found out it's not—particularly if they can make 13 per cent interest on it."

New Westminster NDP MLA Dennis Cocke, former health minister and ICBC director, told the crowd there was no justi-

fiction socially, morally or economically for the higher rates.

"It's viciousness, pure and simple," he said. "Remember, it (ICBC) was started by the NDP. Therefore, in their (the Socred government's) eyes it must be discredited and destroyed, if possible."

"They inherited a good corporation and the rates were set (at about 19 per cent over 1975) for this year," he said. "ICBC could have forced ahead."

"It had growing up to do... the largest insurance company in Canada couldn't get along without a few problems."

Cocke charged the Socred government was "playing politics" with drivers' wallets because the party is "controlled" by large corporations.

"Autoplan doesn't belong to the NDP or the Liberal party or the Conservatives or even the Social Credit," he said.

"Autoplan belongs to you—keep it!"

He received a standing ovation.

Another standing ovation went to Ald. Harry Rankin, who urged all B.C. drivers to band together to convince the government the rates must be rolled back.

"You've turned out en masse today and the momentum can't fall away," he said. "This meeting must grow so that 25,000 people will rally on the lawns of the legislature in Victoria."

Rankin said that, when he first heard about the huge increases, he tried to resolve in his mind: "What demented person did this?"

"I found out it was Marie-Antoinette McGeer, who does research in neurology

at the University of B.C.," he said. "They were short of funds at one time and so he had to use his own brain for research and he never got it back into his head again."

Rankin predicted the ICBC hikes marked the beginning of many attacks on the standard of living of working and poor people.

"The government will increase gas and hydro rates... they're going to cut down transit, hire no more drivers," he said adding that bus fares will probably be doubled.

"You can't afford your car, you'll pay for an inferior transit system, so then they'll say: 'Buy a track suit and jog to work.'"

Syd Thompson, president of the Vancouver and District Labor Council and the Vancouver local of the International Woodworkers of America, said he's convinced the government will lower the rates if drivers continue to pressure Victoria.

He said the rates were unacceptable to organized labor and are "grossly unfair," particularly for young people.

Thompson, who co-chaired the rally with White Rock fisherman Jim Black, said later a collection taken to help pay for the rental of the building netted \$5,000.

Len Guy, secretary-treasurer of the B.C. Federation of Labor, called for continued petitioning of the government for a maximum 20-per-cent hike, rallies in each constituency to discuss insurance rates and a demonstration and meeting with the cabinet in Victoria.

Like Gibson, Guy told the crowd to contact each MLA and ask for a rollback.

FORMER B.C. LAWYER WINS \$132,146 FOR \$24

A former Kamloops lawyer en route to a new job in Toronto is \$132,146 richer—thanks to a \$24 bet he made at a racetrack in Tijuana, Mexico, on Jan. 18.

Ian Meikle, 34, who was a partner in the law firm of Meikle, Shupe and Blair, correctly picked the winners of the fifth through 10th races at Caliente park.

But he left the track before learning of his payoff, believed to be a record for the track.

Meikle's former partner, lawyer Terry Shupe, confirmed his win today and said Meikle was currently on his way to a new job in the legal division of IBM in Toronto and could not be reached.

Meikle learned of his winning ticket from friends in San Diego.

Energy chief advised NDP against refinery, letter shows

Sun Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA — Transport and Communications Minister Jack Davis today released a letter from B.C. Energy Commission chairman Andrew Thompson written to the former NDP government which was highly critical of its plan to build a refinery.

The letter, written April 22, 1975, to then attorney-general Alex Macdonald, attacked the refinery proposal on a number of grounds.

Thompson said that it would lose money, create surplus capacity, discourage petroleum conservation and preclude a reduction of the province's dependency on high

cost oil and a shift to B.C.'s own energy resources of natural gas and coal.

Davis said Thompson had sent him the letter shortly after he assumed responsibility for energy.

He said it constituted the only substantial analysis that he has so far seen on whether the refinery should proceed.

Davis said he was releasing the letter in light of a Vancouver Sun editorial suggestion that he produce all relevant files in connection with the refinery. He also said that he wished to refute the claim by former B.C. Petroleum Corp. head James Rhodes that the former government had never received any critical analysis of its refinery plans.

Davis said he was reluctant to release other contents of the file because they belonged to the former government. However, he said the technical studies he has so far seen are "the kind of studies you do once you have decided to proceed. Not much went to the heart of the situation."

"I have yet to come across a broad-based study whether the new refinery was essential. This letter questions it, and it comes from the organization the former government established to advise it on energy matters."

Davis said he would be taking the matter of the refinery to cabinet shortly and he repeated earlier statements that he would be very surprised if the new government proceeded with it.

The Thompson letter said the refinery, forecast to cost \$350 million, would likely have a surplus of at least 50,000 barrels a day.

The refinery, which was to have a capacity of between 85,000 and 100,000 barrels a day, would create a situation of excess supply in the province and would have to take about 50,000 barrels a day away from the market of existing refineries, the letter said.

"So long as there is a situation of excess supply in British Columbia, it should be expected that the new refinery, with high capital costs, will run at a loss," Thompson continued.

"This situation would certainly be advantageous to British Columbia consumers, but it will make it hard to justify the refinery as a viable government enterprise."

CRTC hearing gets petitions

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language station could be placed on channels 2 and 8. Using both channels will make sure viewers everywhere in the Vancouver area will be able to receive the new station.

He said Western Approaches, a new Vancouver station scheduled to begin broadcasting in September, could be placed on Cable 7 which is currently occupied by KIRO TV from Seattle.

In turn, he said, KIRO could be placed on cable Channel 12, which is also unoccupied. Although reception on Cable 12 might be poor it is better than removing reception altogether, he said.

Raines said he is very much in favor of a French-language station in the Vancouver area.

Both Raines and Phillips supported the retention of educational Channel 9.

"I think PBS (Channel 9) provides the best programming with the possible exception of one hour a week on CTV," said Phillips. The remark, which sparked laughter from the large audience, referred to CTV's weekly W5 show, which features Carole Taylor, the mayor's girl-friend.

Boyle said he agreed "in principle" that competition is good for the Canadian broadcast industry but he said Canada has large geographical areas which must be served by limited resources.

He said that the two Canadian networks are trying to expand their services and require support from the CRTC to protect their interests.

R. C. Fraser, vice-president for CBC

Credit union robbed

A lone bandit armed with a handgun escaped Saturday with about \$500 from the Greater Vancouver Credit Union, 1344 West Broadway.

Police said the man is described as about 20 years old, six feet tall and 170 pounds, with medium-length blond hair.

PM criticized as controversial tour ends

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countries, the prime minister said he didn't have time to visit any more but added: "Now that it (the tour) is over, I think the choice was a very wise one."

While he admitted he could report no breakthroughs as a result of his discussions on multilateral questions, he said he is enthusiastic about progress in bilateral areas, particularly with Venezuela. He said Canadian businessmen he met while in Caracas share this enthusiasm.

The prime minister stated that while trade relationship with Mexico and Cuba are only being strengthened, there is a possibility of new relationships with Venezuela which up to this time have been dominated by oil exports from this country to Canada.

But he warned that the private sector in Canada must use the channels which he has opened.

From Canada's point of view the talks with Perez appeared to be most productive, said government officials. The president agreed to help cut Canada's big Venezuelan trade deficit of about \$1.25 billion a year by buying more Canadian goods and services. He also voiced assurance for a Canadian quota on Venezuelan oil exports.

A joint Canada-Venezuela economic

commission is to be set up. Both Mexico and Venezuela are in the market for railway equipment that Canadian companies hope to sell.

The Cuban visit aroused the most controversy, especially Trudeau's shouted wish, in Spanish, of long life for Castro last Wednesday before a chanting crowd of 20,000 Cubans at Cienfuegos.

Although he reaffirmed Canada's disagreement with Cuba's military intervention in the Angola civil war, Trudeau said several times his Cuban visit did not imply approval of Castro's foreign policies. "We agreed to disagree," he said.

Even so, there was press criticism in Venezuela that Trudeau was too friendly to Castro, who is suspected in some quarters here of still planning to export his brand of communism to other Latin American countries.

Castro himself told Trudeau that revolution cannot be exported because it must come from the people directly concerned if it is to succeed.

The influential Venezuelan magazine Resumen, which argued in today's edition that Cuba is more a dangerous threat to Latin America than Che Guevara's type of open intervention in the 1960s, didn't mention Trudeau by name specifically. But it declared in an article coinciding with the Canadian leader's visit:

the "inevitable results," he said.

The high balance of payments deficit is expected to remain at present levels for 1976, he said.

Wolfe said B.C. will still fight the federal government's export levy tax which is part of the federal anti-inflation package, but stressed that B.C. will not refuse to join the program if it doesn't get its way.

The federal levy, which taxes away profits earned from windfall increases in export prices, was announced last December and applies to all exports except oil and natural gas.

Wolfe said B.C. will ask the federal government to set aside the levy indefinitely.

"We feel it doesn't have any material impact on the primary motivation of this program which is to combat inflation," he said. "We don't think it will have an important effect on inflation in Canada and it holds serious complications for our province."

as proposed by the two western provinces. "I don't think we could consider a motion of dropping the export levy altogether," Macdonald said. "That would be unfair to other firms in Canada, even to other firms in the province."

Macdonald said the B.C. mining industry, one of the foremost victims of the levy, is not being hampered by the federal tax by the decrease in world prices. He said the price of copper on the international market has dropped from \$1.50 a pound to 53 cents.

Macdonald predicts inflation can be held to 8 per cent

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co-operate with the program, we want to see it work."

Federal Finance Minister Donald Macdonald told the finance ministers that he expects the Canadian economy to grow slowly but steadily.

Macdonald estimated that the rate of inflation, currently just under 10 per cent, will drop to eight per cent by the end of the year and that real growth will rise to 4.5 to 5.5 per cent in the 1976-77 fiscal year. Increases in productivity will average about two per cent.

The eight-per-cent plus two-per-cent figure released by Macdonald are precisely the numbers used by the anti-inflation board in calculating acceptable wage increases. However, Macdonald said, his department's estimates for economic performance were not necessarily tailored to meet the goal of the anti-inflation board.

Macdonald based his prediction on the strong upturn in the American and Japanese markets and improved performance in Europe. Housing starts are also expected to rise dramatically with the hope that the goal of 235,000 housing starts for 1976 will be reached.

However, interest rates will be high and unemployment, at more than seven per cent, is unlikely to change significantly, Macdonald said.

He said that high interest rates reflect government restraint in monetary policies. Canada will restrict the growth of the money supply and high interest rates are

Olympic contingency plan bared

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University of Montreal is another possibility.

But Killanin reaffirmed his belief that the Games will go as originally planned, with both track and field and swimming in the main complex.

"We are not talking of contingency plans as much as catastrophe plans," Killanin said.

Other Games sites, including Mexico's Ramirez Vasquez, an architect by profession,

Woman killed in crash

A 21-year-old Vancouver woman was killed early Sunday when the car in which she was riding collided with a parked car in the 4500 block Granville.

Lucia Kincaid, of 1446 West Thirteenth, died of head injuries. Her husband Alan, 32, treated in hospital and later released, has been charged with impaired driving.

mirex Vasquez, an architect by profession, and Gernany's Willie Datume, were confident Montreal could come through on schedule despite the problems of the last 18 months which delayed construction of the main stadium and swimming pool.

Vasquez said: "Five months before the 1968 Games opened, there were doubts we would be ready. We had to present a similar report to the IOC as Montreal has done. I'm sure the Canadians will be ready on time."

Goldbloom repeated what he said here last Saturday:

"The main stadium will be ready, not absolutely ready, but ready. Some elements will be added later, but everything will be ready for the athletes and the public."

Swimming and track and field are the only two of the 21 sports in the Olympic program which have been in doubt because the facilities are not complete.

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