



## Marjorie NICHOLS

VICTORIA — THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1975, will be remembered as the day Gordon Gibson Jr. turned into a tiger and a small glimpse of reason returned to the legislature. The two matters are intimately connected.

Instead of snapping his suspenders, Gibson grew claws and the boys on the NDP benches quit chewing their gum long enough to listen. Well, perhaps, the NDP didn't really listen, but it took immediate notice of the only pertinent fact: Gordon Gibson is not a Sacred.

The government's thinking is, of course, that Bill Bennett and Don Phillips deliberately sought eviction from the house to dramatize the Sacred campaign against debate limits on spending estimates.

But Gibson's eviction was a different matter. The member for North Vancouver-Capilano is regarded as a reasonable and even-tempered man. Not a grandstander. The last man on the opposition side of the house who could be provoked into a chucking-out ceremony.

And it was obvious that Gibson was provoked. He was genuinely angry. And the NDP knew it. Even Speaker Gordon Dowding knew it. Dowding, his voice soft and pleading, spent several minutes trying to cajole the member for North Vancouver-Capilano into retracting the forbidden words that caused his eviction.

Sacreds are, in the communicators' jargon, always "summarily evicted" from the B.C. legislature. Gibson was politely and painfully evicted. It may seem like a contradiction in terms, but it was a classy eviction.

GIBSON'S PERFORMANCE ALSO HAD a certain amount of style. When house chairman Carl Liden repeatedly stonewalled him, Gibson, rule book in hand, said with great deliberation:

"Mr. chairman, you will have argument on that or you are a thug." Liden, reddening, demanded the immediate withdrawal of the remark.

Gibson refused. A thug he said with great calm is "a brutal ruffian," repeating the charge. Liden again demanded the withdrawal.

Okay, said Gibson, "you're an arrogant dictator." He refused to withdraw that and Dowding was called back to deal with the matter. Exit Gordon Gibson.

"Boy," said an MLA who must go unidentified, "I didn't know the kid had a temper." Nor did a newspaper reporter who suggested that it had been a good "performance." Gibson was not amused.

Within a half hour of Gibson's eviction, a strange thing happened.

The Barrett government, which has adamantly refused any compromise on this rules issue, made a move. Instead of continuing to force the undebated estimates through the house, it was decided to revert to debate of private members' bills.

Clearly, it was a tactic designed to take some of the heat out of the debate generated by Gibson's eviction. It was the first time since the fall of 1973 (that's right) that private members' bills had been called for debate.

Then, after a 48-hour standoff, the negotiating began. Conservative leader Scott Wallace rose to appeal for reason, fol-



GIBSON LEAVES HOUSE  
... genuinely angry

lowed by Allan Williams and Garde Gardom with similar appeals. Government whip Colin Gabelmann was sent into action. A meeting of party representatives was convened, and a proposal put to end this sham of the past few days.

THE EVICTION OF GIBSON, YOU see, had telegraphed to the government a rather important message: The rules debate cannot be written off as a "cheap, political tactic" when men like Gibson resort to civil disobedience.

There are other signs that Barrett and his supporters were beginning to squirm under the publicity of this legislative farce. That is, they were becoming less and less convinced that they would be able to counter the impressive Bennett campaign. For good reason: Bennett has reason on his side.

And that is why, for example, we had the premier's long, concerned statement in the house yesterday about the auditing procedures of the B.C. Railway. Barrett knew that the insinuations of wrong-doing and corruption would grab a few headlines away from Bennett and the house.

If Scott Wallace hadn't managed to put the question about the railway, the government would have had to arrange for a backbencher to do the deed. Thank goodness for Scott Wallace at times like this.

So, whether this new-found "compromise" will work remains to be seen. The pertinent point is that Gordon Gibson was the medium who managed to prove that there is still some shock value left in this cynical political zoo.

## Legislature votes to control release of tapes to media

**Sun Victoria Bureau**  
VICTORIA — The B.C. legislature voted Thursday to require House approval before tape recordings of House proceedings are provided to the news media.

The decision came after Pat McGeer (Ind.-Vancouver-Point Grey) suggested to Speaker Gor-

don Dowding that MLAs could be incorrectly identified by news media representatives listening to the tapes, and that the house should be consulted before the recordings are released.

The House had voted earlier to release a tape of Thursday's question period, during which Premier

Dave Barrett said annual reports of the B.C. Railway have in the past appeared to have presented an incorrect picture of the Crown corporation's profits and losses.

On Wednesday, Dowding unilaterally released a tape of a period Tuesday night when Social Credit MLA leader Bill Bennett and

Sacred MLA Don Phillips were ordered to withdraw from the house.

The speaker said he released the tape because there had been suggestions he had made some agreement with the government to oust the members.

"The tapes clearly show the misconduct of the members could not be disputed by anyone in the province if they heard the tapes," Dowding said.

Any suggestion that there had been collusion between the Speaker and the government is "monstrous," he said.

Dowding also told the

House he would look into the question of whether MLA's comments remain privileged if the tapes of House proceedings are released and broadcast.

## High-risk insurance rejected

**Sun Victoria Bureau**

VICTORIA — Transport Minister Bob Strachan said Thursday he has no intention of seeing the Insurance Corporation of B.C.'s general insurance division providing "insurance of last resort."

Although ICBC is willing to take its share of poor risks, he told Bob McClelland (SC — Langley) during question period in the House, it will not take all of them.

McClelland had asked if ICBC has guide outlining risks insurance companies face in old neighborhoods and high crime areas.

Strachan said the guide was used by all insurance companies, but he said he did not know what the guide meant when it referred to potential clients having a "reasonable standard of morality."

He also told Garde Gardom (L — Vancouver-Point Grey) he will study what action can be taken if there is a strike among ICBC workers.

Gardom said motorists might be unable to receive ICBC insurance during a strike and could face fines and jail sentences for not being properly insured.

ICBC also is not insuring riverboats that provide tours through rough rivers,

he told the House. No other insurance companies will provide coverage for these "dangerous"

commercial ventures, he said, and any provided by ICBC has been cancelled this year.

CLIP AND SAVE



## MAINLAND-GULF ISLANDS

SUMMER SCHEDULE · MAY 16-SEPT. 7

AM indicated in light-face, PM in dark-face type.

	DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY						SUNDAY AND HOLIDAY MONDAYS *					
VANCOUVER (Tsawwassen)	LV 9:20	LV 1:30	LV 7:20				LV 10:20	LV 2:40	LV 7:20	LV 10:15		
GALIANO (Sturdies Bay)	8:10	10:15	12:25	2:30	5:10	8:15	9:10	11:15	1:35	3:35	9:00	
SATURNIA	LV 6:40	ARR 12:05	LV 4:05	ARR 9:55	LV 6:40	ARR 12:05	LV 4:05	ARR 9:55	LV 6:40	ARR 12:05	LV 4:05	ARR 9:55
MAYNE (Willure Bay)	7:40	10:50	5:40	8:50	8:40	11:50	1:10	5:40	8:50	8:30		
PENDER (Otter Bay)	7:15		5:15	9:15	8:15					11:30		
SALTSPRING (Long Harbour)	LV 6:40	ARR 11:35	LV 11:40	ARR 3:15	LV 4:40	ARR 10:00	LV 7:40	ARR 12:25	LV 12:40	ARR 4:15	LV 5:00	ARR 12:05

Mayne Island is interchange point for connections with MV "Mayne Queen" servicing Saturnia island.

\*Holidays—May 19, Aug. 4, Sept. 1.

Vehicle reservations are required and must be picked up from Tsawwassen 45 minutes before sched-

uled sailing time and from Gulf Island points, 30 minutes before scheduled sailing times.

Pacific Stage Lines operates bus schedule to and from Tsawwassen, meeting the Gulf Island Ferry Service.

### Summer Supplementary Service "QUEEN OF SIDNEY"

MON., TUES., WED., THURS. AND SAT.  
Lv Tsawwassen 8:15 am  
Mayne 9:20 (Sat. only)  
Ar Pender 9:40

FRIDAY  
Lv Tsawwassen 8:15 am  
Ar Pender 9:40  
Lv Tsawwassen 5:30 pm  
Mayne 6:30  
Pender 7:00  
Lv Tsawwassen 8:30  
Galiano 9:15  
Mayne 9:40  
Ar Pender 10:00

SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS \*  
Lv Tsawwassen 8:15 am  
Ar Pender 9:40  
Lv Pender 7:15 pm  
Village Bay 7:45  
Ar Tsawwassen 8:45

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**British Columbia Ferries**

Department of Transport and Communications, Honourable Robert M. Strachan, Minister

## SURPLUS FUNDS BILL SET

**Sun Victoria Bureau**

VICTORIA — Debate began Thursday on a bill to use about \$70 million in surplus revenues to build additional community recreation and B.C. Ferries facilities and for special summer and winter employment programs.

Premier Dave Barrett moved second reading of the Special Funds Appropriation Act, noting that the \$70 million was the figure mentioned in his budget speech as excess revenue over expenditures.

He said the money was earmarked for "revenue-producing programs" already under way.

Sacred MLA Jim Chabot (Columbia River), who indicated he would vote for the bill, suggested that some of the money be used to finance operating expenditures for community recreational facilities built with previous allocations.

Liberal Garde Gardom (Point Grey) and Tory Scott Wallace (Oak Bay) indicated they would vote against the bill because it doesn't specify what projects are to be built.

The bill allocates \$15 million for recreational facilities, \$20 million for ferry wharves and other related projects, \$20 million for

summer employment programs and \$15 for winter employment programs.

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