



jack scott

### A Premier and Friend In Their Morning Romp

Just about the last place in the world that you'd want to be, if you are ever so slightly introverted or a man who normally avoids the human race until after lunch, is Room 178 of the Empress Hotel at 8:30 a.m. when Mr. Barrett meets Mr. Webster.

We were there at that terrible hour earlier this week when the premier submitted to one of his periodic encounters with Jack Webster, the king of the hot-line radio inquirers. The experience was, as expected, exhausting. At an hour when decent people are either in bed or staring sightlessly into space awaiting doom, both Barrett and Webster ooze vitality, bounce and joie de vivre in a truly disgusting manner.

The purpose of our expedition, though it hardly seems to have been worth the effort in retrospect, was to see how Premier Barrett was bearing up on the eve, as the saying goes, of the autumn sitting of the legislature.

The answer is that, measured on any meter that registered energy, insouciance, assurance, high spirits and good humor, Mr. Barrett would get nine points in a possible 10. When we mumbled a question about his health (we mumble a lot before noon) the premier replied, "I feel great, fantastic!" There was no reason to doubt this in the ensuing 90 minutes.

Webster described this particular interview as "the ten thousandth and one broadcast with Davey" which is an exaggeration, but they've been meeting this way at microphones for at least a dozen years. Webster likes to recall that on their very first interview he remarked, incredulously, "So this is the man who might just one day be premier!" Now he says: "Of course, it was a preposterous idea." And the premier, smiling a quixotic smile, says: "I never doubted it."

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Both men are highly professional at the microphones and, indeed, alike in many ways. Both have distinctly pear-shaped figures which require occasional diets. Now, sweeping into the small Empress room with three minutes to go before air time, the Premier dons his blue-and-white checked sports jacket, steps out of his black loafers and enjoys a moment of one-upmanship.

He has invested in a book called "Dr. Atkins' Diet Revolution — The High Calorie Way To Stay Thin Forever," has lost six pounds in six days and is feeling, if not looking, svelte.

Webster, currently over-weight, charged up for his first question and with two packs of cigarettes at the ready beside him, looks at the premier dourly and gives his engineer a voice level with the words, "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party."

"That's for sure," Barrett grins, totally relaxed, small stockinged feet up on an extra chair, pouring himself a sugar-less cream-less coffee.

The guest, not nearly so nonchalant, soon realizes that he is witness to two separate shows.

The first, in those periods when Barrett and Webster are actually on the air, is pure Marshall McLuhan. The medium is the message. It is largely a personality exercise with the predictable role-playing—Webster the mildly apoplectic, abrasive, well-informed questioner, Barrett gravely plausible, quiet-mannered, deftly turning aside Webster's generalizations. ("That's nonsense, Jack, just nonsense.")

It is when the microphones are dead during the commercial and news breaks that the warmth and bantering humor of the two men makes the more entertaining show. I doubt if there's been such a rapport between public figures since Eko and Iko, Barnum and Bailey's sheep-headed twins from Ecuador. Webster, whose respect and admiration for a man is measured in the range and depth of his insults, leaves no doubt that he considers Barrett worthy of his worst.

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"God, Davey, if you fell into a barrel of it you'd come out smelling of violets," he roars.

"Sometimes I wonder what you eat for breakfast on the boat coming over here," says the Premier. "Must you be so nasty? Why is it necessary for you to hate, Jack? Let's not get all worked up. Let's have peace and love around here."

Webster: "I'm nothing if not vicious. But you're nice, Davey. You're so nice I don't even think of you as a Jew." The premier shakes with laughter. Still laughing, he turns to the guest.

"You see how he treats me? Little, chubby me?" he asks. "You should have seen him with my predecessor. Oh, the bowing and the scraping and the kissing of the ring. It was something to see. I'll tell you."

Now it is Webster's turn to be broken up. They laugh together until the exact moment when the microphones are alive again. Then it's back to business.

It is only when the 90 minutes are over — in this case certainly the liveliest 90 minutes in radio — that there is a moment of introspection.

"God, what a grind this is," Webster groans, leaning back, wringing wet from his exertions. "I wonder if I'll ever be off this merry-go-round."

The premier, getting back into his shoes and jacket, listens sympathetically. "I guess we all have higher aspirations," he says. "I've some plans, myself, that I hope to realize one day. Being premier is just an interruption in my life."

The guest tipped away, leaving them there — the 43-year-old first citizen of the province with a yearly income of \$52,000, the 53-year-old interviewer with an income of \$130,000 — and wondered if there were ever two men who so thoroughly enjoyed making it.

### Ask The Times

Q: Where does one apply for a Liquor Board identification card and is it possible to apply before your 19th birthday? SB.

A: The Liquor Board does not issue such cards. A board spokesman said identification now is done by either a driver's licence or an identification card which may be obtained from any office of the Motor Vehicle Branch. The Victoria branch is at 431 Menzies. The spokesman said MVB identification cards are only available to persons 19 and over.

Q: Could you please give me the exact quotation and the occasion when former U.S. President Eisenhower said something about the military-industrial complex being a source of possibly dangerous power in the United States. HDB.

A: The comment was made during a "leavetaking and farewell" in a television-radio address from the White House



AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING down . . . on top and around bulldozer operator Ray Bryce who, after nibbling away at the corners, does a



—Irving Strickland photo

disappearing act to complete the performance. This is one of 13 homes on Bee Street torn down to make way for Oak Bay's \$1.6 million recreation

centre. Six other houses were moved. Mayor Frances Elford said a swimming pool and skating rink should be completed in 1974.

### Computers May Assess Teachers

Greater Victoria school board trustee Dr. Philip Ney said today computers could be involved in future evaluations of teacher effectiveness.

"There could soon come a point where the education process is evaluated in cold, critical data indicating how a teacher's effectiveness relates to his peers."

Serious discussions of computer evaluation of a physician's practice — where he stands with regard to number of patients, for example — have already been considered by the B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons, he said.

In the meantime, however, he stressed the need for lay involvement in evaluation of teacher effectiveness.

"Lay people have an additional perspective to give in the evaluation of any profession."

"The difficulty of a profession evaluating itself is that it can be blinded by its own professional bias."

He was referring to a comment Monday by Greater Victoria Teachers' Association president Bill Williams that evaluation should be left up to people who understand the problems teachers face.

The board's instruction committee passed a recommendation initiated by Ney that the GVTA be asked to help assess teacher effectiveness and weed out "tired old teachers."

Ney today denied a comment attributed to him in the Times that there were about seven teachers concerned and anyone could name them.

The comment was made by John Wiens, the board's director of instruction and administration during discussion when he was asked to estimate the number of teachers concerned.

# Insurance Handling Delay Urged on Victoria Agents

By AL FORREST Times Staff

Victoria insurance agents are being urged to delay handling the new government general insurance to be launched Oct. 1.

The agents, through the Insurance Agents Association, are waiting to hear details of the commission rates they will be receiving to handle government car insurance, which they consider a top priority issue.

B. J. A. Finnie, immediate past-president of the association, said the agents have some bargaining position because the government is eager to sign them up to carry fire and accident insurance policies.

"The commission rate for car insurance is the all-important issue," he said.

"We want to cross that bridge first before proceeding to the next one."

He said the government has said it will announce the car

commission rate by Sept. 20. Deadline for joining the general insurance program is Oct. 1.

Field representatives of the government's Insurance Corporation of B.C. are trying to sign up enough agents to start selling general insurance by Oct. 1. The agents would sell both government and private insurance plans.

Finnie said the government was creating problems for itself by rushing into the program and not seeking the active assistance of the industry.

### Interim Contracts Offered

He said the government's representatives only had interim contracts to offer agents, which amounted to an application to receive a contract.

Finnie said the association was not forbidding members to sign the interim contracts but was pointing out to them it was like signing a blank cheque because no details of the government proposal have been announced.

The association would have preferred to have official contracts to deal with so it could judge the merits of the proposal.

Finnie said the agents were optimistic that the commission rates for car insurance would be high enough to make it an attractive proposition.

The agents would look more favorably upon the general insurance contracts if the car insurance commissions were at a satisfactory level.

The agents would receive commissions for selling the government's monopoly car insurance plan and would also receive commissions for selling fire and accident insurance for private companies.

Even if the car insurance commissions are high, there might not be a rush to the government's general insurance scheme "because there still is a lot of bitterness in the industry" over the government's action in taking over

the car insurance and invading the general insurance field, he said.

Some of the tension can be alleviated by generous commissions and more consultation with the industry, Finnie said.

The board of directors of the association had held several meetings on the issue and would meet again as soon as the car insurance commissions were announced.

The government's field representatives would not say how many agents had been signed to interim contracts to carry general insurance but said they were still actively seeking carriers.

### Saanich Boy Badly Hurt

A five-year-old Saanich boy injured by a car Tuesday afternoon is in critical condition in Victoria General Hospital with internal injuries.

Shane Andrews, and his grandfather Ben Andrews, 64, both of 409 Ker, were struck as they walked across Wharf Street near Yates at 2:30 p.m.

Driver of the car was Mel-Leod C. Stewart, 267 View Royal, police said.

The senior Andrews is in fair condition with injuries to his back and one arm.

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**SECOND SECTION**

## BAIL OF \$12,000 SET IN SAANICH SHOOTING

Bail was set at \$12,000 in provincial court Tuesday for a Saanich man charged with the attempted murder of Mrs. Freda Helen Eveleigh.

Clifford Earle Clark, 65, of 121 Kamboos, was charged after the woman was shot Monday near the entrance to the Palm Springs health spa at Hillside Shopping Centre.

Mrs. Eveleigh, 56, of 3755 Seaton, is in poor condition at Royal Jubilee Hospital with head wounds.

Police said Clark was still in custody this morning attempting to raise bail.

He was remanded by Judge William Ostler to Sept. 18 to set a date for preliminary hearing.

Investigation in the shooting is continuing and Victoria police have issued an appeal for witnesses who may have seen a white or off-white late model American car, occupied by a man, near the health spa Monday between 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Police are also seeking witnesses who saw any other unusual activity in the area at that time.

## Beef Scare Easing Cuts Meat Prices

The price of beef has fallen 30 cents a pound wholesale from its August peak but Victoria merchants expect the price to gradually move upwards over the next three months, wiping out the decline.

They believe stability has returned to the beef market, with future price increases being gradual.

The wholesale price ranges from 89.5 cents per pound to 92.5 cents per pound in Victoria, down from a peak of just over \$1. One merchant said he paid a top price of \$1.08 per pound during the beef scare when Americans were buying up Canadian cattle.

The wholesale price is for a carcass of beef and includes bone and fat. Retailers are left with less than 75 per cent of a carcass to sell as meat cuts.

Bert Wright of Wright Meats in Oak Bay said top round steak is down to \$1.89 per pound retail from an August high of \$2.25.

Top quality ground beef is down to \$1.39 per pound from \$1.59.

(Meanwhile, bacon, which went up 30 cents per pound in August, is down 30 cents per pound, he said.)

Other merchants report varying prices but on average are down about the same amounts, a meat market charging a higher than average price for one cut often charges a lower than average price for another, be-

cause of the need to receive a fixed return for each carcass of beef.

Eob Gilson of Gilson's Meats says he has cut the price of sirloin steak from \$2.23 per pound to \$1.99.

Ground beef has gone to \$1.09 from \$1.19.

While there should be no spectacular price increases, the trend would continue to be gradually upwards because of the rising cost of wages and feed.

Gilson said grain prices have risen 40 per cent and hay has doubled to \$80 per ton.

"These increases will be reflected in higher prices for meat over the next few months. Just three years ago you could buy a day-old calf for \$45. Now the price has gone to \$160."

Meanwhile, Ontario residents are starting to get a normal supply of beef after

a month of shortages caused by U.S. buying and the rail strike.

A small price drop is expected in Toronto as the additional supplies come on market.

Wholesalers were easing the pressure by purchasing meat in the United States where steers were selling for \$46 a hundredweight compared with \$53 in Toronto.

The price of pork in Toronto was \$39 a hundredweight, down from an August peak of \$73.

In New York, prices fell 15 per cent due to a flood of beef coming on the market with the end of the U.S. price freeze.

The beef had been held back in anticipation of higher prices. The long-term outlook in both Canada and the United States was a plentiful supply of both beef and pork, easing the pressure on the price.



SOON TO BE BEACH this 4,000 cubic yard mound of sand was dropped on the shores of Elk Lake last week to extend Eagle Park Beach on the southeast corner of the lake near Pat Bay

Highway. Saanich park department workers are excavating bush and peat in the area and sand cover is expected to be completed in a few weeks. (Bill Halkett photo.)

### 'FRIGHTENED KIDS' FOUND DRIFTING

An RCMP boat located two nine-year-old Sidney boys this morning after the youngsters had been missing overnight.

A police spokesman said Bert Minter and Spencer Dudson were unharmed, "just a couple of frightened kids."

Police were gearing up for a major search, with helicopter and tracking dogs, when the RCMP launch found the boys, adrift off Sidney in a 17-foot open boat.