

Weather:
Rain Overnight,
Clearing

86th Year, No. 211

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TODAY'S NEWS
TODAY

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TRAIN-BUS CRASH KILLS 21 PUPILS

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — At least 21 children died when an express train smashed into a packed school bus at a railway crossing 20 miles south of this South African city today.

Railway officials revised an earlier report that 25 children were killed. They said the deaths of four children in ambulances and in hospital had mistakenly been added to the official death toll of 21.

Thirty-nine children were injured, they added.

The bus was thrown about 25 feet by the impact.

Ottawa to Renew Claim To Arctic Sovereignty

Pollution Fear Basis of Move

OTTAWA (CP)—The government gave notice today it plans to introduce legislation before Easter dealing with the prevention of pollution in the Arctic seas.

The legislation, contained in a long list of planned government measures tabled in the Commons, would be an assertion that Canada has jurisdiction over the northern waters.

The Commons Northern Development committee in an unanimous report last December called on the government to proclaim sovereignty over whole of the Arctic islands area.

It said it was not impressed with Prime Minister Trudeau's assertion in the throne speech debate last October that adequate pollution controls in the Arctic can be effected by international agreement.

Also in the list of planned measures is the establishment of a Canada Development Corporation.

REFLECT PRESSURE
The proposal, in and out of throne speeches since 1963, was not included in the throne speech last fall.

Both the development and sovereignty bills apparently reflect pressure in recent months to head off foreign inroads into Canada.

The development corporation has always been seen as a "buy back Canada" vehicle.

The announcement of the planned legislation follows a day-long debate in the Commons last week on Arctic sovereignty.

In the outline of government legislative plans before and after the Easter recess which he said is scheduled to begin Wednesday, March 25, Privy Council President Donald S. Macdonald said it is anticipated the budget will be brought down before Easter.

Mr. Macdonald, also the government House leader, said the House will resume Monday, April 6, following the Easter recess, and adjourn for the summer Friday, June 26.

CZECH CHIEF RESIGNS

PRAGUE (Reuters) — Oldrich Cernik resigned as premier of Czechoslovakia today and was replaced by Lubomir Strougal, a conservative.

Left Holding The Wires

Women shoppers are warned to accept courtesy with caution when getting the family groceries at local supermarkets.

A new racket was reported to the Times today.

One man watches the woman as she parks her car and shops. Another lifts the hood of the car, pulling a wire off the engine.

When she returns, the unsuspecting woman is unable to start her car.

One of the men offers to help. After tinkering a while, he asks her to come and hold two wires.

She does. The other lifts her wallet from her bag, left on the car seat, and disappears. By the time she misses it she's usually home or miles away.

\$3.1 Million Accepted For Drilling

A total of \$3.1 million was added to the provincial treasury today when bids on 47 parcels of oil and gas rights in Northern B.C. were accepted by the mines department.

Highest bid was \$788,042 by Canadian Pacific Oil and Gas Ltd. for a permit located 50 miles south of Dawson Creek. It was also the largest per-acre price — \$13.60. Average was \$5.36 per acre.

A total of 435,381 acres were covered by the 47 permits in the Dawson Creek area.

Highest per-acre bid in the Fort St. John area was \$12.84 by Westcoast Production Co. The average there was \$6.22.

Highest per-acre bid in the Fort Nelson area was \$293.90 by Diamond Shamrock Corp. and the average was \$45.21.

A number of permit parcels were unsold because acceptable bids were not made. Evaluation of the parcels in advance of the sale involved drilling of 25 wells, Mines Minister Frank Richter said.



BELFAST POLICE, ARMED TROOPS form human barricade in Shankill road area today as mob of 500 Protestants attempt to march down

street in fourth successive night of incidents. It is same area of city which was torn by religious rioting in 1969. (AP Wirephoto.)

CAR INSURANCE

NDP Attacks 'Big Profits'

By BRUCE YEMEN

Automobile insurance companies and the provincial government were attacked in the legislature Tuesday in debate on a non-confidence motion.

A succession of New Democrats slashed away for 90 minutes before going down to a 39-13 defeat. One Liberal, Barrie Clark (North Vancouver-Seymour) voted with the NDP, while four Liberals and 35 Socials voted against the motion.

The motion took the form of "regret" that the throne speech hadn't made provision

for a universal government automobile insurance scheme at cost to the public.

Only two government backbenchers took part in the debate. Most listened in silence as opposition leader Dave Barrett reduced the vote to a choice between "the little people of B.C. and the insurance corporations dominated from New York."

Industry Accused of Price-Fixing

Barrett accused the insurance industry of price-fixing and provided price quotes from Victoria agencies to support his claim.

Barrett said his information on insurance rates has been turned over to federal authorities who have promised to study it in relation to his request for an inquiry under the Combines Investigation Act.

He asked the Social Credit government to say how much election campaign money it received from insurance companies following passage of the government's car insurance legislation last year.

Alex Macdonald (NDP—Vancouver East) said a government-operated plan would save at least 25 per cent in

premiums through reduced administrative costs.

He said car insurance premiums almost doubled from \$43 million to \$80 million in the years 1964-68 while losses paid out rose only 58 per cent from \$34 million to \$55 million in the same period.

"They're making money on a scale that doesn't justify any premium increases at the present time," he said in reference to an average \$13 increase in premiums as a result of the no-fault, accident benefits coverage made mandatory last year by the provincial government.

Dennis Cooke (NDP—New Westminster) ridiculed a defence of insurance companies by Frank Ney (SC—Nanaimo).

Millions in Profit from Premiums

Ney said talk about huge car insurance profits was "rubbish."

Cooke said insurance companies invest premium money paid in advance—estimated by Robert Williams (NDP—Vancouver East) at \$80 million annually in B.C. and \$768 million across Canada—in lucrative high interest investments.

These earnings are not declared as part of the profit picture on underwriting of insurance, Cooke said.

Williams said the government's compulsory insurance is "compulsory profit" for the province's 188 insurance companies.

"The government is willing to let the public be gouged" but is smart enough to provide its own insurance for government vehicles because "you know you'll get robbed by the insurance cartel," Williams said.

Garde Gardom (L—Vancouver-Point Grey) agreed with NDP claims that direct cost of car insurance is cheaper in Saskatchewan under a government scheme but "the indirect charges are a burgeoning bureaucracy."

He said insurance companies should reduce premiums by the equivalent of a year's bank interest on the

premiums when they are paid in advance.

Government automobile insurance would be "just another rip-roaring step down the path to socialism" he said, adding: "We'd end up with Big Brother everything."

Ney said poor service could be expected under a government scheme if the closing of government offices at noon hour was any example of service.

He drew a roar of glee from the opposition benches when he added:

"I've never known anyone able to sue the government yet," in a reference to the government's much-criticized policy against granting flats entitling citizens to sue the Crown.

There were hoots from the government benches when several speakers predicted the government would be swept out of office if it failed to implement a public scheme.

LIST OF PRICES

But the House was hushed as Barrett read off a list of price quotes from various Victoria insurance agencies on a particular vehicle.

Barrett said those listing the same price (\$39 for liability coverage and \$22 for

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Bayonets Stop Protestants

BELFAST (AP) — British troops with fixed bayonets headed off a Protestant march on Roman Catholic areas of Belfast today amid a new upsurge of tension in the Northern Ireland city.

Angry chanting crowds roamed the streets, bringing fears of another outburst of the sectarian rioting that last year produced more than 20 dead and hundreds wounded.

Shortly after midnight Tuesday, a mob of about 500 tried to charge the "peace line" of barbed wire and steel which divides the mainly Protestant Shankill Road from the Catholic Falls Road area.

The Protestants were met by a line of troops with bayonets fixed. The troops were wearing gas masks, indicating they were ready to use tear gas for the first time since armed clashes last October.

The Protestants first tried to march on Unity Flats, a mainly Catholic housing development at the city end of the Shankill Road.

The apartments were built as an attempt to break Belfast's pattern of segregated housing but their preponderance of Catholic resi-

dents has made them a focal point for the anger of the surrounding Protestant backstreets.

Protestants complain that the apartments are guarded by the British Army yet fly the flag of the neighboring Irish Republic.

John McQuade, who is the Protestant-based Unionist party's member of Parliament for the area, has demanded the apartments should be cleared and converted into offices or army barracks.

One of his supporters, former city councillor William Quigley, warned:

"Some day you will get a shot fired and we all know what will happen then. Something is going to erupt."

"At least a dozen incidents involving the flats have occurred in the past few months. The army does not go into the flats and the police are not allowed in."

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STATE PROTESTING NERVE GAS TRANSFER

Times News Services

VANCOUVER, Wash. — The United States Army is continuing preparations for shipment of nerve gas by rail from Bangor, Wash., to Umatilla, Ore., despite a growing tide of opposition.

The Washington State Senate today asked President Nixon to block the shipment in an almost-unanimous resolution.

And the army announced a 100-car train made the run between the two points Monday night to test communications and equipment.

The nerve gas sparking the uproar is being returned to the United States from Okinawa for storage.

Anglo-American Intimacy Evident

WASHINGTON (CP)—President Nixon today accorded British Prime Minister Wilson the privilege of sitting in on a meeting of the United States National Security Council, the president's top advisory board on national security and foreign policy affairs.

The session preceded another meeting of the president and prime minister.

The council meetings are so secret that the White House seldom discloses even the general topics up for consideration.

The invitation to Wilson to sit in underscored the depth of Anglo-American relations at the top level.

The council members include the president, the vice-president, the secretaries of state and defence, and the director of the office of emergency preparedness.

Nixon heaped praise on Britain and Wilson at a White House dinner Tuesday night at which both leaders emphasized close and friendly relations between their two countries.

Nixon said Wilson represented a nation "to which we owe so much and with whom we are proud to work together" for common principles that transcend any differences that might arise.

Wilson, expressing satisfaction with his talks in Washington, said relations between the U.S. and Britain have never been closer.

Nixon told the dinner that British institutions which have taken root around the world "are a heritage far more important than the military might or economic might that might exist in those parts of the world."

He said he was delighted there were no significant monetary problems for them to discuss this time.

Williston Orders Halt To Glass-Dumping Plan

Resources Minister Ray Williston Tuesday ordered a halt to plans to dump 100 tons of glass on Miami Island near Nanaimo.

He sent a telegram to Vancouver art gallery owner Douglas Christmas saying "No glass to be dumped" until further evidence can be pre-

sented to prove that a wildlife habitat is not being destroyed.

The glass-dumping, scheduled for Feb. 2, was to turn the half-acre islet into a "shimmering work of art."

In the telegram Williston noted that the glass-dumping proposal was first presented as something for the benefit of the public but this was now "most questionable."

Williston also noted that conservation groups had opposed the project.

Jim Egan, a Thetis Island marine biologist who helped spark the protest against the glass dumping project, said today the telegram from Williston would probably "end all such nonsense."

Vice-President of Cowichan-

Maiah SPEC, Egan said the protest of telegrams, phone calls and letters "is a pale shadow of what ruckus will be raised if the province ever attempts to allow oil drilling the Gulf of Georgia."

A boat sighted off the tiny islet Monday was not a derrick but a fishing craft with a super-structure that led to its misidentification.

Christmas, the operator of a Davie Street art gallery in Vancouver has been in and out of hot water before with his controversial exhibitions. He was reported today to be in Los Angeles until Thursday.

A tug towing the barge of 100 tons of green glass pieces was to be loaded in Vancouver

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DAVID JONES CASE CITED AS CRITIC HITS INSURANCE

The case of David Jones, 18-year-old Indian father of two who was thrown in jail for driving an uninsured automobile, was raised in the legislature Tuesday.

William Hartley (NDP—Yale-Lillooet) said it was "rather ironic" that in the same issue of the Victoria Times in which the Jones case was dealt with, Attorney-General Leslie Peterson should be quoted saying the B.C. car insurance plan is the best in the world.

"You throw the kids in jail," Hartley told the government, proposing sale of government insurance with licence plates as a simple means

of avoiding cases like that of David Jones.

"It is a credit to John Mika and the Victoria Times that they took up the battle for this young husband who was thrown in jail for not having insurance," Hartley said.

There were no comments from the government benches on the issue but a loud yawn was emitted by Social Welfare Minister Phil Gaglardi as Hartley discussed the Jones case.

Jones was released from Williston Road jail after an unidentified newspaper reader paid his \$250 fine through a lawyer.



Hear a feller wants t' dump broken glass all over one of our islands. If he's that thick-skinned, maybe he wants t' sunbathe on it.

Once again th' Irish are at it—but not necessarily with it.

Hope announcin' our Arctic sovereignty at Easter don't lay an egg.

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Jets Hit Cairo Suburbs

Anti-aircraft and machine-gun fire echoed in Cairo today as Israeli planes bombed the outskirts of the Egyptian capital for the first time since the 1967 war.

Egyptian officials report three civilians killed and 12 injured in the mid-morning raid by four Israeli jets.

Map above locates Cairo suburb of Maadi and Dashour, on the River Nile, where attacks were concentrated.

Maadi, seven miles south of Cairo proper, houses many foreign residents. (AP Wirephoto Map.)