



BELLINGHAM MARKET AWAITS 'CANADIANS' . . . reporter Judy Lindsay stocks up before impending shutdown in Canada —George Dick Photo

Strike over, ICBC faces claims pile

The Insurance Corporation of B.C. prepared to tackle a huge backlog of accident claims as its 100-day strike came to an end today.

Transport Minister Robert Strachan said the corporation will set up an appointment system which he believes will be "both fast and convenient" for motorists.

ICBC general manager Norm Bortnick said the appointment system will allow corporation employees to settle claims at maximum efficiency with minimum delay to the claimant.

He said long lineups and waiting periods will be eliminated and the claimant will be able to choose an appointment time "that is least disruptive to his or her daily life."

Bortnick said appointment forms will be printed in newspaper advertisements and will be available at all motor vehicle branch offices, independent insurance agents and ICBC offices.

A motorist involved in an accident before, during or after the strike should complete one of the forms and mail it to the claims office at which an appointment is convenient.

An ICBC staffer will telephone the mo-

torist to set up the appointment, Bortnick said.

He said those vehicle owners who have suffered only glass damage can go directly to a glass replacement company and have the repairs made.

ICBC has made special arrangements with these companies to collect the necessary details, Bortnick said.

Motorists who have had their vehicles repaired during the strike and have paid the whole bill or the deductible portion are asked to send in an appointment request and will be advised how to proceed to recover the appropriate amount.

Passengers who have been injured in accidents will be contacted after the owner of the vehicle has reported the accident to a claims office. They need not request appointments.

Vehicle owners whose claims were being processed when the strike began will be contacted by an adjuster as soon as possible and do not have to have an appointment.

For motorists who do not wish to make appointments, claims offices at 4399 Wey-

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U.S. shopping trip a break-even deal

B.C. supermarkets may face a shutdown but fans of the checkout counter and the shopping cart can still find aisles of produce elsewhere.

Where? Why, south of the border, down Bellingham way.

A quick visit by The Vancouver Sun on Thursday showed that supermarket managers in the northwest corner of Washington state are prepared for an onslaught of Canadian grocery buyers.

And it also showed that if the buyer is lucky, groceries bought in Blaine or Bellingham finally may cost about the same as they would have in the Lower Mainland, even taking into consideration the cost of gasoline, duty and exchange.

Cost of 17 standard items, including sales tax, was \$28.05 at a Bellingham Safeway.

By comparison, roughly equivalent items cost \$2.30 more at a Safeway on West Broadway in Vancouver.

There are other costs in long-distance shopping. The round trip to Bellingham is

104 miles, to Blaine 64. Assuming good highway mileage (30 mpg.) and a price of 63 cents a (Canadian) gallon, the gas bill would be about \$2.25 to Bellingham and \$1.40 to Blaine.

There is, of course, duty, and that is where the luck comes in. Technically border officials can charge 17.5 per cent duty on miscellaneous imports such as food, an act that would have added \$4.91 and a whopping deficit to our bill.

If the customs officer were presented with an item by item breakdown he might apply specific duties on the groceries. The process takes more time but the bill would be smaller; about \$1.

In any case the Sun reporter and photographer were extra-lucky. When they declared their produce at the Douglas crossing, the official waved them through, thus saving them any duty payment at all.

The final hidden cost, one that is difficult to escape, is exchange on the dollar. Buying American money at a Vancouver bank before departure will cost about four

cents on the dollar; cashing in the Canadian money at an American store will cost about five cents, although some Blaine merchants do waive this charge. If they don't, it means an extra \$1.20 to \$1.50 on the average \$30 grocery bill.

So assuming the ideal trip — a dash down to nearby Blaine in a car with good gas mileage, a few lucky buys and a generous customs officer — you can break even on a south-of-the-border supermarket raid.

That is, assuming you don't take into consideration the value of your time since a good expedition, with time allowed for shopping, takes about two hours to Bellingham and at least an hour and a half to Blaine.

Even with the break at the border, the Sun foray ran a net deficit of almost \$2. The only saving was \$2.30 for the groceries while the gas bill for the office car was \$2.80 and the exchange was \$1.41.

But even that prospective cost won't necessarily be prohibitive once Lower

Mainland supermarkets begin their expected shutdown early next week. And supermarket managers interviewed in Bellingham and Blaine say they're waiting for us.

Dave Schuster, manager of Albertson's in Bellingham said his supermarket department store already gets a lot of Canadians coming across the border every weekend to shop. The store picks up about \$2,000 in Canadian funds on an average weekend day, he said.

A Blaine supermarket manager told us the number of Canadian shoppers at his store began to rise about a year and a half ago.

The Douglas border station has posted in a conspicuous location a list of groceries and duty applicable to cope with what authorities say is an increased number of enquiries.

Schuster said that upon hearing that bakers and meatcutters are planning a

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Non-MP Juneau named to Pelletier's post

By JOHN SAWATSKY
Sun Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA — Pierre Juneau, 52, was sworn in today as minister of communications to replace Gerard Pelletier, who was appointed ambassador to France.

Juneau, the original chairman of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission, is not a member of the House of Commons but is expected to gain a seat in a bye-election in Pelletier's Montreal riding of Hochalaga.

He was sworn in by Mr. Justice Wilfred Judson, of the Supreme Court of Canada, who is acting governor-general.

The appointment marks the first time Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau has placed a non-MP into a Cabinet post.

But it is not a rare occurrence in Canadian history.

Senator Eugene Forsey, an expert on Canadian constitutional affairs, said more than 60 cabinet ministers have been appointed without being elected to Parliament.

The last such appointment was made under Prime Minister John Diefenbaker in September, 1957, when Sidney Smith, president of the University of Toronto, was sworn in as minister of external affairs.

He was elected to the House in a bye-election in the Hastings riding in eastern Ontario in November 1957.

"It's not unusual at all," said Senator Forsey. "It's been done over and over again."

In the last federal election Pelletier polled 10,561 votes, a 4,126 majority over his conservative opponent in a seven-candidate contest.

Juneau has been chairman of the CRTC since the agency was created in 1968, and has used his post to revamp Canadian broadcasting policy.

He was responsible for imposing minimum Canadian content rules on radio and TV stations, placing strict limits on the number of commercials broadcast and for the controversial policy of deleting U.S. television commercials on Canadian cable systems.

Some Liberal backbenchers have indicated privately that the appointment will cause discontent on the government backbench.

Some Quebec MPs would have liked the post to go to one of them.

Juneau was born in Montreal and graduated from College St. Marie with a bachelor of arts degree.

For two years he did post-graduate work in philosophy at L'Institut Catholique, Paris.

As ambassador to France, Pelletier replaces Leo Cadieux, who held the post for nearly five years.

Injunction sought to bar controllers from striking

OTTAWA (CP) — The federal treasury board applied today for an injunction from the Federal Court of Canada to prevent a strike by air traffic controllers.

A board spokesman said the injunction would prevent officers of the Canadian Air Traffic Control Association from calling the strike.

If the government fails to obtain the injunction federal officials Monday will seek to have the strike declared illegal by the federal public service staff relations board.

The 2,200 controllers announced strike plans Thursday over government bid to transfer some control duties to air traffic control assistants who are represented by another union. A strike would halt nearly all commercial air travel on the holiday weekend.

The controllers say the government proposal threatens public safety because unqualified assistants would be performing their duties.

Transport Minister Jean Marchand promised swift legal action to stop the strike unless the controllers agreed to put off their walkout at least until after the cabinet had a chance to discuss the dispute next week.

A strike would be illegal because the controllers are covered by a bargaining agreement until Dec. 31.

If the government obtains an injunction and the controllers fail to obey the ruling, union leaders could be subject to fines or a jail term for contempt of court.

Another union which represents public servants who draw up air safety regulations, the Professional Institute of the Public Service, said in a news release that Marchand should act "forcefully" to end the possibility of a strike.

"The principal issue is not safety," said T. P. Hinton, chairman of the institute's aircraft operations group. "The real issue is should the executive of a public service

"Strike" page 2



Eamon de Valera, founder and former president of the Irish Republic, died today in a Dublin nursing home at 92. (Story, P. 12.)

FOR HIT, RUN Marchand loses licence, fined

OTTAWA (CP) — Transport Minister Jean Marchand had his driver's licence suspended a year and was fined \$200 today after pleading guilty to leaving the scene of an accident.

Provincial court Judge Robert Hutton said that deciding the penalty in the case was "more than unusually difficult." A request by Marchand's lawyer, A. T. Hewitt, for an unconditional discharge "was not an appropriate penalty."

Marchand was charged following a March 2 accident when his car ran into the rear of an automobile owned by Stephen Tunks of Ottawa, causing \$1,500 in damage. There were no injuries.

Marchand told the court he was pleading guilty on the recommendation of his lawyer because he had no witnesses. He insisted he stopped to check for damage.

Hewitt asked for the unconditional discharge, which would have meant that Marchand would not have a criminal record, because he had suffered from publicity surrounding the case.

"The charges and proceedings for a man of Mr. Marchand's position are a penalty in itself," Hewitt said.

The charge was laid under provisions of the Criminal Code.

Use of troops threatened by Portuguese army officer

Sun News Dispatches

LISBON — The moderate military commander of Portugal's central region warned the Communist-backed government today he would use his troops to prevent the development of a new dictatorship.

The statement by Brig. Franco Charais who has kept his units on "manoeuvres" since last weekend, marked the first time a senior military officer has openly come out against the Communists with a threat of armed action.

The statement issued by Charais' headquarters said: "We have been preparing our units so that they can be turned into a guarantee that a totalitarian regime will not be reinstated in Portugal."

Meanwhile, the Communist party, apparently fearing possible right-wing reaction to their activities since the April, 1974 coup, appealed for wide-ranging talks

among the military and opposing political factions.

The Communists previously have scorned any idea of a coalition with more moderate political groups.

Party Secretary General Alvaro Cunhal said opposing groups have become so polarized that there is a serious threat of military clashes, which may lead to civil war.

Cunhal, reading a statement from the party's central committee, said: "The Communist party, aware of the gravity of the situation is launching a vehement appeal to all those who want to prevent the installation of a new terrorist dictatorship in Portugal."

The talks would include representatives of the presidency, the provisional government of pro-Communist Premier Vasco Goncalves, the Armed Forces Movement's policy-making Revolutionary Council, and representatives of what were termed the main tendencies within the movement.

These were defined as the "military left" — apparently meaning supporters of

"Use" page 2

Peruvian gov't overthrown

LIMA (AP)—The leftist military government of President Juan Velasco was overthrown in a coup today and Gen. Francisco Morales Bermudez, the commander in

chief of the armed forces, was installed as prime minister, the national radio said.

The report said troops had taken over the presidential palace.

A communique said the coup was carried out to achieve a "free fatherland" and to eliminate "personality cults and detours that our institutions had suffered, caused by those who made a mistake and could not understand the exact revolutionary feelings of all Peruvians."

The announcement came as a non-aligned conference of foreign ministers was winding up a week-long session. On Monday, Velasco addressed the 81-nation conference.

Velasco, who rose from private to general in the army, seized power in a bloodless coup on Oct. 3, 1968, and was chosen president by the military government that succeeded the constitutional government of president Fernando Belaunde Terry.

Velasco's regime closed congress, postponed elections indefinitely, muzzled the press and set up a tough military administration committed to carrying out some very sharp and deep-probing reforms.

Bye, bye, blackbird

TREVISIO, Italy (UPI) — A blackbird has fallen victim to Italy's kidnap industry. Giovanni Pavan said his talking blackbird disappeared from his restaurant and someone telephoned him demanding \$300 ransom for the return of the bird.

'Dangerous crooks paroled'

TORONTO (CP) — The National Parole Board sends dangerous criminals out in society but can't do anything about it.

And their release makes "the hair stand out on the back of my neck sometimes," admits William Outerbridge, chairman of the board.

He told the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Thursday that federal prisoners are eligible for parole after serving one-third of their sentences or seven years in the case of long sentences. The parole board has discretion on parole for these applicants, he said.

But he added that the board's main problem is that all prisoners receive auto-

matic remission of one-third of their sentence for good behavior and must by law be released under mandatory supervision if they have behaved themselves in prison.

"We know some of these people are dangerous but we have no choice," he said.

Recently he was so worried about the release of two men that he wrote the police chiefs in Winnipeg and Vancouver to warn them the men were being released in their cities.

Supt. Michael Coulis of the Metropolitan Toronto police said lack of supervision and slow suspension of parole for parolees who commit criminal offences while free "is a

major bone of contention for all police forces."

Of the 460 men released on parole in Metropolitan Toronto since the beginning of the year, 203 have been arrested for Criminal Code offences, he said.

And A. C. Biggs, assistant deputy police chief in Winnipeg said about five per cent of parolees are a concern to the police. Violent and sexual offenders and drug addicts are among this five per cent, he said.

Outerbridge told a news conference after his speech that supervision of parolees is a serious problem because there are 350 parole officers responsible for 5,000 parolees across Canada.

3 die, 5 missing in Niagara River

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. (CP) — Three persons died, five are missing and three were injured when a raft flipped over in turbulent water on the Niagara River below the falls today.

Rescuers pulled 14 persons from the river after the craft flipped in waves that were running up to 30 feet high.

The raft was owned by a group of Toronto men and was to be operated by a company called Niagara Gorge River Trips.

It was on its 11th test trip.

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WEATHER: Cloudy Saturday with sunny periods and a few showers. Low, near 11; high, near 18. Showers will be more isolated over south-eastern B.C. by Saturday and a trend to more frequent sunny intervals is expected. Details, page 3.

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