

'Car Insurance By Government One-Fifth Less'

Government-operated car insurance would reduce premiums 20 per cent, MLA William Hartley (NDP-Yale) said Monday night.

He was speaking at an NDP-sponsored forum on public-owned insurance companies before 120 persons at the Union Centre Auditorium.

Mr. Hartley, who is a licensed insurance agent, said a government plan would be much more efficient and all-inclusive.

"If a car is registered it's insured. Details and rates are just the facts of the case," he said.

He noted the administrative duplication of the 209 private casualty companies and 1,300 agents which operate in B.C.

He added government insurance would "cover innocent victims of car accidents because of an illegal driver's errors."

The Insurance Agents of B.C. were invited to provide speakers to present its views but the group was unrepresented.

Victoria NDP President Fred Bevis said Saskatchewan government insurance compares favorably with rates of private companies in B.C.

AVERAGE SEDAN

An average sedan would get \$35,000 liability and \$200 deductible collision in Saskatchewan for \$92 which includes licence plates.

In B.C., a preferred risk driver would get \$100,000 liability and \$100 deductible collision for \$78 if the car was driven for pleasure or \$92 if it was driven for business.

He said B.C. insurance may claim if the Saskatchewan plan was introduced here "Victoria motorists would pay more than they do now."

And insurance agents claim "less than 10 per cent of their policy-holders are seriously critical of rates," he added.

Mr. Bevis also noted insurance companies are also complaining of operating at a loss.

To get out of the red they would have to:

Eliminate from their books risks that are unprofitable;

Introduce "realistic" premiums;

Cut operating costs, and seek a higher percentage of low-risk business.

MORE REASONS

John McEwen, executive assistant to the secretary of the B.C. Federation of Labour, added more reasons for increased premiums.

He blamed auto manufacturers who claim newly introduced safety features such as better tires and seat belts save lives.

"But they build their cars with massive bumpers that won't stop a fast-flying fly."

And the bumpers themselves are not built to any regulation height.

Some will take out a muffler, others a trunk in a collision, instead of meeting the other motorist's bumper, he said.

And cars today have more expensive items such as curved glass in side windows.

He claimed a government scheme would save policyholders 15 per cent in premiums in administrative costs alone.

PROPOSED SCHEME

He said the proposed scheme which is to be studied by a royal commission, should operate like public health insurance.

"If somebody is sick we don't ask if they were in the right or wrong."

And he suggested claims should be paid to all persons involved in an accident whether in the right or wrong in the same manner used by workmen's compensation boards.

"When there is an accident in Saskatchewan the claim is paid now. Not in two months or two years," he said.

Asked when he expected to see government auto insurance in B.C., Mr. Hartley replied: "I don't expect us to get car insurance in the foreseeable future."

"Big money has kept governments out of car insurance and defeated parties in favor of it. We've been up against the biggest companies on the North American continent."

Panelists agreed the government should be responsible for retraining or resituating of insurance workers displaced by legislation.

Royal Oak School Holding Reunion For Old Pupils

Former students who attended Royal Oak Elementary School prior to 1925 have been invited back to the school March 8.

The alumni are invited to a reunion at 8 p.m. that day to mark Education Week.

Royal Oak School will be 100 years old this fall. The present school was built 12 years ago only a block away from the original site.

The first building burned down in 1893 and was replaced with an old structure that is still standing across from the old municipal hall.

Further details of the school reunion may be obtained from Mrs. Ronald Pierce at GR 3-6980 or Mrs. T. R. Gerrard at GR 9-5454.

Students Defy Indonesia Ban

JAKARTA (Reuters) - Hundreds of Indonesian high school students left their classes today and defied a government ban by staging a protest march against Foreign Minister Subandrio and the Communist party.

The students marched to the University of Indonesia where they were joined by members of the outlawed Student Action Command (KAMI).

Troops and armed police stood by as they blocked the road in front of the university, sticking posters denouncing Subandrio and the Communists on windshields of cars.

The demonstrations were the latest in a string of protests fol-

lowing President Sukarno's cabinet reshuffle last week.

The students were angry because he fired Defence Minister Abdul Haris Nasution but retained several ministers they blame for Indonesia's economic and political ills.

Meanwhile, Jakarta Garrison Commander Brig. - Gen. Amir Machud announced the formation of an all-embracing National Union of Students which he said was the first step toward a student organization to be personally led by President Sukarno.

On Friday the president outlawed KAMI and banned all student gatherings following two days of violent student demonstrations.



DEFENCE MINISTER Hellyer will visit Victoria March 4. He will call on the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Services College, Royal Roads.

UGANDA CHIEF FACES NEW TRIBE TENSIONS

By DENNIS NEEDL

KAMPALA (AP)—Prime Minister Milton Obote of Uganda has pulled off a coup from the top but he still seems dependent on the loyalty of the army.

In apparent attempt to ensure the army's continued allegiance, the 42-year-old prime minister quietly made Col. Idi Amin, regarded as a tough and trusted Obote supporter, its new commander.

Obote's personal assumption of all government power, suspension of the constitution and arrest of five cabinet ministers last week climaxed a growing split within his ruling Uganda People's Congress. The split was between members of Obote's

Nilotic tribe in northern Uganda and Bantus of the south.

The Bantus are generally considered more conservative and pro-Western than the politicians from the north, and they resent the increasing number of Nilotics filling top administrative posts.

Bantu strength and influence within the UPC recently grew to become an open threat to Obote's leadership with allegations in parliament that Obote, two of his cabinet allies and Amin, then deputy commander of the army, were linked in an illegal deal involving gold and ivory from The Congo.

The legislators were also told that a number of ministers were plotting with Amin to overthrow the constitution and there

were rumors the army was about to take over.

Cabinet rivals, led by 33-year-old minister of state Grace Bingira, pressured Obote into setting up a commission to inquire into the allegations. Bingira was one of the five Bantu ministers arrested last week.

Obote said he took over because of discovery of a plot to overthrow the government with the help of "massive military assistance" from unnamed foreign powers.

Many people thought Obote acted to block the commission of inquiry, but the prime minister announced Saturday that a commission of three senior judges—two of them Britons—would begin work March 7.

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