

# Car Rates 'Commitment'

Premier Dave Barrett gave his guarantee Tuesday that no driver in B.C. will pay more next year for car insurance than was charged in 1972 by private companies.

Barrett was elaborating on remarks he made Monday in Vancouver, at which time he said insurance rates under the Insurance Corporation of B.C. — the crown company which has taken over the car insurance business in the province — would be 22 per cent lower in 1974 than they would have been under private industry.

Barrett said there will be some cases where people have received special benefits

from their insurance companies for having extra driver training or years of accident-free driving. In many of these cases, he said, the insurance corporation will not have access to special rate information because of the lack of co-operation given by the private insurance companies.

The premier said he is making a "commitment" that where a person can prove that he is being required to pay more in 1974 for car insurance than he did in 1972, the government-owned insurance corporation will lower the person's rates to a level equal with the 1972 charge.

Asked if this position could be interpreted as a guarantee from him, and from the government, that no driver in the province will pay more in 1974 for insurance than he did in 1972, Barrett said: "Yes, that is correct."

He said the government's "general aim" and "goal" is to have 1974 car insurance rates conform with what was charged by the private insurance companies in 1972, the year the NDP was elected.

Asked if the government's desire is a commitment, or only a goal, he said: "It is a commitment."

Barrett said there will be a

large number of administrative problems as a result of the new insurance scheme coming into effect, and said the problems will be largely the result of his insistence that the March 1, 1974, deadline be met.

The premier said the insurance corporation will often not know about the special considerations drivers have been given by their private insurance companies, since these considerations are often not part of the official insurance record.

But when a person is able to produce a receipt showing that the amount he paid for his car insurance in 1972 is less than that charged by the Insurance Corporation of B.C. for 1974, "we will bring (the rate) down for them."

Barrett also said there will be "surprisingly welcome" and "significant" reductions in insurance rates for young drivers, those persons under 25 who pay their own insurance rates on their own cars.

## Probation In Slaying

NANAIMO — Annie Dawley, 59, of Gabriola Island, was given a three-year probation term after being found guilty in Assize Court Tuesday of manslaughter.

The charge arose from the shooting death of her husband, Clarence, on Gabriola Island last Aug. 21. She pleaded not guilty to a charge of non-capital murder.

## MINCOME AROUSES 12,000

The provincial government is processing 12,000 applications from B.C. residents aged 60 to 65 years who now qualify for Mincome benefits, Human Resources Minister Norman Levi said Tuesday.

Those applicants do not include the 5,500 senior citizens between 60 and 65 who will automatically be transferred to Mincome from

other government assistance programs, including 4,500 on welfare and 1,000 on handicapped persons benefits.

Expansion of Mincome coverage, which guarantees a monthly pension of at least \$209.02 for senior citizens, was announced last August to be effective Oct. 1.

The program previously covered only people over 65 years of age.

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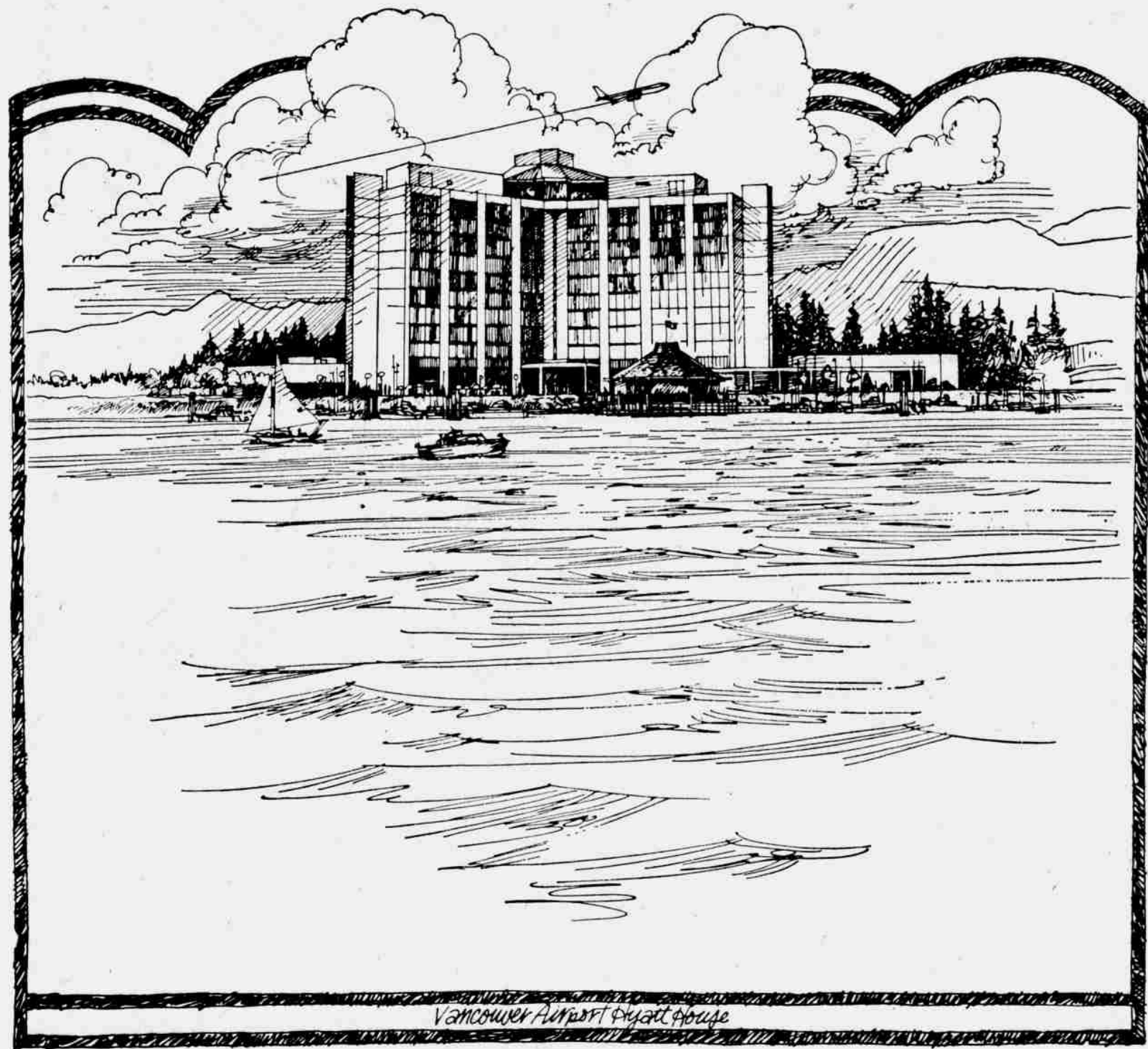


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# Mayfair Confirms Job

Mayfair Shopping Centre will be expanded to 32 stores in a \$1 million 10-store expansion program, J. D. Scott, president of Canadian Allied Property Investments Ltd., confirmed Tuesday.

Construction will start early next year and the work is expected to be completed in 18 months.

The centre, built in 1963, will have an additional 70,000 square feet of store space, for a total of 310,000. Much of the expansion will centre around the mall, which will be enclosed.

Scott confirmed an earlier report the food section of Woodward's will be expanded and said a separate 16,000-square-foot store also will be constructed for Woodward's to be called a bargain centre. Woodward's leases buildings from Canadian Allied Property Investments.

Scott confirmed parking will be increased by 300 spaces by decking part of the area adjacent to Tolmie Avenue and by leasing city-owned land at Blanshard and Finlayson.

Architects for the expansion are Wade, Stockhill, Armour and Blewett.

The new stores being added will be mainly related to fashion clothing. Exterior of existing buildings will be refurbished and landscaping added.

Mayfair Shopping Centre is owned by the Laing group of companies which also controls Guildford Town Centre in Surrey and has an interest in Project 200 in downtown Vancouver.

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