

Sunday business crackdown vowed

By RANDY GLOVER

City council voted Tuesday to crack down on retail stores remaining open on Sundays.

The action came after Ald. Jack Volrich said the situation was getting out of hand.

"The provincial Lord's Day Act is being openly abused," he said.

Council vote 9-1 in favor of a motion recommended by Volrich, with only Ald. Fritz Bowers opposed. Aldermen Art Cowie and Warnett Kennedy were absent.

Volrich's motion contained two proposals for acting against the retail stores. These were:

- The city apply to the provincial attorney-general for a general fiat or permission under the Lord's Day Act to prosecute stores remaining open on Sunday. Under existing legislation, the city must apply to the attorney-general for permission each time it wants to prosecute specific stores.
- City solicitor Charles Fleming expand the city's own shops closing bylaw to provide for the closing of shops on Sunday.

In an interview following the council meeting, Volrich said that once the city's bylaw had been amended it would no longer require provincial authority to prosecute under the Lord's Day Act.

The Lord's Day Act is federal legislation, but no prosecution may be begun under it without the leave of the attorney-general of the province in which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

Volrich said the present situation is so critical that immediate action is needed under the provincial act.

The Ontario government has already acted to crack down on Sunday openings, Volrich said.

Under new legislation which became effective Jan. 1, Ontario stores remaining open on Sunday face a maximum fine of \$10,000, he said.

B.C. fines for violation of Sunday opening restrictions will also have to be increased, Volrich added.

"The current penalty of \$40 is completely ineffective," he said.

Volrich said he intends to discuss the matter personally with Attorney-General Garde Gardom and give him a list of city stores which have openly violated the Lord's Day Act.

He said the major violators of the Sunday closing law are retail furniture stores and small department stores.

There was little debate on Volrich's motion in council Tuesday. Bowers did not

explain his opposition to the motion, but when Volrich first proposed such a crackdown last year Bowers said he feared this would result in Gastown stores being forced to close on Sunday.

Last year, council supported another motion by Volrich that the city prosecute stores remaining open on Remembrance Day.

In other business Tuesday, council approved a B.C. Hydro proposal for a rail-truck terminal on the north shore of False Creek.

But the approval was subject to Hydro's board of directors agreeing to move out of the area by Dec. 31, 1986.

Council demanded the deadline so the terminal will not interfere with plans for housing and recreation on the north shore of the creek.

The Hydro proposal will, however, free land on the north shore of the creek for a bypass route into the downtown peninsula.

This, in turn, will allow the city to re-route cross-town traffic currently moving through Chinatown on the Pender-Keeler diversion.

It is not yet clear how the city will finance the \$1 million cost of the road.

Two downtown eastside hotels that refused to comply with city fire bylaws will not be granted business licenses this year unless they come to terms with the city.

Denied licenses were the Vanport Hotel, 645 Main, and the Ivanhoe Hotel, 1033 Main.

Council turned down a \$3,500 grant to the Brock House Society after Aldermen Volrich, Bowers and Mike Harcourt voted against it. The grant required at least eight affirmative votes on council.

The society is attempting to secure Brock House on Point Grey Road as an activity centre for senior citizens.

Harcourt said he opposed the grant because society members originally promised they would be entirely self-supporting.

A bonus scheme to protect low-cost housing in Kitsilano was referred for discussion to council's housing committee.

The scheme would encourage developers to build larger apartment buildings if they set aside a number of units for senior citizens, the poor and the handicapped.

It was referred to the committee after Ald. Darlene Marzari said she didn't think proposed regulations were specific enough about the criteria for "low income" people who would benefit.



FIVE-POINT DESCENT of beginners' practice slope used by four-year-old Lindsay Sommers during skiing class on mountain Tuesday afternoon.

Christopher DAFOE



THE PLEASURES OF THE TOWN: PART ONE.

I must be the only boy in our block who has never seen a genuine, old fashioned, shock-your-grandmother "blue" film. Erotica has passed me by. Visual porn has eluded me. The longshoremen have never seen it to invite me to their annual smoker, and when I last attended a stag-party—held in honor of a forthcoming wedding—our host regaled us with colored slides taken during his holiday on Prince Edward Island.

Nowadays, of course, blue films of a sort are available to the general public in a number of small, hole-in-the-corner cinemas located among the clutter at the dusty end of the Granville bridge, where second-hand sex is available at reduced prices and where disappointment lurks under every lamp-post.

Theatre row offers something for almost every taste. This week, for example, thrill-seekers can see the Hindenburg blow up with great loss of life, or watch Telly Savalas destroy his enemies in a variety of entertaining ways. Down the block, those who have passed beyond mere violence can look in on the naked pleasures of the orient, "filmed with hidden cameras," or, for a trifling \$3.50, watch a number of attractive young and middle-aged people pretend to make love on the big screen at the Eve.

Who goes to the Eve? Well, I went there Tuesday afternoon; purely in the interests of research, you understand. Getting in was the most disconcerting part of the exercise.

AS I FUMBLER FOR MY \$3.50 AT THE wicket — glancing nervously around to see if anyone who knew me was passing by—the ticket-seller, probably the most jaded ticket-seller on theatre row, regarded me as she might regard a stray cockroach on the kitchen sink. I grabbed my ticket and fled into the anonymous darkness, clutching my peanuts.

The film — the first item in a double bill—was already in progress. A pretty but tough-looking German girl was contriving to make love with a chance acquaintance in the lavatory of a railway train. A great deal of what was, in a more innocent age, called "pinch and tickle" took place, and then the frantic couple got down to business while the theatre seats groaned as members of the small audience leaned forward to take it all in. The sound of spilling popcorn provided a counterpoint to the cries and groans on screen.

You could see at once that the director faced a vexing problem. Variety, after all, is the spice of life and with an hour and a half of film to fill with images, means had to be found to break the monotony. One heaving bosom tends to look pretty much like another after 10 minutes or so. Ninety minutes of non-stop thrashing might prove trying, even to the most willing victim of erotomania.

The director solved the problem nicely, I think, by including a great deal of lush European landscape between his various erotic explosions. We saw a lot of rather pleasant German countryside, some really stunning footage of Lake Lucerne in August and, during a foray into Italy, some pleasing Veronese townscapes.

I WOULD SAY, IN FACT, THAT THE film was about 85 per cent travel-talk and 15 per cent bawdry. R. W. McDonald might very well have been tempted to say "Almost totally concerned with architecture."

The greatest surprise of all came, however, when the lights went up between features. Almost the entire audience consisted of elderly men and women. One detected the odd youthful face blushing into the collar of its trenchcoat, but the young were outnumbered two to one by the senior citizens.

Was it nostalgia that brought these oldsters in out of the weather? Did they come into the darkness in order to fan a falling flame or to hold the angel of death at bay?

Pornography, I suppose, has its uses for the lonely, the old, the bored and the unattractive. For some, those ripe shadows up on the screen are as close as many will ever come to the pleasures that the young and the attractive take for granted. For some of us, the porn film is an inane and pointless waste of time. To others, less fortunate, it provides a small flame to warm the hands on a cold day.

'I heard clank and drew gun'

A man charged with resisting arrest during an incident in which his cousin was shot and killed by an off-duty RCMP officer appeared for trial Tuesday in North Vancouver provincial court.

Bruce William Edgar, 26, of Lillooet, also is charged with assaulting Constable Garry Mydlak and with operating a motor vehicle while his blood alcohol level was more than .08 per cent.

Edgar was charged following a July 25 incident in which William Miles Hamilton, 22, of 313 East Fifth, North Vancouver, was fatally shot in the chest during an altercation at Fromme Road and Wendel Place in Lynn Valley.

Mydlak who lived nearby, testified Tuesday that he was awakened from his sleep in the early hours of July 25 by the sounds of squealing tires and went outside to investigate.

He said he pulled on trousers and a sweater, took his wallet with RCMP identification badge and his service revolver, which he said he had not fired for five years, and walked out barefoot to find a truck driven by Edgar.

Mydlak told the court he felt Edgar was impaired and placed him under arrest. Hamilton, he said, had come along on foot

and there was a confrontation between the two men and the constable that went on for about 10 minutes.

Mydlak said that during this time he repeatedly told the pair he was a police officer and to "be cool" but when he heard "a metallic clanking" and thought Hamilton had taken a gun from the truck, he drew his service weapon from his waist.

Mydlak said that when Hamilton came toward him he fired a warning shot into the air. He then fired three more shots in rapid succession, he said, and two struck and killed Hamilton.

At one point, Mydlak said, Edgar attacked him and struck him several times.

The constable testified that he adopted a zig-zag pattern of retreat from a standard police defensive crouch position and aimed his weapon at the heads of the two men to stop their advance.

He said he was trying to hold off the two men until the arrival of an RCMP patrol car which he had summoned by phone before leaving his house.

Mydlak testified the three shots fired in less than two seconds came when the pair closed in on him, Edgar from the left and Hamilton from the right.

The trial was to continue today.

ICBC report a fight against time

By JES ODAM

Consulting actuary Byron Straight said Thursday he did not have time to determine whether Autoplan premium rates are fair for different drivers and vehicles.

He said also he would like to have had more time to check ICBC's estimate of claims costs for next year.

Straight, a 53-year-old mathematician-turned-actuary and part of a trio of well-known Vancouver brothers, was commenting on his report on the proposed 1976 Autoplan rates.

He was given six days by the new Social Credit government to do the job and it

was one of his alternative rate structures that was chosen originally by Pat McGeer, the cabinet minister responsible for government auto insurance.

The adopted alternative was the one which provided for the highest immediate cost to the motorist, involving amounts averaging two to 2½ times those paid for 1975 auto insurance in B.C.

Straight, with a dry wit and a lifetime of pioneering in the insurance and pension fields after stints as a teacher and university lecturer, said that at any point in his review he could have stopped and announced that without more information he could not complete the job.

"But the job had to be done so I made what decisions I could in the time available," he added.

He said he would have liked to have had time to do more tests on figures prepared within ICBC on claims costs.

"But the variations would not have affected the final recommendations except in some small quantity," he added.

Straight, educated at Kitsilano High School and the University of B.C., is a brother of Vancouver newspapermen Hal and Lee Straight.

He is the man who estimated the cost of medicare for the Saskatchewan govern-

ment and who was largely responsible for the first denticare scheme in B.C.

At one time, he was the only insurance actuary in B.C. and was a member of the former Automobile Insurance Board set up in 1971 by the previous Social Credit government.

He belongs to no political party and, as an example of his sense of humor, once listed "turkey winner in Christmas raffle" as the answer to an "honors and awards" question on a form seeking biographical details.

Straight said that during his examination of Autoplan he did not have time to go into the question of equity between rates charged for different categories of drivers and vehicles.

These projections include a 16-per-cent increase in frequency and severity of claims and a 23-per-cent increase in expenses other than agents' commissions.

They also include a sharp drop in investment income compared with 1974 because of Autoplan's deficit and "hopelessly inadequate" premiums in the past.

He said he was told it was not possible to make changes to the Autoplan program for 1976 because of lack of time.

The alternative premium amounts, he suggested, are straight percentage increases on rates prepared earlier.



Mac REYNOLDS

THE MILKMAN'S CART WITH THE Boy Scout dragging from the reins of its runaway cob sideswiped a brewer's team, a hackney coach and a gentleman's landau before collapsing on a broken axle.

Immediately a class of adjusters descended on the scene to establish damage, liability, benefits, exclusions, claims, fault and no-fault.

"Another write-off," said Elmer Crupper, director of the Insurance Corporation of B.C.'s Equine Contingency Plan. "And deciding whether the kid should be classified as operator, passenger or hitch-hiker will take them days."

Crupper already had told me the story behind Autoplan's hush-hush project.

As everyone knows, the decision of the Social Credit government to double or even triple auto insurance premiums followed the report of actuary Byron Straight.

What has not been known is that a secret report on the consequences of such a crippling increase was prepared simultaneously by Byron Straight's smarter brother.

It showed that vehicles powered by internal combustion would be rapidly supplanted by engineless conveyances of the Victorian era and before.

The Equine Contingency Plan grew out of this projection.

"As I understand it, Mr. Crupper, what you have built here is a test course on which ICBC adjusters are subjected to the conditions they can expect to face in the near future," I said.

"EXACTLY," SAID CRUPPER.

"Right now these boys don't know a martingale from a surcingle. They think a whiplash is something that happens to your neck in a rear-ender, for Pete's sake. We've got to get them thinking buggy!"

"Well, if this is 1979 by the contingency plan calendar, how do you see the traffic on the streets?"

"By now everything's horse-drawn," Crupper said. "The sedan chair made an early appearance but it didn't last long. It had its points. It was labor-intensive and heaven knows the unemployment needed something like that."

"What happened?"

"There wasn't much opposition as long as the practice was to carry the litterers at knee level. But the minister in charge of ICBC, Dr. McGeer, had those planes to catch for his weekends in Hawaii, remem-

ber. It was when he demanded that his liveried porters bear him to the airport at shoulder height that people began to get ugly."

"But even the horse-drawn vehicles now in common use must make life for ICBC much simpler," I said.

"You are kidding," Crupper said. "Have 'Nothing's changed. The rich are still hogging the roads with their big oat-burners. The kids are drag-racing ponies. The cabbies in the growlers are a law unto themselves. And don't even ask me about the teamsters!"

"Still," I persisted, "the whole object of the rate increase was to put ICBC on a profitable or break-even basis. That's surely been achieved."

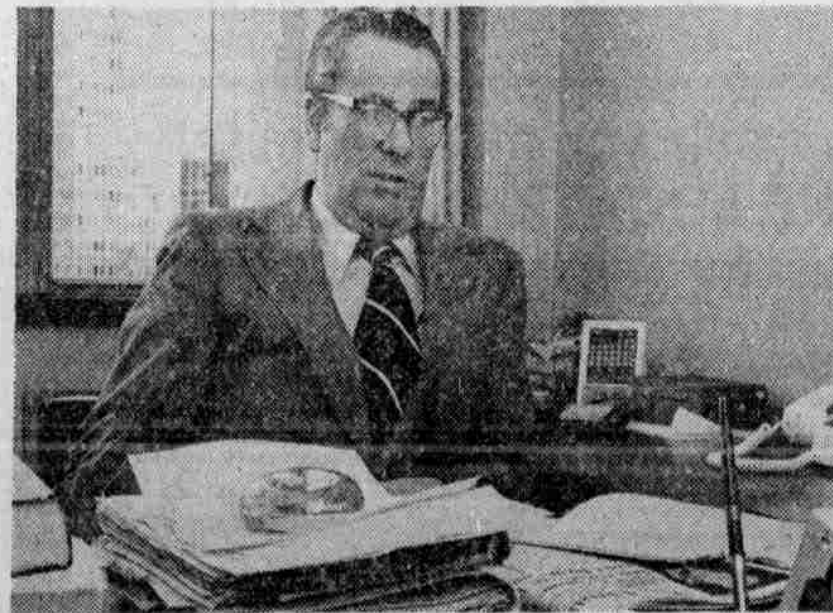
"You are kidding," Crupper said. "Have you any idea what it costs now to put a new spoke in a wagon wheel? You can't get a dung cart without parting with an arm and a leg. The blacksmiths are robbing us blind. And if the vets think they are getting a penny more they're beating a dead horse!"

I was about to leave — Crupper had a lesson to give on evaluation of horse brasses — when I remembered something.

"What happened to all those car dealers' MLAs?" I asked.

"The projection showed five dealers going to the graveyard and none coming back," said Crupper. "The rubber-tired hack was pulled by eight black horses harnessed to form a V, which I thought a nice touch."

"Tasteful, too," I said.



ACTUARY BYRON STRAIGHT . . . no personal opinions on ICBC

Sally Ann fund gets \$300 gift

A \$300 anonymous donation was one of a dozen contributions to the Vancouver Sun-Salvation Army Christmas Cheer Fund that raised the total to almost \$92,000 Tuesday.

The money is used by the Army in its many projects for the needy.

Latest donors:

Michelle and Maureen Hill	5.00
Elizabeth D. Harrington	25.00
Alas A. G. Stewart	100.00
Heather Jo Chute	13.15
Little Theatre Club	3.55
In memory of Joan	20.00
Christopher Vipond	7.50
In memory of Don Bentley,	25.00
Cuna Mutual Insurance Society	200.00
Anonymous	
Sunshine Hills Carollers—	
Jo-Anne, Garret, Suzy, Jackie	
and Nadine	50.00
George Parley	20.00
A friend (O.A.P.)	5.00
TOTAL	\$91,935.17