

THE WORLD

PORTUGAL TENSE

Tension heightened in Portugal between socialists and the governing armed forces movement, with both groups calling emergency meetings. Page 2

THREE TRAPPED

Three Americans were trapped inside an American aid compound occupied by Laotian students in Vientiane. Negotiations were under way for their release. Page 2

ISRAEL VENTS FEARS

Israeli newspapers said the nation fears that Egypt plans to move troops to the east bank of the Suez prior to the canal's scheduled reopening June 5. Page 3

U.S. OFFICERS KILLED

Iranian terrorists killed two U.S. officers in Tehran Wednesday, claiming it was a reprisal for government execution of nine terrorists. Page 3

CANADA

EXPO MEAT TAINTED

The owner of a meat salvaging firm testified in Montreal Wednesday that he stockpiled 500,000 pounds of tainted meat in 1966 for resale at Expo '67. Page 8

CIA CHARGE STUDIED

The government is investigating charges that two agents of the CIA operated in Canada without official permission. Page 8

SIU INVESTIGATION

Labor Minister John Munro ordered a federal investigation of the Seafarers' International Union. Page 8

BUSINESS

'GUN TO OUR HEAD'

James Rhodes, chairman of the B.C. Petroleum Corp. said the natural gas industry is holding a gun to the head of his corporation in an attempt to force up prices. Page 20

PRICES STABLE

Prices of construction materials have been remarkably stable over the past nine months, according to B.C. Construction Association president Frank Reder. Page 21

SPORTS

THREE RECORDS

Scott Neilson of New Westminster set three records at the Vancouver and district high school track and field meet at Minoru Park. Page 16

AUSTRALIA WINS

The touring Australian cricket team whipped B.C.'s select team by 257 for six declared to 104. Page 13

AROUND B.C.

LANDLORD SUED

Twelve former tenants of an East Hastings apartment block are suing the landlord for failure to give adequate accommodation by not providing maintenance and repairs. Page 25

MEDIA RESPONSIBLE

Consumer Services Minister Phyllis Young introduced legislation Wednesday which would make the media legally responsible for some of the ads they carry. Page 25

WEATHER

Sunny today with cloudy periods. Rain on Friday. Details on Page 12.

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\$20 an hour, up from ICBC's \$15.50

Strictly cash for body repairs

By BERTON WOODWARD

It will be strictly cash-and-carry — at \$20 an hour — for dented fenders and bent bumpers at Lower Mainland body shops starting today.
Shop owners Wednesday night voted to charge that rate directly to customers for the duration of the strike against the Insurance Corporation of B.C., spinning an ICBC plan for motorists with insurance claims to pay the deductible and let the garages settle with ICBC later.
The move came at a meeting of the body shop division of the Automotive Re-

tailers Association called before the strike began to discuss their demands for a new ICBC labor rate in the face of recent wage settlements with body shop workers.
About 125 owners voted unanimously to ignore the ICBC strike plan. There was some discussion on the \$4.50 increase to \$20 but a number of owners threatened to close their shops if a new labor rate was not forthcoming.
ICBC currently pays body shops \$15.50 an hour for labor on claims. Bob Mussallem, chairman of the ARA body shop division, said the corporation has offered a new rate of \$18.50, effective July 1.

The decision means customers will be charged the full cost of repairs on an insurance claim. It will be up to them to get reimbursed by ICBC.
Under a scheme announced by ICBC Tuesday, motorists with claims were to get estimates from two body shops, then get the work done at the lower-priced shop. If there was no fault by the driver in the accident, ICBC would refund the deductible paid.
However, Mussallem said ICBC was asking the body shop owners to be strike-breakers by making estimates that union ICBC adjusters generally do.

"We don't want to get embroiled in a labor dispute because after the strike is over, we have to work with the strikers," he said.
The owners also have no guarantee ICBC would come through with the total amount of the claim, Mussallem told the meeting.
He told The Province the best thing for a driver with a claim to do would be to authorize the body shop work, then go to ICBC for a claim draft — tantamount to a cheque — and pay the shop in cash after cashing the draft at his bank.
Transport Minister Robert Strachan

said ICBC would pay body shops a monthly sum during the strike equal to what the shop received from the corporation the previous month.
Mussallem said under the owners' system, the payments could still be made because ICBC owes most shops a considerable amount for back claims. Any over-ages could be deducted later.
A report to the association by a chartered accountants firm said the owners need a labor rate of \$19.85 on June 1 or \$20.20 July 1 to maintain the profit margin in dollar terms of the first three months of 1975.

Debate deal certain

By BARBARA McLINTOCK
Province Victoria Bureau

VICTORIA —A compromise on the controversial question of time limits on debate in the B.C. Legislature seemed almost certain Wednesday night.
Debate began Wednesday afternoon on a motion outlining the compromise plan, and although no vote had been taken by the time the House adjourned for the day, spokesmen for all four parties said they would support the plan.
The compromise would see the end to the lengthy controversy which has several times brought the House to chaos during the last few weeks. It is based on a proposal first made by Liberal leader David Anderson and accepted by the government and by Conservative leader Scott Wallace.
The Social Credit Official Opposition Wednesday made some technical changes to the proposal, and the government and the other parties accepted those too, apparently making the compromise acceptable to all.
Under the plan, the House would sit for two hours each morning to continue debate of spending estimates, cut off about two weeks ago at the end of the allotted period of 135 hours. The 135-hour, 45-sitting limit was forced by the government through the House in 1974, but this was the first time it had been used.
The House would continue its regularly scheduled afternoon and evening sittings to debate proposed legislation.
The controversy came when debate was stopped at the end of the 135 hours. The opposition cried "Closure!" and stalled the passing of the rest of the estimates.
Three opposition MLAs were thrown out of the House for disobeying the rules during the protest, and two of them — Sacred leader Bill Bennett and Don Phillips (SC—South Peace River) — boycotted the House for several days, afterwards, taking the issue to the electorate through a series of public meetings.
By the time Gordon Gibson (L—North Vancouver-Capilano) was thrown out last Thursday, only 12 estimates out of 225, representing \$2.3 billion, had been passed.
In accepting the Sacred's technical changes to the compromise plan — changes that would give the opposition slightly wider scope for debate during the morning sitting — Premier Dave Barrett noted that he does not believe the public has understood or been interested in the issue.
However, he said it is important for the functioning of the House and for the democratic system as a whole that a reasonable compromise be found.
"When rule breaks down here . . . then cynicism sets in, and that isn't good for the system," Barrett added.

Drivers 'let off' during strike

By BERTON WOODWARD
and HARVEY SOUTHAM



Former Liberal MLAs, from left, Allan Williams, Garde Gardom and Dr. Pat McGeer are now an independent group.

Defectors receive ovations

By FRED CURTIN

About 1,200 persons filled the auditorium, gymnasium and hallways of Prince of Wales School Wednesday night to give former Liberal MLAs Patrick McGeer, Garde Gardom and Allan Williams standing ovations for their defections for unity in B.C. politics.
McGeer told 650 persons who had filled the auditorium long before the start of the meeting, that the new group is already the fastest growing political party in B.C.
"We are an independent group, anyone can join. There is only one rule. Never accept a dinner invitation to watch a hockey game."
He was referring to a recent dinner held in Victoria at the home of Social Credit leader Bill Bennett when a unified front against socialism was discussed.
McGeer also referred to statements by Frank Hillier, president of the Social Credit Constituency Association in Point Grey, that McGeer was on the way to becoming a Social Creditor.
"Independents are always being wooed. I haven't ruled out any possibilities except one, the NDP."
"I am against them because they are discriminatory. They asked me to resign for leaving the party but never asked Scott Wallace to do that (when he left Social Credit to join the Conservatives)."
McGeer said the issue before him is simple. Is the province to be governed by dogmatic socialists or free enterprise?
"That is all that matters. It is far more important than loyalty to any political party. It makes politics irrelevant."
McGeer said there are four parties in B.C. but only two ideologies.
"The socialist ideology is accepted by

only a minority. The problem with free enterprise parties is that they are defeating the ideology they are pledged to support by dividing the vote.
"If I have a contribution to make it is to solve this dilemma. Put B.C. first and party politics second."
McGeer said he is not interested in starting another party and has no ambitions for leadership.
"There is more to government than leg-

islation. Tasks of management, tasks of using public money wisely and tasks of building for the future.
"It is in these areas the NDP has failed miserably."
McGeer said the Insurance Corporation of B.C. is now losing \$250,000 a day, the ferries, which were making money before the NDP government, are now losing

See Page 10 — LIBERALS



Overflow crowd filled the school auditorium, gymnasium (above) and hallways.

Nass Indians to close CanCel logging roads

By JAMES SPEARS

Indians of the Nass Valley, north of Terrace, plan to shut down an estimated 80 per cent of the logging operations of Canadian Cellulose Co. Ltd. (CanCel) — and it's all perfectly legal.
The Nishga Tribal Council, representing four Indian bands in the valley that hold road rights-of-way leased to CanCel, informed the company Wednesday the roads would be closed to commercial traffic.
The Indians have been planning the action seriously for months, and planning it quietly for over two years. For more than two years the Nishga Indians have been

refusing to renew the road permits and CanCel, 79-per-cent owned by the provincial government, has been sweating it out.
Chief Bill McKay of the Greenville Indian band, one of the four bands, said Wednesday the road closure will be for one week starting June 1, but that further closures were possible. "What happens after June 7 will be entirely up to the provincial government," said McKay.
He said the closure is aimed at the provincial government, which has refused to negotiate with the Nishgas over 4,000 square miles in the Nass Valley claimed by the Indians. The Indians won a moral victory on the claim two years ago when

the Supreme Court of Canada handed down a split decision. The federal government then conceded the Nishgas had a land claim.
But it is the provincial government that owns the land and has refused to negotiate, said McKay. "They are trying to create a backlash against the Indian people, but the people in the northwest of B.C. know our position and support us."
He said the road closure, with an informational road blockade at Mile 38 of the Terrace-Nass highway, will affect only commercial traffic and that the public is free to use Indian land.
In Vancouver, Nishga Tribal Council

lawyer Don Rosenbloom Wednesday informed CanCel, the International Woodworkers of America, Human Resources Minister Norm Levi and Resources Minister Bob Williams of the intended closure.
CanCel employs an estimated 3,000 people in logging, pulp and sawmill operations near Terrace and Prince Rupert. A CanCel spokesman said that although inventories of logs and pulp were fairly high because of a weak market, "there's no question there will be an impact on our operations."
Nass River logging operations are

Port report leaked

A leaked report to the federal cabinet says increased autonomy for local ports and a new national port authority to oversee federal interests in Canadian harbors should form the keystone of any new ports structure. For details see Page 8.

Port report leaked

See Page 10 — INDIANS