B.C. ROUNDUP

BCFL calls for boycott of South African goods

VANCOUVER (CP) — The 130,000-member British Columbia Federation of Labor (CLC) today ordered its 263 member unions to have nothing to do with South African produce or products.

Secretary E. P. O'Neal announced the instructions and added that the Federation will make representation to the B.C. government on South African wines and liquors on the shelves of government liquor control board stores.

The boycott, in protest against South Africa's racial policies, was requested of all Canadian unions at the recent convention of the Canadian Labor Congress in Montreal.

More for sports

TRAIL (CP)—Delegates attending the Provincial Recreation Conference here agreed Thursday a generous allocation of the community's welfare dollar should be given to allow sports enthusiasts to engage as cheaply as possible in their favorite pastimes.

More than 200 delegates engaged in the administration and organization of recreation throughout the province are attending the three-day third annual conference, which opened Thursday.

12 years in prison

NEW WESTMINSTER (CP) — John Gowans of nearby Mission, charged with murder but found guilty of manslaughter Wednesday in the January 13 beating death of Enid Neely, 24, today was sentenced to 12 years.

In passing sentence Mr. Justice H. W. McInnes said he took into consideration the jury's plea for leniency.

However, he said drunkenness may afford a defence to the charge of murder but it did not affect the penalty of taking a human life.

To bypass Kelowna

VERNON (CP) — The provincial government is seeking an alternative route for Highway 97 on the west side of Okanagan Lake, to bypass both Vernon and Kelowna.

A 12-man survey crew has set up office here and is working on a survey from O'Keefe south. A similar crew is located at Kelowna, working north from Westbank.

Object of the survey is to find the best right-of-way for a standard - width highway from O'Keefe Ranch to Westbank. The present road is considered narrow and dangerous in places.

Contract awarded

PENTICTON (CP) — Dalrymple Construction Company of Penticton has been awarded a contract to build new studios and offices for radio station CKOK. Occupancy target date is November 1.

Low rental project

PENTICTON (CP)—The Kiwanis Club here hopes to start its low rental housing project for senior citizens this year, city council was told. A progress report said the project now is awaiting B.C. cabinet approval.

School tenders

SUMMERLAND (CP) — School board expects to call tenders for the MacDonald elementary school addition the first week in June. Sketch plans are coming from Victoria.

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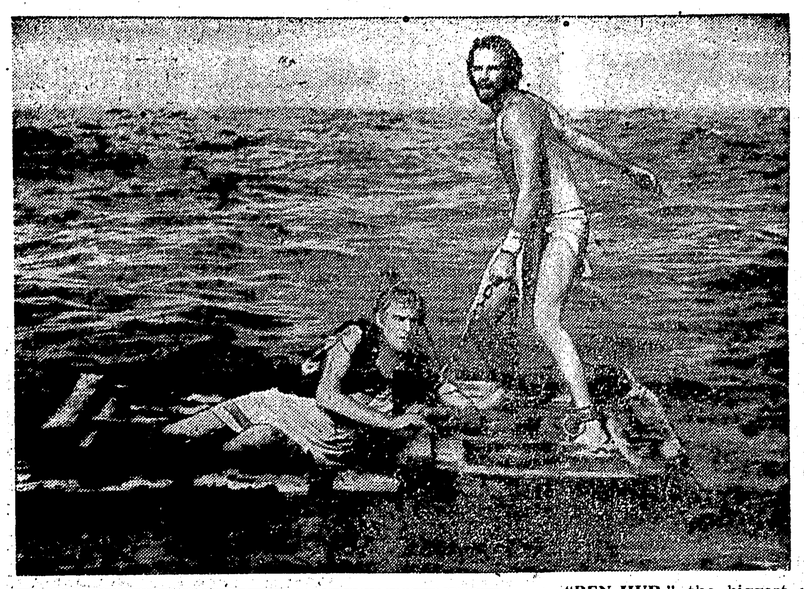

BEN-HUR ARRESTED—Charlton Heston, as Ben-Hur, is taken prisoner by Roman guards on the orders of his former friend, Messala (Stephen Boyd). This is one of the dramatic scenes in "Ben-Hur," MGM's epic film version of the Gen. Lew Wallace classic, which is reputed to have cost $15,000,000. The film was shot in Italy where costs are much lower.

"BEN-HUR," the biggest motion picture ever made, had its world premiere on November 18 in New York City, after which the $15,000,000 Metro-Goldwyn - Mayer production, directed by William Wyler, will be shown in a selected number of cities throughout the nation. In this scene, Charlton Heston, as Ben-Hur, saves the life of the naval commander, Quintus Arrius (Jack Hawkins), by manoeuvering him to a raft after he has been hurled into the sea following a spectacular battle during which their Roman galley is sunk by pirates.

VERNON (CP)—For the amount of money being spent, B.C. has the most "inept, ill-built and ill-conducted highways" of any province or state in North America, said South Okanagan Conservative candidate H. Harrison Smith. He was speaking to the Vernon Conservative Association.

MOVIE COLUMN

Cost of "spectaculars" boosted by promoters?

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Remember the days when big movies used to be advertised as million-dollar productions? Such films would be considered quickies nowadays—or so the publicity would have us believe.

The current product is filled with movies that are supposed to have cost $5,000,000, with some touted as high as $15,000,000 (Ben-Hur). But do they run that high?

When I visited "The Alamo" location at Brackettville, Tex., producer - director - star John Wayne told me the film would cost $5,500,000 to shoot. His salary and other deferments would bring the total to $7,000,000, he said, and advertising, distribution and other charges would bring the total to $11,000,000.

An associate who worked on the project until he feuded with Wayne now declares that "The Alamo" actually cost $2,000,000. Who is right?

CAN-CAN THAT BIG?

"Can-Can" is advertised as a $6,000,000 extravaganza. There is only one big exterior—a standing set at 20th Century-Fox. The musical numbers are staged in one cafe set; the rest of the scenes are played in bedrooms, saloons and one small courtroom.

Nor do the talent charges seem exorbitant. The cast is reasonably priced, except for Frank Sinatra. And he may have done the film at a smaller-than-usual fee to pay off for when he walked out of the studio's Carousel.

Another production figure that would seem inflated is Porgy and Bess. It is also billed as costing $6,000,000.

"Porgy and Bess" was shot with a Negro cast on one big sound stage, except for one brief location nearby. This does not seem to add up to $6,000,000.

BIG ALL RIGHT

Now we come to "Ben-Hur." Could it really have cost $15,000,000? It's big, all right, but it would seem a prodigious feat for any studio to spend that much on four hours of entertainment—chariot race or no chariot race.

Remember that it was made in Italy, where costs are far lower than Hollywood's.

Either the public is being hoodwinked into believing a certain film production costs more than it did; or certain persons or organizations are pocketing funds that are allegedly going into film production.

As a matter of cold fact, what does a film's cost matter to the public? As some hack once said, "the play's the thing."

Canadian's book "Won't quite do"

LONDON (AP)—The Daily Telegraph says that The Street That Died, a new novel by Canadian newspaper man Wallace Reyburn, "won't quite do."

Critic Daniel George rebukes Reyburn for not playing fair in his accounts of love affairs and says the story shouldn't have paid off with the hero's decision to write a novel of the same name as the book. But George adds:

"Taking into account some of the dialogue and domestic scenes the book will not too meanly reward perusal."

The novel is about a free-lance journalist from New Zealand who visits London between the wars, goes to Canada, returns to London after the war and revisits his favorite London district, St. John's Wood.

The plot closely follows Reyburn's own life story. He was born in Auckland, N.Z., in 1913, went to Canada in 1937 and shifted base to Lodon in 1950. He lives in St. John's Wood. His writing activities include a regular column for the Toronto Telegram.

Pearke's wallet still quite thin

VICTORIA (CP)—Defence Minister Pearke's wallet is no fatter now than it was a year ago. And he "couldn't afford" to be lieutenant -governor of British Columbia then.

Mr. Pearkes was asked at a press conference "If you were offered the post of lieutenant-governor of British Columbia, would you accept?"

"That's a hypothetical question," said Mr. Pearkes, who has been named unofficially as a possible successor to retiring Lieutenant - Governor Frank Ross. "I haven't been asked."

A reporter reminded him that he had said he couldn't afford the post a year ago.

"Well I haven't made a lot of money since then," the defence minister replied.

Advertising in The Daily News Brings Results.

Peace River power delays application

VANCOUVER (CP)—President W. C. Mainwaring said today the Peace River Power Development Company will delay application to the Public Utilities Commission for a certificate of public convenience and necessity until September at least.

He said the delay is caused by the enormous amount of work involved in preparing the company's submission on its proposed $600,000,000 hydro-electric development across the Peace River.

The B.C. water rights branch has already said the development is feasible from an engineering standpoint.

Mr. Mainwaring said the company must produce financiers who must testify that they are willing to back the project. B.C. Electric and B.C. hydro were still being negotiated.

He said a start on the scheme is expected this year but major construction will not begin until 1962.

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