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Child at play cause of fire in Hampton Apartments death

National rail strike negotiations continue

MONTREAL (CP) — Canada's two major railroads and representatives of their non - operating workers were to continue talks today to see if a nation-wide strike can be avoided.

The 15 non-ops unions have called a strike for May 16 to back up their demands for higher wages as recommended by a conciliation board report last August 24.

After closed-door talks Thursday, the parties made no announcement but it was learned an acceptable basis was found for new negotiations and meetings are to continue throughout the weekend if necessary.

The union negotiating team is headed by Frank Hall. It represents 111,000 non-ops workers—those who do not actually operate the trains.

The railways were said to have made new proposals.

Before negotiations began, the railways maintained they could not afford to pay the 14-cent hourly wage increase recommended by the conciliation board.

It is believed, however, CPR President N. R. Crump and CNR President Donald Gordon have been given hints by the government that legislation will be introduced to ease their financial positions.

They were in Ottawa last week for talks with the cabinet.

The MacPherson royal commission on transportation recommended earlier this month that the government pay subsidies on a declining scale to the railways.

The subsidy would be $97,300,000 this year and decline to half that amount in five years. The object would be to help the railways reduce or eliminate uneconomical services.

The unions originally asked for a 25-cent hourly pay boost, but accepted the report of the conciliation board recommending a 14-cent boost in three stages over a two-year contract.

The present basic wage rate is $1.77 an hour.

Halibut totals 209,000 pounds

Halibut landings reported by the Wholesale Fish Dealers Association and the Halibut Commission for Friday are: Brooks Bay sold to Babcock Fisheries Ltd., 60,000 pounds total, 50,000 pounds medium at 19.2 cents; and 10,000 pounds large at 21.2 cents. Western Spirit, 70,000 pounds, 52,000 pounds medium at 19.2 cents, 15,000 pounds large at 21.2 cents and 3,000 pounds chix at 14 cents; sold to B.C. Packers Ltd., Misty Moon, 79,000 pounds, 57,000 pounds medium at 19.2 cents, 12,000 pounds at 21.2 cents and 1,000 pounds chix at 14 cents, sold to Atlin Fisheries Ltd.

No landings have been reported from the Co-op Friday.

The Wholesale Fish Dealers Association reported Thursday, one halibut vessel, the American boat Salute, landed a total of 56,000 pounds.

The catch consisted of: 53,000 medium at 19.5 cents; 1000 large at 22 cents; and 1000 chix at 15 cents. The catch was sold to Babcock Fisheries Ltd.

Prince Rupert Co-Operative Fishermen's Association reported two vessels, the Blue Ocean and the Pacific Rover, landed a total of 165,000 pounds. The former carried 59,000 large, 10,000 medium and 1,000 chix; the latter, 40,000 large and 45,000 medium.

Oil burner blaze

Firemen answered a call about 7:20 a.m. today at 1135 Second Avenue West, a house owned by Paul Vogel, where a flooded oil burner was discovered. It was quickly put under control and there was no damage.

DAILY NEWS PHONES

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World outlook "dark" asserts Liberal leader

By DAVE McINTOSH
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP) — In five chilling words Thursday night, the 1957 Nobel Peace prize winner summed up his view of the world situation: "The atmosphere now is dark."

Opposition Leader Pearson, former external affairs minister, was referring specifically to relations between the United States and Russia.

He said the Communists' long-range strategy has not changed, though their tactics do. The West must expect "conflict inside coexistence."

Perhaps the most "sinister" resolution of the Communist summit conference last November in Moscow was a declaration that the Sino-Soviet bloc is eager to participate in wars of "liberation." The definition of "liberation" would be the Communists' own.

Speaking near the end of a two-day Commons foreign policy debate, the Liberal leader suggested that the time might now be ripe for Canada to join the Organization of American States.

If the "tyrannical" government of Cuba was recognized as a menace to all the Americas and if that menace could best be dealt with by collective action through the organization, the government should give sympathetic consideration to Canada joining.

Canada should urge the U.S. to take no action in connection with Cuba without the co-operation of the organization. The results of unilateral American action would be "unhappy."

The recent intervention in Cuba was a clear mistake in U.S. policy. But it would be wrong for Canadians to take "a sort of sly satisfaction" from an American error.

CCF Leader Argue said U.S. "promotion and assistance" in the attack on Cuba was playing into the hands of the Communists.

Schedules to change

Changes in departure times of Canadian Pacific Airlines planes from Terrace and subsequent alterations in the times of the bus leaving Prince Rupert to connect with Vancouver - bound planes, were announced today by B. I. Anderson, CPA agent here.

Effective Sunday, April 30, the bus for the Terrace airport will leave the Prince Rupert Hotel at 9:30 a.m. six days a week. The Vancouver - bound plane will leave Terrace Monday to Saturday at 1:10 p.m.

On Sundays the bus leaves the Prince Rupert Hotel at 10:30 a.m. and the plane will leave Terrace for Vancouver, via Smithers and Prince George, at 2:05 p.m.

On weekdays the bus from the Vancouver - to - Terrace plane will arrive back in Prince Rupert at 4:10 p.m. and on Sundays at 5:10 p.m.

Fire relief fund near $700 mark

Another $114 in donations since yesterday pushed the Hampton Apartments Fire Relief Fund from $571 up to $685 by this afternoon.

These contributions to the fund to aid 17 families made homeless in the April 20 fire on Eighth Avenue West, includes Order of the Royal Purple $25; Mrs. N. A. Norton $5; Booth Memorial Junior High school Junior Red Cross $40; Anonymous $2; Anonymous $2; Mistresses and Past Mistresses of the Ladies Orange Benevolent Association $15; Anonymous $10; Frederick Conrad $5; Anonymous $10.

Donations may be mailed to or left at The Daily News. Cheques should be made out to The Hampton Apartments Fire Relief Fund.

Four-year old tells brother, RCMP

A coroner's jury last night learned that a fire which left one dead and 77 homeless, was started by a small boy playing with his father's lighter.

The jury brought in a verdict of death by asphyxiation complicated by second and third degree burns, at the inquest last night at City Hall, of 11-month-old Agnes Jackson who died in the fire which destroyed the Hampton Apartments April 21.

Henry Watts, who lived below the Jackson's apartment, testified that his wife fell and injured her arm about 8 p.m. and he had to take her to the hospital leaving his four young sons at home alone.

He said that when he returned he discovered that his suite was on fire. When he entered the place, he noticed the flames coming from the bathroom. He and Brown took the children out and attempted to put the blaze out. It had spread too much by then and was out of control.

The following day, the oldest boy, Mark, 6, told the investigating RCMP constable that his four-year-old brother Henry had accidentally started the fire when he was playing with his father's lighter in the bathroom of the suite.

The jury, under Coroner George E. Dawes, attached no blame to anyone in connection with the death.

Nine witnesses were called to testify and a statement by Deputy Coroner Dr. R. B. Smith was entered in the inquest which lasted about three and one half hours.

Robert Jackson, father of the child, said that he and his wife were at the show at the time of the fire and found out later about the child being inside the home. He said George Brown, a next-door neighbor was babysitting. Brown was also called to testify.

He told the jury that he first noticed smoke around 9 p.m. and told his friend Rodney Clayton to take the Jackson children, Agnes and Donna 2, outside. Then he ran downstairs and helped Henry Watts take his children outside. Watts lived directly below Jackson's suite on the left side of the Hampton Apartments at 833 Eighth Avenue West.

When he came back upstairs he found Donna but couldn't find Agnes. After he had left the house he couldn't get back inside because of the intense heat.

George Collins, who lived in a room on the right - front side of the building, said that after he smelled smoke, things began happening "very fast."

He said that a man (later identified as Clayton) rushed into his room and said: "Here you take this," and put what he thought was a child on or near the bed.

Collins took Donna outside but couldn't locate the child on the bed because of the heavy smoke. He got outside and told two men that there was still a child inside but they weren't able to get back inside. "The house was an inferno," Collins said.

Rodney Clayton, who was partially deaf, said that he thought Brown had told him to take the children to Collins and not to take them outside. He stated that he didn't think they were in any danger or that the house was going to burn and so took them to Collins.

The body of the child was found in Collins room shortly after 10 p.m.

Jury's verdict on Hampton fire

The jury's verdict, in part read: "The jury also finds that due to a series of unfortunate circumstances, evidence of some panic, and lack of understanding and co-ordinated thinking by the parties closely involved, the child Agnes Jackson was abandoned in the excitement and confusion.

"The jury feels that due to the severity of the fire and the short period of time involved in which any work was possible, blame is attached to no one.

"The jury would like to stress the responsibilities of all babysitters towards the children in their care, especially in the case of fire."

Cars collide

Damage amounted to about $450 when a car driven by George Spence of 237 Eleventh Street was in collision with another vehicle driven by Gust Kenneth Moll of Terrace near the intersection of McBride Street and Seventh Avenue about 11:30 p.m. Sunday. RCMP investigation is continuing.

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — Israeli jet planes today shot down a Soviet-made Egyptian jet fighter in the northwestern Negev, an Israeli Army spokesman announced here.

BUGLES AND DRUMS SOUND as the band of 559 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets, practise in the HMCS Chatham drill hall. Cadets will be on the streets Saturday in their annual tag day sale to raise funds for squadron equipment. Recruits interested in joining the squadron may do so by contacting the squadron any Wednesday night at the squadron offices next the CPO's mess. The new term opens in September.
— Staff photo by John Pain

Two years given man convicted of assault

A 22-year-old Kincolith man was sentenced to two years in jail today when he was convicted in police court before Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite on a charge of assault causing bodily harm.

Roger Norman Watts walked sadly and dejectedly out of the crowded court room after hearing the sentence.

He pleaded not guilty to the charge which was laid after a fight in the 700 block Third Avenue West April 1 when Murphy Stanley, also of Kincolith was badly beaten.

Witnesses said that Stanley, who was fairly intoxicated, had hit his wife, a first cousin of Watts.

She then called for Watts to help her, and he apparently walked towards the two of them and the fight started.

James Martindale, a salesman from Quesnel, said he witnessed the fight. He stated a shorter man, whom he identified as Watts, hit a taller man and knocked him down. When the taller man got up again, the shorter fellow hit him again and "really hit him this time". He said that the tall man fell down on the ground again and "apparently hit his head".

Watts took the stand and said that Stanley had started the fight and had provoked him.

Magistrate Applewhaite, in passing judgement, said that the attack seemed to be entirely unprovoked and unjustified: "I find the accused guilty".

Mr. Shaw told the court Watts had been convicted of five similar charges at one time in 1958 and was sentenced to three years concurrent on each charge.

Daily News still barred from hospital meetings

The Press will remain barred from hospital board meetings, as has been the case in the past, six members of the board—all that attended last night's regular meeting—decided, said Hospital Administrator E. H. Knight today.

No reasons were given in Mr. Knight's report of the meeting as to why the exclusion of Daily News' reporters should be continued. The six members, who were not identified, debated the advisability of reaching a decision with so few board members present, Mr. Knight said. The board also felt that if it delayed its decision it would be accused of procrastinating.

It was also decided that a telephone exchange and patients information centre will be set up.

A request to the city council will be made by the board for the reservation of land for long term use by the hospital. Negotiations are also proceeding between the board and the council relating to adequate hospital parking space.

Total expenditures for the first quarter of the year amounted to $157,276, Mr. Knight reported with a net operating revenue of $161,640 resulting in, after further minor adjustments, of a deficit of $1,274.

The hospital is still operating on its 1960 budget until such time as the British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service approves the 1961 budget figures, it was reported to the meeting.

Statistics for the first quarter of 1961 are: 8,648 patient days as against 8,113 last year at this time; 1,102 admissions against 1,010; occupancy rate 88.1 per cent as opposed to 81.8 per cent.

During March the occupancy rate was 98.6 per cent — the highest in the history of the hospital, Mr. Knight said. This broke down into 107.4 adults and 11.4 newborn per day, making a total of 118.8 per day.

Prince Rupert has now gone 832 days without a fatal traffic accident.

Fire cost share plan discussed

VICTORIA (CP)—Federal Forests Minister Flemming and Premier W. A. C. Bennett of British Columbia met here Thursday and it was reported cost sharing arrangements for armed forces participation in fire-fighting was discussed.

Mr. Flemming earlier this week told the National Forest Fire Research Conference at Nanaimo that the department of national defence will release army personnel and RCAF planes to combat emergency situations.

He said, however, that the provinces must be prepared to pay some of the costs, but did not enunciate a cost - sharing formula. The federal governments proposals were contained in a letter sent to each province.

British Columbia forestry department spokesman said the commitment of the province to any financial arrangement would be up to Premier Bennett, who is also provincial finance minister.

Porcher Is. resident dies

William Sim, 85, of Porcher Island, died after a brief illness in the Prince Rupert General Hospital on Wednesday.

Born in Scotland, he migrated to Canada in 1902 and homesteaded in Nova Scotia until 1907 when he moved to New Westminster and commenced fishing. Two years later he moved again. This time to Prince Rupert where he purchased property on Porcher Island where he farmed and fished until he died. Recently, he had been staying with members of his family in the south for the winter.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Alfred Mausner of Seattle and Mrs. James D. Cameron of Vancouver; one stepson, Capt. Alexander Duthie of Vancouver and one stepdaughter, Mrs. John McIntosh of Prince Rupert. There are three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Sim was predeceased by his wife and three sons.

Burial will take place in the family plot at Fairview Cemetery. The funeral service will be conducted by the Rev. Ivan Gamble at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Ferguson Funeral Home.

WEATHER

Intermittent rain and drizzle tonight and Saturday. Little change in temperature. Wind in exposed locations southeast 25 tomorrow. Low tonight and high Saturday 42 and 52.

TIDES

Saturday, April 29, 1961
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	00:20	20.4 feet
	12:40	10.6 feet
Low	06:41	3.0 feet
	18:47	4.8 feet

READY FOR HOUSE CALLS TODAY ARE Brownies of the Fourth Prince Rupert Brownie Pack, pictured at Conrad Street School basement headquarters. Brownies will be among Girl Guides and Brownies across Canada selling cookies during Girl Guide Cookie Week, April 28 to May 6. In front row left to right are Della Brown, Pat Stephens, Karen Lundstrom and Leslie Holkestad. Standing left to right are Barbara Hurst, Marlene Johannsen, Marina Holgerson, Elizabeth Miller, Jill Micholuk and Beverly Denning. — Staff photo by John Pain