PUBLISHES WEEKLY — Editor Bob Angus stands in front of the trailer office of his Fort Nelson News, located just 100 yards off the Alaska Highway at Fort Nelson, B.C. Started in 1959 when the oil boom hit the community, the weekly paper now has a circulation of about 1,000. — CP Photo

Jamaica votes to leave West Indies federation

KINGSTON, Jamaica (CP)—The new West Indies federation, created by Britain to form a chain of free islands in the Caribbean, lost its largest and wealthiest member today after Jamaica voted to withdraw.

The vote in a referendum Tuesday was 251,776 in favor of withdrawal and 216,371 against.

This weakened the position of Prime Minister Norman Manley of Jamaica, who campaigned for federation with the other British islands stretching down to the coast of South America.

The argument against federation, led by Sir Alexander Bustamante's opposition Labor party, was that it would lower Jamaicas standard of living. He also said Jamaica would be inadequately represented in the new federation government.

Jamaicas 1,700,000 people comprise about 5 per cent of the federations population. Tourism, bauxite mining and rising industrialization make them the federation's most prosperous.

REGRETS DECISION

In a radio address, Manley expressed regret at the decision "which defeats what I believe to be the only safe road for Jamaica."

In another radio address, Bustamente said "we are determined to rule ourselves." Calling charges that Jamaica might turn to a Cuban brand of communism as "a fantastic lie," he said "we must have independence for Jamaica within the British Commonwealth."

Secession will allow Jamaica to seek membership as an independent nation in the Commonwealth. The West Indian federation is scheduled to become independent and a member of the Commonwealth by next May 31.

The referendum followed an intense election campaign marked by occasional violence.

VIOLENCE FEARED

During the voting Tuesday, police throughout the island were placed on the alert for possible trouble following demonstrations Monday night in which angry crowds stoned buses and broke up a campaign meeting.

Before the election results were announced, Sir Grantley Adams, prime minister of the federation, said in Bridgetown, Barbados that federation without Jamaica would be a tragedy.

But, he said although he wanted Jamaica as a member this did not mean the island could "ride roughshod on the wishes of others."

The island has 17 of 45 seats in the present federation House of Representatives. In the new one it was to have 30 out of 64. Manley argued this increased representation, coupled with limitations on federal taxing powers, would have protected Jamaica's interests.

The other members are Trinidad, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, and St. Ketta. They also are to have self-determination referendums like Jamaica's but the results of Tuesday's balloting here put the federation's future in doubt. The temporary federation capital is at Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Unionists mobilize forces

EDMONTON (CP) — Problems of internal strife Tuesday dominated the Canadian convention of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers (Ind.) as 100 delegates moved to mobilize all their resources to save their largest local from switching to a rival union.

For the second consecutive day, most of the discussion centred around Sudbury Local 598 which is threatening to swing its 17,000 members into the camp of the United Steelworkers of America (CLC). More of the same discussion was expected today, final day of the convention.

Determined not to lose the Sudbury group — which represents half of Mine-Mill's Canadian membership and half of the union's revenue — delegates approved total mobilization of manpower and finances of locals both in Canada and the United States.

B.C. pipeline given permit

CALGARY (CP) — Sun Oil Company today announced government approval of a gathering system and pipeline project to move crude oil from the Blueberry field in northeastern British Columbia to coastal markets.

Approval was given by the B.C. department of commercial transport to British Columbia Oil Transmission Co. Ltd., a company jointly owned by Sun Oil, General American Oils Ltd., Fargo Oils Ltd., and Western Natural Gas Co. Inc.

Total expected cost of the 11 miles of gathering system and 66 miles of trunk line is $2,600,000. It will carry 14,000 barrels a day of oil and oil products to Taylor Flats, B.C., where existing lines will take it to refineries in the Vancouver area.

The contractors, Pioneer Pipeline Contractors Ltd., of Calgary and Fort St. John, B.C., will begin work immediately and hope to finish the line in December.

Libel case set for today

QUEBEC (CP)—Gilles Pratte, 24-year-old reporter for Montreal La Presse, today was ordered to preliminary hearing September 26 on a second charge of defamatory libel brought against him by Raymond Maher, one of six candidates for leadership of the Union Nationale party.

Pratte was arrested on the second charge Monday night and freed on $100 bail pending today's hearings.

Judge Laetare Roy of sessions court cancelled the bail and permitted Pratte to go free, since he is already on $100 bail on another charge of libel.

Both charges were brought by Mr. Maher, Quebec City lawyer, as a result of stories appearing in La Presse.

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