Tories set for leadership parley to boost party out of doldrums

By H. L. JONES
Canadian Press Staff Writer

VANCOUVER (CP)—British Columbia's Progressive Conservative party is massing its forces for a three-day convention that promises to be the biggest and perhaps the most important since the provincial party hit the political doldrums six years ago.

Primarily it's a leadership meeting. But party spokesmen have warned that a provincial election may not be far off and delegates are expected to hammer out a new and vigorous party platform.

Spokesmen agree that provincial party hopes were given a shot in the arm by the sweep of Prime Minister Diefenbaker's forces in the March federal general election.

The Conservatives hold 18 of B.C.'s 22 federal seats.

Three of Mr. Diefenbaker's ministers will be on hand, perhaps to impart some of the secrets of the party's federal success. Keynote speaker will be Works Minister Green and delegates also will hear Justice Minister Fulton and Defence Minister Pearkes.

TO HEAR "GIANT KILLER"

And when the 600 delegates file into the Hotel Vancouver's massive ballroom for the convention opening Thursday morning, their chairman will be one of the "giant killers" of the last federal campaign—William Payne. He ousted Liberal Fisheries Minister Sinclair from his 18-year grip on Coast Capilano riding.

Interest is running so high that convention officials said even the riding of Atlin, which hasn't had a delegate at a provincial convention for years, is sending a full delegation of 11.

Inter-party campaigns have been going on for some time on behalf of the two protagonists for the party leadership.

Finlayson lays mantle on line

Laying the leadership mantle on the line is Deane Finlayson, 39-year-old bachelor business man. He took it over in 1953 when things looked black for the party, succeeding Herbert Anscomb who, as finance minister in a coalition government, was one of the last Conservatives to have a seat in the legislature.

B.C. hasn't had a Tory government since the 1930's.

Campaigners for Finlayson point to his youth, vigor and experience at the helm and say that now the political horizon is brightening he should be given a chance to show what he can really do.

GEOLOGIST IS OPPONENT

Finlayson's opponent is Dr. Desmond Fife Kidd, a 52-year-old "dark horse" who is leaving a lucrative practice as a geologist and mining engineer to take his first crack at active political administration.

Dr. Kidd recently completed an unprecedented trip through the province by car, train, boat and bush plane, a campaign he hopes will pay off when the leadership ballots are counted Saturday.

Dr. Kidd, a University of British Columbia graduate and Princeton PhD, is one of the several prominent Conservatives who have warned that despite indications by Social Credit Premier Bennett that there will be no election for at least two years, the party should be ready for early action.

He is interested in putting mineral development well in the forefront of party policy.

Particularly significant among resolutions will be a number calling for establishment of party policy designed to promote industrial harmony. In the face of a rash of recent strikes in B.C., a number of leading individuals in the party want changes in labor legislation making for more negotiating and less strike action.

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Fight October 8

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Middleweight Rory Calhoun and Joey Giambra meet here Oct. 8, it was announced Tuesday.

Calhoun, who stopped Yolande Pompey in six rounds here last spring, is now ranked ninth in line for the title. Giambra is seventh.

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RABBIT HOUND—Nuschi, five-year-old long-haired dachshund, hovers over three of her five adopted rabbits in Dusseldorf, West Germany. She took over the rabbits, who were munching on lettuce, when they were found abandoned.

Sons of Freedom oust too "radical" radical

TRAIL, (CP)—A man who had been accused of disrupting sons of Freedom plans for a migration to Russia was ejected from the Freedomite capital of Krestova Tuesday.

John Lebadoff, the former Freedomite leader who was deposed by Stefan Sorokin, was escorted from the village Tuesday by 25 women and taken four miles to Crescent Valley. Ejected with Lebadoff was Mary Berekoff of Creston, B.C.

Sons of Freedom spokesman in the village maintained Lebadoff and Mrs. Berekoff were touring the village in continuing efforts to dissuade Sons of Freedom from returning to Russia.

Tuesdays action followed a statement by Peter Elasoff who said Sunday he had laid charges against Lebadoff. The unspecified charges included one that Lebadoff was discouraging Sons of Freedom from going to Russia.

UPROAR AT MEETING

A meeting in Krestova Sunday night broke up in an uproar when supporters of both groups hurled charges

Sons of Freedom secretary Bill Moojelsky originally announced the sect's decision to accept federal and provincial government offers for relocation of the Freedomites in Siberia.

Terms agreed to stated Ottawa would pay the transportation costs of the relocation; Victoria would pay up to a similar amount towards costs of establishing a community in Rusia. Doukhobors leaving would declare themselves through signing a special form renouncing Canadian citizenship.

Eddie Fisher and Liz "not in Love"

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Eddie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds, whose romance was once deemed ideal, acknowledged Tuesday their marriage is in trouble.

While the entertainment world buzzed with rumors that Elizabeth Taylor has come between them, the couple announced.

"We are having a misunderstanding. We hope to work it out. We have nothing further to say."

Fisher, who had been dating Miss Taylor in New York, arrived home Tuesday and had a two-hour conference with Debbie before they issued their statement.

Later, Fisher told a reporter Miss Taylor had nothing to do with the misunderstanding. He called her "a good friend."

"I am not in love with her and she is not in love with me," he said.

Miss Taylor, widow of show producer Mike Todd, also denied the stories.

How Debbie felt was not immediately known. She issued an earlier statement through her studio:

"I am deeply shocked from what I have read in the papers and there is nothing further I can say at this time."

Queen invited to pay visit to Niagara Falls

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. (CP)—Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip were invited Tuesday to visit Niagara Falls during a six-week tour of Canada next year. The invitation was sent to Buckingham Palace by Mayor Ernest M. Hawkins. The Queen, then princess Elizabeth, and her husband visited here in 1951. Princess Margaret visited here last Aug. 1.

Robs credit union

MONTREAL (CP)— Police said a teen-aged armed bandit escaped Tuesday with $5,000 in cash from a credit union in St. Hilaire, Que., 25 miles east of Montreal.

Teller Mrs. Corona Demers was alone in the bank at the time. She told police the youth held a revolver in her face and demanded money.

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