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Government accused of sinning against B.C. Power customers

WELCOME — Prime Minister Diefenbaker was greeted by flag-waving children of RCAF personnel at the RCAF's No. 2 fighter wing base at Grostenquin, France during his world tour.
—CP Photo from RCAF.

Commission chief appeals to public

VICTORIA (CP)—H. Lee Briggs, general manager of the B.C. Power Commission today charged the provincial government with "prostituting the 80,000 customers of the Commission to fulfill political promises."

At a dramatic, emotion-charged press conference he appealed to the public to step over the heads of the government and stop it from forcing the Power Commission to refinance some of its loans so that Premier Bennett can claim by 1960 that he has paid off the direct debt of B.C.

Mr. Briggs charged that the financial plan will cost the commission $215,000 a year and this will have to be paid by its customers.

It was one of the most sensational interviews ever given by a public official in the history of the province.

As he neared the end of reading his 3,000-word statement Mr. Briggs broke down, turned and looked out of the window of his office. He wiped tears from his eyes, then took control of himself and resumed the conference.

He announced he doesn't intend to resign his post, which he took four years ago, but if he is fired, he will make a non-political tour of the province to tell the people the 'rancid things" that go on in electric powers matters.

Mr. Briggs said that Power Commission customers are already bearing certain improper costs as a result of fiscal practices of the government.

"I will not stand idly by while those charged with the administration of the financial affairs of this province prostitute the 80,000 customers of the B.C. Power Commission to fulfill political promises," said Mr. Briggs in his statement.

"This refusal has no relation to the control which the legislature and the government of this province must properly exercise over the major policies of the power commission."

Youth gets three years for knifing

A 19-year-old Kincolith youth who on October 31 went on a knifing spree that put one man in hospital and injured four others, was sentenced to three years in prison by Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite in city police court this morning.

Rodger Watts was given the three-year term on the first charge of causing bodily harm with intent to wound his cousin Harold Watts of Kincolith and was sentenced to three years on each of four similiar charges to run concurrently.

Rodger Watts was arrested November 2 after he went on a rampage with two knives during a drinking party at Kincolith.

Harold Watts was taken to Prince Rupert General Hospital and later reported in satisfactory condition. Brother of the accused Billy Watts, sister-in-law Mildred Watts and two others, Frederick Lincoln and Douglas Venn, all of Kincolith were treated for minor cuts.

In passing sentence Magistrate Applewhaite told the accused:

"You are lucky you are not standing here on a preliminary hearing for murder" and added "If one of those persons had died you would be charged with murder."

Police told the court that the accused had no previous convictions.

RESCUE NEAR—Miss Ethel Blevans, 67, sits on a window ledge as two unidentified volunteers try to get her down from her perch during a fire in Toronto Friday night. Seven homes were damaged and 125 persons had to flee in pajamas and underwear. Miss Blevans was rescued when a ladder was brought to the scene.
—CP Photo

Riders trim Als

MONTREAL (CP) — Ottawa Roughriders came up with a magnificent ground display today behind the superb leadership of Canadian quarterback Russ Jackson, and smacked down Montreal Alouettes 26-12 in sudden-death Big Four semi-final.

The Riders, underdogs by nine points in the betting going into today's game now meet Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the finals, a home-and-home total points series.

Jackson, a 22-year old Hamilton youngster, scored two touchdowns. Don Pinhey accounted for another and Mac Yoho booted two field goals.

The Riders made their big show in the first half, running up an 18-6 lead.

One-year term follows theft at Port Edward

Oscar Danes, 20, of Port Edward was sentenced to one year in jail by Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite in city police court this morning on a charge of breaking and entering and theft.

Danes pleaded guilty on November 4 and was remanded until today for sentencing.

Police said that the accused broke into an Indian Village home at Port Edward in the early hours of November 2 and stole a bottle of wine.

He gained entry by breaking down a door, police said.

In police court Monday Elvin Phillips of 839 Second Avenue West was fined $75, costs or in default of payment sentenced to 30 days in jail after he was found guilty by Magistrate Applewhaite of driving a motor vehicle while his ability to drive was impaired by alcohol.

Phillips pleaded not guilty on October 28 and was remanded for trial until Monday.

The magistrate also prohibited Phillips from driving a motor vehicle anywhere in Canada for a period of three months.

IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY

City pays tribute to world wars' dead

The pealing of St. Andrew's Cathedral bells yesterday ended a two-minute silence observed by more than 900 people who bowed their heads in honor of Prince Rupert's war dead in front of the cenotaph.

The occasion was Remembrance Day, November 11, the day on which Canada and the free world stops to remember those who gave up their lives in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War.

"Prince Rupert paid its tribute in a solemn ceremony at the War memorial in front of the provincial Court House.

After the playing of "O Canada" by the Prince Rupert Civic Band, the hymn "O God, Our help in ages Past" was sung.

With the sounding of the cathedral bells, Navy, Army, RCMP personnel and all others stood at attention as Bugler W. J. Rance sounded the "Last Post" and colors were lowered.

At then end of the silence, the bells rang again and Bugler Rance played "Revellie" to the raising of the colors.

Prayers were said by Legion Protestant padre The Very Rev. A. E. Hendy Dean of Caledonia and Legion Roman Catholic padre Rev M. J. Morrin.

The four-men guard at the cenotaph stood with heads bowed, rifles on the reverse arms, under the direction of Sergeant-Major Darow Gomez, DCM, D Company the Irish Fusiliers of Canada.

Stepping forward to lay wreaths were representatives for the British Columbia Government, the City of Prince Rupert, the Canadian Legion Prince Rupert branch 27 and its women's auxiliary respectively, the Royal Canadian Navy, HMCS Chatham, the British Columbia command of the Canadian Legion and its Women's auxiliary, the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Independent Order of Daughters of the Empire, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Order of the Royal Purple, the Prince Rupert Shrine Club, the Loyal Order of the Moose, the Women of the Moose, the Loyal Order Benevolent Association, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Navy League of Canad, the Air Force League of Canada, the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets, the Royal Canadian Army Cadets and the Royal Canadian Air Force Cadets.

Playing of "The Queen" ended the commemoration service.

Led by parade marshal Wing Commander John Laurie, MBE, all units marched off the grounds in front of the court house and proceeded up McBride Street and on to Third Avenue West.

Col. S. D. Johnston took the salute from all unit commanders as they passed the saluting base which was situated immediately in front of the Post Office.

Others on the saluting stand were, Capt. R. W. Lewis, commanding officer of D Company Irish Fusiliers, Dean Hendy, Father Morrin, James Nicol past president of the Canadian Legion, William Murray MLA, Capt. Thomas Harris and Sydney Kirk, second vice-president of the B.C. Command of the Canadian Legion.

The parade was headed by the Prince Rupert Civic Band under the direction of Joseph Arduini, members of the Canadian Legion and its women's auxiliary.

Following were officers and men, of HMCS Chatham, the Royal Canadian Army D Company Irish Fusiliers, The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps, the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, the Royal Canadian Air Force Cadets and wreath bearers.

Helen Hillman funeral held

Funeral service was held Friday afternoon at Ferguson Funeral Home for Helen Hillman, 68, who died November 4 in the Prince Rupert General Hospital after a lengthy illness.

The Very Rev. A. E. Hendy Dean of Caledonia and lay minister Robert C. Corbell officiated at the service.

Hymns sung were "Abide with Me" and "Safe in the Arms of Jesus."

Pallbearers were: Harold Germshied, Ralph Connors, Dr. W. Buechland, Walter Graham, Ralph Gillies and Wilfred Bowen.

Interment followed in the Fairview cemetery.

Rail unions set date for strike

MONTREAL (CP) — Canada's second transcontinental rail strike this year is to start December 1 unless railways in the meantime reach a wage agreement with their 130,000 non-operating employees.

Strike notice was served on the railways Tuesday on behalf of 15 railway unions representing the non-ops.

Little girl slightly hurt in bus mishap

A five-year-old city girl received minor abrasions when she was in collision with an Arrow Busline vehicle about 1 p.m. Sunday.

RCMP said that Darlene Vell of New Floats ran out from between two vehicles into the path of the oncoming bus on the corner of Sixth Avenue East and Hays Cove Avenue.

She was discharged from Prince Rupert General hospital today.

Hospital gets federal aid

Approval has been given for a federal health grant of more than $1,500 for a new unit at R. W. Large memorial hospital at Bella Bella, it was learned here today. Announcement was made by J. Waldo Monteith, minister of national health and welfare. The unit was completed recently. Such grants are made upon completion of construction.

BYLAW UNOPPOSED

Wide-open hours for stores soon

City Council duly obliged local merchants Monday by agreeing to "wide-open" shopping hours in Prince Rupert.

It approved a bylaw exempting the overwhelming majority of Prince Rupert stores from the provisions of section 866 and 867 from the Municipal Act.

This will mean that storeowners can open for whatever hours they choose. The merchants are chiefly concerned with cornering a larger portion of the tourist trade.

The bylaw is due for final adoption by council November 24.

None of the aldermen spoke against the new measure, which was passed unanimously.

The bylaw does not apply to gas stations which come under a separate agreement designed to ensure that gasoline is available at night-time, week-ends and holidays.

Among the stores included in the change are new and second-hand car dealers; baby shops, bakeries, cycle shops; book stores; building supply stores; butchers' shops; children's stores.

It includes all department stores, and shops dealing with the following:

Carpets, china, clothing, confectionery, cleaning and dyeing, delicatessen foods, drugs, dry goods, electrical appliances, fish, fuel, furniture, furs, groceries, hairdressing, hardware and hats.

Tools and associated equipment, jokes and novelties, knitting machines, lumber, marine supplies, radios, records etc., office supplies, spectacles and paint.

Pets, photographic equipment, poultry, second-hand goods, sewing machines, shoe repairs, souvenirs, sporting goods, stationery, stoves, tobacco and cigarettes, toys and hobby equipment.

"This," said City Clerk-Comptroller R. W. Long, "is straight stealing. We have copied it exactly from the Victoria bylaw."

City prepares bylaw for big sewer project

First steps in the borrowing of $1,643,000 for the renewal and extension of the city sewerage system were taken by city council Monday.

It agreed to go ahead with the borrowing of the money, subject to the approval of taxpayers at the December elections and introduced the necessary bylaw for passage.

The money is repayable over a period of 20 years. Interest spread over that period will be $926,867.

The present sewerage system, described officially as a danger to health, is broken down in many places, and raw sewage flows down open sewers in others.

The present debenture debt of the city, on paper, is $1,092,227.

But, City Clerk-Comptroller R. W. Long explained, most of this was self-liquidating and the true debt was somewhere around $250,000.

Skeena MP in Manitoba

SWAN RIVER, Man. (CP)—Frank Howard, CCF member of Parliament for Skeena, said Monday the federal government's conversion loan program has placed a "tremendous burden" on the people of Canada.

He told a meeting the interest on the bonds amounts to more than $1,000,000,000.

"Little did we know when the minister of finance was making his announcement on the bond conversion in the House that it would be costing the Canadian people about $1,000,000 a word," Mr. Howard said, "one of the most expensive announcements in Canadian history."

"We can estimate quite closely the cost to the federal taxpayer," he said. "We can only guess what it will mean for the provinces and municipalities in terms of higher interest rates. The cost to would-be home owners we cannot predict, but what we do know is that these costs will be borne by Canadian from one end of the country to the other."

Council seeks more information on offer of street lighting survey from company

More information is to be sought by City Council from Canadian Line Materials Ltd. about its offer to survey Prince Rupert street lighting problems.

The company has offered what it calls a "personal survey" of the city to determine what kind of lights would be best for the city, and where they should be placed.

The city, say the company, would provide all the information necessary for the survey, and would state whether it prefers flourescent, mercury or incandescent lighting.

The company would then send samples at no charge to the city besides installation and operating.

Aldermen took the offer to mean that the survey would be free of charge.

But they bristled at the letter's second paragraph.

This stated: "For considerations stated above, we would naturally expect that our luminaires would be used."

"That paragraph is the dangerous one," said Alderman A. Donald Ritchie.

"Where would we be if we got involved with them?"

The CLM letter did not mention prices, and it is costs on which the council is seeking more information.

CLM said the layout of the power feed to the lights would not be included in their survey. The company would determine location, type, size and mounting position for the lights.

The letter concluded: "We agree that if you cannot comply with the above, your best policy would be to engage an electrical consultant."

City Clerk-Comptroller R. W. Long said his understanding of the letter was that the survey would be made free of charge.

Ald. Norman Bellis asked: "If we accept this, we would be pretty well forced to purchase equipment from the company?"

Ald. T. Norton Young. "We don't have to, but we can ask them for prices. It would be worth-while investigating further. We have enough information to answer them, and it shouldn't be difficult."

On October 28, council voted to set aside funds for an on-the spot survey by electrical consultant M. A. Thomas and defeated a motion to have a survey by an electrical equipment firm.

Teller nabbed

DENVER (AP)—A man was arrested Monday night in a night club while sipping champagne and identified by police as Boyne Lester Johnston an Ottawa bank teller sought for theft in the disappearance of $200,000 in cash.

Dr. A. Stewart heads CBC

OTTAWA (CP) — Dr. Andrew Stewart, 54, president of the University of Alberta, yesterday was named chairman of the new board of broadcast governors under Canada's revised national broadcasting structure.

An Italian ship, the MV "Napoli" arrived here yesterday morning at 10:30 and will take on about 10,000 tons of No. 1 and No. 2 feed barley at the Canadian Government elevator starting Friday morning.

WEATHER—

Variable cloudiness with scattered showers. Little change in temperature. Wind southwest 20. Low tonight and high Thursday at Port Hardy, Sandspit and Prince Rupert 35 and 45.

TIDES—

Thursday, Nov. 13, 1958
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	02:35	21.7 feet
	14:26	23.8 feet
Low	08:26	5.8 feet
	21:06	1.1 feet

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