

Value school debate in Victoria

SURREY, B.C. (CP) — Surrey trustees and teachers are heading to Victoria — separately — to discuss the dispute surrounding the changeover of a Surrey elementary school to a value school despite parents' objections.

Doris Hahn, Surrey Teachers Association president, said today teachers will seek meetings with their three local members of the legislature about the change at

Georges Vanier Elementary. Jock Smith, board chairman, said in an interview trustees will seek a meeting with Education Minister Pat McGeer.

Both said their group's decision came after an unsuccessful meeting Wednesday between the teachers and trustees.

The issue centres on the board's decision to change Vanier into a fully-implemented value school

stressing exams, discipline and basic skills.

Parents there have united against the move, with a parent-conducted survey showing 72 parents with children attending the school want it to remain as is while only 17 want the change.

A parents' representative, June Kealey, said in an interview Wednesday polls at nearby schools show parents there aren't willing to accept the overflow of students from

Vanier whose parents don't want them to attend a value school. She said this poll also shows parents of 64 out of 534 youngsters would send their children to Vanier if it became a value school.

The parents have been backed by the B.C. Teachers Federation, which Saturday placed the school in dispute. This means teachers would be suspended either temporarily or permanently from the federation if they willingly took jobs at the school.

Miss Hahn said in an interview the school could remain in dispute "for a long time" as the situation stands now.

"We're at a stalemate," she said. "essentially it's up to the board to do something now. We've done all we can."

She said teachers presented their position to the board at the meeting that parents should be surveyed to determine if the school should be turned into a value school.

"If they want it, that's their decision. But it should be up to them," she said.

Dr. Smith said he thinks the decision should be up to the board. He said the board has decided to implement the value school at Vanier and will seek support from Dr. McGeer.

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Cattle disease isolated

OTTAWA (CP) — Federal agriculture department officials say an outbreak of bluetongue disease has been localized in the southern Okanagan Valley of British Columbia.

And Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan told the Commons agriculture committee Wednesday that U.S. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz "has expressed deep concern that U.S. states co-operate with Canadian officials" to control the outbreak across the border.

"We should take every action necessary to eradicate this disease," Mr. Whelan said. "If we had a more strict policy on imports, we wouldn't have this disease now."

As a result of the disease, which makes it difficult for cattle to eat, Australia and the United Kingdom have banned imports of Canadian bull semen.

About 350 cattle in B.C. have

been slaughtered since the outbreak started.

A. E. Lewis of the department's contagious diseases branch told the committee discussions were being held with officials from U.S. border states about ways of controlling the spread of bluetongue, that the U.S. does not have a slaughter program for cattle to control the disease.

He told Ken Hurlburt (PC—Lethbridge) evidence showed wildlife was not a threat to the

control of the disease.

Mr. Whelan also said there would be no compensation paid to producers of bull semen who had suffered losses due to the bans. The embargo would be temporary and the semen could be stored for the time being.

Meanwhile, in the Commons, a Progressive Conservative MP asked the government to stop slaughtering the cattle until there is more proof it is a good policy.

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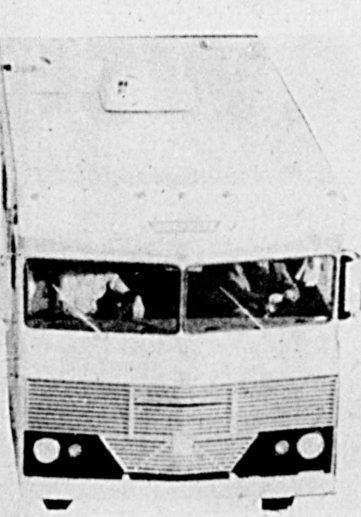
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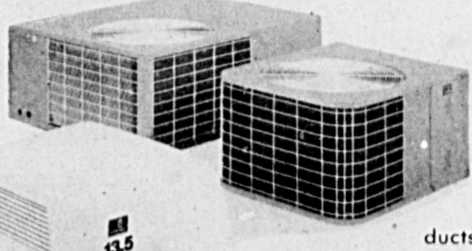
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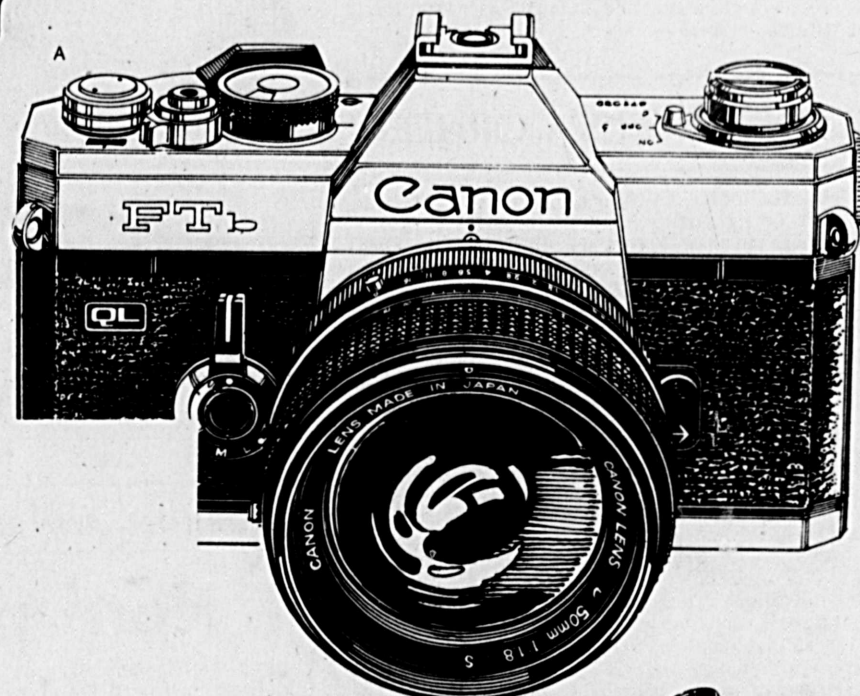
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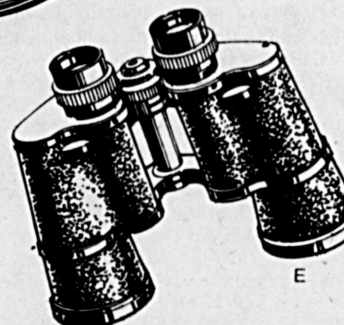
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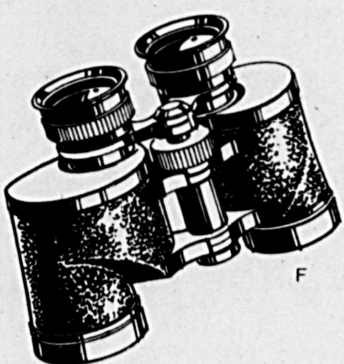
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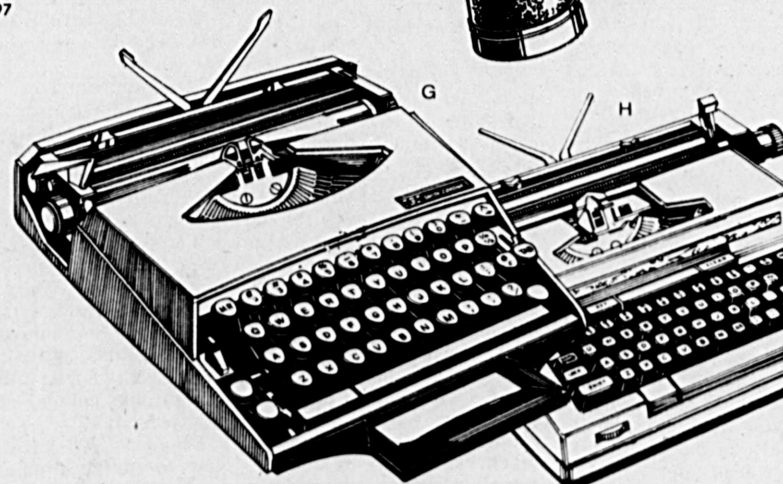
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