



Summer kicks

School's out — and for pupils at Central Fort George Elementary School, it's something to jump about. Summer vacation starts today for nearly 14,000 elementary school students in the school district. Secondary school students finished school Wednesday.

LONDON AIRPORT HEIST

Phoney couriers net \$3.5m

LONDON (AP) — Scotland Yard launched a countrywide hunt today for a British official of a United States air courier company on suspicion that he masterminded the theft of at least \$3.5 million from a warehouse at Heathrow Airport.

The yard identified the sus-

Auditing staff to double

VICTORIA (CP) — The auditing staff for the British Columbia department of human resources may soon be doubled to guard against illegal misuse of funds by people employed in provincial welfare offices, Bill Vander Zalm, human resources minister, told the legislature Monday.

In response to a question from Conservative leader Scott Wallace, Mr. Vander Zalm said there are currently three auditors employed by the department to investigate possible welfare frauds and there are plans to hire another three.

Dr. Wallace asked if there is any evidence arising from an alleged misuse of funds in the New Westminster welfare office which would justify a review of all accounting procedures in the offices.

Teams of chartered accountants and New Westminster detectives have been investigating possible employee fraud for more than a month, including checking the records of some caseworkers back to 1973.

pect as Stephen Patrick, 30, of London. Sources said he was a security manager with Purotor Services Ltd., the courier company, who has not been seen since the theft Saturday from the British Airways warehouse.

The sources said Scotland Yard feared the robbers already may have left the country with the money.

A reward of £125,000 (\$215,000) has been offered for recovery of the money.

The robbers, wearing Purotor uniforms, went to three airport warehouses operated by British Airways and Sabena, the Belgian airline, sources said. They presented apparently genuine documents and were given five steel strongboxes filled with

U.S. dollars, French francs and other money, some awaiting shipment abroad and some sent to Britain for delivery by Purotor.

The robbers told the warehouse staff the strongboxes were addressed incorrectly and would have to be taken away to be corrected. They drove away in an armored pickup truck.

The theft was not discovered until Monday, when real officials showed up to pick up the boxes.

"We are sick, very sick," said Keith Watts, general manager of Purotor.

"The warehouse staff did all the right things and asked all the right questions," said an airport police official. "The documents they were shown

were quite in order. This looks like an inside job."

The robbery was similar to another three months ago at Heathrow. In that incident, two men disguised as British Airways couriers bluffed security men at a warehouse into handing over gold and jewels worth an estimated \$1 million.

Heathrow, one of the world's busiest airports, is also one of the most crime-plagued. Airport officials admit they suffer theft losses of up to \$17 million a year.

Unions at the airport oppose such security measures as personal searches of workers. Guards were transferred to other duties on one occasion when some employees staged a strike against tightened security.

TEN KILLED

Terrorist camp raided

TEHRAN (AP) — Security agents raided what they said was a leftist terrorist hideout near the Tehran airport early today and reported killing eight men and two women guerrillas in a four-hour gun-battle.

The agents said after the shootout at an apartment building they found Soviet-made weapons and documents linking the guerrillas to Libya and international Communist organizations. Authorities said one of those killed was Hamid Ashraf, whom the government had been seeking since 1971 for alleged urban guerrilla activities. They said no agents

or innocent persons had been hurt.

Iranian security police, who have killed a number of alleged guerrillas in similar battles this year, have never made clear the nature of the guerrillas they are pursuing except to say they are Marxists.

Nearly three years ago, the government announced that Marxist anarchists had plotted to assassinate Shah Mohamed Reza Pahlavi, who keeps a firm rule over this oil-rich country. A year ago, two United States Air Force officers—Col. Paul Shaffer and Lt.-Col. Jack Turner—were slain as they rode to

work at the U.S. military mission here. The government rounded up a number of persons and sentenced 10 to death.

Authorities said the guerrillas had made their headquarters on the second floor of an apartment building near Mehrabad International Airport. They said security agents sneaked into the basement of the building early today and were helping a couple and child who lived there to leave when the alleged terrorists saw them and opened fire.

Officials said the guerrillas had two Soviet-made machineguns, three sub-machine-guns, nine pistols and about \$20,000 in U.S. currency.

'I put my daughter in God's hands'

MONTREAL (CP) — Jackie Rethmetakis was redecorating her daughter's room in preparation for her return when an immigration official from Ottawa telephoned her to say her daughter was among 256 persons being held hostage by Palestinian terrorists in Uganda on Monday.

"I thought it was a joke," Mrs. Rethmetakis said in an interview.

"I wasn't aware of the hijacking—my God, South Africa—Joanna said that was the last place she wanted to

go," she said, barely able to hold back the tears.

"I put my daughter in God's hands," she said. "I know God will take care of my little girl."

Joanna Rethmetakis, 18, was one of five Canadians identified as being aboard a hijacked Air France aircraft held hostage at Kampala's Entebbe Airport.

The hostages were being held in the passenger terminal by the terrorists, who have threatened to blow up the airliner unless their demands are met.

Miss Rethmetakis and a schoolmate, Louise Kourtis, 20, were on their way from Athens to Paris to visit a friend in the French capital.

Louise's mother, Germaine Kourtis, said she was still in shock a few hours after hearing of the hijacking.

"I feel so helpless," she said in a subdued voice.

"Louise doesn't get scared that easily. She's done a lot of travelling and works just long enough to save money to go on another trip.



RETHMETAKIS

Unions blast BCR 'hocus pocus'

VANCOUVER (CP) — The British Columbia Railway is playing around "hocus-pocus" with its employees' new settlements and anything could happen as a result, Jack Whittaker, chairman of the joint council of B.C. Rail unions said Monday.

Mr. Whittaker said B.C. Rail's announcement that the unions' recently-won pay increases would probably be subject to anti-inflation board approval could mean the end of any good faith between the unions and the railway.

"Anything could happen," he said. "The railway could be down before the end of the week or it could be running."

Mr. Whittaker said provincial mediator Clark Gilmour, who had been meeting with union and railway officials, was called to Victoria Monday by Labor Minister Allan Williams.

"We hope he'll have good news when he comes back," Mr. Whittaker said.

The Teamsters, Operating Engineers and Maintenance of Way Employees went to binding arbitration to avoid a shutdown of the railway, and two other unions settled voluntarily, Mr. Whittaker noted.

Hugh Armstrong, a spokesman for the Crown-owned railway, said a clause in the binding arbitration award provides for the settlement to be submitted to the anti-inflation if required.

"We will abide by the terms of the agreement," he said. Should the settlement be changed by the anti-inflation board, the entire agreement would be resubmitted to the binding arbitration board and its recommendations would again be binding, he said.

Mr. Whittaker said, "If the railway was honorable, it would support us before the AIB."

"We submitted to binding arbitration to avoid a shut-down, and now with one wave of the wand they wipe our settlements out," he said.

He added that he would be very sorry for railway workers if they had to leave the job again in the dispute, and equally sorry for workers employed in northern B.C. industries that depend on the railway to keep going.

It might be a good idea if northern industry and the unions banded together to tell the government to stop playing games with the railway, he said.

The AIB entered the picture as a result of the B.C. government's Anti-Inflation Measures Act becoming law Monday. The act empowers the province to enter into an agreement with Ottawa and co-operate with the federal anti-inflation program.

The railway workers received pay increases of up to 59 per cent over two years under binding arbitration brought down June 3 by Toronto consultant Owen Shime.

The

Citizen

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Construction lockout could delay schools

A lockout in the construction industry would cause serious delays in school construction in the Prince George school district.

The Construction Labor Relations Association has tentatively set 4 p.m. Wednesday as the start of a lockout of all 40,000 construction workers employed by member firms in B.C.

This will affect all industrial and commercial construction in the province, including 11 School District 57 and College of New Caledonia projects.

A school district spokesman said the 11 projects are valued at about \$8 million, while the CNC construction is valued at \$10.4 million.

The threat of a lockout was caused by a strike of cement masons in the Vancouver area and the CLRA said all construction unions had to agree to new contracts before agreements could be signed.

The cement masons asked for a bigger settlement than other unions because they felt they were behind in wages due to a five-year contract signed in the 1960s.

School District 57 spokesman Mac Carpenter said a lockout would delay completion of the district's projects and force a number of schools to extend classes on shift.

Some schools are already scheduled to go on shift because of construction, but Carpenter said the hardest hit would be Kelly Road school.

Schools will shift

Schools to be on shift are College Heights, High Glen, Nechako, Westwood and Austin Road elementary school. About 3,000 students will be affected by these shifts. Another 300 students were to be transferred to avoid shifts at John McInnis and Lakewood Junior secondary schools.

The renovations at Kelly Road school were to be completed by the start of the fall term.

"But if a lockout delays the completion some 1,000 students are either going to have an extended holiday or will have to be transported to other schools," Carpenter said.

The CNC's projects are not slated for completion until September 1977.

There are about 3,000 construction workers in Prince

George employed by 45 CLRA member firms.

The only hopeful note in the dispute was sounded today by Peter Sorensen, manager of the Prince George Construction Association.

Sorensen said even if the lockout starts Wednesday, by Monday things could be straightened out.

"There's a holiday Thursday and a weekend coming up. There's lots of time to negotiate and manoeuvre," he said.

The CLRA Monday turned down a proposal from the cement masons to reduce their wage demands to eight per cent plus the allowable fringe benefits provided a disparity between the masons and the ironworkers is equalled out by November.

Masons earn less

The cement masons are earning a total pay package of \$10.88 an hour, while other construction workers earn \$12.19.

The last contract expired April 20. All agreements are subject to review by the federal anti-inflation board.

Labor Minister Allan Williams said today in Victoria that at the moment, he is not planning any intervention in the construction industry dispute.

Mr. Williams said he was still waiting to hear from the director of mediation service, Gus Leonidas, who has been in touch with the parties involved in the dispute.

The split among the unions came to the surface Monday

when they met to discuss forming a joint council to engage in industry-wide bargaining.

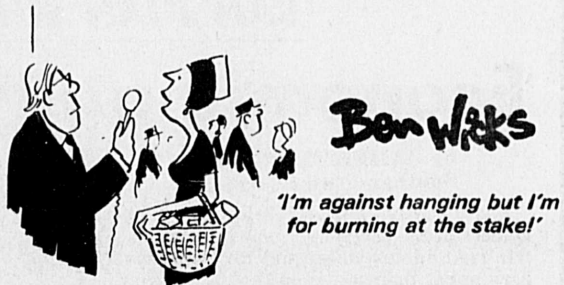
They voted down the proposal 8-7.

The meeting was organized by the B.C. and Yukon Building Trades Council and supported by the Carpenters Union.

The Carpenters are members of the group of basic trades along with the Laborers, Teamsters, and Operating Engineers.

They have split with the group of mechanical trades, the electricians, plumbers, sheet metal workers, boiler-makers, heat and frost insulators, ironworkers, machinists and elevator constructors.

TODAY



FEATURED INSIDE

● Prince George's ham radio operators send their signals across the world. Page 29.

● If you are an average 30-year-old Canadian you really shouldn't have much trouble competing with that 60-year-old Swede. Page 15.

● Canada's airline service is gradually returning to normal in wake of a truce between the government, the pilots and the air traffic controllers. Page 2.

● Editorial, 4; International, 5; Local and Provincial, 3; Television and Comics, 13; Business, 8; Sports 15-17; Horoscope, 12; Family, 27; Classified, 18-26.

THE WEATHER

Clouds and afternoon showers were expected today and for the rest of this week as a low pressure area moves into the Central Interior. The weatherman said the ridge of high pressure over Prince George Monday has moved east into the Prairies.

The high today 21; the low tonight, 8.

Wednesday's high, 21. The high Monday was 23; the overnight low was 10 and .3 mm of rain fell.

The high on June 29, 1975 was 22; the low was 5.

Temperatures page 2



NOW HEAR THIS

● Mayor Harold Moffat just can't get used to the way everything in this modern age is changing, including shorter work hours, longer holidays and earlier school vacations every year. The mayor wanted to convey council's appreciation to this year's high school graduation classes for their trouble-free celebrations this month. Letters were sent to schools but, alas, it was too late, school was already out for the year. So, here it is grads, from the mayor: "... may I personally express my thanks to each and every one of you for conducting yourself in such a responsible manner. It is my hope your example will rub off on those that are causing problems."

● More than 300 pupils and some teachers from Hart Highway Elementary School have completed running around the world. The students began the journey in September in their daily physical education classes by adding the distance run each day. The combined distances of all the children took them from Prince George to Alaska, to Japan, over to Hong Kong, through the Suez Canal to France, across the Pacific to Canada and back home. The total distance run was 33,743 kilometres.