

# Vander Zalm won't promise pension increase

VANCOUVER (CP) — Human Resources Minister Bill Vander Zalm said Monday he is not promising that British Columbia's 125,000 senior citizens will get a \$20-a-month hike in their old age pensions as promised by the federal government.

Vander Zalm said in an interview that he won't decide if the federal money, channeled through the provincial government, will go to pensioners until he meets with federal officials.

The minister said Ottawa's sudden announcement of the hike disrupted negotiations in which he has been campaigning to have the federal government pay a portion of the provincial contribution to seniors.

Vander Zalm said negotiations were going well, and

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he had expected the federal government would pay up to 50 per cent of the costs of the provincial income program.

"I don't know where we're at now, he said. "The announcement may jeopardize our negotiations." An unproclaimed section of the provincial Guar-

anteed Available Income for Need Act (GAIN) gives Vander Zalm the power to reduce the province's contribution to its seniors by the amount of a federal increase.

All pensioners in Canada now receive \$159.79 from Health and Welfare Canada and also qualify for a maximum guaranteed income supplement (GIS) of \$112.08, depending on income. The \$20 will be applied to this amount.

In B.C., seniors receiving GIS also get up to \$38.88 from the provincial government.

When the federal government increases the basic rate, the B.C. government can, as in the case of war veterans, reduce the province's portion by the same amount.



Citizen photo by Tim Swanky

### Last fling

Steven Loehndorf, 9, gets into the swing of things while enjoying the last few days of summer holidays in the school park at Lakewood Elementary School. When school reopens, Steven's play will be restricted to recess, noon hours and after school.

## SCHOOL DISPUTE STALEMATE

# Area pupils facing education at home

by JOHN POPE  
Citizen Staff Reporter

Correspondence-like courses look like the education alternative faced by the Prince George school district's 22,000 students following a labor dispute stalemate today.

This is the contingency plan that a reliable source, who asked not to be identified, said would result from the inability of School District 57 and the International Union of Operating Engineers to resolve its lockout labor dispute during a meeting today.

The union represents 380 non-teaching employees who have been locked out since Aug. 2. The employees work as clerks, custodians and cafeteria personnel.

It is believed the school district's main plan would be to have the teachers and students in the schools only during the first week of operation. The teachers are expected to administer their courses after the first week by sending assignments home with the students.

"There was no move towards settlement," said School District 57 secretary-treasurer Mac Carpenter, after the meeting with the union today.

"The meeting was held to see if there was any point in re-commencing the negotiations and we agree there wasn't."

A meeting of the school board tonight will decide on the contingency plan to be used for educating the 22,000 students in the district.

## Father, son die in mishap

QUESNEL (Staff) — An industrial accident here Monday claimed the lives of a Quesnel man and his 17-year-old son.

William McDonald, 48, and his son John, both employees of Ernst Planer Mill here, were crushed and killed instantly when a truck dumping asphalt at the mill backed over them.

Police said the victims were working in front of a dry kiln shimming up tracks on which loads are rolled into the kiln.

The yard in front of the kiln was being paved, and the two men did not see the truck backing towards them, police said.

The truck was driven by Robert Fitzgerald, 27, of Quesnel.

Quesnel coroner Jim Girvin has ordered an inquest into the deaths, but no date has been set.

## Brewery union votes on pact

VICTORIA (CP) — Brewery employees will vote this week on a full contract offer made Friday by the British Columbia brewing industry, a union spokesman said Monday.

Acceptance of the offer would end a three-month strike-lockout that has dried up supplies of locally-produced beer and forced the provincial government's Liquor Administration Branch to import beer from the United States to meet consumer demand.

An industry spokesman said both sides had agreed not to make public details of the proposal until after the vote.

The proposal, he said, is for "full and final settlement of all unresolved issues."

It is not known what the union plans will be. A spokesman for the operating engineers union could not be contacted. The teachers association has not yet announced what its members will do about the picket lines, but in the past teachers have come to work in such disputes.

The main issue in dispute has been the renegotiation of a clause in the contract regarding payout of accumulated sick leave.

The school district's proposal, which has already been accepted by the carpenters and joiners union, would reduce the payout to a maximum of 50 per cent or 60 days, whichever is less, for those employees who quit after five to 10 years of service.

It would also like to reduce the payout to 120 days or 100 per cent of accumulated time, whichever is less, for those with more than 10 years of service. It would pay the difference to those who have more than 120 days of accumulated time.

The union's counter offer would be to have all existing employees getting a 100 per cent payout to a maximum of 120 days while new employees would get a 50 per cent payout of accumulated time if they quit.

At present, employees who have worked for the district for five years can accumulate 90 days of payout (18 days a year) while those with 10 years of service get 180 days.

## Air dispute negotiators quit posts

MONTREAL (CP) — Three members of the Montreal local of the International Association of Machinists resigned from the union's national negotiating committee Tuesday, complicating talks aimed at ending the labor dispute which has grounded Air Canada.

Barry Shaw, chief of the IAM negotiating team, said the union would try to find alternatives from Montreal to replace the three, but said he believed it would be legal to continue bargaining even if no replacements were found.

The national negotiators have come under heavy fire from the Montreal local in recent weeks.

The names of the three who resigned were not immediately known, but union officials said they included two English-speaking members and one French-speaking member.

There have been reports—denied by union sources—of a split along language lines.

Picture page 9  
Interpretive page 24

## Pickets hit mine at Endako

FRASER LAKE (Staff) — For the third time this year, picketers from Gibraltar Mines near Williams Lake have closed the Endako mine here.

Canex Placer Ltd., owns both mines.

The 400 Gibraltar employees have been locked out since May 26 when bargaining for a new collective agreement reached an impasse.

Picket lines went up at the Endako molybdenum mine just before the graveyard shift started Sunday night.

A spokesman for the Canadian Association of Industrial, Mechanical and Allied Workers, which represents workers at both mines, said the secondary pickets would remain at the Endako site until Thursday.

CAIMAW workers refused to cross the picket lines at the mine.

The Endako mine was picketed by Gibraltar employees in June and again in July. Endako employs about 475 workers at the mine.

During the picketing in June, an injunction was granted limiting the number of pickets at any access to four.

CAIMAW spokesman Peter Cameron said the pickets would be in effect until Thursday. "What happens after that is a question of tactics," he said.

Gibraltar local representatives attended a union meeting last week in Endako to support a motion which would increase the \$1,500 a month being sent by the Endako local to aid the locked out Gibraltar employees.

The motion to increase the money sent to Gibraltar needed 66 per cent to pass, but received 56 per cent.

At that time, union representatives said the only option open to the Gibraltar local was to put pressure on the company by closing down Endako.

## Reed purchase 'interests' M-B

TORONTO (CP) — Reed International Ltd., the British publishing and papermaking conglomerate, announced Monday it is engaged in preliminary negotiations that may lead to the sale of its beleaguered Canadian subsidiary, Reed Paper Ltd. of Toronto.

The announcement, made by Reed head office here, said discussions to sell the subsidiary are going on with several major Canadian companies and "may lead to the sale of its entire investment in Reed Paper Ltd., its principal Canadian subsidiary."

Canadian Forest Products Ltd. of Vancouver (Canfor), which agreed in principle several weeks ago to purchase Reed's interest in joint venture pulp operations at Prince George, B.C., said it was not involved in the latest discussions in any way.

Canfor has agreed to pay \$60

million for Reed's holdings in Prince George Pulp and Paper Ltd., Intercontinental Pulp Co. Ltd. and Takla Forest Products Ltd.

## Largest recall seen for Fords

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal agency will issue a consumer advisory bulletin today warning of potential transmission problems in about nine million Ford cars and trucks.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will advise motorists to take extra precautions when they put their car or truck in park, said NHTSA spokesman Hal Parris.

A consumer group, the Centre for Auto Safety, has called for a recall of the cars and trucks. If a recall is ordered, it would be the largest ever.

## Chiefs seek Queen's ear

FREDERICTON (CP) — Canadian Indian chiefs will seek a meeting with the Queen in London to ask her not to agree with repatriation of the constitution, Noel Starblanket, National Indian Brotherhood president, said today.

The Queen will be told that the constitution should not be brought to Canada until the federal government gives assurances that Indian rights will be high in constitutional reform priorities, Starblanket told the opening of the brotherhood's ninth annual assembly.

He also said that Indians will crash the next first ministers' constitutional conference.

"We're not going to ask anymore," he said in an interview later. "We're just going to go. They're going to have to evict us."

He also said in the interview that the assembly will be asked to approve sending the chiefs to London.

Sources said a meeting with the Queen likely will be sought for next spring.

## ALBERTA REAPS BILLIONS

# Here's how the other half lives

CALGARY (CP) — Natural gas and petroleum sales by the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission reached almost \$5 billion in 1977, the commission said Monday.

In its annual report, the commission, which finds markets for the province's oil and gas, said revenue from oil sales climbed to \$3,209,176,196 last year from \$2,714,970,205 in 1976.

Gas sales rose to \$2,911,922,438 last year from \$2,190,841,159 in 1976.

Last year, the commission sold 313 million barrels of Crown royalty and lessee petroleum which comprised 82 per cent of conventional petroleum production of 381 million barrels in Alberta.

Royalty barrels sold on behalf of the

provincial government totalled 125 million barrels.

The commission also purchased 2,259 trillion British Thermal Units of gas last year of which 1,432 trillion BTU remained in Canada and 827 trillion were exported to the United States.

The export quantity included 39 trillion BTU of emergency sales to meet critical energy needs in the northwestern U.S. resulting from severe weather conditions.

A BTU is used in the measurement of heat quantity and is the quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water one Fahrenheit degree.

Canadian production of petroleum averaged 1,446,000 barrels a day, a rise

of .6 per cent from 1976, and 22 per cent below productive capacity, the commission said.

Of total production, 84.5 per cent or 1,216,000 barrels a day were produced in Alberta.

Canadian crude oil imports totalled 597,000 barrels a day mainly from Venezuela, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Imports were down 11 per cent or 71,000 barrels daily largely due to increased deliveries of Western Canadian petroleum to Montreal.

Canada exported 272,000 barrels of petroleum daily, a decrease of 193,000 barrels a day from 1976 due to further restrictions on exports by the National Energy Board.

## TODAY



**Bon Wicks**

"Dief? We've got Clark and unless you agree to our demands we're going to give him back."

## FEATURED INSIDE

### Food price rip-off seen

Canadian consumers were overcharged for food between 1974 and 1976, a government study indicates. Page 9.

### Juvenile centre defended

Continued opposition to the establishment of a juvenile halfway house here could kill the entire concept, officials claim. Page 3.

### Trimming the rosters

Jim Plunkett of the San Francisco 49ers was among the surprise cuts as the National Football League trimmed its rosters for the Saturday opening of the regular season. Page 15.

### Index

Bridge.....	21	Family.....	11
Business.....	8	Horoscopes.....	27
City, B.C.....	2, 3, 14	International.....	5
Classified.....	18-24	National.....	9
Comics.....	26	Sports.....	15-17
Crossword.....	20	Television.....	27
Editorial.....	4		

## THE WEATHER

The forecast for Prince George today is for mainly sunny skies with some cloudy periods. Wednesday's forecast is for mainly cloudy skies with some sunny periods and showers.

The expected high both days is 21. Today's forecast low is 7.

The high Monday was 20, the low 9, with a trace of precipitation. On this date last year the high was 12, the low 7.



## NOW HEAR THIS

● City bylaw inspector John Hacock was called out to check a noise complaint at 1 a.m. recently. The complaint proved false; but when he returned to his vehicle, the air had been let out of all four of his tires. He thinks he was set up.

● A local man says he should have jogged to the West Kootenay in southern B.C. to retrieve the running shoes left behind on vacation. They took eight days to get the 700 miles by mail. History records Persian couriers of the Turkish sultans running from Constantinople to Adrianople and back, a distance of about 220 miles, in two days and nights.