THE ELECTION

Promises wanted

by senior citizens

VANCOUVER (CP) - A

for commitments for pension

improvements from federal

party leaders and candidates

Senior Citizens for Action Now held the first in a series of meetings across Canada

Group spokesman Tom Alsbury, a former mayor of Vancouver, said that more

than half of British Columbia's

pensioners are living at or

Alsbury said a single pen-

sioner receives about \$369 a

month and needs at least \$700

to live on. He said SCAN wants indexed

made by Regan

AMHERST, N.S. (CP) — The Daily News says in today's

edition that Nova Scotia

Liberal leader and former pre-

mier Gerald Regan will announce Thursday his inten-tion to contest the Halifax rid-

ing in the Feb. 18 federal elec-

The newspaper quotes pro-vincial Liberal caucus sources

as saying the caucus would

meet in Halifax hours before

Regan is expected to announce

his candidacy.

If Regan decides to run

federally, he will resign his

seat as member for Halifax-Needham and an interim leader will be named.

The sources said the most

senior member of the Liberal

caucus is Benoit Comeau.

member of the legislature for

Clare. If Comeau declines, Dr.

William Gillis of Antigonish

would be a likely caretaker

Reports last week indicated

the caucus was to meet on the

weekend, but caucus leader

Guy Brown said the meeting was scheduled for Thursday.

If Regan runs, his competitors will be incumbent

Progressive Conservative George Cooper and New

Democrat Alexa McDonough,

been nominated.

Federal plans

below the poverty line.

in the Feb. 18 election.

here Sunday.

Joe Phelps, a former Sas-katchewan MLA and cabinet

minister, said that many

people in public office feign

sympathy for pensioners but

"Seniors' poverty should shame this country," Phelps

said. "We want to ensure that

no matter which party is elected, it gets the message."

Phelps' wife Eva demanded

an explanation for the annual

government pension which

former Liberal cabinet minis-ter Donald Macdonald

Mrs. Phelps said Mac-

donald, 49, has retired from politics to a partnership in a

prestigious law firm, cor-

porate directorships and a

\$13,000 government pension while 1.1 million Canadians

are expected to live on \$3,200

a year.

She said there is no justice

in indexed pensions giving Liberal leader Pierre Trudeau

\$94,000 a year at age 70 and

Prime Minister Clark and

NDP leader Ed Broadbent more than \$100,000 at age 70

when so many senior citizens

are virtually starving.

receives.

do little to help them.

Southam News WINDSOR — A massive injection of public funds into ailing Chrysler Canada, and restructuring of the Auto Pact are needed to put the auto industry back on its feet, NDP leader Ed Broadbent said here

On a campaign swing through Canada's Motor City, Broadbent called on the federal government to provide pensions of ten per cent a year or the minimum inflation rate. immediate financial relief to Chrysler.

"The federal government has waited far too long to come to grips with the serious Chrysler situation in the Windsor area.'' Challenging Economic Development Economic Development minister Robert de Cotret's decision to withhold aid to Chrysler until after the federal election, Broadbent said: "It is absolutely essential they take action now to preserve automotive jobs in the Windsor

An NDP government would be willing to invest millions of dollars into the corporation in return for equity in the No. 3 automaker and investment, employment and development guarantees. Broadbent refused to be specific about how much aid an NDP government would provide to the auto company and was then hurried away from a press conference by aides

In a brief private interview later, Broadbent said any government decision to help the company would be affected by Chrysler's long-term pros-



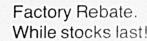
both of whom have already

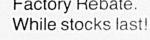
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A mass grave was used for 31 of the 43 victims of the New Year's eve fire in Chapais.

NEW YEAR'S EVE TRAGEDY

Chapais buries its fire victims

A large hole in the tiny cemetery outside this mining town became the common grave Sunday for 34 victims of a New Year's party tragedy. In mid-afternoon a priest

gave the last rites over the square-metre grave. Relatives were not invited to attend.
Two of the victims were

buried in separate graves in the cemetery and the remaining eight were buried in the Lake St. John region, at Val d'Or and at Edmundston, N.B.

that about 350 persons gathered in the town's recreation centre to celebrate the incoming New

decorative spruce boughs. Within a short time the centre was burned to the The Citizen National

dead. Three people died later and 13 are still in hos-

On Saturday about 2,000 mourners crowded into the local hockey arena to pay

-Coutts and MacEachen isolated Trudeau from Liber-

als who opposed the attempt to

defeat the government, includ-

ing Andras who the report said, "had tried and tried to

the vote on the Conservative

budget to allow External Affairs Minister Flora

MacDonald time to return

from Europe and to allow time

for negotiations with the five Social Credit MPs who

MacEachen said Saturday

that Trudeau was "fully

informed about what hap-

pened in caucus and National

Liberal Federation meet-

abstained.

-Baker could have delayed

urge Trudeau not to do it."

"Financially we can help

Bishop Drainville praised the residents of Chapais for pulling together to help the families of the victims They had shown them-selves to be "the biggest family I have ever seen,"

Rev. Pierre Guenette of Chapais told the mourners: 'After this trial it will be the responsibility of each member of our community to bring joy to all our brothers

"The pain afflicting us will last for many years, but we will find joy again."

A committee organizing a disaster fund for victims' families reported Saturday that \$53,000 had been con-

Chapais Mayor Gerard Pellerin, who suffered burns during the fire, told reporters the committee expects to raise \$100,000 to help with the survivors'

in Toronto and Sudbury on Saturday, then travelled to Oshawa on Sunday where he was nominated in his home riding. Former party leader David Lewis spoke in support of Broadbent at the nomination

meeting.
The NDP leader campaigns today in Vancouver.

'PM INEPT'

Prime Minister Clark offered \$200 million in special

energy projects to Quebecers on Sunday and asked them to help provide the majority that

eluded his Progressive Conser-

vative government in the May

While Clark campaigned for

re-election on Feb. 18, New Democrat Leader Ed Broad

bent told a nomination meeting in Sudbury, Ont., that Clark was the most inept prime minister since Mackenzie

He also said Clark was a fool

for allowing increased natural

gas exports to the United

States at the same time he was

warning Canadians of possible

shortages of home heating oil. Liberal Leader Pierre

Trudeau made only one cam-

paign appearance during the

weekend, speaking Saturday

at a nomination meeting in

Cornwall, Ont. He said

economic measures included

in the Conservative budget last

month would have ensured a

The former prime minister spent the rest of the weekend in Ottawa. He is scheduled to

study campaign proposals

today that came out of a meet-

ing of the Liberals' 40-member policy committee during the

weekend. He resumes his cam-

After taking Saturday off,

Clark flew to Quebec City with his wife Maureen McTeer and

concentrated on energy issues

in a speech at nearby St. Laur-

ent. The \$200 million is to be

spread over three years and would finance projects agreed

to by the federal and provincial

governments.

He said his party is the only

one in Canada that can unite

all Canadians in a renewed

Confederation. He then flew to

St. John's where he continues his campaign today. Broadbent was the hardest-

running of the leaders during

the weekend. He campaigned

paign Tuesday in Hamilton.

recession in Canada.

22 election.

Debate threatened

iberal policy meeting here is weekend.

Baker denied the report that he had underestimated the entire weekend the control of the three of three of the three of three of the three of the three of the three of the t major party leaders is up in the air because Liberals do not like the format the networks want

> Party officials met Friday for negotiations with officials representing the CBC, CTV and Global television networks over a proposed two-hour English-language debate on the evening of Feb. 10.

However, Liberals refused to grant final approval because the format of the debate would include three separate debates between Conservative Joe Clark, Liberal Pierre Trudeau and New Democrat Ed Broadbent plus questioning by three national reporters, one from each net-

The parties also are considering a similar debate on French-language television organized by Radio-Canada and TVA, a private network. The final format is not yet

decided. Liberal negotiator Gordon Ashworth said Trudeau and his strategy committee asked him to seek one of two alternative formats on grounds the three-reporter format inter-

feres in true debate. Ashworth said his alternatives included a series of four debates on four different days

by Liberals Bay-Nipigon, attended a Liberal policy meeting here

he had underestimated the seriousness of the threat to the government. He said he knew early in the afternoon of Dec. 13 that the government could be defeated but did not postpone the budget vote because of principle.

absent.

taining we would have been defeated anyway," he said.
"Besides, we felt the government, in order to carry on the nation's business, has to have

the confidence of the House." Baker also disputed the report that Speaker James Jerome had already made up his mind to cast his vote in

favor of the government in case of a tie.

He said he doesn't think Jerome, a Liberal, would have voted for the government and said it was unfair to say Jerome would have advised anyone of his decision in

run in the Feb. 18 election.

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their last respects to the mother any more. dead and try to comfort each other. Almost "That's the most tragic sequel and the fact that it It was only a week ago everyone in the town of happened during a holiday 3,500 had lost a friend, a season makes it even more

be done to compensate for the loss.

but the most tragic part is that you have ... kids who have neither a father nor a

horrible."

convention is "news to me, I

He said Trudeau had many

sources of information during

his deliberations, not just

Andras said he wanted to

"I wanted to make sure of

the consequences after the

even wanted to discuss with

But he didn't vote against the budget against his will. "It was

a lousy budget," he said. "I

would have voted against it

Andras, 58, was an MP for

14 years but has decided not to

run again. He denied his retire-

ment had anything to do with

Trudeau is great. He met me

and my wife and we discussed

my decision. He fully under-stands my personal reasons,

which I've outlined in my

and a corporation held in trust

for the sons of John Bassett of

Baton Broadcasting Inc. and

Frederik Eaton of the T. Eaton

Both offers expire Jan. 11.

its bid, it would gain control of

FP's eight dailies, including

Toronto Globe and Mail, and

increase its circulation by

almost 50 per cent to 2.4 mill-

Thomson has indicated it

"What we want is for all of

won't settle for less than major

the FP shareholders to accept

our offer, but we won't take less than voting control," John

Tory, president of Woodbridge

Co. Ltd, the holding company

that controls Thomson, said

FP president George Currie has said Malone, 70, wants out

and that the other principal

shareholders were receptive to

at least the Black offer.

control of FP.

If Thomson is successful in

'My relationship with

Trudeau's comeback.

anyway.

statement."

meet with Trudeau before the

crucial vote but couldn't.

government's defeat . .

him the leadership issue.'

Coutts and himself.

have never heard of it before.

financial problems.

this weekend

The government lost the vote 139 to 133 with five Social Credit members abstaining and three Conservatives, including Miss MacDonald,

With the Creditistes abs-

advance. Prime Minister Clark announced Friday the appointment of Jerome as associate

chief justice of the Federal Court of Canada. Jerome had announced his intention not to

HARRY BRABANDT

relative or both. Quebec Premier Rene Forty coffins were laid But tragedy struck when a fire took hold in tinder-dry Levesque and other provinout on the ice as mass was cial and federal governconducted by Roman ment representa representatives Catholic Bishop Gerard Drainville of Amos. The other four victims had Levesque told reporters ground and 41 people were there was little that could private funerals.

Trudeau supporters deny rumors things, the column said: hold a crossCanada leadership

Liberal Leader Allan -MacEachen and Coutts MacEachen says he did not withheld vital information withhold vital information from the former prime minisfrom Pierre Trudeau last ter, including the fact that one month as Trudeau considered month as Trudeau considered of the reasons given for staying whether to lead the party in the on, difficulties in holding a Feb. 18 election campaign. mid-campaign leadership convention, was invalid.

Government House Leader Walter Baker and Robert Andras, a former Liberal cabinet minister, also denied roles attributed to them in a report of behind-the-scenes manoeuvring in the hours before the minority Progressive Conservative government

The Toronto Star and the Ottawa Journal, in a syndicated column published Saturday said MacEachen and Jim Coutts, Trudeau's chief aide, engineered Trudeau's return, preventing former finance minister Donald Macdonald from taking over as party

was defeated Dec. 13.

leader.
A spokesman for Trudeau declined comment on the report, saying it was only ings." He said reports of plans speculation. Among other by Liberal party insiders to

SALE DISCUSSED

Free Press owners meeting

ton family, owners of a major share of FP Publications Ltd., meet today to discuss whether to sell their portion of the troubled newspaper chain, the family's lawyer said Sunday. Richard Shead of Winnipeg said members of the late John W. Sifton's family, who own 22.5 per cent of FP's voting

shares, were to hold private

son Newspapers Ltd. and Conrad Black, chairman of Argus Corp. and Vancouver-based Sterling Newspspers Ltd.

Thomson, publisher of 36 Canadian and 68 U.S. daily newspapers as well as The Times and Sunday Times of London, offered \$139 million

The Thomson offer is about \$20 million higher than one made earlier by Black and his partners, George Gardiner,

for the chain on Wednesday.

meetings to discuss offers by two rival corporations, Thom-

TORY NOT SURE

'Are you kidding?'

MONTREAL (CP) - Although badly outnumbered, Marcel Prud'Homme gave as good as he got. Prud'Homme, Liberal member of the last Parliament for St. Denis, was kidded this week when he accidentally walked into a crowd of Progressive Conservatives waiting

to greet Prime Minister Clark. You should join our party," they taunted, "because at least we've got a permanent leader.

Prud'Homme rose to the occasion, however Spying Conservative Senator Martial Asselin in the crowd, the Liberal asked him if he had enough faith in Conservative chances to quit the Senate and run for the

Asselin, unaware that reporters were near, replied in credulously: "Are you crazy?"

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