

Surcharge on lumber threatened

WASHINGTON (CP) — Lumber sales from British Columbia to the United States face a threat of import surcharges under pressure from the hard-hit competing industry in bordering U.S. regions.

The United States Coalition for Fair Canadian Lumber Imports, an Oregon-based pressure group representing the U.S. forest industry and regional interests, plans to publicize the plan for countervailing duties against softwood imports at a Washington news conference today.

The U.S. International Trade Commission completed a study on the issue this year. Oregon Senator Bob Packwood said the findings would justify countervailing duties because the Canadian exporters get provincial government help in keeping their prices competitive.

The Canadian share of the U.S. softwood market has risen to about 30 per cent from about 20 per cent in seven years and the coalition blames this for a slump and unemployment in the American industry.

Canadian Finance Minister Marc Lalonde, during a Washington visit Monday, cited the prospect of countervailing duties against Canadian lumber imports as an example of American protectionist measures that threaten transborder trade.

'Explain restraint policies'

VICTORIA (CP) — Premier Bill Bennett was asked Wednesday to face a forum full of angry teachers later this month to justify his government's policies which teachers say are creating a disaster in the B.C. public education system.

The province's 30,000 teachers are angry, said Larry Kuehn, president of the B.C. Teachers' Federation, and would like to see education as an issue in an early election campaign.

Failing that, they are angry enough to consider going on strike unless the provincial government agrees within a couple of weeks to provide adequate funding for education, he told a news conference.

In his letter inviting the B.C. premier to an open meeting Oct. 20 in Vancouver, Kuehn said the government's disruptive actions include budget cuts, attacks on the education system and on teachers by Education Minister Bill Vander Zalm.

Bennett, speaking in Vancouver, said he has no intention of becoming involved in such a debate, adding that that is the business of school trustees.

Vander Zalm, however, said in Victoria he is willing to consider going in place of the premier, but said he will have to look at the letter first. Kuehn said earlier the teachers are prepared to accept Vander Zalm as a substitute speaker if Bennett is not prepared to attend the meeting.

Kuehn said Bill 89, which currently before the B.C. legislature, shortens the school year by five days without reducing instruction time and cuts teachers' salaries by up to 11 days as part of the government effort to cut spending on education by \$60 million before the end of June.

"This legislation, despite taking away up to \$60 million from teachers' salaries, by no means guarantees that there will not be further terminations."



Inside the Orient

Eiko Nadalin, centre, discusses some of the fine points of the traditional Japanese kimono. Lillian Astorino models the women's dress kimono and Noshi Nomura the men's. The demonstration was part of the Inside the Orient course which began Wednesday and is offered by the continuing education department of the College of New Caledonia. Students were also introduced to Japanese writing and took part in a tea ceremony. The course continues until Dec. 8 and will introduce students to the culture, traditions, mythology and religions of Japan, India, China, Korea and Vietnam.

Citizen photo by Dave Milne

Wage cutback offer rejected

VANCOUVER (CP) — BC Timber Ltd. employees at the Kitwanga sawmill in northwestern B.C. have voted to reject a company offer to reopen the mill for 10 weeks if the employees would work nine hours a day, five days a week, at a 20 per cent lower wage, the company said Wednesday.

The company proposed that the mill, which has operated this year only in June, would go back into production from Oct. 18 to Dec. 24.

CITY 'CLOSURE'

Disruption claimed

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 399 and 1048 claims city hall is attempting to minimize the actual effect of the Oct. 4 shutdown of city services.

Monday's shutdown was the first of three one-day closures of city hall, which according to city management are aimed at reducing the city's operating costs in the hope of saving jobs next year.

But CUPE national representative Claire Willis said some front-line employees have experienced a serious work disruption as a result of many public inquiries about the closure.

She termed as misleading any suggestion the measures were adopted to save city jobs next year.

A check with city hall confirmed there were many phone calls Tuesday, mostly from people who missed garbage collection on Monday.

Residents who missed their regular collection day won't have garbage collected until their next scheduled day.

The two CUPE locals,

Phone lines out of order

Prince George RCMP non-emergency phone lines have been out of order since late Wednesday afternoon and officials say a part has been ordered from Vancouver due to arrive today.

Police have been unable to transfer calls or call out but the emergency line is still operating, said officials.

Ed Gabelle, assistant manager at B.C. Tel said the power board had an unexpected power surge and blew a part.

He said service would be restored today.

representing about 400 inside and outside city workers, have been told emphatically there are no guarantees that jobs would be saved as a result of the shutdowns, Willis said.

"The locals feel the politicians who run this city would naturally be very anxious to create the illusion that the public doesn't mind the inconvenience they have experienced as a result of this closure."

The two Prince George locals are seeking advice from their national office on the legality of the one-day closures, due to take place again on Nov. 1 and Dec. 13.

About 500 people ranging from senior city staff to unionized employees are affected by the closures, expected to save the city approximately \$150,000 by the end of the year.

During Monday's closure all recreation facilities, civic properties, public works operations (including garbage collection) and city offices were closed.

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SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSED OCT. 12th

WHY?

The Government has slashed its support for education. Prince George Teachers are withdrawing services to save money to save programs for your children.

We support public Education... does the Government?-

PRINCE GEORGE AND DISTRICT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

FRASER RIVER

Pulp mills fined for effluent spill

Two Prince George Pulp mills were fined a total of \$2,000 Wednesday after being found guilty on a charge under the Pollution Control Act stemming from an effluent spill in the Fraser River last year.

Jointly-owned Prince George Pulp Ltd. and Intercontinental Pulp Ltd. pleaded not guilty to five charges after changing their plea to guilty in one of the charges.

Court records show the prosecution stayed proceedings on the other charges.

On Dec. 28, 1981 the settling pond at Prince George Pulp overspilled its banks causing more than 60,000 cubic yards of silt and gravel and 455 million litres of partially-treated effluent to wash into the Fraser River.

Human error and instrument failure were blamed in not detecting the overflow after the mill had resumed operations from the Christmas holidays.

Judge R. S. Munro made the decision despite a plea from Crown Counsel Allan Bates for a stiff fine.

The Prince George judge decided the

"deterrent more than anything is the work required to repair" the damage.

Defence Counsel Duncan Shaw argued the \$600,000 repair bill and \$300,000 lost production money was deterrent enough and the pulp mills could not be held responsible for more than one of the eight charges.

"I find this not a flagrant offence," said Munro. Bates argued the pulp mill must be told they are the protectors of the environment.

The ministry of environment issued a statement saying: "We have declined comment on the judge's decision."

Company spokesman Doug Quinn declined comment as well.

Referring to a 1980, 27-million-litre spill at Mackenzie where B.C. Forest Products was fined \$3,000, Bates said: "\$3,000 doesn't seem to have brought the message home" to industry in the Central Interior that despite human error and instrument failure they have a responsibility to the environment.

The Pulp Mills have one week to pay the fine, ruled Munro.

Extra ridings killed

VANCOUVER (CP) — British Columbia won't be getting seven new members in the legislature.

The controversial bill that would have added the new members will be allowed to die on the order paper, Premier Bill Bennett said Wednesday.

The proposed legislation was based on the Warren report on electoral representation, which recommended that the number of legislature members be increased from 57 to 64. Warren recommended creating six dual ridings (ridings which elect two members) — all in what are considered safe Social Credit ridings. The seventh riding, Surrey, (already a dual riding) was to have got a third member. It is now represented by one Social Credit member and one New Democrat.

Bennett, at a groundbreaking ceremony at the Langara campus of Vancouver Community College, told reporters it was decided the legislation should

be killed rather than allow it to become an election issue.

There are other, more important matters to be taken care of, such as an economic recovery program for the province, said Bennett.

Opposition leader Dave Barrett said he is pleased with Bennett's decision to shelve the legislation. The NDP leader said it was an attempt by the government to manipulate future election results.

"I'm glad that the people of B.C. have forced the government to back down."

The people of B.C., who are essentially fair — regardless of party affiliation, just said "we're not going to buy this," Barrett said.

He said the polls the Social Credit party has been taking in recent weeks

showed that the public wouldn't accept the new legislation.

As to why Bennett decided to drop the bill, Barrett said the government is confused. Contradictory statements by Bennett show he doesn't know whether he should call an election, he said.

If the indecision continues it would be better if there is an election, Barrett argued.

NDP house leader Frank Howard agreed that the premier withdrew the bill because the public was incensed by the government's attempt to subvert the democratic process.

"All it shows is that the premier, by starting off doing it in the first place, is a preposterous mountebank seeking almost any way of hanging on to power."

HART DRUGMART

Oct. 7, 8, 9, 10

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DOWNTOWN STORE
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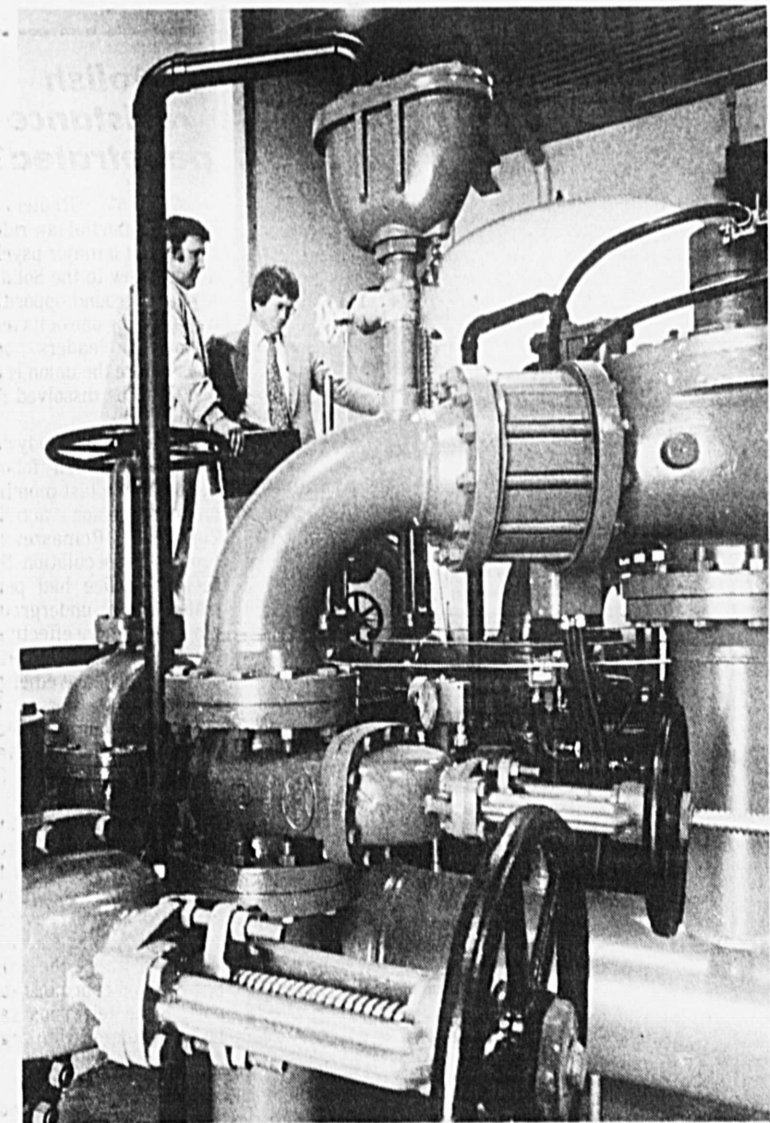
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New pumphouse

City environmental engineer Phil Heaney, right, and Robert Mortimer of Willis, Cunliffe and Tait, consulting engineers, make a last-minute instrument check before putting the city's new pumphouse on the Nechako River into operation Tuesday. The pumphouse was built at a cost of \$3.4 million and has a capacity of 45 million litres a day with a reserve capacity of 22.5 million litres a day.

Citizen photo by Brock Gable