#### **EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN B.C.**

City editor: 562-2441, local 503

# Labor and management fighting for survival

by Canadian Press
VANCOUVER — Survival is the issue as the labormanagement battle lines are drawn in British Columbia these days. Unions are struggling to keep rights won during more prosperous times and employers are struggling to restrain labor costs and maintain the momentum of economic recovery.

Two key disputes in the province at present involve almost 100,000 government and forestry workers. Of the two, the principles in the government dispute are perhaps the more important.

The forestry negotiations are following the same set of rules they've always had but under tougher economic circumstances," said Mark Thompson, a labor economist with the University of B.C. "But the public workers face a different challenge. The government is doing an end-around play, trying to get what they want through legislation rather than negotiation.

"In labor terms, B.C. is like a small town where la-

bor leaders know each other and the private unions anticipate that what is happening to the B.C. Government Employees' Union is just the tip of the iceberg.'

B.C.'s Social Credit government, holding a strong mandate from a convincing election win last spring, is trying to take away long-held power from unions, which represent 45.7 per cent of the province's work force. Premier Bill Bennett is starting with the public sector but his government has also promised changes to the B.C. Labor Code in the near future.

John Fryer, president of the National Union of Provincial Employees and a negotiator for the B.C. Government Employees' Union, has his own view of what's happening.

Fryer said in an interview from Ottawa that the B.C. government hopes to attract investment for hightech industries and Pacific Rim trade, particularly

"Both the hi-tech and Japanese investors demand

climates where unions are either non-existent or moribund," Fryer said.

"Given all that you can see what is happening in B.C. industrial relations.

But Jim Matkin, head of the B.C. Employers Council, explains the government's intentions in terms of competing in the international marketplace.

"We'll lose jobs if we can't compete internationally," Matkin said. "To give workers more than industry can afford is the cruellest thing you can do because what you're doing is giving the worker a ticket

He said there has been a "dramatic downturn" in private sector settlements and unlike in the past these settlements are based on ability to pay, not inflation. "This is a year for survival bargaining for both in-

dustry and employees," he said.

Those interviewed agree the government and its

employees' union are speeding towards a head-on col-

lision when the contract expires Oct. 31. The union has 49,000 members but only 38,500 are covered by that

Rodney Dobell, a University of Victoria public labor specialist, said both sides are so firmly entrenched that "there are not many ploys left to avoid confronta-

But labor observers disagreed on the likelihood of either individual strikes or a province-wide general strike as has been threatened.

"I don't think very many people will go to the barri-cades to defend tenure in the public service for one

thing," says Dobell.

Fryer said: "If union members are strong enough in voicing their concerns to their leadership then that can be a very powerful force. The only people who can avert a strike in the public sector is the government and the only guy in government who can do that

### **BANNED FROM HOUSE**

# Can Bennett afford Barrett martyrdom?

tion through

appearance on BCTV's Jack Web-

ster show. Calling for calm, he said

he was prepared to work out a

schedule to get logjammed legisla-

And he told a caller who likened B.C. to the Philippines:

ship. Some extravagant words have

Barrett got the heave-ho in the

third week of off-and-on overnight

sittings, punctuated by frequent clo-

sures, as the government sought

passage of a vast package of social and economic legislation in the

It came after a prolonged argument with an inexperienced acting

Speaker who first asked him to take

his seat, then to leave, and finally

ordered the sergeant-at-arms staff to remove him after the 200-pound-

plus former rugby player refused to

Parliamentary experts could find

no real precedent for the event here

or elsewhere in Canada. A Nova

Scotia legislator was forcibly evicted

some years ago, but only after start-

vowed to do it again under similar

circumstances in defence of hard-

He is due to retire from the pro-

vincial political scene next spring.

before the legislature adjourns for

next weekend's annual Social Credit

Party convention in Vancouver, a

likely scene of new demonstrations

might persuade the government to

The matter might not be resolved

won parliamentary rights.

been used, unfairly I think.'

name of restraint.

leave voluntarily.

ing a slugfest.

"The government is not a dictator-

by CHARLES La VERTU **Canadian Press** 

VICTORIA — A calamitous week in the British Columbia legislature has stunned the nation and left a searing question on the future of expelled Opposition Leader Dave

Can the Social Credit government afford to let the suspension stand to the end of the session and clothe the former NDP premier, dragged and dumped through the chamber's revolving door in Thursday's pre-dawn hours, in the mantle of a martyr?

Premier Bill Bennett says he has nothing to worry about, but at least some Socred caucus members are looking for a way out provided the 23-year house veteran is not seen to get off scot-free.

NDP house leader Frank Howard asked Speaker Walter Davidson on Friday to reverse his explusion order saying that the speaker erred in using the British house rules rather than the B.C. rules.

Davidson reserved decision but noted "at first blush" that the opposition leader "was fully and completely aware of the exonsequences of his own actions.'

Barrett himself appeared to hold out an olive branch in a Friday

#### Pair rescued

Two Prince George men were rescued by helicopter late Monday afternoon on the Salmon River after becoming overdue on a hunting trip.

Jordan Buller, 30, and Mike Kraft, 31, had set out to boat the river and meet relatives near Pilot Mountain,

25 kilometres northwest of the city Relatives informed police when they failed to arrive on schedule.

#### Forum slated

The University Wo-men's Club is first off the mark this year to arrange all-candidates forums for the Nov. 19 civic elections.

An all-candidates forum for aldermanic hopefuls will be held at 8 p.m. Nov. 15 in the multi-purpose room at the Prince George library.

A similar forum for school trustee candidates will be held at 8 p.m. Nov. 16 in the same location.

Details on the format for the meetings will be worked out at a later

# Noon break set for gov't agent

Starting Oct. 11, the Prince George government agent's office will be closed from noon until 1

Deputy government agent Kent Saxby says the office is closing for an hour due to splitting up of

The total staff level in the regional and district office has been reduced from 18 to 11.

The three people working in the regional section of the office have all been transferred, leaving the district office to continue the region's

Of the 15 people in the district office, three have been transferred and one is retiring.

The regional and district offices are in the same location.

The government agent's office handles such functions as motor vehicles, vital statistics, consumer taxation, and fishing licences.

# Restraint bill changed

the New Democratic the government. Party and others, Provincial Secretary Jim Chabot introduced Friday what he called major changes to the controversial Public Sector Restraint Act.

Defiant and indignant, Barrett That is the bill that gives government the right to fire any of the province's 250,000 public sector employees.

However, Opposition critic Gordon Hanson said the changes only demonstrate that the government's consultaing to improve the bill.

Hanson said the

"retroactive legality" to fast-tracking mechanism Bowing to pressure from actions already taken by that's been put in place

Chabot said the changes clearly define the intent of the legislation and ensure that it is

"First of all, we are clarifying our ability to issue notices of termination prior to the expiry of the collective agreement," he told a news conference.

"There was some confusion as to our ability to do so (before the contract expries Oct. 31), and the amendments put

that any notices of firing changes will provide issued since July 7, when the government's controversial legislative package was introduced, are valid.

Chabot said the only reason the employees were told four months in advance that they would be fired was to give them a chance to find work elsewhere in government or out.

As promised, the government dropped the words "without cause," and specified the firings can be only for lack of funds, lack of work, if a program is discontinued or if the level of service is reduced.

According to the min-ister, the biggest change to the bill is establishment of a review panel instead of the judicial review originally plan-

He said this will allow a fired employee to appeal to the panel "what they might feel is an unjust or unfair termination.' "Essentially it's a

to ensure that there's fairness in determinations," Chabot said of the new panel.

The appeal board's ruling then may be subject to judicial review "as a final tribunal in event that an individual feels that the review panel has not dealt fairly."

Another change will allow school board to fire teachers effective Jan. 1 instead of at the end of the school term, car.

### Collision kills two

Two people died and six others were injured Sunday in a two-car crash near Houston, RCMP say.

The accident occurred about 1 p.m. on Buck Flats Road when a car driven by Dean Boilard of New Westminster went out of control on a curve and slid into the path of another vehicle driven by Christopher Dodds of Houston.

One of the passengers in Boilard's car, 24-yearold Ewan Hansen of Richmond, died at the scene. Boilard, 21, was taken to Vancouver General Hospital where he died Monday.

Another passenger, 25year-old Larry Dorosh of Vancouver, is in stable condition in Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver with neck injuries.

Of eight people travelling in the other car, five were injured, an RCMP officer said. The mother of the driver, Mrs. Lillian Dodds of Spruce Grove, Alta., is in critical condition in Vancouver General Hospital.

Members of the Houston fire department used the jaws of life to free the people in Boilard's

## **Explosion rocks** 100 Mile bank

Citizen news services 100 MILE HOUSE — A Bank of Montreal branch in a shopping mall in this Cariboo

community was da-maged early Monday when would-be robbers used a bomb to try to Ombudsman

#### here today Dr. Karl Fried-

mann, the B.C. Ombudsman, will be guest speaker at a Prince George Jaycees dinner meeting today from 7 p.m. at Esther's Inn. The walls 80 feet away," he public is invited.

Friedmann the duties of his

He is scheduled to be here until Wednesday, and will meet with people who seek his help. Those meetings will be at Esther's Inn.

gain access to the bank's night-deposit box.

The explosion also caused considerable damage to neighboring businesses in the mall, police said. A police spokesman

said damage could run to more than \$50,000. Police said the blast triggered an alarm and that the thieves probably fled in panic. RCMP Const. Andy MacLean said the blast left broken glass, torn

doors and walls and twisted chunks of metal all over the place.
"Pieces of metal from the night safety deposit box were embedded in

MacLean said the

expected to outline thieves gained entry to the mall by smashing through several doors in shops. They then tore throught a wall to make their way to the rear of the night deposit box.

Another police spokesman estimated there could have been tens of thousands of dollars in the night deposit.

#### against the background of a forward now give us that threatened month's-end strike by tive process is a sham opportunity.' and a farce and do nothcivil servants and the weakened hopes that the Solidarity Coalition A provincial plan to also be approved by The changes specifiy

# Identities a mystery

**PUBLIC'S HELP SOUGHT** 

soften its program.

RCMP are continuing wynd late last week. their frustrating search

A post mortem is for clues to the identity being conducted in of a man and woman Prince George today in discovered by a Chetfound shot to death in a the hope of gaining more wynd resident Thursday

Cunningham.

The two bodies were bushy area outside Chet- information, says inves- afternoon about 40 ki-



RCMP photo of male victim.



RCMP photo of female victim.

tigating officer Sgt. Ray lometres west of that community.

Chetwynd RCMP have released these photographs of the couple and have requested media assistance in identifying them. Other photographs are also available, and persons who believe they may be able to assist in identifying the couple are asked to contact the RCMP or The Citizen.

RCMP are speculating the couple, a man in his early 30s and a woman in her early 40s, might have been tourists from Europe

The female victim was slim, of medium height, with shoulder-length, reddish brown hair. She was wearing a blue ski jacket, red wool sweater, blue jeans and tanclolored running shoes.

The man is described as tall, slim, with reddish-brown hair and he wore a blue-and-white plaid jacket.

"Both were dressed for the outside," said Sgt. Cunningham, who added he believes the couple was shot either Wednesday or Thursday. It's a "guess", he says.

He added police have

no reports of missing people and are working through Interpol in Ottawa to establish European links. Residents are "doing their best" but a major stumbling block for the

investigation is "we

don't know what to ask," emphasized Sgt. Cunnin-

gham. Composite sketches of the couple will be released later today, he

# Plan endorsed

co-ordinate and protect the confidentiality of patient information was approved by the Health Records Association of B.C. during a three-day conference which ended

Friday. The adoption of the plan prepared by B.C. Health Association is seen as a first step toward ensuring a standard policy to be used by all hospitals when handling requests for patient information from people outside the health care system including police,

lawyers and families. Before being implemented the plan must

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other professional health associations and individual hospital boards who now set their own policy about the release of patient information.

More than 70 health records employees from throughout B.C. attended the conference.

Marianne Sieck, head medical records librarian at Prince George Regional Hospital, was elected to lead the association for the coming year. She replaces Pamela Welton, medical records librarian at Shaughnessy Hospital.

#### **OPTOMETRISTS**

J. IAN EVANS D.O.S. F.A.A.O. GREGORY E. EVANS B.Sc., O.D. ALANE D. EVANS B.Sc., O.D.
J. SPENCER CLARK
D.O.S., O.D.
FRANK E. DECKER O.D. NIXON J. WHITE, O.D. ROBIN G. SIMPSON, B.Sc., O.D. Optical Wing 401 Quebec St Fane Building, Prince George, B.C. 

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