

Indians ordered off line

by Canadian Press

KITWANGA — CN Rail trains operated "without incident" overnight after the railway obtained a B.C. Supreme Court injunction ordering members of the Gitwank Indian band not to block its main line, CN Rail spokesman Al Menard said today.

CN Rail obtained the injunction Saturday, just hours after it said band members blocked the line with cars and trucks.

The Gitwank band blocked access to the CN Rail maintenance yard in this northwestern British Columbia community last week, claiming ownership of the land.

Band chief Glen Williams said Sunday the band has not decided what it will do about the injunction.

"We are not stopping trains," he said. "We never intended to stop trains."

Menard said the trains ran through Sunday, but "they (the Indians) certainly had a few vehicles out on the tracks yesterday (Saturday)." He said the railway has pictures of a barricade.

The dispute involves a railway line that cuts across the Gitwank reserve and an 11-hectare industrial park that straddles part of the line.

CN got the injunction from Mr. Justice Reginald Gibbs, who said he recognized CN and the band were in dispute over who owned the land but that it could not be solved by the Indians taking unilateral action.

"CN went into the judge without giving us notice," band lawyer Peter Grant said. "The judge phoned me, but I had no access to the injunction. I couldn't argue against an injunction which I didn't know about."

Grant said the judge made a provision that allows the band to ask for the injunction to be set aside, as long as it gives CN 24 hours notice.

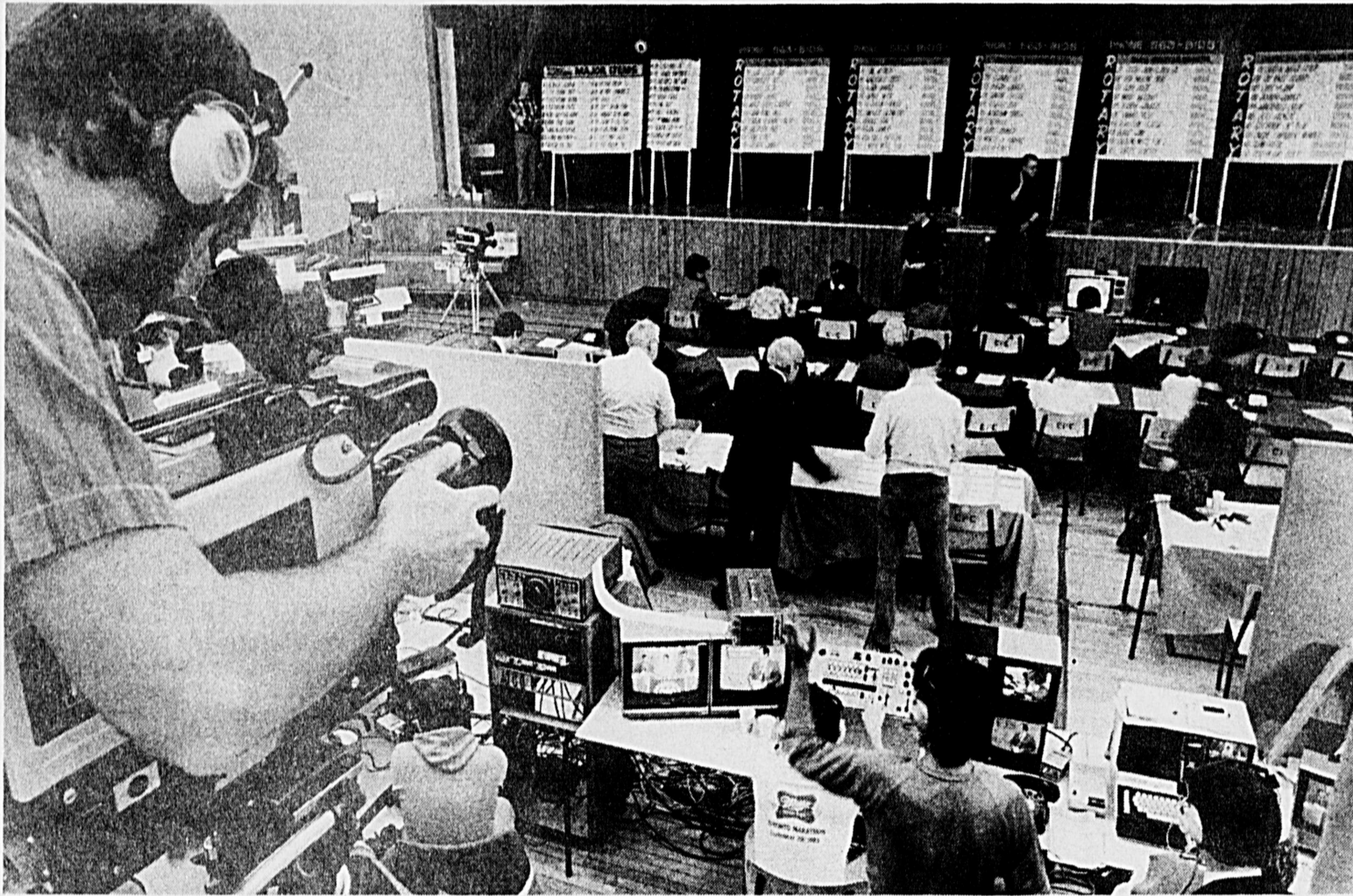
The injunction notices were posted Sunday on utility poles alongside the tracks and read to anyone standing nearby, Menard said, but the band was not officially served.

Williams said that while the band is not blocking trains, it is blocking access to the industrial park beside the track where CN was housing some of its maintenance crew.

"The barricades are on our land, and they'll stay there," he said.

Menard said CN is worried only about its trains getting through. "Our main responsibility is to our trains. We have title to that land."

Last week, it seemed an agreement over the industrial park had been reached. But Menard said "when we examined it further, we decided the monetary request was just too onerous."



Rotary auction

Bidding was lively all day Saturday during the annual Rotary Auction sponsored by the Prince George (Downtown) Rotary Club. Although figures are not yet final, it's estimated the event grossed about \$52,000 with a net profit of \$30,000 going to the club to be used for community projects throughout

the year. The more than 100 volunteer workers from Rotary, citizen band radio club and cadet groups are terming the event a real success, based on a smooth-running operation, no complaints from customers and average sales of 65 per cent of retail price.

Citizen photo by Dave Milne

Timber bidder's identity secret

The Forest Service refuses to release the name of the company seeking a new aspen pulpwood supply in the Fort Nelson area.

Although it's Ministry of Forests policy to offer timber rights only in response to company proposals, a new pulpwood area is being offered without the name of the firm being available to the public, or even to many members of the Forest Service.

According to the Forest Service, the lack of disclosure of the firm name is at the specific request of Don Phillips, MLA for the area and minister of international trade and investment.

Phillips' office has confirmed this to be the case, however, neither Phillips nor Forest Minister Tom Waterland were available for comment.

A press release from the two ministers said companies interested in utilizing aspen and possibly other wood residues in the Fort Nelson and Peace areas have until Feb. 27, to submit proposals.

After proposals are available for public viewing, a public hearing will be held in Dawson Creek on May 1.

Residents respond to kettle campaign

The Salvation Army Christmas Kettle campaign yielded \$5,445 during its first weekend on Prince George streets.

Kettles, manned by volunteer workers, will be on the streets every day beginning Thursday in a bid to reach a goal of \$27,000 to bring Christmas to the needy.

Based on the increased need of family services this year, Captain Don Law is anticipating a record number of requests for Christmas hampers for needy families.

"More than 1,800 families have been assisted this year with food, household items, clothing and in other ways," he said.

"It's probably the heaviest year we've had for calls of help," he said, attributing the increased need to the length of the economic recession.

The Army's total annual budget for family services this year is \$80,000, which has included 600 food parcels valued from \$30 to \$50 each, depending on family size.

About 150 families received

household items including 22 burned-out families, while 6,000 articles of clothing were given to more than 1,000 persons.

Travel packs containing food rations were given to 75 people travelling through the community on their way, to jobs in other parts of the province and hygiene packs, containing dental materials and shampoo, are supplied to residents at Phoenix Transition Home and the Activators Society.

Funds raised by the current campaign are targeted to prepare a minimum of 500 food hampers, to prepare Christmas dinner for single adults without means and senior citizens and to visit those confined to health-care facilities and jails.

"I'm confident we'll meet our needs if the people will open their hearts to help out as they've always done in the past," said Law.

"I just pray people will participate in the campaign and get involved this Christmas with a neighbor or senior citizen by paying them a visit or taking them a loaf of bread just to show someone cares because Christmas can be a very lonely time for those alone."

Food hamper applications will be accepted until Friday at the Family Services Store between 10 a.m. and noon and 1 and 3 p.m. weekdays.

Counterfeit bills passed

Citizen news services

KAMLOOPS — RCMP have alerted law enforcement agencies across the province to be on the lookout for a man and woman passing counterfeit U.S. \$100 bills.

The bills were passed at several Kamloops businesses Friday and Saturday, and the last communities where they turned up were nearby Cherry Creek and Clinton. Police speculate the pair could be working their way north.

The man is described as clean-shaven with brown hair, about five foot seven inches tall. He is accompanied by a woman about five feet tall with shoulder-length red hair. Police believe the pair are travelling in a late-model Buick or Oldsmobile with B.C. licence plates.

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FORMER SCHOOL TRUSTEE

Boone carries NDP banner

by MALCOLM CURTIS
Staff reporter

Former school trustee Lois Boone was selected Saturday as New Democratic Party candidate in Prince George-North for the next provincial election.

Her candidacy means that if Education Minister Jack Heinrich decides to run again in Prince George-North, he will face one of the most vocal critics in the riding.

Boone, who stepped down as trustee in November, voiced her opposition to restraint in the education system during her four years on the school board.

At a standing-room-only nominating meeting chaired by Alderman John Backhouse, she outpolled challenger Bob Dhensaw, a union

official, by 116 to 42 votes.

She got support in her candidacy bid from longtime party backers, including former MLA Alf Nunweiler and past federal candidate Brian Gardiner.

In a speech to 225 party faithful at the Sacred Heart Auditorium, she attacked the Sacred government for cutting education spending, mismanaging the forests and increasing the gap between the wealthy and the poor.

NDP leader Bob Skelly followed with a 50-minute talk in which he lashed the government for ignoring unemployment.

He chided the Soecreds for running a deficit.

"If we had full employment, given current tax levels, the provin-

cial revenues of this province would rise spectacularly," he said. "We have a structural surplus."

He outlined the "jobs first" strategy that will be the main plank of the party as it goes into the next election.

Following models in Australia and Manitoba, the NDP would negotiate a wage accord with labor. Then it would mount a strategy to get 50,000 people back to work in the province every year for three years, Skelly said.

He proposed the government stimulate housing construction projects and finance an overhaul of municipal waterworks, sewers, roads and bridges.

The NDP would also increase spending on reforestation and silviculture, he added.

Government job creation would increase tax revenues and increase consumer spending power, Skelly said, adding that it would not increase the provincial deficit.

"It's not employment that creates deficits. It's unemployment that creates deficits."

The New Democrats are banking heavily on a provincial election next year and have already begun to oil the campaign machinery.

In order to compete with the "barrage" of government advertising, much of it associated with Expo 86, the NDP has to spend money in advance of the campaign to get its message across, said party spokesman Bob Stevenson.

The NDP plans to use direct mail, more polling and microcomputers in their election drive.

Fund-raising has already begun in earnest with party members being asked to donate this year and to pledge further donations for next spring. The riding association collected more than \$5,000 in ice cream buckets passed around at the nominating meeting.

Garage burns

A two-car garage at 6571 Bench Dr. was extensively damaged by fire about 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

The Prince George fire department is investigating the cause. No one was injured.



Citizen photo by Dave Milne

Provincial NDP leader Bob Skelly with Prince George North candidate Lois Boone at nomination meeting here Saturday.

council tonight

The retail pricing of gasoline within Prince George might come under scrutiny, according to a letter from the federal minister of consumer and corporate affairs to Mayor Elmer Mercier.

The letter, in response to a request from the mayor, is to be received by city council at its regular weekly meeting, which opens to the public at 8 p.m.

In other business:

- The financial fate of Prince George Art Gallery will be discussed when gallery representatives appear before council at 9:15 p.m. Their request for \$5,000 was tabled until today.

- An air shed study being done by the Environment Ministry is to be the subject of a verbal report to council. Part of the study is to designate on maps where A-level (minimum amounts of chemical or particulates in air) or B-level (acceptable levels) standards are to be expected.

- Among items tabled from earlier discussions which are scheduled for discussion tonight are: Assessments on mobile homes and trailers, parking tickets for double parking in the downtown core, filling a vacancy on the civic properties and recreation commission board of directors and installation of concrete barricades along the school side of Foothills Boulevard.

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