

Provincial

BRIEFLY B.C.

BCGEU demands 'costly'

VICTORIA (CP) — The B.C. Government Employees' Union has tabled non-wage demands which would cost taxpayers almost \$100 million, the government's chief negotiator said Sunday.

Bob Plecas said the union has not yet made specific wage demands in its contract talks, except to indicate that it will seek "catch-up" increases.

Union president John Shields said earlier that five years of fiscal restraint have put his 29,000 members an average of 17 per cent behind their counterparts in the private sector and other levels of government.

Plecas said talks, which began six weeks ago and resume here today, have become bogged down in discussion of non-wage proposals. The contract expires July 31.

"It has been frustrating not knowing what their total package would cost," Plecas said in a news release. "The proposals they have presented so far, in areas like benefits and job security, are already incredibly costly."

For example, said Plecas, the union is demanding severance pay for any worker affected by privatization. He said the government expects those employees will be doing the same job in the same location, except that they will be working in the private sector or for their own companies.

"But the union is demanding severance for them," he said. "This form of double-dipping would cost more than \$70 million over the next year."

Dealership fund?

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CP) — Consumer Affairs Minister Lyall Hanson says he wants to beef up regulations protecting consumers from dishonest car dealerships.

Hanson, himself a former car dealer, says dealers are currently required to take out a \$5,000 bond. But he says cars often cost much more than that today.

Hanson says he would like to see a global fund put together by car dealerships which would pay out claims made by consumers who feel they've been cheated.

Attacker shot

NORTH VANCOUVER (CP) — A 42-year-old man was recovering in hospital Sunday after he was shot by an RCMP officer whom he had stabbed during a fight.

A police spokesman said Const. Carl Cavaco stopped a man in North Vancouver's business district after residents reported seeing a strange man in their neighborhood.

S.Sgt. W. G. Roberts said Cavaco approached the man, who pulled a knife and stabbed him twice, in the shoulder and the arm. Cavaco then backed away and shot the man in the left side.

Cavaco was able to radio for help and the two were taken to hospital in this Vancouver suburb. Cavaco was treated and released but the man stayed in intensive care after undergoing surgery. Roberts said the bullet deflected lodged in the man's kidney.

Roberts said the incident was being investigated and charges were expected.

Drugs seized

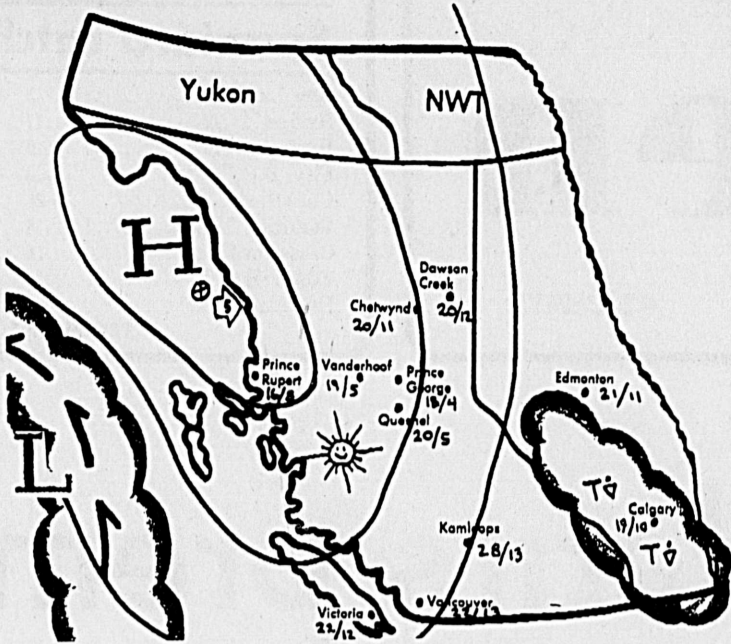
CASTLEGAR, B.C. (CP) — Two men were in custody Sunday after Canada Customs officers seized an estimated 7.7 kilograms of hashish at the Cascade border crossing in southeastern British Columbia.

A customs spokesman said two Spokane, Wash., men are being held — one in Washington state and one in Grand Forks, B.C. — following the seizure Saturday night.

One of the men tried to flee when customs officers discovered the cache while checking a car at the border crossing. He was arrested later in Washington state.

Customs superintendent Ken Gressly-Jones said officers also seized a station wagon used by the two men.

Gressly-Jones said he was surprised by the size of the seizure.



Direction and speed of system motion ▲▲▲▲ Cold front
 Rain or snow showers ☂☂☂☂ Warm front
 Upper level front ——— Stationary front
 (Temperatures are maximum and minimum for past 24 hours)

Weather

Immediate Prince George area: The forecast calls for clear skies overnight and Tuesday with no likelihood of rain. The temperature is expected to rise to near 23 today, dropping to near 6 overnight and rising to near 25 Tuesday.

For the next 24 hours there is no probability of precipitation.

Sunday's high was 18, the overnight low was 4, there was no precipitation and 3.4 hours of sunshine was recorded at the airport weather office.

A year ago today the high was 26, the overnight low was 10, there was no precipitation and 15 hours of sunshine.

Sunset today is at 9:30 p.m. and sunrise Tuesday is at 5:05 a.m.

Chilcotin, Cariboo, Central Interior: Sunny. Highs near 22. Tonight, clear. Lows near 7. Tuesday, sunny. Highs near 25. Probability of precipitation zero per cent, zero per cent tonight and zero per cent Tuesday.

Greater Vancouver: Sunny. Highs 23 near the water to 28 inland. Tonight, clear. Lows near 12. Tuesday, sunny. Highs 25 to 29. Probability of precipitation zero per cent, zero per cent tonight and zero per cent Tuesday.

Greater Victoria: Sunny. Highs near 25. Tonight, clear. Lows near 10. Tuesday, sunny. Highs near 29. Probability of precipitation zero per cent, zero per cent and zero per cent Tuesday.

Sunshine Coast, East Vancouver Island: Sunny. Highs near 27. Tonight, clear. Lows near 11. Tuesday, sunny. Highs near 28. Probability of precipitation zero per cent, zero per cent tonight and zero per cent Tuesday.

Lower Fraser Valley, Howe Sound-Whistler: Sunny. Highs near 27. Tonight, clear. Lows near 10. Tuesday, sunny. Highs near 28. Probability of precipitation zero per cent, zero per cent and zero per cent Tuesday.

Temperatures

TORONTO (CP) — High-low temperatures and precipitation in millimetres for the previous 24 hours issued today by the weather office:

Vancouver	22	13	0.0
Victoria	Misg		
Comox	25	14	0.0
Port Hardy	20	7	0.0
Prince Rupert	16	8	0.0
Stewart	Misg		
Terrace	19	9	0.0
Pentiction	Misg		
Kamloops	28	13	0.0
Abbotsford	24	11	0.0
Cranbrook	25	10	0.0
Revelstoke	26	10	0.0
Blue River	19	5	0.0
Puntzi Mountain	22	3	0.0

Williams Lake	19	7	0.0
Prince George	18	4	0.0
Mackenzie	20	6	0.0
Fort St. John	20	12	0.2
Fort Nelson	20	14	0.0
Dease Lake	19	6	0.0
Peace River	19	13	0.6
Whitehorse	21	8	0.0
Dawson City	Misg		
Yellowknife	22	11	0.0
Inuvik	19	5	0.5
Resolute Bay	8	2	0.0
Eureka	12	6	0.0
Alert	14	7	0.0
Cambridge Bay	18	8	0.0
Calgary	19	10	0.2
Edmonton	21	11	0.0
Lethbridge	24	9	0.4
Medicine Hat	26	8	0.8
Swift Current	23	9	0.5
Regina	26	14	0.0
Saskatoon	24	9	0.0
Prince Albert	24	11	0.0
North Battleford	23	8	0.1
Winnipeg	27	14	0.0
Brandon	25	11	0.0
Churchill	23	11	0.0
The Pas	23	12	0.0
Kenora	25	16	0.0
Thunder Bay	28	12	0.0
North Bay	26	17	0.0
Toronto	31	16	0.2
Ottawa	25	17	0.0
Montreal	24	18	0.0
Fredericton	25	18	0.2
Charlottetown	21	16	0.3
Halifax	20	14	0.2
St. John's	19	13	0.1
Seattle	26	14	0.0
Spokane	28	9	0.0
Portland	27	14	0.0
San Francisco	41	15	0.0
Los Angeles	23	18	0.0
Las Vegas	45	27	0.0
Reno	38	16	0.0
Phoenix	43	30	0.0

Two injured in accident

Three people received minor injuries in a two-car collision on Highway 16 west at Sykes Road Sunday morning, Prince George RCMP said today.

A car driven by Glen Nathan Phielmann, 19, of Prince George was turning from Sykes Road onto Highway 16 when it was in collision with a car driven by Fernand Prince, 33.

Prince, of Vanderhoof, and passengers Georgina John, 22, and Denise Marie John, 5, were taken to hospital where they were treated and released.

Police said the occupants of the

Prince vehicle were not wearing seatbelts.

In a separate accident, a 24-year-old city man received minor injuries when he was thrown from his motorcycle on Highway 97 south Sunday afternoon.

Ivan Peter Mushaluk was southbound on the highway, about 3 km north of Sintich Road, when he lost control while going over a patched dip in the centre of the highway, police said.

Mushaluk was taken to hospital with minor injuries. He was wearing a helmet at the time.

Highway

FROM PAGE 1

bulldozers cut through the 300-metre-wide mudslide to rescue southbound tourists in 300 vehicles. They had been stranded since Wednesday between the slide and a wash-out in the isolated area of the southwestern Yukon.

The rescued travellers streamed into this community to fill up on food after being cut off without supplies for four days. Although the stranded tourists shared what they had, one woman reported her family was down to cheese and crackers.

Continuing heavy rain had re-

stricted attempts to clear the highway, a key route linking Alaska, the Yukon and British Columbia. Sunny weather returned today after the worst downpours in 20 years, said Eftoda.

The Alaska Highway in British Columbia north of Fort Nelson was also closed for 1½ days, swelling the community of 5,000 with 1,500 recreational vehicles. That section reopened last Thursday.

There were no estimates yet on the cost of the massive cleanup.

"It's going to cost quite a bit of money," Eftoda said, adding much of the equipment used — including a dozen bulldozers — was rented.

"I think we've got every 'dozer there that's in the Yukon," he said.

SUPPORT

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Problems piling up for B.C.'s premier

by STEVE MERTL
 Canadian Press

VANCOUVER — It was a bad week in a string of bad weeks for Bill Vander Zalm.

The premier of British Columbia was facing a calls for a leadership review from within his Social Credit caucus, stirrings in party grassroots, more flak aimed at his principal adviser and, out of left field, suggestions that he was consulting a numerologist on government policy.

But Vander Zalm let his anger show only briefly, when word got out that his office had a \$1,500 contract with a numerologist. The agreement with Jud Cyllorn, who said he was hired to advise the premier on immigration and economic policy, was promptly withdrawn.

"I am a practical kind of guy and I don't believe in that kind of garbage," said Vander Zalm, who then attacked the Vancouver Province for running the story.

"I can stand a lot of flak but not a fabricated attempt to destroy me, my family and my office," he said.

But otherwise, Vander Zalm kept a stiff upper lip above the turmoil swirling around him.

He seemed unfazed by the idea that, less than two years into the Social Credit government's mandate, senior party members wanted to review the leadership of the man who gave them a convincing electoral victory.

Vander Zalm faced more fallout from his cabinet mid-term cabinet shuffle about 10 days ago. Executives from the five Vancouver ridings met him on Friday to complain that the city of more than 450,000 didn't get one seat in the new cabinet.

"We have many cabinet members who are almost within walking distance of the city limits, including myself," the premier said after the meeting. "So there is darn good representation."

But the Socred officials left the meeting unhappy. Regional director Jim McLean pointedly refused to say whether the Vancouver executives still supported the premier.

"They support the party and they're behind the strengthening of the party and anything that can help us to get re-elected," he said.

The shuffle brought a lot of discontent to the surface.

Economic Development Minister Grace McCarthy resigned on the eve of the restructuring which increased the cabinet to 22 members from 17, but eliminated her ministry.

She joined Brian Smith, who quit his attorney general's portfolio the previous week, echoing his complaints that the premier's office was interfering too much in their ministries.

Socred caucus chairman Carol Gran, who hoped in vain for a cabinet post, joined the growing list of party members questioning Vander Zalm's leadership.

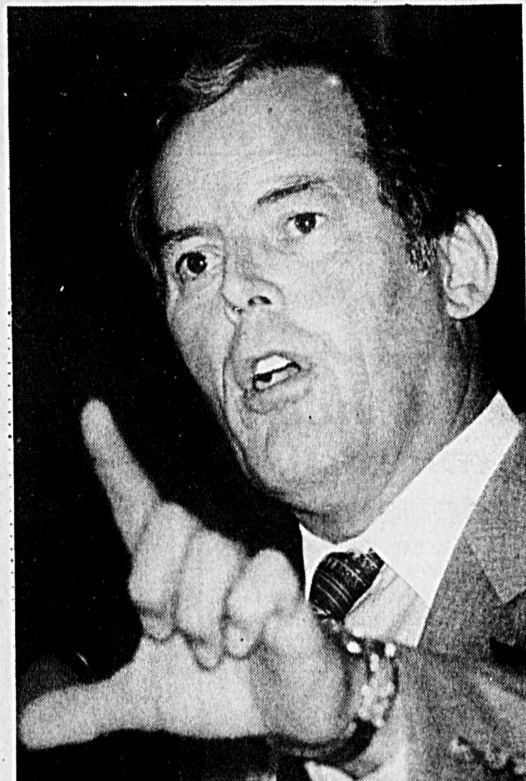
"There is no question that we have a problem with leadership," said Gran after reports that McCarthy had been working quietly behind the scenes for weeks to tackle Vander Zalm.

McCarthy denied she was angling for a leadership review at the party's October convention but said she "wouldn't want to miss a chance to be part of a (leadership) review or decision," at a caucus meeting next month.

Gran, who stood by Vander Zalm after Smith's resignation, said she was hurt when she was passed over for cabinet. But she was more upset by the fact that no one called to explain the decision to leave her out of the cabinet, which now has only one woman — Municipal Affairs Minister Rita Johnston.

Russ Fraser, who served in cabinet under former premier Bill Bennett but was dropped by Vander Zalm, became the first backbencher to publicly call for a leadership review last Tuesday.

"I think that the premier has problems and a number of issues must be put to rest, and I think he can do that best if he called a leadership review him-



PREMIER VANDER ZALM

self," said Fraser, who claimed the Socred backbenches held a "group of eight" dissidents.

Alex Fraser, another former minister consigned to the backbenches, also promised to work to unseat Vander Zalm.

"I'd do anything to get rid of Vander Zalm," he said.

Most of the fuss centres on the continuing influence of Vander Zalm's principal secretary, David Poole. Smith and McCarthy complained the Poole and his staff were interfering in their ministries.

"The people have lost confidence in the premier partly because of his ludicrous devotion to David Poole," said one party insider in an interview with the Vancouver Province.

Poole came under fire again last week with word that he had arranged a meeting for another prospective buyer of Crown property with the head of B.C. Enterprise Corp., the agency assigned to sell off large parcels of Crown land.

Peter Brown, former chairman of the corporation, said Poole told him in a breakfast meeting last year that Vander Zalm wanted a bid by a party supporter to prevail on a parcel of land in the Vancouver suburb of Burnaby.

"I don't recollect making that statement to Mr. Brown at that meeting," Poole responded.

Brown said Bill Langus, who wanted to buy the property, was also given details of competing bids by Poole. The land was eventually sold to another buyer because the corporation refused to meet certain conditions demanded by Langus.

Poole was under fire earlier this year for going to bat with the corporation for Peter Toigo, a millionaire friend of the premier who wanted to bid for all of the corporation's land assets.

Toigo, who gave a rare interview last week, said his connection with Vander Zalm has turned out to be a major disadvantage. It has made him into a media target and dragged him into a "political cesspool."

"I had no idea that just becoming a friend with somebody could ever cause this much goddamn trouble," he said.

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