LABOR STATESMAN

OWNED BY THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

No. 724 | VANCOUVER B. C., FEBRUARY 28, 1962 | Established 1924

Department of Labour
RECEIVED
APR 24 1962
LIBRARY

GOOD FOR WHAT AILS YOU

LABOR PROPOSES TO ROYAL COMMISSION:

Gov't. financed health services for everyone

A comprehensive health service, absorbing all the favorable aspects of existing services, should be available to every Canadian who needs medical help.

That was the stand of B. C. labor presented to the royal commission on health services during its public hearings in Vancouver last week.

The brief of the B. C. Federation of Labor argued these major points:

- Financing of a health program should be through federal and provincial consolidated funds, the most reasonable and equitable method.
- It opposed the use of any deterrent against full use, fee for service, co-insurance or deductible features which restrict the use of health services.
- A full range of services and facilities should fall in the scope of the national health program — including curative and rehabilitative services by physicians, surgeons, dentists, eye specialists and other specialists, hospital and specialist services for both in-patient and out-patient; dental care, opthalmic services; drug, pharmaceutical and appliance provisions at cost; public health, medico-social work and mental health care.
- Some form of re-distribution of doctors, dentists and other medical personnel may be necessary to provide outlying communities with a good standard of service.

The brief said that about 300,000 people in B. C. apparently have no medical plan coverage and that those who have private plans aren't getting a standard of service acceptable for required care.

It stressed the importance of health in industry with this startling figure: in 1960, Canadian industry had a loss of 20,228,000 man working days due to illness.

The time loss through illness is 27 times greater than working time lost through strikes.

"The basic concept for an acceptable health program should be one of universal availability to a scheme administered by the governments while maintaining the freedom to choose one's own doctors," the brief said.

"While this does not imply that in total we will pay less for our medical services, it does mean that the cost burden will be spread over our entire population instead of falling only upon those who are unfortunate enough to become ill."

It said that health services are vital and that since good health is a basic human right, adequate services and facilities to provide it should be available to every citizen without imposing financial hardship upon any individuals.

As to present schemes in operation, the brief questioned both the adequacy and the ex-

(Cont'd on Page 8)

ELECTED president of Burnaby New Democratic Party this month was Arne Hansen, secretary of Local 2655 United Steelworkers and chairman of Vancouver Labour Council's metropolitan municipal advisory committee. Jim Dailly, member of Firefighters Union, was elected NDP vice-president.

Black calls for labor interest in hospital groups

Labor should play a more active role in hospital boards and societies in B.C., Bill Black of Hospital Employees Union told VDLC delegates this month.

Black said many labor men do not realize they can become members of hospital societies and said the labor movement has a public responsibility to seek representation on hospital boards.

BCGEA: 'Extend to all'

B.C. Government Employees Association are asking bargaining rights equivalent to those granted employees of the crown-owned B.C. Electric and B.C. Power Commission.

The Association represents about 10,000 provincial civil servants.

General Secretary E. P. O'Connor said: "The GEA has been seeking a regulated bargaining procedure for the last 20 years and in doing so has apparently incurred the enmity of the government as indicated by the fact that we are the only union in B.C. that has lost the voluntary check-off of union dues by government decree."

O'Connor said there was no justification for granting bargaining rights to the power employees and withholding them from other groups such as employees of the Liquor Control Board, the Toll Highways and Bridges Authority, the Gaol Service, Forstery and permanent civil servants.

"We believe that it is simple justice to request equality of treatment for all employees of the government," he said.

Lunchtime donations stopped by big firm

A large forestry firm has refused to allow union members to solicit voluntary membership donations for the New Democratic Party.

Syd Thompson of IWA Local 1-217 said MacMillan, Bloedel and Powell River Ltd. rejected his union's bid to make voluntary collections on company property. The collections were arranged for employees' free time at lunch hour.

He said the provincial government put through Bill 42 to stop unions from collecting donations to a political party through dues, with the claim that members would be forced to contribute.

"Now we find this company has refused voluntary collections," he said. "While the company contributes thousands of dollars to the political party of its choice out of the profits earned by employees, they now refuse the right of their employees to contribute to the party of the worker's choice."

Thompson predicted that the company's action would result in a new realization among members of the need for political action.

Regardless of threats and intimidation by the employer, members no doubt will contribute even more generously than they would have done, he said.

...IN BRIEF

HONOR — Sympathy from Vancouver unionists went out to the family of George "Tiny" Hobbs following his sudden

* * *

UP AGAIN — B. C. Telephone Company had a record net profit for 1961 — $8,798,903, a jump of more than $1.5 million over the previous year.

(Cont'd on Page 3)

Labor argues garments pay

Elimination of low learner rates of 45 cents an hour and setting new $1.25 minimum wage urged before hearing . . Page 7

★

Organizing must be speeded up

Staff seminar told that the white collar labor force is growing but organization in this field has fallen behind . . See Page 3

★

Retail Clerks in

APPEAL FOR FUNDS

Scientific approach to peace quest

Man's centuries-old pursuit of the art of war has brought the human race to the brink of total destruction.

Goal for the province is $500,000. National goal is $2,000,000 from citizens, with a further $2,000,000 expected on the Canadian economy and similar projects.

Findings of Institute scientists will be reported to the

felt establishment of an Institute in Canada would herald the beginning of a chain of such organizations throughout the

THESE GOALS

A special two-day conference of B.C. unionists this month set these general contract goals for 1962:

- An immediate reduction in working hours without reduction of take-home pay to give labor its share of increasing productivity and to stimulate employment; each union to establish the basis best suited to its needs.
- Wage boosts to provide labor with its share of increasing productivity and to maintain income in the face of rising prices. Wage increases should continue to keep pace with higher levels of national income and promote a higher level of consumer demand for goods and services.
- Increased security measures against layoffs or job loss through technological changes including: severence pay, lay-off allowances, retraining and educational provisions, guaranteed minimum working time during the contract period or for a longer period.
- Longer annual vacations as a means of sharing increased productivity and to provide more employment.
- Consideration of the plan to create an "overtime bank" whereby all overtime will be banked as accumulated time off.
- The program also calls for provincial and federal government research to determine the effects of technological changes, and an education program to acquaint workers with the impact of unemployment due to technological and structural changes.

Provincial conference proposes shorter hours, wage increases

B. C. Trade Unions hammered out a broad program of objectives for contract negotiations this year at a two-day conference that carefully analyzed economic conditions.

The conference purposely steered away from setting any rigid plan for all unions, recognizing that problems and conditions vary from industry to industry.

But the history-making conference called by the B. C. Federation of Labor — the first parley of its kind for labor in recent decades — approved a general guide including: —

Shorter working hours, wage increases, boosted security against layoffs, longer vacations and called for more research into effects of technological changes in industry.

More than 200 delegates from affiliated unions throughout the province attended the sessions in the IWA hall in Vancouver.

Delegates agreed it proved a worthwhile project.

Major concern facing the delegates was the alarming unemployment picture which has idled many skilled workers.

These factors were brought out by economists who spoke to the first day of the session:

Manufacturing and basic industries showed declines while service industries were expanding.

Industrial production generally is rising but there is little prospect of any big boost in employment.

Corporation profits continue to climb. But labor income has shown only a slight increase which means workers are getting less and less of the share of increased production.

The year 1962 should see improved business activity but no boom is in sight unless trade expansion comes through some tie with the European Common Market.

Conference delegates agreed that an improvement is needed in the general attitude of union members towards the many problems facing labor. Union members have not fully realized the growing threat to job security by changing trends in industry.

The conference said that reduced hours of work were essential and that there should be steps to restrict overtime work. On the increasing employment of women, there was agreement that negotiated agreements should provide for equal pay for equal work.

(See story this page for detailed program approved by the conference).

500 MAKE VICTORIA TREK

Socreds ignore jobless lobby

VICTORIA — More than 500 unemployed from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland paraded and chanted "we want jobs" in legislative halls in the campaign to win government action on B. C.'s jobless problems.

But although unemployed representatives won audiences with the CCF-NDP and Liberal caucuses, Social Credit members and the cabinet ignored the lobby.

The lobby was organized to throw the public spotlight on the growing core of people without jobs who have little hope of getting jobs soon.

It carried a brief that proposed both immediate relief measures and long-term plans to help boost employment.

Eric Waugh, chairman of the Vancouver and District Unemployed Council, said the NDP-CCF gave the brief full support and the Liberals gave qualified support but most Socreds avoided the lobby.

"The only answer to this type of government — other than action at the polls at election time — is to come over with thousands in our lobby the next time," he said.

The lobby from the mainland made the journey to the capital city in chartered buses. They paraded on the Legislative buildings and crowded the public gallery with chants of "we want jobs", "why don't you meet the unemployed, Bennett," and "we want Bennett."

The government appeared more concerned with maintaining the peace and quiet of the government buildings than in doing anything about the plight of the unemployed.

At one point, the Speaker threatened to clear the public gallery. RCMP were stationed throughout the halls of the building.

The unemployed brief declared that "the time has come when the unemployment problem must be looked upon as a national emergency by all levels of government."

It urged increased social assistance, restoration of medical cards to all persons on social assistance, extension of unemployment insurance benefits during the full period of unemployment, a moratorium on house mortgages to protect the homes of the unemployed and programs to increase jobs.

"Why demoralize us with examples of such lousy, non-union wages and hours!"

Joint executive Bartenders' Union back in office

The local joint executive of Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders has been re-elected to office by acclamation with A. E. Morgan of Local 28 returned as president.

Other officers are Jack Thomson of Local 835, vice-president and Harold Courson, Local 676, secretary.

Label meet

Third annual convention of the Union Label Trades Department of the CLC will be held the day prior to the opening of the CLC convention, Sunday April 8, in the Labor Temple auditorium.

If food or liquids are left to heat on a gas stove, they should be watched in case they boil over. If this happens, the flame could be extinguished, causing the gas to escape. This could result in an explosion, or asphyxiation of anyone in the house.

* * *

Children should not be allowed to play at making tunnels through deep snow. The snow may collapse and suffocate the youngsters. It is advisable to notify the parents of children who are noticed burrowing into snow piles. Snow cleared from street and sidewalk may be badly contaminated with dirt and germs.

AFL-CIO researchers size up pay

WASHINGTON — The largest concentration of negotiated wage increases in 1962 probably will be in the 3 to 5 per cent bracket — 7 to 12 cents an hour — accompanied by various liberalizations in fringe benefits, although "substantially larger wage increases" would be warranted because of a more rapid U.S. prductivity rate and rising corporate profits.

This is the outlook as seen by the AFL-CIO department of research. It emphasizes that the judgment is offered not as a statement of policy but simply a candid evaluation of the prospects.

Saying that larger increases would be "extremely helpful in stimulating expanded consumer makerts, accelerated national economic growth an dneeded additional jobs," the department concluded nevertheless, that there are no signs of any sizable change in wage settlement levels.

Charges laid

March W. Bluck, president of the Bank Employees Association, laid charges this week in Vancouver Police court against the Bank of Montreal.

Prosecution of the bank on two charges of violating the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act was authorized by federal Labor Minister Starr.

Bluck, was fired Oct. 19, last year after 27 year's service with the bank. He was launching a new campaign to organize bank employees at the time of his dismissal.

Federation urges support for Woolworth strike

Retail Clerks are maintaining their strike against Woolworth's store in Port Alberni.

The strike is in its eighth month.

B.C. Federation of Labour is urging unions to give every possible suport to the strikers.

Retraining opportunity for jobless

OTTAWA — The Natonal Technical and Vocation Train-Technical and Vocational Training Advisory Council has urged that every unemployed person, regardless of his educational background, should have an opportunity for training.

The council — with representatves from Labor, management, provncal governments and other nterested organizations, has adopted a series of recommendations as a suggested blueprint for further action in unemployed training.

"Old Doc"
Keeps Prices Down
Dr. R. Llewellyn DOUGLAS
Suite 3, 712 Robson
has been fighting over the years to bring Dentistry to the public at prices they can afford to pay. He could not agree with the regimentation of the Dental Association in regard to prices, his Licence was cancelled in December 1958, when he refused to appear before their dental Court. "OLD DOC" kept on fighting and received a special licence to make Dental Plates in January 1961. He will continue his fight for reasonable prices for the public, especially for our Senior Citizens.

Bett's Shell Service
Broadway & Arbutus
GAS — OIL — TIRES
BATTERIES—ACCESSOR
BATTERIES
ACCESSORIES
LUBRICATION
& REPAIRS
UNION SHOP
RE 3-4712

BUFTON'S FLOWER SHOP
FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS
"We Telegraph Flowers Anywhere in the World"
ALpine 3-7161
1675 Commercial Drive **Vancouver, B.C.**

Rutherford McRae Ltd.
COMMERCIAL — INDUSTRIAL
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
MORTGAGE and INSURANCE BROKERS
COMPLETE RESIDENTIAL
SALES COVERAGE
for
GREATER VANCOUVER
Call RE 3-8181
AN ACCURATE HOME
APPRAISAL AT NO
OBLIGATION!
"SELECTED HOMES" by "SELECTED SALESMEN"
1774 W. BROADWAY, VANCOUVER

Carpenters seeking 7-hour day

Building contractors have balked at any improvements in opening rounds of talks with carpenters.

Lorne Robson of Carpenters Local 452, told VDLC delegates that minor items have been settled with three contractors' associations but that the companies had refused to discuss any cost items.

Carpenters are seeking a 7-hour day ,a wage increase and fringe benefits. Robson said the union is determined this year to win the shorter work day with at least the same take-home pay.

Contract seeks answer to layoffs

Negotiations for a new contract with Crown Zellerbach of Canada have moved to a conciliation board as Vancouver Converters Local 433 pressed demands to meet the problems of automation and increasing layoffs.

Major demands of the union are for a deferred overtime plan designed to share work, and a shorter work week with a straight eight-hour day.

Union secretary Orville Braaten said the union demands were formed because of continued layoffs, including workers with as much as five year's seniority. About 25 percent of the work force has been laid off since 1946 but production in the same time had increased between 10 and 20 percent, he said.

IN BRIEF

(Continued from Page 1)

death in Victoria this month. Tiny, an active railroad union man for many years, was the CCF-NDP member from Revelstoke. His nickname was taken from his tall stature, a stature reflecting his many talents and his unbending efforts in fighting for the cause of working people in both union and public affairs.

* * *

HIGH INTEREST — Government statistics show that the average loan by finance companies is for $500 and the average annual interest rate charged is a tidy 18.5 per cent!

* * *

BYLAWS— Recent proposed changes in VDLC bylaws approved by delegates to streamline procedures and broaden council activities in metro affairs will go before the March 12 meeting of the CLC executive. They must win CLC approval before they're effective.

* * *

FACES—Delegates obligated and seated at meetings of VDLC this month included: **Douglas Terry,** Marine Workers; **S. Brooker,** Packinghouse Workers Local 249; **Chas. Murdoch** and **F. A. Branch,** Street Railwaymen; **G. Shutze, F.A. Connolly, A. G. Clunas,** Government Employees, Essondale branch; **Donald E. Loften,** Grain Workers Local 333; **P. Pyper,** Laundry Workers Local 292; **Ronald F. Bone,** Office Employees Local 378; **Bryan 1518; R. C. Banninger,** Printing Specialties Local 598.

IN THE NEWS following recent boating accident was film star Jayne Mansfield, unanimous choice for our union label gal of the month. With the reminder, of course, that whether its a boat of a sweater you're shopping for, look for union-made products.

All-out aid pledged to 8-month-old strike

All trade unionists have been called on to respect the legal picket lines at Taylor, Pearson and Carson operations.

Striking members of Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union are in their eight month of strike against the firm.

A resolution approved by Vancouver and District Labour Council called for "continuation of complete and unequivocal support for the union members on strike."

Bud Hodgins, business agent of the striking union, said a joint delegation has been unsuccessful in reaching an agreement with Teamsters on recognition of the picket lines.

International Unions of both parties had urged a meeting to resolve the differences between Teamsters and Retail Wholesale but nothing has been settled, he said.

Policy on winter works nullifies job efforts

Provincial government has been urged to reconsider its policy on winter works programs which restricts the hiring of regular or seasonal employees.

Vancouver and District Labour council said the policy has seriously affected the municipal winter works incentive program and that few jobs are being created.

The provincial policy on cost sharing restricts hiring to persons on social assistance for winter works projects.

"In many cases this means the replacing of regular employees with those from social assistance rolls and in many instances conflicts with collective agreements various municipalities hold with civic unions," a resolution stated.

Step-up needed in white-collar organization

PARKSVILLE—Trade union organization must be stepped up to keep pace with the growth of the labor force.

This major point was emphasized at the annual Canadian Labour Congress staff seminar held here this month. The seminar reviewed urged problems facing labor today.

The seminar was told that there has been a decided shift in the labor market growth with white collar workers increasing in numbers while production employees — blue collar workers — where getting fewer.

The new structure of the labor market is mainly due to technological and structure changes within business and industry.

Technological changes have altered the character of job opportunites and the general level of education and still demand is increasing ,the seminar was told.

Some of the organizational problems outlined were:

The number of young people entering the labor market is increasing and many are unfamiliar with trade union principles and resent the fact that in some industries membership in an established union is a condition of employment.

Women, who have played no significant part in trade union organizing, also are increasing in number in the labor force and many are being exploited by sub-standard wages.

Insecurity has been created in industry because unemployment has grown.

The shift to increasing white collar employment requires a massive education program.

White collar workers are generally closely associated with management and are encouraged to believe that their career depends on individual effort. This results is lack of joint effort and exploitation at the income level.

Incomplete organization in the service trades has enabled employers to exploit workers and this in turn tends to lower all wage standards.

Restrictive labor laws have resulted from employers' campaign to blacken labor's name.

Participation in trade union activity by individual members is declining due to the increased work load carried by union staff. Unless there is an "issue" the member usually takes little part.

Banks skirt equal pay regulation

Bank Employees' Association has charged that many banks are not complying with the Female Employees Equal Pay Act.

Association president March Bluck said the federal act applies to bank employees and has been in force since 1956.

"If the bank can get a job done by a woman for less money than by a man, there is less need to recruit men," he said. "This practice has created unemployment for men and inadequate compensation for women."

Garment talks to conciliation

International Ladies' Garment Workers have applied for conciliation after making no headway in direct talks with companies in the ladies' clothing industry.

Business agent Harry Minuk said the companies made no offer and have informed the union that they intend to reject any award favorable to the union.

REAL ESTATE

'Pick a union salesman'

Look for a union salesman when you're in the real estate market.

This was the appeal of CLC organizer Gordon Wilkinson when he told Vancouver and District Labor council of the difficulty in organizing in the real estate field.

"If you deal only with union salesmen you know you will get an honest deal and at the same time you will help the Real Estate Salesmen's Union," he said.

EVOLUTION

The men who found their way across the trackless wilderness of this vast continent have great-grandsons who get lost in a supermarket.

The reason many people don't live within their incomes is that they don't consider that living.

Nominated Academy Award . . . Best Actor . . .
Now Showing . . . Stuart Whitman . . . in
"THE MARK"
(in cinemascope)
Restricted: No-one under 18 admitted
THE STUDIO THEATRE
GRANVILLE AT SMYTHE MU 3-1511

Vulliamy & Brownell
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
2205 Fir St.
Phone RE. 8-3233
Vancouver, B. C.

W. J. Heads Boot Factory Ltd.
Makers of the "HEADS SHOE" for Loggers, Miners, Cruisers, Surveyors, etc.
Our Shoes are Hand-Made — You'll be Satisfied
21 East Hastings Street Vancouver 4, B.C.

TO RENT
Downtown
OFFICE SPACE
In sunny upstairs location. Consists of a waiting room, large main office, and two private offices, stationery closet, and large cupboard. Heating and janitorial services included. Handy parking. Rental halls available in building.
APPLY TO
Dunsmuir Auditorium
111 Dunsmuir Street
MUtual 1-7381

THE LABOR STATESMAN

Published last week of each month at Labor Temple, 307 West Broadway, Vancouver 10, B.C.
Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash.
The Labor Statesman is owned by the Vancouver and District Labour Council and supported by 160 local unions.
"To each union member the political party of his choice"
"Build Strong Unions for Social Security"
Subscription Rates: $1.50 per year; to Unions, 6c per copy
C. P. NEALE, Secretary
O. BRAATEN, Chairman, Public Relations Committee

Labor's 'Big' Money: The Argue affair

The Argue affair has sparked a lot of argument and comment. The comment has been especially strong from the sedition who delight in their attempts to downgrade the efforts of liberally minded groups and labor to champion its new political vehicle on the Canadian scene.

Ah, hah, we told you so, is the type of refrain picked up with the help of Hazen Argue's barbed slure against trade unions in politics. Mr. Argue has suddenly become so fearful of big bad labor leaders, it seems to us that we've heard that song many, many times before.

There's been a lot of public comment as to why the former CCF-NDP House leader defected from the party he has supported for so many years. Comment on the **real** reasons. Sour grapes because Argue failed to win the NDP party leadership. This is probably very close to the truth.

Putting it a little more in perspective, it's probably a fair guess that Mr. Argue found that his political ambitions had been hemmed in and he needed more elbow room. The Liberal Party, it seems has room for those elbows.

For 17 years Mr. Argue had sat in the House of Commons, partly on his own ability, but partly because of the sacrifices and work of loyal supporters in his riding. For 17 years he was a trusted leader of the CCF and then the NDP. How could he suddenly turn on long-time friends and supporters?

On the day before he resigned from the NDP, he spent two hours with leader Tommy Douglas reviewing the NDP election plans.

He helped draw up the constitution of the NDP and sought to be the leader and never said a word about so-called "labor domination" before.

☆ ☆

The haranguing over the incident we'll leave to Mr. Argue. But some of his statements can't go unchallenged.

His claims about the big money of Labor in the plans and fortunes of the New Democratic Party are a big laugh. Mr. Argue has moved from the land of pennies to the land of dollars in his political defection.

Labor will help finance the NDP campaign with a goal of five cents from members who desire to donate when their union votes to support the party — in all provinces except the land of Bill 42, that is. Here in B.C., NDP support from trade unionists is through voluntary donations. Total goal from all NDP sources is $1 million.

Compare this so-called big money of the unions to what the really BIG money of the other parties will rake in for their election campaigns. It's reliably estimated that the Liberals will spend at least $6 million on the next general election and the Tories will put out $10 million.

Come, now, Mr. Argue.

If the NDP was too confining for your ambitions, say so. Don't try to drag labor's aims at helping the "little" people launch a new and dedicated political instrument by smearing it with charges about big Labor money.

TO THE EDITOR

Trading Stamps

Editor:

Many people are being called upon by a chain store in Vancouver East to sign and send cards to their MLA regarding trading stamps.

It appears that many believe that the MLAs are lending their name to the chain store for use on these cards. For your information, none of the MLAs have been consulted regarding this and the stores involved are doing so on their own initiative.

As far as the pros and cons of trading stamps are concerned, this subject is before a committee of the House at the present time made up of members of all poitical parties. As to the finding of this committee, we are not sure what will be brought down but you can rest assured whatever the policy might be, the MLAs of this committee will do what they consider best for all of the shoppers and the people of B.C.

As MLAs, we come to Victoria with an open mind and are prepared to listen to anyone and everyone if they have a problem, but at no time will we be pressured into changing or making up our minds through this kind of campaign.

Hoping this will clarify the misunderstanding.

ARTHUR J. TURNER,
ALEX MACDONALD,
MLAs, Vancouver East.

Donations

Editor:

The Canadian Peace Research Institute has received tremendous support from the news media in most parts of B.C. during the current campaign to raise $500,000 in B.C.

In the Lower Mainland and Victoria areas, a fairly complete canvass is being achieved but there are many parts where no canvassers have called.

In other parts of the province it has often been difficult to develop the leadership for an organized campaign and those who wish to donate should send their contributions direct to the Canadian Peace Research Institute, Box 2249, Vancouver 3.

We hope you can encourage people to give generously in an effort to help find a new way to maintain peace.

F. K. HARRIS,
Canadian Peace Research Institute (B.C.)

Dateline Victoria
IN THE HOUSE

The CCF-NDP members in the Legislature are using the Senate Report on Unemployment and Manpower to show that in spite of increased production in many industries, unemployment continues to get worse.

Statistics and graphs are used by government speakers who swell with pride when quoting the upgrade figures of increased wealth. When these figures are related to the percentage of the labor force seeking work they lose their value as an argument that all is well.

Greater and faster production with fewer and fewer numbers of jobs is the factual story of the Senate report. It is a choice between blind optimism or inescapable facts.

And other employees?

The announcement by Labor Minister Peterson that employees of the provincial hydro authority—including all those of the B.C. Electric—would be given collective bargaining rights without the right to strike was strongly criticized in and outside the Legislature.

The B.C. Federation of Labour immediately protested the strike ban. It said that crown corporation employees in Saskatchewan, the UK and Sweden all retain the right to strike.

Still unanswered by the government: what about the rights of 11,000 civil servants, the members of the B.C. Government Employees Association who have fought unsuccessfully for years for some regulated form of collective bargaining? Will they get the same?

Most get nothing at all

The provincial budget has included wage boosts for some categories in the civil service but is miles short of the requests made by the B.C. Government Employees Association.

Ed O'Connor, secretary of the civil servants union, sized up the government handout immediately this way: "This confirms the fact that government employees are and will continue to be the lowest paid workers in their category in the province."

The recommendations by the Civil Service Commission—on which the increases are based—represents a complete departure from the established policy of wage evaluation according to surveys of comparable rates in business and industry and other public services which has been followed by the commission since 1952 — and from accepted practices in federal and other provincial services.

The recommendations mean that thousands of government workers will get no increase at all. A recommendation of the addition of one step to the top of the salary range in some categories means a five-percent increase but only to those who already are at the top. Anyone with less than six or seven years' service gets nothing.

An example of the discrepancy: general hospitals get government grants to meet their costs, including wages, and an orderly is paid an average of $60 a month more than an orderly in a government hospital institution.

Gas tax and a handout

MLA Arthur Turner has again spotlighted the bare treatment Vancouver gets from the provincial treasury:

Vancouver gets back only $1 for every $25 it pays in gasoline tax; and Vancouver motorists pay about $4 million in car licence fees and get back a measly grant of $355,000 for highway purposes.

"The government built the new Second Narrows bridge but all Vancouver got was the toll plaza," he said. "The government didn't pay for approaches to feed the traffic, there's no throughway to downtown — just a traffic stoplight at Hastings and Cassiar and traffic jams in residential areas."

VIEWPOINT

Free enterprise in B.C. — free for big profits

C. P. (PADDY) NEALE
General Secretary
Vancouver and District Labor Council

The current session of the Legislature in Victoria has not only revealed to the public that the present government is guilty of some radical departures from the traditional democratic procedure in administering the people's money and affairs, but also that the government is suspect of working hand in hand with the biggest so-called free enterprise profiteers that ever promoted enormous fortunes from British Columbia's resources.

We are referring specifically to the most recent of many profiteering schemes in B. C. — the accumulation of a healthy $11.25 million in risk-free profit by those who control Westcoast Transmission Natural Gas Company.

Under the present administration, the following procedure can be used to make a quick fortune in British Columbia.

(1) Own and control an industrial empire.

(2) Promise the people 10,000 new jobs, and the government many times that number of votes in an election.

(3) Form a pipeline holding company and issue to oneself, and one's friends, special stock options.

The refinements of this simple method of manipulating millions in profits are as follows:

The Western Pacific Products and Crude Oil Pipeline Company was formed to carry Peace River oil to Vancouver markets. Last year, Westcoast Transmission Company traded a portion of its right-of-way to

C. P. NEALE

Western Pacific in return for 750,000 shares of Western Pacific.

These shares cost very little on option price, yet had a market value of $15 each. Total payment for a right-of-way already paid for by consumers of oil and gas is therefore $11.25 million.

The net result of this transaction was that by the simple act of signing a transfer agreement, the promoter and his friends received an $11 million profit.

Not only is it necessary to put up little money initially, but also there is virtually no risk involved. The result is probably one of the most successful and scandalous stock promotion schemes ever to be attempted in the history of B.C.

While such promotions are becoming more common-place in this province, the appalling feature is that in last year's legislative session the government claimed that there would be no more big profits on pipeline deals. In other words, the government's behavior pattern is somewhat inconsistent, when it states one policy then follows an opposite one.

When a government permits the type of wheeling and dealing that we have seen in recent years, the question that arises is how much longer can they continue to do so (meanwhile beating their chests in smug and self-satisfied glory) before the voters who elected them to power decide that enough is enough, and that the time for a change is long overdue.

We can only hope that this day of reckoning comes before the natural resources of this province have been turned over to the "buccaneer" friends of the provincial government.

Who says it's something for nothing?

Labor argues that gimmicks, such as trading stamps, add to cost of goods to the consumer by an estimated two to three percent

Organized labor in B.C. is continuing the battle against trading stamps and other so-called "something for nothing" gimmicks used for the merchandising of products.

Vancouver and District Labour Council has urged all citizens to join in the fight to curb the unwarranted trend to the widespread use of trading stamp gimmicks by writing or wiring their MLA or the attorney-general in Victoria.

A special committee of the Legislature has been hearing representations on the trading stamp issue. Three large food chains have introduced stamp schemes in the Lower Mainland area.

Labor's stand is this: gimmicks such as trading stamps add to the cost of goods purchased by the consumer, reduce the return to the primary producer and compel merchants to use counter measures that are not necessairily in the best interest of consumers.

- Trading stamps add nothing to the value of the goods being sold, nor do they convey any information pertaining to the quality, price, or type of goods supplied.
- Stamps will increase the price of food by an estimated two to three percent.
- Prizes advertised as "free" are not free at all because shoppers collectively pay for these prizes when they pay for their goods.
- Stamps compel people who are not interested in prizes to spend an additional two or three percent for essential food items. This affects the people in the lower income brackets most adversely, because these people need food for their table more than they need unnecessary, and often useless prizes.
- People on low-income and those unable to buy large quantities of goods must patronize a single store for an unreasonably long time before they are entitled to a prize. As a result, most stamps are not redeemed at the store and the corporation does not give out prizes, and thereby raises its profits. In the U.S.A. for example, trading stamp companies shows an additional $22 million in profits from stamps distributed but never turned in.
- Once trading stamps are permitted the door is open for other gimmicks — such as draws, lotteries, gift stamps— that expand to induce other stores such as hardware, gasoline, and drugs. This inevitably forces people opposed to other activities to become in volved in them in order to buy essential items.
- Where stamps and gimmicks are permitted extensive use, they become more important than the goods themselves, and are used as a smoke screen to conceal the price and the quality of actual purchases of goods. The insidious materialism and profiteering that forms the basic principle of trading stamp gimmicks ,reduces the consumer protection and victimizes everyone, including those opposed to such undesirable gimmicks.

Once a consumer is "hooked" with a gift stamp book ,it is obvious that he has become a captive customer who must shop exclusively at the same store for months, and even years, before he can qualify for a prize that requires several thousand dollars worth of purchases.

It is obvious therefore, that these onerous "free gift gimmicks" not only raise food prices, but also violate the basic liberty of choosing the store that offers the most value for one's money.

In addition to the determental effects that trading stamps have on consumers, they are a menace to ethical and worthy independent retailers, whom this sype of competition will force into a stamp, or gimmick program against his will.

These unwanted techniques will drive the independent merchant, who in most cases is rendering a needed service to the public, out of business because independent merchants cannot launch an effective stamp program, even at a cost of two to four percent of sales. Stamps and prizes purchased in small quantities cannot be purchased or administrated economically.

In many parts of Canada and the United States, proper legislation has been enacted to prevent the introduction of these abuses into the places of business.

Government can impose many preventative measures such as taxation on gift stamps, and other undesirable gimmicks

Regulations governing retail licensing could also be amended to prevent these practices —as well as many other means well known to our governmental authorities.

It takes you a long time and long $ for 'premiums'

Something for nothing? That's what one is lead to believe under trading stamp schemes.

But does everyone realize how much money a customer must spend in **one single food store** to qualify for specific prizes? Here are a few examples:

Steam iron—$1,235 in food purchases.

Toaster—$1,385 in food purchases.

Adjustable ironing board—$555 in food purchases.

Sunbeam electric can opener—$1,575 in food purchases.

CROSS SECTION

Add another $10 but who gets it?

Old age pensioners are concerned that the new $10 monthly boost in their pensions will be immediately eaten up in increased rents.

The B.C. Old Age Pensioner's Organization said it will petition the federal and provincial governments for rent control.

The group claims it has evidence that some landlords have boosted their rents following the government's announcement of the increased pension. It said that the last increase was consumed by higher rents.

Unfair practices stick to Kohler

The infamous strike at the Kohler Co. in Wisconsin which started back in April 1954 is still in the news. In Washington, the U.S. Court of Appeals has upheld the decision of the National Labor Relations Board that the company was guilty of unfair labor practices during its eight-year dispute with the United Auto Workers.

More than 2,700 workers at the firm's plumbing plant went on strike in 1954.

Argue defection for ambitions

In Ottawa, Ontario NDP leader Donald C. MacDonald, likened the defection of Hazen Argue to that of Tom Crerar who after the First World war, "betrayed the trust of leadership placed in him by western farmers in the progressive movement and defected to the Liberals for a cabinet post."

MacDonald said that Argue had supported the NDP until it did not offer sufficient scope for his personal ambitions.

He said western farmers don't have to start all over again — as they did in earlier years by building the CCF — because they are playing their part in shaping the NDP. And Labor is supporting the farmer's struggle for a fair share of the nation's income while business has opposed it.

Hotel strikers reject formula

In Toronto, the embattled Royal York Hotel strikers this month voted overwhelmingly to continue their nine-month walkout rather than accept a settlement which would mean that one in every 10 strikers would not return to work.

Strikers rejected a proposal of the Ontario labor minister that 90 per cent of the remaining 485 strikers be recalled to work over an 11-month period. Under the proposal, 30 per cent would be offered jobs within two months, another 30 percent within five months and the final 30 percent by the end of the year.

Said Hotel and Club Employees Union leader, Archie Johnstone: "We do not propose to trade in bodies with the Royal York. It is either every striker back to work or none back."

"In our family," the little girl told her teacher, "everybody marries relatives. My father married my mother, my uncle married my aunt and the other day I found out that my grandfather married my grandmother."

Employees honor boss 'Tommy'

Shortly after Tommy Douglas retired as premier of Saskatchewan, the provincial civil servants held a farewell ceremony which was unique in Canada.

Mr. Douglas was given an illuminated address and $2,000 in Canada Savings Bonds from voluntary donations. The presentation was made by William Leonard, executive secretary of the employees association, who said in part:

"It is my privilege and great pleasure to present . . . some tokens expressive of the high regard in which we have held you during your 17 years as premier of this province and as an individual in your own right.

". . . Government employees are losing one who has been a good friend to them for many years. It is no exaggeration to say that Saskatchewan government employees of today and of generations to come owe a debt to you, sir, which they can never repay in kind.

"You more than any other individual, are responsible for the right of government employees in Saskatchewan to bargain collectively — a right that employees of no other constitutional government in Canada as yet enjoy.

"It was given to you in 1944 in a great flash of insight to perceive that government employees could be entrusted with the right to bargain collectively in the same manner as non-government employees.

"You had the courage to place your trust in their deeply ingrained sense and responsibility to the Crown and to the people, when you legislated collective bargaining rights for government employees in 1944. It was one of the first acts of your government after assuming office."

CLARKE'S FLOWERS
FRESHER . . . LOVELIER . . . FOR ALL OCCASIONS
100% Union Shop
3418 Cambie Street,
Vancouver 9, B.C.
TRinity 4-9416

MARK HAMILTON U. W. (BILL) HAMILTON
Hamilton Mortuary Ltd.
FUNERAL ADMINISTRATORS
FA 5-3311
Fraser St. at 38th Ave. Vancouver 15, B.C.

STERLING LAUNDRY LTD.
100 PER CENT UNION
Complete Laundry and Dry Cleaning
1460 West 7th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. RE 8-7191

DISTINCTIVE . . .
Funeral Service
S. BOWELL & SONS LTD.
Phone LA 2-1671
66 Sixth Street, New Westminster, B.C.
Cloverdale, B.C. Phone Cloverdale 3-7331

Darlington, Haskins & Co. (1943) Limited
TILES — MOSAICS — SLATE — TERRAZZO
Phone TRinity 9-1565
525 WEST EIGHTH VANCOUVER, B.C.

Simmons & McBride Ltd.
Directors of Funeral Service
PHONE RE 1-4151 1995 WEST BROADWAY
"CANADA'S FINEST MORTUARY"

LABOR STATESMAN ★ FEATURES PAGE ★

Lighter Side

"Think you could slip a few clause into a contract I'm negotiating wit the union?"

"The boss was so mad he ate the union contract, but he still found it binding!"

"If you were Union, Pop, you wouldn't have to supplement your wages this way!"

"They say you can appeal best to union men with just common scents!"

KEMMIS REPORTS

New unity for bakery unions forecast by convention

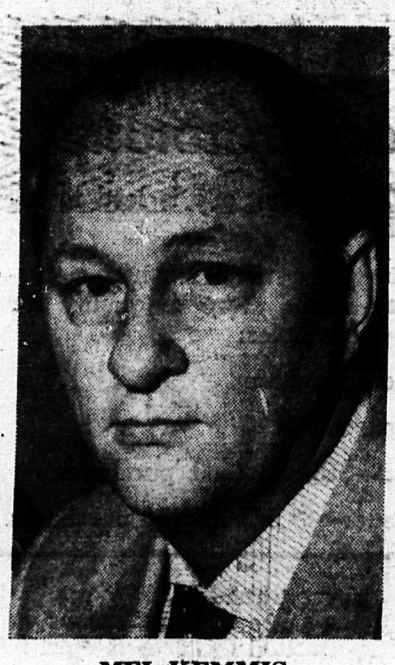
New unity among unions in the baking industry was forecast by a Vancouver union official following a recent international convention that elected a new slate of officers.

Mel Kemmis, secretary of Bakery and Confectionery Workers Local 468, gave hope that merger talks will now go ahead with the American Bakery Workers, the union formed by the AFL-CIO after the Bakery and Confectionery Workers tionery Workers were expelled

"I think the long and bitter struggle has been almost resolved," Kemmis said. All organized Canadian bakery workers belong to the expelled international.

He reviewed events of the past five years when the president and many top officers were charged with corruption and the Bakery and Confectionary Workers were expelled by the AFL-CIO.

After four years of battling, the new union formed and the ousted one each had about 70,000 members.



MEL KEMMIS

Kemmis said that a number of local unions went to the courts and forced the international officers to call a convention to resolve the split.

He said the international officers then made a deal "to sell our organization to the Teamsters Union."

On the first day of the convention, Jimmy Hoffa of the Teamsters was invited to address the convention in an effort to convince delegates to vote for merger. But Kemmis said the vote of the convention rejected the bid of the Teamsters and called for a move to reunite all organized bakery workers into one union.

"The final victory, in my opinion," said Kemmis, "was that all of the international officers except two were defeated and a new slate of officers was elected."

Council committee selected

Members for Vancouver and District Labor Council standing committees were named this month.

Those named were:

Organization Committee: — Chairman, Mel Kemmis; R. Krickan, Retail Clerks; G. Connolly, Dental Technicians; Norman Musgrave, Meat Cutters; S. Moorehouse, Brewery Workers.

Legislation Committee—Jack Henderson, chairman; A. Cameron, Iron Workers Local 712; Miss E. Quinnell, Packinghouse Workers; Chas. Stewart, Street Railwaymen; Karl Reich, Upholsterers Union; J. P. Doyle, Postal Employees; T. C. Atherton, Plumbers; H. W. Walmsley, Government Employees. Two additional members are to be added.

Public Relations Committee: — Orville Braaten, chairman; Bob Clair, IWA; Jack Fradley, Painters; Carl Erickson, Carpenters; J. Hutton, Government Employees.

Grievance Committee: Jerry LeBourdais, chairman; J. Antooshkin, Carpenters; Tom Clarke, IWA; C. Pritchett, Longshoremen; Doug Gibson, Retail Clerks.

Education Committee: John Hayward, chairman; Norman Uphill, Plumbers; R. Butler, Railroad Trainmen; Stu Hodgson, IWA; one additional member to be named.

Credentials Committee: — Robert Cook, chairman; Mrs. C. Waddell, Hotel and Restaurant; Miss K. Westfold, Office Employees; E. Tuson, Street Railwaymen; W. Chalmers, Steelworkers.

Retail Clerks' Flyers host international hockey final

It's union hockey night in Vancouver on Saturday, March 31 at Kerrisdale Arena at 8:30 p.m.

That's the night when the Flyers of Retail Credit Union Local 1518 take on the Portland Royals in the final match of an international three-game series.

The two amateur clubs split the first pair of games recently in Portland.

The big feature of the matches in the Oregon city was the turnout of fans — 2,800 watched the Retail Credit Union Flyers win the first game 6-3, and 3,500 turned out as the second game went to the Portland club 11-6.

The Flyers have been spon- Union for the past eight seasons and have an enviable record: the team has never finished out of the playoffs and have won either the league title or the championship in seven of the eight years.

Lead by Safeway employees Art Prizeman and Bob Longden and boasting a roster of almost 100 per cent credit union members, the Flyers are ready to make the final game a good one.

The Portland Royals are coached by former NHL great Jimmy Ward and have former pros Hal Torrell, Pat Desbien and Tom Karakas.

Officials of Local 1518 and the Flyer team are hoping that union members will turn out in good numbers to give the Portlanders a welcome to match the reception given the Flyers in the U.S. city.

AND JOBS ARE VANISHING

A machine for almost anything

White collar workers are now starting to "take a beating" from automation, as industrial workers already have. And the impact has hardly begun.

Walter Buckingham, director of the school of industrial management at the Georgia Institute of Technology, in his book "Automation: its impact on business and people" points out that about 10,000 electronic-computers have been installed in offices in the U.S. in 1961 and about 350,000 jobs have been eliminated.

"The rate of installation of office automation equipment will probably accelerate," he said. If the companies now making such equipment should double their sales this year then 700,000 additional clerical jobs will be abolished.

He pinpoints many startling new automation devices that are being introduced.

There is the automatic sales clerk which can dispense 36 varieties of products, accept payments up to $5 and give the customer his exact change.

There's an automatic law clerk device which can perform seven man hours of legal research in a few minutes.

There's an electronic scanner now in use that does the work of 24 key-punch clerks. And banks already are installing electronic computers, each of which is capable of 237,000 additions and subtractions a minute.

A large electric products firm uses a computer that processes a 26,000-man weekly payroll in 25 minutes, calculating regular pay, overtime, absences, late-to-work adjustments ,taxes, union dues, etc.

And there are many more labor-saving devices on the market — with more yet to come.

What all this means, Buckingham said, is that to achieve full employment, jobs must be found not only for those now unemployed and for those entering the labor market each year, but also for the fast-growing number of employees displaced by technological changes.

And this, exactly, is what labor has been saying for many years.

Baby sitters courses on fire safety

Baby sitters should know what to do in case of fire. And Vancouver Traffic and Safety Council has launched child care courses for baby sitters to drive home this safety slogan.

Already this year, three separate fires in B. C. have taken the lives of 15 children, all of them left at home unattended.

The council stresses this point: the habit of leaving young children at home alone is not uncommon but it should be a rule in all homes that children are never left at home alone, not even for a few minutes.

Courses already have started. They will continue in March and May at community centres.

Questions, answers

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Question: I had to quit my job because I cannot work. I had an operation and am unable to work for a couple of months. I paid into unemployment insurance for years. Now I need it and cannot get it. Why can't I draw my unemployment insurance benefits?

Answer: Benefit is not payable under the Act to a claimant who ceased to work by reason of illness. However, when you are again able to work, if you are unable to obtain suitable employment, you should report immediately to the local office and file a claim for benefit .

HARRON BROS. LIMITED
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

"British Columbia's Finest Funeral Service
CHAPEL OF CHIMES
55 E. 10th Ave TR 6-8877
Vancouver
ROYAL OAK CHAPEL
HE 1-5577
5152 Kingsway, Burnaby

MUtual 5-8181
TOWING
• 24-HR. SERVICE
• FULLY INSURED
• RADIO CONTROLLED
• BONDED DRIVERS
BUSTER'S
Auto Towing Service Ltd.
376 E. HASTINGS ST.
Exclusive AAA Contract Vancouver

Low wages in the garment industry

'A small minority of unscrupulous employers in the needle trades are exploiting workers through low wages because the minimum wage and learners' rates in BC are appallingly low'

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

New $1.25 Minimum rate urged in needle trades

The Board of Industrial Relations this month was urged to abolish the appallingly low learner's rate and set a new minimum wage of $1.25 an hour in the garment industry.

It also urged that separate male and female rates in the industry be wiped out.

A brief presented jointly by the B.C. Federation of Labor and the Needle Trades Council of Greater Vancouver said that a small minority of unscrupulous employers is responsible for exploitation of workers through low wages in an unfair drive for a competitive advantage over others in the industry.

It declared that B.C. minimum rates are lower than rates in the same industry in Quebec, the U.S. and Japan.

The hearing was called by the board following a campaign earlier this year by labor to expose the low wages being paid by some employers in the "garment jungle."

Higher rates in Quebec

Some exploited

To illustrate just how low rates are, the labor brief declared that minimums in the garment industry are below the level set by the Community Chest for a minimum subsistence when it was studying social assistance rates in B.C. in 1958.

The brief said that the argument that favors sheer exploitation of workers in the garment industry or any other industry could not be accepted.

It said the present minimum wage order which set the minimum male wage at 75 cents an hour and 60 cents for females and permits learners' rates from 45 cents to 55 cents is "not only unjust but also immoral, medieval and unacceptable from every standpoint."

Competition

The board was told that arguments purporting to state that the B.C. industry is plagued by low-wage competition from eastern Canada — especially Quebec—the northwest U.S. area and Japan had no foundation in fact.

Quebec has minimum wage orders that are well above those in B.C., besides providing a minimum of six paid statutory holidays a year.

In the northwestern U.S., minimum wage rates are considerably above those in B.C. In Japan, garment workers are not only provided with a better standard than those in B.C. but they are also protected by advanced labor legislation, numerous fringe benefits, and special job security provisions.

"We share the alarm and the concern expressed by the distinguished members of women's organizations, the clergy and the garment workers themselves, about the appallingly low minimum wages and learners' rates," the labor brief said.

"Not only do these rates violate human dignity and permit outright exploitation of the workers, but they also contribute to many of the social and psychological problems resulting from the depressed living standards, inadequate housing, lack of proper clothing and nutrition for those unfortunate people and their families compelled by circumstances and legislation to endure such conditions."

Unfair

Aside from the humanitarian, moral and equity point of view, the labor brief argued that low minimum wage rates permit the garment industry in Vancouver to compete on the basis of unfair wages and labor exploitation with manufacturers in Eastern Canada, the U.S. and Japan.

The brief analyzed wages and economic conditions in the Vancouver garment industry and came up with facts and figures to substantiate labor's case for a higher minimum wage.

In 1959 in the Vancouver area there were about 58 firms in manufacturing men's clothing, women's clothing, knitted goods and fur goods, employing about 1,732 employees with a total payroll of $4.69 million and with gross valued production of $14.3 million.

It outlined wages in the industry in 1959 and 1960 as: Work clothing and sportswear —cutter $1.63 - $2.10, female sewing machine operator 65-95 cents, female final examiner 95 cents to $1.37.

Men's and boys' suits and overcoats — female finisher 90 cents to $1.55, female sewing machine operator 95 cents to $1.37.

Women's and misses' coats and suits — button 89 cents, cutter $1.85 - $2.57, female finisher 98 cents to $1.63, female sewing machine operator $1.23-$1.96.

The normal factors which force wages upward in most other industries have been weak, or in some cases totally absent, in the B.C. garment industry.

"As a result, a number of workers in the industry continue to be paid the legally-required minimum wage which is much too low to protect individuals and groups from undue exploitation," the brief said.

"At the same time, the payment of such sub-standard rates by some employers in the industry endangers the position of fair wage employers who recognize their obligation to the community* and to their workers to pay a decent wage."

Exploited

The board was reminded that some individuals and identifiable groups have always been subject to wage exploitation. These people suffer certain disadvantages in the areas of education, age, ethnic grouping, lingual, skill and dexterity, intelligence, physical limitations, physical appearance, familiarity with our social customs and so on.

"Many of these workers, suffering such disadvantages, gravitate into the needle trade industry," it said.

Females make up a large majority of the work force in the garment industry. They gravitate to this sub-industry because the needle skill is the one skill with which most are familiar to some extent.

This stream of workers enables employers to apply learner rates as low as 45 cents an hour, the brief stated.

Examining the garment industry in B.C., the labor brief said it is very close to "pure competition." Most of the firms — both local and national — are small and competition among them is severe.

"Because little capital is required to set up business, entry in and exit from the industry is common and profit margins are narrow.

Learner's rates as low as 45c an hour

"In the absence of government intervention to fix a realistic floor under wages, the existence of severe competition in the industry tends to keep the wages of its workers unduly low."

The industry has always been subject to the influence of a small minority of unscrupulous employers who seek to gain an unfair competitive advantage over their fellow businessmen by merciless exploitation of the workers, it said.

Blame few

"The history of the garment industry throughout Canada bears witness to how much evil can be perpetrated by those few employers who chose to pay the lowest permissible rates. Not only do the workers suffer, but also the great majority of decent employers who wish to pay a living wage."

The brief focused attention on the minimum wage rate now in effect and said it is far too low for a minimum standard of living.

Since the current minimum wage order was adopted in January, 1956, the cosumer price level has climbed 8.1 percent and it is very likely that the prices in relation to the low-income family have risen by even more. In the same period, productivity or output per manhour increased by 24.5 percent.

Combining these increases, the minimum upward adjustment of the minimum wage would be 34.6 percent and when this is applied to the current 75-cent minimum wage for male workers, the minimum rate should be $1.01.

But, the brief pointed out, the average wage in Vancouver during the same period rose by 30.3 percent and "it must be expected that minimum wages, which are paid to the least fortunate members of our population, should go up at a faster pace than the average earnings of all workers—it is both social justice and good economics."

Standards

Looking at minimum standards of living as set out in the Community Chest's survey of 1958 in Vancouver, the brief pointed out that the minimum rates now paid in the garment industry are actually lower than the determined level of "need" as pointed out by the Chest's survey.

The proposed $1.25 minimum is well within the ability of the industry to pay because the predominant range of hourly wage rates or of piecework straight-time earnings now are beyond that figure, the brief said.

"Lower wages exist because some of the employers chose to pay their workers the lowest possible rates permitted by law. The existence of these substandard rates restricts the fair employers who are willing to pay decent wages because they recognize their responsibility to provide a decent livelihood to their workers."

Replying to employers' submission that in-plant training provides a girl a chance to learn her trade with free tuition and wages while learning, the brief said:

"We are both ashamed and alarmed to see that young people and others face the possibility of working initially for 45 cents an hour and ultimately for 60 or 75 cents.

$4.80 a day

"What kind of a career is it to earn $4.80 a day upon having become a skilled tradesman? We are even more alarmed that employers and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association can openly condone this frightening situation and even insist that it be continued."

Labor's brief summed up the benefits on raising the minimum wage in the industry.

- It would bar the entry to the industry of sub-marginal opportunists who hope to take advantage of the low minimum wage to undercut prevailing wage firms.
- Existing firms which depend sofely on excessively low wages would be forced to raise their wages and compete more fairly with the rest of the industry.
- As the unfair cost competition is eliminatel, fair wage employees will benefit ,and the whole industry will improve—the employees through better wages and employers being relieved of the burden of depressing competition.
- **As the industry is relieved from the basic depressing competition and achieves a measure of stability and prosperity, employers will be encouraged to invest in more efficient equipment and techniques and will thus be in a position to reduce labo rcosts by productivity gains while wages reach a satisfactory level.**

SPECIAL STATESMAN REPORT ON MINIMUM WAGE HEARING

LOTS OF SPACE

Union product displays invited for CLC meet

Unions are urged to join the big union label showing at the April convention of the Canadian Labour Congress in the PNE Showmart Building.

Mrs. Josephine Hallock, secretary of the Union Label Trades Council, said there is plenty of space for unions to have a display of their own—or to join with another union to make a composite display.

It's a good chance to promote your union and the role it plays in producing products in B.C. But act now.

"The sooner you let us know your requirements on space, the better we can service you," said Mrs. Hallock.

This is a special year, too, because the Vancouver, New Westminster and District Union Label Trades Council is celebrating its Golden Year of Union Label Promotion.

Help the council in celebrating its fiftieth birthday by joinhIIlicenujinu.-nsecretheC ing in the display. Better still, urge affiliation of your union with the label council, too.

The CLC union label trades department will hold its own convention on April 8, the day prior to the opening of the main CLC convention, in the Labor Temple.

Delegates to the label department convention must be prepared to produce at least two union label on his or her person to qualify as a delegate. It says so in the convention call.

A famous athlete who had recently escaped from behind the Iron Curtain, was asked why the satellite countries excelled in marathon running.

He replied: "We use the border for the finish line."

Mount Pleasant Chapel Limited

KINGSWAY at ELEVENTH AVENUE

KINDLINESS — UNDERSTANDING — DEPENDABILITY

LADY ATTENDANT

Phone TRinity 6-2161

Salesman fired after union brief

President Barney Hagel of the Greater Vancouver Real Estate Salesmen's Association Local 1570 has been discharged from Block Brothers Realty.

The firing came within hours of his appearance before the Board of Industrial Relations where the union presented a brief asking that salesmen receive an annual minimum wage of $2400 or monthy minimum of $200.

Hagel, who had worked with the realestate firm for a year, said, "It seems like quite a coincidence that I should be fired without warning or discussion so soon after the hearing."

A heavy lunch basket brought by an old couple to the county fair was being carried by the wife. Suddenly, in the midst of a thickening crowd, her grizzled mate took it over.

"It is burdensome, Pa", she said gratefully.

"I know it," replied the old fellow, "but there's always a chance of you gettin' lost."

* * *

An application of money will sometimes remove stains from a man's character.

Double plan for driver licences

B.C. Federation of Labour has been urged to seek a double driving licence system for truck drivers to protect their livelihood in case of licence suspension.

The proposal was put before Vancouver Labour Council by Maurice deFeyter, business agent of Oil Workers Local 16-601.

The union said that truck drivers now face a heavy penalty if their licence is suspended because is usually means losing their job.

Oil Workers said a system should be adopted to permit a truck driver to have two licences — one for driving a private car and one for operating a truck.

Then if he were convicted of a serious offence while driving a private car, he would lose only his private licence and would remain qualified for his job.

Steel settles

United Steelworkers and Dendoff Springs, Vancouver — new 18-month contract with five per cent wage increase with $25 in lieu of retroactive pay. Three weeks vacation after 10 years starting in 1963.

NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN

(Cont'd from Page 1)

tent of coverage.

The gain in enrollment in private plans has been impressive but voluntary insurance has by no means solved all our problems, the labor group told the commission.

"We suspect that costs and administration expenses are higher than in government sponsored plans. Furthermore, private plans often provide inadequate coverage and many citizens in lower income groups are excluded from participation.

"Also excluded are those in certain occupations such as agriculture and those employed by smaller firms or those outside the labor force."

The brief said that in Canada where private plans abound, about 63 per cent of the population have some form of medical coverage, many with only partial protection. In Britain, the 52 million population has protection from a national comprehensive scheme.

Dealing with mental health, the brief said problems can only be effectively dealt with on a national scale and that the joint participation of all three levels of government is essential, together with increased federal and provincial aid.

It said that careful exploration should be made on the possibility of completely overhauling the system in B. C. in order to "depauperize the patient, improve individual care and upgrade psychiatric care."

It said that many serious staff problems exist in B. C. mental health services and that decent salaries and working conditions are essential to attract and retain skilled people.

The proportion of total costs per patient day paid in wages in B. C. is much lower than any other western province, the brief said.

It also said that the provincial hospital insurance service contributes only a very minor sum towards psychiatric care in general hospitals and that "it is imperative that arrangements be made to expand mental units in all general hospitals with funds coming from BCHIS.

Private health insurance plans are either partially or totally inadequate in providing for psychiatric care.

B.C. TRADE UNION DIRECTORY

List your union here for quick reference of others

AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS OF AMERICA, Local 178—Room 5—2475 Manitoba, Vancouver 10. J. A. McNevin, Business Agent, TR 9-3031.

AMALGAMATED MEAT CUTTERS AND B.W., Local 212—Representative, Geo. Johnston, 203 Labor Temple; TR 6-5735

AUTOMOTIVE LODGE No. 1857, I. A. of M.—Business Agents, Jack Chapman, Brian Trodden, Room 17, 2414 Main, TR 6-4104-5.

BAKERY AND CONFECTIONERY WORKERS, Local 468—Secretary, Melvin J. Kemmis, 337 W. Broadway; TR 2-5205.

BARBERS — INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYMEN OF AMERICA, No. 120—109 Labor Temple; TR 6-0641; sec't., Allan Coleman.

BEVERAGE DISPENSERS' UNION No. 676 — Pres., Harold Courson; Business Agent, Jack Galloway, 440 W. Pender St.; MU 3-3923 and MU 3-4948.

BREWERY WORKERS, UNION Local 300—Secretary, Stan G. Tapping, 7742 Elford, Burnaby 3, LA 2-3432.

BEVERAGE DISPENSERS (New Westminster) Local 835 — Business Agent, Jack Tomson, 59 Alexander, New Westminster; phone LA 2-7410.

BOILERMAKERS, IRON SHIPBUILDERS, BLACKSMITHS, DROP FORGERS AND HELPERS, Local 359—Financial Secretay, M. H. Hadley, 111 Dunsmuir; MU 4-1047.

BRICKLAYERS & MASONS INTERNATIONAL UNION, Local No. 1—Secretary, D. C. Fraser, 5594 Lincoln, HE 3-8617.

BUILDING SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL, Local 244 — Business Agent and Secretary, Ben A. R. Morley, Room 216, 603 W. Hastings MU 5-9452.

BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL—Secretary, Harold Taft, 110 Labor Temple, TR 9-1210.

CARPENTERS' UNION, No. 452—Business Agents; Lorne Robson, Larry Anderson, Bill Cameron; Financial sec't., Carl A. Erickson, Labor Temple; TR 4-2720 or TR 6-1212.

CARPENTERS (New Westminster) Local 1215—Business Agents, Ray West and K. McDermid, office 732 Royal Ave., New Westminster; phone LA 1-0525.

CARPENTERS' UNION (Courtenay), No. 1638—President Irwin Gutensohn; Sec. and Business Agent, Lorne Paisley; Box 515, Courtenay.

CEMENT MASONS, Local 919, O.P. & C.M.—517 E. Broadway, TR 2-2221. Business Agent, Frank Stevens

CIVIC EMPLOYEES UNION, Local 407—President Richard Coello, 2567 E. 5th Ave., Vancouver 12.

CLUB CABARET, CONSTRUCTION CAMP CULINARY AND SERVICE EMPLOYEES, Local 740—Business Agent, Charles Oates, 402 W. Pender; MU 5-9828.

DENTAL TECHNICIANS, Local No. 1543—Secretary George Hygh, 4007 Dunbar.

DISTILLERY WORKERS, Local 69—President Carl Rowbotham, 993 S.E. Marine, New Westminster, LA 2-2021; Fin. Sec. Treas.; R. Cyr, 1890 2nd St., New Westminster, LA 2-5911.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS' UNION Local 213 — Business Manager A. O'Keeffe, 111 Dunsmuir Street, MU 1-7381-2.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS, Local 82—Sec., H. C. MacKichan, 3755 Elmwood St., S. Burnaby. HE 4-7651.

FIRE FIGHTERS (Burnaby) Local 323—Sec't., John Marley, 550 Holdom, North Burnaby.

FIRE FIGHTERS (Vancouver) Local 18—President, Gordon R. Anderson, 1386 East 61st. FA 7-3729. Sect., R. N. Middleton, 1496 East 54th, FA 7-7441

FLOORLAYERS' UNION, U.B. of C.J., Local No. 1541—Room No. 108, Labor Temple. TR 6-5920. Business Agent, Bruce Robson, 3238 E. 29th; HE 1-0702.

GLAZIERS AND GLASSWORKERS, Local 1527—Recording Secretary, A. Allen. Room 4, 2475 Manitoba. phone TR 4-7535.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION (B.C.)—E. P. O'Connor, Gen. Sec. 2090 West 4th; RE 1-5361-62-63.

GRAIN WORKERS UNION, Local 333 — Recording Secretary R. G. Millar, P.O. Box 194, North Vancouver. Pres R. W. Ferguson, 3930 East Pender, N. Bby., CY 9-6193; Sect.-treas. F. Cooper, 683 Schoolhouse Rd., Coquitlam, New Westminster. Phone WE 9-3586.

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' UNION, No. 180—Business Manager, W. M. Black, 335 W. Broadway; TR 6-5822.

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES, Local 28—Sec., A. E. Morgan. Room 406, 402 W. Pender.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS, AND ASBESTOS WORKERS Room 5, 307 West Broadway, phone TR 6-6814.

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARENT WORKERS, Locals 276 and 287 — Business Agent, Harry Minuk, 119 W. Pender; MU 4-5514.

IRONWORKERS SHOPMENS', Local Union 712—Business Agent, Benjamin D. Parry, Room 105, 307 W. Broadway, TR 2-5515.

IRONWORKERS, Local 97 — President, J. D. Paterson, Room 206, 307 West Broadway, TR 2-7541.

JEWELRY WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL, Local 42. Office, 339 West Pender, MU 1-5831, President, Frank Popowich, 1705 Napier, HA 2465R.

KAMLOOPS AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL—Box 562, Kamloops, phone 372-5747. Secretary, Mrs. C. E. McInnes.

LABORERS CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL, Local 602 — Secretary, C. H. Savage, 3434 Fraser St.; TR 4-9233.

LAUNDRY WORKERS, No. 292 — Business agent, Mrs. Catherine Browne, Suite 1, 224 East Broadway; TR 6-4543.

LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING SALESMEN, Local 334 — J. A. Currie, Secretary - Treasurer, 2632 West Twelfth, RE 8-9649.

MACHINISTS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Lodge 692 — Business repesentatives, D. H. Chapman. Room 17, 2414 Main; TR 4-0512, TR 6-7035.

MARINE WORKERS & BOILERMAKERS' INDUSTRIAL UNION, Local 1—President, Charles O. Wilson. Secretary, W. Stewart, 339 W. Pender St. MU 1-9481.

MOLDERS' UNION, Local 281—Business Agent, M. Bjornson, 114 Labor Temple; TR 6-5920.

MOTION PICTURE PROJECTIONISTS, Local 348—President A. E. McManus. Secty., E. Stanley Scanlon; Business Agent, D. A. Cooper, 1356 Seymour, MU 4-7024.

MUSICIANS' UNION, Local 145 — Business Manager, 402 W. Pender, Room 315; MU 4-1564.

OFFICE EMPLOYEES' INTERNATIONAL UNION, Local 15—Room 1, 337 West Broadway; TR 4-3515. President, K. Westwold; Secretary-treas., J. Garland.

OFFICE EMPLOYEES' INTERNATIONAL UNION, Local 378—Business Manager, Wm. Swanson, 1116 Hornby; phone MU 3-6134.

OIL CHEMICAL & ATOMIC WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION, Local 16-601. President, J. L. LeBourdais; Fin. Corr. Secretary, M. DeFeyter, 5550 E. Hastings, CY 8-3940.

PAINTERS UNION, Local 138—Business Agent, Jack W. Fradley; Ass't. Bus. Agent, Tom Carlton; Rec. Sec. W. E. Eaton, 337 W. Broadway; TR 6-6033.

PAINT AND VARNISH WORKERS, Local 1550—Secretary, C. Erickson, Room 4, 2475 Manitoba.

PATTERNMAKERS' ASSOCIATION —Secretary H. Oliver, 93 Abercrombie, RR1, Richmond, CR 8-1590.

PILE DRIVERS AND WOODEN BRIDGEMEN, Local 2404 — Business Agent, S. Allen, Room 116, 307 West Broadway; TR 4-7817.

PLASTERERS' UNION, No. 779 — Secretary, J. V. Chambers, 517 East Broadway, TR 2-2122.

PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS, Local 170—Bus. Mgr., J. R. St. Eloi; Asst. Bus. Mgrs., James Barton and J. L. Fisher, 115 Labor Temple; TR 9-1428..

CANADIAN POSTAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (Vancouver Branch) —O. N. Johnson, general secretary-treasurer, Box 2411, Vancouver 3, Office. 532 Homer, MUtual 5-8724.

PRINCE GEORGE AND DISTRICT LABOR COUNCIL — 909, 5th Ave., Prince George, phone 191L2.

PRINTING PRESSMEN, Local 69—Secretary, L. Ainsworth, 3849 Cambridge, Vancouver; CY 8-5405.

PRINTING SPECIALTIES & PAPER PRODUCTS UNION LOCAL NO. 598, Sec't.-treas., Bob Banninger, 2753 Horley Avenue, Vancouver 16, B.C. HE 1-8443.

PULP AND SULPHITE (Converters) UNION, Local 433 — Business Agent, O. Braaten, 525 W. Pender, Suite 1; MU 3-8284.

PULP, SULPHITE AND PAPER MILL WORKERS, Local 312, Ocean Falls, B.C. — Secretary, Drawer 190, Ocean Falls, B.C.

PULP, SULPHITE AND PAPERMILL WORKERS — International office, 315-316 Crown Bldg. H. L. Hansen, International rep.; MU 4-3858.

REFRIGERATION WORKERS UNION, Local 516—Sec. L. R. Wintle, 137 W. 40th; FA 7-4409, FA 1-8511.

RETAIL GROCERY AND FOOD CLERKS, Local No. 1518—Sec. W. W. Wells, 337 West Broadway; TR 6-3348.

SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEES' FEDERAL UNION (Burnaby), Local 379—Secretary, G. J. McCrea, 4292 Winifred, S. Burnaby.

SHEET METAL WORKERS, Local 280 — Bus. Manager, Alex McGee, 207 Labor Temple; TR 4-8020.

SHINGLE WEAVERS' UNION, Local No. 2802—Business agent and financial sec., Harold P. Reilly, Rm. 116, 307 West Broadway, TR 6-3744.

SIGN AND PICTORIAL PAINTERS, Local 726—Sec., J. A. Middleton, 6339 Kitchener, N. Burnaby; Room 4, 2475 Manitoba. TR 4-7535.

STREET RAILWAYMEN'S UNION, Div 101—Business Agent, C. Stewart, Street Rlwy. Bldg., 125 East 8th, TR 4-2010

STREET RAILWAYMEN'S UNION, No. 134—Bus. Agent, D. L. Bryce, Room 22, 774 Columbia, New Westminster. Phone LA 1-7330.

THEATRE EMPLOYEES, Local B-72 —Secretary, Mrs. F. Foster, Ste. 1, 4508 Main; TR 9-5453. Business Agent, D. Calladine, 6692 Laburnum AM 1-0078.

TILE SETTERS, Local No. 3 — Recording Secretary, D. P. Ewan, 4030 Dominion S. Burnaby.

TUNNEL & ROCK WORKERS, Local 168—337 W. Broadway, Secretary, H. Croft; phone TR 9-3231.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, Local 226 — Secretary, P. Campbell, 517 E. Broadway; TR 6-6810

UNION LABEL TRADES COUNCIL —Secretary, Mrs. A. E. Hallock, day phone TR 4-0827; evenings TR 4-3748

UNITED GARMENT WORKERS' UNION, No. 232—Secretary, Elsie Hawrylechko, 1846 Nelson, MU 1-4802.

UNITED GARMENT WORKERS' Local 190—Secretary, Miss Isabella Rogers, 436 East 35th, Vancouver, B.C.

UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA, Local 5688—Sec., Wm. Giesbrecht, 2384 West Broadway.

UNITED STEELWORKERS, Local 2655—Recording Sec't., Arne Hansen, 3510 Phillips, North Burnaby, CY 9-4264.

UPHOLSTERERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL NO. 1 — President, Fred Richards; Business Agent, Karl Reich; Office, Room 202, Labor Temple, TR 4-1727.

WATER AND SEWER BOARD EMPLOYEES, Local 393 — Secretary Robt. T. Callahan, 5605 Yalta Place, Vancouver 8.

WOOD, WIRE & METAL LATHERS Local 207 — Pres R. Buttle; Sec., O. A Garrison; Organizer, A. H. Burton. Office, Room 4, 2475 Manitoba, TR 6-1223.