

INTIMIDATION CHARGE

Diefenbaker Touches Off New Uproar In Commons

OTTAWA (CP) — Opposition Leader Diefenbaker triggered a new Commons uproar over the Dorion inquiry Monday, accusing Justice Minister Favreau of intimidation of the two top officers of the RCMP.

He said a press statement Friday by the justice minister contradicted evidence placed before the inquiry earlier that day by Deputy RCMP Commissioner J. R. Lemieux, "thus refuting the truthfulness of the deputy commissioner to gross intimidation."

Mr. Favreau sternly denied "this odious accusation" and Speaker Alan Macnaughton ruled out Mr. Diefenbaker's bid for an emergency all-day debate on the matter.

Mr. Favreau issued a statement Friday night through Prime Minister Pearson's office declaring that Mr. Pearson had not tipped off his then Parliamentary secretary, Liberal MP Guy Rouleau, last year that the RCMP planned to question Mr. Rouleau about the Rivard case.

Four hours earlier, Deputy Commissioner Lemieux told the Dorion inquiry he had been informed by RCMP Commissioner George McClellan that Mr. Pearson had told Mr. Rouleau in advance of the RCMP interrogation.

Mr. Diefenbaker said the issuance of the press statement was a "strange performance" by the justice minister, challenging the truthfulness of a high RCMP officer who gave his testimony under oath.

"What right had a minister 'to act in this fantastic way?'" Mr. Favreau denied that he had placed the Lemieux testimony in doubt. The deputy commissioner had testified it was his impression that Mr. Pearson tipped off Mr. Rouleau.

This impression "does not correspond either to the facts or to reality," the justice minister said.

The prime minister had never been informed of the coming interrogation of Mr. Rouleau and thus could not have tipped him off about it.

Mr. Favreau said he issued his statement because the press was reporting "legally non-existent evidence" that had been ruled hearsay by Mr. Justice Frederic Dorion. He had sought to point out the facts and end all doubt about the prime minister's conduct.

Mr. Diefenbaker said Commissioner McClellan is to be called before the inquiry when it resumes today. "What position will he be in" as a result of the minister's press statement?

WITH 'AWKWARD SQUAD'

The Conservative leader referred to Mr. Favreau as "another member of the cabinet awkward squad" who had brought the integrity of the RCMP into disrepute through this action.

NDP Leader Douglas, backing Mr. Diefenbaker's call for a debate, said Commissioner McClellan had been placed in "a very difficult position."

(Continued on page 3 Col. 7)

United Church Offers French Schools Plan

By RONALD LEBEL

OTTAWA (CP) — The royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism was swamped with recommendations for sweeping reforms as it opened its formal public hearings here Monday.

Several influential national organizations were ready with answers to the commission's preliminary report issued Thursday, which called for "major changes" to bring about a true partnership between the English- and French-speaking societies.

The United Church of Canada advocated a distinct and public system of French-language primary and secondary schools for all areas across the country where French-Canadian are concentrated in sufficient numbers.

The United Church said French schools are French-speaking minorities outside Quebec would strengthen rather than weaken national unity. Such schools need not be Roman Catholic separate schools.

AGREE WITH CHURCH

Spokesmen appearing for the St. Jean Baptist Society of Eastview, adjacent to Ottawa, said they believe most French-Canadians in Ontario would accept the United Church's proposal. The main thing was to obtain instruction in French to help Ontario's 425,000 French-Canadians survive and grow as a distinct cultural group.

The society, limited to Roman Catholic French-speaking members, said it would drop its emphasis on Catholic separate schools if this made it easier to obtain French schools. Religious instruction could be given on an unofficial basis before or after regular school hours.

The Canada Council, a public body that distributes about \$2,500,000 annually in grants and scholarships to foster the arts and social sciences, said it needs more money to support vital cultural exchanges and contacts between the two language groups.

The council's funds are limited to investment proceeds from a \$50,000,000 capital fund set up in 1957.

SUGGESTS COUNCIL

The Royal Society of Canada, grouping 627 leading scholars and scientists, recommended that a "council of educational co-operation" be established at the national level to help the provinces standardize their education policies and methods.

The council would be advisory and comprise officials of the provincial education departments and representatives of national voluntary associations interested in education.

Nine groups made submissions Monday. Another 22 briefs are expected to be received today and Wednesday.

The 10-member commission will hold similar hearings in all 10 provinces to discuss a total of more than 200 briefs from organizations and individuals.

Another Probe In The Making

OTTAWA (CP) — Another federal inquiry is in the making, this time into an allegation that six trade unions in British Columbia conspired to cast fraudulent votes for New Democratic Party candidates in the 1963 federal election.

Prime Minister Pearson said in the Commons Monday the government will appoint an inquiry commissioner "with out delay" to look into the alleged irregularities. NDP Leader Douglas welcomed the decision.

Debate Raging On S. Viet Nam

WASHINGTON (AP) — Praise for President Johnson's "restraint and perseverance" mingled with blunter calls for stronger action as the U.S. Congress debated the war in South Viet Nam Monday.

The president is "trying to keep the lid on a highly dangerous volcano" in Southeast Asia, asserted Democratic majority leader Mike Mansfield of Montana in the Senate.

His administration's policy is "to try and prevent a great war in Asia" and to keep a commitment to the South Vietnamese government, Mansfield said.

The United States is playing a "cat and mouse game" when "we've got the strength and the power to conclude" the war, argued Senator Milward Simpson (Rep. Wyo.).

In the House of Representatives, Melvin R. Laird (Rep. Wis.) said he looks for the Johnson administration to seek some sort of negotiated settlement to get out of what he called an "impossible situation" in Viet Nam.

Johnson's "restraint and perseverance" was praised by Senator William Proxmire (Dem. Wis.).

He chided Senate colleagues who have advocated U.S. withdrawal in South Viet Nam or called for a negotiated peace.

"We cannot take part in a conference that merely ratifies the fruits of aggression," Proxmire asserted.

It is better for the U.S. to continue to try to help South Viet Nam win this war, even if there should be a "stalemate" for five, 10 or 15 years, Proxmire declared, because the Chinese doctrine calls for them "to stop at nothing until they have taken the whole world."

Senator Jacob Javits (Rep. N.Y.) again called for the president to address Americans on his policy. He said he did not go along with those "who seek negotiations as a way out" but said recent developments in South Viet Nam raised "a very serious question" as to whether the people there "really want to fight for freedom."

HIVE OF INDUSTRY SEEN

N.S. House Gets Outline Of 8-Year Economic Plan

By ED WALTERS

HALIFAX (CP) — The Nova Scotia voluntary economic planning board's first progress report, tabled in the legislature Monday night, sketches an eight-year blueprint for turning this province into a hive of industry where unemployment will be the lot of only three to five per cent of the working population.

The report, prepared by board chairman A. R. Harrington and tabled by Economics Minister G. I. Smith, warns that its objectives can only be achieved through continuous efforts by industry, government, labor and the people.

It proposes two four-year planning periods, the first beginning this year and ending in 1968. This would lay the groundwork for the second period, 1969-1972.

The provincial board, said to be the first of its kind in Canada, was set up in 1962 by the province's Conservative government as a long-range scheme to raise the economy to at least the Canadian average.

Public meetings were held to organize the economy into 10 sectors. Mr. Harrington says the public has responded "enthusiastically."

FIX TARGETS

Eight of the 10 sectors have been organized and four—agriculture, forestry, fisheries and power—have selected four-year targets. Others organized are mining, secondary manufacturing, construction and tourism. Communication and services are to be organized later this month.

The five main planning objectives set out in the report are:

1. Highest possible growth rate in per-capita income.
2. Highest possible level of employment.
3. Highest possible productivity increase and most-equitable distribution of income.
4. Development of all resources to the highest point of efficiency.
5. An economic and political climate to encourage development of new industries and expansion of existing ones.

"These are desirable goals, but they are not likely to be attained easily or quickly. The price of achieving them will be the effort which they will demand from Nova Scotians," the report says.

Their immediate aim is to increase to 3,000 or 4,000 the number of jobs in the province.

(Continued on page 3 Col. 8)

INSIDE TODAY

Births, deaths	3, 10
Classified	10, 11
Finance, markets	11
Comics	9
Sport	8
Women's	7
Editorials	4
Summaries	4
Kings, Queens, CNY	3
Prince County	2

Death Toll Reaches 23 In Explosion At LeSalle

Air Filled With Cries Of Trapped

MONTREAL (CP) — "The air was filled by the screams of the people trapped in the debris."

That is the way Vender Weyden, 31, described the scene after a massive explosion ripped through an apartment building Monday in suburban LaSalle Heights.

The blast was the most frightening sound I've ever heard," said Weyden, who lives two buildings away from the explosion. "I ran out into the street and saw the whole building had vanished... just gone to nothing."

He joined others in trying to rescue victims.

At one point a construction worker was on his hands and knees in the rubble with an ear turned against still smouldering bricks. He was listening for sounds of life.

Suddenly everyone heard a small cry—and began to dig twice as fast.

The man who had been listening pulled off his gloves so he could move the charcoal-hot stones more carefully. Another man knelt beside him. Together they tunneled to the sound of the tiny cry. Gently, they moved the last stone.

MOTHER SHRIEKS

The blackened face of a small boy emerged.

His mother shrieked and rushed to the men. Others held her back until they could pull the small victim free. They carried him to one of the ambulances ringing the disaster site.

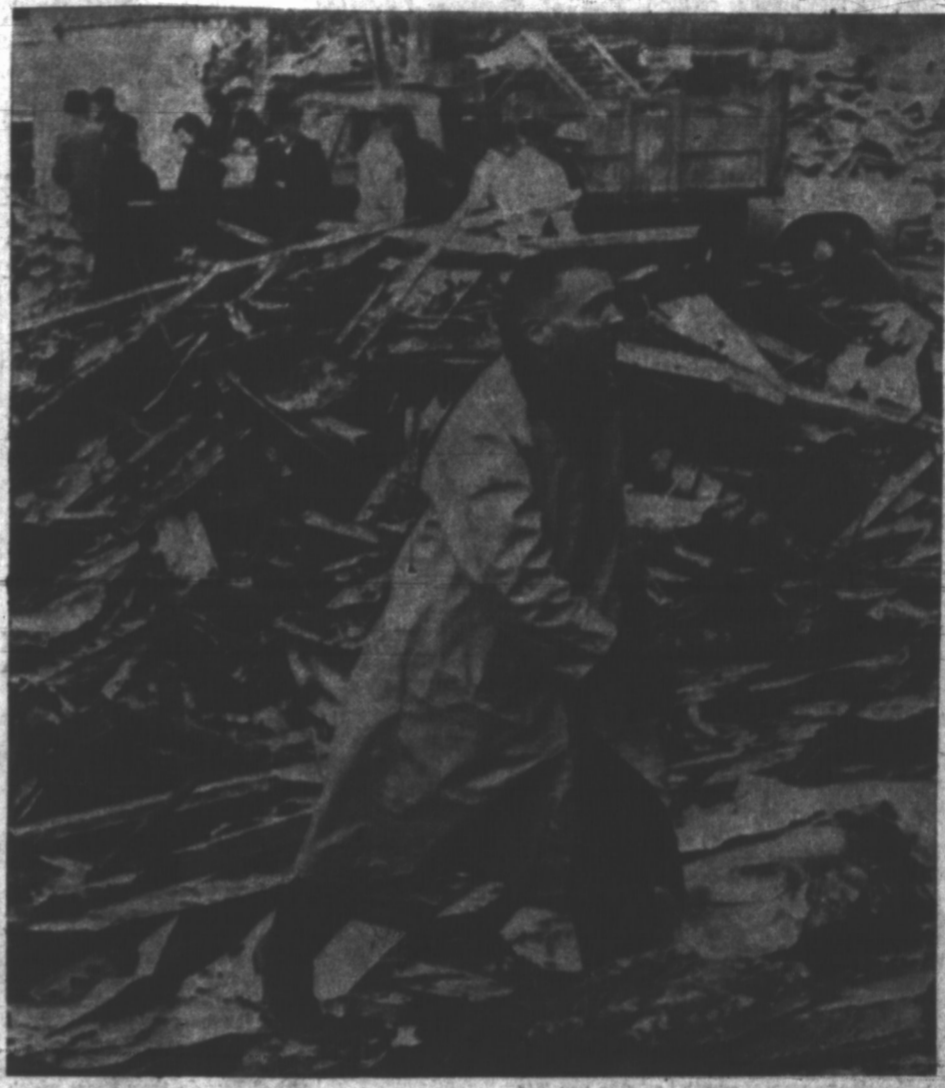
Rescuers put mother and boy into an ambulance.

Elie Beaulieu, who lives across the street from the blasted apartment building, said:

"I thought it was the end of the world."

All the windows in his apartment were blown out.

(Continued on page 5, col. 2)



REV. ALLAN COX, a Roman Catholic priest, strides across the wreckage of a suburban Montreal apartment house as he continues his day-long service to victims and survivors of the blast. "Father Cox was everywhere," witnesses said. (CP Wirephoto)

Bachelor Girl LeMarsh Defends Widows Clause

OTTAWA (CP) — Bachelor girl Judy LeMarsh Monday assured the Commons she has no intention of withholding Canada Pension Plan survivors' benefits from "deserving widows" but only from "scheming gold-diggers."

Miss LeMarsh, the minister of health, was defending the ministerial discretion permitted in a clause of the pension bill to guard against abuses of the pension (and by what Stanley Knowles, M.P., termed "death-bed marriages").

The Commons, after a short debate, approved a recommendation made earlier by the joint parliamentary committee on the plan to make it necessary for a person to survive only a year after marriage to ensure the spouse will receive survivors' benefits.

The amended clause says "where a contributor dies within one year after his marriage, no survivors' pension is payable to his surviving spouse if the minister is not satisfied that the contributor was at the time of his marriage in such a condition of health as to justify him in having an expectation of surviving for at least one year thereafter."

Tom Barnett (NDP—Comox-Alberni) thought the clause left too much discretion to the minister and said the regulations should be clearly defined. He wanted the minister to state whether every couple approaching marriage should get a health certificate so that proof of good health on the wedding day would be available if the husband died within a year. Otherwise, there would be a number of court cases arising from the legislation.

FINDS TOO ARBITRARY

Miss LeMarsh, defending the latitude allowed the health minister in such cases, said that during the two years she has held the post she has found many regulations were "too arbitrary" and disallowed decisions on compassionate grounds.

(Continued on page 3, col. 2)

LBJ's Daughter To Become Nurse

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson announced Monday that his 17-year-old daughter, Luci Baines, has been accepted by the Georgetown University School of Nursing. There have been reports that Luci had the post she has found many regulations were "too arbitrary" and disallowed decisions on compassionate grounds.

(Continued on page 3, col. 2)

3-Storey Apartment Reduced To Rubble

By JOE DUPUIS and CLAUDE HENAUULT

MONTREAL (CP) — A total of 23 persons were officially listed as dead and five as missing Monday night in the wake of an explosion that ripped through a three-storey apartment structure in suburban LaSalle.

LaSalle Detective Raymond Bourbonnais, in charge of the investigation, issued the casualty figures in a preliminary report at the temporary morgue two miles from the scene.

The breakfast time blast, of unknown origin, levelled one part of the 13-story building, set fire to other sections and caused damage to many buildings in the area.

The exact number of dead and injured was not known because rescue operations were still going on.

At one time it was reported that 21 bodies were inside and seven more bodies were seen being taken in later. However, Marcel Tréhan, Montreal district coroner, said in a statement issued shortly after 5 p.m. that the total of known dead at that time was 23.

Coroner Tréhan said nine of the dead were adults and 13 were children.

MANY CHILDREN DEAD

Most of the victims, living and dead, were thought to be children.

Rubble at the blast site was strewn with school books and calculators.

Civil defence, Red Cross and other organizations combined in the operation of a rescue headquarters at the scene, which is part of an apartment development stretching several blocks.

Shovel cranes were lifting the remains of the brick structure and dumping rubble into trucks.

About half the site had been sifted through by mid-afternoon and the dead were transported two miles to an indoor hockey rink, the LaSalle Recreation Centre.

SEARCH FOR KIN

There, with the ice still in place, the temporary morgue was established and relatives came and went in search of their kin.

Estimates of the number of persons missing varied through out the day.

At one point police reported 100 persons unaccounted for but these were said to include many who had sought shelter in neighboring houses without the knowledge of rescue authorities.

The janitor of the shattered building was quoted as saying 140 persons lived there.

A resident of the development, Wilfred Arseneault, 45, said the apartment buildings were heated by natural gas.

Arseneault said each apartment had a space heater with heat ducts running into every room.

Arseneault and his 42-year-old wife Ida live across the street from the explosion site. Mrs. Arseneault was treated at hospital for shock and later released.

The Quebec Natural Gas Company cut off the supply of fuel to four apartment blocks damaged by the blast.

Marcel Dame, assistant provincial director for civil defence, said the gas "will not be turned back on until those responsible feel it safe to do so."

Mr. Dame said his workers were surveying the blocks, which contain a total of 96 apartment units, to see if anyone still was living in them.

Some residents had been evacuated, others left on their own but Mr. Dame said there may be others staying behind in unheated apartments.

"We will offer them other accommodation but we can't force them out if they don't want to come," he said.

Mobile public-address systems were cruising the area, alerting residents to leave their homes.

Rescue workers were bringing out bits and pieces of bodies from the ruins after sundown.

Joseph Corcoran, chief officer on the scene for the St. John Ambulance Corps, said at one point that a whole body had not been brought out in two hours.

Mrs. Noreen Pines, head of the rescue liaison, said she had a list showing 100 persons as resident there.

The area, to the west of Montreal (Continued on page 3 Col. 7)

Coroner Issues Victims' Names

MONTREAL (CP) — Coroner Marcel Tréhan of Montreal Monday announced the names of victims of an apartment house explosion that occurred earlier in the day at suburban LaSalle.

DEAD

Sharon Peard, 9
Kevin Peard, 2, brother of Sharon
Nancy McGuigan
Caroline McGuigan, 10, daughter of Nancy
Gordon McGuigan, 12, son of Nancy
Joanne Caspeo, 7
Brenda Caspeo, 5, sister of Joanne
Marielle Quessel, 23
Gail Sylvia, 10
Jim Dyer, 35, a roomer at the Caspeo apartment
Jean-Marc Thibault, 44
Mrs. Jean-Marc Thibault, 51
Yves Behanek, 5
Anne-Marie Behanek, 3, sister of Vera.

Rescuer Heard Moaning, Babies Crying In Rubble

Richard Burke, 32, is a night-shift sheet metal worker who lives a block from the scene of the apartment building explosion in suburban LaSalle. He was among the first neighbors on the scene and joined in clawing at the rubble with his bare hands to free trapped victims.

By RICHARD BURKE

As Told To The Canadian Press

MONTREAL (CP) — It's a funny thing, and really incredible that when anything like this happens you never think of your own safety. You just act because you know somebody is suffering.

I am a night-shift sheet metal worker and my wife had gone shopping. I was minding our two-year-old boy when I heard the explosion a block away. It was about 2:15 a.m.

I looked out my back window and saw a great pillar of black smoke. Then came the shock wave and the whole apartment house shuddered.

At first I thought one of the nearby window had blown up. I never dreamed it was an apartment.

I left my youngster with neighbors and when I arrived at the scene about three minutes after the explosion, all that remained of this great apartment block I

knew so well was a giant crater with debris all over the place.

"I could hear moaning and babies crying. I jumped into the crater and was soon joined by some others of my neighbors. SEES BODIES ON DEBRIS

There were bodies lying on top of the debris. None was moving.

When we cleared those bodies away, we started clawing with our hands in places where we could hear moaning. I clapped in the direction of the baby's cries.

I seem to remember carrying out about 15 bodies out and you couldn't tell whether they were alive or dead.

You don't stop to ask questions. As long as there was a voice to hear, I dug for it. But I did see quite a few alive.

It was just incredible. Even the firemen were dumbfounded when they first arrived because at that time there was no fire and all they saw was a great big ugly hole.

A fire started in the crater about 15 minutes after I got there and I believe it was caused by the electrical wiring being around.

You know my wife was pretty upset about all this. She said it could have been us and would be to break our lease and move out. I told her it was just an unfortunate experience. We'll sleep around okay.

HEAVY SNOW BLAMED FOR DERAILMENT

Heavy snow caused the derailment of the above plow and train about half a mile outside Souris Saturday afternoon. The double edge wedge plow which preceded the train is seen with one rail on

the north side of the track and the other half shearing into the lead engine immediately behind it. The plow and front part of the lead engine were the only parts of the train to leave the track. The train included a double wedge plow, two engine, oil

car, two refrigerator cars, a caboose, a flanger, and a combination mail and passenger car. There was no collision. A repair crew from Charlottetown had all returned to normal by mid-afternoon Sunday.