

Compensation not likely premier tells businessmen

By RICH MURZIN
Times staff writer

Premier William Davis gave little hope of provincial intervention into legal claims by businessmen affected by the Mississauga train derailment a year ago.

The premier, keynote speaker at a luncheon Friday sponsored by 100 businessmen suing Canadian Pacific Rail, said "I'm not here to give you the false impression I have instant solutions."

In fact, the reason Premier Davis was at the luncheon was to fulfill a commitment to Wolfedale Automotive president Rene LeTendre. During an auction last year, Mr. LeTendre bid to attend a

football game with the premier. Mr. LeTendre took a raincheck on the game and asked the premier to attend the luncheon.

Businessmen quizzed Premier Davis on what the provincial government could do to speed up litigation proceedings against CP Rail.

"There has been, over the past six to nine months, a buildup of resentment from the parties involved," said lawyer Anthony Speciale, representing the businesses.

Premier Davis said the businessmen would have to wait until liability was assessed through a combination of litigation and the findings of the federal

inquiry into the derailment.

Mayor Hazel McCallion, present at last week's luncheon said 120 writs have been filed against the city.

Among those writs is personal legal action against the mayor and other key figures at the derailment evacuation command post, including Ontario Attorney General Roy McMurtry.

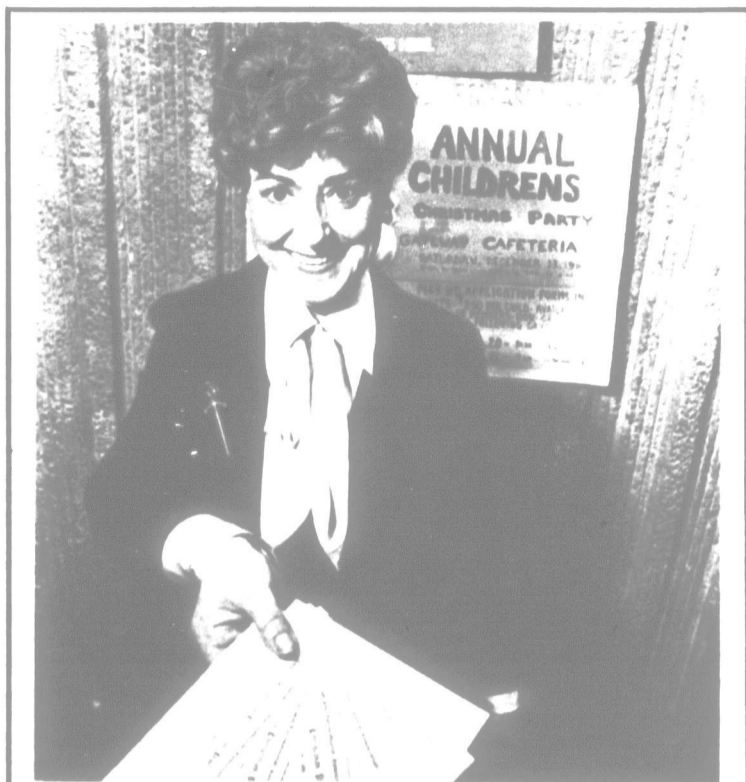
The premier offered one glimmer of hope for the businessmen. He said the Ministry of Revenue would be "flexible" with businesses which can prove "an unusual financial burden."

After Premier Davis left the luncheon, Mr. Speciale blasted both the

province and the municipal government for not taking more action in helping businesses settle their claims against CP Rail.

Mayor McCallion answered Mr. Speciale's charges, saying her office was open to Mr. Speciale and his clients. She asked why Mr. Speciale had not visited city hall and said she was willing to create a liaison committee comprised of politicians, Mr. Speciale and his clients and regional and city lawyers.

She said businesses and the city should stand united in their claims and said CP Rail would "enjoy seeing" a fight between the city and its businessmen.



ROB BEINTEMA/THE TIMES

Esther Hochberg with party tickets

Social club booming

Sometimes Esther Hochberg feels like she has two full-time jobs

President of the Gateway Social and Recreational Association, Mrs. Hochberg also works as an office clerk in the Gateway Postal Station. As a volunteer, Mrs. Hochberg inspires 10 other people from the postal plant to help run the frantic social whirl which has been operating for six years.

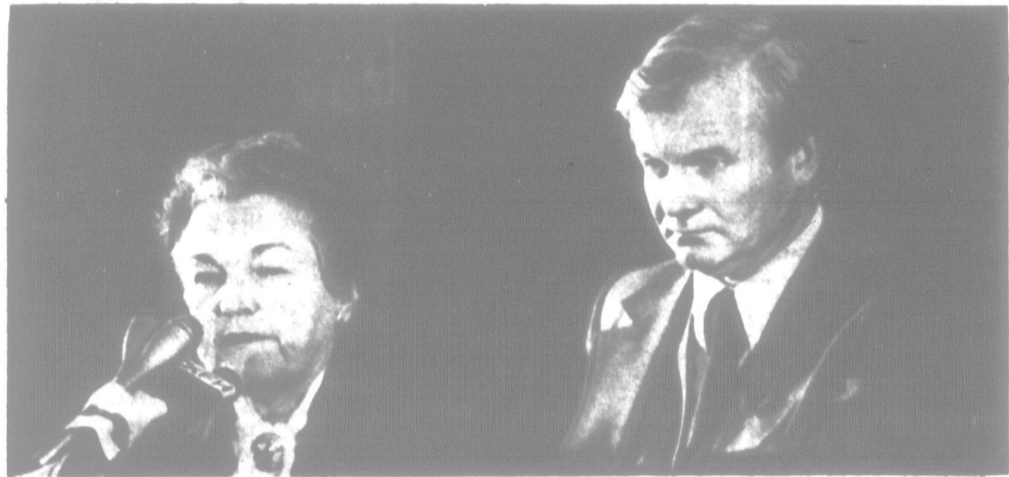
The 3,000 postal employees are offered a different event every week, with 50-50 draws as the main source of revenue.

The Gateway Social and

Recreational Association earned \$8,951 between April, 1978 and December, 1979 from the draws.

The association gave grants of \$3,000 to Gateway sports and recreational groups such as the bowling league, tennis and baseball clubs. Dances mark almost every holiday and there's an annual family picnic. The children participate in the Gateway Olympic Races while the girls compete for the Ms. Priority Post title.

The next major project is the children's Christmas party, which attracted 810 children and their parents last year.



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Hazel McCallion and Premier William Davis address luncheon

