

Fernie has notified the Alberta Government it would like the provincial boundary redrawn to make the British Columbia town into an Alberta town. The basic reasons are an affinity for Alberta due to closeness and a frustration at being slighted by Victoria.

What brought it all to a head was a map prepared by the B.C. Government for Expo '74 in Spokane, south of the US border. The map neglected to include Fernie, which has a population of 5,000 and some fine fishing, hunting and skiing. With this latest snub to peg a secession on, the Board of Trade in Fernie wrote a letter to Mr. Barrett to "let us go gracefully" and to Mr. Lougheed suggesting he support efforts to shift the Alberta border about 25 miles west of Fernie to take in the entire coal-beating area.

Fernie's overture to Alberta has constitutional experts studying the law books. Edmonton lawyer Pat McDonald, a sessional law teacher at the University of Alberta, said Fernie's wishes could be met provided both provinces involved agree. If Alberta and B.C. were to enact legislation approving the switch, the federal House of Commons then would have to also give a stamp of approval. If the provinces can't agree, the case could go to the British Parliament.

The Fernie issue is actually the second such case within a month. Lloydminster, the town that straddles the Alberta-Saskatchewan border east of Edmonton, decided earlier to study the possibility of joining one province or the other, with Alberta probably favored because of the absence of a sales tax. Cabinet ministers at that time indicated they didn't relish the prospect of a confrontation with Saskatchewan over the town and no doubt the same holds true today in the Fernie case.

But Social Credit MLA Charles Drain, who represents the Crow's Nest region in Southwest Alberta, said he will bring the Fernie case before the Alberta Legislature at the spring session. He said Fernie people have a "wonderful idea" and feels it was a geographical blunder that put Fernie in B.C. in the first place.

That blunder plunked Fernie down in the mountains in the southeast corner of B.C., but only about 30 miles from the Alberta border. It's 700 miles to Victoria compared with 395 to Edmonton and only 205 road miles to Calgary. Most of the people in the Fernie area shop in Alberta and most of the commercial travellers who sell to Fernie are from Alberta.

Said Fernie Mayor Vern Uphill: "The only time Victoria ever pays attention to us is at tax time."

"The struggle in radio astronomy," explains Dr. Locke, "is to get better resolution and because radio telescopes work at long wavelengths, high resolution implies very large apertures. The synthesis technique is a practical solution to the problem of achieving a large aperture and enables resolving powers to be obtained in the radio region of the spectrum which are equal to those of optical telescopes. The new synthesis instrument will permit high-resolution studies of the distribution and motion of gas in our own and external galaxies."

The Penticton site was chosen for the radio observatory because of its isolation from terrestrial sources of radio interference such as radio and radar transmitters, automobile ignition systems and electric motors. □



#### STATEMENT FORM IV

The following is a statement of ownership and other particulars about CANADA as required under Rule 8 of the Registration of Newspaper (Central) Rules, 1956:

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I, Don Eichert hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

New Delhi, March 31, 1974

Don Eichert  
Canadian High Commission