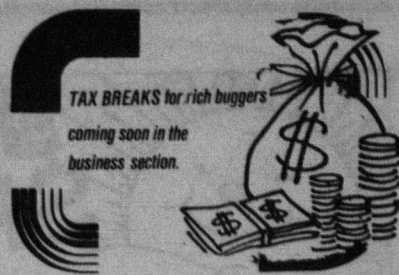


the Coming soon...
prairie
Surf

The Grope and Flail



146th POMPOUS YEAR, NO. 43,455 ■ WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

REPORT ON BUSINESS

Free Trade

It's great. So fuck you if you didn't vote PC B1

Building Futures

Real estate markets are booming in remote regions of western Toronto and other outlying regions B2

Computer Report

How to spend lots of money, get less done, impress all your important business friends with the worst popular computers for your corporation ... C1-C99

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is my theory, and it belongs to me. It is mine, and belongs only to me. Ahem... my theory is that Canadian economics is complicated"
— Pope candidate **Dave T. Upper** on the Herald "I'm obnoxious" Rivera Show.

SPORT

Labatts Blue Report

Leafs say wait until next year. Jays win one; at this rate they'll be 162-0 A10

ENTERTAINMENT

Scintillating Risibility

Bill and Ted depart on an enlightening journey of historic epics A5

YOUR MORNING SMILE

Wherever you go, there you are
— **Buckaroo Banzai**

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Prairie earthquake disaster

BY PAMELA POMPOUS
The Grope and Flail

Three suburbs of Toronto were ravaged yesterday by a massive earthquake which registered 9.5 on the Richter scale. British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, and their populations, were sucked into the Pacific ocean in this minor disaster. Several thousand people are estimated drowned.

Rescue workers are already at the scene of the earthquake, and are working to provide first aid to survivors. They do not, however, predict that their efforts will be very successful. "We came too late," said one paramedic. "This is a long way from Toronto."

Mr. Brian Mulroney, Prime
QUAKE Page A2

Ministers missing; War measures enacted

BY PETTI PATRONAGE
The Grope and Flail

TORONTO

While attempting to reorganize a flailing federal cabinet, Canadian Prime Minister Mr. Brian Mulroney has lost at least two western ministers in the shuffle.

PM Mr. Mulroney enacted the War Measures Act late Tuesday in hopes of finding Foreign Affairs Minister Joe Clark and Agriculture Minister Don Mazinkowski the two ministers lost in the

cabinet shuffle.

"I forgot why I started shuffling, then stopped to ponder this unusual thing and started asking myself what is a cabinet shuffle anyway, then suddenly there were ministers all over the place nobody knew what was going on," PM Mr. Mulroney said, adding he doesn't know what good the War Measures Act will do. "I heard it was the thing to do in times of emergency, so I followed the trend," he said.

Although PM Mr. Mulroney

has called an emergency meeting set for June 6 to discuss the situation with the remaining members of cabinet, he said he is not overly worried and concerned about the situation. "Well I think those guys were from out west somewhere anyway, I think from that place... uhhh Alberta... yahh, and so they weren't too useful. I mean really who cares about farms and stuff, and Mr. Clark well he probably wants my job or something," PM Mr. Mulroney said.

Mr. Clark's wife Ms. Maureen

McTeer said she last saw her husband shortly after he heard a cabinet shuffle was planned. "He left in search of dance lessons... He's never been good at this shuffle thing."

Meanwhile, PM Mr. Mulroney has said there is no time for looking back or remorse, it is a time to move forward.

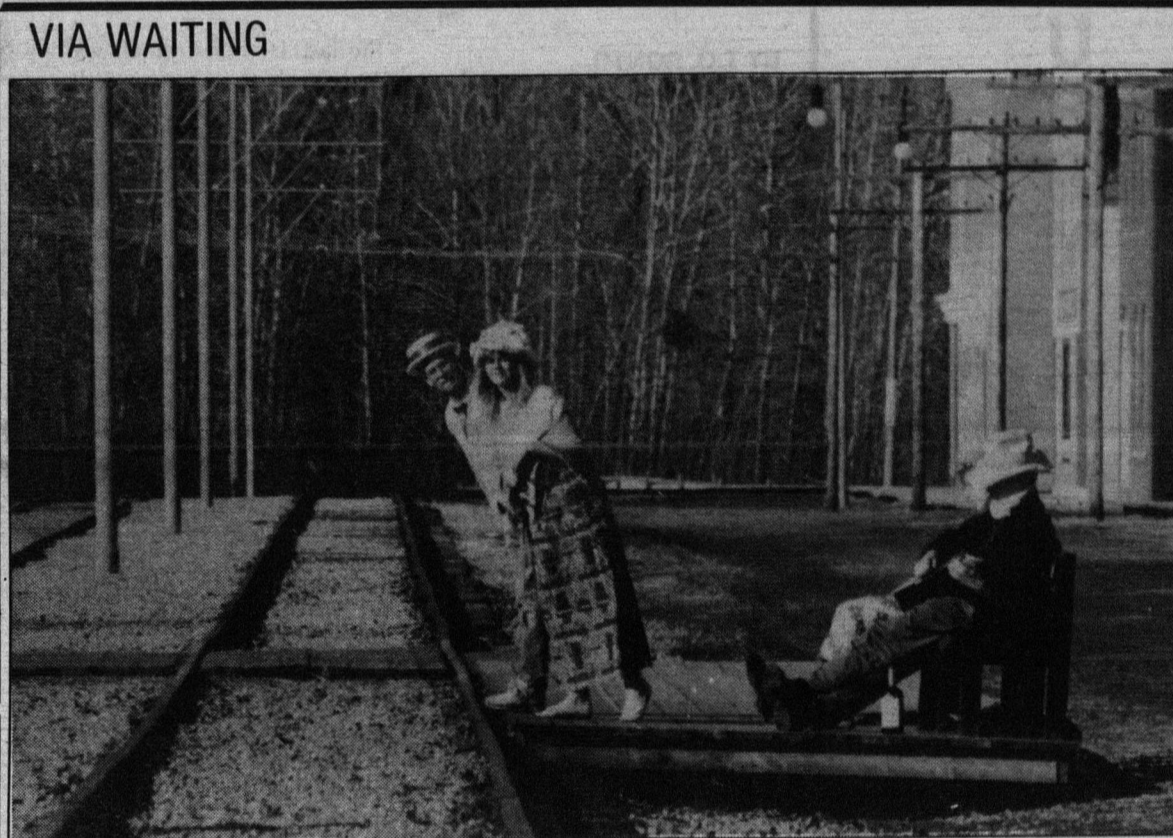
However, Minister of Unintentional Trade John Crosby said going forward is not the only option for the Progressive Conservative Federal government. "We could sidestep, retreat, waffle, stand still or go in several directions at once."

Advanced Minister of Cultural Evasion Pat Carney said she is not competent to say which direction the government should go. "I still haven't figured out which way is up," she said.

Otto Jelinick, whose portfolio was lost in the shuffle, was unavailable for comment. The important minister was, however, last seen going in his own direction.

PM Mr. Mulroney said if nothing on this eminent and important issue can be decided at the June 6 emergency meeting, it will again be discussed at the next emergency meeting scheduled for Nov. 10, 1989.

WAR Page A10



Prairie passengers in the western community of Edmonton anticipate Via Rail taking them to points east where a better life awaits.

Showdown looms over transportation rivals

BY DR. KLAW
The Grope and Flail

Via Rail Canada Inc. and its western rival, the intercity stagecoach industry, are heading for a showdown over Via's federally subsidized pricing policies and marketing strategies.

It's a dispute the stagecoach companies say could end up in court if National Transportation Agency (NTA) chairman Erik Schmielson rules today that Via does not have to tell their secrets. A court case could seriously tie up the NTA probe into Via's operations and a subsequent government decision on whether to shut down the passenger railway.

According to Jon Wayne, spokesman for the Stagecoach

Industry Association (SIA), Via uses its federal subsidy to undercut stagecoach fares and siphon off passengers from the stagecoach industry. For years, the SIA has been calling for a federal probe of Via's pricing policies and how it uses its federal subsidy of about \$600 million annually.

Wayne contends Via uses unfair marketing practices to draw customers away from the stagecoach industry. "They hire people in three piece suits to ride our stagecoaches and then complain to the other passengers about the lousy ride and service, telling everyone they should have booked with Via," said Wayne, adding, "We lose more customers that way."

Wayne also contends Via uses its federal subsidies to offer cheaper rates than stagecoaches

and subsidies help Via maintain repair costs on its fleet.

"It's hard to compete with Via's pricing policy, and we can't compete with repair costs because we don't get a federal subsidy," Wayne said. He noted that stagecoach repairs can be extravagant because craftsman are hard to find. "Not very many people can repair wagon wheels any more," he said.

The SIA has been lobbying Schmielson for years for their own federal subsidy, but Schmielson has consistently refused, saying the federal government does not want to flog a dead horse. Wayne takes exception to that line of thinking, saying "Buffalo chips".

FEUD Page A9

Alberta citizens await retort

BY BIFF JERKEY
Glope and Flail Correspondent
EDMONTON

With mud being slung frequently in this Alberta community, located 2,600 km north-west of Toronto, the citizens of Edmonton are eagerly awaiting Alberta Premier Don Getty's retort to Edmonton Oilers' owner Peter Pocklington's retort to Mr. Getty's retort to Mr. Pocklington comments of three weeks ago.

The saga began after the Alberta provincial election, when Mr. Getty failed to retain his seat in the Edmonton area constituency of Whitemud, losing to (yick) Liberal Percy Wickman.

A few days later, Mr. Pocklington made comments to the press, saying that he felt Mr. Getty lost because he had a bad public image.

"His public relation skills are the shits," said Mr. Pocklington. "He's known better for his savoir-faire in politics."

Soon after, Mr. Getty responded
RETORT Page A2