

## Government to investigate censorship allegations

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Allegations that broadcasters have censored news reports about a major Vancouver radio station strike has brought a call for a federal government investigation.

NDP MP Stu Leggatt, asked in the Commons Feb. 5 that Labour Minister John Munro intervene in the strike at CKLG radio and that Communications Minister Gerald Pelletier investigate the censorship allegations.

Vancouver staff members of Broadcast News (BN), the radio news arm of the Canadian Press, were directed Feb. 1 by general manager Don Covey, to send all copy and voice material relating to the CKLG strike to the head office

in Toronto to be cleared before sending it to member stations.

CKLG general manager, Don Hamilton, is a director of Broadcast News.

The strike at Vancouver's largest radio station began Feb. 1 when disc jockeys and newsmen walked out of the station, locking doors behind them and leaving a union song and notice of strike playing on a tape. It took more than an hour for management technicians to hook up a temporary studio at one of the transmitter sites to end the union broadcast.

Covey has said the order was given because there were unanswered questions in the first BN reports of the strike and the order

was cancelled Feb. 2. He denied any slant was put on the story.

Leggatt asked the matter to be debated in the House but his motion to do so failed to achieve the required unanimous consent.

Leggatt's request came a day after Richard Hughes, a former Canadian Union of Public Employees organizer and current business agent for the striking local was charged with two counts of common assault arising from an incident on the picket line Saturday, Feb. 1.

Hughes is scheduled to appear in provincial court Feb. 13. He was charged after scuffles occurred at the radio station's door when management and non-striking

workers tried to enter.

The station obtained an injunction limiting the picket line to eight union members late Saturday night and by noon Sunday were able to get back into the station. Normal programming resumed then after several hours of a "commercial free weekend". (Non-union disc jockeys lacked commercial tapes at their temporary headquarters.)

The strike began after the company, Moffat Communications Ltd., rejected a federal conciliation report recommendation that disc jockeys with two years experience be paid \$300 a week. Hamilton said on several

occasions he is prepared to bring in strikebreakers from other Moffat stations to keep the station on the air. So far only relief CKLG disc jockeys, a few non-striking ones, and some promoted earlier to management jobs, are manning the station.

Hughes and CUPE have asked local advertisers to boycott the stations. The advertising agency for the provincial government cancelled all government ads shortly after the strike began.

Hughes also said several large advertisers including major department stores and restaurants, have pulled their ads from the station.

**The SRC is now accepting applications for the following positions:**

**2 (Full-Term) SUB-Board of Directors**

**Pubs Officer**

**Applications close- Feb 28th at 12:00 Noon**

**APPLICATIONS MAY BE SENT TO:**

**Bob Tuck,**  
**Chairman of Applications Committee,**  
**SRC Office, Room 126, SUB**

## CMA calls for new drug legislation

OTTAWA (CUP)—The Canadian Medical Association has called for less harsh methods of dealing with persons convicted of marijuana or hashish possession.

Dr. Bette Stephenson, president of the CMA, told a Senate committee the association has ample documentation showing that the process of being charged and going through court processes "can be very damaging, especially to adolescents and young adults."

Therefore the CMA has called for provisions to automatically erase the criminal records of persons charged with simple possession of cannabis drugs—marijuana, hashish, and hash oil.

Also Stephenson asked for amendments to proposed new drug legislation to get rid of the hard criminal court processes faced by persons charged with possession. She suggested that court processes with less harsh procedures replace them.

The proposed legislation would eliminate jail sentences for simple possession of cannabis and reduce maximum penalties to \$500 for a first offence and \$1,000 for subsequent offences. A person convicted of cannabis possession could be jailed only if he failed to pay the fine.

Penalties for trafficking in cannabis also would be reduced to maximum of 10 years in prison from life imprisonment.

Stephenson said the government

is moving in the right direction with the bill but has not gone far enough. She denied a suggestion that the CMA proposal would lead young people to think use of cannabis was legal.

But Dr. Lionel Solursh, a Toronto psychiatrist with intensive experience with drug users, admitted it might encourage some "fence sitters" to start using it and thus increase the number of users somewhat.

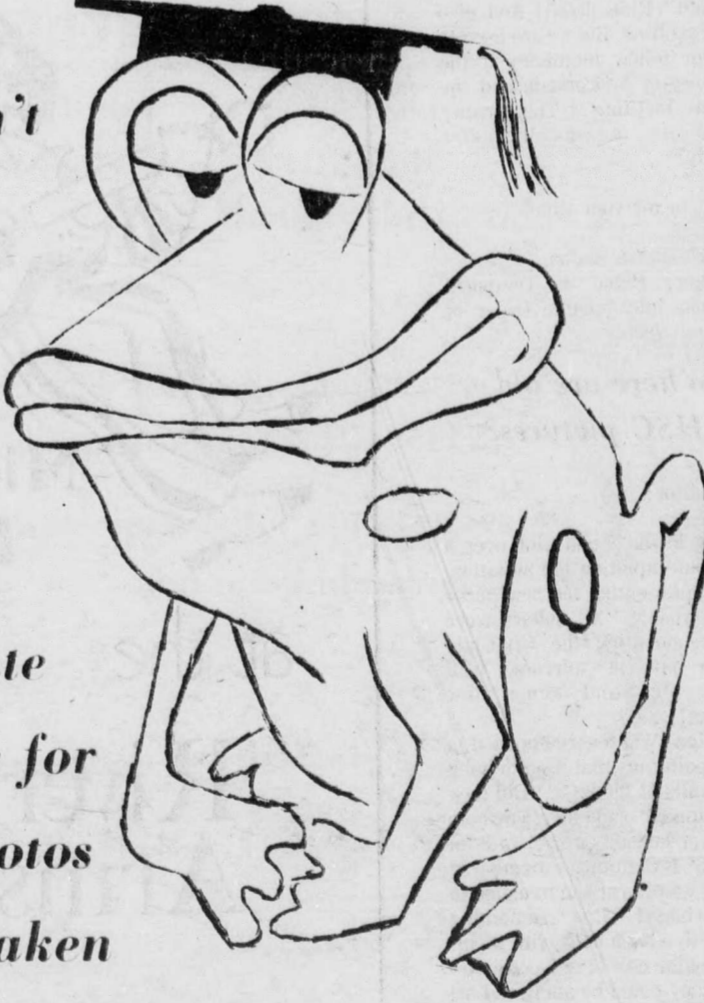
Solursh said the CMA hesitated to advocate outright legalization of cannabis because this would give rise to widespread acceptance of the drug.

The CMA brief said: "There is an increasing body of evidence that marijuana may not be the relatively harmless substance it was thought to be, and scientific observations over the past five years have suggested that there are definite hazards in its use.

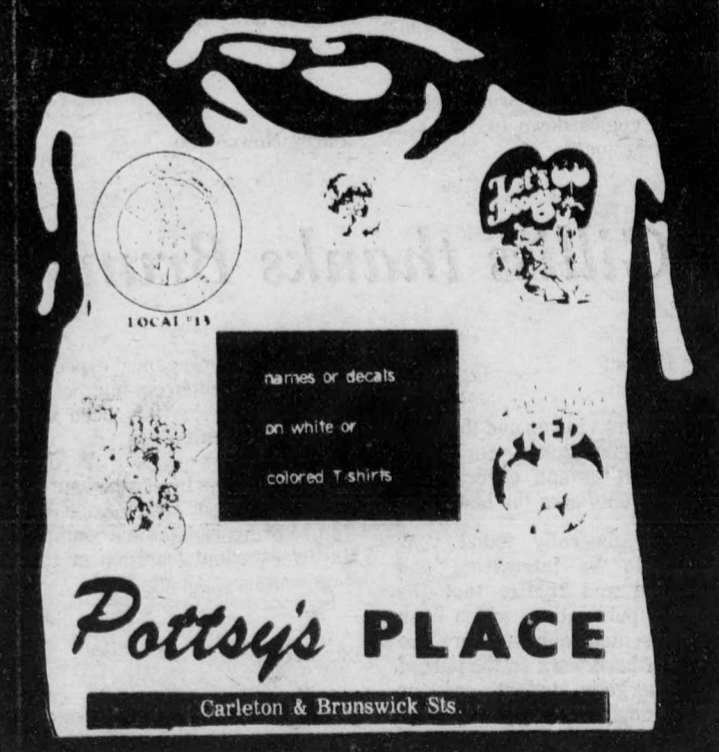
These included irreversible brain damage, personality changes, damage to the respiratory system, interference with hormonal production, disruption of cellular metabolism and chromosomal damage.

But the brief said the evidence so far is not highly reliable and even where clinical trials have been held to determine the effects of cannabis, no clear answers have been obtained.

**Grads-**  
**if you haven't**  
**done it yet**  
**you better**  
**hurry up**  
**and do it!**



**The absolute**  
**final date for**  
**grad photos**  
**to be taken**  
**is Wed. Feb. 26.**



**Pottsy's PLACE**  
 Carleton & Brunswick Sts.