

Leaseholders group offers aid to student tenants

by KEN CAMPBELL

Students faced with the perennial problem of finding a decent place to live at a reasonable price have a new lease on life.

The Canadian Renters and Leaseholders Association, now soliciting student membership at an information centre located on the main floor of SUB, has had considerable success in thwarting Edmonton rent gougers.

Terry Lefebvre, head counsellor of the non-profit organization which received its provincial char-

ter in August of last year, says CRLA has lost only one case in 75 court appearances on behalf of its members.

TENANT LIED

"As it turned out, the tenant had lied to us in the case we lost, so we still consider ourselves as batting a thousand per cent," Mr. Lefebvre said Wednesday.

"We work on a process of elimination. We try to get the good tenants and good landlords together by weeding out the bad. Ideally, the poor landlords and poor tenants will end up stuck with each other.

As far as I'm concerned, they deserve each other."

Mr. Lefebvre complained of the lack of legislation to protect tenants from landlords, citing this as one of the major factors leading to skyrocketing rents.

POWERLESS TO ACT

Though powerless to act in cases of unjustified rent increases, CRLA is still taking such cases to court, despite the outward futility of such action.

"We're battering our heads against a brick wall, and we know it," he said angrily. "But if we

keep battering away, we may knock the damn thing down eventually."

Besides maintaining a legal staff for assistance in matters of unreturned damage deposit refunds, eviction notices and lease agreements, CRLA provides a number of other services for members.

These include: emergency electrical, plumbing and gas services; local and inter-city relocation assistance; and fire, income and property insurance.

The \$15 registration fee has been reduced to \$10 for students. Monthly dues are two dollars.

It's not

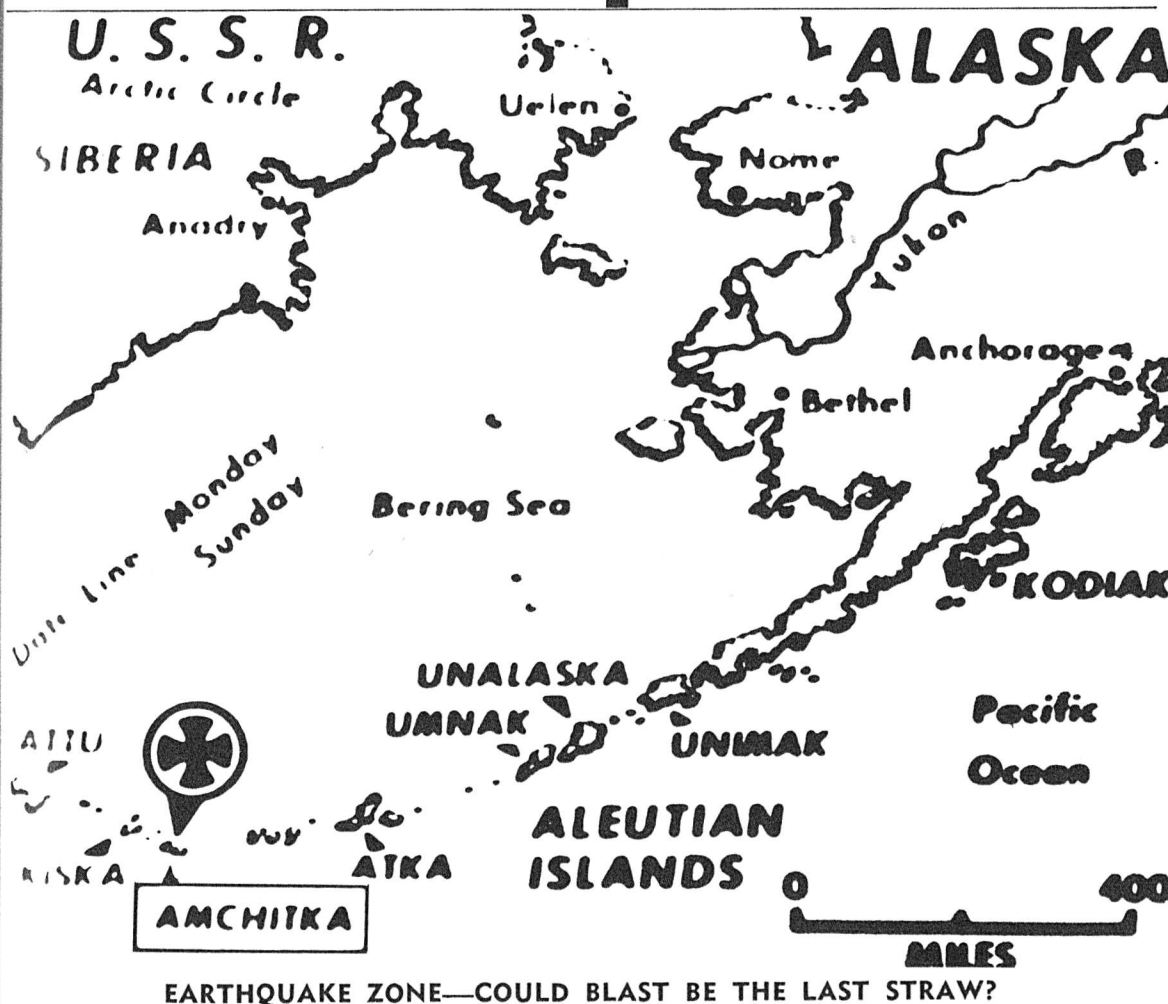
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Thousands protest U.S. atomic blast



One small blast for man Major holocaust for mankind

CANADA (CUP) — Numbering into the thousands, students and supporters clustered at border crossings and airport terminals across the country Wednesday, picketing, snarling traffic and occasionally getting arrested or run over in a spectacular but probably unsuccessful protest against the U.S.'s scheduled underground atomic blast in the Aleutians today.

Mobilized on less than 24 hours' notice, the snow-balling protest involved approximately 14,000 students from at least 14 post-secondary institutes, backed up by other supporters who learned of the protest through news reports.

Threats from the Attorney General of British Columbia, harassment by police, and the reckless driving of blockaded motorists failed to prevent the demonstrators from voicing their fears about the blast, which will occur near a major fault in the earth's crust.

But even a Molotov cocktail thrown at the U.S. consulate in downtown Vancouver has had little effect on U.S. President Nixon, who has flatly rejected appeals from Ottawa and the U.S. congress for postponement of the atomic test.

"The atomic energy commission has evaluated the risk," a presidential press secretary said Wednesday. "The President stands by their judgment."

The idea for the protest originated at the University of Victoria, and the response Wednesday provided the largest demonstration in the history of that university, spilling over onto mainland British Columbia and involving nearly 10,000 B.C. students altogether.

Nearly 2,500 UVIC students blockaded the docks of American-owned blackball ferry on Vancouver Island, filling the narrow approach street eight abreast for a distance of two city blocks.

The demonstration lasted for an hour, without violence, although organizers had to cool off a shoving match between students and ferrymen who tried to push cars out of the hold of the boat.

A further 400 students blockaded a morning flight from Seattle at the Victoria International Airport, refusing to allow passengers to disembark.

On the mainland, approximately 5,000 students from the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, UVIC and three other post-secondary institutions gathered at the border crossing at Douglas, B.C., to hear speeches from ecologists, geologists, and politically active students.

Carrying placards with slogans such as "welcome to world war III" and "who gives a damn, not Uncle Sam," the students shuttled to a peace arch at the border by bus, and overflowed onto the north-bound section of the highway. Their attempts at a full border closure were thwarted, however, by American Customs Officials who diverted traffic to a truck crossing two miles east of the Douglas crossing.

According to observers, the area was "crawling" with plainclothes police, and U.S. officials snapped photographs of the demonstrators from the safety of the customs office.

Finally, a splinter group of close to 300 demonstrators marched the two miles to the truck crossing, and traffic was eventually stopped for approximately 10 minutes, over the objections of former UBC student president Dave Zirnheld.

Total closure of the border, he said, would "turn public opinion against us."

But the students went ahead anyway, led by Simon Fraser teaching assistant Jim Harding, who said "letting traffic flow smoothly is co-operating with the U.S. officials in every way possible."

"This demonstration is being held to symbolize our disagreement with the U.S. over the bomb test," he said.

After the B.C. demonstrations ended, Victoria students fumed over a statement from B.C. Attorney General Leslie Peterson, who

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West coast tidal wave may result

A nuclear test by the United States on Amchitka Island in the Aleutians could produce a major earthquake worse than the disastrous 1964 Alaska quake.

Dr. R. B. Bryan, a professor of geography here also said in an interview Wednesday the test of a 1.2 megaton bomb posed these other dangers:

- extensive fallout
- a Pacific coast tidal wave
- possible contamination of the ocean.

Dr. Bryan said the additional stress a

nuclear explosion might put on the San Andreas Fault could cause future quakes if an immediate disaster did not occur.

The test area is very close to an earthquake zone surrounding the Pacific Ocean.

It is rash to set up such risks, he said.

A tidal wave could cause extensive damage to coastal areas, Dr. Bryan postulated, and while he said it is impossible to make completely accurate predictions on the test's effects, he added that there is no justification for this test, or any other such testing.