



**RALLY AT PNE GARDEN AUDITORIUM... hockey game, sense of helplessness to stop cutbacks blamed for low attendance**

### 'UGLY SITUATION' FOR CONDUCT HEARING

## Ex-prosecutor 'will go public'

By CAROL VOLKART  
Former Vancouver chief prosecutor Bruce Donald said Thursday that if the B.C. Law Society holds a hearing into his conduct, he'll use it to make public all the information he can about problems in the attorney-general's ministry.

"I will now be defending myself and as far as I'm concerned, all that stuff will start coming out. It's got to, I have no choice," he said.

Commenting shortly after hearing that a law society citation had been issued against him and before seeing the man who was fired as prosecutor for leaking confidential documents to the CBC warned, "It's going to be an ugly, ugly situation."

Donald, who previously has called for a public inquiry into the attorney-general's ministry, said he "definitely will insist that any hearings on his conduct be held in public."

Law society hearings are ordinarily held in camera unless the lawyer under investigation agrees to a public hearing.

"I have done nothing wrong," he said. "I have done everything that I thought was right."

Society deputy secretary Dennis Olmstead confirmed Thursday that Donald has been cited by the society's disciplinary committee and must appear before a hearing.

No date has been set, but Olmstead said the hearing should take place within the next few weeks.

Olmstead said the investigation "arises under the Vogel versus CBC action." The legal action, a libel suit by deputy attorney-general Richard Vogel against the CBC, ended when a Supreme Court judge ordered the CBC to pay Vogel \$125,000 in damages, the second highest libel award in Canadian history.

The reporter on the story, Chris Bird, was fired by the CBC.

Donald said he received a letter last week from the law society stating its intention to cite him. But he heard nothing more and hadn't seen the citation in suit by late Thursday afternoon "so I don't know what I'm being cited for."

Because the citation will determine the scope of the material that's put before the bench, he said he doesn't know yet what he'll be able to bring forward.

He said he thinks it's the wrong forum, "but it may be a chance to call evidence that was not admissible at the trial."

Donald said he's not happy about the law society's action because it means he will have to fight it when he needs all his time and energy to build up his own law practice.

"It's a tremendous burden to put on any individual," he said. "I have been under incredible pressure for 2½ to three years."

Donald questioned why the law society waited until now to act when it could have had all the information it has now a year ago.

Olmstead said the law society's inquiry is still at "a very, very preliminary" stage.

He would not identify who was responsible for laying the complaint against Donald.

Olmstead said the inquiry will determine whether Donald has followed the provisions of the B.C. Barristers and Solicitors Act. Section 46 of the act describes breaches of conduct that include conduct unbecoming of a lawyer or breach of law society rules.

At the end of the hearing, the committee could decide to dismiss the citation, or, if it finds the allegations have some substance, the matter could end with Donald being reprimanded, fined, suspended or disbarred.

Olmstead said the law society is obliged only to publicize its decision if the lawyer is suspended or disbarred.

### Cutback in hospital services draws fire

By CHRIS GAINOR  
Sun Medical Reporter

As more hospitals announced bed closures and service cutbacks Thursday, the low level of provincial government support for health care was attacked by the heads of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. and the Hospital Employees Union.

Burnaby General Hospital is announcing today a set of extensive cuts that will probably include closures of some of its 60 acute-care beds.

"Vancouver General Hospital confirmed Thursday that it is closing 15 of its 970 beds, most of them in older parts of the hospital, and reducing between 60 and 700 staff positions, about half of them through layoffs."

At Matsqui-Sumas-Abbotsford General Hospital, board chairman David Frosse said the hospital will probably lay off about 20 of its 480 staff members and will close some beds for the summer. "We're still working things out."

RNABC president Gloria Parker said in a statement authorized by the RNABC board that the government's restraint program "jeopardizes important basic health services."

"Such bed closures go well beyond cutting waste or controlling costs. B.C. nurses are worried about the threat to safe levels of care, and are alarmed at the apparent lack of any plan on the part of this government to monitor the effects of this reduction in services," Parker said.

"A second concern is the possible abandonment of alternative forms of health care, such as home care, day care and health promotion programs. These already underfunded programs must be fully supported to avoid eventual larger cuts in the traditional acute-care areas."

Parker warned that the provincial budget will aggravate B.C.'s nursing supply problem because it doesn't support nursing education programs and will cause some nurses to lose their jobs. The RNABC is the nurses' professional group and is separate from the B.C. Nurses Union.

HEU secretary-business manager Jack Gerow, a foe of the government's restraint program, urged hospital administrators to stop acting like "quildings" and refuse to implement the "treacherous" spending restraints.

"The Social Credit government has underfunded hospitals to the point where they are now playing a deadly game of Russian roulette with the sick and injured of B.C.," Gerow said.

Voll board chairman George DesBray told reporters Thursday that VGH has an approved budget this year of \$165.5 million, \$12 million more than last year but \$77 million less than requested.

### Cutback protest draws 250

A six-group coalition that claims to represent 142,000 members province-wide attracted about 250 people Thursday to a Vancouver rally protesting cutbacks to education.

The hockey game obviously isn't an insignificant part of it, B.C. Teachers' Federation president Larry Austin said after the 7:30-minute rally in the Pacific National Exhibition Garden Auditorium. "No one expected the Canucks to go this far."

He also speculated many people feel helpless to stop the cutbacks, caused by the provincial government's program to restrict public sector spending to 12 percent.

The Defend Education Services Coalition last month selected Thursday as a province-wide day of protest against cutbacks. The group also allotted \$60,000 for a public information campaign.

The coalition is the BCTF, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Association of University and College Employees, Canadian Federation of Students, College-Institute Educators' Association and Vancouver Municipal and Regional Employees Union.

In Victoria, about 100 cheering demonstrators gathered outside the legislature, charging the cutbacks are causing school closings and a lower quality education system.

Greater Victoria school trustee Carol Pickett said the spending cuts have placed the public school system in jeopardy.

"Private school enrollment is growing and tuition fees to post-secondary institutions are increasing," she said. "We will soon have two types of education — one for the rich and one for the poor."

At the Vancouver rally, VMBEU president David Calman said: "We have to get a good deal more organized than we are here tonight. Hockey games must not step in the way of the children of this province."

In a speech, Koehn ridiculed the Vancouver Sun for running front-page interviews with the people who design the sweaters and drive the Zamboni ice machines for the Vancouver Canucks, while burying stories on Bill 27, the Education Finance Act.

Education Minister Brian Smith declined an invitation to speak to the rally.

# DESC Rally In Vancouver April 1982

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