

# SIX ROADS CONTRACTS ARE REPORTED PROBABLE

## French Invited To Talks

**HANOI, Indo-China (CP)**—The Communist rebel command in Indo-China tonight invited the French to fly envoys into Dien Bien Phu to discuss evacuating wounded from the fallen fortress.

The rebel commander, Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, broadcast the offer to the French commander, Gen. Henri Navarre.

The rebel broadcast proposed the French should send envoys in by helicopters.

The rebel consent followed a French proposal for talks on the evacuation project, contained in a note parachuted into Dien Bien Phu earlier today by a French plane.

The evacuation was agreed upon by French and Rebel delegates to the Geneva Far East conference Monday.

**PLANNING AIRLIFT**

A French army spokesman earlier reported Gen. Henri Navarre, commander of the French Union forces in Indo-China, had orders to rush preparations for airlifting the more than 1,000 wounded soldiers from the fallen fortress.

**SAIGON, Indo-China (AP)**—The French rushed preparations today for an airlift of their wounded from the fallen fortress of Dien Bien Phu.

A French Army spokesman said Gen. Henri Navarre, commander of French Union forces in Indo-China, has been instructed by the Paris government to contact the Vietnamese commander, Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, and arrange for the mercy lift as soon as possible.

The Communists agreed at the Geneva conference Monday that the French may fly out 1,300 severely wounded French Union troops the Reds said they captured when they seized the north-west Indo-China bastion Friday after 55 days of repeated attacks.

It could not be learned immediately whether Navarre had been able yet to get in touch with (Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

## Funds Are "Pirated" From Blind

**TORONTO (CP)**—The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, conducting a campaign to raise \$1,150,000 for a new headquarters centre here, said today that during the last two weeks "pirates" have plundered a considerable amount of money which unsuspecting persons intended for the fund.

William Dies, CNIB sales manager, said that from a headquarters somewhere in the metropolitan Toronto area, honey-voiced women telephone "beg money for the blind" and try to sell goods they say have been made by the blind. Then other members of the group go to the homes of persons taken in by the sales talk.

"The CNIB never uses the telephone to solicit funds or sales at campaign time or any other season of the year," said Mr. Dies.

A \$50,000 grant to the building fund was announced today by the National Trust Co. Ltd., trustees of the J. P. Bickell Foundation. It will cover cost of furnishings and equipment for the residence building of the proposed new centre near Sunnybrook Hospital.

## ANALYZED AS IRON AND NICKEL

### Fragment of Meteorite Pried From Car Window

A particle of metal fused into the window of a car owned by a Fort William man was analyzed last week as iron and nickel and is believed to be a fragment of a meteorite that reached the earth before burning out, it was learned today.

The metal particle was assayed by Trevor W. Page, mining instructor at the Lakehead Technical Institute, and was found to be mostly iron with just a trace of nickel. It was half-embedded in the glass on the right side of the car owned by Harry Williams, 10114 Harold Street, Fort William.

Mr. Page said the particle was about one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter and was pried out of the window with a knife. The iron in the sample corresponded closely with the

type of iron of meteorites analyzed recently at the University of Toronto.

Mr. Page felt that the pock marks found in windshields recently was 90 per cent psychological. The remaining 10 per cent were caused by rocks and pebbles thrown up from the road.

Although April is the month most common for meteorites, fragments of them usually burn out before they reach the earth from outer space, the mining assayer said.

"Probably 99 per cent are burned up before they reach the ground but fragments have been found in large chunks and are not uncommon."

"The ancients used to prize them highly because it was their only source of iron. It is a good grade of iron, too."

## Total Between 2 and 4 Million

**TORONTO (CP)**—The Telegram says today six highway contracts totalling between \$2,000,000 and \$4,000,000 are involved in the highways department investigation which led Monday to charges against three firms and 11 men.

Its newspaper story says there has been no official indication what portion of these contracts is directly involved in the charges against the accused contractors and highways department employees.

"The three companies named have been awarded a total of 52 contracts, involving more than \$17,000,000, in the last five years. Only six of these contracts are said to be involved in the suspected irregularities."

The paper says the charges involve contracts as far back as 1948. They are reported to arise from three contracts of Tomlinson Brothers Limited of Toronto and two of Bergmann Construction Co. Ltd. of West Hill, on the eastern outskirts of Toronto.

The province's public accounts show that during the period 1949-53, the Tomlinson firm received a total of \$8,534,868 for 33 contracts, Standard Paving got \$5,025,114 for 14 contracts, and the Bergmann company \$3,679,993 for five contracts.

## All Highways Areas Involved Says Oliver

**LONDON, Ont. (CP)**—Farquhar Oliver, Ontario Liberal leader, said Monday night alleged irregularities in the department of highways are not confined to the Fort William district, but have taken place in every highways division in the province.

Mr. Oliver, speaking to the London Liberal Association's annual meeting, claimed the head office of the department in Toronto knew of the practices going on and measures taken to keep contractors from going broke, especially on Trans-Canada highway work.

There must be a realization by taxpayers that much of the money they have paid for licences and gasoline taxes in the last few years has not been going to the maintenance of roads but "into other directions," he said.

"This thing isn't confined to Fort William. What went on there went on to a greater or lesser degree in all divisions in this province," Mr. Oliver said.

The Liberal leader said the basis trouble with the department is it has outgrown its administrative practices.

"Today we are spending \$150,000,000 a year on highways but trying to spend it the way they used to spend \$25,000,000 some years ago," he said.

He said he hoped the government would not make a go out of a subordinate but put the blame directly on the proper men, no matter what position they happened to be in.

A. Stewart Thompson Jr., was re-elected president of the Association.

## TANNED AND SLIMMER

### Queen Headed Home After Visit to Rock

**GIBRALTAR (Reuters)**—Queen Elizabeth sailed for home today—deeply tanned, slimmer and still smiling after hundreds of receptions and thousands of handshakes on her six-month global tour.

Thousands lined the fortress harbor to cheer the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and their two children as the royal yacht Britannia began a five-day voyage to London.

The Queen faces a day of welcome in London already assuming the proportions of the Coronation "fever."

Her two-day visit to Britain's bastion here was the last official engagement of the six-month tour.

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## Duke Grabs Anne From Ship Ladder

**GIBRALTAR (Reuters)**—Little Princess Anne stole the show today as her mother, Queen Elizabeth, sailed for home on the last leg of a six-month global tour.

The excited three-year-old, her curly, blonde hair blowing in the strong breeze, darted from her mother's side aboard the royal yacht Britannia and climbed a steep ladder to join the ship's band.

The band was playing "Rule Britannia" at the formal farewell ceremony.

Thousands standing on the docks saw a sailor rush after the princess but she kept going until she reached the top of the ladder.

At that point, her father, the Duke of Edinburgh, broke ceremony, too, and shouted to Anne, "Come down, come down."

She refused. So he ran up the ladder, caught her tiny hand and led her down to join the Queen and her brother, Prince Charles, who stood obediently at his mother's side.

## BIGGEST ACTION YET

**TORONTO (CP)**—The Ontario government has cracked down in its biggest action to date in the investigation of alleged irregularities in road-building contracts.

The attorney-general's department Monday issued warrants charging 11 men with conspiring to defraud the government. They include a federal highways inspector, a top official in the provincial highways department and officials of three contracting companies.

The warrants brought to 15 the number of persons charged since the investigation started. Minor highway employees, senior department officials and contractors have been arrested in the government's crackdown.

The companies have done more than \$17,000,000 in highway work for the province during the last five years.

The federal highways inspector charged is R. F. Retoursion, whose job was to supervise construction in the Fort William area of sections of the trans-Canada highway to which the federal government contributed 50 per cent. It was the first time a federal government employee had been accused in connection with the alleged irregularities.

Cecil N. Nelson, suspended chief engineer and No. 3 man in the highways department, was also charged Monday.

## COMPANIES CHARGED

The companies and their officials charged are: Standard Paving Limited and E. Birdsall, vice-president; Tomlinson Brothers Limited and its subsidiary Tomlinson Brothers (Eastern) Limited and W. S. Tomlinson, vice-president, and C. W. Taylor, superintendent; Bergmann Construction Company Limited and Walter Bergmann, president, and John A. West, company superintendent.

Those charged now include two highways employees who had not been previously named as involved in the irregularities. They are William Bredin, an instrument clerk in the Huntsville division whose superior, Donald S. Patterson, division engineer, was suspended but not charged until Monday and Harry Phipps, retired engineer at Fort William.

The firms, whose officials now are charged, are three of nine (Continued on Page 19, Column 8)

## Incinerator Is Approved

C. F. Nunn and William Greenwood of the Ontario Municipal Board conducted hearings on two applications by the city of Port Arthur in city council chambers this morning and approved both of them.

The applications were for approval to spend \$75,000 on repairing and adding a new burner to the incinerator and zoning designations for two new dwelling subdivisions.

Later the OMB officials were taken on a tour of the city to be shown projected public improvement projects petitioned for by ratepayers which the city is anxious to get started on to provide jobs for the unemployed. Mr. Nunn and Mr. Greenwood were to spend this afternoon and tomorrow in Fort William.

## LAYS CORNER-STONE

The sovereign did not appear tired this morning as she laid the foundation stone of the King George VI Memorial Hospital.

Among the farewell gifts for the Duke of Edinburgh, The Queen received a diamond coat-of-arms of Gibraltar from the British garrison and residents.

With the Duke of Edinburgh, she also called on some "very important persons," the 40 rock apes of Queen's Gate park. Legend has it that if they disappear Britain's rule on the rock will end.

Prince Charles, 5, and Princess Anne, 3, Monday had the happiest time of their trip from Britain feeding peanuts to the apes.

There have been no Spanish demonstrations against the royal visit, though Spaniards just across the frontier could hear the cheering of the big crowds who greeted the Queen on her arrival Monday.

Spanish authorities at the frontier post of La Linea imposed a 24-hour ban preventing visitors to Gibraltar from making brief trips across to Spain.

## OBJECT TO VISITS

They apparently objected to newspaper correspondents and others here for the Queen's visit making frequent visits to Spanish territory to check on conditions there.

As the Spanish demands for Gibraltar are a constant topic here, the 22,800 people of the rock were pleased at the Queen's statement on its future Monday.

She told a luncheon of Britain's determination to ensure the safe-keeping of the colony and fortress of Gibraltar.

## Today's Weather

Maximum temperature at Fort William during the past 24 hours, 52 degrees at 1:30 p.m. today.

Minimum temperature at Fort William during the past 24 hours, 37 degrees at a.m. today.

Temperature at 1:30 today, 52 degrees.

Winds, north at 5 miles per hour. Relative humidity, 59 per cent. Sunrise, 5:23 a.m. Sunset, 8:22 p.m.

Forecast for the Thunder Bay region: Cloudy with a few light showers today and Wednesday. Little change in temperature. Winds north at 15 miles per hour. Low tonight and high expected tomorrow at the lakehead, 35 and 50 degrees.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, EVENING

McKellar Hospital

LINK WITH FORT WILLIAM ROAD

P.A. Plans Expropriation

Railway Bandits