

Revenue Minister E. J. Benson Is Involved In Labor Matters

By PAUL DUNN
OTTAWA (CP) — Revenue ministers usually gain their reputation as the men who keep reaching in your pocket for tax dollars.

Edgar John Benson, the youngest federal revenue minister in history, keeps popping up as the man who keeps mail flowing and planes flying.

Mr. Benson, 43, a former accountant and professor from Kingston, Ont., has become deeply involved in labor matters in his secondary role as president of the treasury board.

Friday, his efforts at the head of the government's negotiating team in the dispute with air traffic controllers resulted in a tentative settlement and withdrawal of a Tuesday strike deadline.

A few weeks ago he burst into the parliamentary press gallery to announce an 11th-hour settlement of a postal pay dispute that would have crippled the mail service.

IN MANAGEMENT VOICE
In his new role of treasury board president, Mr. Benson is

the management voice in the government's relationship with its employees. The board is a select committee of cabinet that reviews and recommends all expenditures.

As he relaxed shortly after reaching the settlement with the controllers, Mr. Benson answered reporter's questions on his job.

At times it's pretty tough, he conceded.

Then he reflected for a moment—perhaps thinking back to the almost 24-hours of on-off negotiating—and added that it's more than tough, "it's just crazy."

His secretary answered the question on how much time the minister puts in at the office: "Twelve, 13, 14 hours a day."

His wife and three children live in Kingston—the riding he has represented since 1962—and it's difficult to visit them often enough. An older child attends college in California.

WAS PROFESSOR

Born at Cobourg, Ont., Mr. Benson served overseas in the army from 1941 to 1946 and graduated with a commerce degree from Queen's University in 1949. He became a chartered accountant in 1953 and from then until 1963 was an associate professor at Queen's.

He was named parliamentary secretary to the finance minister in 1963 and was appointed

revenue minister on the death of John Garland in 1964.

About two years ago the government began planning a major reorganization involving creation of new portfolios and changing internal administration of all departments.

Mr. Benson, who already had a reputation for reducing complicated tax measures to their simplest terms, moved into the new post of treasury board president Oct. 3, 1966.

"But I've held the job in effect for almost two years."

Mr. Benson likes his job—though he misses the golf and hunting which he once was able to do. "I've had a couple of

days hunting for deer in the last two years."

"At least there are no strike deadlines on the horizon," he added with a smile.

PLANES ALOFT SOON

BONN (Reuters)—Air Force Chief Gen. Johannes Steinhoff said Tuesday he hopes to have West Germany's grounded fleet of U.S.-designed Starfighter jets in the air again in about a week. He placed a flying ban on the planes two weeks ago so modifications could be made to their ejection seats. West Germany lost its 65th Starfighter since 1961 Nov. 26 and 37 pilots have been killed in crashes.



CHRISTMAS MAIL RUSH IS ON

Leith Ford, LEFT, and Earl Harding, two postal workers at the Charlottetown post office

are moving incoming mail to the sorting bins. The Christmas rush is on and piles

like this will have to be sorted daily all this week.

Heavy Spending Planned On Pulp Facilities In B.C.

VANCOUVER (CP) — The British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority predicts that timber companies will spend \$1,500,000,000 on construction and renovation of pulp mills in the province during the next 10 years.

In a special report on the pulp and paper industry prepared by B.C. Hydro's industrial development department, the authority said B.C. will increase its share of Canadian pulp production to half from the present third in the next few years.

The Crown corporation said that if all proposed mills are built B.C.'s rated pulp mill production capacity will increase to 6,000,000 tons annually by the mid-1970s—almost double the 3,300,000 tons produced in 1965.

The pulp boom, says the report, should provide sound long-

term prospects for secondary industrial suppliers of equipment, machinery and subordinate services.

The report notes that three new pulp mills began operations in 1966—bringing the B.C. total to 17. In addition, six other mills are in "the active planning stage" and four other companies have had extra timber reserves allocated for mills, necessitating expansion of existing facilities.

INVESTMENT HEAVY

All the mills are expected to have an initial capacity of from 250,000 to 350,000 tons annually. Each will represent a capital investment of from \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000.

Among the major foreign companies involved are Svenska Cellulosa of Sweden, Esso Gutzelt of Finland, the Reed Group of Great Britain, Fiedmuelle of Germany, East Asi-

atic of Denmark, Weyerhaeuser and Mead of the United States and Mitsubishi and Honshu, both of Japan.

Most of the companies are collaborating financially with B.C. business leaders on construction costs, says the report. The report also notes the growing opportunities for secondary industrial development resulting from the projected pulp and paper boom.

It says half of all the electric power in Canada is consumed by the pulp and paper industry.

CITES LOCAL OUTPUT

In B.C., logging equipment is manufactured and supplied by several major firms.

Newsprint roll, boxes, paper mill rolls and many renewable supplies such as chemicals, wire mesh, packaging materials and logging camps are made in B.C.

cal engineering firms supply equipment ranging from massive earth movers to electronic control instruments for paper-making.

There are several large consulting firms in B.C. with practical experience in designing and engineering major pulp and paper mills around the world.

The report says short-term markets for the increasing capacity will be found in the highly industrialized, consumer-oriented Western countries where use of paper products is high.

The province possesses half of Canada's merchantable standing timber and this is considered to be only one-third commercially exploited.

The report predicts that as the century passes, most Western European countries will become importers of Canadian pulp.

SUMMONED LAWYER

MONTREAL (CP) — A summons has been issued against Montreal lawyer Gerard Raymond in connection with an alleged fraud in the amount of \$56,972.

Judge T. A. Fountaine issued the summons after a complaint was filed Friday by counsel for G. Albert Gauthier and his company, G. Albert Gauthier Ltd. The complaint alleges that three persons were involved in a conspiracy between July 28, 1966, and Nov. 2, 1962, to obtain the money in question by fraud.

Appointments Made By CLC

OTTAWA (CP) — Six staff appointments were announced by the Canadian Labor Congress.

Henry Rhodes, 54, assistant national director of organization, was named director of the CLC's department of federations and councils.

A. L. Hepworth, 36, assistant director of legislation, takes over as director of international affairs from Kaiman Karamitaky who has joined the staff of the International Labor Organization.

Frank Chase, 44, regional director of education for the Prairie region, will take Mr. Hepworth's present post.

Roy LaBerge, 45, is named editor of Canadian Labor, the CLC monthly magazine, succeeding Cliff Sutton who has become federal secretary of the New Democratic Party. Mr. LaBerge was public relations director for the Canadian Union of Public Employees in Ottawa.

Dennis Coupland, 35, of the government's treasury board staff in Ottawa becomes an assistant director in the departments of legislation and government employees.

Larry Wagg, 34, representative in the Ontario education office, will move to Regina as director of education for the Prairies.

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