



SPEEDY SAMOYED

Gordon Snowdon, 10, of Burlington, Ont., gives his seven-year-old Samoyed, Danny, a regular jaunt through the countryside on his motor scooter. Gordon built special platform to carry the pooch, who obviously enjoys the hitchhiking. (CP Wirephoto)

Rail Union Wage Demand Expected To Be Rejected

By BEN WARD
OTTAWA (CP)—The railways are expected to reject later this month to massive wage demands by 16 unions representing about 120,000 railway workers.

The demands, running between 75 cents and \$1 an hour, would add an estimated \$215,000,000 a year to the railway wage bill. With various fringe benefits included, the total could exceed \$250,000,000.

Following the pattern of recent years, the major railways likely will inform the unions they have no way of raising the additional money because of the federal government's freeze on freight rates, in effect since 1959.

After two or three months of fruitless negotiations and conciliation proceedings the unions will take a strike vote and the resulting crisis will dump the whole affair into the lap of the government.

It will probably be the government's biggest labor headache of 1966.

INVOLVED 100,000

A similar situation arose two years ago involving only the 100,000 non-operating employees—those who do not actually operate the trains. Ottawa averted a strike that time by pressuring the railways to pay a 10.1-cent hourly increase and promising a special subsidy if a review of the railways' resulting financial problems showed one was needed.

The review took place but so far the railways have not received a penny towards the extra wage bill they incurred. This time the situation is far more complicated.

The non-ops, who bargained as one group in 1963, have split into three camps, each with its own wage demand plus a long list of grievance problems that will require the renegotiation of dozens of working agreements, some of them unchanged for 20 years.

On top of all this, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (CLC) has asked for sweeping revision of its pay and work rules covering 20,000 conductors and trainmen.

SETTLED WITH BRT

In 1963 the railways settled with the BRT before the non-ops' bargaining reached the critical stage. There isn't much

chance of a quick settlement this time.

The \$215,000,000 wage demand—Canadian Brotherhood of breaks down this way:

—Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers (CLC) seeking a 90-cent hourly boost for 20,000 non-operating members working for the CNR. Annual estimate: \$40,000,000.

—Seven craft unions demanding a 50-per-cent increase for 28,000 rail yard workers to bring them to parity with rates in other industries. This means an average of about \$1 hourly and a minimum annual outlay of 60,000,000.

—Seven other non-p union, representing about 53,000 clerks, signalmen, trackmen, seeking a package that would mean about 75 cents an hour. Annual estimate: \$78,000,000.

—The BRT's 90-cent demand for 20,000 members. Annual estimate: \$37,000,000.

All the figures are minimum estimates by union spokesmen and do not take into account overtime, increased fringe benefits and higher pension costs.

AVERAGE \$2.20

Non-operating workers as a group now average about \$2.20 an hour. Train conductors and trainmen are paid on a complicated miles-hours formula with average incomes on the CNR last year of \$7,600 for con-

ductors and \$6,800 for trainmen.

Union leaders have defended the size of their wage demands—believed to be the highest ever made in the railway industry—by pointing to the large wage gains made in the last two years by workers in other industries.

They contend railway employees must catch up with this trend now or be left even farther behind when their new contract runs out.

In all cases, present working agreements expire Dec. 31.

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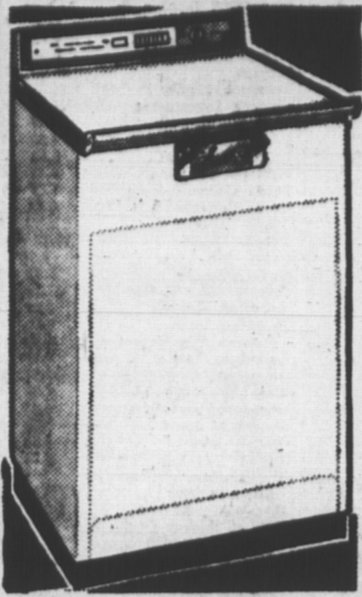
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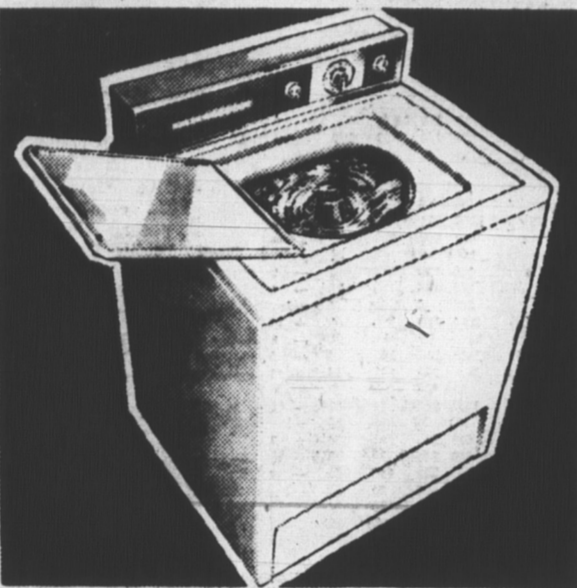


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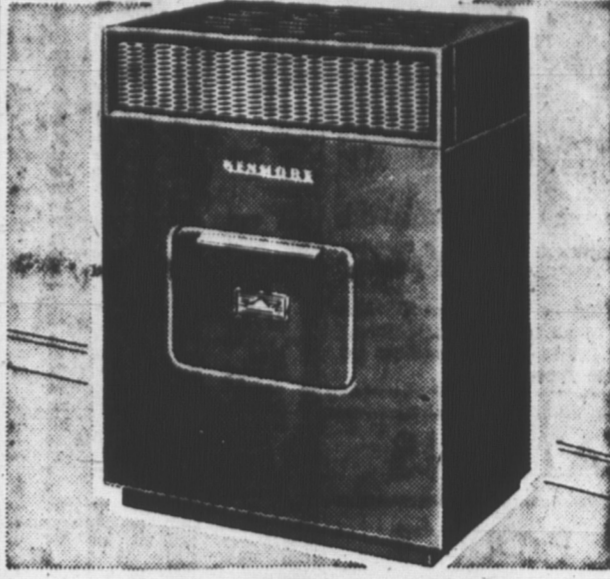
Thermostat adjustable from 120—180° F. Twin heater models wired for "flip flop" operation (heater does not operate together) lower element for ordinary needs, top for high water demands. CSA approved. Was 94.50—NOW

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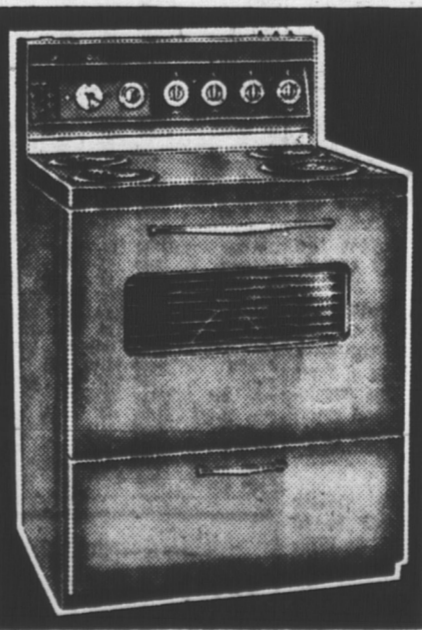
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