

## WHAT DOES THIS LEGISLATION MEAN TO YOU?

### Bill 2 - Public Service Labour Relations Amendment Act

Legislates out of existence any negotiated agreement regarding appointments, promotions, reclassifications, relocation, hours of work/schedule, overtime, vacation scheduling, etc. Contracting out allowed, seniority ignored in substitutions. No agreement shall affect recruitment or appointment of civil servants, the government's right to establish or eliminate positions, to assign duties or jobs, to administer job evaluations and classifications and to determine methods of training or retraining.

### Bill 3 - Public Sector Restraint Act

Any public sector employee - from hospitals to gov't, from universities (including faculty) to library boards - may be fired regardless of seniority or tenure. The "without cause" phrase was replaced so that a said lack of funds can be the sole rationale. The over a thousand people who were already laid-off without cause have been reclassified as "terminated" so that they may not appeal. In the academic community, it is important to note that there will be no protection for study in fields that might be seen as controversial, so as students we may experience a decreased diversity of learning. It will also facilitate future streamlining of course and program offerings between the post-secondary institutions (as has already happened at some colleges, like the elimination of Liberal Arts at the College of New Caledonia; there are plans to separate offerings in the Okanagan colleges so that one would offer vocational courses, another university transfer, etc. so that they would no longer be "community" colleges because you would have to move.)

### Bill 4 - The Income Tax Amendment Act

Repeals the Personal Income Tax Credit and Renters' Tax Credit retroactive to Jan. 1, 1983. This measure was actually announced last November. These "tax credits" should be viewed as distinctive from "tax deductions" which are deductions from the amount that an individual pays. "Credits" allow those who do not have much money (like students) to get a little bit back, even if they do not pay--hence they are called progressive taxes.

### Bill 5 - The Residential Tenancy Act

Rent controls abolished. Tenants may appeal rent increases in excess of 15% if their rent is below \$500 per month, but on June 30, 1984 rent review ceases. Rentals office to be phased out by Sept. 1984 (budget cut this year of \$70,000 renders the present office renders it almost only a rentals office in name), some staff have already been fired. Disputes between landlords and tenants must be resolved by the courts (if you can afford it) as of Oct 1983. Eviction without cause can terminate any tenancy--this opens the door for discrimination of all kinds. Subsidized housing increased from 25% of income to 30%. (Landlords who want to evict someone, instead of going to the rentals office, must get the sheriff to come and issue a writ--this costs \$800.!!)

### Bill 6 - The Education (Interim) Finance Amendment Act

Minister of Education controls school board budgets. He/she authorizes how much and whatever specific line items as he/she deems. The directives issued by the Minister remain secret; he/she is not obliged to make them public.

### Bill 7 - The Property Tax Reform Act

Introduces the variable mill rate system, whereby each municipal council may set individual tax rates for each class of property, allocating the tax burden between industrial, commercial and residential taxpayers. Also, if elected or appointed directors (including our Board of Governors at UBC) do not abide by the thrust of these bills, they will be fined \$2,000., and can be jailed if they still do not proceed with this legislation.



Bill 8 - The Alcohol and Drug Commission Repeal Act

Dissolves the Commission, which is responsible for planning, funding and coordinating services and materials related to drug and alcohol dependency. The Commission had an educational function and supervised treatment facilities. These functions will supposedly be absorbed by the Ministry of Health (though there have not been an increase of staff to handle these activities).

Bill 9 - The Minicipal Amendment Act

Also known as the "Spetifore amendment" which was introduced following a decision by the Greater Vancouver Regional District to save farmland in South Delta. This bill declares all regional and official regional plans to be null and void, and they shall have no regional planning powers.

Bill 11 - The Compensation Stabilization Amendment Act

Extends the gov't wage control program indefinitely, and allows Cabinet to set anyone's wages by citing ability to pay. (There is no mention of restraint in other areas like tuition, groceries, etc. The bill also does not deal with the apparent anomalies which has allowed the Premier's staff to receive a 50% wage increase, or Doug Heal, the Communication Advisor to receive an 18% increase.)

Bill 12 - The Property Tax Reform Act (#2)

Similar to Bill 7, effecting all tax bases other than the general municipal base, and refers to transit taxes, school taxes, hospital taxes, and the Island's Trust. Bills 7 and 12 will allow the provincial gov't to keep down their own taxes, while they have reduced grants to other areas, thus forcing others to increase taxes--as we have experienced with Hydro bills, bus fares, etc.

Bill 13 - The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act

25% increase in tabacco taxes. Those who smoke now pay provincial taxes at a rate of 50¢ per pack.

Bill 14 - The Gasoline Tax Amendment Act

Changes the formula for calculating the price of bunker fuel and clarifies the application of the tax to marked bunker fuel delivered to a ship in the province.

Bill 15 - The Social Service Tax Amendment Act

Increases sales tax to 7% from 6%. Also, initiates a 7% tax on restaurant meals over \$7.00, and a 7% tax on long distance calls.

Bill 16 - The Employment Development Act

This is called the "job creation" program. The \$415 million spoken of in this bill are included in budget estimates for gov't departments. These are provincial gov't obligations under ARDSA agreement, including such things as flood protection, highway construction, and ordinary capital maintenance for hospitals, post-secondary institutions, etc. These are requirements, and represent significant reductions.

Bill 17 - The Miscellaneous Statutes (Finance) Amendment Act

Makes a variety of changes to the Financial Administration Act. Allows increases in the minimum property tax payable (the budget assumes an increase from 125 dollars to 150 dollars). Makes administrative changes to increase the powers of the gov't to collect taxes in the following areas: Gasoline, Hotel Room, Insurance Premiums, Logging, Mining, and others.

Bill 18 - The Pension (Public Service) Amendment Act

Abolishes terminal funding for the public service pension plan, creating a situation where there will not be enough money in the fund to pay out projected entitlements. Section 6 allows the gov't to take back its contributions in the case of dismissal, death or resignation. Revenues will no longer be taken from general revenues, but will be paid out of pension funds.



Bill 19 - The Institute of Technology Amendment Act (BCIT)

STUDENTS, staff and faculty (the only elected members) eliminated from the BCIT board of governors. The gov't is given complete control over BCIT operations, so that the Minister of Education must now approve all course and program offerings. This control over-rides any previous agreements.

Bill 20 - The College and Institute Amendment Act

The representation of all elected members on college boards, including local school board, are terminated. Abolishes the Occupational Training Council, the Academic Council and the Management Advisory Council--these functions are transferred to the Minister. The Minister may specify which courses shall be offered at which institutions, control college and institute budgets, and require institutions to avoid duplication in course offerings.

Bill 21 - The Crown Corporation Reporting Repeal Act

Eliminates the legislature committee on Crown Corporations. This was an investigative committee which regularly reported about crown corporation management. Serious questions should be raised about the accountability and review of Crown Corps. Those employed in this area were fired.

Bill 22 - The Assessment Amendment Act

Provides that property assessment will be done every two years, instead on annually. Also, reduces the grounds for changing the assessed value of property to a change in physical characteristics, new construction, a change in zoning, and obvious error or omission, new found inventory, a change of ownership, a change in legal description, a change in classification or a change in taxation status. There is also a provision that a lessee can demand a copy of the assessment notice from a landlord.

Bill 23 - The Motor Vehicle Amendment Act

Motor Vehicle Testing Branches are being closed. Eliminates mandatory vehicle inspection. (On July 7, Cabinet passed orders-in-council closing the test centres in the Lower Mainland, Victoria, and Nanaimo. All employees involved have been fired.)

Bill 24 - The Medical Services Act

Totally replaces and old Medical Services Act. This Act imposes strict rationing of practitioner billing numbers by speciality or geographic area, sets arbitrary limits on numbers of physician billings, and modifies payment schedules for different doctors and different classes of doctors. It also encourages doctors to "opt out" of the medicare system. It envisions three different kinds of doctors: medicare doctors, doctors who bill extra, and private doctors. The quality of service may vary between the different categories, depending on how much the patient is able to pay. Thus, it has been referred to as a "two, or possibly three tier medical system--with quality care for the rich and less than adequate care for the rest."

Bill 25 - The Harbour Repeal Act

Dissolves the Harbours Board and transfers its assets to the B.C. Development Corporation and the B.C. Railway Company.

Bill 26 - The Employment Standards Amendment Act

Collective agreements supercede minimum labour standards. (How would you like to work for \$1.49 per hour?) Employment Standards Board eliminated; the only appeal from the director of employment standards in in the courts. Allows "interested persons" to apply to have provisions of a collective agreement declared "no longer appropriate." No employer must pay unpaid wages for a period of more than 6 months. No longer requires employers to make deductions or payments as called for in collective agreements.



Bill 27 - The Human Rights Act

Abolishes the Human Rights Branch and the Human Rights Commission. A new five-member, Social Credit appointed, Human Rights Council will replace it, but this will have no staff. This Council may refer cases it cannot solve to the Minister; if he/she dismisses it, it cannot be appealed. It is necessary for the guilty party to admit "intent to discriminate," which has been very difficult in the past, and will be impossible in B.C. with no investigative staff employed. Complaints must be filed by the person discriminated against; community groups (like the Ombudsoffice here, or the B.C. Organization to Fight Racism) can no longer commence complaints. Discriminatory employment advertisements are no longer illegal--this now invites ads like: "help wanted--male whites." It is now also legal to require job applicants to furnish any information concerning race, religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation, etc. Protection for those with physical or mental disabilities have been included, but only in cases involving the sale or rental of private property--public facilities and employment are not included. So the net effect is to lessen protection for these groups.

Bill 28 - The Provincial Treasury Financing Amendment Act

Centralizes control and authority over borrowings of gov't and crown corps in the Ministry of Finance. This Bill will enable gov't to manipulate finances of crown corps and central gov't to bury debt, transfer funds and manipulate accounts. Essentially, it increases borrowing authority and allows debts to be assumed by crown corps, rather than the gov't, at the jurisdiction of the gov't.

Bill 29 - The B.C. Cellulose Company Repeal ActBill 30 - Ocean Falls Corporation Repeal Act

These two Bills wind up the affairs of two crown corporations that were originally set up to preserve jobs and the community at Ocean Falls, B.C.; the present assets are reverted back to the provincial gov't.

Other Items which are in the Budget: Disabled and volunteer allowances cut, legal aid cut, cancellation of first home grants, higher taxes on fuel efficient cars, cuts in the Ombudsman's budget, cuts to the Rentalsman's office, the phasing out of special education, the layoff of up to 3,000 teachers, the freezing of welfare payments, environmental protection cut, privatization of some crown corps (Manning Park, Cypress Park, Beautiful B.C. magazine, Pacific Coach Lines), post-secondary education (capital and operating budgets) cut, Ministry of Human Resources cut (Child Abuse Teams, Post partum counselling, transition houses, Volunteer Coordinators, Rape Relief, Women's Health Collective, etc.), Consumer Complaints Branch eliminated, STUDENT (BARRAC)AID\*, and many others...

\*Student Aid

- cut from \$23.4 million to \$14.6 million, which equals 40%
- substantial criteria revisions, including: increasing the numbers of students who are classified as dependant on parental contributions (if they have driven a parent's car, received \$600. or more in cash or "kind", lived in a residence rented or owned by parents for 6 weeks or more) and all of these are retroactive throughout the summer; if a student fails a course he/she will be cut off assistance and ineligibile next year; a student must take an 80% course load to receive provincial grant; married students lose their extra \$400; summer savings requirement of \$900(it will be deducted from the amount that you are assessed for regardless if you could find a job, eventhough unemployment for students was between 25 and 30%); all assets liquidated...
- \$2300 will be front-ended in federal loans before provincial grants are given; after this they will be allocated at a 50/50 basis; this will make possible debts of between \$10,000 or \$20,000 quite easy to attain...
- ministry appeals level eliminated

The Future Goal: 25% budget/person cut to all areas (including UBC).