Alberta continues crackdown on health care freeloaders requiring Albertans to register with the

EDMONTÓN (CP) — The Alberta

government will stop suspending health insurance for people who don't pay their medicare premiums, but the crackdown on premium payments will continue in a different form

A bill introduced in the legislature Friday by Hospitals Minister Dave Russell would end suspension of coverage, bringing Alberta into compliance with the new Canada Health Act. That law requires that all residents of a province receive medicare coverage regardless of whether they have been paying premiums. Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia charge medicare premiums. But the new provincial bill will also allow the cabinet to write regulations

health plan. Registration will basically consist of providing an address, Russell said.

That, he said, will allow health officials to go after anyone behind in premium payments. Coverage would not be cut off for non-payment, but defaulters might find themselves in small claims

court or pursued in other ways. The bill will also allow the government to assess penalties for late payment and to charge interest on premiums owing. Penalties and interest rates are to be set out in regulations after the bill becomes

"It's like any other bill," Russell told

"I think most bills we get as consum-

ers of anything have some print at the Carol VanderWell, information officer bottom that overdue accounts are subject to penalties after 30 days or 60 days. at an interest rate of such and such. Even your credit card has that and

that's the nature of the penalty.'

The minister said earlier in the week people owing premiums will be pursued more vigorously as part of the change. NDP health critic Ray Martin said he

wants to clear up some aspects of the bill. As long as residency is not taken away from people for non-payment of medicare premiums, the opposition will probably let it pass quickly, he said. How many Albertans may be affected

is something of a mystery.

As of April, there were 62,300 sus-

for the Aiberta Health Care Insurance

Those registrations, covering 90,400 people, included 31,400 registrations for which plan officials do not have a current address.

Some of the people officially suspended from medicare coverage may have left the province or died.

At the same time, there were 1,057,300 valid registrations covering 2,373,500 people. But that was more than the 334,300 people said to be in the province according to the most recent population estimate from Statistics Canada.

VanderWell said the number of people on premium assistance has increased pended medicare registrations, said sharply since Russell started the crack-

down on premium payments last Octo-

As of March, she said, the provincial government was paying all or part of medicare premiums for 169,483 people covered by 82,435 registrations.

That was up from 44,472 subsidized registrations in March, 1983.

Russell has said one benefit of his crackdown on premium payments has been that it spurred people to apply for premium subsidies. The province charges premiums of \$14 a month for individuals and \$28 a month for families but has a scale of full or partial subsidies for those with taxable income less than \$5,000. There are waivers for people with higher taxable income who have suffered a sudden financial reverse.

The Lethbridge Herald

Vancouver might dump its garbage in Elk Valley



HONORARY DEGREE recipients Van Christou, far

of Lethbridge graduates Sandra Bonetti and Darrel Pittman at the annual Chancellor's dinner Friday.

of L Canada's 'Harvard'

By JUDY PARSONS of The Herald

More than 100 University of Leththree honorary graduates to be given degrees during U of L convocation ceremonies today

Van Christou, a member of the first university-senate and a former U of L chancellor told the crowd he's proud to be honored along with Archie Stalker, a geologist and Dale Bartlett, a Lethbridge pianist — who couldn't attend because of prior committments in the

Christou made a toast to "those people in the university who are involved in

the struggle for the fundamental relationship of the mind, the body and the phy and mathematics. thrilling things environment" adding such a relation- like that," he said. "I like to call the Unibridge officials paid tribute Friday to ship at the U of L is more important than versity of Lethbridge the University of

> Stalker said the U of L is doing well because of the great people working for

"And I can see the great future this university has." he said.

U of L senator Grant Matkin in another toast to the university, told President Dr. John Woods a university is to test the limits of the mind, to test ethics and for personal growth and develop-

Alberta. I think the one in Edmonton in misnamed.

Matkin said the U of L will become a great and venerable university equal to

Woods in response said while the U of L is very young, "it's vigorous in ways that bring it distinction".

He also said continued distinction depend on the goodwill toward the university as expressed by the honorary

Labor leader wants Canadians to boycott Chilean products

Boycotts of Chilean products and Canadian banks borrowing money to that country will help opposition there fight the military junta. says a member of a fact-finding trip to Chile.

Canadians should also be telling their government representatives to condemn the junta as a way to bring international pressure on the oppressive, decade-old regime, says Ron Fisher.

"We ought to be doing everything we can to oppose that oppression in that country," the vice-president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labor

Fisher made the comments in an interview while in Lethbridge Friday to talk about his March trip to Chile It was organized by Oxfam-Canada, which has been supporting development project

meeting at the Labor club, jointly organized by the World Citizens Centre and Oxfam in Saskatoon.

He made the Chilean trip along with



Thatcher denied bail

REGINA (CP) — Colin Thatcher, a former Saskatchewan energy minister charged with murdering his former wife, was denied bail Friday by the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal.

But a three-judge panel left the door open for the colorful millionaire rancher

to apply again at a later date.

Thatcher, Progressive Conservative member of the legislature for the rural

Jean-Claude Parrot, president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Terry O'Connor of the Canadian Union of Public Employees in Ontario, and

re. Margaret Wilson, president of the Fisher spoke to about 30 people at a Ontario Teachers Federation.

rounds Moose Jaw, has been in custody since he was charged May 7 with firstdegree murder.

the street from the Saskatchewan legis-

lature, 16 months ago. She had been

beaten and shot in the head.

riding of Thunder Creek, which sur-His former wife, JoAnn Wilson, was

found dead in a pool of blood in the garage of her posh Regina home, across

"Don't buy Chilean products," Fisher

That boycott requests come from the Chilean people themselves, he says. Such actions really can't hurt the people much more than they are suffering already in the economically-shaky country. "They have no place to go but up."

Edecio Carrasco, member of the Lethbridge Chilean Association, says a number of city stores and liquor outlets sell Chilean products such as apples, grapes, wine and juice.

Large Canadian banks, with branches in Lethbridge, also lend money to Chile and support the Pinochet military junta. Carrasco adds. They should be boycot-

Fisher says Canadians should be urging their politicians to condemn the Chilean government. They should also be supporting local Chilean communities. who he stressed are telling the truth about oppression in their homeland. "If anything, they're understating it.' Fisher says the group's visits with a

wide variety of Chileans yielded testimonies of the political persecution which has existed since the military coup (said to be backed by the CIA) overthrew democratically-elected Savador Allende in 1973. "It's so real and so vicious and so

incomprehensible," Fisher says of the executions, tortures, disappearances

Several abandoned open pit coal mines in the Sparwood area are being eyed for dis-

become the garbage dump for Vancouver.

VANCOUVER — The Elk Valley may

posal of 500,000 tons of residential refuse produced in Vancouver every year, The Lethbridge Herald learned today in an exclusive interview in Vancouver.

The proposed project, conceived by Continental Environmental Landfill Corporation of Mission, would utilize empty coal cars on their return trip from the coal port here to East Kootenay mine Each car would be loaded with 36 com-

pressed and bound bales of garbage for disposal in old, unused pits. The corporation was formed by a

Michael

Lamb

group of local businessmen who have numbed more than \$100,000 designing project, which will be presented to Sparwood residents next month.

The group is one of about a half dozen firms vying for contracts to alleviate Vancouver's growing refuse problem.

Continental, aided by two major independent consulting firms, believes hauling the garbage to East Kootenay mine sites will prove the most feasible, especially in the long run.

Initially, the corporation proposes to haul 1,500 tons of refuse daily to one of several 120-metre-deep pits, now

The volume could rise to 4,000 tons daily - all of Vancouver's garbage - if the project works out. At that rate, it would take up to 30 years to fill a single

pit, consultants say. Similar plans are under consideration by Continental for hauling the refuse from Lethbridge, Edmonton and Cal-

Continental and its consultants, Underwood McLellan Ltd. and Grimm and Associates Inc. of Washington, are to discuss the proposed Alberta projects with provincial officials early next

Vancouver's growing refuse problem, prompted by a lack of landfill space, is most crucial however, and officials are concentrating on solving that dilemma.

The proposed project, says Alfred Grimm of Grimm and Associates, would solve two major problems. It would rid Vancouver of refuse concerns, while providing an environmentally-sound way of reclaiming mined out proper-Preliminary discussions already have

taken place between Continental, B.C. government representatives, CP Rail and three East

Kootenay coal mining firms.
The project, if approved by the B.C. government would create about

70 new jobs - half

here and half in the

East area. Roughly 80 per-cent-of-any city's refuse is organic and could be used for mulch and mining reclamation pur-

poses, says Grimm. Although the plan would produce some low-quality methane, the gas would be tapped and burned off, he adds

Coal could be used to line the bottom of the open pit dump areas to filter out impure water. The waste water in turn is to be drained into a series of treatment ponds, one of which would include aera-

When benefits of the project, includsites and new East Kootenay jobs, are included, the program takes on added importance. Grim adds.

Continental and its consultants are continuing studies into the project including ground water surveys. Negotiations with East Kootenay coal mining firms and CP Rail also continue.

"As many as 648 coal cars return empty from Vancouver to the Sparwood area every day." said Stephen McMinn, of Underwood McLellan. "A single coal car can carry the daily refuse from more than 8.000 homes - the potential to use the returning empty coal cars to transport baled municipal refuse is

Westar wants more info

British Columbia's largest coal mining firm said Friday his company needs "far more" information on proposals to use one of its old mined out areas in the East Kootenay for a Vancouver garbage dump, before it officially comments on the matter.

In an interview aboard a jet returning from Vancouver, Chris Humble, a manager of Westar Mining Ltd. operation in Sparwood said his firm knows important details about the

Our official statement now would be to the affect that we need more details

CRANBROOK - A spokesman for about the program. We haven't really had the chance to review what we know at senior levels...it appears to be entrepreneur concept. It's entertaining and unique but we need more definitive comments on its viability and more exchange on information.

According to the Continental Landfill Corp. one of the East Kootenay's major coal mining firms, including Fording Coal Ltd., Byron Creek Collieries Ltd. Line Creek Coal and Westar Mining Ltd., have expressed interest in the project and are willing to entertain further inquiries about the refuse pro-

Prairie grain farmers may get federal cash branded it as evidence the Liberals plan OTTAWA (CP) - Prairie grain farm-

ers will get an interim payment from the Western Grain Stabilization Act before July 31, External Relations Minister Jean-Luc Pepin announced Friday. Pepin told the Commons a provision

will be added to a bill to amend the stabilization act to provide a payout of about half of what a subscriber farmer would be eligible for — likely \$1,500 to \$2,000.

The announcement caught oppositon MPs by surprise and they immediately

to call a summer election to cash in on the publicity from their leadership Pepin's announcement came as he

outlined the amendments to the stabilization plan to allow a payout of about \$350 million this October. The bill received second reading -

approval in principle - and now goes to the Commons agriculture committee for

19 cabinet ministers now backing Turner VANCOUVER (CP) - Senator Jack Austin affairs minister Arthur Laing and Turner was parmajor challenger, Energy Minister Jean Chre-He said Turner's business experience and liamentary secretary to the minister. Austin also

announced today he is supporting John Turner in his bid for the Liberal leadership because the former finance minister can "address the underlying reasons for Western alienation and discontent.

Austin, minister of state for social development, becomes the 19th cabinet minister to declare support for Turner. Six ministers are supporting his

Austin said the Liberal Party lacks political

credibility because it has no members of Parliament in the three most western provinces. He said Turner can use his "coattails" to get members elected in British Columbia.

firm my confidence in his ability and experience to Austin worked with Turner in the mid-1960s head a strong and nationally balanced governwhen he was executive assistant to then-northern

worked with Turner in the 1970s when Turner was in the federal cabinet as justice and finance minis-"My experience with Mr. Turner helps me con-

commitment to the traditional Liberal concerns for the poor, the elderly, the handicapped and others both socially and economically vulnerable in society" is important. The announcement coincides with Turner's visit

to British Columbia this weekend for a leadership campaign policy forum.



WHAT IS IT?

Angela Gunnlaugson, a student

at Park Meadows School, makes an adjustment to one of her classes artistic efforts. It is one of a number of creations that were the result of a brainstorming session between some of the teachers. Art teacher Rita Kerr says the ideas just kept mushrooming until they came up with the final colorful product, although they aren't quite sure what to call it. The names of every student in the school are written on squares of material that are attached like kite tails to the large abstract centerpiece. When finished the items will be displayed in the school library which has a high enough ceiling to accommodate the larger pieces. All the grades are making some type of artwork to contribute to the display.

Seen

Lethbridge alderman COUSINS, recovering from abdominal surgery, walking gingerly across the room at the Marquis Hotel to present a city pin to SUSAN HARGRAVE, Miss Rodeo Canada.

Hamilton Junior High school teacher RUTH GREG was as red as her new Corvette after school Friday — it seems she forgot there was a burglar alarm with the new car and she set it off getting in to go home, much to the delight of most of the school population which gatherered around to laugh at the predicament as she thumbed through the owner's manual trying to find out how to silence the alarm . . . When asked if her name had an s on the end, Miss Rodeo Canada, SUSAN HARGRAVE. saying "no, one grave is enough for anyone"... DEBBIE VELDMAN guessing that

Lethbridge is the world's cleanest city because the winds don't give the dirt and litter a chance to collect anywhere ... SID JOHNSON driving to Waterton's Red Rock Canyon for photographs, only to remember his camera was at home

... ALD. BILL COUSINS explaining why he got discharged from hospital early after

surgery: "I took a

turn for the nurse" University of Lethbridge president DR. JOHN WOODS saying 30 years ago he drove a garbage truck and adding many people believe that's when he peaked . KEITH ROBIN at the \tilde{U} of L Chancellor's dinner Friday saying if people noticed something wrong with his voice, it was because of the time he's spent on hockey ice recently and later U of L Chancellor BILL RUSSELL saying it's not the ice, it's the not water he's been in . . . BILL REIDELL at the dinner say

ing Honorary degree recipient VAN CHRISTOU'S roots are in Leth-

bridge. CHRISTOU is an orthodon-

GRAFFITT

IF SOMEBODY HAS GOT TO LOSE ...IT MIGHT AS WELL BE THE OTHER CAY

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