

## 3 die, 5 missing in downtown apartment blaze

By PAT ZANGER  
Free Press Staff Writer

Three people are dead, five others are missing and more than 175 people are homeless after fire Sunday afternoon swept through the Fort Garry Court, a 70-year-old housekeeping apartment block at Broadway and Main Street.

Firefighters remained at the scene of the two-alarm blaze this morning and traffic southbound on Main Street and on Fort and Garry streets from St. Mary Avenue to Broadway was being rerouted.

Fire officials were still sifting through smoldering debris and had not ruled out arson as a possible cause of the fire, which began at about 2 p.m.

Names of the dead and missing have not yet been released. Police and fire investigators are still gathering information about tenants who lived in the four-storey

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brick building. The building is owned by Hyman Bessin of Ottawa.

Fire officials said the fire is believed to have started in the northwest section of the red-brick building. Investigators are trying to determine if more than one fire was involved in the over-all blaze.

While ice-encrusted firefighters fought the stubborn blaze, survivors took refuge

in the CN Station across Main Street at Broadway.

Salvation Army workers recorded names and gathered information about homeless tenants, many of whom escaped with only the clothes they wore.

Major Hugh Tilley, public relations officer for the Salvation Army, said more than 125 residents had been assisted by late Sunday night at the army's residences.

Earlier, building manager Anthony Duleep estimated 175 people occupied the about 150 rented suites in the apartment block. He was busy comparing the tenants' list he rescued from his burnt-out suite in the building with lists of registrants for Salvation Army assistance at an emergency sta-

tion set up in the Canadian National Railway station across Main Street from the blaze.

Anxious relatives and friends pressed around the CNR police office trying to locate former residents of the building, which was spewing flames and billowing black smoke.

Calling out names and room numbers, they hung on officials' answers, hoping for positive response.

John Morris and his mother were searching through the rail station trying to determine if his mother's uncle, 92-year-old James Black, had escaped from his apartment 455A.

Mr. Morris said his great-

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Smoke pours Sunday afternoon from the burning Fort Garry Court, 181 Broadway

## Schreyer defends controls to win tough party battle

By MARY ANN FITZGERALD  
and KATIE FITZRANDOLPH

Free Press Political Reporters

Premier Ed Schreyer fought one of the toughest battles of his political career this weekend — and won.

Throughout the three-day New Democratic Party provincial convention, he faced heated opposition from the party's powerful labor wing over his support of the federal anti-inflation program.

The premier sat, grim-faced, on the platform Saturday, listening to federal NDP leader Ed Broadbent con-

dem the same program as "wrong in detail and substance."

Forty-five minutes later, his voice tight with emotion, sweat pouring down his face, Mr. Schreyer implored delegates not to reject the guide-

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lines before they had a chance.

"I'm sorry, but I can't help but feel convinced that the guidelines, imperfect as

they are, full of warts, are a first faltering step — a first miserable faltering step — in terms of the future."

The standing ovation, for what many delegates termed "the best speech of his life," was reflected Sunday in a narrower vindication of his stand — a 324 to 225 vote in favor of a compromise resolution recognizing the government's "reasonable effort to co-operate" with the national program in fighting inflation.

That relatively bland wage control resolution replaced a tough one which demanded that the province reject the

federal plan. Achieving the substitution, as well as its endorsement, was a victory for the premier.

He made an impassioned statement "that the free market economy must be modified by rational human decision and restraint."

"In the final analysis in a democratic society, do we want to live under a free-for-all economic system as opposed to a fair-for-all economic system?"

He told his opponents he shared their concerns over the guidelines' "almost crude, semi-cynical inequities," and pledged to "fight like hell to get further modifications to the guidelines."

"I have no right to persist forever if there is forthcoming a preferred alternative ... but I plead with you not to pretend one of the alternatives is to do nothing."

Neither Mr. Schreyer nor Mr. Broadbent felt their divergent positions would split the party.

"It's a difference in tactics, certainly not in substance," the premier said, in an interview after the vote.

Mr. Broadbent agreed. He saw the vote as supporting the Manitoba government, and said he recognized the opposition parties are able to manoeuvre politically, while a party in power is limited by its responsibilities.

The premier said he "wasn't really disappointed" with the 99-vote margin, because it reflected the concerns of all New Democrats about the inequities in the federal Liberal party's guidelines.

He admitted it was one of his toughest political battles, "partly because I was so internally torn."

Art Coulter, executive secretary of the Manitoba Federation of Labor, said "the outcome was not a sign that the federation would ease off on its protest against the guidelines."

He saw the vote as a "confirmation of support for the premier" and found satisfaction in Mr. Schreyer's insistence that collective bargaining must continue without hindrance from the guidelines.

The two men, leaders of the opposing viewpoints,

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— Photo by Dave Banner

A perspiring Premier Ed Schreyer addresses the annual NDP convention

### Planned federal changes criticized

## Law laxity seen child-crime breeder

Children between the ages of nine and 13 are responsible for a great deal of crime in Winnipeg and the situation will only deteriorate if proposed changes to the juvenile delinquents act are adopted, Inspector Paul Johnson of the Winnipeg police department said Saturday.

Insp. Johnson attacked the federal solicitor-general's department for suggesting amendments which would only "breed disrespect for the law" among young people. He was speaking at a seminar organized by the Manitoba Criminology Society to

study proposed changes in the juvenile act which has remained virtually unaltered since it was passed in 1909.

"It's ludicrous to think that young people can rob and kill with impunity because of enlightened law," Insp. Johnson said. Juveniles who are regularly arrested for murder, trafficking in narcotics and other serious crimes should be dealt with firmly, he said.

Insp. Johnson said a proposal which would define juveniles as "youth between 14 and 18" was unrealistic since it didn't take into account

the significant crime rate among younger children. He said juvenile court should deal with all children between the ages of 12 and 17.

He also criticized an amendment which would give youth wider rights of appeal. Courts will be "inundated with frivolous reviews" if this measure is adopted, he said.

Insp. Johnson said the government's wide ranging package of proposals should be re-examined, since its present form allows youth to beat the system. He suggested the committee in charge

of proposing amendments should consult with police officers and others "who are aware of juvenile behavior as it exists on the street."

Winnipeg Crown counsel Wayne Myshkowsky agreed that the proposals could have the effect of making young persons less responsible. Many children are hardened, mature and sophisticated offenders long before they reach the age of 18, he said.

Mr. Myshkowsky also suggested that a proposed screening agency designed to

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## Bourassa repeats plea for Games aid, Killanin blames lack of planning

MONTREAL (CP) — While Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa reiterated Sunday that Ottawa should help meet the anticipated \$800 million deficit of the Montreal Summer Olympics, the president

of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) criticized all three government levels involved in the Games.

In two media interviews, Lord Michael Killanin said the federal government could

have avoided the controversy over inviting the Queen to open the Games and suggested current difficulties were due to a lack of preparation.

"I do not know how this was budgeted," he said of

the labor-troubled main Olympic stadium, "but this appears to be really over and above the norm."

Speaking from Innsbruck, Austria, Lord Killanin told radio station CFCF that "through a lack of time, possibly planning, this has led to the (cost) escalations."

Labor difficulties and escalating costs have placed the price of the games at over \$1 billion, up from the \$350-million Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau said the event would cost three years ago.

Premier Bourassa told CBC radio's Cross-Country Check-up he didn't want "special subsidies" from Ottawa. "But the higher revenues from taxes should be returned."

Until six months ago, he said, his government did not realize that "inflation and other problems" would lead to a massive deficit requiring the return to Quebec of additional taxes generated by the Games.

Lord Killanin, in Innsbruck grilling a Montreal delegation for 10 hours over the weekend, warned that organizing committees failing their duties also harmed the Olympic movement, although

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### 10,000 make protest

## B.C. rally hits auto rate increase

VANCOUVER (CP) — About 10,000 people gathered at the Pacific National Exhibition Agrodome Sunday to protest increases in insurance rates by the Insurance Corp. of B.C. (ICBC).

The rally was organized by the British Columbia Federation of Labor (BCFL) and the Concerned Citizen's Association of B.C.

The proposed premium increases would average 139 per cent in the Vancouver area. Male, unmarried drivers under 25 face increases of about 300 per cent.

B.C. Conservative leader Scott Wallace, Liberal leader Gordon Gibson, former NDP

health minister Dennis Cocke and labor leaders told the crowd they too are against the increases.

But the Social Credit government was not represented.

Len Guy, secretary-treasurer of the federation, said the BCFL will sponsor newspaper advertisements urging citizens to protest the rate increases.

Mr. Gibson said it is not too late for the government to reconsider.

Some increase is necessary, he said, but bringing the Insurance Corp. of B.C. to the break-even point could be done in a "more humane and sensitive way."

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