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Corporate Record

CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT



# 'Noisy Ralph' lobbies for LRT

By Cathy Motherwell  
(Herald staff writer)

Mayor Ralph Klein proclaimed himself "Noisy Ralph" Thursday afternoon, urging the provincial and federal governments to make a commitment to LRT funding.

The addition of the federal government as the result of a statement by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau that public works projects should be labor-intensive. And in the mayor's opinion, northwest LRT fills the bill.

In a speech to the Urban Development Institute (UDI), Klein said he is willing to work with that group in a joint proposal to persuade the federal government to

get involved in the northwest LRT project.

"I can think of no better project than the northwest leg of LRT (for a federal public works project)," said Klein, who has sent Trudeau a shopping list of possible projects. Asked if he thought federal involvement might shame the provincial government into funding the line, the mayor replied the Edmonton politicians might think more about it.

Although provincial funds are expected to cover one-half the \$261-million cost of the northwest LRT line, no commitment has been made to northwest construction. And "Noisy Ralph" said he won't

be like Edmonton mayor "Silent Cec" Purvis.

Urban transportation costs have risen 160 per cent over the past two years, he said, but revenue has increased by only eight per cent. He wants "more equitable funding," and said the province should cover 66 per cent of the transportation costs.

"I'm not asking for a cheque," he said. "But what I'm asking for is a long-term commitment to the concept of urban transportation."

Any project that creates jobs is a benefit to the community, Klein said. And the northeast construction accounts for 1,300 direct jobs,

and an additional 300 jobs in associated industries.

He criticized the provincial government mortgage and small business relief programs because they don't address the employment problem.

"If people don't have jobs, these programs are no good," he said.

The mayor also asked the provincial government to carefully select the ministers for what he considers three key cabinet portfolios — municipal affairs, transportation and environment.

"These are the areas where I have felt there has been a lack of representation in the past," Klein said.

## Klein seeks federal funding for the northwest LRT

By Peter Morton  
(Herald staff writer)

Less than \$15,000 damage was done to a C-Train that collided with a car on Remembrance Day, say city transit officials.

Originally the Police Department estimated that the damage to the front of the C-Train was \$300,000.

But Jim Heck, transit division's acting general manager, said Thursday the actual damage was much less than first thought and now amounts to less than \$15,000.

Heck said there was no structural damage and little more than the cur-

ving and "some other minor things" were damaged in the accident a week ago.

He said he had "no idea" how the police came up with the original \$300,000 damage estimate.

The car is being repaired at the Light Rail Transit shops at Anderson Road in southwest Calgary.

Witnesses said the C-Train was travelling east on 7th Avenue in downtown Calgary at about 40 kilometres an hour shortly after 1 p.m. when the collision occurred.

Bruce Budge, 34, was the driver of the car heading southbound on 1st

Street S.E., when the accident occurred. The car was dragged 15 metres down 7th Avenue and was destroyed.

Budge, of Hartford Drive N.W., was seriously injured and remains in Calgary General Hospital with head and internal injuries.

The driver of the C-Train, Robert Marwick, was suspended immediately and has since been charged under the Highway Traffic Act with careless driving and running a red light.

Heck refused to comment further on the accident until an internal investigation has been completed.

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