

Store Wars on again: Weston wants The Bay

By Robert Cochran
Star Financial Editor

The scions of two of Canada's most famous business empire-builders are now locked in battle for control of the Hudson's Bay Co.

W. Gaius Weston, president of the giant George Weston Ltd. grocery firm said today he is considering making an offer for control of The Bay — in opposition to a \$31-a-share bid by Kenneth Thomson on behalf of members of the family of the late Roy Thomson.

One rumor on Bay St. said the Weston offer may be as high as \$40 a share, putting a price tag of \$460 million for control

of the Bay. The Thomson offer is valued at \$365 million.

The latest bidding war has turned the tables on the Bay, which only months ago emerged as the victor over US-based Sears, Roebuck and Co. in a battle for control of the Simpsons Ltd. chain.

The Weston announcement, which rocked the business community — even though some counter-bid had been widely expected — came after Bay directors urged their shareholders on Friday not to accept the Thomson offer.

The Bay directors indicated they thought the Thomsons were offering a "bargain" price, and that a more realistic

price could be in the range of \$37 to \$40 a share.

Bay president Donald McGovern told The Star that Weston "called me about 9 o'clock this morning and informed me that his company was issuing a press release to the effect that they were considering making an offer for Hudson's Bay."

Trading in shares of both George Weston Ltd. and The Bay was delayed at the opening on both the Toronto and Montreal Stock Exchanges.

The battle for control of a huge chunk of Canadian retailing now takes on spectacular dimensions.

Weston's, the world's largest non-merchandising retailer, was built by the late Garfield Weston from small beginnings in a Toronto bakery.

George Weston Ltd. directly and through subsidiaries, is engaged in the manufacture and distribution of food products. It owns a majority interest in Loblaw's Companies Ltd., which in turn owns a large chunk of Kelly Douglas and Co. Ltd. In addition, Weston owns Eddy Paper Co. Ltd., a pulp and paper manufacturer.

Weston recently announced that its profit for the year ended Dec. 31, 1978, See WESTON/page A4

Edition ★★★★★

Toronto Star

Monday
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15 cents

METRO WEATHER
Mainly sunny tomorrow.
High -1 Celsius. Low
tonight -7C. Details, A2.

10,000 police on guard for peace treaty signing

By Joe Hall Toronto Star

WASHINGTON — An army of 10,000 police stood on guard today as the leaders of Egypt and Israel prepared to sign their historic peace treaty to end 30 years of war.

Thousands of Arab demonstrators converged on the White House to protest Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signing the treaty on the White House lawn.

Police and secret service men herded the demonstrators into two separate areas — in Lafayette Square in front of the White House and on the Ellipse at the rear.

Security officials were determined to keep the protesters away from supporters of the treaty who started gathering hours before this afternoon's signing ceremony.

Photographs and descriptions of members of Palestine Liberation Organization assassination teams had been circulated to all the guards protecting the two Middle East leaders and President Jimmy Carter.

Most significant

Carter said this weekend the signing would be seen in 50 or 100 years time as "the most significant occurrence in my term of office."

The next move, he told a group in Dallas, Tex., would be to bring other Arab states and the Palestinians into the peacemaking process.

But he cautioned that this might not happen during his term in the White House.

Perhaps with this in mind, the White House turned Carter's diplomatic coup into a public relations extravaganza broadcast live on coast-to-coast television.

Sadat has called it "The Jimmy Carter Show" and 1,300 guests have been invited to join the hoopla.

Round tables

In an orange-and-yellow circus tent 100 feet by 180, the guests were split into groups of 10 to sit at 130 round tables.

A platoon of 250 waiters was ready to serve them beef sirloin, salmon in aspic and hazelnut mousse.

The treaty being signed by Begin and Sadat today — with Carter signing as a witness — is the result of 16 months of diplomatic haggling that followed Sadat's momentous journey to Jerusalem in November, 1977.

Up to the 11th hour, Begin and Sadat were still squabbling over the fine print.

The two met for almost two hours at the Egyptian embassy in Washington last night, but finally settled a dispute over Israeli access to oil from the Sinai Desert, which will be handed back to Egypt.

The treaty spells out the steps to be taken over the next three years to create normal relations between Israel and Egypt.

Israel will return to Egypt the vast Sinai Peninsula captured during the 1967 war.

□ Israel counts the cost of peace/
A12

Scientists feel Christ's shroud genuine

'A potential impact that is incredible,' spokesman says

Toronto Star special

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Scientists who have been testing the Shroud of Turin believe it is the genuine burial robe of Christ.

They aren't saying much about the results of their tests, but a spokesman for the team said that if they had uncovered any evidence of fraud "they would have walked out the door long ago."

The scientists have just concluded a two-day meeting here to discuss their findings.

Spokesman Ken Stevenson, an IBM data processor from New Orleans, said: "There is a strong sense that we're dealing with a

potential impact that is incredible."

"It would be 'miraculous' if it were a forgery," said Donald Lynn, head of science operations for Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Voyager Project.

The 14-foot, 5-inch linen shroud, whose history is only certain since the Middle Ages, has a light sepia image of the front and back sides of a corpse of a 5-foot, 7-inch bearded man.

Dark blotches appear at the wrists, ankles, one side of the chest and around the scalp. Many indications of lacerations appear on the body, all of which have suggested the beatings and crucifixion suffered by Jesus about AD 30.

Some people found the Humber was how cold yesterday/A2



Did you win a million \$?

Five tickets worth \$1 million each were drawn last night in the Provincial lottery. The winning numbers are 5307138, 5643830, 8451480, 6675353 and 3634685. Full list, page A15.

Arab foes protest pact

BEIRUT (AP-UPI) — Arab foes of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty protested the pact with bombs, demonstrations and strikes today, and Arab governments prepared to mount economic sanctions and a political quarantine against Egypt.

King Hussein of Jordan flew to Damascus to talk with President Hafez Assad to co-ordinate opposition to the treaty. As he arrived, two bomb blasts outside the U.S. Embassy in Damascus kicked off the wave of protests that spread within hours to other Arab or Moslem capitals.

In Tehran, Iran, about 50 Arab students seized the Egyptian embassy, one day after 100,000 Iranians marched to condemn the treaty. Egyptian guards offered no resistance and an embassy official said the protesters were peaceful.

A strike by Palestinians on the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip shut down major cities and towns.

Metro's Herbie fund 'our gift to the world'

By Christie Blatchford Toronto Star

Toronto's "gift to the world" — an annual \$50,000 Metro Council grant that would establish a permanent Herbie Fund to help desperately sick children outside Canada get the medical care they need — could be approved within a month.

Metro Chairman Paul Godfrey was expected to announce plans for the fund — named after tiny Herbie Quonones, who came to Toronto from New York recently for a life-saving operation — sometime today.

Godfrey's proposal, which will go before Metro's social services committee on Thursday, apparently recommends that council guarantee a yearly budget of up to \$50,000 so that even if corporate and private donations dry up, the fund could continue to operate.

And though the plan needs final ap-

The Bullock Blatchford Report

proval from Metro Council, it's already being heralded as a magnificent gesture, particularly appropriate in 1979, the International Year of the Child.

What's more, despite cutbacks in other areas and the tough paring of Metro's budget this year, Godfrey is believed to have won widespread support for the project. "It's one very real way we can help," North York Controller Barbara Greene, a single mother herself, said yesterday.

"I think of it as our gift to the world."

Under the Godfrey plan, Metro would

See \$50,000/page A3



Thirst Break Firefighter Tom Buttons drinks from a leaky hose held by Brian Humphrey after a \$110,000 fire at a Glenayr Rd. house. Four cats and 3 dogs died.

Youth gang blamed in \$750,000 fire

By Ian Sutton Toronto Star

A gang of youths who call themselves "God's Guys of Ajax" may have gutted an Ajax school yesterday as part of their wave of destruction, police believe.

Damage to St. Andrew's Senior Public School may run as high as \$750,000, said Yvonne Christie, chairman of the Durham Board of Education.

The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office is investigating for possible arson. It was the fifth area school hit by fire or vandalism this year.

In an interview yesterday, Mrs. Christie said the board may have to decide whether

more drastic security measures must be taken, short of hiring armed guards with watchdogs.

"Has society really come to that?" Mrs. Christie wondered.

She called the school "a write-off" and said the 500 students would have to be accommodated elsewhere.

The words, "God's Guys of Ajax," were found scrawled on a wall of the school after the fire. That same name was found in at least two other schools involved in the rash of vandalism.

Yesterday police questioned local youths about the existence of such a gang.

"It seems to me it has to be the same people involved. The modus operandi seems to be the same," Mrs. Christie said.

Hockey violence crackdown -- 1,500 spectators ejected!

MONTREAL (CP-Special) — More than the teams were thrown off the ice at a junior hockey game last night — it took 29 policemen to break up fights and expel 1,500 spectators as the arena turned into a battleground.

The ruckus began when the referee stopped a playoff game between St. Lau-

rent and Lachine with seven minutes left.

Most Lachine players had been ejected earlier for violent conduct. Their coach had been thrown out for arguing and the trainer for jumping on a St. Laurent player.

The St. Laurent team, which had been leading 10-0, was credited with the win.

INSIDE MONDAY'S STAR



Nelson: Public statements

Fiona says 'sorry'

Worried that her public statements about a judge's recent ruling could be considered contempt of court, Fiona Nelson apologized to him today and was told, "We're all human." A4

Black weekend on roads

In a black weekend on the province's highways, Ontario car crashes killed 25 people — more than half of the fatality total for the entire country. A2

Ghostwriters visible

Many people in publishing think it's legitimate to use a ghostwriter — but not to deny using one, or to pretend not to have used one. C1

'Give poor more'

The poor and disabled should be given the money now spent on family allowances, the Ontario Economic Council says in a report urging new ways to boost the incomes of Ontario's "working poor." A2

Keep your wallet healthy

You can benefit by joining a health club but inspect it and know what your membership entitles you to before you sign a contract or pay your fees. D1

Leafs' backs to wall

After a 2-1 loss to Detroit Red Wings, Maple Leaf coach Roger Neilson says Leafs "have to win next two games to put some sort of lock on playoff spot." B1

Strike may hit students

About 90,000 students may get a holiday

next week unless the Toronto Board of Education and its caretakers agree on a new contract and avert a strike. A5

Bid to oust Vorster

Opposition calls for the impeachment of South African President John Vorster pushed the country to the brink of a constitutional crisis today over an international slush-fund scandal. A12

Girls run down, jeered

Police are looking for the six jeering occupants of a Ford Thunderbird that bowled over a young girl, reversed, hit her two girlfriends and then sped off. A3

A closet fortune

A painting by Corot, found under a hatbox in a hall closet of a Balmoral Ave. home,

may bring as much as \$20,000 at auction this week. A3

Dollar an election bet

Canada's sagging dollar will be a major issue of the coming federal election, says Fabien Roy, 51, who is expected to be named Social Credit party leader. A6

Bear headed for Bay St.?

Bay St. market analysts are getting nervous over the present rise in stock prices. "You usually get a collapse after a boom," one cautioned. B9

It's more than the stork

Dr. John Harkins, who has delivered about 2,000 Metro babies, says he has become "irritated" because Canadians take a casual approach to childbirth. A10

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