VIGHT:

Northgate — Across from the Post Office

Hard times troubling Canada

Soupline tears down dignity

United Press International CAMPBELL RIVER, British Columbia — The Depression-era hard times troubling Canada have stripped away much of the dignity of this proud lumber town, where unemployment is near 30 percent. In disturbing resignation, some residents have opened a '30s style soup kitchen.

"I lived through the Depress-

ion on a farm in Saskatchewan, meal of the day in a bare, that I haven't tried," she said. "It lowed quickly but this is worse," said Marge wooden labor hall. doesn't really bother me coming About 14 p but this is worse," said Marge Duval, 55, a mother of six. "At least then, we could afford to eat, but, today, it's just too ex-

Duval's face mirrors the despair and frustration of the estimated 30 men, women and children in this town of 12,000 who are forced to seek their only hot

Speaking with quiet, determined optimism, Duval said she and her disabled husband will get by until the economy improves. But, she notes, today a job as a cook fell through and

another local business collapsed.

here. We're all in the same boat.

It's not our fault, we tried."
The world came crashing down with surprising suddenness for many residents of this Vancouver Island lumber town. Interest rates soared, crippling "I haven't worked yet this the housing industry. Lay-offs year but there's not a day goes by and forestry plant closures fol-

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About 14 percent of workers in Campbell River collect unemployment insurance, but com-munity leaders say closer to 30 percent of the labor force is job-

In February, a group of residents formed a "Committee of the Unemployed" and two weeks later opened the soup kitchen in a labor hall under a red and white banner reading: "Life with Dignity, Jobs for All."

Local merchants donate the food, but it has been difficult to attract the needy because of the social stigma of such charity.

"Some people walk around outside the labor hall for quite a while before they can get up the nerve to come in," said Sandra Nichol, an unemployed teacher and mother of two who helps run the kitchen five days a week

"After some of the media found out about us, it scared people away. One woman said her husband would beat her up if he saw her on TV getting a handout. But people are starting to come around again. They have to if they want to eat."

The community spirit that started the soup kitchen also led to formation also of a committee

to help the jobless overcome bureaucratic problems at the welfare office and the Unem-ployment Insurance Commis-

"We're trying to tell people they have got to learn to fight, or they're not going to get anywhere," said Jim Work, a truck driver who was laid off in November. "If we just sit here and take it we'll get more of the and take it, we'll get more of the

Work and his wife, Diane dole out meals at the labor hall and help others cope with the loss of their jobs. "It doesn't bring any more cash home to help care for our two kids but it makes you feel better trying to

do something."

The work of the Campbell River committee has spawned a similar group, the Organization of Unemployed Workers, in Port Alberni, another Vancouv-er Island lumber town of

"We had more than 200 angry people at our first meeting in February and we're building support," said Bill Massey, 27, one of the organizers.

"It's pretty desperate here and people are starting to realize it's not going to change very quickly."

Defendant asks God for counsel

United Press International MINDEN, La. — A north Louisiana couple accused of let-ting their granddaughter die of meningitis because of religious beliefs, want to leave their legal defense to God rather than hir-

ing an attorney. Frederick and Docia Mae Ford told district Judge Graydon Kitchens they could afford an attorney, but preferred to appoint their minister as

legal counsel. Kitchens said he will rule on the request Friday.

The Fords were charged with negligent homicide in the death of their 17-month-old granddaughter, Fredericka, after they refused to bring the girl to a doc-tor when she contracted meningitis.

The hearing was held Mon-day before Kitchens to determine whether the Fords needed free legal counsel from the Indi-gent Defenders Board. An attorney from the board said the Fords did not need free counsel since they own a house in Heflin on 51 acres of land and a house

in Mansfield. "You have available funds to hire a lawyer if you want a lawyer, and also have received a number of offers to represent you free of charge?" assistant District Attorney Jim Johnson asked.

"I have fasted and prayed to the Lord," Ford said. "The Lord told me he gave me a defense counselor."

Johnson asked: "The Lord has spoken to you and told you

not to get a lawyer?"
Ford replied: "He told me if y'all had known his ways, you wouldn't have me here today

taking up your time."

The Fords, members of the Faith Temple Doctrinal Church of God and Christ, have said they decided to leave their granddaughter's life in the hands of God rather than seek medical treatment for her ill-



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