

New House Committees Embroiled In Controversy

OTTAWA (CP)—Nine of the 21 new standing committees of the House of Commons have held their organizational meetings and some became embroiled in controversy almost immediately.

Normally these first meetings merely select a chairman and approve routine motions.

The finance committee hit a snag when it came to setting up a steering group responsible for agendas and procedures. Marcel Lambert (PC — Edmonton West) moved that the group be comprised of two Liberals, two Conservatives and one member representing all of the small parties.

Bert Leboe (SC—Cariboo) protested this would deny two of the three smaller parties a voice in committee arrangements.

David Lewis (NDP — York South) proposed the issue be shelved until a later meeting and the committee agreed.

ARGUED ABOUT SIZE

The 25-member transport committee argued about the size of its quorum, some members suggesting 13 be required for a meeting, others wanting 19.

Reynold Rapp (PC — Humboldt — Melfort — Tisdale), holding out for 19, said he didn't want to see the committee all

around idle for half an hour waiting for a larger quorum. James Byrne (L—Kootenay East) said the committee's decisions arising out of a study of railway passenger services will be important and should not be decided by 10 members.

It was agreed to set the quorum at 13. Several MPs suggested the committee hire experts to help it deal with financial data from the railways.

WANTED ANALYST

H. A. Olson (SC—Medicine Hat) said a cost analyst would be needed to check CPR passenger line figures and Thomas M. Bell (PC—Saint John—Albert) proposed bringing U.S. experts before the committee.

As usual, the election of committee chairmen and vice-chairmen went according to the lineup previously determined by the government.

One hitch in this arrangement almost occurred in the committee on miscellaneous estimates when Conservatives nominated James Ormiston (PC—Melville) for vice-chairman. He lost.

Chairmen and vice-chairmen, respectively, of the various committees: Finance—Herb Gray (L—Essex West) and Ovide La-

Flamme (L—Quebec — Montmorency).

Transport—Joe Macaluso (L—Hamilton West) and Gustave Blouin (L—Saguenay).

External affairs — Jean-Eudes Dube (L—Restigouche—Madawaska) and Wallace Nesbitt (PC—Oxford).

Standing orders—Patrick Asselin (L—Richmond — Wolfe) and James McNulty (L—Lincoln).

Justice—A. J. P. Cameron (L—Toronto High Park) and Yves Forest (L—Stanstead).

Miscellaneous estimates—Yves Forest (L—Stanstead) and Fernand Leblanc (L—Montreal Laurier).

Health — Dr. Harry Harley (L—Estimote) and Dr. Gaston Isabelle (L—Gatineau).

Agriculture—Eugene Whelan (L—Essex South) and Herman Laverdierre (L—Bellechasse).

Private bills—Gerard Loiselle (L—Montreal St. Ann) and Carl Legault (L—Nipissing).

TOKYO (Reuters) — Foreign Minister Eisusaburo Shina Tuesday expressed willingness to send medical aid to North Viet Nam if requested. He told the lower house medical aid is based on a humanitarian point of view.

U.S. Increases Bonds' Interest

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Johnson has announced interest on U.S. savings bonds is being increased immediately to 4.15 per cent from 3.75 per cent.

He said in a statement participation in the savings bond program is patriotic because it strengthens the economy, supports U.S. fighting men in Viet Nam and helps to preserve the buying power of the dollar.

The president ordered the interest increase in a move to make savings bonds more competitive with other savings media, such as commercial banks and savings and loan associations, which recently increased their own interest rates.

The general rise in interest rates results from a decision taken by the federal reserve system, an anti-inflationary measure, in increasing the discount rate to 4.5 from four per cent last December.

Postponements Help Balance

WASHINGTON (CP) — Postponement of several new Canadian securities issues in the last quarter of 1965 improved the United States balance-of-payments figures by between \$150,000,000 and \$200,000,000, commerce department statistics showed.

The department issued fourth-quarter figures showing pur-

chases of new foreign securities totalled about \$270,000,000, compared with nearly \$400,000,000 for the third quarter and nearly \$1,200,000,000 for the full year. The Canadian postponements to the first quarter of 1966, done at U.S. request, helped keep the full-year total for such new foreign issues within the range of \$1,000,000,000 to \$1,250,000,000 existing annually since 1962.

Report Ready On Power Grid

OTTAWA (CP) — A consultant's confidential report on the proposed national power grid was received by the government in 1964 and will not be made public, Mines Minister Pepin disclosed in the Commons.

Replying to former resources minister Alvin Hamilton (PC—Qu'Appelle), he said the 1964 report was of a preliminary nature and contained confidential information about public and private power utilities.

The final report on the study

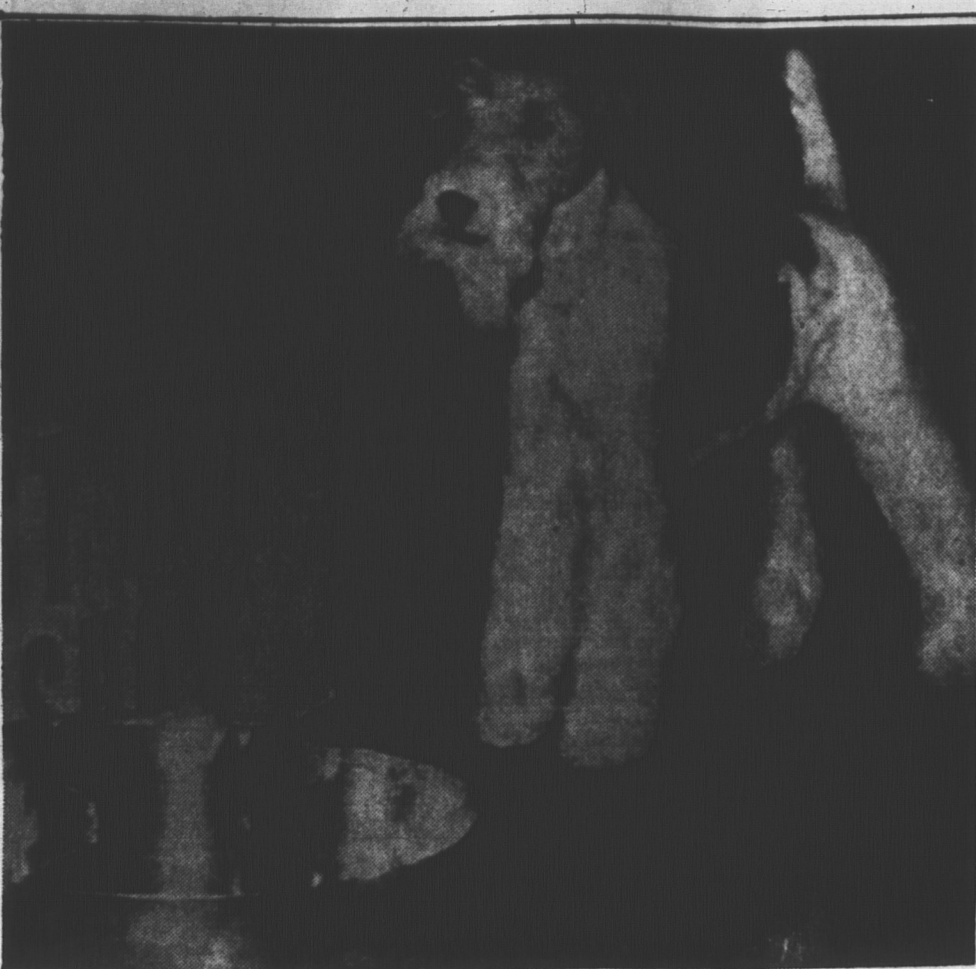
is expected in March. But it probably will not be made public either, Mr. Pepin added. The study was ordered by the former Conservative government and was one of the main points in its national development program.

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THE WINNER - NO BONES ABOUT IT

Ch. Zeloy Mooremadies Magie shows her winning form after being awarded "Best in Show" at the conclusion of the Westminster Kennel Club Show in New York's Madison Square Garden. The wire-

haired Fox Terrier, who will be five years old May 31, is owned by Marion G. Bunker of Pebble Beach, Calif., and handled by Jimmy Butler from Temple City, Calif. Magie is the first of her breed to

win the top award at Westminster in two decades.

Instalment Finance Firms Cut Indebtedness To Banks

By JAMES NELSON
OTTAWA (CP)—Instalment finance companies — which last year suffered financial reverses and damaged reputations through the failure of Atlantic Acceptance Corp. to meet its bond payments—have sharply reduced their recent indebtedness to the chartered banks.

The companies both lean on the chartered banks for ready cash and provide an important part of money-market activity by their notes. During the 2½ years before Atlantic's troubles last summer, their borrowings from the banks fluctuated between \$200,000,000 and \$300,000,000.

But last summer, to restore stability to financial markets, the Bank of Canada advised the chartered banks it would not object if they would help to carry the burden placed on the finance companies by ensuring they had money to carry on after Atlantic's default.

There was an immediate jump in chartered bank loans to the instalment finance companies to more than \$400,000,000 and late last year the amount continued to climb. It reached a peak of \$497,000,000 Dec. 29.

The amount fell back rapidly to \$400,000,000 by the end of Jan-

uary. Last week, it dropped further, to \$378,000,000.

After the Atlantic Acceptance failure, repercussions among other finance companies meant they had to borrow from the chartered banks. The chartered banks, for their part, were willing to loan with the blessing of the Bank of Canada, and were looking for the higher interest rates they could earn on finance company notes.

The notes have long provided the banks and other financial institutions and alternative places in which to put cash for short terms besides the three- or six-months treasury bills offered in weekly auction by the federal treasury.

Lately, however, the treasury bills have offered a higher return. At auction Thursday, prices fell to a new post-1962 low and the equivalent yield for 91-day bills rose to a high of 4.69 per cent.

Following the drop last month in chartered bank holdings of finance company debt paper, there has been a sharp rise in their holdings of treasury bills.

They amounted to \$1,258,000,000 on Jan. 12 and by Feb. 2 had risen to \$1,463,000,000. The Bank of Canada reported Thursday they were \$1,474,000,000 Feb. 9.

Criminal Abortion Claimed More Prevalent In Married

TORONTO (OPP) — Criminal abortion probably occurs most often among married women, Dr. D. M. Low, an obstetrician and teacher at the University of Toronto, said here.

"It is pure speculation how many criminal abortions are performed each year in Canada but estimates run from 25,000 to 75,000," he told the annual meeting of the United Church of Canada's board of evangelism and social service.

Most are performed by unskilled persons or by the patient herself, he said.

"The maternal mortality committee of the Ontario Medical Association has reported over 70 deaths due to criminal abortion of 333 direct obstetrical deaths in Ontario in the years 1958 to 1963. This is close to a 25-per cent mortality rate charged to criminal abortion."

However, improved methods of police investigation should help to reduce "what is believed to be the third most profitable crime in the country after narcotics and gambling," he said.

SEEKS LEGISLATION
Sections of the Criminal Code with respect to therapeutic abortions are confusing, he said. As a result, the general council of the Ontario Medical Association has recommended legislation be enacted to ensure an operation to terminate a pregnancy be lawful under specific circumstances.

STATE WANTED SHARE
Windows, chimneys, newspapers, tombstones and wigs have all been taxed at one time or another.

The board of evangelism and social service recommended a change in the Criminal Code that would make legal the advertising and sale of birth control information and devices.

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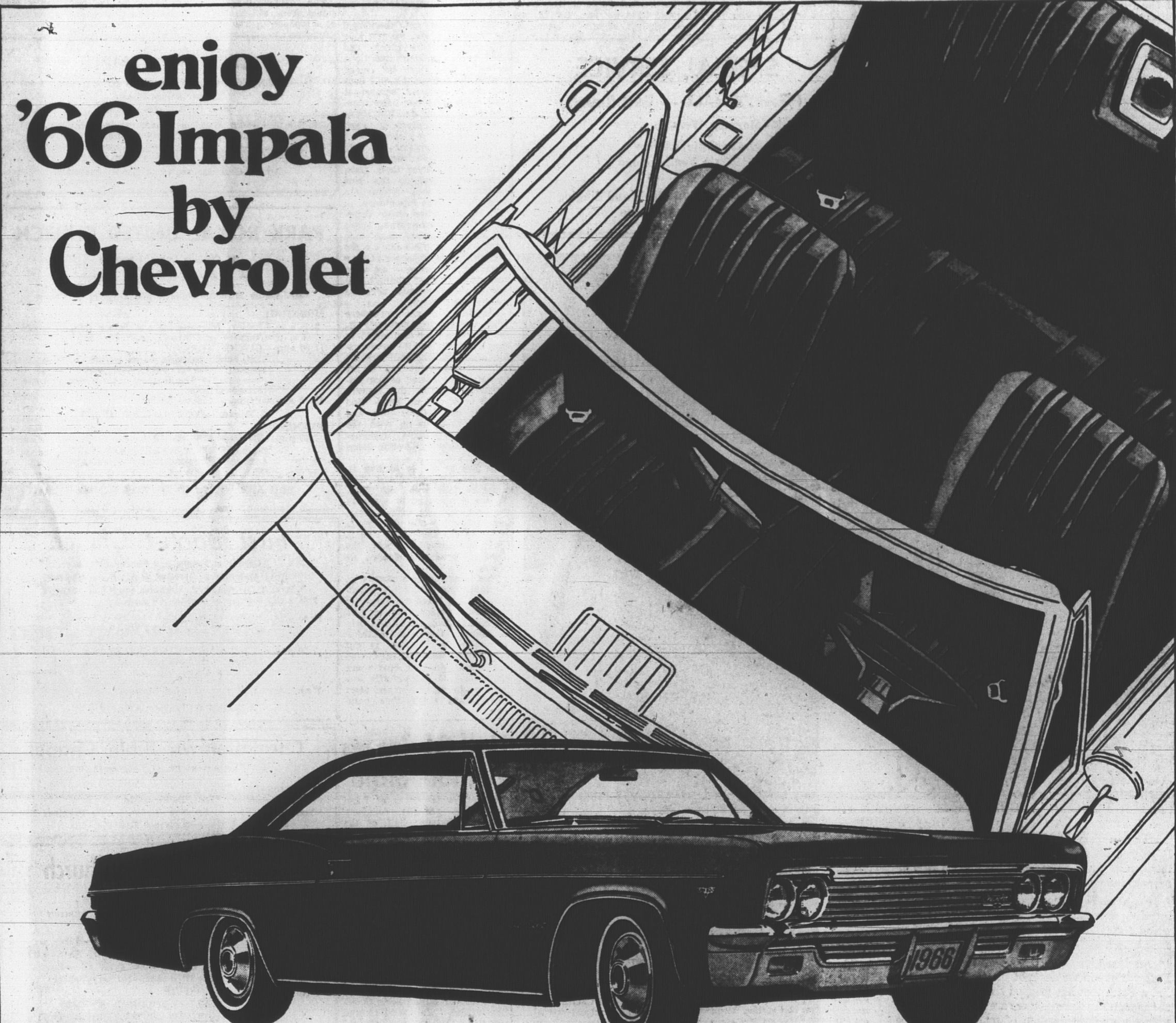
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