

Ottawa Report

By Patrick Nicholson

Never before in Canada's political history have so many Members of Parliament read so many speeches about so little to so few fellow-Members. For when the House of Commons meets at 11 a.m. on this historic morning, it will set up a new record for the longest session ever held here.

On this 125th sitting day, this mediocre first session of Canada's 22nd Parliament exceeds the previous record of 124 sitting days set up by the House of Commons in the 1942-43 wartime Parliament. The previous peacetime record was the 119 days of the 1948 session.

The Senate has as usual sat approximately half as long each day on approximately half as many sittings as the House of Commons.

Never fear that every member will sit in his place while this record-breaking flow of verbiage has filled some 650 hours. For by law only 20 members must be actually present in the Chamber of the Commons, to form a quorum. And the Commons is quite parsimonious about supplying a later audience than is strictly necessary. Only a handful have been present more than half the time, dutifully listening to, weighing, and perhaps being influenced by the arguments and counter-arguments put forward.

Big House For Vote

The maximum attendance in the Commons is seen after the speaker has rung the bell and called for five minutes — to summon members in to vote. Then every member in the Parliament Building abandons his coffee, lays down his hand of cards, halts his dictation, marks the page of the book he is reading, stops chewing the fat or shakes away the semi-consciousness of his disturbed zizz, and hustles to the Chamber to vote.

A vote is nearly always—except, for example, when the Quebeckers abstain from voting on a divorce Bill—a true record of the number of M.P.s attending to their Parliamentary business in Ottawa.

The next largest attendance is generally seen on the Orders of the Day at the opening of each daily sitting. Attendance and attention reaches its lowest ebb during the several hours debate forming the bulk of each day's work.

Ten representative votes last month attracted varying numbers of M.P.s between a high of 206 and a low of 121 out of a possible 263. Only twice did a vote find as many as two-thirds of the House at work; the average was a 59% attendance.

C.C.F. Most Attentive

The best attendance record was achieved by the conscientious and effective C.C.F. group of 23 members, who consistently showed a four-fifths attendance. The 15 Social Credit Members put in a 63% attendance; the 172 Liberals had a mere 59% record. The Progressive Conservative group of 50 M.P.s just managed to exceed an average of one-half attendance and were in fact on one occasion outnumbered by the C.C.F.

The Liberals, with 172 automation supporters aligned against a maximum possible opposition of 93 M.P.s, have cynically adopted a roster system for playing hooky. The Members from faraway, such as those from Vancouver and the handful from the distant prairies, mostly sit faithfully in Ottawa; but the Central Canada Members slip away to their homes in Quebec or Ontario for a week or so at a time, leaving just enough on duty at their \$10,000 a year jobs

Franco Favors Trade Embargo Against Reds

NEW YORK (AP)—Spain's chief of state, Francisco Franco, said in an exclusive interview published Monday in the New York World-Telegram and Sun that a complete trade embargo against Communist nations is the only way to win the cold war.

In a copyrighted story from Madrid by the World-Telegram and Sun's editor, Roy W. Howard, the generalissimo called for a coalition of all anti-Communist countries to bar trade of all kinds with Russia or her satellites.

"If the anti-Communist nations of the west will unite with those of the Far East on a joint economic program, they can win the cold war on all fronts," Franco said.

Unfortunately at present they are not winning the cold war. They will not win it until they put the desire for peace above the desire for profit through trade with Russia.

IN FORMAL DISCUSSION

Howard wrote that he had an unhurried and informal discussion on world conditions with Franco at his suburban headquarters, El Pardo, of his reported Spanish chief of state. He reported the Spanish chief of state urged a sweeping reorganization of the anti-Communist world's tactics against international Communism, which he now believes are failing because they have not concentrated on Russia's greatest weakness—the lack of non-strategic imports.

"It is self-deception to believe that embargoing strategic materials alone is any insurance against Russian aggression," Franco said.

Airtight Embargo

"Moscow knows that extensive commodity trade with the free world will ease tensions inside the Iron Curtain."

He said an airtight embargo against all trade with Communist nations would aggravate the restlessness in satellite nations, and thwart Russia in its efforts to pacify those countries and crush resistance.

United Church Editor Retires

TORONTO (CP)—Dr. Archer Wallace, author and editor of United Church Sunday School publications for the last 35 years, has retired.

In his last service at Trinity United Church, the 70-year-old minister said he plans to devote his full time to writing. Active in the ministry since 1905 when he came to Newfoundland from England, Dr. Wallace has written several books, including "The Silver Lining" and "The Autograph of God," as well as dozens of children's stories.

His books have been translated into four languages and have sold more than 1,000,000 copies.

here to ensure victory on each Commons vote.

If the debates are too uninteresting or unimportant to hold their attention here, the Liberals have nobody but their leaders to blame. Yet after recently voting themselves a 66% increase in salary, they now brazenly chalk up an absentee record which would put any private business into Queer Street. Our taxpayers and voters, who are the employers of our M.P.s, may well ask themselves in many cases whether they have elected as their Parliamentary representatives men who have the conscientiousness expected in \$10,000 a year men.

Archaeologists Hope For Information From Most Recent Discoveries In Egypt

CAIRO (Reuters)—Archaeologists gingerly began removing debris around two 5,000-year-old "Boats of the Dead" at King Cheops' pyramid, confident they will plumb new mysteries of Egypt's ancient sun-cultists.

Prof. Mustafa Amer, chief of the Egyptian antiquities department, said Monday: "It seems almost certain these solar boats are connected with the sun-cult which predominated in a land where a clear sky prevailed and the great splendor of the sun, and its mystery, was one of the most visible phenomena of the time."

A few miles away, at 4,700-year-old Sakkara pyramid, other teams probed their way toward the unopened sarcophagus of a pharaoh even older than Cheops.

Chiropractors Granted Charter

VANCOUVER (CP)—A national charter has been granted to the Canadian Association of Chiropractors by the office of the secretary of state in Ottawa.

John S. Burton, secretary of the Western Canadian Chiropractic Association, announced here.

Mr. Burton made the announcement Saturday at the final convention session of the western association. The charter now must be approved by the department of health and welfare.

The charter, if approved, will give the Canadian Association of Chiropractors the right to govern the profession on a country-wide basis.

Death Benefits Plan Approved

OTTAWA (CP)—The Commons banking committee approved Monday government legislation providing maximum death benefits of \$5,000 for Canada's 230,000 civil servants and members of the armed forces.

Approval came after the committee by a vote of 22 to 5 defeated an amendment by J. M. Macdonnell (PC—Toronto-Greenwood) who proposed that the legislation be given further study by civil servants' organizations.

He said five civil service groups who appeared before the committee last Thursday complained that they had only a week to establish the reaction of their membership. They had objected to the compulsory provisions of the premiums to be paid—\$4.80 a year per \$1,000 of salary.

The government will contribute one-sixth of the civil servants' salary.

Inquest Ordered In Cadets' Deaths

TORONTO (CP)—The attorney-general's department said Monday an inquest has been ordered into the Sunday afternoon drowning of four sea cadets and their officer-instructor off the east end of Toronto waterfront.

The five youths died in chilly Lake Ontario waters after a 27-foot Royal Canadian Navy whaleboat capsized. Five other youths were rescued.

Harbor police are fringing the area for the body of 15-year-old George Page, missing and believed drowned.

Rhee Says U. S., Korea Should Quit Geneva

By ROBERT EUNSON

SEOUL (AP)—President Syngman Rhee said Monday the United States and South Korea should walk out of the Geneva conference at once.

"America is losing too much face every day," the South Korea president declared in an interview at the presidential mansion.

Rhee said he has not abandoned the idea of "the use of force or the threat of force" for the unification of Korea, the issue which the Geneva conference has been debating fruitlessly.

"The latter alternative is especially promising," Rhee continued. "It is obvious that the Soviet Union does not want and is not prepared for an all-out war at this time—and what the Soviet says is law for her minions."

Rhee urged anti-Communist nations to abandon "talk and appeasement" and tell the Reds to get out of Indo-China and Korea "or we shall fight you, using every weapon at our command and attacking every legitimate target."

REDS WOULD LISTEN

"I think," he said, "the Communists would heed such an ultimatum. Korea could then be unified and the war in Indo-China brought to an honorable conclusion."

The president said that if the Communists ignored the warning "we have no choice except to fight" in Korea, because otherwise the Communists "soon will have made the north into a colony of Red China."

Asked about reports he planned to recall Foreign Minister Pyun Yung Tai from Geneva, Rhee replied: "We are still trying to cooperate with the United States, but when we see nothing is being accomplished it may be useless to wait 90 days." Rhee had agreed to give the conference 90 days to try to work out unification before walking out of Geneva.

WET SPOT

World's wettest place is believed to be in Assam province of India, with a yearly average of more than 400 inches of rainfall.

The amendment was supported by Solon Low, Social Credit party leader, who said the persons affected by the bill were not sufficiently consulted.

Police Bill Passed By Jap Upper House

TOKYO (Reuters)—The upper house of the Japanese Diet passed Premier Shigeru Yoshida's controversial police bill, which led to a riot in the lower house last Thursday.

Socialist members boycotted Monday's vote, however, claiming that all parliamentary activity ceased at midnight Thursday.

They insist the bill to centralize Japan's police force threatens to make the country a police state by giving the prime minister power to appoint or dismiss the chief of the police board.

The Socialists have taken other extreme action to fight the bill. On Saturday, they locked the president and vice-president of the upper house in their rooms, to prevent the house from sitting to approve the bill. The same day, they boycotted a lower house meeting which voted to extend the Diet session for 10 days to speed passage of the bill.

POSTPONED TRAVEL PLANS

It was not known what effect Monday's vote will have on Yoshida's travel plans. He has already twice postponed a world tour to personally steer the bill through parliament.

Meanwhile, socialist members of parliament involved in the Thursday riots faced disciplinary action as the lower house steering committee urged formation of a "punishment committee" to study the

riots and recommend action. The motion, to be debated Wednesday, is aimed primarily against the 46 socialists whose efforts to fight an extension of the lower house session caused the riot in which more than 50 persons were injured.

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