

# In 1956 Parliament Sat Nearly 3/4 Working Time

By JOHN E. BIRD  
 OTTAWA (CP)—The business of Parliament in 1956 took up nearly three-quarters of the working year.

The government's legislative program was so heavy and debates so long and controversial that there were only 98 "working days" in the year when the Commons was not in session.

Parliament met twice in 1956, sitting a total of 185 days. It will meet again Jan. 8 for a brief, but short session preceding a general election in June.

**APPROACHED RECORD**

The regular session lasted 152 sitting days from Jan. 10 to Aug. 14, three days short of the 1903 record. The special session covered four days from Nov. 26 to 29 and was the shortest of its kind. A series of controversial government measures, particularly a bill to help finance a private company's \$375,000,000 venture to pipe Alberta natural gas to eastern Canada, was responsible for the length of the session.

The Progressive Conservative and CCF parties waged an unsuccessful three-week procedural battle to block the pipeline legislation. They raised repeated points of order after the government applied debate-limiting closure—for the first time since 1932—to have the legislation approved by a June 7 deadline.

There was near-riotous revolt against the chair's authority, with echoes which continued for the rest of the session. Speaker Rene Beaudin survived an unparalleled opposition motion of censure, later submitted his resignation under opposition fire and finally withdrew it at the request of Prime Minister St. Laurent.

The pipeline legislation granted a loan of up to \$80,000,000 to Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Ltd. for the prairie section of its Alberta-Montreal line. It also established a federal-Ontario crown corporation to build the \$115,000,000 Northern Ontario section, which is to be leased to Trans-Canada.

**SPECIAL SESSION**

The pipeline controversy ranked in drama with the debates at last month's special session, called to approve expenditures for Can-

ada's contribution, to the United Nations emergency force in the Middle East and to vote \$1,000,000 for Hungarian relief. It was the first special session since 1950, when Parliament was called to deal with the railway strike and vote funds for Canada's Korean contingent.

Early in the regular session, the government needed 12 days to get passage of a bill to authorize loans to prairie farmers unable to market grain because of jam-packed marketing channels in the fall of 1955.

The bill approved government action begun in November, 1955, to guarantee bank loans of up to \$1,500 at five-per-cent interest on farm-stored grain. All three opposition parties wanted the Canadian wheat board to provide interest-free cash advances.

The government, by order-in-council in October, extended the legislation for another year, enabling farmers to obtain loans until June 1, 1957.

There was no opposition to another bill to pay a year's storage charges on wheat carryovers in excess of 178,000,000 bushels at the Aug. 1 start of each crop year. It meant a \$32,000,000 payment for the 1955-56 year.

**TRADE WITH RUSSIA**

Parliament also approved Canada's first trade agreement with Russia under which the Soviets agreed to buy a minimum 44,000,000 bushels of wheat over a three-year period. Canada put Russian imports on the same tariff basis as those from the United States and other countries having trade agreements with this country.

Finance Minister Harris March 20 budget contained no tax relief for the average Canadian. It sniped a small \$12,000,000 from government income by freeing a scattering of special-use goods from the 10-per-cent sales tax. It forecast a peacetime record of \$4,650,000,000 in spending and a \$113,000,000 surplus for the year ending next March 31.

The most controversial change in the budget was a new excise tax of 20 per cent on gross advertising revenues of special Canadian editions of foreign magazines—those carrying Canadian

advertisements not appearing in the magazine's domestic edition. It is scheduled to take effect Jan. 1.

New federal tax-sharing proposals to the provinces were approved to become effective next April 1. They provide for deductions of 10 per cent of the federal personal income tax, nine per cent of corporation income and 50 per cent of succession duties to cover provincial taxing in those fields.

The plan also provides unconditional share-the-wealth equalization payments to less-wealthy provinces and stabilization guarantees for provincial revenues.

Ottawa's commitment to the trans-Canada highway program was raised from \$150,000,000 to \$250,000,000. The 50-50 cost-sharing arrangement with the provinces was continued to the end of 1960, and Ottawa agreed to pay 90 per cent of the cost of selected gaps totalling 10 per cent of the road's mileage in each province.

**OTHER LEGISLATION**

Other new laws involved:

1. A change in the National Housing Act to allow slum areas cleared with federal help to be sold for commercial and industrial use, instead of being restricted to low-rental housing or public use.
2. Widening of federal control over interest rates on small loans to cover borrowings up to \$5,500 instead of \$500.
3. Federal payment of half of the provincial unemployment relief costs when unemployment in a province exceeds .45 per cent of its population.
4. Extension of unemployment insurance to fishermen.
5. Equal wages for women doing the same work as men in industries under federal labor jurisdiction.
6. Provision that applications for leave to appeal death sentences to the Supreme Court of Canada must go before five judges, instead of one.
7. Continuation for another two years of the powers of the federal transport controller.
8. Extension to the end of 1958 of cost-aid subsidies to gold mines.



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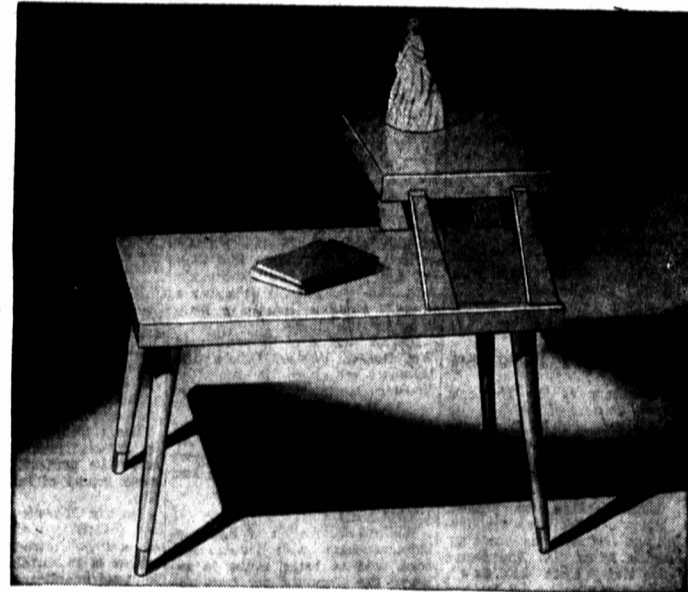
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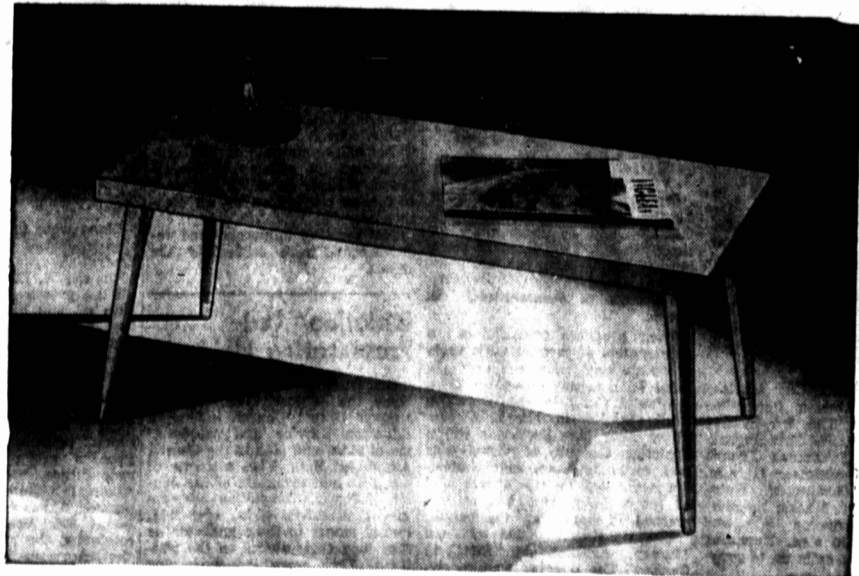
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## Movie Goers In Communist China Like Plenty Of Action

By DAVID LANCASHIRE  
 CHANGCHUM, China (AP)—The big Mongolian slumped back in his seat, munched thoughtfully on a roll of saimi, and followed Gina Lollobrigida on the movie screen.

The Mongolian was one of thousands of Chinese who file into movie houses from morning until night. But they like action and not women. Gina gets in the way of sword fights.

Movie audiences here will watch anything the management sees fit to project onto the bedsheet screen. They line up for hours to do so. Just where the all day crowds come from in a country where unemployment is supposedly very small is hard to say.

They hold their money in one hand and a bit of cold steamed bread in the other, to sustain them through the picture.

**RUSSIANS RESPECTED**

Down the street from my hotel where the movie house and a life-sized color portrait of Miss Lollobrigida, in glorious contrast to the women in the street, in their baggy boilersuits.

My interpreter booked two seats—at 10 cents each—for the 7 p.m. performance.

So had 1,100 other people, who were storming the narrow doorway and trampling the ticket collector. My interpreter shouted "Soulien, Soulien," which means "Russian, Russian."

A path to the lobby was cleared before you could say tovarish. The fact that I am Canadian and not Russian had nothing to do with it.

"The places are reserved," said the interpreter as he crawled down the aisle on his hands and knees looking at the seat backs. The screen was a cotton sheet about eight feet square, tucked between two loudspeakers which supplied the sound track and sundry announcements.

"Sit down comrades, and be sure you're in the right seat," the loudspeaker squawked. "The picture will begin soon."

**MAO COMES FIRST**

Somewhere in the building an electric bell jangled, the lights snapped out and Mao Tze-tung appeared on the screen like a master of ceremonies.

It was a newsreel. Mao took part in every event except a ceremony involving a model lathe operator and the opening of a Russian public school.

The picture was a French movie. It was written in France, produced and directed and filmed in France with French actors and an Italian heroine. But the voices all came out Chinese.

Louis XV appeared on the steps of Versailles and mumbled a few words of M a n d a r i n. Cannon started blasting almost immediately. This pleased the audience.

As the smoke cleared, Gina undulated into focus to the accompaniment of a hoarse gasp from the crowd.

"Of course, we would never permit costumes like that here," said the interpreter, gulping at the noise. "But it's her national dress. I suppose, so it's all right."

**APPLAUSE MOUNTS**

Through the mushier parts of the picture, the crowd chanted number seeds, spit on the floor, talked to each other and wandered back to the lobby for more bread. But the action brought cheers like those of children at a Saturday matinee.

As the hero drew his sword and leaped to the roof, there were cries of lusty approval, stomping of feet and even louder spitting.

Babbling furiously in Chinese, he dispatched one opponent after another. The applause mounted.

After eight reels of beating around the bush, the Frenchman rumbled a few tender words into Gina's ear and kissed her. The silence was broken only by the chewing of bread and spitting of sunflower seeds.

Louis XV's last few words in Chinese were drowned out by the bell, and the audience stampeded into the street. Within 30 seconds the theatre was empty and the new crowd was streaming in.

"A fine picture," the interpreter sighed. "This exchange of culture between our countries brings us so much closer together."

**ALL FOR EDUCATION**

One of China's two movie making centres is in this city. The studio is called a film factory—and it works on a five-year plan.

I visited a set where a group was shooting a dressed up propaganda picture about the co-operative movement.

A 20-year-old actress named Pi Lei-tung said: "I earn 62 yuan (about \$27) a month. Of course, through bonuses and merit awards I can make up to 142 yuan in months when my work is good.

"I don't work for money, but to contribute to the state," she said. "Acting should be educational, a means of explaining life to the people.

"Entertainment? That is important sometimes, but the picture must have a meaning or making it would be a waste of time."

(Tomorrow—A visit with a government office worker)

**Margate W. M. S. Held Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the W. M. S. was held at the home of Mrs. Wilbur and Reggie Dennis. Mrs. John Johnson was leader for the Christmas program from the Missionary Monthly assisted by Miss Ella Smith, Mrs. Keith Warren, Mrs. Ralph Howard, Mrs. E. J. Glydon, Mrs. Harold Woodside, Mrs. P. Woodside and Mrs. Charles Dennis.

The Christmas Carols were sung by Mrs. H. Mayhew and Mrs. Arthur Proffit. A letter was read by Mrs. Glydon from the Presbyterial to be held in Summerside Trinity Church in January, also correspondence about the vacancies in the executive officers. A committee was appointed to send in names.

A letter of thanks was read from Mrs. S.H. Haslam in reply to sympathy that had been extended to her from the W. M. S.

It was decided for the Baby Band to meet in the vestry on Thursday at 2 p.m. Next meeting of the W. M. S. will be at the home of Mrs. A. Proffit. Worship to be taken by Mrs. S. Sharp and the Study Book by Mrs. A. Proffit. Sick calls were reported. Mrs. Harold Woodside is to visit the Mission Band in January. Three new members were added to the roll call.

The election of officers followed. President, Mrs. Wilbur Dennis, vice president, Mrs. Hoash Mayhew, treasurer, Mrs. John Johnson, recording secretary, Miss S. son; correspondence secretary, Mrs. E. J. Glydon; Mission Band leaders, Mrs. H. Mayhew and Mrs. Keith Warren, Baby Band Leader, Mrs. Arthur Proffit. Prayer for our missionary, Mrs. W. Dennis, Mizpah benediction by all. Lunch was served by the committee in charge.

## Rennie's Road W. I. Held Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Rennie's Road Women's Institute was held on Nov. 14th, at the school. The president, Mrs. G. Matheson presided. Meeting opened with Ode, followed by the Creed in unison. Roll call was answered by ten members. There was two visitors present.

Minutes of last regular and last annual meetings were read and adopted. The president thanked all who helped make the meetings a success during the year.

It was decided to invite Hunter River W.I. members to a Social at Mrs. J. Craswell's on Friday evening, Nov. 23rd.

Committees gave their reports. And new ones were appointed. Lunch, Mrs. John Craswell, Mrs. Thomas Jans, and Mrs. Gordon Matheson. Roll call, Exchange of Christmas gifts. Program, Mrs. James MacDonald. Place of Meeting, School.

The following officers were appointed for the coming year: President, Mrs. Harry Smith, vice-president, Mrs. Gordon Matheson, son, secretary, treasurer, Mrs. Fred Smith, Auditors, Mrs. Don Bulman, Mrs. J. Craswell.

Meeting closed with the National Anthem, Lunch was served.

**MEADOWBANK SCHOOL**

Following is the report for the month of November of Meadow Bank School.

Grade 8. 1. Jean MacPhail 2. Eleanor Hyde.

Grade 7. 1. Wendell Hyde 2. Bryon Clow.

Grade 6. 1. Wilma Hyde 2. Sharon MacLean 3. David Yeo.

Grade 5. 1. Joanne MacFadyen 2. Lena Dolron 3. Junior Clow.

Grade 4. 1. Edward MacFadyen 2. Doris Hyde.

Grade 3. 1. Harvey Hyde 2. Clifford Dolron 3. John Yeo.

Grade 2. 1. Millard Clow 2. Loretta MacLean 3. Teddy Smith.

Grade 1. 1. Betty Yeo 2. Brian Smith.

Highest average for senior grades, Wendell Hyde 84 per cent.

Highest average for junior grades Millard Clow, 90 per cent.

Teacher: Roma Sherran.

**HUNTER RIVER SCHOOL**

The following is the report for November:

Grade 10a. 1. Kathryn Bowman 2. Phyllis Craswell 3. June Ford.

Grade 10b. 1. Mary LeClair 2. Kaye Burns 3. Albert Bernard.

Grade 8. 1. George Boyle 2. Leona Clow 3. Wayne MacMillan.

Grade 7. 1. Sandra MacKay 1. Carl Bagnall and Donald Cousins (equal). 3. Bernadette Leclair.

Grade 6. 1. Flora MacLean 2. Garth Carew 3. Joyce Bagnall.

Principal: Mary MacKay.

Grade 5. 1. Audrey Bolger and Wendell Boyle, (equal) 2. Roma Bagnall 3. Wendell Smith.

Grade 4. 1. Margie Smith 2. Dorothy MacLean 3. Sheila Bernard.

Grade 3. 1. David MacLean 2. Heather Newman 3. Alta Bernard.

Grade 2. 1. Marilyn Carew 2. Patricia Proctor 3. Delight Bernard and Russel Bernard.

Grade 1. 1. Beryl Carew 2. Marjell Boyle and Mary Andrews (equal). 3. Kent Smith.

Grade 1b. 1. Brian Ellis 2. Wendy Lee Burns 3. Jimmie MacMillan.

Assistant teacher: Cecilia McQuaid.

**BOYCOTT JAMBOREE**

**DAMASCUS (Reuters)**—The Syrian Boy Scout League has decided to boycott the world scout jamboree in Britain next February. It was announced Wednesday. Other Arab scout organizations are expected to follow suit.