



4-H CLUB CHAMP BRINGS 40 CENTS

Leo McIsaac, Sunny Isle Farms, Charlottetown paid 40 cents per pound for the 4-H Club champion at the Easter Beef Show and sale. The An-

nus steer was owned by Mack Dixon who is at the halter. Mack was the top showman in the competition among 4-H club members which was judged

by Stewart Eagles, Canada department of agriculture, Moncton and Dave MacLean, Farm Credit Corporation, Charlottetown.

Longest Commons Session Seen Among Most Exciting

By JAMES NELSON

OTTAWA (CP)—The longest and one of the most exciting sessions of Parliament passed into history Friday. Monday Senate and Commons come back after a weekend break to start afresh.

The 1964 session, which spilled over into the fourth month of 1965, gave Canada a distinctive national flag but only after long, emotional debate.

At times, its deliberations were overshadowed by a related event—the Dorion judicial inquiry into accusations of attempted bribery and influence-peddling against ministerial aides.

It took a long step in social security, setting up a wages-related contributory pensions scheme that won approval only after painstaking examination.

The session began Feb. 18, 1964, and sat with no break longer than a weekend, until Dec. 18 when it recessed for two months, returning on Feb. 16.

It sat for a total of 248 days, far surpassing the previous record of 174 sitting days for the 1960-61 session when the Conservatives under John Diefenbaker held office with a commanding majority in the 265-seat House.

Moments of crisis were frequent in the fractious Commons, with the opposition parties exerting pressure after pressure on the minority Liberal government under Prime Minister Pearson. Yet every time the chips were down for a vote involving confidence and the government's life, the Liberals won enough opposition support to survive.

year ago when military authorities rounded up ancient training rifles from the cadet corps at Ashbury College in post, suburban Rockcliffe to keep them from the hands of Quebec terrorists after armory raids in Quebec.

Erik Nielsen, Conservative MP for the Yukon, provided the shock with his accusations Nov. 23 of attempted bribery and coercion by ministerial assistants in the case of Lucien Rivard, then held in Montreal's Boreaux Jail for extradition to the U.S. on narcotics conspiracy charges.

BRIBE OFFERED. Mr. Nielsen charged that Raymond Denis, executive assistant to then immigration minister Tremblay, offered a \$20,000 bribe to Pierre Lamontagne, Montreal lawyer and counsel for the U.S. government in the case, not to oppose bail for Rivard. His coercion allegations involved Guy Lord and Andre Letendre, assistants to Justice Minister Favreau.

The accusations set off a week-long Commons storm, quietened only when the government set up the judicial inquiry under Chief Justice Frederic Dornon of the Quebec Superior Court.

The inquiry goes into its closing stages this week with argument by counsel scheduled for hearings opening in Quebec City Monday. It is generally felt that the report may not be ready until near the end of May.

The opposition accused the government of negligence in a one-day emergency debate March 3, the day after Rivard added a startling turn to the case by escaping from jail. He is still at large.

CHALKS UP EFFORTS. Despite the tumultuous nature of the session, the minority government laid claim to solid legislative achievements. Before the Christmas recess

Parliament not only adopted a flag, it also approved such major legislation as: Redistribution of federal electoral constituencies by independent commissions; interest-free bank loans for university students; \$10 monthly allowances for youths 16 and 17 who remain in school; the Columbia River power treaty with the U.S.; establishment of a 12-mile fishing limit.

After its return for the resumed session this year, it cleaned up the Canada Pensions Plan, established a national labor code providing for a 40-hour week and a \$1.25-an-hour minimum wage, and approved a formula under which a province can be compensated for going its independent way on federal-provincial shared-cost programs.

TABLES ESTIMATES. Even before the session ended Finance Minister Gordon was moving ahead into the new fiscal year and Prime Minister Pearson spoke of parliamentary work going on under his administration for another year or more.

Mr. Gordon took the initial budgetary step by tabling main spending estimates for 1965-66 totalling \$8,304,727,432 and was well into preparations for the budget to be presented soon after Easter. Initial spending estimates for 1964-65, tabled a year earlier in the same session totalled \$7,585,513,408.

In the last few weeks of sittings little if anything was said about the big issue which held the lawmakers at their desks last summer—the choice of a distinctive Canadian flag design.

This, the most emotion-charged debate since the conscription issues in the First and Second World Wars, saw 22 days spent discussing the government's proposal for a flag showing three red maple leaves

on a white ground and a blue bar on each side. The stalemate issue, then was referred to a 15-member, all-party Commons committee which met secretly for seven weeks and recommended a flag with a single maple leaf and red bars. Conservative Leader Diefenbaker rejected it and most of his followers outside Quebec continued to fight for retention of the Canadian Red Ensign.

At 2:13 a.m. on Dec. 15, after another 11 days debate, the Commons voted 153 to 78 to adopt the new flag recommended by the committee. To bring the issue to a vote, the government imposed closure in line with a suggestion of Leon Balcer (PC—Trois-Rivieres), Conservative leader in Quebec.

REFUSES TO LOOK. The new flag was officially raised for the first time on Parliament Hill on Feb. 15. Mr. Diefenbaker attended the ceremony but declined an invitation to speak. He stolidly refused to look at the new flag, some report he wept.

The next day the session resumed and concentrated attention on the Canada Pension Plan. E. J. Benson, revenue minister appointed last June to succeed the late John Garland, competently carried the load of piloting the technical financial provisions, while Health Minister Judy LaMarsh spoke on its social security aspects.

While Mr. Benson smoothly deflected opposition feathers, Miss LaMarsh seemed to keep them constantly disturbed by acid political comments. At the end she said it was only natural that she should display a mother's pride in her offspring.

The final Commons vote came on Monday night, March 29, and the plan won approval by 159 votes to 12.

The plan calls for contributions to start next Jan. 1 and the first benefits to be paid out a year later. For contributions of 3.6 of income—half paid by employees and half by employers—persons will qualify at age 65 for a pension of about one-quarter of earnings. Contributions are required on annual earnings ranging from a low of \$600 to a maximum of the first \$5,000.

Self-employed persons must pay the entire 3.6-per-cent contribution and enter the plan when they earn more than \$300 a year.

PLUS PENSION. The maximum benefit is \$104.17 a year, to be reached by 1976, plus \$75 monthly old age security pension, now paid to all at age 70. The qualifying age for old age security is being lowered one year annually until it will be available to all age 65 by 1970.

When the session finally ended, major legislation forecast in the speech—from the throne 13½ months earlier had been passed with five exceptions: Revision of railway legislation, new taxes and tariffs on foreign periodicals, retirement of senators at age 75, and establishment of new cabinet portfolios of rural development and treasury.

Legislation not forecast in the throne speech but introduced and left to die on the order paper at the session's end included the 10-year revision of the Bank Act, changes in first-class mail rates, recognition of O Canada as the national anthem and God Save the Queen as the royal anthem of Canada. This left-over work is expected

to be submitted again in the new session. Some issues for the new session already are becoming apparent. French-speaking MPs stepped up their demands for equal treatment, seeking simultaneous publication of English and French records of Commons committee work and further recognition of Quebec's status in Confederation.

Also ahead is the projected constitutional amendment which would transfer to Ottawa from London the power to change Canada's constitution. The groundwork was laid in federal-provincial talks last fall and in a white paper March 2 which asserted that no province could carve out a special niche for itself if the British North America Act is brought under Canadian jurisdiction.

Opposition Leader Diefenbaker, who survived a Quebec challenge to his continued leadership of the Conservatives,

celebrated his 25th anniversary as an MP March 26 with four other MPs: George McIlraith (L—Ottawa West), president of the Privy Council and government House leader; L. Elston Cardiff (PC—Huron); George E. Nixon (L—Algoma West) and Raymond Eudes (L—Montreal Hochelaga).

Campaigning daily for the office of prime minister, Mr. Diefenbaker appears confident an early general election will return him to power. He called on his party's followers to stop

fighting among themselves and start fighting the Liberals. A combined vote of all opposition parties against the government on a confidence issue could force a general election.

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New Lace Fabric
The dressy spring dress has a lacy look. This new lace fabric is shown with a laminated nylon-tricot back. The design is a cluny type all over pattern and is shown in pastel pink and yellow, about 36" wide.
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Lace is one of this season's more popular fabrics. It is made of a medium weight fine quality imported cotton with an all over delicate open weave. Beautifully outlined when worn over pastel toned taffeta, about 45" wide.
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yd. 5.98



FLAG DRAPES DEAD VIETNAMESE SOLDIER

A Vietnamese company commander covers the body of his sergeant who was killed in a bitter battle with the Viet Cong. The shroud is the national flag of their country for which they are fighting, with American assistance. (AP Wirephoto)

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