

# Small "Houses" Plaguing Moscow Shows

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Soviet theatres, for perhaps the first time in their existence, are having to face a problem which most plagues Western theatres - half-empty houses.

Conferences have been held to discuss the situation, with writers, producers, actors and high officials of the ministry of culture and Communist party participating. Running through the speeches and debates at these conferences has been one main thread of criticism - the absence of modern plays and the dullness of the few that are written.

The Literary Gazette disclosed that the manager of the Moscow Arts Theatre, one of the capital's oldest and best, has been resorting to an almost "capitalist" device to sell his tickets. He advertised that tickets could be ordered by telephone and delivered to the appropriate address without extra charge. In the Soviet Union, that is new.

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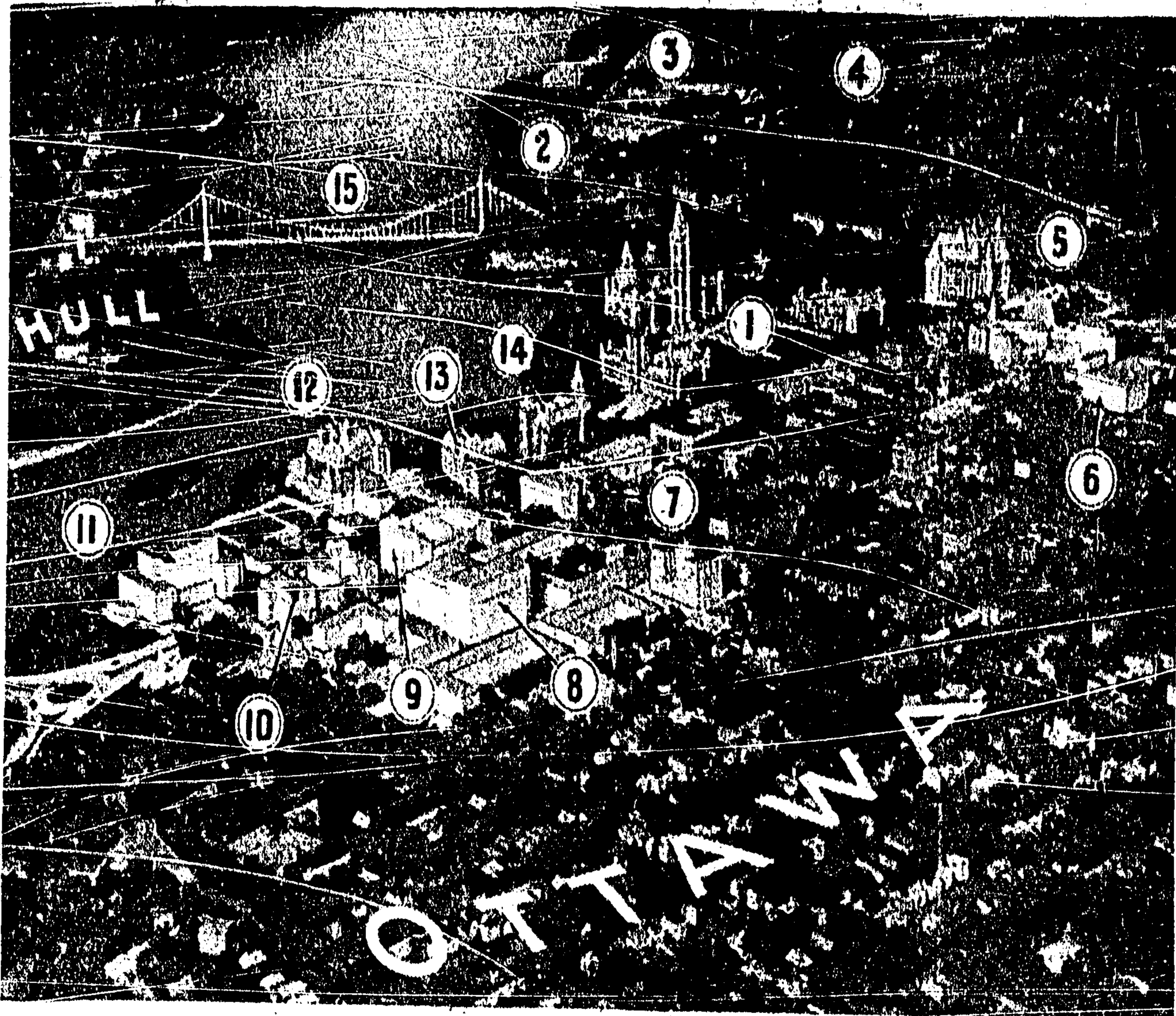
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"GOVERNMENT ROW", as Ottawa's Wellington street west of Parliament Hill is known, is undergoing a gradual transformation as the Master Plan for the development of the National Capital is carried out. This latest photo of the Federal District Commission's scale model of the Capital of the future shows the final development plan for the area. Lightly shaded buildings and projects are those proposed when the Plan got under way ten years ago. (1) Parliament Hill; (2) National Research Council, fronting on newly rebuilt Sussex Drive; (3) 24 Sussex Drive, official residence of Canada's Prime Ministers; (4) Government House; (5) Confederation Square and National War Memorial; (6) Temporary National Art Gallery building, to be constructed immediately to provide safe accommodation for the National art collection until Cartier Square, now occupied by temporary

wartime buildings housing Defence Headquarters, becomes available for a permanent National Gallery Building. The temporary Gallery building will then become a departmental office building; (7) Bank of Canada, flanked by proposed office buildings; (8) Proposed National Auditorium; (9) and (10) Veterans Memorial Buildings. The East Memorial Building (9) is completed and occupied by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The West Memorial Building (10), which will house the Department of Trade and Commerce, is under construction; (11) The new National Library, construction of which is expected to begin in 1956; (12) The Supreme Court; (13) Justice Building; (14) Confederation Building; (15) Proposed new Interprovincial bridge to replace present Ottawa-Hull span.

## THE BOOK CORNER

### Writers See Mackenzie King As "Thoroughly Two-Faced"

By CHARLES BRUCE  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO (C) - Two western Canadian historians have come up with a review of Mackenzie King's early years. In it they voice their personal conclusion that his tactics were "the kind of conduct which in the long run discredits parliamentary democracy."

The authors are H. S. Ferns of Calgary and Bernard Ostry of Wadena, Sask. Both were educated at the University of Manitoba and now are connected with the University of Birmingham. Dr. Ferns is a senior lecturer in modern history and government. Mr. Ostry is a research associate in the faculty of commerce and social science.

They describe their book, "The Age of Mackenzie King," subtitled "The Rise of The Leader," not as a definitive study but as "an essay contributed to a public discussion of the thoughts and policies of a man who reflected and in some measure

shaped the character of Canadian society." It is published by The book gives evidence of considerable delving into official documents, but loses impact, for the reader interested in objective fact, by reason of the sarcasm with which the authors have seen fit to treat not only their central subject but nearly everyone else.

One theme of the book is that Mackenzie King knew, superlatively well, the order of importance of the problems peculiar to Canadian politics. Another is that in the application of his knowledge to the business of attaining personal power he was rather thoroughly two-faced.

The principal subject they use to illustrate this thesis is labor relations. Of King's friendship for labor they say:

"He consistently advocated legislation directed to strengthening the state's power to investigate labor disputes, to compel arbitration and conciliation, and by this device to blunt the ultimate weapon possessed by the wage-earners, (i.e.) the power to withhold their labor."

One example cited is the Grand Trunk strike of 1910, when King was deputy minister of labor. "For the Grand Trunk workers he had fine words which won him a free hand to fight for them. As a result many of them lost their jobs and their pensions."

Of this episode they add: "Much attention - too much - has been paid to reciprocal free trade with the United States as the issue which defeated Laurier's government. The loss of initiative and the breakdown of popular confidence, which appears to date from the Grand Trunk strike, were the real beginnings of the break-up of Laurier's regime."

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### "Good Listening" Opens Treasure House of Music

"GOOD LISTENING" by R. D. DARRELL  
(Alfred A. Knopf Inc., New York)

Reviewed by TONY JAMES

Surely one of the happier achievements of modern science is that for the price of a few hundred dollars we can now fill our homes with music like of which could hardly have been commanded by princes a few generations ago.

The most exciting developments in this musical revolution have only taken place in the last ten years with the coming of the long play record and of high-fidelity sound equipment. These together now make it possible for us to hear recorded music of a quality very closely approaching the richness and fullness of the original performance. One result of this is that ever larger numbers of us are being drawn to music without possessing much background knowledge and without having any of the musical skills such as being able to read a score or play an instrument. We have in our hands, as it were, the key of the great treasure house of music but all too often we do not know quite what to do when we have unlocked the door. For those who find themselves in that position, and indeed for all music lovers, may I recommend "Good Listening" by R. D. Darrell.

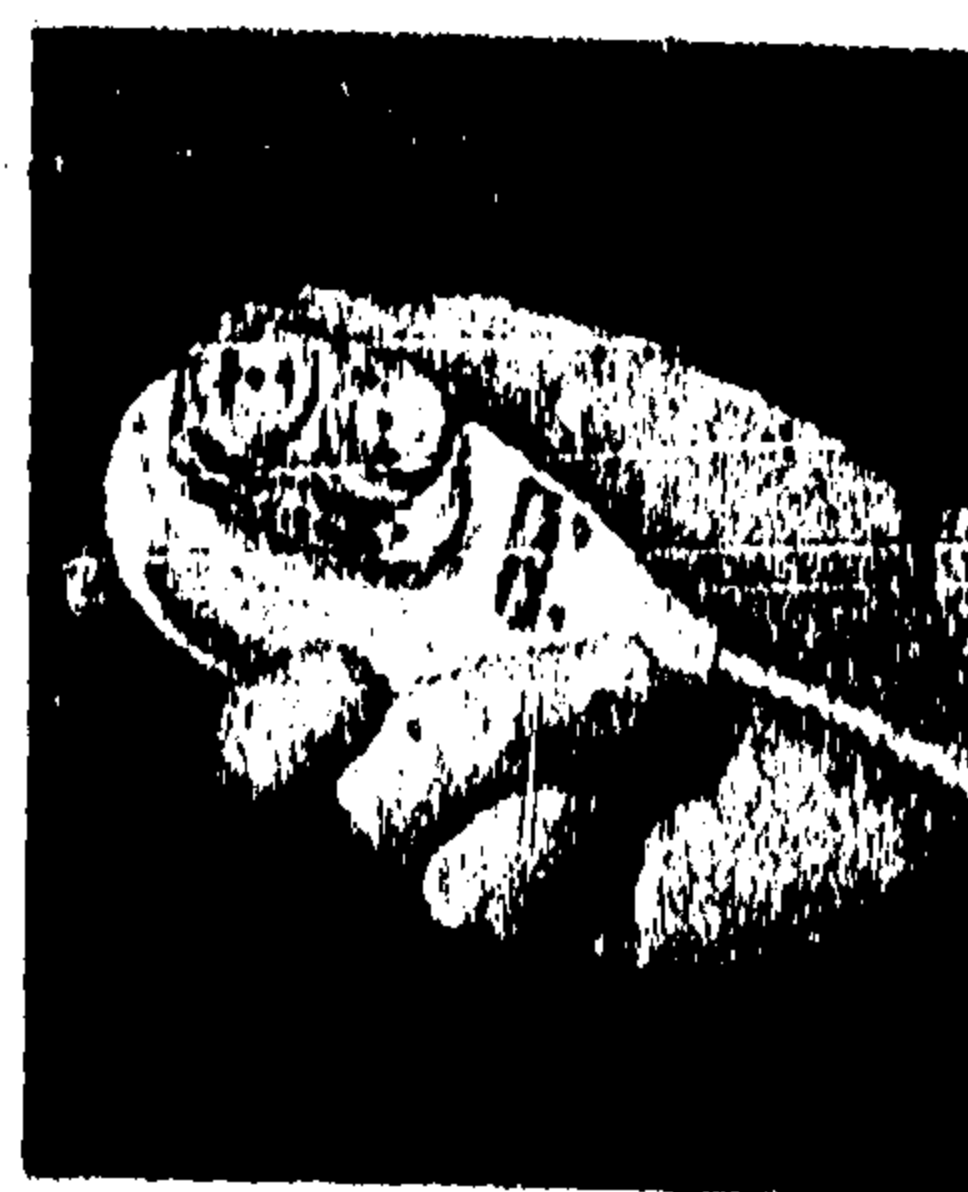
"Good Listening" is written primarily for the record collector and radio listener, and is a delightful introduction to the pleasures of music appreciation. Written in clear vivid English with humor, imagination, and considerable psychological insight, this book leaves the reader looking out over the broad panorama of the world of music set within its context of ever-changing times and tastes.

The book is divided into four logical parts. In the first part the author, after a short general discussion of music appreciation, begins with some of the best known compositions - the "great tunes" and classical "hits" - and goes on to show the reader how he can widen and enlarge his musical horizons.

The second comprises a brilliant survey of the history of music and the development of different forms through the years.

In the next part of the book, called "One World: many man-

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## Shrum, Soward Named Deans At University

VANCOUVER - Two of the University of British Columbia's most outstanding faculty members, Dr. Gordon M. Shrum and Dr. F. H. Soward, have been appointed deans, President N. A. MacKenzie announced today.

Dr. Shrum, who has been head of UBC's physics department since 1938 and is Director of the B.C. Research Council, has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Professor Soward, university historian, head of the history department and director of international studies, has been appointed Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

They will assume their new duties July 1. Retiring dean of graduate studies, Dr. Henry F. Angus will continue with the university in a lecturing and advisory capacity in addition to his new duties as Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission.

High praise for both Dr. Shrum and Prof. Soward was given by President MacKenzie in announcing the appointments.

"I feel that the University of B.C. is most fortunate in having distinguished and able men like Dr. Shrum and Prof. Soward for appointment to senior academic and administrative posts. They are known and respected across Canada and throughout the world for their scholarship, their ability and their practical common sense."

They will in their own ways do much to carry on the traditions and continue the work that Dean Angus has so well founded. This joint appointment has been made because of the expanding work in graduate studies and because we feel that for the time being it is desirable to have the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural and physical sciences well represented at this level of administration."

## HISTORIC CASTLE

The fortress of the Dukes of Coburg in Germany, now a museum, dates from the 10th century.

Prince Rupert Daily News  
Thursday, December 20, 1955  
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