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### Thursday To Tuesday

HEN the last general election destroyed the imbalance from which the Canadian Parliament had suffered for so long there was some expectation that members would be persuaded by circumstances to stick more diligently to their job, the first obligation of which is to attend the sittings of the House. With the government's control so precariously poised it might have been thought that nothing but serious 'illness or some other emergency would keep parliamentarians away from their duties, and that the Thursday-to-Tuesday weekends which had drawn so many public rebukes hither to would become a thing of the past.

Not so. From attendance records at the approach of weekends during the current session it is clear that a large majority of the MPs still place their own personal pursuits and convenience ahead of public duty as soon as the House has risen on Thursdays. By the next day they have scattered in all directions from Ottada, most of them to return not on Monday but on Tuesday, which means that their work so far as the House itself is concerned consists. of being in their places for only three days out of the whole week.

On a recent Friday the House of Commons was all but empty when the business of the day was begun. On hand was a mere sprinkling of 36 members of all parties out of a potential 265. No doubt many were legitimately absent, with sickness prevalent at this time of year, but there can be little doubt that more had simply pushed off for their homes, which the speed of air travel has made so much more accessible in recent years. It is a reproach to the absentees also than on that particular Friday the House was discussing the amendments to old-age pensions. The long weekenders evidently regarded their pleasure as being of greater importance.

The political insincerity of the Liberals. of course, is partly to blame for this continuation of a bad practice. Ever ready to snap and snarl but never to bite, they have made it plain that the government during this session need not fear defeat in a sudden division at a time of numerical weakness in the House.

-Victoria Colonist.



RUSSIAN TRADE MISSION -- Chairman of a Russian trade mission visiting Canada is T. T. Ivanov (left). He is shown here with M. A. Chikmarev, one of the eight other members, (CP Photo) during a stop in Montreal.





#### Send Back Those Books

OTTAWA—The Toronto public library has come up with an ingenious scheme to get back the 8300 books which borrowers have failed to return in the past two

big boxes located at each library to himself (or more probably branch where the borrowers may herself) why should I return this return the books anonymously, book to that old so-and-so for h

fines to be paid. The idea is based on the theory that not very many people are THE Scots have a fine old cus- INTERPRETING THE NEWS really deliberate books thieves. friend—fully intending to give it | That is to be sure to return all back. But time slips by, the book | borrowed articles before the gets mislaid, or let in some out dawn of the new year. of the way corner. Finally when

ashamed to send it back. ing failed to return the book may | those bells ring out the old and have piled up to fantastic ring in the new year?

gress" by John Strachey. Of course I did what all other eracy—which was one of turned the volume ages and ages tory of the human race. beforehand.

books, she would not have be-the shuffle. lieved me had I sworn on a So this is just to say that I stack of bibles.

that I really had returned the look inside the front cover. shelves, just in case.

couldn't find the missing need it in my business. volume anywhere. But how could And if you do-whoever you one else?

| book may have been re-loaned, out on her.

seeing some other name than For a brief period there will be mine in the fly leaf, had not said with no questions asked, and no didn't belong to him in the first

tom, which I always try to

Which suddenly gives me an it does turn up after months, or idea for a really original Christeven years, the borrower is mas card. Why not a polite card | reminding all those delinquent' the accumulated "fines" for hav- the books they owe you before

ALL joking aside, unreturned NOT long ago a Vancouver lady books are not always a laughfriend buttonholed me and ing matter. I once owned a book demanded the return of a book which was precious to me, as a called "Programme For Pro-gave the whole history of the origin of the Six Nations Confeddo—swore blind that I had re-statesmanship in the whole his-

can't quite remember now The lady had to pretend to who borrowed that book from take my word for it, but I could me, only that it was re-loaned, see by the cold look in her eye and re-re-loaned through sevthat, when it came to borrowed eral hands, until it got lost in

hope whoever now has that book | But Bulganin sounds like the countries would be dragged into Nor could I say I blamed her, called "The Indian as a Peace-preacher who was "against sin." nuclear war by unilateral Am-For although I was pretty sure maker" by Mable Powers will He makes such proposals as one erican action from French or book years earlier, I went home my name is still there, stamped and searched all our book in indelible ink, please, please send that book back to me, as I

I prove that one or other of my are-I swear by all the gods that big-hearted offspring had not in I will make still yet another turn loaned that book to some search of my bookshelves and cupboards to try to locate that And how do I know that the Strachey book which a suspicperson to whom that borrowed ious lady suspects I am holding

### U.S. Economic Picture Good Despite Increase in Jobless

BY WALTER BREADE Jr. NEW YORK 32 - Businessmen viewing the U.S. economic are fears that the meeting may picture from all angles could reach one comforting conclusion be a flop in the face of historic this week. It probably wasn't as bad as it looked.

Unemployment had passed the 3,000,000 mark—and was still 1956 week but this seemed to be Prime Minister Macmillan o

strikes throttled Christmas busi- ward because of lower than ex- unthinkable even 10 years ago, ness in Toledo, Pittsburgh, Los pected sales. last year's record totals.

Activity in mines, mills and per cent. factories was down—and in this i, sector of the economy there was scant hope of improvement for

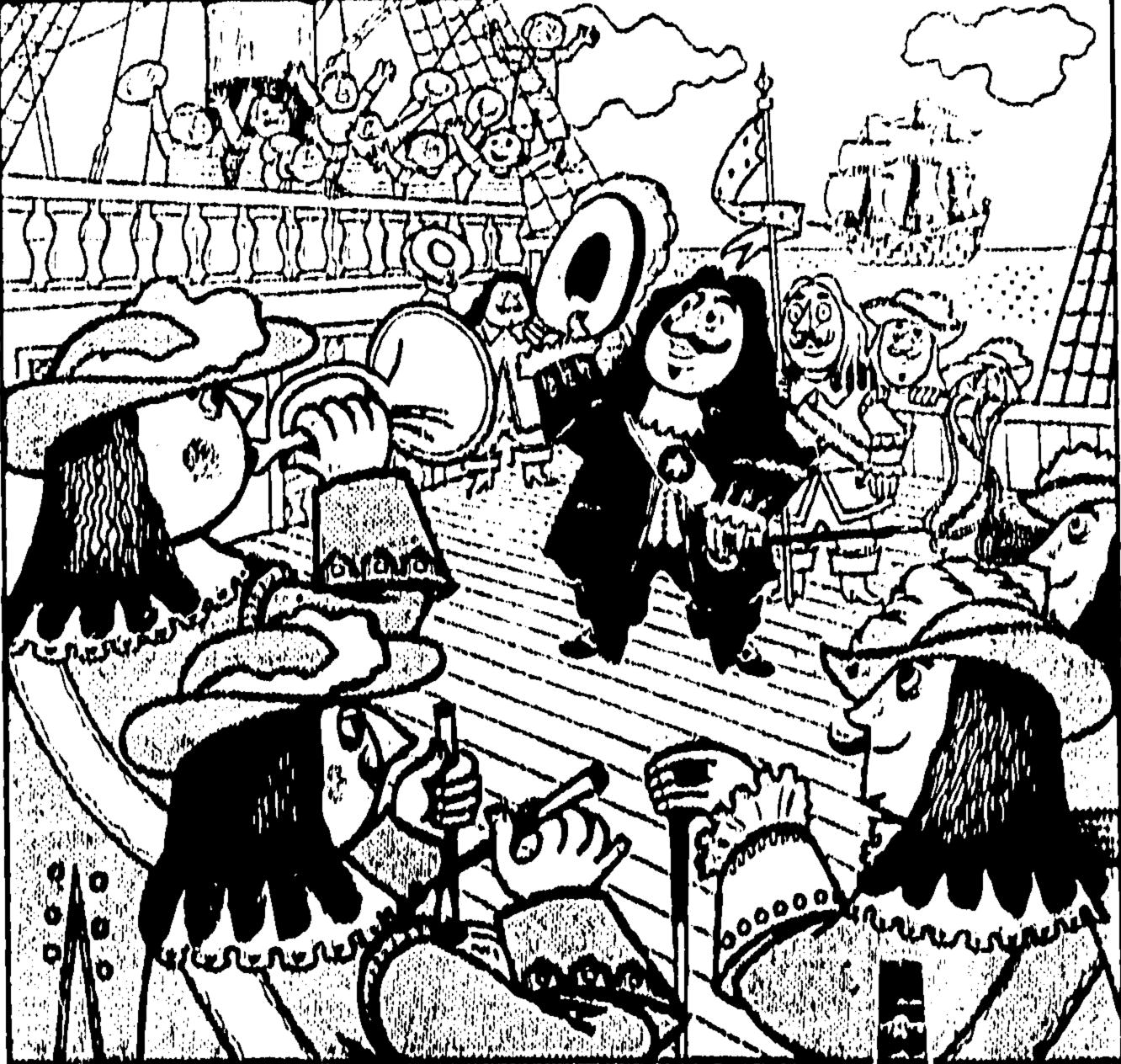
year by 29 per cent. Production They borrowed so much money of crude oil was down live per for factories, office buildings, recent, soft coal 14½ per cent and paperboard 6.2 per cent.

AUTOS SPURT AHEAD cent gain over the comparable loans became "tight,"

growing. But nearly 65,000,000 little more than a brief flareup. Britain has indicated to the Americans still had paying jobs. Detroit sources said production House of Commons just how Christmas retail sales were schedules for the next 3½ great these changes are. In 2 down from last year. Transit months had been revised down-statement that would have been

Angeles and New York. Even so,: Railroad carloadings in the Parliament that he will not sur-Angeles and New York. Even so, I tallifold out to the source of Britain's and Country of the source of the source of Britain's and Country of the source of Britain's and Country of the source of the s frenzied 11th hour shopping cent from a year ago, cheque national reorganization. \_department store sales down five 🔯

Government economists also forecast a reversal of the long upward trend in business spend-\* ing. Since early 1955 business firms have been spending heav-Steel production trailed last ily on new plant and equipment. fineries, machine tools, warehouses and other facilities that funds available for home mort-Auto output scored a 6½ per gages and short-term business.



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ROYAL GREETING - The Christmas card of Governor-General Massey this year bears a photo taken during the Queen's visit to Ottawa in October. The photo shows Mr. Massey's dog Buff carrying the Queen's purse as the Queen, Prince Philip and Mr. Massey strolled at Government House.

## brary on exactly the same basis ancestry happens to be upperast bright fully intending to the year. Pressures, Propaganda Grow

By JOSEPH MacSWEEN Canadian Press Staff Writer Grinding pressures are building up as the deadline nears for 000,000 visitors from overseas In the case of library books book returners to send back all the NATO summit meeting in Paris. Soviet Premier Bulganin, in

shooting off letters to the heads of NATO governments, obviously shown vividly how important the hopes for propaganada advan- meeting is by his decision to attages by confusing the thinking tend despite his illness, which of Western peoples. His thinking has not vet completely cleared. Belland picked a half-bushel of couldn't have been better.

the dream of East-West dis- tries.

armament and trust. years in fear of war, this dream as the most powerful of NATO however unlikely of fulfilment nations, has fallen to its lowest -sounds like paradise and goes obb in two decades. far beyond even the most am- FORMULA OFFERED bitious hopes of the NTAO meet-

MAGIC WORDS to "outlaw war," as if that could other missile bases. be done simply by a handshake. It is striving for acceptance of or a few magic words at an East- : formula by which nuclear mis-West summit meeting.

that Russia, with its technologic- agreement. al advances, never was in a better propaganda position. This crican intentions reaches into will change as the West catches another field. There have been possible from the current situa- in NATO and might even oppose tion, among the so-called neu-France in North Africa by in-

the West. Actually, Russia's continuing be recognized as paramount. attack on the NATO meeting is one of the few indications that it holds promise for success. Ruzsia apparently feels NATO has a good chance. In Europe there

changes in defence alignments. MACMILLAN PLIANT

Macmillan refused to promise.

President Eisenhower has What faces the western alliance crabapples a full month after He raises hopes while at the is a complete reappraisal of de- the usual date of the first frost. same time hinting darkly at lences and strategy and the He said that in 40 years in Norterrible dangers. He holds out economies of the NATO count them Ontario he cannot remen

Elsenhower's role is difficult in the year. To countless persons living for because the prestige of the U.S.,

> The U.S. has been trying () allay fears — particularly in France - that unwilling NATO

siles would not be fired from, for What Bulganin well knows is instance. France, without French

French mistrust of Anglo-Am-, so the Kremlin can be ex- fears that the U.S. and Britain to wrench everything planned to seize a dominant role tralist countries as well as in sisting upon negotiation over Aigeria, where the French want to

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## In New York's Canada House

OTTAWA ( -- The Canadian government has decided not to lease office space in New Yorks' Canada House, now under con-

The decision was outlined by moved out of Rockefeller Centre Jules Leger, deputy external af- to a site closer to the UN buildfairs minister, in a letter last ing. month to the manager of Can-

Jada House (New York) Limitea ported to the department that substantial part of the building would be occupied by Canading Canadian interests. We are informed that this is not th ease and that the building will 'not be a Canadian centre."

The government had planned to rent office space in Canada House for its consular and United Nations staff in New York.

Now, the consulate and most government agencies already occupying space in Rockefeller, Centre will remain there. This country's UN staff is being

#### Many Tourists

"came to Britain in the first nine months of the year.

TATE APPLES

HALLEYBURY, Qut. @-John ber the first frost coming so lat



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