

## Government by Fear

Everyone had hoped that during this session of the provincial legislature we might hear from the Social Credit back-benchers for a change, the opening proceedings yesterday must have been quite a disappointment. Without a protesting voice on the government side, two legislative employees were fired from their jobs without a chance to state their case because the cabinet had so decreed.

William Monteith was officially dismissed as law-clerk and the same punishment was meted out to E.A. Jamieson as sergeant-at-arms. Both had refused to accept their discharge by the cabinet at the close of the last session and both found yesterday that there was not a Social Credit member in the House with enough individuality to wish a public hearing of their case. All the dissenting votes came from the opposition.

Apparently the only offence committed by Mr. Monteith was that he occupied a position which could be given to someone with more political preference. That, at any rate, was his view of the matter and no one tried to deny it.

In Mr. Jamieson's case the circumstances were a little rowdier. It was he, as a retired consultant engineer, who took the lid off the mess attending construction of the Cassiar-Stewart road. His professional, on-the-spot report on the handling of the project amounted to a stunning indictment of the government for its carefree spending of money on an undertaking which was being hopelessly mismanaged. The government was unable to deny the accuracy of the report but Mr. Jamieson went on to make the mistake of admitting that he was "out to break" Robert Sommers, minister of lands and forests. It was an understandable sentiment on his part in view of what he had seen but it also gave the government the chance it was looking for to get rid of him.

In political life there are often unpleasant measures that must be taken to make room for those expecting a reward for their services or to dispose of individuals who are causing embarrassment. Mr. Monteith and Mr. Jamieson are merely two of hundreds throughout Canada who have been victims of such measures.

Even so, the callous treatment they have received must sit uneasily on the hearts of those government members in Victoria who still believe in the democratic process. Tacitly these members have let themselves be drafted as accessories to this anti-democratic deed. If just one of them had spoken up there might be hope that in future such occasions there would be others with the courage to make themselves heard.

But the silence was complete. In their fear of protesting, they have committed their constituencies to the same attitude. It looks as if a large section of B.C. is going to have little voice in what happens at Victoria for some time to come.

## Scriptures

The harvest of the earth is ripe. Revelation 14:15. Few periods of history have been characterized with so great interest in religion and the Good Life."

And Moses said unto the people, Fear not, Exodus 20:21. If God rules the universe, His children should be free from fear. God has not gone out of business.



## As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

### • The PM At Age 75

FOR the first time in the entire history of Canada not a single cabinet minister and hardly a Liberal MP was left in Ottawa on February 2.

For that one day, the capital of Canada was moved back to where it was located in the first place in the picturesquely and venerable city of Quebec—eradicating this twin-nation.

The 75th birthday of any human being is a notable event even in these days when more and more people are living longer and longer. Of course we have had other prime ministers, who attained that grand old age, and while still in office.

But we never before had a prime minister who had earned the peculiar degree and quality of esteem which Louis St. Laurent has won from the people of Canada.

As the staunchly conservative Montreal Gazette said on February 1, the morning of the prime minister's seventy fifth birthday:

"There are no doubt many achievements in high public office. But perhaps the finest of them all is won by that political leader who can win the respect of all his countrymen. For while

life are of its very nature and vitality, yet such contention is graced with dignity only when a great party leader is also a great gentleman . . ."

"It is the respect that Mr. St. Laurent has earned that history will place first among his achievements—the pride of Canadians in their white-hired leader, bearing his years graciously, serving faithfully, facing a troubled world with the courage of duty, and himself dignifying even so high an office."

IT SO happened that my wife and I accidentally got the unscheduled and undeserved chance to ride just behind the prime minister and the mayor of Quebec City in the birthday motor tour of the prime minister's city.

I shall never forget that stroke of sheer good luck if I live to be 100. For I could see close up, the look of happy pride and affection on the faces of the Quebec people as they waved at their own and all Canada's most famous fellow citizen.

There were few cheers, except inside the station at the formal reception. We are not much of a cheering people. But everywhere I saw the peoples' faces literally light up as they recognized the white-haired gentleman, with his quietly smiling wife beside him. At least 65 persons out of every 100 smiled and waved cheerfully at the passing great man.

CANADA has had several great prime ministers before, and no doubt will have great prime ministers again, and from more than one political party.

But we have never before had a prime minister who so completely fulfilled the public ideal of what a prime minister ought to be.

Others have won quite as wide a measure of respect. But no former prime minister ever won that respect for public performance of duty well done, so generously intermixed with affection which springs from admiration for private personal qualities.

You see the prime minister's car stop at the end of his triumphant home-coming birthday parade. You see the first citizen of Canada walk to his

### Northern Ireland Rejects Republic

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CP)—The government Thursday rejected a suggestion by prime minister John Costello of the Independent Irish Republic for establishment of an all-Ireland federal republic.

Home Minister W.W.B. Toppling and the six countries of Northern Ireland would not be separated from the rest of Britain.

### CO-OP BAKERY

#### FRIDAY & SATURDAY SPECIAL

OUR OWN TASTY APPLE SAUCE CAKE, each..... 50c

Have you tried our NEW IMPROVED Bread? Specialty Loaves to Suit the Taste!

"A UNION SHOP"



PRIME MINISTER ST. LAURENT responds to cheers from Liberal supporters at a birthday banquet in Quebec City celebrating his 75th birthday. Mrs. St. Laurent smiles as Postmaster General Expolite (left) leads the cheers. (CP Photo)

#### LETTER BOX

## Assessment on Machinery Not Unfair Says Mayor

The Editor,

The Daily News.

May I be permitted to reply to the lengthy letter of Mr. Deane re Machinery Tax which appeared in Thursday's issue of the Daily News. Firstly the term "Machinery Tax" has been used in such a manner that would suggest that this is an altogether new type of taxation which has been invented by the Prince Rupert City Council.

Actually, what has happened is that machinery is now included in the definition of "Improvements" for assessment purposes and is nothing new. It has been used as a basis for taxation for school purposes by the Provincial Government for many years. At the time of the Assessment Equalization Act which was passed in 1954, this system of assessments was extended to include Municipal Assessments for taxation for School purposes.

IT SO happened that my wife and I accidentally got the unscheduled and undeserved chance to ride just behind the prime minister and the mayor of Quebec City in the birthday motor tour of the prime minister's city.

I shall never forget that stroke of sheer good luck if I live to be 100. For I could see close up, the look of happy pride and affection on the faces of the Quebec people as they waved at their own and all Canada's most famous fellow citizen.

There were few cheers, except inside the station at the formal reception. We are not much of a cheering people. But everywhere I saw the peoples' faces literally light up as they recognized the white-haired gentleman, with his quietly smiling wife beside him. At least 65 persons out of every 100 smiled and waved cheerfully at the passing great man.

CANADA has had several great prime ministers before, and no doubt will have great prime ministers again, and from more than one political party.

But we have never before had a prime minister who so completely fulfilled the public ideal of what a prime minister ought to be.

Others have won quite as wide a measure of respect. But no former prime minister ever won that respect for public performance of duty well done, so generously intermixed with affection which springs from admiration for private personal qualities.

You see the prime minister's car stop at the end of his triumphant home-coming birthday parade. You see the first citizen of Canada walk to his

Mr. Deane seems quite concerned over who actually will pay this tax. He quotes an example of a local Engine Company raising its charge-out time from \$4.00 to \$5.75 per hour and infers that this was made necessary because of this new system of taxation. I have checked on the extra taxes that the waterfront machine shops would have to pay due to this new system and find that the maximum that any shop would pay (based on 1956 assessments) would amount to the sum of \$300 per year, so that at 75 cents per hour it will not take more than 40 hours to make up for this tax.

Mr. Deane goes on to say that the Fishermen's Co-operative Association will be one of the hardest hit under this tax, and asks that the Co-op compute the cost of this tax on a poundage basis. From estimates I have been able to obtain on landings of halibut, salmon, etc., it appears that the tax would amount to one 20th of one cent per pound and that if we consider it on the basis that Mr. Deane suggests, that is, the total landings which would include all types of fish landed at the Co-op, then the effect of this so-called vicious tax is but one 60th of one cent per pound! I am sure that when you consider that the individual members of this Association who are resident in Northern Ireland will receive the benefits of this new system, as will all other home owners in the city, on the basis of last year's assessments, would have amounted to a savings of

6.42 per cent on their taxes which has a direct effect on their net income.

Reference is made to the fish companies of this city successfully operating against Seattle and Ketchikan for U.S.-caught halibut and it is estimated that this extra tax will make it much more difficult for the local fish companies to purchase American fish. It might be pointed out that in Ketchikan, our closest American competitor, the fish companies pay taxes on all their equipment including their boats and personal property, which tax by the way, is also paid by the individual fisherman. The suggestion is made that this system of taxation will retard growth of this city, and in answer to this I can merely point out that the cities showing the largest population increase from 1951 to 1956, namely, Burnaby, Prince George, Kitimat and Port Alberni, have been using this system of taxation since 1954.

Is it not strange that Mr. Deane thinks that this tax is so unjust that he must write this lengthy letter to protest against it on behalf of the fishermen when you consider that the last freight increase, increased the cost of shipping fish to the markets by two cents per pound, which based on the total landings of fresh fish at the Fishermen's Co-op, amounted to an increase 40 times greater than this "Machinery Tax," and we have yet to hear of any protest by Mr. Deane on this freight increase!

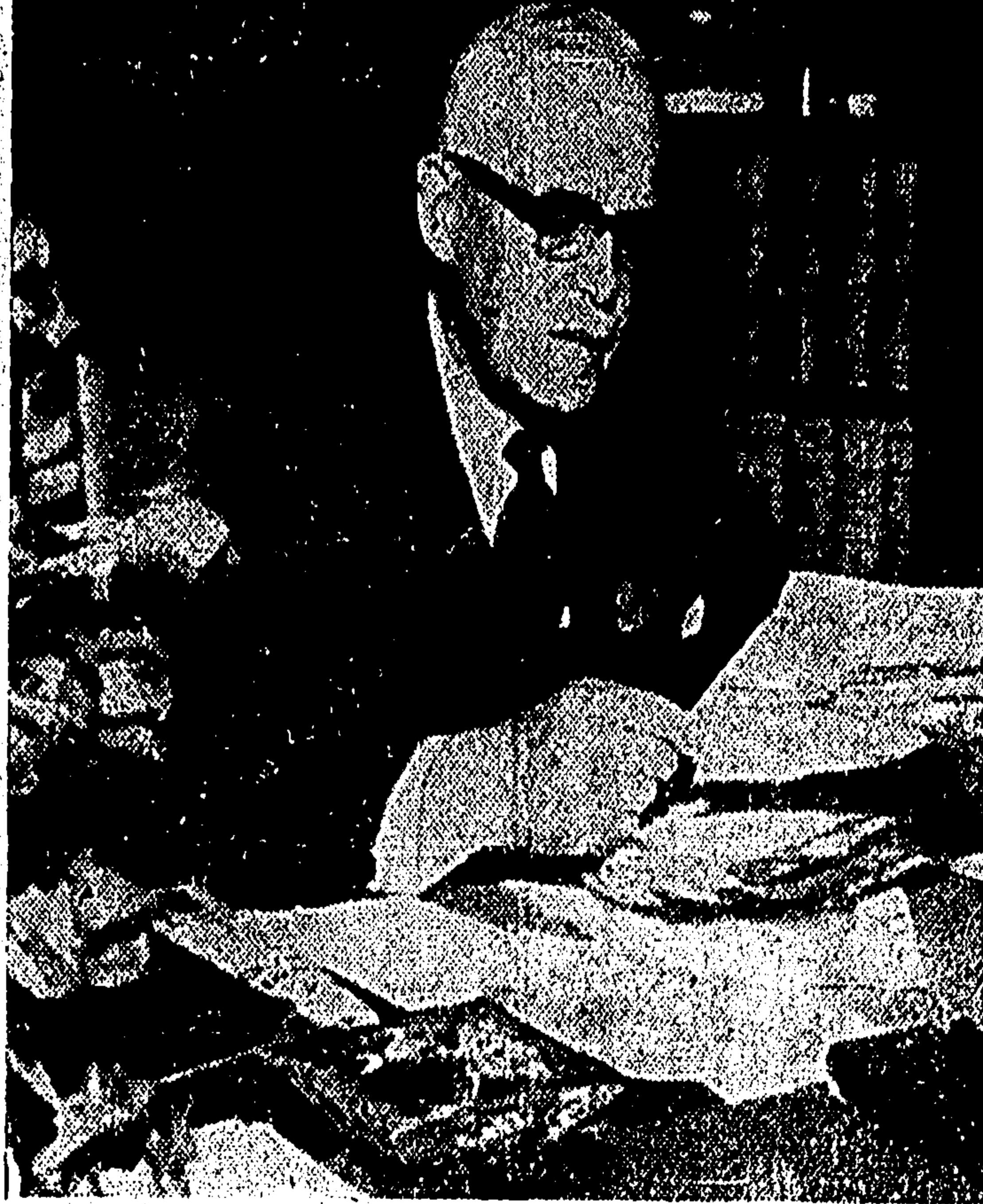
Finally, may I answer the statement that I, as Mayor, using the ultimate of autocracy permitted under our democratic system and without the confidence of the citizens, decreed that there should be a "Machinery Tax." In this respect I may say that I have publicly stated on numerous occasions that I, as Mayor, supported the idea of including machinery for the assessing of "Improvements" for specific purposes.

This autocratic manner in which I acted obviously refers to the fact that I cast the deciding vote on the by-law which brought about this change, and I am sure that no citizen in this city can accuse me of being autocratic because I merely used my vote as a member of the council and as an elected representative of the people.

Yours very truly,  
GEORGE E. HILLS,  
Mayor.

FRED E. DOWDIE  
OPTOMETRIST

Phone 5548  
303 3rd Ave. W.



PRIME MINISTER ST. LAURENT sits at his desk in the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa sorting through telegrams of congratulations on his 75th birthday, February 1. It was the only departure from the regular work-day routine for the prime minister, who attended a House of Commons sitting as usual. (CP Photo)

## Newsmen Says He Shared Cell With Man Reds Claimed Killed

ROME (Reuters)—An Italian newspaper man said today he shared Moscow prison cell in April, 1950, with Raoul Wallenberg, Swedish diplomat said by the Soviet government to have died three years earlier.

Russia reported in a memorandum issued in Stockholm Thursday that Wallenberg, who had said earlier he had been killed by the Germans, died in a Moscow prison in 1947, two years after being taken into custody in Budapest.

The Italian reporter said he informed the Swedish legation in Rome and Wallenberg's family of his meeting after the Soviet repatriated him in October 1950.

He said the details furnished by him about Tomsen fitted Wallenberg, except the name.

WORKED AGAINST NAZIS

Trundafello told him during the month they shared the cell that he had issued Swedish nationality certificates to protect persons against racial persecution by the Nazis in Budapest, and that he had

## Change Seen In Attitude Of Kremlin

BONN (CP)—Chancellor Konrad Adenauer predicted today the Soviet attitude toward the West will change soon as a result of economic troubles and recent developments in Hungary and Poland.

Adenauer spoke to a press conference soon after receiving a secret message from Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin. The chancellor declined to discuss any details of the message.

Bulganin's message could deal with German unification, German-Russian economic relations or disarmament. Adenauer's government is drafting a new note to Moscow designed to promote direct German-Russian negotiations on the problem of divided Germany.

After pointing to Russian difficulties at home and with her Eastern European Communist allies, Adenauer said: "I am convinced the foreign policy of the Soviet Union will in the near future undergo a change."

Adenauer said: "In our policy toward the Soviet Union, we should or must avoid anything which might be regarded as provocation. There will be a change in Soviet policy and we must on no account disturb such a development."

The Bulganin message set off a spate of speculation here. A spectacular Soviet move on German reunification is considered a strong possibility before the general election in West Germany this fall.

West German press reports in the last few days have said that Russian Ambassador Andrei Smirnov was bringing new instructions from Moscow on German reunification, an increase in trade and the repatriation of Germans still in Russia.

#### WEDDING THEME

DONCASTER, England (CP)—The bride at a wedding in this Yorkshire town asked the organist to play a request tune at the ceremony. The organist agreed. The tune was the theme from the movie, "The Dam Busters."

#### JUST AHEAD

1957

SEE THE  
**Dibb Printing Company**  
FOR YOUR PRINTING NEEDS

try Daily News Classifieds

100	One Hundred Dollars	100
Monday, February 11th		
Civic JACK-POT BINGO Centre		
8:00 p.m.		
100	One Hundred Dollars	100

NOW... Your

SAVINGS EARN MORE

at

Canada's First Bank...

Effective February 1st, savings deposits at the B of M will earn interest at the rate of

2 3/4% PER ANNUM

Take advantage of this new, higher rate by opening a B of M savings account today.

Follow the example of two million Canadians who are building for tomorrow at Canada's First Bank.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Canadian First Bank

Prince Rupert Branch: H. W. STEEL, Manager  
Stewart Branch: ROGER DEAN, Manager  
Terrace Branch: RONALD MINNIN, Manager

WORKING WITH CANADIANS IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE SINCE 1817

## USED RADIO, RECORD COMBINATIONS

FROM \$35.00 UP

• All 3-speed Automatic

• Fully Guaranteed

McRAE BROS. LTD.

"The Home That Services You!"

Phone 2320