## Report From Parliament

By Michael Starr Member for Ontario

It is my intention in writing this column to convey to you, the people of Ontario Riding the events as they transpire in the House of Commons here at Ottawa and to give you my observations on matters which I feel will be of interest to you.

The opening of the Seventh Session of the twenty-first Parliament was quite impressive although I understand that some of the frills have been deleted. For a first-time observer such as I was. it proved to be very impressive. traditional and educational. The speech from the throne delivered by His Excellency The Governor-General of Canada, did not give any indication to the Canadian people that drastic relief was coming from the present heavy taxation. Nor did it indicate any sweeping government policies which would affect the general economy of the nation.

The House of Commons settled! down to making speeches in reply to the speech from the Throne and it gave the members of the Opposition groups an opportunity to express their views on the shortcomings of the present government and to make suggestions to them on matters which would help greatly to relieve the taxpayers of this country. I took this opportunity to deliver my first speech. In the speech I pointed FARR'S Radio Electric short-comings in respect to municipalities in the field of taxation and requested the Federal Government to call a conference between the Federal and Provincial Governments so that agreements could be arrived at in the reallocation of taxing powers through which the municipal taxpayer would be relieved.

The outstanding debates in the House of Commons have been on the report submitted by Mr. Currie wherein he brings forward the waste, extravagance, and thievery which had been going on in Army Camps and particularly the one in Petawawa.

Instead of instructing Mr. Currie to proceed with his investigations into other camps and all branches of the services, the government has instead appointed a special committee to delve into the report submitted by Mr. Currie and seems loath to further his investigations. No doubt they are fearful what careful scrutiny may reveal elsewhere.

There have been in recent days many resolutions presented to the House by members from all parties. The majority of these resolutions have been very sound, practical and beneficial to the people of Canada. However, the present government has not allowed any of these resolutions, with few exceptions, to be voted on. They either talk-out the debate or present a motion to terminate the debate. The motion is always carried because of the government's huge majority in the House.

Since the opening of this Session in November 1952, I have contacted the Postmaster-General on mail delivery in certain sections of Ontario Riding. The Town of Whitby: was one of these. The Postmaster - General advised me that mail delivery could not be instituted because the revenue for the past fiscal year in Whitby was \$34,391.10 and since economy restrictions have been imposed upon the Post Office Department, it has been agreed that Letter Carrier Delivery will not be given where the revenue of a Post Office is below \$50,000.00.

I also contacted him in regard to mail delivery in Ajax or the establishment of mail boxes in the North and South portions of the Village in order to save residents from having to travel to the Central Post Office to deliver or receive their mail. His ' reply to this was to the effect that the revenue of the Ajax Post Office was \$24,756.34 for the last fiscal year and as he had informed me in the case of Whitby, it was not possible under the present regulations to consider the request. He informed me also that he was inquiring into the possibility of having a mail box placed in the north portion of the village as well as the south portion, and that he would advise me as soon as he receives a report on this matter.

The estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1951, have been tabled by the Minister of Finance. In the estimates under Public Works'a sum of \$650,000.00 has been included for the new Post Office in Oshawa, the contract for which has already been let. It is expected that work will commence as soon as a temporary building has been erected to' house : that portion of the Post Office staff who presently occupy the old Y.M.C.A. Building which will be torn down.

There is also under the Public Works estimates a sum of \$20,500. for the City of Oshawa to be used in the repairs to the Harbour

Wall. An item appears under the same department in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the Town of Whitby, which is specified as "Improved accommodation for Postal Service". Upon inquiring at the Branch of the Architectural Public Works Department, they advise me that this amount has been placed in the estimates because the department intends to investigate the condition of the Post Office in Whithy and to ascertain whether the remodelling of the present building will be sufficient or whether a new building is necessary.

I will from time to time endeayour to keep you posted on the matters which transpire in the House of Commons. Meanwhile we are all anxiously awaiting the budget which will be announced on February 19 and to hear the good news in regard to taxation!



Thursday evening next. Feb. 19th. tax, particularly as it affects those Her Majesty is now the Queen will probably be completed by

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budget night we all wait anxiously our already buoyant economy. in the hope that our briefs and representations have found favor | The Royal Style and Titles Act with the Minister and that the was passed this week designating policy for the coming year will the official title of our beloved

As we pointed out nothing interest next June. budget, previous to its presenta-this Parliament's assent to the averted is a real tribute to the who desired to migrate to Canada. tion but we-all-can and do indulge-

This is always one of the most in the lower income brackets. We of Canada, but she is Queen of early 1956. It is to be erected here important events in the life of a expect also a lowering in the Canada because she is the Queen in Ottawa just a short distance Parliamentary session, but there excise tax on tobacco and cigar, of the United Kingdom, and be west of the Parliament Buildings. is particular interest in this year's ettes and the abolishing of the cause the people of Canada are Plans call for a beautiful buildbudget because of the prospect of nuisance radio tax which I have glad to recognize as their soveling of stone in modern design advocated for many years. The reign the one who is sovereign of which will provide for shelving The contents of the budget are tax reductions we hope for will be the United Kingdom. It was felt more than 2-million books. The necessity closely guarded the result of the increased product that it was desirable to have that new cataloguing of some 400,000 secrets and the utmost precautivity of our Nation, and if they recognition retained in the title as books now in the Parliamentary tions are taken to prevent any are not as large as we would like a proclamation of the historial Library will commence at once. possibility of its contents being it will be because of the continu- trditional link between this coun- By government order it is now learned by any one prior to ing very heavy cost of our defence try and the United Kingdom. learned by any one prior to ing very heavy cost of our defence try and the United Kingdom.

presentation in the House of Com- preparations. Be assured however The Bill passed in a splendid publishers send two copies of the reductions will be as large as and encouraging spirit of unity their publications to the National In the weeks preceeding budget possible consistent with the main and harmony. The Prime Minister Library. day private members made their tenance of our present strong and spoke with unmistakeable feeling representations to the Minister healthy financial positions. We and sincerity in tribute to the and likewise representative organ- look forward to the budget with significance of the Crown and of izations and industries and assoc- confident anticipation that it will Her Majesty the Queen, and his iations present briefs on problems be good news for the people of remarks were unanimously conof particular interest to them. So Canada and an added impetus to curred in by all opposition parties. Royal Title

include our ideas and recommen-Queen Elizabeth whose coronation

mation establishing for the use of St. Laurent, Labor Minister Greek Canada the royal style and title and to the good sense and public

"Elizabeth the Second, by the and labor leaders." Grace of God, of the United King-i A nation-wide rail strike at this dom. Canada and Her other time would have been a very Realms and Territories. Queen, serious matter for every Canadian Head of the Commonwealth. Deland an expensive blow to our

fender of the Faith." agreed to at the Prime Ministers' grain shipments all would have conference held in London last presented a real problem and December. There was at that con-there would have been widespread ference a general desire to have loss and inconvenience. It is most the royal style and title in accord fortunate that such a strike was with the constitutional position of averted and we all have cause to Commonwealth and as uniform as

!God Save the Queen.

Rail Strike Averted

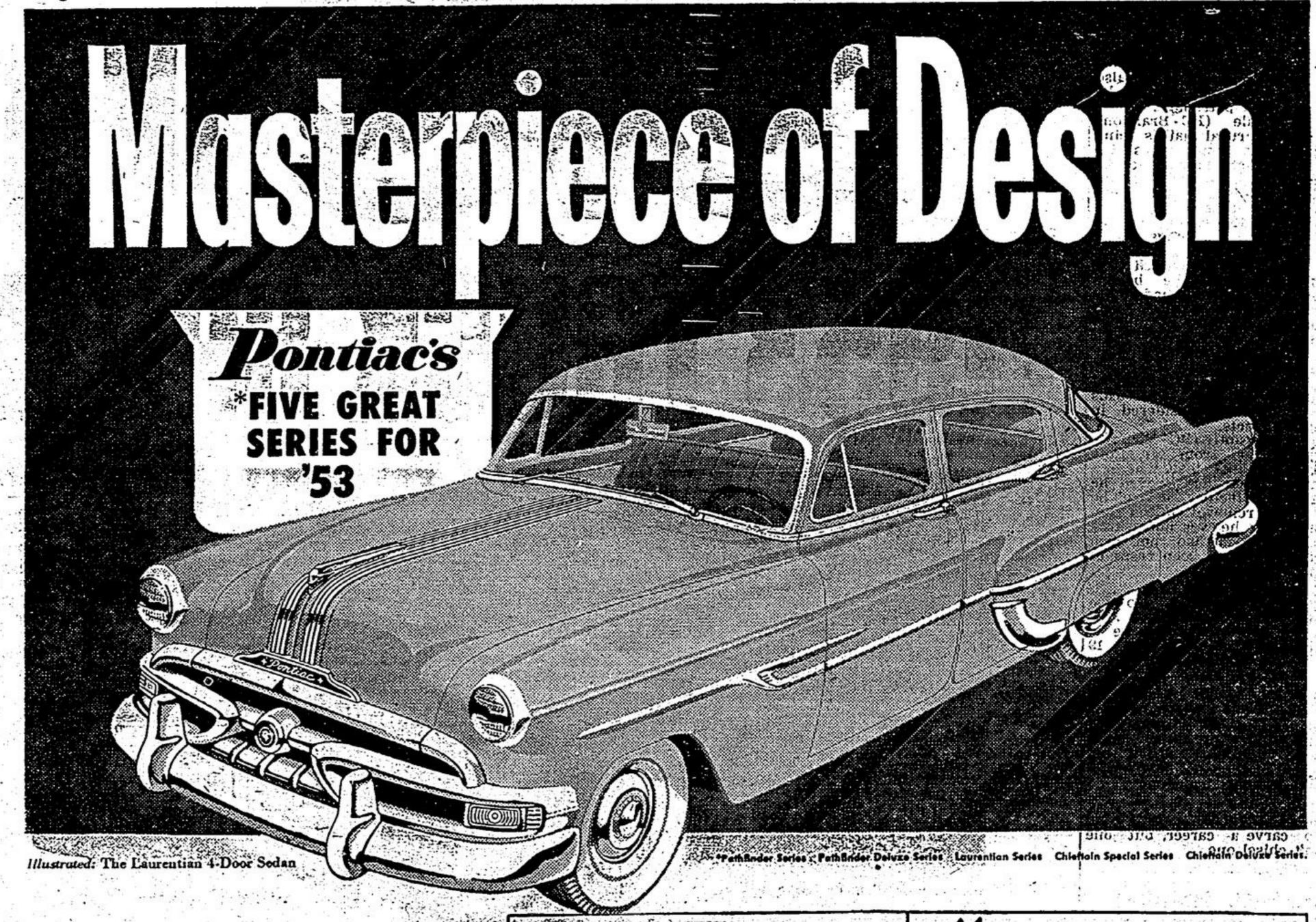
issue by Her Majesty of a procla-statesmanship of Prime Minister spirit of Railway, management.

whole economy. Food supplies. The above is the text that was fuel shipments, livestock and

> National Library Canada's new National Library

Aid For Flood Victims Canada through Parliament lost no time in extending sympathy and offers of practical aid to flood victims in the United Kingdom, Belgium and the Netherlands. A At the conclusion of an inspiring substantial grant by the governhour all at the suggestion of the ment will be supplemented by Prime Minister joined in singing voluntary subscription campaigns which are already under way in many communities.

There was relief and general Immigration Minister Harris is an event of national and world satisfaction here as throughout announced a government decision Canada that the threatened rail to offer assisted passage to any of authoritative can be said on the Section 1 of the Bill provides strike was averted. That it was the victims of the flood disaster





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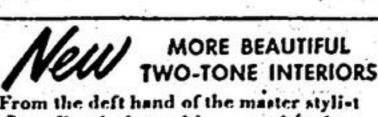
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