



SWANS DON'T MIND WINTER SWIM

The December sun doesn't do much to warm the water in Halifax Public Gardens pond, frozen over by season's first cold snap. But the park superintendent who broke the

ice says the swans don't seem to mind; they plunged right in. Both swans and ducks spend winter in the gardens in downtown Halifax. (CP Wirephoto)

MPs' Holiday Will Be Brief

OTTAWA (CP)—Members of Parliament looking forward to their usual lengthy Christmas vacation received no encouragement from Liberal House Leader McNeil.

M. McNeil told Richard A. Bell (PC—Carleton) that present plans—which are not firm yet—call for an 11-day break, with the House rising on the night of Thursday, Dec. 22, and returning Tuesday, Jan. 3.

When consideration of legislation before the House is completed, there will be another break before starting the "centennial session," Mr. McNeil added.

"I wonder has the minister taken into account those members who already have started their Christmas vacation," Frank Howard (NDP—Stevens) interjected.

More than half the seats in the Commons were empty Monday—due in part to the absence from the capital of two committees. The broadcasting committee is in Montreal and the veterans' affairs committee is in Hong Kong.

In past years, the Commons session usually has been completed before Christmas, allowing MPs a break of a month or longer before the new session begins.

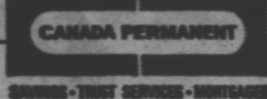
VICTIM SHOT
PETERBOROUGH, Ont. (CP) Provincial police said Tuesday Larry Reynolds, 36, of nearby Hastings had been shot rather than killed in an auto accident. Reynolds' body was found Saturday in the wreckage of a car he was driving which had left a country road and overturned. Reynolds, a Peterborough factory worker, was free on bail awaiting sentence on a charge of assault at the time of the accident.

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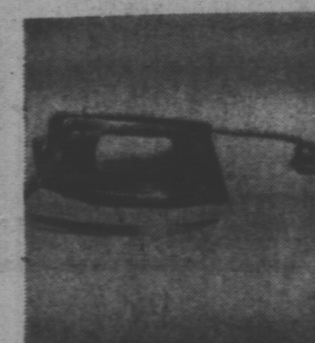
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