

ponses to these invitations have been numerous and encouraging. The United States Finance Committee has raised over \$50,000 to be used in helping overseas geneticists to come to the Congress. Official delegates of 17 universities (or other organizations) have already been appointed and many more are expected. Countries which will be represented by these delegates include Italy, England, Switzerland, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Greece, West Germany, the Union of South Africa and Australia.

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### HOW COLD IS IT ?

In order to dispel misconceptions about the weather in the Canadian North, the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources had this to say about climate in its publication "This is the arctic":

"Voltaire once called Canada "a few acres of snow". Applied to the whole of Canada, this ranks among the all-time masterpieces of simultaneous understatement and overstatement, and only slightly less so when applied to the North.

"It would be too much to ask the most tender tenderfoot to believe that the Arctic is not cold in winter. It's chilly, of course, but the coldest place in Canada is a long way from the Arctic; it's a Snag, in the southern Yukon. The Eskimos are not God's frozen people: many are cold, but few are frozen. Canada's driest air is in the polar regions, and that makes the temperatures seem a lot higher than they really are. But when low temperatures are combined with high winds, don't depend on an extra suit of long underwear to meet the situation.

"Latitude isn't the only factor that decides climate, and the cold doesn't necessarily increase as you travel north. Mountains, valleys, plateaus, prevailing winds, and ocean currents play a big part in varying climate in the North, just as in any other part of the world. The average daily temperature in January at Resolute (latitude 74 degrees) is 29 degrees below zero. In Yellowknife, a banana-belt town 700 miles to the south, it's only three degrees milder. Winter in Aklavik is no colder than winter in Churchill, 600 miles further south. Average January temperature at Whitehorse, capital of the Yukon Territory, is actually warmer than at Winnipeg, just 70 miles north of the United States border. The main difference between Arctic and southern winters is in length. Winter lasts for eight or nine months.

"Climate in summer is another story. Fort Smith, a sub-Arctic community on the Slave River, has had temperatures as high as 103 degrees (above zero, that is). Even in Windsor, far below the forty-ninth parallel and Canada's most southerly city, the thermometer has never registered 103. Of course, Windsor's average summer temperature is much warmer.

### HOUSING SPURT

(Continued from P. 4)

67,714 units from the year-earlier total of 60, 504.

Starts in January were higher in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, and completions were up in all provinces except Newfoundland, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Units under construction at month's end increased in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba.

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"The average July temperature for Fort Smith is just about the same as for Edmonton (62 degrees). In Yellowknife, the July average is 60 degrees. That's about four degrees warmer than Aklavik, Canada's largest community above the Arctic Circle. Swimming and other traditional summer sports are popular near Yellowknife. Up in the High Arctic, people are inclined to other amusements, and it is said that no Eskimos are able to swim. Not that they couldn't find a place to learn if they felt the urge, because daytime temperatures in the 70's are not uncommon even in the Arctic Islands, and for a short while the thousands of glacial lakes warm up rapidly.

"The length of Arctic summers depends on a lot of things, including your definition of summer. If taken to mean the length of time when streams and mosquitoes are unfrozen, summer ranges from a maximum of five months or more at places like Great Bear Lake to about two months in the higher islands of the Archipelago. The length of the growing season is another yearstick, and so is the period when almost tropical temperatures occur at inland points. Where the summer sun strikes a dark, sheltered surface, and where there is no local reservoir of cold (a lake, bay, or ice-cap) to neutralize the sun's effect, snowballs don't stand a chance.

"The Arctic has been getting warmer. It's estimated that in some regions the climate has moderated at the rate of about one degree Fahrenheit in ten years. Walrus and white whales aren't travelling so far south as in the old days. Halibut and other fish are moving farther north. Glaciers are slowly melting. A few of the smaller glaciers have almost disappeared in the time since they were first seen by explorers. On the other hand, some glaciers are getting bigger, but that's probably because in the milder climate there is more rain and snow. Whether or not the Arctic will continue to warm up is another question, and it can't be answered for hundreds of years. But scientists say the world is still recovering from the last ice age. If so, the milder temperatures recorded in the past few years may indicate more than just a short term trend. Quite possibly there will be summer resorts on the Arctic Ocean one day, but don't rush to make your holiday reservations.