

we should be quite prepared to sit down and discuss their suggestions....

#### SHARED-COST PROGRAMMES

A good deal was said by one or two provinces about the federal initiative in shared-cost programmes. It was charged that the Federal Government virtually forced the provinces into many shared-cost programmes and now seeks to withdraw, leaving the provinces with full responsibility for these programmes without equitable fiscal compensation. Neither of these statements is really fair, given the facts. Most of the shared-cost programmes, including for example, hospital insurance, the Canada Assistance Plan, the Trans-Canada Highway, rural rehabilitation and regional development, and others, were supported and welcomed by a majority of the provinces when they were introduced. One case in particular is so recent it is hard to understand how the circumstances can have been forgotten so soon. I refer to the Canada Assistance Plan. This programme could well be described as a federal response to a provincial initiative. In no small part it was developed because of provincial insistence upon a more generalized and more generous federal approach to co-operation with provincial governments in carrying the burden of more adequate assistance to all categories of persons in need. Moreover, we frequently have heard and continue to hear calls for the further federal initiatives to help the provinces meet new needs - to cite only a few examples, for a second Trans-Canada Highway, for enlarged programmes in public housing, transportation and urban development, for extension of hospital insurance to include mental and tuberculosis institutions, and for the further broadening of our joint welfare programme.

What is implied by these statements which, in effect, charge that the Federal Government is in large part responsible for provincial financial problems because it forced them into the shared programmes? Is it really meant that no publicly-supported, universally-available system of hospital insurance should exist in Canada? Is it really meant that the Trans-Canada Highway was a mistake and should not have been built? Is it really meant that the lower income provinces should be left to fend for themselves in dealing with their acute education, welfare and development problems? In more general terms, is it really meant that there should be no floor or national standard of services which Canadians have a right to expect from all their governments?...

#### MUSEUM WORK

During recent months, the National Museum of Man, one of the complex of the National Museums of Canada, has let contracts valued at more than \$300,000 for study and research.

Most of the 72 contracts are now underway, some are already completed, and others have yet to be started.

The contracts, which are carried out in addition

to research conducted by the staff of the Museum, are concerned with such diverse subjects as Latvian folklore in Toronto, the restoration and preservation of a silk battle flag, the cultural ecology of Canadian Eskimo groups, the religious beliefs of the Stoney (Dakota) Indians of Alberta, and the Gaelic spoken in Nova Scotia.

#### IGNATIEFF TO REPLACE BURNS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced the appointment of Mr. George Ignatieff, at present Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations, as Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Canada to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. He will replace Lieutenant-General E.L.M. Burns, who is retiring from the public service.

Mr. Ignatieff's successor in New York will be named later.

#### SALUTE TO GENERAL BURNS

In making this announcement, Mr. Sharp paid particular tribute to General Burns, who has been one of Canada's foremost public servants as soldier, administrator and diplomat. His distinguished military career began with service in the First World War and culminated with the exercise of major command responsibilities during the Second World War. After the war he was instrumental in the development of Canada's programmes for veterans and became Deputy Minister of the Department of Veterans Affairs. In 1954, General Burns began a new career with the United Nations as Head of the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East, establishing an international reputation for both himself and Canada. As adviser to the Canadian Government on disarmament and leader of Canadian delegations to disarmament conferences since 1960, he has been able to make a major contribution to international discussion in this field during a period when, with the signature of the Partial Test-Ban Treaty and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the world has at last begun to take practical steps towards arms control.

#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

There were 28,228 births registered in provincial offices in Canada during November compared to 30,191 in November 1967. The cumulative total was 1.6 percent lower than that recorded in the corresponding period last year although half the provinces reported increases (Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta). In November, there were 17,665 marriages, compared to 14,408 in November 1967, and the cumulative total was 5.4 percent higher than in 1967, with only Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick reporting decreases. Deaths in November numbered 11,475 (12,514 in November 1967), while the 11-month total rose by 2.8 per cent, with Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick reporting decreases.