

UN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Prime Minister L.B. Pearson sent the following message to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Human Rights Day, December 10:

On the nineteenth anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Canadians, in common with peoples all over the earth, recall with gratitude this great achievement of the organization. Succeeding generations will come to regard this document as an historic charter of their rights and liberties.

On the eve of International Year for Human Rights, Canadians are actively planning a programme to further the aims expressed in the resolution of the General Assembly proclaiming the international year, and to confirm our dedication to the achievement of the basic liberties set out in the United Nations Charter and in the declaration. The voluntary organizations have banded together to form a Canadian Commission for International Year for Human Rights. His Excellency the Governor General has given his patronage to this Commission, and I have accepted the honorary presidency. A distinguished Canadian, Dr. John P. Humphrey, who has laboured for some many years in the human rights field, is the president of the Commission.

CANADIAN CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR

The Canadian Government is determined to do all it can to assure protection for human rights to every Canadian, regardless of "race, sex, language or religion", as proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations. To this end, the Canadian Government is calling a conference with the provinces in 1968, to discuss ways in which a Canadian bill of rights may be embedded in the constitution.

The Canadian Government is looking forward to the Conference on Human Rights, to be held in Tehran in 1968, as a significant opportunity for members of the United Nations to take stock of what has been done in the last 20 years, and what remains to be done to reach the "common standard of achievement" proclaimed in the universal declaration.

INDIAN HOUSING IMPROVED

Indian Affairs Minister Arthur Laing announced recently that over \$6 million had been spent during the last six months to improve living conditions on Indian reserves in Canada. The 5-year, \$112-million improvement programme was designed to hit hard at the low standard of living in many Indian communities. "The Indian people want more and better quality houses, with electricity and proper plumbing," the Minister said. "This is what our programme is for - to bring the standard of living of every Indian on every reserve in Canada up to the level enjoyed by other Canadians."

More than three-quarters of this money has gone toward housing. So far this year, 580 houses have been built, and another 1,178 are under construction. Electricity has been extended to 991 Indian houses,

at a cost of \$274,198. A total of \$357,693 has been spent to install pressurized water in 330 homes and to provide another 232 with sewers or septic tanks.

One hundred and seventy miles of new roads are making it easier for Indians to get to and from schools and centres of employment. Another 170 are being constructed, bringing the total cost to \$602,403.

IJC PEMBINA RIVER REPORT

Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has announced the tabling in the House of Commons of the International Joint Commission report on the Co-operative Development of the Pembina River Basin in Manitoba and North Dakota. This report, which was received from the Commission by the Canadian and United States Governments, in response to their request of April 12, 1962, is the product of an extensive investigation by the Commission's International Pembina River Engineering Board, composed of three senior officials from each country, of public hearings in June 1965 in Manitoba and North Dakota, and of additional studies undertaken by the Commission.

TWO DAMS RECOMMENDED

The construction of two dams on the Pembina River is recommended - one just west of Walhalla, North Dakota, and the other south of Manitou, Manitoba. The project would be intended to provide adequate flood-control protection, a supply of water of suitable quality for municipal and industrial purposes, and irrigation. It would also be designed to provide water recreational sites, and to improve the quality and quantity of game fish in the area.

Canadian and authorities are studying the report with a view to joint consideration of its recommendations.

CANADA COUNCIL MEDALLISTS

Four Canadians - Wallace K. Ferguson, historian, H. Northrop Frye, literary scholar, Jean-Paul Lemieux, painter, and Frank H. Underhill, social critic and historian, have won Canada Council medals in recognition of outstanding cultural achievement.

At a recent reception, the Chairman of the Canada Council, Jean Martineau, presented the awards, each of which was accompanied by a cash prize of \$2,500. Mr. Martineau spoke of the internationally-recognized achievements of the Renaissance scholar Wallace K. Ferguson, senior professor of history at the University of Western Ontario. Northrop Frye, university professor at the University of Toronto, was cited for his pre-eminent status as a critic and literary scholar. Mr. Martineau praised the work of the Quebec City painter, Jean-Paul Lemieux, and pointed out that the teaching of Frank Underhill, now in retirement in Ottawa, continued to exercise a strong influence on Canadian attitudes to their own history.

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