

## LOW-INCOME HOUSING

Mr. Robert Andras, the Minister Responsible for Housing, has announced that Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation will seek proposals from builders and developers to stimulate the construction of low-rental housing in several major Canadian cities.

In addition to the \$200 million set aside for innovation in the provision of low-income housing, the 1970 capital budget of CMHC allocates funds for low-rental housing under Section 16 of the National Housing Act, and it is from this regular budget these loans will be made. The approach of calling for proposals is expected to produce the maximum effectiveness of this program for the low-income group.

Advertisements have been placed in newspapers in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and Vancouver inviting applications for long-term, low-interest loans for the design, construction and operation of low-rental units.

Mr. Andras said that some 2,500 dwellings would be built in the five cities under the program. Occupancy of units in Halifax, for example, is intended for families earning about \$6,250 a year; in Montreal, the level is about \$5,500, in Toronto about \$7,500, in Hamilton about \$7,000, and about \$6,500 in Vancouver.

"Loans under the program will probably total from \$35 to \$40 million," Mr. Andras says. "In each of the selected cities, I intend to draw upon the experience of members of the community who have shown an active concern for low-income housing to assist in making a selection of projects that best meet our objectives."

"It was only after the most careful examination of vacancy rates and urban low-income population of major centers," he adds, "that Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and Vancouver were selected. I also wish to make it clear that funds may also be available at some later date for similar objectives in other localities through Section 16 or other provisions of the National Housing Act."

## CAR SALES DOWN

Sales of new motor vehicles declined in January for the second successive month. The 49,465 cars and trucks sold during January represented a drop of 20.8 percent below the comparable 1969 figure of 62,469 units. The dollar value of sales was \$183,066,000, 19.3 percent below the January 1969 value of \$226,767,000.

As in previous months, the decline was restricted to models made in Canada and the United States, the sales of which fell by 26.7 per cent in number and 23.1 per cent in value. In strong contrast, sales of vehicles manufactured overseas rose by 38.4 per cent in units sold and 42.3 per cent in value.

Sales in January were lower for both passenger

cars and commercial vehicles, with the former showing a decline of 20.9 per cent in number of units and 21.8 per cent in value. In comparison, sales of commercial vehicles fell by 20.4 per cent in units sold and 10.2 per cent in dollar value (higher average prices offsetting, to some extent, the drop in number of units sold).

## THE ART OF BEING A CAMEL

Passers by the picture windows on the main floor of the National Gallery of Canada have often been startled to see what appeared to be three large Bactrian camels grazing on the Gallery floor. But these are Neo-Realistic camels, constructed of wood, steel, polythurethan foam, burlap, sheepskin, goat-skin, wax and oil paint by Nancy Graves of New York.

Two of the fabricated beasts are the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Allan Bronfman of Montreal. Mr. Bronfman is quoted as saying: "I have enjoyed camels since I first went to the Middle East, and I felt these were an unusual characterization which I want to present to the National Gallery."

Brydon Smith, curator of contemporary art at the Gallery, who accepted the two Bronfman camels and arranged for the purchase of the third, has said that these camels "evoke a spontaneous response from the spectator" and that "previous knowledge of art, and particularly of contemporary art, is not necessary to fully appreciate them".

So now we know.



*One of the artificial camels that found an oasis in the National Gallery looks back wistfully at its donors, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Bronfman of Montreal.*