

continuing and mutually stimulating interactions which will be initiated.

The Fellowships will be tenable with industrial organizations in Canada and with certain quasi-industrial federal corporations and provincial utilities such as Air Canada and Hydro-Quebec. NRC will contribute toward the salary and provide a travel grant for the Fellow and family. The salary component of the NRC award will be payable to the university and will supplement the university's salary contribution, so as to ensure that the Fellow receives an amount equal to his normal salary. The industry concerned need not contribute to the salary, but it may, of course, provide him or his university with other forms of assistance or compensation.

SCIENCE AND THE POPULATION EXPLOSION

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cities from rural areas has made our urban problems more acute, and is also one of the important effects of our continuing failure to solve the problems of regional economic disparities. We must soon face the fact that we cannot continue indefinitely to pour subsidies indiscriminately into areas where population is dropping and where industry cannot be viable, nor should we assume that the life-style of our industrialized regions is desirable in all parts of the country. Nor can we continue to accept without question the results of economic forces which tend to over-concentrate industry and population in large urban aggregations. There is a need for a national population distribution policy for Canada which will take into account the economic viability of different industries in the various regions of the country and which will try to establish a "balance of attractive-

ness" among our different regions. There will, of course, be special reasons of social or national policy which will dictate the maintenance of populations in areas where their presence is not justifiable on solely economic grounds. These will have to be subsidized, but they should be subsidized very clearly as part of the implementation of the national population distribution policy, rather than merely as a first aid measure for a failing local economy.

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Nowhere is a population policy more urgently needed than in the Canadian North. However, comparisons between the Canadian and Russian Arctics should be viewed with great caution. The Canadian Arctic is much more barren and inhospitable than comparable areas in Russia, and its capacity to support an indigenous population, even before the influx of people from the South, was very much smaller. There are a good many knowledgeable people who maintain that the Canadian Arctic is already overpopulated. Certainly, if the local population is expected to survive by the old-fashioned hunting methods, this is obviously true.

So we must start asking ourselves, "How big should Canada's population become?" "What is the optimum size?" Perhaps an even more pressing question is, "Where do we want Canadians to live?" Do we want to see today's Quebec-Windsor corridor filled up to become one huge megalopolis containing most Canadians? I think not, but if we decide that this is not going to happen, what kind of actions or policies are feasible to let us arrive at a better population distribution - one that will avoid the problems of overcrowding, of alienation, of urban decay, which are becoming so common a feature of the largest of the world's cities?