

The developments were of two kinds. On the one hand a series of measures were taken which had as their intended effect the generation of a larger volume of new housing production through the operation of the private housing market. On the other hand there developed in the mid-Sixties, partly in response to federal measures, provincial commitments to the housing of low-income people on a scale previously unknown.

These developments relating both to the private housing market and to the direct provision of housing for low-income people do not exhaust the need for improved instruments of housing policy. It may be, for example, that the most pressing need now is for arrangements that allow much greater flexibility in responding to different housing needs and priorities across the country. Nevertheless, it may not be unreasonable to characterize the decade of the Sixties as one marked particularly by the development of significant new housing policy instruments and to suggest that the Seventies will be primarily concerned with the way in which they are used.

#### HOUSING IN 1969

House-building activity in 1969 was dominated by two circumstances. First was the effect on housing starts in the first half of the year of a massive injection of mortgage funds from both private and public sources in the last few months of 1968. This was reflected in housing starts at a rate of 270,600 units in the first quarter of 1969 and 218,000 units in the second quarter. The second circumstance, which was of special concern in the second half of the year, was the effect of the high and rising level of interest rates on the supply of mortgage funds and on house-building activity. As events turned out, housing starts averaged an annual rate of a little over 190,000 units in the second half of the year to yield total starts for the year of 210,415 units.

While total starts for the year, and their level at year-end, were higher than some forecasts had suggested, there was some decline in the flow of mortgage funds signalling the likelihood of a lower rate of housing starts in the first few months of 1970.

More than one-half of the Corporation's 1969 capital budget of \$680 million, or \$359 million, had been allocated to housing for low-income families and elderly people, with a further \$55 million directed to housing for students. This was in addition to \$170 million for direct mortgage loans to homeowners, with special emphasis on those of lower income and those in outlying areas where access to the private market was limited.

#### MISS GELBER ON UN COMMISSION

Miss Sylva M. Gelber, director of the Women's Bureau, Canada Department of Labour, was Canada's representative on the United Nations Commission on

the Status of Women which held its twenty-third session in Geneva from March 23 to April 10. Canada was elected to hold a seat on the body for the next three years.

In 1946, the UN Economic and Social Council established the Commission, which makes recommendations to promote women's rights and develops proposals giving effect to the principle that men and women should enjoy equal rights.

The Commission consists of 32 members, eight from Africa, six from Asia, six from Latin America, four from Socialist States or Eastern Europe, and eight from Western Europe and others. Canada and the United States are both included with the Western European countries.

Miss Gelber is a former chairman of the Women's Branch of the Institute of International Affairs. For the past two years, she has been adviser to Canada's Government delegation to the International Labour Conference in Geneva. Miss Gelber is also a member of the ILO panel of consultants on the problems of women workers.

Her appointment to the Commission on the Status of Women was the second election of a Canadian to this body. The first Canadian elected, Mrs. Harry S. Quart, (now Senator Quart) served from 1958 to 1960.

#### MOLSON PRIZES, 1970

The Molson Prizes, worth \$15,000 each, awarded by the Canada Council, were presented recently to Montreal scholar Jean-Paul Audet, Toronto writer Morley Callaghan, and Director of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Arnold Spohr.

The Prizes are given annually to recognize and encourage outstanding contributions to the arts, social sciences or humanities or to national unity.

Mr. J.G. Prentice, chairman of the Council, who made the presentation to Mr. Spohr, pointed out that, under his direction, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet had developed a style and repertory that was "both the pride of Western Canada and the admiration of the most sophisticated ballet audiences anywhere".

In presenting Father Audet with his award, the vice-chairman of the Council, Guy Rocher, declared that his erudite works had provided answers to names of the most fundamental questions men ask themselves.

Peter Dwyer, director of the Council, pointed out that Morley Callaghan was the first person to receive both the Molson Prize and the Canada Council Medal, which Callaghan received in 1966.

One of Canada's highest tokens of recognition for cultural achievement, the Molson Prizes were created in 1963 through a \$600,000-gift to the Canada Council from the Molson Foundation. The amount was increased through another gift of \$200,000 last year, making it possible for the Council to offer three prizes instead of two, as in the past.

Last year's winners were the pianist Glenn Gould and the writer Jean Lemoyne.