

□ INTERVIEW □

occasions. In UNESCO, too. It must not try to play the part of a giant, but to continue as it has been from the beginning.

Canada is the sixth-largest contributor to UNESCO, and the attitudes that it has taken so far have earned it great respect. I shall attempt to see that this continues.

S. G.: What motivated you to come out of retirement and accept this position?

J. D.: I thought about it for a while. Having looked into it more closely, I felt that it would be a way of contributing to our country. So I accepted.

S. G.: You couldn't stay retired.

J. D.: I am not the type who can go on retirement and do nothing, just as in the past I couldn't go on vacation and do nothing.

I believe that the secret of longevity is to keep busy, and to expend your mental and physical energy. I examined the matter. I thought that I could be useful and I'm going ahead with it.

S. G.: How do you feel as you're about to begin this new career?

J. D.: Confident that I can do a job that will uphold Canada's reputation among the 160 countries, and help us to continue to be as useful as we have been.

I have investigated it considerably since my appointment was announced, but I was interested beforehand.

Being personally interested, I had a number of files on UNESCO and Canada's role in it. You might recall that in 1978, (I had no idea of going to UNESCO as an Ambassador or anything else at the time) at *Man and His World*, for the annual municipal exhibition that followed Expo '67, I went to Paris to see M'Bow and obtained



Jean Drapeau, new Canadian Ambassador to UNESCO in Paris.

UNESCO's official patronage. For two years in a row we organized *The 24 Hours of UNESCO*. M'Bow himself came the second year, on the basis of the report that he received from his envoy the first year.

S. G.: So you have been linked with UNESCO for many years?

J. D.: Yes, but I never thought I would end up working there. Perhaps it was my *curriculum vitae* or my public life that attracted the attention of those who hired me, in view of the importance of administration in the job. Perhaps they felt that someone with lengthy experience in the administration of a large city like Montreal might be able to make some useful suggestions, both to Ottawa and to UNESCO. However, I will not be taking any initiatives; all my reports will go to Ottawa, and the Department will be telling me what to do.

S. G.: To many Canadians, Jean Drapeau is a man of great projects. Do you have any in mind?

J. D.: UNESCO itself is a great project. One that has been going on for 40 years. It has been very successful. So the plan will be to keep UNESCO working for the benefit of those who need it, while protecting the interests of the countries that are contributing the most.

S. G.: Do you have any projects of your own in mind for UNESCO?

J. D.: There are already many programs under way. Others have been accepted in principle and will be implemented later, and I do not feel that I could have any large or small projects. The work is there and that's what I have to deal with.

S. G.: Perhaps they could move UNESCO to Montreal. What do you think of that, Drapeau?

J. D.: I think UNESCO is fine where it is, in Paris, and I fail to see how Montreal or any other city could guarantee its future any better. I don't see how there could be any way of serving UNESCO more easily or more effectively than where it is right now. If there were a problem because of the location of the General Secretariat it would be different, but no mention has been made of any such problem □