

INCREASE IN REVENUES

The substantial proposals which I have put forward would increase our revenues in the current fiscal year by some \$45 million and, together with the reductions in expenditures to be announced, will hold our budgetary deficit this year close to that forecast in the budget of June 1. It will hold our estimated over-all cash requirements for the current year — apart from any changes in our foreign-exchange reserves after today — to about \$1,550 million. This will leave us with a substantial amount to borrow from now until the 1st of April, but I regard that as manageable....

INTERNATIONAL FILM WEEKS

A grant of \$30,000 from the Canada Council will make possible the holding of international film weeks in nine centres in Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario. The award, made at a recent meeting of the Council, goes to the Montreal International Film Festival, organizers of the showings.

The week-long programmes will take place from January to May 1968, in Quebec, Sherbrooke, Jonquière, Rouyn-Noranda, Trois-Rivières, Rimouski, Moncton, London and Sudbury. They follow more modest out-of-town showings organized by the Festival during the past three years.

A new non-profit organization, International Film Weeks, has been formed to handle the touring programme, which has increased greatly. It will work in conjunction with the Montreal International Film Festival. The purpose of the programme is to bring films of high quality to places outside Metropolitan Montreal.

NRC RESEARCH GRANTS

This year is the fiftieth anniversary of National Research Council activity in the support of university research. In the ten years from 1957 to 1967, the Government of Canada, through the Research Council, has provided five times as much money for scholarships and research in the universities as it did in the preceding 40 years.

EXPENDITURES

Annual expenditures for the programme have increased rapidly during the past decade, rising from \$3.1 million in 1957-58 to \$11.5 million in 1962-63, to \$23.9 million in 1965-66, and to \$36.9 million by 1966-67.

The \$17.5-million expenditure for 1966-67 operating grants supported 2,741 professors at an average level of \$6,400; in comparison, 2,196 individuals shared \$11.9 million in 1965-66, for an average level of \$5,400.

About 27 per cent of the funds provided in these grants are spent for salaries of graduate student assistants, 27 per cent for salaries of other as-

sistants, and 46 per cent for equipment and supplies. The number of universities and colleges at which operating grants are held has risen from 21 in 1955-56 to 32 in 1960-61 to 48 in 1966-67.

The \$3.6 million for scholarships and fellowships provided 1,416 postgraduate scholarships held. In comparison, the \$1.3 million expended in 1962-63 covered 562 awards held.

An additional large number of graduate students received varying amounts of remuneration as research assistants employed by university professors who received Council research grants. Altogether these media supported more than 4,900 graduate students.

SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

This extensive programme of student support will continue to expand as university enrolment grows, and facilities for postgraduate study and research are developed in Canada. In recognition of its activities in support of research in the universities during the past 50 years, the National Research Council has established a group of scholarships, called the 1967 Science Scholarships, which are being awarded for the first time in 1967. These awards are intended to encourage young men and women of outstanding intellectual promise to pursue postgraduate studies and research leading to doctorate degrees in science and engineering in Canadian universities, other than the ones from which they have obtained their first degrees. It is hoped that these awards will stimulate exchanges between different cultural and geographical regions of Canada.

CENTENNIAL ESSAY CONTEST

The Canada Permanent Trust Company is sponsoring a centennial writing contest for secondary-school students. Entries either French or English and on any topic, are limited to 2,500 words. They will be judged on imagination and expression by a team of noted writers headed by Earle Birney, poet, educator and critic.

The total prize money is \$5,000: the first prize is \$1,500, the second \$1,000 and the third \$500. Sixteen regional prizes of \$100 and 20 "honourable mentions" of \$25 will also be given.

The three top winners will receive their awards at a special dinner in Toronto on December 15.

OCTOBER FOREST FIRES

According to estimates by the Department of Forestry and Rural Development, there were 190 forest fires throughout Canada in October. Their damage was minimal. In October 1966, there were 296 fires, which damaged some 6,000 acres of forest.

To the end of October this year, there had been an estimated 8,538 forest fires in Canada, which damaged some 1,865,000 acres. During the same period last year there were 7,001 fires which damaged 706,000 acres.