

MOLSON PRIZES 1971

This year's Molson Prizes of the Canada Council, worth \$15,000 each, were presented recently to Northrop Frye, Toronto literary scholar, Duncan Macpherson, Toronto *Star* cartoonist and Yves Thériault, a Montreal writer. The prizes are awarded annually by the Canada Council to encourage outstanding contributions to the arts, humanities or social sciences – as well as to “national unity”.

The Chairman of the Council, Mr. John G. Prentice, who made the presentation to Northrop Frye, said that Dr. Frye had played an important part in the expression of Canada's cultural identity.

The Council Director, Peter Dwyer, presented the Molson Prize to Duncan Macpherson, whom he praised for his “style and absolute mastery” as a political cartoonist. Yves Thériault received his prize from the Council's Vice-Chairman, Guy Rocher, who said that Mr. Thériault was the most widely read and translated of French-Canadian novelists.

The Molson Prizes, one of Canada's highest tokens of recognition for cultural achievement, are financed from the interest on an \$800,000-gift to the Canada Council from the Molson Foundation.

The prizes were first given in 1963; last year's prize-winners were Montreal scholar Jean-Paul Audet, Toronto writer Morley Callaghan, and the Director of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Arnold Spohr.

CABLE TV COPYRIGHTS

The Economic Council of Canada recommended recently that operators of cable television should no longer be totally exempt from copyright liabilities.

Although it is thought desirable that, in most cases, copyright-owners should be paid in proportion to the public use of their work, the courts have placed cable TV in a unique position because its operators are not considered to be wireless “broadcasters” to the “public”. One result is that the cable companies do not have to pay the Government-regulated royalties that television stations pay to the performing-rights societies that represent authors and composers.

MODE OF TRANSMISSION IMMATERIAL

The mode of transmission – whether coaxial cable or the Hertzian waves of the originating TV stations – should not matter in determining the liability to copyright owners, the Council said in its recently-issued *Report on Intellectual and Industrial Property*.

Where cable TV operators pick up and retransmit programs without altering their content (that is, without dropping or changing the advertising) the originating station could charge higher advertising rates based on a bigger market. The resulting increase in revenue for the TV station would provide an excellent basis on which performing-rights societies and other copyright owners could negotiate

larger royalties, the Council suggested. With regard to cases where the cable company dropped some or all of the advertisements, however, or where the original program contained no advertising, the Council suggested a system under which the cable companies must always inform the Canadian Radio-Television Commission of what they are doing to the original programs. “Where alteration was occurring, or where the cost of the wireless broadcast was not carried by advertising, the cable company might be required to provide appropriate recompense to copyright owners either by compulsory licensing or through negotiated arrangements with the wireless system.”

When the cable companies transmit other programs (such as those they originate themselves or carry for others, in community or educational programming, for example), the Council said, they should have the same copyright responsibilities towards authors and other copyright owners as do wireless broadcasters.

More complicated problems would be raised with broadcasts that cross national boundaries, and these would become even more difficult when satellites become capable of beaming programs directly to home receivers rather than only through ground stations. These problems would have to be solved by international agreement, the Council said.

CASH IN TRASH

The National and Historic Parks Branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Keep Canada Beautiful Council are turning to young people for ideas on how to keep Canada's national parks free of litter. The Branch and the Council are co-sponsoring two contests for students from ten to 12 years old and from 13 to 14 as part of a general anti-litter campaign to be introduced in the parks this season.

Littering is a costly and growing problem in the national parks. Taxpayers footed a \$3-million bill last year for the removal of visitors' garbage from the 19 operating national parks. Staff of the National Parks believe that such public funds would be better spent improving existing park facilities or developing the five new parks recently acquired.

Prizes totalling \$2,750 will be awarded to the 182 successful contestants. To qualify for two prizes of \$100, ten of \$25, 25 of \$10 and 50 one dollar bills, entrants in the ten to 12 year-old group must correctly circle all the “don'ts” in a drawing illustrating vacation activities in a park setting and write an explanation of the reasons.

Two prizes of \$200, four of \$100, 10 of \$50, 25 of \$10, and 50 of \$5 will be awarded the successful teenagers in a 500-word essay contest on how Canadians can make the best use of their national parks “if some will enjoy, but many destroy”.