

## MUTUAL CO-OPERATION TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR INDIANS

The following address, was made by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Mr. Arthur Laing, at the first meeting of the National Indian Advisory Board, held recently in Ottawa:

...Because we of the Government of Canada will be depending upon you to bring us the views of your people, it is of first importance that you make yourselves known to me. It will be of greater importance that I know what you think of me.

In these rapidly changing times, opinions and ideas even if they be extreme, can do us no harm if we can exchange confidence in one another. I shall not expect you to always agree with our proposals. You would disappoint me if you did, because I am entitled to expect that you have more knowledge of your people than I. Let me simply say this - I pledge you my integrity in all our dealings - I am far too old now to grow a forked tongue. What I give I shall expect in return.

### FAIR TREATMENT PLEDGED

There is today, among Canadians, a greater conscience than ever before of our responsibility to indigenous peoples. In spite of continuous improvement over many years, there is a feeling that we have not done enough, nor, indeed, done very well. It would now appear less difficult to acquire the funds required to make improvements in medical care, welfare, education and housing. But money by itself is no solution and, if ill-used, could even worsen conditions. I shall, therefore, not speak of great plans nor huge expenditures, nor affluent outspreadings of huge sums of money. I will say that the Canadian people are prepared to accept just treatment of your people as its most sacred trust. My officials, in consultation with their counterparts in the provinces,

in those areas of service that can be developed together, will be discussing with you projects that we think good, but which you and your people must first approve. There are techniques and methods. Let me assure you that we are aware, as a Federal Government, of our constitutional responsibilities and there is no thought of either avoiding them or of delegating them.

### DISCUSSION BEFORE DEVELOPMENT

Many of your people are concerned that there are efforts afoot to abrogate the ancient commitments and treaties or at least erode their consequences without any consultation whatsoever. Nothing could be further from the truth. For many of your people who feel insecure in the refined trappings of modern technology, these are their pillars and their anchors. The reservation is still the fortress for many. Contrary to some newspaper stories I have been reading, we have not the slightest intention of cancelling the reserve system. We do propose to discuss with you whether the old commitments are best serving the Indian people at this time, and how the enormous treasure guaranteed to you by the separated lands may best be developed exclusively for the use of your people.

My first task as Minister is to raise the stature and morale of my employees who are your servants. Your task is to raise the spirit of your people, preserve and revive their culture and reconstruct that fine pride of race and self-direction that has made such a contribution to what we all enjoy in Canada. No race of people more than the Indian, out of experience of tribal government, integrity in dealings and the retention of an association and appreciation of nature, deserves more to hold its head high....

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### JOINT FISHERIES PROJECT

A substantial programme for joint fishery development projects during 1966 was announced recently by Mr. H.J. Robichaud, Minister of Fisheries, and Mr. C. Max Lane, the Minister of Fisheries in Newfoundland.

The programme, which is being carried out by the Newfoundland Fisheries Development Authority and the Industrial Development Service of the federal Department of Fisheries, will be directed to a variety of operations to speed up the fisheries development of Newfoundland and Labrador. The projects it provides for will involve the construction of a number of vessels of a combination type, the demonstration of new and improved gear and equipment and the introduction of fishery techniques not now used in Newfoundland. Several technical specialists will be available to provide fishermen with the knowledge essential to more efficient operations.

Introduce more efficient vessels to the Newfoundland fleet. The new boats will be used for experimentation and demonstration on inshore and near-offshore grounds. They will make diversified operations possible by using the same boats for dragging, seining, longlining, gill-netting and other methods. With bigger and more mobile boats, fishermen should be able to catch a greater variety of species throughout most of the year, over a wider area.

In announcing the new programme, the ministers said that some projects would be carried out on a "fifty-fifty" basis, while for others the Federal Government would meet 75 per cent of the cost and the Provincial Government 25. In several projects there will also be financial participation by the fishing industry. Technical assistance will be provided at federal cost on an increasing scale, with specialists drawn not only from Newfoundland but from other areas of Canada and countries such as the United States, Britain, Norway and Japan.

### SCOTTISH NET METHOD

Last year a survey was made by Scottish fishing skippers to see if it would be feasible to introduce to the Newfoundland fisheries the Scottish version

### ALL-PURPOSE BOATS

One of the most important projects is the developing of a multi-purpose fishing boat, on which a start was made in 1965. This is part of a programme to in-