

CZECHOSLOVAK REFUGEES SURVEY

A study of how Czechoslovak refugees have fared in Canada is being carried out by the Department of Manpower and Immigration. Details of the study, which will be based on a sample survey of 2,000 persons who came to Canada under the special Czechoslovakian Refugee Program last autumn and winter, were announced recently by Manpower and Immigration Minister Allan J. MacEachen.

The survey will provide data on problems of employment, housing and language affecting the refugees, and on their adjustment to the Canadian way of life. It will be part of a research project designed to gather information and opinions from a representative portion of all immigrants.

Between September 1968 and March 1969, 11,153 Czechoslovakian immigrants settled in Canada; of these, 5,745, or more than 50 per cent of the total, settled in Ontario, 1,353 went to Alberta, 1,331 to Quebec, 1,257 to Manitoba, 932 to Saskatchewan and 145 to the Atlantic Provinces. One refugee settled in the Yukon.

Of the total, 6,639 were heads of families or independent adults destined for the labor force; some 4,159 of these were able to take up jobs in the trades or professions they had worked at in Czechoslovakia; an additional 2,617 were placed in other occupations. Some refugees were placed more than once.

It appears that Canada's refugee policy for Czechoslovakians has brought in a higher percentage of skilled, professional and technical people than the policy governing the regular flow of immigrants to Canada in postwar years, Mr. MacEachen notes. The majority of the refugees, he says, were found to have an unusually high level of skill and education, many possessing professional status as astronomers and nuclear physicists.

The random sample of 2,000 refugees will be surveyed three times in a three-year study. Several hundred of the newcomers are planning to enter post-secondary institutions this year to complete studies interrupted by the political upheaval in their homeland.

COLOR TV NEGLIGIBLE HEALTH RISK

The Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. John Munro, said recently that a survey of 400 color television sets had been made by his Department to investigate possible radiation hazards. (See also *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, Vol. 24, No. 20, dated May 14, 1969, P. 2.)

About 20 per cent of the sets purchased in 1966 or earlier, the Minister said, emitted radiation that in some degree exceeded the standard recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (0.5 milliröntgen hour). The proportion fell to 14 per cent in 1967, 8 per cent in 1968 and 4 per cent in 1969. This improvement probably re-

sulted from action taken by the manufacturers to establish more effective quality control procedures following recognition of the basic problem in 1967.

The health hazard of color TV sets, even where radiation emission is above the standard, is considered by the Department to be exceedingly small. In the survey, radiation emission was observed only at the point of closest approach to the electronic tubes, at the side, back or bottom of the set — not in the normal viewing position. Furthermore, the standard carries such a high safety margin that, unless it is exceeded by a substantial amount, any health risk is quite insignificant.

In most cases, maximum levels were less than ten times higher than the standard. Levels are much lower directly in front of the picture tube. Thus, viewer exposure can be considered negligible if a normal viewing distance, preferably four feet or more, is maintained. The Department warns however, that prolonged proximity to the side or back of a set should be avoided as much as possible.

STUDY TO CONTINUE

The Minister emphasized that the study had been of an exploratory nature only and that the preliminary results had not yet been followed up in detail. The survey was nation-wide and included most types of set, but it could not be regarded as complete and final. For instance, the Department was not yet able to state whether the higher levels occurred only in certain specific models, or whether they were due to occasional failures in quality control during manufacture. Regional variations in line voltages or alterations made by repairmen may also play a part in the problem and this needs further investigation.

The Department is continuing its study of these aspects and will be discussing with manufacturers any measures needed to improve the situation.

OTTAWA-QUEBEC HOUSING PACT

The Federal Government and the Quebec government recently concluded administrative arrangements for housing programs in the province during the fiscal year 1969-1970. Under the terms of the agreement, The Federal Government will make \$124,900,000 available to the province for a number of housing programs benefiting individuals and families with low and moderate incomes, and for elderly persons and orphaned children, etc.

This latest Ottawa-Quebec agreement replaces with a single document three agreements concluded last year to provide for more efficient administrative arrangements in the province's housing program.

The Quebec Housing Corporation will operate on a decentralized basis in using the facilities of the National Housing Act. The federal funds will be invested in housing programs through contributions to municipalities, non-profit organizations, universities and other authorized institutions.