

Nutrition survey points up deficiencies and overweight

The major findings of a report tabled in the House of Commons on November 6 show that many Canadians are overweight; that they have an iron deficiency; that some pregnant women and some children have a protein deficiency; that there is a shortage of calcium and vitamin D in the diet of many children and adolescents; and that some evidence exists of vitamin C deficiency in Eskimos and, to a lesser extent, among Indians.

This first Report of the Nutrition Canada National Survey, tabled by Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde, is the result of more than three years of research, implementation and analysis. Further reports containing data for provinces, as well as reports on Indians and Eskimos, are expected to be available next spring.

"When all reports become available, most nutritional problems of Canadians will be scientifically identified and clearly defined," said Mr. Lalonde, "and the federal and provincial governments will then be in a position to establish policies to alleviate the nutritional deficiencies reported."

Guidelines for remedial action

Along with identifying major national nutritional problems, the report suggests the following seven priorities on which government and concerned groups should base their future action:

- strengthen the Government's role in ensuring that food is nutritionally adequate;

- develop programs to inform the public of the value of nutrition;
- place emphasis, in nutrition education programs, on the vulnerability of certain people;
- emphasize sound eating habits;
- design the training of health professionals to meet the nutritional needs of society;
- develop systems for monitoring and surveillance of the nutritional health of Canadians.

According to Mr. Lalonde, Nutrition Canada was the most comprehensive survey of its kind undertaken anywhere in the world; he said it had been possible only because of the "outstanding" level of co-operation between federal and provincial governments.

"Officers of my Department are studying the report," said Mr. Lalonde, "and when they have completed their review, I should be in a position to consider possible interim actions to be taken by the Government, in co-operation with the provinces, pending the receipt of the additional reports. I am sure that the collaboration of the provinces will be as great in resolving the problems as it was in identifying them."

The food industry, he continued, would have to collaborate in the regulatory aspects and in development of improved foods for the marketplace. Guided by improved educational programs some people, Mr. Lalonde concluded, would have to change their eating habits.

Trade with Korea

The Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Nak Sun Lee, visited Canada from November 4 to 11, reciprocating the visit by the Canadian ministerial mission to Korea in January 1972. It was the first visit to Canada of a Korean Cabinet Minister.

Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Alastair Gillespie said that this visit came at a particularly opportune time as Canada opened its Embassy in Seoul just last month and trade was increasing rapidly. Bilateral trade in 1972 totalled \$76.6 million, with Can-

adian exports in that year reaching a value of \$32.9 million. Major Canadian exports included forest products, telecommunications equipment and electronic components, metal and minerals and agricultural products. Trade with Korea in 1973 is increasing at a faster rate than with any other of Canada's major trading partners.

The Korean delegation visited several Canadian manufacturing and resource companies in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto.

Mr. Gillespie said that major new opportunities appeared to exist in Korea for a variety of Canadian exports of high value-added equipment.

Canadians at FAO conference in Rome

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan leads the Canadian delegation to the seventeenth biennial conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in Rome from November 10 to 29.

The Conference is concentrating its attention on the current world food situation, the dramatic changes that have taken place in the past two years, the outlook and the direction national and international production and trade policies should take.

Main Issues under discussion are:

- (1) The World Food Security Proposal, put forward by Dr. A.H. Boerma, Director-General of the FAO, the intent of which is to ensure minimum food supplies and stocks;
- (2) the United Nations recommendation calling for a world food conference;
- (3) international agricultural adjustment, and in particular, international trade policies to promote increased trade with developing nations;
- (4) Approval of a pledging target for the World Food Program (WFP). The WFP, which has been in operation for ten years, needs \$100 million more to meet commitments for aid. That would put the target at \$440 million.



Agriculture Minister Whelan leads the Canadian delegation at FAO in Rome.

The Canadian delegation includes Leopold Corriveau, Parliamentary Secretary to Mr. Whelan; provincial ministers from Alberta and Nova Scotia, representatives of farm organizations and officials from several Federal Government departments.