

INDIAN STUDENTS' SUMMER JOBS

A total of 1,350 Indian students were employed by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs this past summer, compared to 800 last year.

Some 1,200 high-school students were employed under a \$500,000 summer employment program implemented by band councils on reserves across Canada, while the remaining 150 were hired under a special program for college and university students.

The high-school program, launched as a pilot project in 1971, created jobs on reserves in support of existing services.

This year, Indian students worked in a wide range of projects which included community recreation, administration, maintenance of equipment and buildings and other related activities. Thirty Indian university students were employed for about four months as co-ordinators of the program in the various regions.

The program was operated by local band councils across Canada in consultation with provincial Indian associations. It was designed to involve Indian students in the day-to-day affairs of an Indian community.

The summer employment program for college and university students, now in its fourth year of operation, encouraged involvement of young Indian people with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs through meaningful summer work. Part of a continuing, recruitment and development program, it made possible the recruiting of promising Indian college and university graduates into the Department as trainees for management-level positions.

The 51 Indian students working in the Ottawa headquarters were involved in such projects as researching and devising a prototype of the English primary text for use in Indian schools; researching and compiling a handbook of potential resources and services available to Indian bands; and compiling biographical information on Indian artists.

Students working at field locations in the various provinces became more involved with problems encountered at the regional and district levels. They worked at establishing methods of band consultation in connection with community improvement; designed and implemented information courses on family budgeting; and assisted band managers in matters of financial and welfare administration.

HIGHER FAMILY ALLOWANCES URGED

The Government should consider increasing family allowances and taxing them, Reuben C. Baetz, Executive director of The Canadian Council on Social Development said on November 15.

Mr. Baetz, speaking at a seminar on income maintenance for families and children at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, said it would be a serious mistake and a setback for Canadian social policy if any attempt were made to resurrect the

Government's proposed Family Income Security Program (FISP), which was not passed by Parliament before the October 30 general election.

"However, it would be equally serious if the Government were not to take the necessary steps to improve and reform our family-allowance program, which has been permitted to deteriorate over the decades," stated Mr. Baetz.

He urged the Government to revise the family-allowance program pending complete reform of the social security system.

Canadians generally, Mr. Baetz said, would find acceptable an increase in family allowances to \$15 a month for each child under age 12, and \$20 for each child aged 12 to 18. Elimination of the tax exemption for children would also be acceptable, he believed.

Increasing family allowances and taxing them would be administratively simpler than implementing the proposed FISP. It would also avoid the stigma of an income-tested program and would probably be acceptable by most of the provinces. The total net cost of increasing the family allowances would be an estimated \$800 million, compared to the current family-allowance program costing \$560 million.

BRAIN RESEARCH AT U. OF SASKATCHEWAN

Scientists at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, have acquired a powerful new instrument for studies of the highly complex chemistry of the brain. A high resolution, double-focusing mass spectrometer, one of the most powerful in the world, was recently installed on the campus and is now in operation in the College of Medicine. Its purchase and first three years of operation were provided for by a \$200,000-grant from the Medical Research Council of Canada.

Dr. Allan Boulton is using the instrument to study substances in the brain that are suspected of being implicated in a variety of neurological and psychiatric disorders. Dr. Boulton is director of psychiatric research for the Saskatchewan Department of Public Health and associate professor of psychiatry at the University. He plans to develop procedures for identifying and analyzing a group of substances called amines, some of which are involved in Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, and depression.

In early work, Dr. Boulton studied these substances in body fluids. The mass spectrometer will enable him to extend his investigations to brain tissue. Because of its high resolution, the instrument can separate substances whose difference in mass is in the order of only ten parts in a million, and it enables researchers to calculate a substance's precise atomic constitution.

Dr. Boulton said in an interview that he wanted to see how amines were distributed in the brain and in cells and how their distribution was affected by certain drugs. He also wants to study how these amines are synthesized and degraded.