

Arts Centre chalks up deficit

Despite a 16 percent increase in the number of performances and a continuing rise in attendance, the seventh annual report of the National Arts Centre, tabled recently in the House of Commons, shows a box-office loss of over \$5 million for 1973/74.

Statistics released by the Centre indicate that from July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1974 the Centre staged 999 performances, compared to 862 the previous year. During that period 740,012 people attended NAC presentations, which played to 72.9 percent capacity. Corresponding figures for 1972/73 were 675,438 and 76.8 per cent.

The National Arts Centre Orchestra continued to draw the largest audiences, playing to 96.6 percent capacity, while theatre productions attracted 93.2 per cent.

In the fiscal year April 1, 1973 to March 31, 1974, program administration and restaurant costs amounted to \$9.99 million; total revenue from box-office receipts (including rentals), garage facilities and the restaurant amounted to \$4.84 million.

The net cost of \$5.15 million was absorbed by a federal grant of \$4.6 million, grants from the Canada Council, the Ottawa-Carleton municipality and others.

Preservation of national treasures

The Federal Government is moving to preserve the national heritage by preventing the uncontrolled dispersal of national treasures through export.

Bill C-33, the Cultural Property Export and Import Control Act, which will regulate the import and export of such objects and provide special tax incentives to encourage Canadians to

dispose of their national treasures to their institutions, was given second reading in the House of Commons recently by Secretary of State J. Hugh Faulkner.

The following features are included in the bill:

The export of national treasures will be regulated by reference to a control list establishing categories and age and value limits. The departure from Canada of an object falling into the category of a national treasure can be postponed if, as the result of an appeal by a person to whom an export permit has been refused, an independent review board judges that a reasonable delay period should be created. This will enable interested Canadian public authorities and custodial institutions to purchase it at a fair market price. If the object is not purchased within the time limits, an export permit will be granted.

The method of export control has been designed to ensure the co-operation of dealers and collectors in Canada. Parliament will be asked for sufficient funds to assist Canadian institutions in purchasing national treasures threatened by export and for which the review board has created a delay period. These funds will also be used to repatriate cultural property related to the Canadian heritage which appears on the international market.

Tax exemptions

Amendments to the Income Tax Act will exempt from capital gains tax national treasures disposed of to designated institutions or public authorities in Canada and will make gifts of national treasures to designated institutions and authorities deductible from taxable income on the same percentage basis as if they were gifts to the Crown — that is, on a 100 percent basis. The tax exemptions will not be restricted to cases where owners are attempting to export national treasures, thus not creating a disadvantage for Canadians who sell or donate important heritage items to their local institutions.

The legislation also calls for the establishment of a Canadian Heritage Preservation Endowment Account to encourage contributions from the private sector to be used towards the purchase of national treasures to supplement the funds the Government

makes available. Donations will be fully deductible.

The bill contains provisions prohibiting the import to Canada of cultural property illegally exported from other countries. The Attorney-General will institute legal proceedings necessary and Canadian courts will decide what compensation is to be paid to a *bona fide* Canadian purchaser by a state that has signed a bilateral or multilateral cultural property agreement with Canada when an object is to be returned to that state. These provisions are necessary for Canada to ratify the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

"Just as I believe that the Canadian Government has a responsibility to act as a guardian of the heritage of Canadians, I also believe that this responsibility extends to the cultural heritage of mankind," Mr. Faulkner said, referring to the new bill.

Canada/U.S. weather agreement

(Continued from P. 3)

environmental impact-assessment system, Mrs. Sauvé and Dr. Peterson agreed that U.S. and Canadian officials should meet to discuss guidelines to govern situations requiring co-ordinated trans-boundary assessments.

Bilateral matters discussed included the Garrison Diversion Irrigation Project in North Dakota, the proposed Saskatchewan Power Corporation Power and Mining Project on the Poplar River, the implementation of the Great Lakes agreement, co-operative measures to abate air pollution in Detroit, Windsor-Port Huron, Sarnia region, water quality in the Saint John River and Lake Memphremagog, the proposed Dickey-Lincoln School Lakes Project, regulatory measures for Richelieu River and Lake Champlain, and the challenges posed by the need to protect the marine environment from oil spills in coastal waters of mutual concern.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación parecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

Ahnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.