

labour requirements. Should Canada be doing more of this?

Another range of questions relates to adjustment. How far should we go in extending special help to the immigrant as regards his or her employment and health, and his or her desire to be united with family and relatives in Canada? What further efforts should we make to assist the immigrant to become part of our society and to feel at home quickly with our way of life?

There is the important matter of our international responsibilities. Developing nations face extremely serious problems. Most suffer from overpopulation and the scarcity of qualified professionals and trained labour. Both these problems have a bearing on Canada's immigration policy as it relates to our desire to assist the Third World. We want also to take into account our well-established tradition of receiving political refugees.

These questions, and many more, must be asked. It is easy to ask questions, but much less easy to find the right answers. No government can responsibly propose quick solutions to problems as complex and important as these. Decisions about our demographic future are decisions about the kind of Canada we want. They can only be made after a thorough process of consultation with all Canadians.

#### Public opinion invited

As I told Parliament recently, the task is enormous and urgent. The Government intends to proceed without delay. The first step must be to identify all the options, and for this purpose I have appointed a small group of people to deal with this task. We will need a great deal of help. I am writing today to provincial governments and to over 100 organizations, inviting them to tell us about their particular concerns and give us their advice. I would also encourage all concerned Canadians as individuals, or in groups, to write me and give me their views.

My target for the completion of this stage of the process, which will also involve a series of special studies, is next spring. The results will be published in the form of a document — a "green paper" — which, I am confident, will provoke further national discussion. I want to emphasize that we will be seeking the widest possible spectrum of public opinion on the green

paper. In addition to seeking the views of the provinces and briefs from interested groups, I am proposing that a national conference on immigration and population be convened, sponsored by my Department.

The green paper will, I hope, provide a good focus for debate. It will do three things. First, it will identify the problems, and analyze policy options in terms which will relate immigration to the kind of Canada that we might want. Second, it will review the techniques and procedures by which immigrants are recruited. And thirdly, it will review the whole legal framework within which new policies should operate.

The end result at which we are aiming is a comprehensive policy, to be expressed in new immigration legislation for submission to Parliament. Our goal is an up-to-date instrument to shape Canada's future immigration in the context I have tried to outline, namely that immigration in the future will crucially affect and determine Canada's economic, social, cultural and demographic growth.

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#### Pan American Health Conference

To be fully effective, health care should take place in homes and schools as well as in doctors' offices, hospitals and clinics, delegates to the Pan American Health Conference on Health Manpower Planning concluded on September 14 in Ottawa.

Taking part in the week-long conference, which was sponsored by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Canadian Government, were some 130 representatives from 26 PAHO countries (from Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada and the United States), two participating governments — France and Britain — and the provinces of Canada.

The purpose of the meeting was to promote and assist national programs for the improvement of health.

Among the main speakers was Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde, who addressed the conference on changes and perspectives in the Canadian health system, long-term planning and community services, the significance of manpower programs and Canada's co-operation with PAHO.

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director of

PAHO, referred to health problems in Latin America and goals of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, included in the final report of the Health Ministers Conference, that was signed and approved by the Ministers of Health of the Americas or their representatives at Santiago, Chile, in October 1972. Dr. Maurice LeClair, Deputy Minister (Health) in the Department of Health and Welfare, who presided over the Ottawa conference, signed for Canada.

Speakers at the final session stressed the need to have health workers "suited to local needs rather than based on an imported system of medical education that, in some places, is supplying an inverted pyramid with too many doctors and not enough nurses, aides, community workers and technicians".

Two main themes concerned the need to use a different type of health worker and to involve the public in health care. Carlisle Burton, head of the civil service and secretary to the Prime Minister of Barbados, said in an interview after the meeting: "The first question everyone should be able to answer is, do I know the most important health problems of my community and what I can do about them? The question to ask," he continued "is whether children are being taught how to solve these problems at home as well as at school."

To solve health problems, he concluded, everybody, not just health workers, must appreciate the difficulties involved.

#### Banks raise prime rate

Most Canadian chartered banks have announced that prime loan rates will rise three-quarters of a percentage point to a record level of 9 per cent. The move raises the prime rate by 50 per cent since April. Interest paid on non-chequing savings accounts will be increased by one-half a point to 6.7 per cent, retroactive to September 1. The banks, with the consent of federal Finance Minister John Turner, will increase rates by up to a full point on certificates of deposit, to 8.5 per cent. The chartered banks have increased their prime rates six times this year from the 6 per cent level that prevailed until April 9.