

## News of the arts

### Employment of the handicapped

Robert Andras, President of the Treasury Board, has announced the Government's intention of increasing employment opportunities for handicapped persons employed in the federal Public Service. Mr. Andras tabled his comments in the House of Commons on March 21 with a report entitled *Employment of Physically and*

*Mentally Handicapped People in the Federal Public Service*, which he had commissioned as Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

The report is the result of a two-year study conducted jointly by the Department of Manpower and Immigration and the Public Service Commission, in consultation with several other departments. The study included pilot projects operated in four cities to encourage employment

of the handicapped within the Public Service as well as widespread discussions with handicapped persons and associations representing the handicapped.

Mr. Andras noted that the report provided a comprehensive view of the type of barriers that could prevent handicapped people from enjoying equal employment opportunities and career development in the work force.

Included in the plans are the following highlights:

- Departments are to review and eliminate any policies or practices governing the design of jobs, the selection, training and career development of employees or the provision of office facilities which might unconsciously discriminate against the handicapped.
- The Public Service Commission has begun a review of its staffing policies, to ensure that the handicapped are not screened out by recruitment and selection procedures which were basically designed for the non-handicapped.
- The Department of Supply and Services is studying an expansion of the employment of handicapped workers in the provision of services and materials to the Government.
- The Government's contract policy governing the use of sheltered workshops is being reviewed.
- Departments are to develop action plans to facilitate the employment of the handicapped and will report regularly on their progress.
- An advisory group, composed of representatives of various agencies and associations concerned with the needs of the handicapped, is being established to advise departments on their action plans.
- The Department of Public Works will co-ordinate studies of how all government buildings can be converted by 1983 to accommodate handicapped employees and to be accessible to handicapped members of the general public.

Mr. Andras pointed out that there was a lack of information on the number of handicapped people in Canada and their participation in the work force. Despite this, he said, the Public Service's record of employing the handicapped appeared to be at least at parity with other employers in Canada.

"But that in my view is not good enough. I believe that we must take a position of leadership in the area and, by so doing, set an example for other employers," he stated.

### New bus rivals plane

Telephones, hostesses and hot meals are innovative features of a new bus service from Montreal to Quebec City, inaugurated on April 10.

Voyageur Inc.'s Grand Express was introduced mainly for businessmen and public servants, who make the journey regularly, and to compete with other modes of transportation. "Compared to the train," says a Voyageur spokesman, "a survey of our operating costs has concluded that we could, within a radius of 200 miles, offer for a comparable price a much superior service including more on-board conveniences...." In comparison to plane travel, he continued, the new service linking city centres, is more econo-

mical in time and money, it can be reserved in advance, it features the same on-board service and, above all, has the "outstanding feature (telephones), which allows contact with the exterior during the trip which is so important to the businessman".

The \$130,000-vehicles have 24 seats, compared to 43 or 47 on the regular buses, built in rows of three instead of the usual four. Each seat has a control panel from which four types of music may be chosen, lights adjusted or hostess called. There are four departures a day — \$21 single, \$42 return fare, which includes meals, newspapers and magazines. Regular return bus fare for the 24-kilometre journey from Montreal to Quebec City is \$19.80.



Norman Denault (above), Vice President of Marketing for Voyageur Inc., who announced the inauguration of a new "deluxe" bus service between Montreal and Quebec City, is shown with one of the hostesses working on the Grand Express.