

RACIAL ISSUE HITS EXPO '67

On March 24, 35 days before the opening of Expo '67, an organization in New York called on President Johnson to withdraw United States participation in Canada's world exhibition on the ground that racial discrimination was being practised there. The assertion was made that Expo '67 had a staff of 15,000, of whom only three were non-white persons.

This story was based on a demand in the House of Commons by Mr. Stanley Knowles of the New Democratic Party that the Minister responsible for Expo '67, Mr. Robert H. Winters, investigate alleged racial discrimination by Logexpo (the organization handling the accommodation of visitors to the Exhibition) and "see that this un-Canadian practice is brought to a halt". Mr. Knowles founded his charge on an editorial in a leading Canadian newspaper asserting that Quebec possessed no anti-discrimination law and that Logexpo was questioning prospective visitors about their colour and creed.

DENIAL BY EXPO OFFICIAL

On March 28, a categorical denial was issued by the Deputy Commissioner General of Expo '67, Mr. Robert F. Shaw, who declared that Quebec had possessed a law against discrimination "for a long

time". He quoted Premier Daniel Johnson to the effect that, if this legislation "had loopholes, he'd plug them".

Mr. Shaw's statement continued as follows:

"Expo has never questioned anyone - employee or visitor - on colour or creed. There are only two Logexpo forms sent to the public, a brochure and a reservation form. I invite the inspection of those who are interested in accuracy - Expo doesn't even know how many non-whites and non-Christians are on the payroll, but I am certain we employ a higher percentage of coloured people than the ratio of bilingual coloured people to bilingual Canadians.

"My own guess is that there are about 40 coloured and a similar number of other non-whites in our staff of 3,000 in this great non-bigoted city which was selected by U.S. interests to break the colour barrier in American sport. To this day, Montrealers remember Jackie Robinson with warmth and pride. But we don't know, and we won't ask, how many of this or that colour we employ. We employ Canadians only on the basis of ability and their desire to serve their country. Sixteen African nations have accepted Canada's invitation to participate at Expo and the Exhibition Corporation has gone to great lengths to encourage them to do so."

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AIRLINES READY FOR BIG YEAR

Mr. J. W. Pickersgill, the Minister of Transport, said recently that, in view of the expected substantial increase in airline passenger travel during the summer, owing to centennial celebrations across Canada and Expo '67, certain steps had been taken to relieve the pressure on passenger facilities on domestic and international air-routes. The aim is to give as many Canadians as possible the opportunity to visit Expo '67 and travel throughout Canada during centennial year, and to make it possible for many foreign visitors to come to Canada.

Five foreign carriers operating from Europe to Montreal and from Montreal onward to points in the United States will be granted stop-over rights in Montreal on a temporary basis - that is, their "through" passengers may stop over in Montreal. These routes will be Montreal-Chicago for Aer Lingus (the Irish airline), SAS (Scandinavia) and Swissair (Switzerland), Montreal-San Francisco for Lufthansa (West Germany) and Montreal-Houston for KLM (The Netherlands).

U.S. CARRIERS

In addition, several U.S. carriers who regularly operate into Canada have advised the Air Transport Board of their intention to increase service to and from Montreal for the period of peak demand. This authorization has been granted by the Air Transport Board after consultation with the Department of Transport. The heaviest demand will probably occur on the trans-border routes into Montreal (New York-Montreal, Chicago-Toronto-Montreal and the trans-continental routes).

In Canada, permission will be granted to the regional carriers (Pacific Western Airlines, TransAir, Nordair, Quebecair and Eastern Provincial Airways) to provide limited group charters between points on domestic scheduled routes as well as inclusive tours within limitations prescribed by the Board. This freedom may be extended on a temporary basis to other Canadian carriers during 1967, where travel is directly related to Expo '67 and centennial events.

Canadian Pacific Airlines will also be authorized, for this summer only, to carry local domestic traffic on the domestic segments of its international services.

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INDIAN HOUSING IN MANITOBA

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Arthur Laing, said recently that, by March 31, over \$2.5 million had been spent in Manitoba on housing for Indians. Of 440 units planned for 40 of the province's reserves, 245 houses have already been completed.

Mr. Laing explained that this was part of the Department's \$112-million Community Improvement Programme. During a period of five years, \$75 million will be spent from public funds to relieve the housing backlog across the country and to keep pace with the expected 3 percent annual population increase of the Indian people. Band funds and personal contributions from Indians are also being used.

Using the Peguis reserve as an example of what is being accomplished, the Minister said that 16