

Mr. Barrie says, the satellite "would start wobbling like an off-balance washing machine, and you can't send any repair man up there to fix it!"

The final product is contained in a gold-plated box measuring 10 by 14 inches and looking rather like a jewel case. Within is

the core of the electronic "ears, brain and heart" for a satellite. Exhaustive records kept at every stage in its construction are posted off with it on its careful journey to California.

This is how television came to the far north of Canada, demonstrating the chief

advantage of the satellite system: that electronic signals can be bounced via a satellite down to a ground station *without* the need for hundreds and thousands of miles of land circuits. Signals sent in this way are also far less subject to interference.

## Employment:

# How the unemployed employ themselves

by Jenny Pearson

A new way out of Canada's recurring problem of winter unemployment has been found over the past two years through the simple act of turning the problem over to the unemployed themselves.

The usually passive role of unemployed people waiting for work to turn up was radically altered in the autumn of 1971 by a new federal programme which invited them to put up ideas of their own for local projects on which they could work. It is called the Local Initiatives Programme. A starting budget of \$100m. dollars was allocated to the experiment and unemployed people were invited to submit ideas for projects which would create employment and, at the same time, improve and benefit the community.

The response was overwhelming. Under that original programme for the winter of 1971-72, 13,738 applications were received. They came from isolated villages and hamlets as well as from the big cities. Because there were so many good ideas which could not be taken up under the original budget, a further \$50m. was allocated immediately; then, in the spring, it was decided to spend another \$40m. so that worthwhile services begun under LIP could be maintained through the summer months. During its first winter, 5,700 projects were put into effect, providing a total of 398,265 man-months of employment.

Soon the results of the Local Initiatives Programme were to be seen in the shape of all kinds of local benefits and services. New community centres, parks, ski runs and beaches appeared. Services that began as LIP projects, such as help for the aged and disabled, day-care centres, clinics and centres for information and counselling, proved themselves to fill such an obvious need that funds began to come in from other sources.

As a result of research projects on subjects like local history, and the subsequent publication of pamphlets, tapes and films, local archives and libraries have acquired a store of information on vanishing life styles.

By their enthusiastic response, thousands of unemployed people gave the lie to the Blimps who maintain that people enjoy sitting back and living on the dole. Indeed, the Ministry of Manpower reckon that by far the greatest contribution of LIP has been its effect on the workers themselves.

A report from the Ministry says, "Many project workers had been living on incomes below the Economic Council's poverty line - a great many had been unemployed for some length of time, often years, and had been living on social assistance.

"With LIP they began to work in jobs whereby, for the first time, they were able to contribute to rather than take from society. As LIP employees, these previously unemployed Canadians had the opportunity to develop and acquire skills to help them adapt to a rapidly changing economic and social climate."

## Workers' own ideas

What kind of work do unemployed people think of doing when the ball is in their court? Here are some examples from the 1972-73 programme:

A group in Newfoundland set up a safety council, to coach people in many aspects of safety from first aid and rules for pedestrians to a course in baby-sitting for girls of 12 and over. A group in Halifax, Nova Scotia, had a project to help female offenders, on the grounds that women in prison get a particularly raw deal because they are a small minority group, and facilities for them are therefore "makeshift". In Saint John, New Brunswick, a bureau was created to put volunteers in touch with services which needed them. A craft house was opened on Prince Edward Island to train people in handicrafts and market their works to tourists. Other projects included day care centres for children; a scheme for training special workers to meet the emotional, educational and recreational needs of children in hospital; a "free store" to collect and distribute clothing,

furniture and household utensils among the needy; a project to study and inform on environmental problems; and a catalogue of special books available to blind and handicapped people.

In the second year of LIP, the Department of Manpower adapted their original plan to involve business and industry in creating employment for the benefit of the community. This new venture had two separate aspects: a local initiatives programme for private industry and another, separate programme for entrepreneurs.

Twenty-eight companies took part in the private industry programme. They undertook to run projects utilizing their plant, equipment and managerial time, but outside their normal production or service. The projects were conceived on a non-profit basis, with financial assistance from LIP to cover wages and some overhead costs for workers hired from the ranks of the unemployed.

## Companies in the act

The companies employed LIP workers to build parks, docks and ski runs and lay water mains, and in various other undertakings for the benefit of the community. A condition was that the completed project and the land on which it stood should be turned over to the municipality for at least five years: in fact, most firms made a permanent gift of their completed projects. The companies also put money of their own into the projects, as did the provinces and municipalities which stood to gain by them: indeed, the sum of their contributions exceeded the federal allocations.

As a side effect of the private industry programme, quite a few of the workers found permanent employment on the staff of the companies involved, having made an impression with their capability and willingness to work.

The programme for entrepreneurs was even more adventurous in conception, as