

ARTISTIC CENTRE URGED FOR OTTAWA

A survey released on October 28 by the National Capital Arts Alliance, which consists of more than 50 of the 70 organizations in the Ottawa area active in the creative and performing arts, calls for the construction of a \$9-million artistic centre in the Lower Town section of Canada's capital. It also advocates the establishment by 1967 of a National Festival of the Arts, based on the proposed artistic centre, as a Canadian centennial project.

The 105-page report, supported by 31 appendices, was commissioned last June. G. Hamilton Southam, president of the Alliance, said that he and the members of his council needed a short interval to study the report and to formulate the position the Alliance would take with respect to it. "We expect within the next fortnight to be in a position to approach the Federal Government with practical suggestions for a 1967 centennial project along these lines", Mr. Southam added, "and it would seem safe to say that we shall be using considerable portions of the report to document our proposals".

Mr. Southam disclosed that copies of the report had been sent "for information only" to Prime Minister Pearson, certain other members of the Cabinet who had been kept informed of the Arts Alliance's activities, the National Capital Commission, the Canada Council and the National Centennial Administration, and the mayors of Ottawa, Eastview (Ontario) and Hull (Quebec).

SOURCE OF SURVEY FUNDS

The Canada Council and the NCC contributed \$5,000 apiece toward the \$20,000 cost of the survey. The balance was raised privately from business firms, sympathetic organizations and individuals in Ottawa and Hull and the surrounding district.

Artistic advisers to Dominion Consultant Associates, who carried out the survey, were Gratien Gélinas, founder and director of the Comédie canadienne theatre in Montreal, Dr. Ettore Mazzoleni, principal of Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music,

NATIONAL TECHNICAL DIPLOMA FAVOURED

A recent meeting in Ottawa of administrators of technological institutes from all parts of Canada recommended that future graduates of their institutions at the "post-high-school" level be granted a nationally-recognized diploma.

Representatives of nine provinces met under the auspices of the Technical and Vocational Training Branch of the Department of Labour to discuss various phases and aspects of technical education in Canada.

The administrators agreed that Canada's institutes of technology had been designed to provide a kind of education not available at other types of educational institution. The education as technicians of young people who had completed their high-

and Robert Whitehead, a Canadian engaged in theatrical production in New York City.

Also participating were Nicholas Fodor and Associates of Toronto, engineering consultants for several recent theatre and concert-hall projects in Canada and Europe, and the Montreal management-consultant firm of Urwick, Currie Limited.

The artistic centre, which, as envisaged in the report, would be situated near picturesque Nepean Point and the south bank of the Ottawa River, at the precise confluence of the French and English cultures of the region, would comprise four primary units housed in a single structure:

- (1) an opera house seating 2,300;
- (2) a theatre seating 1,100;
- (3) a studio theatre for smaller groups, seating 350;
- (4) a salon seating 100, for presentations of the visual arts and for smaller recitals, meetings and receptions.

Auxiliary facilities would be a parking area for some 800 cars, restaurant accommodation and refreshment service in the foyers.

CANADIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

The proposed annual Canadian Festival of the Arts, beginning in the centennial year, "would act as a unique bi-cultural bridge between Canada's two major ethnic groups", the report declared, adding:

"Canada is the only country in the world where the French and English cultures co-exist, and it is in Ottawa that they co-exist most happily both in geographic proximity and ethnic proportions.

"The mingling of these two great cultures could well provide international stature to the Festival that would make it unique in North America and a challenge to the older European festivals.

"Indeed, our two cultures are themselves a bridge to the Old World cultures from which they sprang and Canada, with its reservoir of United States artistic resources so readily available, could well provide the first great international festival uniting the New and the Old World".

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school studies ought not, the conference declared, to be so narrow as to restrict their ability to understand abstract principles nor so broad as to impair their ability to act.

OTHER MATTERS

Also discussed by the gathering of administrators were the following subjects: the development of standards at the "post-high-school" level that would be recognized by schools, employers and the general public; the development of curricula; the exchange of information among institutes; the required types of research; the increasing need for new avenues of approach to technical qualification by persons at present employed; the use and effectiveness of advisory committees; the qualification, appointment and promotion of instructors.