

CANADA AT UN WELFARE MEET

Speaking recently at the United Nations, Mr. John Munro, Canada's Minister of National Health and Welfare, called for a greater recognition of "the needs of the human constituency" by governments throughout the world. "Human development," Mr. Munro told the First International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare, must become "the determinant of public policy". Social welfare could no longer play the "limited role of reacting to, rather than shaping, events", he said. It must be "the agent of individual and community adjustment in a context of continuing social change".

"Social problems," Mr. Munro told the 80-nation conference, "are not mainly a private fault but rather a warning about the malfunctioning of society as a whole."

Mr. Munro, who headed the 11-member Canadian delegation, which also included the Deputy Minister of National Welfare, Dr. J.W. Willard, the welfare ministers of three provinces (J.B. Carroll of Manitoba, C.P. MacDonald of Saskatchewan and L.N. Thériault of New Brunswick) and the Deputy Welfare Minister of Quebec, Roger Marier, addressed the first plenary session of the ten-day conference.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MUNRO SPEECH

He pointed to "the number of problems which are common to all of us" and indicated that the wide variance between countries lay in "the depth and severity of these problems and in their ability to remedy them - an ability which is not always related to the level of national development".

"But similar or dissimilar as particular problems may be, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the key to much of what we are trying to achieve lies in involvement of the people," Mr. Munro said. He singled out the need to provide young people with "the opportunity for a meaningful involvement in national social development".

He proposed an expanded international use of volunteers from the university and technical college level. "Volunteers at this level of competence from the developed country," he said, "working with volunteers from the developing country, can perform an important interim job as teachers, youth workers and the like, as well as assisting senior experts and advisers."

Speaking of the visible conditions of self-perpetuating poverty, bad housing, illiteracy and unemployment, Mr. Munro suggested that the root causes might often lie in the "much deeper human condition of absence of hope and personal fulfilment".

Referring to the world-wise emphasis on industrialization and urbanization, he called for an accompanying emphasis on meeting the social needs which flow from it: "Throughout the world, the city has become a magnet, drawing people from the land with a promise it cannot fulfil. The result can be a crushing blow to the human spirit."

He called for "study and planning in the field of need and motivation" and for social planners to "assert their claim for inclusion in the total de-

velopment process".

"Future development plans must be based on integrated social and economic considerations," Mr. Munro said. Social planning "must not be lost in the simpler economic and engineering sides of planning".

In order to support their claim to an equal voice in development planning, Mr. Munro continued, social planners must improve their expertise and their techniques. He called for more specialization in training at the university, vocational and agency levels and more active recruitment into the social development sector.

The allocation of resources to the social side of development is warranted not only on humanitarian grounds, he said, "but also to accelerate economic growth through the increased efficiency of the working population....Support for social development involves difficulties, but without balance in development its process is hampered, retarded and sometimes nullified".

LABOUR FORCE

The labour force in Canada increased by 165,000 to 8,323,000 from June to July. This increase, which is smaller than usual, followed an unusually large influx of students into the labour market from May to June. Employment increased during the month by 189,000 to 7,952,000, while unemployment decreased by 24,000 to 371,000.

Compared to last year's figure, the labour force showed an increase of 198,000, or 2.4 per cent. Employment was up by 111,000 and unemployment by 87,000.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment among persons 14 to 19 years of age increased from June to July by 204,000, which compares with average gains of 254,000 during the same period in the past five years. The smaller-than-usual advance during the month followed an unusually large increase from May to June.

As usual, employment among persons 20 years of age and over declined during the month as many married women moved out of the labour force during the school holiday period.

About two-thirds (124,000) of the June-to-July increase in employment was in non-farm industries; farm employment increased by 65,000. Gains were recorded in trade (45,000), construction (34,000), transportation, communication and other utilities (19,000) and community, business and personal services (18,000). Employment in manufacturing, which in recent years has gone up from June to July, registered a decrease of 22,000.

Compared to the 1967 figure, non-farm employment in July 1968 was up by 137,000. The largest gain took place in community, business and personal services (89,000). Smaller gains were recorded in transportation, communication and other utilities (34,000) and trade (22,000). Employment in manufacturing was lower than that recorded a year ago by 30,000.