

INDIAN HOSTESSES FOR EXPO '67

Twelve Canadian Indian girls from among 280 applications have been appointed hostesses for the "Indians of Canada" pavilion at Expo '67.

Selection boards were set up in ten major Canadian cities to interview the girls, who were judged not only on their appearance and personality but on their intelligence and their interest in Indian traditions and culture and contemporary problems affecting their people.

"The competition for these positions has been very strong" said Chief Andrew Tanahokate Delisle, Commissioner-General of the "Indians of Canada" pavilion.... "The 12 girls who won these positions, and all those who applied for them, are a real credit to their people. I am encouraged to think that the future of the Indians of Canada is in their hands."

The young hostesses will be trained for four months in Montreal, beginning next January. Their training will include Indian culture and history, Canadian history, information on Montreal and the World Exhibition, and first aid. They will be expected to have some knowledge of the one of Canada's two official tongues they do not usually speak.

The "Indians of Canada" pavilion is intended to be a statement by the Indians to the rest of the people of Canada, and the world. Funds for the project are provided by the Indian Affairs Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

NEW HOME BUILDING

Starts on the construction of new dwellings in Canadian centres of 5,000 population and over declined in April to 6,518 units from 8,877 in April last year, while January-April starts fell to 26,373 units from 28,318 a year earlier. Completions rose in April to 20,771 units from 14,352 and, in the four-month period, to 51,000 units from 50,031. Units in various stages of construction at the end of April were higher this year at 75,973 units versus 67,754.

PROVINCIAL FIGURES

Starts in Ontario in April fell to 3,047 units from 3,552 in the same month last year, and in Quebec to 1,463 units from 2,285. Totals for the other provinces: Newfoundland, 63 (51 a year ago); Prince

Edward Island, 1 (5); Nova Scotia, 101 (134); New Brunswick, 106 (136); Manitoba, 99 (352); Saskatchewan, 172 (182); Alberta, 384 (1,036); and British Columbia, 1,082 (1,144).

CENTENNIAL, WEST AND NORTH

The West Coast of Canada, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon were inspired last month by the centennial spirit to augment their contribution to 1967 celebrations. The occasion was the seventh meeting of the National Conference on the Centennial of Confederation, held at Victoria, British Columbia, and a pre-centennial tour of Whitehorse (Yukon), Yellowknife (NWT) and St. Paul (Alberta).

The National Conference is made up of 60 members appointed by the Secretary of State from across Canada, including at least two from each of the provinces, appointed on the recommendation of the provincial governments. The Victoria meeting was the first to be chaired by Miss Judy LaMarsh since she became Secretary of State, the Minister responsible for the centennial.

Miss LaMarsh paid tribute to the part the National Conference had played in centennial planning as the main group advising the Minister and representing every province and region of the country. She pointed out that many ideas in the early stages of centennial planning had come from the National Conference and that major ones had since been transformed into national centennial programmes.

The "idea" stage of centennial planning had been completed, and programme projects decided on, Miss LaMarsh said. "Now we are heading into the third and final stage, the home-stretch", she told the members. "Not only are the ideas set and the decisions made, but the necessary administrative work also is nearing completion. From now until next January 1 the major task must be to spread the word to make sure all Canadians from coast to coast know what plans we have made, to rouse their interest and enthusiasm in our programmes".

Following the meeting, the Conference members and Commission representatives toured Whitehorse, Yellowknife and St. Paul. They held meetings with local centennial planning organizations in those communities. The trip provided an opportunity for an interchange of information and ideas between individuals from all parts of Canada.
