

## FACELIFT FOR CANADIAN WELFARE COUNCIL

The fiftieth annual meeting of the Canadian Welfare Council ratified changes in the structure and functions of the Council that will alter its direction and streamline future operations.

Although a new name – the Canadian Council on Social Development – still has to be approved by the Government, all the proposals put to the meeting were approved. A 90-member board of governors was reduced to 60; five program divisions, each semi-autonomous with its own membership, were abolished (the Canadian Corrections Association, the Canadian Public Welfare Association, the Community Funds and Councils of Canada, Family and Child Welfare Division and the Division on Aging), two of which, the Canadian Corrections Association and the Community Funds and Councils of Canada, become affiliated bodies with control over their own program and finance.

The program of the Council now centres on social policy formulation and promotion, organized round social development tasks which the Council will undertake in response to changing social needs.

It will conduct studies, recommend action and take action on its own behalf. Staff will be assigned tasks as they arise, and project committees, composed of staff and laymen, will be struck as required.

Constituencies that have been served in the past will be served, as before, by the Council's two affiliated bodies, by staff in a liaison capacity in the following areas: income security; personal social services; health, community development; housing; education; work and leisure.

### FIRST WOMAN CHAIRMAN

Mrs. W.M. Benidickson, of Ottawa and Kenora, was elected chairman of the executive committee of the Canadian Welfare Council, succeeding Horace S. Racine of Ottawa. Mrs. Benidickson has been a member of the CWC board of governors since 1966. She is the first woman to assume chairmanship of the executive committee since the office was created in 1952. Dr. C.E. Hendry, of Toronto, continues for a second term as president of the Council.

*Three executive directors of the Canadian Welfare Council meet at the historic fiftieth annual meeting in Ottawa. Left to right: Dr. R.E.G. Davis of Toronto, who served from 1946 to 1963; Dr. Charlotte Whitton, a well-known former mayor of Ottawa, who was the first executive director of the CWC (1925-1942); and Reuben C. Baetz, present executive director, who has served since 1963. Dr. George Davidson (1942-46), who contributed a recorded message for the occasion, was not present.*



## HEALTH-CARE PRICES UP

Health-care prices facing consumers during the past nine years increased at an average annual rate of 3.7 per cent; during the same period, there was a 2.9 percent average for the consumer price index. The comparison was revealed in a report released by Health and Welfare Minister John Munro, entitled "Health Care Price Movements in Canada, April 1961 to April 1970".

Based mainly on health-care data included in the

consumer price index series, this report also shows that, among health items, the steepest rises over the latest 12-month period occurred in the prices of optical care, (8.9 per cent), and dentists' fees (6.8 per cent). Physicians' fees are no longer surveyed in provinces that have established public medical insurance plans. However, a general increase of 6.4 per cent was reported over the last 15 months in medical fees as governed by provincial medical association fee schedules in nine provinces, excluding Quebec.