

young girls who have been left out and the Government does not think there is any justification for continuing to exclude them.

#### Maternity benefits

The amendments concern maternity benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act, which now provides that those benefits are payable only during the 15-week period beginning eight weeks before the week of confinement and ending six weeks after the week of confinement. With the changes, the maternity benefits will be available for a flexible 15-week period. It will be possible to take 15 weeks of benefits any time from eight weeks before the week of confinement until 15 weeks after the birth. Women who would prefer to take most of their leave from employment after birth of the child will be able to do so and the amendment will remove the administrative problems resulting from the difficulty of determining in advance the week of confinement.

The Government is also taking other steps to remove discriminatory provisions from legislation. These include amendments to the Canada Pension Plan to remove, among other things, differences in the treatment of men and women under the Plan, a new Citizenship Act, human rights legislation, and amendments to the Criminal Code with respect to rape and other sexual offences. All of these are in accordance with the Government policy of providing equal treatment for men and women, and form part of the Government program for International Women's Year.

#### Food fortification programs

Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde recently announced proposals for a mandatory food-enrichment program in response to the results of the Nutrition Canada National Survey, which demonstrated that some Canadians were consuming less than adequate quantities of certain essential nutrients.

The proposals include mandatory fortification of milk, milk products and margarine with vitamins A and D, fruit and vegetable juices, drinks and nectars with vitamin C, and flour and pasta with B vitamins and iron.

Discussions will be initiated with the food industry for future fortification programs, including addition of other nutrients to flour and pasta, enrichment of cereal based snack foods and dehydrated potatoes, and the development of nutritional standards for ready-to-eat breakfast cereals. A committee of experts is revising the Canadian Dietary Standard, which describes the human requirement for essential nutrients, while a second committee is considering the relation between diet and cardiovascular disease. The reports of these two committees will provide the background information needed to revise Canada's Food Guide.

The Minister also stated that officials of his Department, in collaboration with their colleagues in the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, were examining ways in which labelling and advertizing could be a positive factor in nutrition education and, from there, the possibility of regulation in these fields.

#### Opera Guilds-International created

Mrs. Norman O. Coxall, Chairman of the Canadian Opera Guild, recently announced that a new organization, Opera Guilds-International, was formed at the third annual Conference of Opera Guilds and Support Groups held last month in Toronto. Some 88 delegates representing opera support groups in 45 cities throughout Canada and the United States met at the Conference, at which the Canadian Opera Guild was host, to ratify a constitution for the new organization.

Opera Guilds-International has been created to act as a non-profit educational and charitable organization of volunteers whose purpose, as outlined in the newly-formed constitution, is to promote the awareness of, and encourage the growth of opera in communities through volunteer activity; to stimulate interest and participation in opera for the benefit of the cultural and educational life of any community; and to consolidate the strengths, interests and expertise of all groups sharing these aims in Canada, the U.S. and any other country affiliating with this organization.

Guilds and opera support organizations present and voting at the constitutional meetings included: Baltimore

Opera Guild; Barrie District Opera Guild; Guild of the Opera Company of Boston; Chicago Lyric Opera Guild; Cincinnati Opera Women's Committee; Connecticut Opera Guild; Calgary Opera Guild; Women's Guild of Dayton Opera Association; Edmonton Opera Association Guild; Opera Guild of Fort Worth; Hamilton Region Opera Guild; Houston Grand Opera Guild; Friends of the Opera - Kentucky Opera Association; Lake George Opera Guild; Manitoba Opera Guild; Milwaukee Florentine Opera Club Inc.; Metropolitan Opera Guild; Memphis Opera Theatre Guild; Niagara Region Opera Guild; New York City Opera Guild; Nevada Opera Guild; Olympia Opera Guild; Omaha Opera Angels; Peninsula Civic Opera Inc.; Peterborough Opera Guild; Philadelphia Lyric Opera Guild; Portland Opera Guild; San Francisco Opera Guild; Seattle Opera Guild; San Diego Opera Association; St. Paul Opera Guild; Tulsa Opera Guild; Tulsa Junior Opera Guild; Canadian Opera Women's Committee; Canadian Opera Junior Women's Committee; Canadian Opera Guild; Utah Opera Society; The Ring - Guild of the Opera Society of Washington; Windsor & District Opera Guild; Women's Committee to Vancouver Opera Association; Minnesota Opera Association; Los Angeles Grand Opera Association; and National Arts Centre Orchestra Association.

#### Grant to develop tourism in Ivory Coast

Canada will provide Ivory Coast with a \$3.5-million grant to develop a hotel services training centre, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, announced recently.

The grant, from funds of the Canadian International Development Agency, will be used to cover the cost of construction of the centre, salaries of Canadian personnel, training of Ivorians and purchase of equipment. The Province of Quebec will provide consulting services, administrative support, maintenance and technical personnel.

Ivory Coast, which has identified tourism as a priority for development along with agriculture and industry, received over 52,000 tourists in 1972.

Since the country has no specialized facilities for training hotel personnel, the centre will train recruits and upgrade the skills of hotel workers.