

## FUTURE OF ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

According to Toronto newspapers, the Director of the Royal Ontario Museum, Mr. Peter Swann, disclosed on January 21 that he had asked the Secretary of State to declare the ROM a national museum.

The ROM, situated in Toronto, is financed mainly by the Ontario Government, whereas the national museums in Ottawa are a federal responsibility under the Department of the Secretary of State.

Mr. Swann said he had proposed the recognition of the ROM as "the National Museum in Canada and had asked for \$1 million a year, for those activities which serve Canada as a whole at home and abroad".

During 1969, Mr. Swann said, about 400,000 children would receive instruction from the museum - "more than at any other museum in the world". The ROM, he declared, "must expand, for it is leaking at every joint". Sufficient room existed for a new wing to house art collections now suffering from lack of temperature control. The natural history departments could expand, Mr. Swann added, and there were plans for a "proper" children's museum.

Included in the plans for improving the service of the ROM are travelling exhibitions and lectures, the opening of the museum five nights a week, a new restaurant, the renovation of certain galleries and new research facilities, all of which require fresh financial sources.

## HOME-BUILDING RECORD IN 1968

Canada's housing output received a tremendous boost in 1968 as the production of new dwellings climbed to a level beyond that of any previous year and outstripped actual annual needs.

A total of 196,878 dwelling units was started, including housing for low-income families, housing for the elderly, the handicapped and the underprivileged, housing for students and housing in support of the private market.

In addition, hostel and dormitory accommodation was provided for some 12,000 persons.

Housing starts in 1968 were some 32,800 units, or 20 percent more than in 1967 and surpassed by 30,313 units the previous record of 166,565 established in 1965.

All types of dwelling shared in the increase. It was, however, more pronounced in starts on apartment dwellings, which totalled 103,383, or 39.2 percent more than the 1967 total of 74,258. The starts on row-dwelling units increased to 8,042, or 8.8 percent over those of 1967. Single-detached, semi-detached, and duplex units were up by 3.6 percent to 85,453 units, from 82,473 units in 1967.

## DECEMBER RECORD

Final figures for December also show a record level of activity for the month. Housing starts in urban centres during December totalled 15,095 dwelling

units, compared to 8,761 in the same period last year. All types of dwelling contributed to the increase, with starts of single-detached dwellings up by 46.0 per cent, and apartment dwellings by 84.5 per cent.

When seasonal influences are taken into account, December starts at an annual rate of 240,700 units were almost at the same level as in November. While the total rate changed little, starts of apartment and other multiple units continued to rise from a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 137,800 units in November to 141,600 units in December. The rate for single-detached dwelling starts eased between the months.

## ECC TARGET IN VIEW

"This represents a remarkable achievement for the entire Canadian house-building industry," said H.W. Hignett, President of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, in releasing the figures recently. "It is an even more remarkable achievement when one realizes it was accomplished in the face of rising interest costs. It represents the first step in reaching the target set by the Economic Council of Canada of an annual house production of 200,000 units by 1970. For the first time, we can say this target is within reach."

## CANADIAN CENTRE AT JOHNS HOPKINS

A Centre of Canadian Studies, for postgraduate study and postdoctoral research on Canada and Canadian-American relations, has been established at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A.

The Centre will be part of the School of Advanced International Studies in Washington and will enrol students from the United States and Canada in the autumn.

The centre was made possible by a \$1-million grant over a five-year period, from the William H. Donner Foundation and the Donner Canadian Foundation.

## CONSERVATION TROPHY

The Canadian Tourist Association has awarded the Julian T. Crandall conservation trophy to Dr. David A. Munro of Ottawa. Dr. Munro, who was recently director of the Canadian Wildlife Service, is now director of the new community affairs branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The CTA conservation trophy has been awarded annually for 16 years. It is presented to the Canadian citizen who is considered to have contributed most to the conservation of the renewable resources of forest, field and stream in Canada.

Dr. Munro, joined the Canadian Wildlife Service in 1948. He served as a wildlife management officer in western Canada until he went to Ottawa as chief ornithologist in 1953.