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Canada outlines plans for International Year of Disabled

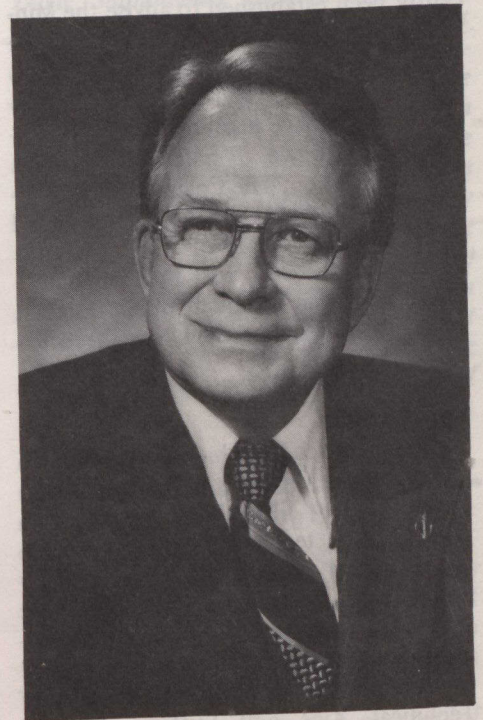
The fourteenth World Congress of Rehabilitation International will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba in June 1980. Some 6,000 world leaders in the rehabilitation movement will meet for discussions under the theme "Prevention and integration — priorities for the Eighties". The congress will be a prelude to the events of the International Year of the Disabled, 1981.

The following excerpts from a speech given by member of Parliament Walter Dinsdale, to the third committee at the twenty-fourth Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York last autumn outline Canada's plans for the improvement of conditions for the disabled in Canada and the world:

In Canada, preparations for the Year are well under way. A Bureau of Rehabilitation has been established in the Department of National Health and Welfare. The Canadian Government is proposing the appointment of a select committee of the House of Commons. This select committee will examine the nature and scope of current federal policies, programs and services directed to the general public and those designed to assist disabled persons. It will review the relationship between existing federal programs and those programs and services carried out by the voluntary sector and the provinces, and will report and make recommendations on the measures required to best meet the special needs of the disabled.

The most basic of needs is the guarantee and protection of civil rights. The Canadian Human Rights Act offers some protection to disabled persons with respect to employment. The Government is now committed to extending this right to all facilities and services.

Concerning better employment opportunities for the disabled, the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission is developing a strategy for employment of the disabled in the private sector. An Advisory Committee composed of disabled persons advises the Treasury Board on policies related to the hiring of the handicapped. In addition, the Adult Occupational Training Act is being amended, and work incentives and their relation to employment of disadvantaged groups are presently under federal-pro-



Walter Dinsdale

vincial review.

Adequate income is another priority. Many disabled persons must rely on transfer payments to make ends meet, and there is room for improvement. A parliamentary committee on pensions is considering disability provisions of private and public plans in terms of adequacy.

Public attitudes greatest handicap

Attitudes towards the disabled are often their greatest handicap. Canada has

Twelve years ago this week...

A boom in uranium prospecting in the Elliot Lake area of Ontario began with more than 1,000 prospectors registering stakes in the 100,000 acres area.