

OCTOBER 1978

As president of the Bureau International des Expositions, Reid cannot appear to favour Canadian application over others. Thus, he writes McCarthy indicating that this initiative must come from British Columbia, suggesting that intentions should be made known to the Secretary of State for External Affairs in Ottawa.

NOVEMBER 1978

Dr. L.J. Wallace, Agent General at BC House in London, telexes McCarthy referring to Reid's earlier message. Wallace indicates that the upcoming BIE meeting in Paris, on December 14, will be the appropriate occasion for the Canadian delegate, Jacques Noiseaux, to informally announce British Columbia's intentions.

Such communication with the BIE must go through Federal channels. Thus, Wallace supplies the wording for an official declaration of intent from Premier Bennett to the Honourable Don Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs.

DECEMBER 1978

McCarthy approaches Premier Bennett on December 6, stressing the high priority of making the decision quickly. She points out that the Exposition's theme would fit in well with transit funds and likely help with acquiring additional Federal funds. Within a week, on December 13, Bennett transmits message of intent to Jamieson and such message is delivered to the BIE the following day, December 14, 1978.

The informal application referred to the year 1985, in competition with Japan and France, with 1986 as a second choice. Japan, however, asks for 1985 at the December 14 meeting and seems likely to get that year. On December 20, Wallace writes Provincial Secretary Hugh Curtis advising British Columbia to indicate to the BIE a firm intention for the year 1986 and the theme of transportation.

While Premier Bennett has committed to Jamieson "total responsibility for administration and financial viability," while expecting Canada to provide "normal" responsibilities of protocol, liaison, Commissioner General and staff, and a Federal pavilion, there is no indication of the degree of Federal involvement. Formal presentation must be made by June, 1979.