

### NEW GERMAN ENVOY

On December 11, His Excellency Dr. Kurt Oppler presented to the Governor General his letter of credence as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in a ceremony at Government House. The Chief of Protocol of the Department of External Affairs, Mr. Henry F. Davis, presented the Ambassador to Governor-General Vanier.

Mr. Arnold Smith, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. Esmond Butler, Secretary to the Governor General, were in attendance on the Governor General on this occasion.

Dr. Oppler was born in Breslau, Germany, in November 1902. He is a Doctor of Laws and practiced law in Gleiwitz, Silesia and Berlin. He occupied several government posts before joining the German foreign service in 1952, when he was appointed Minister and later Ambassador to Iceland. In 1956, Dr. Oppler served as Ambassador in Norway and since 1959 has been Ambassador to Belgium.

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### CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES

Consumer price indexes rose during October and November in seven of the ten cities surveyed. Increases ranged from 0.1 per cent in Toronto and Saskatoon-Regina to 0.5 per cent in Winnipeg. The Ottawa index declined 0.1 per cent, while the Edmonton-Calgary and Vancouver indexes were unchanged.

**St. John's** - The all-items index moved from 120.3 to 120.8, an increase of 0.4 per cent, resulting from higher prices in food, housing, health and personal care, and recreation and reading. Indexes for clothing, transportation, and tobacco and alcohol were unchanged.

**Halifax** - The all-items index rose 0.2 per cent, from 131.2 to 131.4. Indexes were higher for clothing, health and personal care, and recreation and reading. All other component indexes were unchanged.

**Saint John** - An increase of 0.2 per cent moved the index for all-items from 133.0 to 133.3. Increases occurred in food, housing, health and personal care, and recreation and reading indexes.

**Montreal** - The index for all-items increased 0.4 per cent, from 133.4 to 133.9, as increases were reported in all components except housing and transportation, which was unchanged.

**Ottawa** - Lower prices in food, and tobacco-and-alcohol components led to a decline of 0.1 per cent, from 134.7 to 134.5, for the all-items index. There were higher indexes for clothing, transportation, health and personal care, and recreation and reading. The housing index was unchanged.

**Toronto** - The index for all-items rose 0.1 per cent, from 135.0 to 135.2. There were increases in food, housing, transportation, health and personal care, and recreation and reading. The clothing and tobacco-and-alcohol indexes were lower.

**Winnipeg** - The all-items index moved up 0.5 per cent, from 130.6 to 131.2, as indexes for five of the component groups were higher. The housing index

was slightly lower, and the tobacco-and-alcohol index was unchanged.

**Saskatoon-Regina** - Increases in the indexes for food and recreation and reading moved the all-items index from 128.6 to 128.7, an increase of 0.1 per cent. There was a slight decline in the tobacco-and-alcohol index. Indexes for the other four components were unchanged.

**Edmonton-Calgary** - The index for all-items was unchanged at 127.7, as small upward movements in the indexes for housing, clothing, health and personal care, and recreation and reading were insufficient to affect the index at the total level. Indexes for food, transportation, and tobacco and alcohol were unchanged.

**Vancouver** - There was no change in the all-items index at 131.8, as higher indexes for clothing, and recreation and reading were offset by lower indexes for food, and health and personal care. The remaining components were unchanged.

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### AFRICAN STUDIES

The Committee on African Studies in Canada (*Le Comité des études africaines au Canada*) has been formed by scholars involved in African research.

Through an annual newsletter, it will provide a forum for the exchange of information among Canadians active in African studies. The newsletter will list, among other things of interest, new appointments in the field, new courses, and major acquisitions in libraries. It will be edited by Professor Donald Wiedner, Department of History, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

The Committee will sponsor discussions on the place of studies of non-European cultures, particularly African studies, in the curriculum. In addition, it intends to promote a co-operative purchasing policy among Canadian libraries interested in buying African research materials.

The Secretary of the Committee is Professor Donald C. Savage, Department of History, Loyola College, Montreal.

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### ANNUAL FOREST FIRE FIGURES

Estimates of forest areas burned across Canada during 1963 totalled 350,000 acres in 7,458 fires, according to the federal Department of Forestry, which compiles forest-fire statistics from reports received from the provinces.

The provinces accounted for 319,000 acres of the estimated areas burned, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories for 31,000 acres. Included in the year's total are 28,000 acres burned in October and 8,000 acres in November, latest monthly figures to be released. The comparatively high figure for November resulted from an extended dry spell in a few inland provinces.

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