

to \$618 million in 1961. In addition, the wholesales had assets of \$238 million in 1971, of which \$78 million was provided by their member co-operatives.

At least 46 per cent of the capital of marketing and purchasing co-operatives was provided by the members. Their equity in the total assets (\$1,060 million) was reported at \$491 million in 1971. However, the reported members' equity does not include money lent either directly or through co-operative agencies by members of one co-operative to other co-operatives; this sum may now be substantial. In recent years some co-operatives, especially the wholesales, have offered debentures and other securities for sale to the general public; but it is likely that most of these have been bought by co-operatives, their members or relatives of the members.

Local marketing and purchasing co-operatives may get loans from credit unions, central credit societies, co-operative wholesales and co-operative insurance companies. In several provinces the surplus funds of both local and wholesale co-operatives are deposited with a central credit society.

Fishermen's co-operatives

Fishermen's co-operatives operate in all provinces. In 1971 there were 73 such organizations, with 9,000 members. They sold \$30-million worth of fish and \$4-million worth of supplies. There are two wholesale fishermen's co-operatives — United Maritime Fishermen and Quebec United Fishermen.

In British Columbia, all fishermen are eligible for membership in one large central co-operative, the Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-operative Association. This association operates fish-processing plants in Prince Rupert and Vancouver. British Columbia fishermen also have co-operative credit and insurance plans.

Service co-operatives

These co-operatives provide insurance, electricity, housing and other services, including water, transportation, cold storage, seed-cleaning and natural gas. Service co-operatives reporting for 1971 (excluding insurance co-operatives other than medical insurance co-operatives) numbered 713 and had a membership of 252,000, business revenue of \$38 million and assets of \$152 million.

Insurance — Co-operative insurance companies are active in all provinces. They handle life, automobile, fire, hail, general casualty, fidelity and medical insurance.