

*Supply—C.B.C.*

since July 1961, without any concrete steps having been taken, beyond the planning stage, to provide the museum with new buildings and a new administrative set-up.

Meanwhile the priorities had changed. The arts alliance of Ottawa had prepared a comprehensive report which showed quite clearly that what the national capital needed most for the proper celebrations of the centennial was a Canadian centre for the performing arts. The government accepted that conclusion. With that decision and the other priorities in the government construction program for the national capital area, it became almost physically impossible to realize the plans made for the museum in 1961.

The government has therefore decided to start the construction of the new museum during the fiscal year 1965-66 but to proceed at a slower pace than previously contemplated. Present plans provide for the completion of the first phase of the project at the Woods building and Roxborough apartments site in 1968. The second phase, which is to take place where the present temporary headquarters of national defence are located, would be completed as soon as possible thereafter.

As to the legislation designed to improve the prestige of the museum and to provide for its reorganization, I intend to introduce it during the next session of parliament.

I regret these delays, which do not mean, however, that nothing will be done in the interval. The government is prepared to enable the museum to increase its activities, to improve its collections and exhibits and to plan for its future development. We are well aware of two immediate needs which must be met.

In the first place, it is not an easy task to plan for the museum complex that we envisage. Although we have complete confidence in those devoted civil servants who are responsible for the museum, they would feel much more at ease and willing to use their creative imagination and their expert knowledge if they could readily seek the views and the reactions of an advisory group. The experience we have had with such groups in planning the arts center has been most valuable in this respect. I think, therefore, it might be desirable to establish an advisory committee composed of experts and of other people interested in this field to review the plans for the new buildings, and to give their views on the preparation of programs and activities which should be initiated by the museums as the new buildings become available.

In the second place, it is quite clear that there is in Canada an acute scarcity of trained personnel in regard to the growing demand of existing museums and the future requirements of new museums which will be completed in 1967 or soon after. I will ask the proposed advisory committee to look at this problem as a matter of great priority and to propose immediate and long term solutions, including if necessary, a special program of grants and scholarships.

More than 500,000 people visited the national museum, the war museum and the aviation museum in 1963. It is expected that attendance records will be substantially higher in 1964. We hope also that the national museum will be able in the future to work in closer co-operation with provincial and other museums and to make available to them some of its exhibits and collection of objects so that this great national institution will be accessible not only to Ottawans and to those who visit the national capital but also to the greatest number of Canadians in various parts of the country.

Turning now to other agencies:

Finally, I would like to deal very briefly with the other cultural agencies. The national gallery needs a new structural organization which will provide greater flexibility and enhance its prestige. New legislation is now being prepared and will be introduced during the next session.

The Glassco commission recommended the separation of the printing bureau from the printing and stationery department and the creation of a new office called the queen's publisher. The separation has been made but special legislation is required to create the new office. The future role and attributions of the queen's publisher are now under review and the new legislation will be ready for consideration next year.

The public archives and the national library are also going through a period of transition. The new building is scheduled to be completed in the latter part of 1966. Apart from its other normal activities, the archives expects to resume in 1965 the publication of documentary volumes which was interrupted by the war. The first volume will be a collection of unpublished documents relating to Champlain and his times. A second volume of Champlain documents should follow in 1966. A comprehensive edition of the letters of Sir John A. Macdonald is in preparation and the first volumes will be published in 1967. They will be the first of a long series