

"enough help and equipment to get the job done," "enough information to do the job" and "enough authority to do the job."

"The workers of today are not like those of yesterday," Dr. Sheppard commented. "Survey after survey yields differences that cannot be ignored."

He added that most of the differences showed up as differences between today's young and old workers as well. "Even when we look at all workers who point to low management emphasis on the quality of work they're paid to do, it turns out that the younger workers are bothered more by this than the older workers."

## Consumers protected from hazardous products

New regulations to protect the consumer against "hazardous products" came into force in Canada January 1, giving added strength to the Hazardous Powers Act brought in by the federal government 4½ years ago. Traders can incur fines of up to \$1,000 or six months in prison, or both, for advertising or selling products outlawed or restricted under the Act.

Protection of children is of primary concern. Liquid drain cleaners and furniture polishes containing petroleum solvents must now be sold in special child-proof containers. Similar regulations cover drain cleaners with five per cent or more of sodium or potassium hydroxide in weight, or with 10 per cent or more of sulphuric acid.

Liquid wood furniture polishes or cleaners which contain 10 per cent or more of a petroleum distillate must have an extra safety feature in addition to a child-proof cap, just in case a child should manage to wrestle the cap off: there must also be a flow control device which necessitates violent shaking to get the fluid out. Here, however, the law makes a special concession to the convenience of childless households. Manufacturers are allowed to market one size of their product with a conventional cap, so long as it is clearly labelled "This package is for households without children."

### Cradle bars close together

Children's cradles are subject to design control under the new regulations, which stipulate that the slats or rails on cribs and cradles can be no more than 3½ inches apart, preventing even the smallest child from forcing its head through the bars.

The young also rated their unions lower than did their elders.

Dr. Sheppard warned that it would be wrong to assume today's younger workers would be like today's older workers when they grew older.

Another delegate to the conference suggested we should take a deep look at all the useful activities which go on and consider why some are classed as "work" and others are not. The meaning of the word could be extended to include activities like reading to the blind and other socially useful activities. Some work of this kind was being sponsored, under the Local Initiatives Programme in Canada.

In May, further controls will be imposed on manufacturers of children's cots, requiring a child-proof lock on drop-sides, specifying the quality of wood to be used and requiring them to pass vibration tests to prove they can endure the constant bouncing of a child.

New regulations requiring the use of safety glass in the home have been praised by spokesmen of the glass industry. The tempered and laminated glass which is safer is also more expensive than plain glass and builders therefore tend to skimp and avoid using it. They are now obliged to use safety glass for patio and storm doors as well as other doors in the home and for bath and shower enclosures.

Behind this last legislation is a frightening piece of research. The National Research Council of Canada estimate that 10,000 injuries resulted each year from accidents involving broken building glass in the home. Children were usually the victims.

Other new regulations aim to control the production of safety helmets for ice hockey to a required standard and to impose a mandatory warning, to be printed on bags in which barbecue charcoal is sold, telling the public of the danger of deadly carbon monoxide poisoning when charcoal is burned in an unventilated enclosed area. ♦

## First woman Speaker appointed

The first woman to be appointed Speaker of the Canadian Senate likes to do her little bit to help the cause of women.

So when she gives a parliamentary party, she quietly makes sure the waitresses get the same pay as the waiters.

Senator Muriel Fergusson, a 74-year-old widowed lawyer from Fredericton in Eastern Canada, got the job as "Madame Speaker" for the Upper House — equivalent to Britain's House of Lords — in January 1973 and she's beginning to feel quite at home.

Dr. David P. Ross of the Canada Council on Social Development commented. "It has often struck me as odd that our values in society lead a mother to feel that putting labels on deodorant bottles in a factory is more virtuous and useful than tending a child at home and administering and responding to his unique intellectual and emotional needs."

Perhaps this, too, will begin to change if young people continue to weigh the value of the work they do. But one suspects it will be a long time before any government department, in Canada or elsewhere, will pay mothers to stay home with their children. ♦

She has already dispensed with the cue cards she relied on at first. And the rare unruly Senator risks finding himself called to order with a few brisk words or a citation from the parliamentary rules.

She recalls with a laugh the first tremulous days when she was frantically memorising Senate protocol.

"Looking back," she says, "I wonder how I ever had the nerve to take the job."

The petite veteran of 21 years in the Senate finds that entertaining takes up a lot of her time outside the parliamentary chamber.

Social functions often carry her through until after midnight on days that start around 8.30 a.m. In addition to her Senate duties, she finds time to attend meetings, crochet dresses, arrange flowers and dip into her collection of Canadian literature.

As Speaker, Senator Fergusson receives a yearly salary of about £15,000 including a tax-free automobile allowance which she uses to pay taxi-fares.

"A lot of people think I should have a limousine," she said. "I could buy a car, but I'd need a chauffeur. I can't very well park the car in a snowbank and scramble out in a long dress." ♦

## Fifth time electric?

The historic Canadian Pacific Railway seems to be on the verge of electrification — at last after considering and rejecting the idea four times in its history: in 1895, 1911, 1912 and 1924. Now, however, the company has declared that it is "only a matter of time" before their present diesel-electric locomotives are replaced with electric ones. Feasibility tests are in progress. Keith Campbell, Vice-President of Canadian Pacific, has spoken of the desirability of ending a situation where they are "prisoners of a single fuel — oil." ♦