

CONGRESS ON MENTAL HEALTH: "Mental illness has been described as a breakdown in living that may vary in degree from mild and temporary ineffectiveness to severe and complete incapacity. It seems to me that this definition has a particular relevance to the present condition of world affairs. Twice in our generation we have witnessed a breakdown in human relations that has resulted in armed conflict of the most far-reaching consequences," said the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, at the opening session of the Fifth International Congress on Mental Health, in Toronto, on August 14.

"Even today", he continued, "in spite of all the miraculous advances in transportation and communication, the peoples of the world are still 'islands shouting to each other across seas of misunderstanding'. The tragedy of our time is that the world has become a neighbourhood, but men and women have not yet learned to live as neighbours.

"We are now faced with the urgent problem of finding some formula by which the nations can live together in a wholesome, constructive and harmonious relationship. But there are formidable barriers to peaceful co-existence in the curtains that shut off from freedom the millions who - submerged by the pressures of these times - have abandoned individual values and drifted into the iron conformity of totalitarianism.

"Mental health workers seek out the tiny roots from which mental and emotional disturbances grow. They strive relentlessly to pierce the dark curtain which obscures the bright path to normalcy and a satisfying pattern of living. So, too, on the world scene, through the United Nations and other instruments of international co-operation, we are now attempting to discover the root sources of misunderstanding and conflict.

"If we should fail to find some means of penetrating the curtains of ignorance, fear and mistrust that now so tragically divide the world's peoples we may be forced to ring down the final curtain on the great pageant of human progress.

"The essential weakness of all authoritarian political regimes is not the physical impoverishment they impose on their subjects or their failure to provide the progress and prosperity they promise but the way in which they degrade and demean the human spirit. The real gulf between the free world and the totalitarian systems lies, not in economic theory but in the wide divergence of opinion as to the rightful place of the individual human being. In a democratic society, the individual is not regarded as the personification of categories - economic or otherwise - but as a free and sacred human personality. . . ."

LABOUR INCOME UP: Manufacturing's payroll continued to contract in May but expansion in other sectors raised total labour income to an estimated \$975,000,000, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported on August 12. This was \$21,000,000 more than in April and \$9,000,000 more than in May last year. The increase put this year's five-month total at \$4,767,000,000, about 1.5% higher than 1953's \$4,693,000,000.

Wages and salaries in manufacturing dropped by \$2,000,000 during May to \$320,000,000, some \$11,000,000 under last year's May payroll and the smallest total for any month since October, 1952. The latest decline was concentrated in leather products, textiles, clothing, transportation equipment and iron and steel products.

The usual seasonal pick-up in outdoor activities raised the combined wage bill of agriculture, forestry, fishing, trapping and mining by \$10,000,000, and the construction payroll by \$8,000,000 during May. However, the primary industry group total of \$69,000,000 was the same as in May last year and the construction total of \$67,000,000 was \$5,000,000 less than a year earlier.

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AUTO SHIPMENTS CUT: Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles in June were down 40% from last year's level, the sharpest cut to date. Shipments have been dropping at a steadily increasing rate since February, but increases in the first two months held the half-year decrease to 14.5%. Dealer sales, which have been lower than last year each month since the start of the year, were 17% under 1953's record turnover in both June and the half-year.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has reported that the industry shipped 30,229 new passenger cars and trucks to dealers in June, 19,671 less than a year earlier, and 243,347 in the first six months, a drop of 40,351.

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STORE SALES UP: Canada's department stores had estimated dollar sales of \$465,774,000 in the first half of 1954, an increase of 2.7% over the preceding year's corresponding total of \$453,747,000, according to the Bureau's monthly report. The June value was \$84,886,000, up 6.2% as compared with \$79,927,000 a year ago. At the end of May inventories were valued at \$251,481,000, or 4.6% more than a year ago.

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Cheques cashed against individual accounts in the first half of 1954 were worth a record \$74,598,520,000, almost 7% more than the \$69,835,876,000 total of the first 6 months last year.