

under the present Act will enter at a preferred contribution rate with a maximum of 50 cents a week.

Benefits will also be extended to those who suffer loss of income due to sickness, pregnancy and retirement. These benefits will be for a 15-week maximum, with the exception of the retirement benefit which will consist of a three-week lump sum.

#### ELIGIBILITY

In harmony with our intention to return to the insurance principle, certain welfare features that have crept into the plan will be discontinued. For example, the seasonal benefits as well as the provisions that permitted retired persons to draw up to 18 months of benefits will be dropped. However, eligibility will be expanded to allow those persons with as few as eight employment weeks to draw some benefit.

In addition, the Government is not only proposing to help the unemployed and the less advantaged by providing an expanded system of income support during an adjustment process, it is also ready to assume the cost of extra unemployment insurance benefits when national unemployment rates exceed 4 per cent or when regional unemployment is over 4 per cent and exceeds the national average by more than 1 per cent.

Finally, it is important to point out that the 4 percent level is not to be taken as a rate of unemployment acceptable to the Government. A benchmark of 4 per cent, based on a long-term average national unemployment rate, was used to set the lower limit for government contribution. It is in no way intended to be a definition of full employment for the economy....

#### ONTARIO WILDLIFE CENTRE

"Survival of man in an environment fit for man will be assured only if the people understand the ecological basis of their lives," said Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, recently at the formal opening of the Wye Marsh Centre, which is run by the Canadian Wildlife Service, a branch of Mr. Chrétien's Department.

The Minister said the Centre had been built to help meet the need for greater public understanding of ecology — the relation between living things and their environment. It is the first of a proposed series of such centres that will interpret different regions of Canada. At the Wye Marsh Centre, naturalists explain how man has changed the marsh and the surrounding hardwood forest region. They also help visitors to see and understand wild nature.

Located four miles east of Midland on Ontario's Georgian Bay, the Centre is a single-storey brick-and-glass building containing a display hall, a theatre and workrooms. The building and landscaping cost about \$500,000. Twenty-five hundred acres of surrounding woodlands and marsh are owned for the most part by the Ontario Department of Lands and

Forests and in this region its Fish and Wildlife branch will develop a managed area for hunting wildfowl and upland game birds.

#### OPENING DAY

Visitors at the opening ceremony saw some of the normal exhibits available to the public until Labour Day, including films on marsh life, conservation and aquariums and displays on land-use, plant life and waterfowl. At the entrance to the display area a closed-circuit television screen provides close-ups of wildlife activity.

Outside, visitors explored some of the nature trails on their own or with naturalists who gave them firsthand information on local plants and animals. The CWS interpretation program tries to demonstrate and explain nature using as few gadgets as possible. Visitors also saw an underwater viewing window now being built on the marsh. Future plans for the Centre include an observation tower and a long boardwalk into the marsh.

#### HOGS TO EAST GERMANY

A shipment of 110 hogs has been sent to the German Democratic Republic by the National Feeds division of National Grain (1968) Limited.

Arrangements for the shipment, a direct result of talks between National Grain officials and an East German agricultural trade mission last spring, have taken about 12 months.

Mr. Stan Roberts, manager of the Canadian firm, said that this was the first major shipment of Canadian pigs to East Germany and the first time that National had tried its hand at selling purebred hogs in the export market. It was not National's first entry into this market, however, as the company had previously made shipments of Canadian purebred dairy cattle and Canadian-made processing equipment to East Germany.

The animals shipped were purebred Lacombe hogs raised in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, which integrate well with other breeds and are mainly used in cross-breeding programs.

#### FOREST FIRES IN APRIL

Forest-fire activity throughout Canada this April was considerably below the average for recent years, the Canadian Forestry Service of the Department of Fisheries and Forestry reports.

There were an estimated 310 fires in April, the first month of the forest-fire season, which damaged or destroyed some 3,000 acres of woodlands.

During the previous decade there was an average of 538 forest fires in the month of April, the total woodland area affected averaging 17,000 acres. April 1969 was also below average, with 322 fires that spread over 2,000 acres of forest.