

STATE-PROVINCE FIRE PACT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced recently that an exchange of notes had taken place in Washington between the Governments of Canada and the United States authorizing the adherence of the Provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick to the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

The Compact is an organization of seven states established by an act of the United States Congress in 1949. Its purpose is "to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the northeastern region of the U.S.A. and adjacent areas in Canada by the development of integrated forest fire plans...by providing for mutual aid in fighting forest fires among the states of the region...and by the establishment of a central agency to co-ordinate the services of member states and to perform such common services as member states may deem desirable".

In 1952, the U.S. Congress authorized participation by any Canadian province in the organization.

In February 1969, after New Brunswick had requested the Government of Canada to take steps to permit the adherence of New Brunswick to the Compact, and after receiving a similar request from Quebec, the Government of Canada entered into an exchange of notes with the United States Government to give international effect to the participation of the two provinces in the Compact.

Quebec's participation became effective on January 29; New Brunswick will sign within the next few months.

CANADA LOSES PHONE TALK TITLE

After 17 years as the world's most talkative telephone-users, Canadians have taken second place to the United States. But they went down fighting.

In losing the title of the "talkingest" nation, Canadians averaged 692.9 telephone conversations a person during 1968, a gain of 25.2 conversations a person over the 1967 average.

The increase in the U.S. of 33 conversations a person boosted Americans into top place, with 701 conversations a person for the year. The U.S. had trailed Canada by only 0.7 conversations a person at the end of 1967.

The above statistics are contained in *The World's Telephones*, an annual compilation; the figures are for 1968 because it takes about a year to compile them.

For the fourteenth consecutive year, the growth of the number of telephones in homes exceeded 6 per cent. Nearly 16 million new telephones were put into service during 1968, to bring the world total to 237,900,000. Canada added 435,294 phones, bringing its total to 8,820,770. By the end of 1969, the number of phones in Canada was an estimated 9,300,000.

Leading the world in the number of telephones

are the United States with 109,256,000; Japan, with 20,525,000 and Britain, with 12,901,000. Canada placed sixth. Almost half of the world's telephones - 117,686,000 - are on the North American continent.

PHONES AND POPULATION

Canada has the fourth highest ratio of telephones to population in the world, with 42.1 phones for 100 people. The U.S. has 54, Sweden 51.7 and Switzerland 43.4. By comparison, Britain has 23.3, Japan 20.1 and France 15.

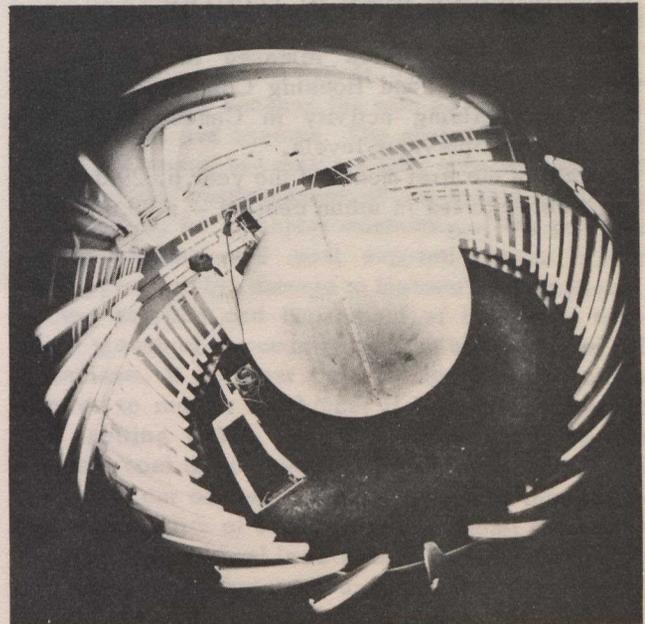
New York leads the world's cities with 5,723,353 phones. Tokyo has 3,641,000, London, 3,199,600 and Paris, 2,353,414. Toronto and Montreal lead the Canadian cities, with 1,330,230 and 1,341,382 telephones respectively, in their metropolitan areas. Calgary has the highest ratio of phones for 100 population in Canada, with 64.6.

If you want to get away from it all, try the tiny state of Bhutan in Asia. It has no telephones at all.

EXPERIMENTS IN ISOLATION

Research staff at the University of Manitoba will use a translucent plastic globe nine feet in diameter, which has its own solar system, to test the effects of prolonged isolation on humans. The globe, which is believed to be the only one of its kind, is part of a large sensory-deprivation laboratory in a new zoology-psychology building of the University, which is in many ways as strange as the experiments it will house.

A single human will live in the globe in confined but comfortable quarters while university scientists will observe their subject by closed-circuit television. What they discover may some day have an important bearing on future space travel.



Technician installs closed-circuit television camera in isolation globe.