

completely equipped with the electronic apparatus, it is assumed that mail delivery will be fully automatic and impressively rapid. At present it is reasonably impressive, in some cases at least. *The Canadian Magazine Star Weekly* recently conducted an elaborate series of tests on the mail delivery with emphasis on the "Assured" mail service. One reporter followed a particular letter over country roads and by jet plane from Pouch Cove, which is sixteen miles from St. John's in Newfoundland, to Vancouver. He saw it delivered to a colleague in the West considerably less than two days after he mailed it. The other tests were more specific. (The Post Office has assured its customers that it can deliver mail between designated cities in one or two days — a letter mailed before 11 A.M. in Vancouver is supposed to arrive in Halifax the next day.) The magazine team mailed 100 letters to several destinations. Thirty mailed from Halifax to Vancouver all arrived on time; of thirty mailed in the opposite direction twenty-nine made it and one was a day late. In three batches of ten each, mailed from Toronto to Halifax, Vancouver and Montreal, nine out of each ten arrived on time and the tenth in each case was one day late. The mail from Montreal to Toronto

all came through. The *Star Weekly* figured that this gave the Post Office a better than passing grade of 96 per cent. In response to observations that the mail was slowest when moving within a single municipal area, the testers then sent ten more letters, from Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal, to addresses within those cities, to suburbs or to towns less than thirty miles away. One letter took two days; the rest made it on time for a mark of 90 per cent.

The testers found one rather consistent negative fact about the service: the Post Office and particularly the machines were efficient in getting the mail to its destination, but they were not very successful in collecting postage. The testers sent out fourteen letters, all wrongly stamped — some for less than proper postage, some with foreign stamps and one with a sticker cut from a comic book — and all fourteen arrived right on time with no attempt made to collect postage due.

Mr. Fultz says, however, that the free ride is over. The system had been using a color detection device — not too successfully — to spot wrong stamps. The Post Office is now using a device which detects a phosphorescent coating and seems just about foolproof.

"We are saying . . . that we are impressed . . . that we believe that they are well motivated. We are also saying that we intend to challenge them and see if they have the stamina and self discipline to follow through . . ."

Canadian youth has a (successful) fling



The spring of 1971 was a season of discontent among the young.

In Canada heavy unemployment among students out of school exacerbated the situation and in March Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau established Opportunities for Youth as the major part of a summer jobs program. OFY got \$24.7 million and the jobs it produced were meant to be different. The job applicants were to design their own projects; the projects were to be "meaningful" and "personally satisfying to the young persons receiving the money." They could not be explicitly political but they could be designed to work for or against "the system" or to ignore it by, for example, setting up a work commune.

From tens of thousands of project applications, the headquarters picked 2312 for funding. These

involved 27,831 jobs and the students who held them made somewhere between \$600 and \$1000 for three months' work. (The lowest average was \$681 in British Columbia and the highest \$884.81 in Quebec. In Quebec a greater number of older applicants, young men and women who had finished high school, were employed and paid a higher scale.)

The projects selected included a great many of obvious utility and some of striking originality.

Six junior college students in a small town outside Montreal first decided to apply for a grant to study in depth the effects of marijuana. While preparing the application, one of the six noticed a picture of a bulrush in a botany textbook. He read on and found that American Indians had once made bread from flour obtained by pounding the dried root of the bulrush. Project Bulrush came to life and it shortly received a \$7080 grant. The students found in time that the bulrush is