

Canada, U.S. and U.S.S.R. discuss North Pacific halibut problems

Fisheries experts from Canada, the United States and the U.S.S.R. met in Halifax in June to discuss problems of conservation of Pacific halibut stocks in the eastern Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.

The meeting was called at Canada's invitation owing to concern in Canada and the U.S. over severe declines of halibut in the eastern North Pacific which have necessitated reduced catch-quotas for North American long-line fishermen.

Canada and the United States conduct longline fisheries directed toward halibut in the eastern Bering Sea and in the Gulf of Alaska. Several nations, including the U.S.S.R and Japan, conduct extensive trawl fisheries in the eastern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska directed almost entirely at species other than halibut.

Biologists from the International Pacific Halibut Commission presented information on recent trends in halibut catches and on the incidence of halibut in catches by distant-water trawler fleets fishing for other species. Canadian and United States officials presented proposals to the U.S.S.R. aimed at reducing the incidental catch of halibut in the Soviet trawl fisheries. These proposals included those mea-

asures voluntarily adopted by the Government of Japan in January 1974 for the eastern Bering Sea, which are considered by Canada and the U.S.A. to be applicable to Soviet fisheries, and new measures aimed at reducing incidental halibut catches in the Gulf of Alaska. Canadian and U.S. officials expressed appreciation for the Japanese voluntary measures already taken to reduce the incidental catches of halibut in the eastern Bering Sea.

Agreement to study problem

Canadian and United States officials indicated that they believed the comparatively small catches of halibut among the very large catches of other species by distant-water trawlers were contributing to the decline of the halibut stocks. U.S.S.R. officials expressed the view that U.S.S.R. incidental catches were too small to have exerted a serious effect on the halibut stocks and that some of the measures proposed by Canada and the United States would result in very large losses of other fish to the Soviet fleet. Nevertheless the Soviet Union understood the problem being faced by North American fishermen and indicated their willingness to study the scientific material presented and to

consider seriously Canadian and United States proposals for conservation measures. U.S.S.R. officials agreed to recommend to their competent authorities that Soviet and United States scientists co-operate during the coming fishing season in a program of scientific research on the problem under terms of an existing fisheries agreement between the two countries. Such co-operative research could include gathering of data by placing scientists aboard U.S.S.R. vessels, including commercial trawlers.

It is expected that further discussion of conservation measures will take place within the next six months.

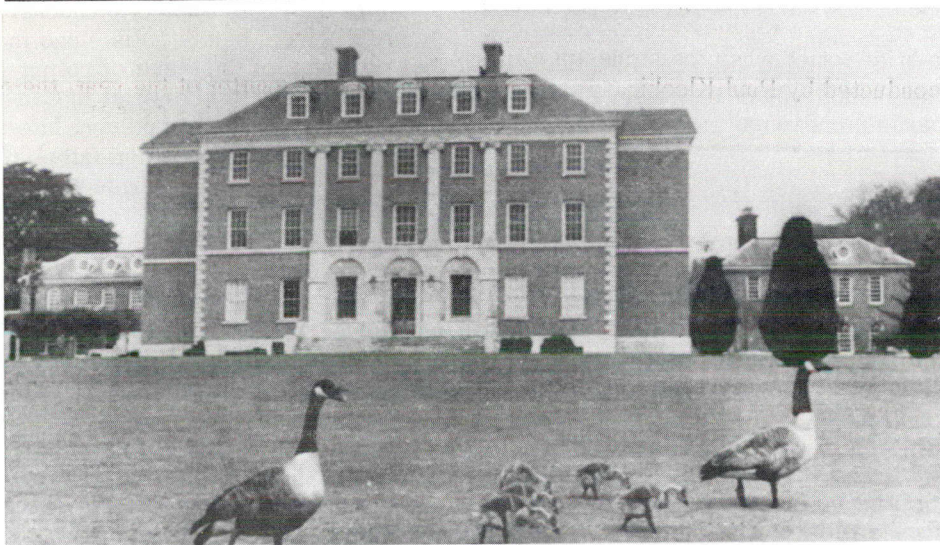
Rise in old age security pension

The basic old age security pension rose to \$112.95 from \$110.09 a month effective July. The maximum guaranteed income supplement for a single person or a married person whose spouse is not a pensioner rose to \$79.23 from \$77.22. Added to the basic old age pension this payment produces a monthly total of \$192.18. The maximum supplement for a married couple, both pensioners, increased to \$70.36 from \$68.58. Added to the basic pension, this gives each pensioner \$183.31 for a combined payment of \$366.62.

General elections in Canada

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power from the fact that the Prime Minister and most members of his Cabinet also belong to the House and are responsible to it. They are called upon to explain their conduct and policies daily while the House is in session, especially during the question period. Their positions depend on the confidence of the House. If the House votes lack of confidence in them, they must resign or bring on an immediate election. Through the latter device they can appeal the verdict of the House to the voters at large. This happened in May 1974, when the Government was defeated in the House of Commons and then obtained from the Governor General a dissolution of Parliament so that a new federal general election could take place July 8. If five years pass without an elec-



Canadian Press

Taking a stroll in front of Prince Charles' country mansion are these Canada geese, which appear to be quite at home 25 miles southeast of

London in England. The seventeenth century residence, near Sevenoaks, Kent, has 115 rooms and 3,000 acres of grounds.