

### CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH BELGIUM

During the recent official visit to Ottawa of Prince Albert of Belgium, a cultural agreement of a general nature between Canada and Belgium was concluded. The document was signed, in the presence of Prince Albert, by Guy Daufresne de la Chevalerie, Belgian Ambassador to Canada, and Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs.

This instrument is intended to strengthen, by means of cultural, artistic, scientific and technological exchanges, the close ties existing between the two countries. To establish contacts between Canada and Belgium on all cultural matters, and to ensure that the provisions of the convention are executed, a permanent mixed commission will meet annually, alternating between Ottawa and Brussels.

Mr. Martin said that the Federal Government hoped to facilitate participation by any province wishing to avail itself of the provisions of the agreement and would be willing to investigate the necessary course of action with the authorities concerned.

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### CANADA-ROUMANIA RELATIONS

On April 4, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, informed the House of Commons that diplomatic relations had been established between Canada and Roumania, and tabled an exchange of letters to that effect. On May 9, he made the following statement on this subject:

"We have reached an understanding with the Roumanian Government on a number of consular matters which will, among other things, clarify the position of Canadian citizens, including those of Roumanian origin, who may wish to travel to Roumania.

### TRAVEL TO ROUMANIA

"Although it is not included in the formal exchange of notes, the attitude of the Roumanian Government towards the problem of divided families was made clear by the head of the Roumanian delegation which was in Ottawa last month," he said. "In so far as Roumanian citizens are concerned, the Roumanian Government considers that this falls exclusively within the competence of the Roumanian Government but, on humanitarian grounds, the Roumanian authorities will continue to give sympathetic and benevolent consideration to applications by persons who wish to join members of their families in Canada.

### FINANCIAL CLAIMS

"We have also reached agreement with the Roumanian Government to negotiate, at an early date, a settlement of outstanding financial claims between the two countries. The negotiations will take into account, *inter alia*, claims of the Canadian Government and of persons who were Canadian citizens at the time of loss in respect of pre-war debts, as well as property nationalized, expropriated or otherwise taken by the Roumanian authorities. In accordance

with well-established international rules and practices in this field, the Canadian Government will be able to take into consideration only claims in respect of property which belonged to persons who were Canadian citizens at the time when the property was nationalized or otherwise taken."

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### FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The ultimate responsibility for the preservation of free collective bargaining rests squarely on the shoulders of management and labour, and in direct ratio to their ability to demonstrate that the system works with justice and without the foisting of an unacceptably distressing burden on society as a whole, Mr. John R. Nicholson, Minister of Labour, said recently.

As "the Government of Canada believes that the great majority of Canadians support the free collective bargaining concept," he said, "it is the Government's duty to do all in its power to preserve that concept."

In an address to the first annual convention of the Mechanical Contractors' Association of Ontario, in Ottawa, Mr. Nicholson emphasized that a major stumbling block in industrial relations was "our natural proclivity to cling desperately and sometimes blindly to the comforting, 'righteous' shibboleths of the past, far beyond that point in time where they have any realistic affinity to existing environments".

He noted that, though the vast majority of collective bargaining agreements were reached amicably, there were more than 5 million man-days lost last year owing to strikes and lockouts.

### EFFECTIVE CONSULTATION VITAL

"We cannot," he warned, "ignore the growing impatience of society at such massive wastes of resources, time and energy resulting, in a significant measure, from communication breakdowns between labour and management.

"The one factor that comes through to us from our 1966 experience...with shattering clarity is that the fundamental attitudes of labour and management in their approach to and use of the collective bargaining machinery must change."

"While the initiative is still theirs to take," Mr. Nicholson declared, "labour and management must develop an acceptable system of effective, periodic consultation during the course of their agreements, and they must do this soon."

"Can we seriously expect that such far-reaching and complex issues as adjustments to technological advancement can be resolved by a small group of negotiators working themselves into a state of near-total exhaustion for a brief, emotion-charged period every two or three years?" the Minister asked.

Mr. Nicholson pointed out there were some signs of encouragement in the new industrial relations approaches being used by some forest industries and in the recent agreement between the Canadian National Railways and its workers for coping with technological changes.