

Financial support

The Canada Assistance Plan regulations were amended to allow for expansion of financial support to day care. Previously the provisions of the plan allowed for the sharing in the cost to the provinces and municipalities of such expenses as salaries, staff training and research. With the amendments, shareable costs have been expanded to include all operation costs and, in some instances, equipment costs. Support is also being provided under the Canada Assistance Plan to family day-care services, that is, day-care services provided in a home environment.

The Government in its *Working Paper on Social Security in Canada* has recognized the special problems of single parent families. These will be discussed with the provinces during the course of the review of the social security system undertaken by the federal and provincial governments. Within the framework of these discussions, the questions of the participation of the spouse remaining at home in the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans and of the equal treatment of women and men under the plan will be given priority attention as announced by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) after the federal-provincial conference of welfare ministers in October....

Heavy water plant for Quebec

The Federal Government will finance the construction of a new heavy water production plant of 800 tons a year capacity in the province of Quebec near the site of the Gentilly reactor, Energy Minister Donald Macdonald announced last month. The new facility should provide the assurance of adequate heavy water supplies both in Canada and abroad for several years.

Projections indicate that the CANDU nuclear industry will continue to grow with even more heavy water needed in future, he said. The Government has decided that when the production of an additional federally financed heavy water plant is required in the next few years to support the nuclear program, such plant should be located at an appropriate site in either Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

James Bay project to continue

On December 21, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that work on the massive James Bay hydroelectric project could continue. The Court rejected, by a three to two vote, an appeal by 6,000 native people to halt construction because, they said, it would ruin their environment and way of life.

The Indians had been granted an injunction by the Quebec Superior Court on November 15 against work on the huge project on the grounds that they held an interest in the land. On November 22, however, the Quebec Court of Appeal agreed to review the Superior Court decision and also allowed the James Bay Development Corporation, the developers, to continue work until the appeal was heard. [See also *Canada Weeklies* dated November 28, 1973, P. 1 and December 5, P. 4]

The latest judgment is not the last of the series of legal battles over the project. It permits the work to continue until next spring, when a further hearing on the case will take place in the Quebec appeal court.

Indian representatives in Montreal stated that they regarded the Supreme Court decision as a "setback but not the end of the fight". They pointed out, however, that after a few more months of construction, the project would be "irreversible with potentially disastrous effects".

Premier Bourassa of Quebec, who regards the development of James Bay as one of the major projects for his province, was pleased with the latest judgment. He said that the decision should hasten negotiations on a financial settlement for the native people of the area.

"The main thing," stated Mr. Bourassa, "will be for me to reach a settlement acceptable to both the parties - to the Indians and to the Quebec government - and in that respect, more than two weeks ago we made some proposals as precise as possible to the Indians and we are still awaiting a counter proposal. Our main goal now," he concluded, "is to reach an acceptable agreement with them."

In response to Mr. Bourassa's statement, representatives of the Indians and Eskimos said that they would not

let the government "buy them off with just a few million dollars". They said that they would only negotiate with the Quebec government if it promised to modify the James Bay project to reduce its damages to the native people.

Visitors from Senegal

The Minister of Planning and Co-operation of Senegal, Ousmane Seck, visited Canada from December 17 to 22, accompanied by a delegation that included Ambassador André Coulbary of Senegal and officials concerned with co-operation between Senegal and Canada. The Minister was received by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, and the visitors also met with Paul Gérin Lajoie, president of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), d'Iberville Fortier, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Claude Charland, Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and Vincent Chapin, vice-president of the Export Development Corporation. The delegation also visited Quebec City and Montreal for meetings with representatives of the government of Quebec and private industry.

A guarantee-of-investments agreement will be concluded as soon as possible and negotiations were begun with a view to reach an agreement on economic and technical co-operation. In commerce and culture, the need to intensify the commercial and cultural exchanges between the two countries was recognized and the equivalence of diplomas between the two countries was the subject of an agreement on principles. Further negotiations will take place after consultations with the educational authorities of the two countries. Canadian participation in the Dakar International Fair, to be held in November, was also discussed.

The working sessions between CIDA officials and the Senegalese group identified areas of interest on integrated projects within the framework of the Fourth Economic and Social Development Plan of Senegal, which will require further study.

The representatives of Senegal and Canada acknowledged the excellent relations between the two countries, as well as the usefulness of continuing regular consultations.