

George Luscombe, artistic director of the Toronto Workshop Productions theatre, has been given a special award for his "outstanding contribution to Canadian theatre." TWP, the oldest intimate theatre in Canada, has provided many of the directions Canadian drama has taken.

The Chalmers Award is the gift of the Chalmers Foundation and the winners are chosen by the Toronto Drama Bench, a collection of Toronto-based theatre critics and writers. The awards were announced by Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario Pauline McGibbon.

Budgetary main estimates

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\$30,000 maximum. Manpower resources authorized for senior personnel stood at 7,056 man-years in 1975-76, remained at that level in 1976-77, and will continue to be frozen at that same level in 1977-78.

Secondly, zero growth will apply for the first time, in 1977-78, to a key component of the senior personnel categories, namely the senior management complement of the Public Service, which includes senior executives and officers in equivalent positions.

These senior personnel categories will comprise 1,734 positions at the end of fiscal year 1976-77, to which must be added the 207 positions allocated to departments and agencies under the special assignment pay plan. This figure of 1,941 senior executive positions does not include Order-in-Council appointees in departments and agencies, most of whom are deputy ministers, heads of agencies and heads of missions maintained abroad by the Department of External Affairs.

Official languages: emphasis on youth
The total costs of official languages programs are projected as \$405.4 mil-

lion in fiscal year 1977-78, an increase of 5.1 percent over revised 1976-77 estimates of \$385.6 million.

The estimates reflect the emphasis on programs related to youth with an increase from \$149 million to \$163 million for official languages programs outside the Public Service. The Secretary of State Department will provide \$121.3 million for formula payments to the provinces to finance minority language education and second language instruction.

Additional funds of \$8.2 million will raise to \$30.1 million provisions for other youth programs administered by the Secretary of State Department. This reflects the new emphasis on youth announced by the Government in the Speech from the Throne, following the recommendations made by the Commissioner of Official Languages in his last annual report. Grants to minority groups and on bilingualism development are also being increased.

By contrast, costs of official languages programs within the Public Service are expected to decline marginally during the coming fiscal year. Outlays by the Public Service Commission for language training are estimated at \$45.6 million — an increase of about 2.4 percent over revised estimates for 1976-77. Twenty million — \$15 million less than in the current fiscal year — will be provided to the Treasury Board for the allocation to departments and agencies, under Vote 15, of additional resources required mainly for the temporary replacement of employees on language training. The only notable increases are in the estimates of the Translation Bureau and in direct or indirect costs incurred by departments and agencies to implement official languages policies.

Finally, the cost of implementing the official languages in the Armed Forces in 1977-78 is estimated at \$53.8 million.

News briefs

■ Solicitor-General Francis Fox signed a treaty on March 2 permitting exchange of prisoners between Canada and the U.S. Under terms of the treaty, Canadian prisoners in the U.S. or American prisoners in Canada may be transferred to their home country, with the transfer subject to veto by either government. There are now 90 Canadians in U.S. prisons and 174 Americans in Canadian prisons.

■ The Export Development Corporation has lent \$14.3 million to Banco de la Nacion of Peru to support the sale of equipment and engineering services by Foundation Co. of Canada Ltd.

■ Sales of North-American-built cars in Canada during January jumped 44.2 percent from the January 1976 figure. While the increase was anticipated its size was unexpected. Sales in January 1976 were lower than normal because of the ending of the Ontario sales tax rebate program on December 31, 1975, which led to heavy pre-selling in the province as buyers sought to take advantage of the rebate. Car sales in January 1977 totalled 60,123 units, compared with 41,682 in the previous January. Truck sales rose 27 percent to 22,636 units from 17,819.

■ Total production in the economy grew by 4.6 percent during 1976 from 1975 levels, mainly because of strong

production increases early in the year, reports Statistics Canada. In its quarterly report on the gross national product (GNP), the Government agency said that economic production fell by six-tenths of one per cent in the final three months of the year. The declining production figure in the fourth quarter "followed two quarters of weak growth and left the economy operating at virtually the same level as in the first three months of the year." GNP is the value of all goods and services produced in the economy. The figures for changes are reported in real terms, after discounting the effects of price inflation.

■ Bell Canada says it has received a statement from the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission in which the commission suggests that the public interest might best be served by dissolving Bell Canada's ties with Northern Telecom Ltd. Bell Canada, Canada's largest public telephone utility, has a 69 percent interest in Northern Telecom, a telephone and communications equipment manufacturer. In recent years, Bell Canada has reduced its interest in Northern Telecom from that of a wholly-owned subsidiary. Northern Telecom accounts for about 70 percent of all telephone and communications equipment sold in Canada, a market estimated at about \$2-billion annually.

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