

### FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FINANCE MEETING

Finance Minister John N. Turner recently proposed a meeting of federal and provincial finance ministers and treasurers to be held in Ottawa on January 18 and 19.

The ministers will undertake their annual review of the economic situation, discuss the respective financial positions of the federal and provincial governments, and exchange views on a number of joint programs. They will also discuss the ninth annual review of the Economic Council of Canada.

In preparation for the meeting, Mr. Turner has asked the continuing committee of federal and provincial deputy finance ministers to convene in Ottawa earlier in January to review the ministers' agenda and to complete certain economic and financial reports required for the meeting.

### OLD STEAMER SAVED

Hope for the restoration of S.S. *Segwun*, the last of the steamers that carried mail, supplies and transportation to residents of the Muskoka Lakes region at the turn of the century, has been renewed by a \$7,000-grant from the Ontario government to place the vessel in dry dock before the winter freeze-up.

Built in Scotland and shipped in sections to be assembled locally, the old vessel is now moored at dockside at Gravenhurst, Ontario, where it is operated by a volunteer committee as a floating marine museum.

However, sections of the *Segwun's* iron hull have deteriorated to such an extent that another winter of ice damage would destroy her chances of survival, according to John Coulter, a marine engineer, who is chairman of the restoration committee. The basic purpose of a campaign, started in 1969 by a group of the *Segwun's* admirers, is to restore the steamer to "mint" condition and keep her afloat as a piece of "living" Canadian history.

### BIRTH-RATE DOWN

Statistics Canada reports 362,187 births registered in Canada in 1971, down 2.6 per cent from 371,988 the previous year. This was 16.8 births registered for each 1,000 of population compared to 17.4 in 1970 and 17.6 in 1969.

Over the whole of 1971, births increased in the Atlantic region, declined moderately in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and decreased significantly in Alberta and British Columbia. In the latter half of 1971, however, particularly during the fourth quarter, there was a noticeable drop in all provinces.

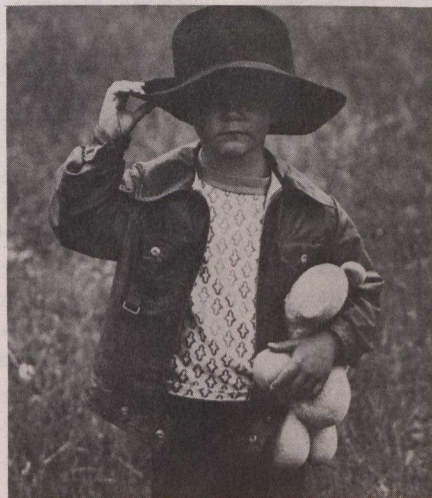
### FERTILITY RATES

Fertility rates, based on women of child-bearing age, declined faster than in previous years. The "total fertility rate" - the number of births that 1,000 such women would be expected to give during their lifetimes if fertility rates remained at current levels, dropped by 121 to 2,190 in 1971, after decreasing by 77 to 2,311 in 1970. A total fertility rate of 2,110 (just 80 less than 1971's rate) would maintain a constant population - assuming no migration or change in mortality rates.

The natural increase in population (births less deaths) was 205,000 in 1971. This was an increase of 9.5 for each 1,000 of population, down from 10.1 in 1970 and 10.3 in 1969. But the present age structure of the Canadian population is favourable to a high rate of natural increase, so if fertility and mortality rates were to remain at 1971 levels as the future age structure becomes normal, the rate of natural increase would eventually stabilize at 1 for each 1,000 of population.

Illegitimate births dropped to 9.0 per cent of all births in 1971 from 9.6 per cent in 1970 and 9.2 per cent in 1969. As with total births, the trend in illegitimate births varied geographically, and the decline was most apparent in the last quarter of the year.

Season's



Greetings