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Wide-ranging reforms mapped out for Canada's penitentiary system

Fifty-three of 65 recommendations of a Parliamentary sub-committee, which has been studying the penitentiary system for the past five months, have been accepted in whole or in part by Solicitor-General Francis Fox.

"The sub-committee has mapped out a course that will lead to fundamental and wide-ranging reform," said Mr. Fox. He added, however, that it was "of first importance that inmates realize that a responsible attitude on their part is a prerequisite to continued public support of reform programs".

In tabling a detailed response to the sub-committee report in the House of Commons on August 5, Mr. Fox said he reserved his position on six of the recommendations "because of their far-reaching implications".

Action already taken

As evidence of his commitment to action, the Minister referred to the amendment he introduced at report stage of the new bill (No. C-51), authorizing the appointment of independent chairpersons for inmate disciplinary hearings, following a recommendation of the sub-committee. He expects that independent chairpersons will be appointed for maximum security institutions by November 15. That date has also been set as the target for introduction of a pilot project at Saskatchewan Penitentiary, using a new grievance procedure that had been recommended by the sub-committee. A grievance committee will be established, composed of two inmates and two staff, chaired by a member of the administrative staff who would vote only in case of a tie.

Embodied in the principles of the Minister's response is the recognition of the role of the staff in the reform of penitentiaries. "In reaching the goal of a professional career service, the RCMP model is one which will be given consideration," he said. "The Minister strong-

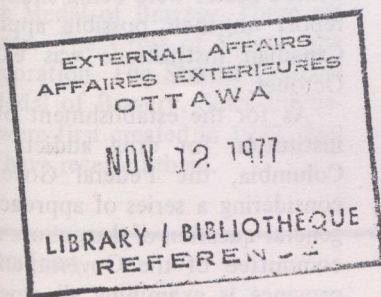


Solicitor-General Francis Fox

ly supports the principles concerning the establishment of decentralization as a basic organizational principle, with the delegation of authority, responsibility and accountability as close to the level of action as possible."

Purposes of imprisonment

In response to the sub-committee's recommendation that the criminal justice system be re-examined with a view to enlarging the alternatives to incarceration, Mr. Fox said that action was well under way and would be continued as a priority. Also, with a view to "establishing standardized correctional operations across the country", another of the recommendations, he said discussions with the provinces had been held at several meetings of federal-provincial ministers and that a working committee had been established. A continuing committee of deputy ministers would report progress at the next conference of ministers.



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Other recommendations

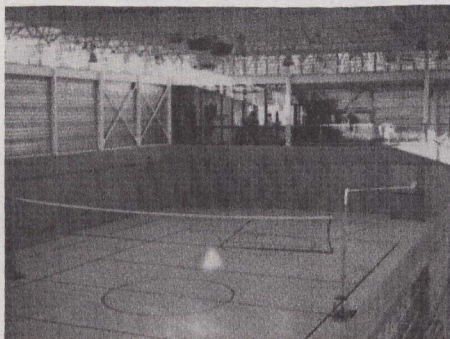
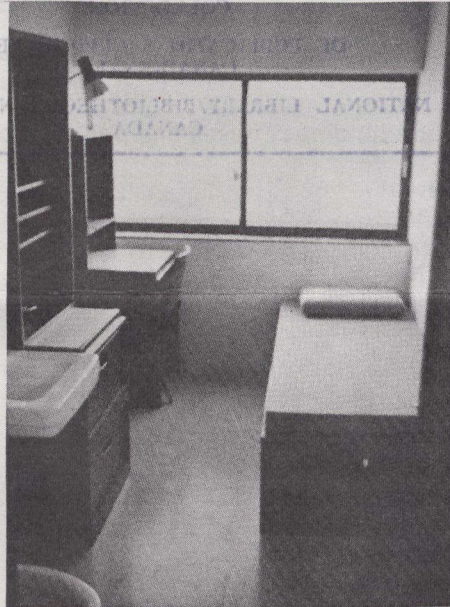
Some of the recommendations that were accepted by the Minister included:

- The appointment of an Inspector General of Penitentiaries, who would report directly to the Commissioner, to inspect institutions and investigate irregularities. Criminal investigations would be referred to the police.
- Creation of segregation review boards to ensure there is no abuse of solitary confinement.
- Construction of smaller institutions (200-250 inmates) which may be clustered together with several shared functions. The Government has already announced that nine new penitentiaries should be ready by December 1979 and, that over the next five years, 24 new institutions "designed to respond better to specific needs" would be built.
- Improvement of food in institutions; and the endorsement of common dining, though this may not be applicable in all present institutions.
- The wearing of name-identification by all staff members and all inmates of maximum and medium security penitentiaries, which will be implemented within two months.
- Probationary period for new employees will be one year after the completion of the initial course, which will include both instruction at staff colleges and on-the-job training.
- Visits by staff to other countries for exposure to their ideas and practices and also to participate in international correctional organizations and conferences.
- Clarification of lines of authority, with institutional directors having the authority to carry out their responsibilities. A detailed role analysis will be performed. (Rejected was the recommendation that directors report directly to the Commissioner of Penitentiaries on the grounds that it would be impractical in a system with more than 50 institutions.)
- Establishment of citizen's advisory committees in all institutions, composed of a cross-section of society, to advise the institutional director on the general development of the programs, as well as on methods of informing the public on the operations of the institution.
- Representation of inmates by an inmate committee.

Role of Commissioner

The Parliamentary sub-committee recommended that the Commissioner of

Mission Institution in British Columbia, opened in January 1977, is the forerunner of a new smaller type of medium security penitentiary being built across Canada. (Below) a living unit, gymnasium and the perimeter fence.



Penitentiaries should be appointed by and responsible to a board of five members which would have sole responsibility for the making of policy and would report to Parliament through the Solicitor General. Mr. Fox, in his response said this was one of the most fundamental changes that had been recommended and, because its implications were so far-reaching, he requested more time for examination.

Regarding the recommendation that gas not be normally used against a single inmate but a resisting inmate be physically overpowered by a team of guards, the Solicitor General's response was: "If there have been abuses or errors in the application of the policy it is agreed that steps be taken to prevent their recurrence. As the sub-committee itself notes, there is a requirement for a certain degree of flexibility in order to allow for appropriate judgments to be made in specific situations."

All inmates will be entitled to academic training, trades training and correspondence courses. At present, some 2,100 inmates are enrolled in the academic program and another 1,100 are enrolled in the vocational/technical program.

Sex offenders and drug addicts

On the recommendation that there be several separate institutions for the treatment of sex offenders, the Minister's response was that various systems in the United States were being examined and a report on their possible application in Canadian institutions was expected in October.

As for the establishment of a special institution for drug addicts in British Columbia, the Federal Government is considering a series of approaches to the general question of drug abuse and a joint committee of the Government and the province is examining all aspects of the problem.

Young offenders

The Minister was "highly sympathetic" to the proposal that at least one separate institution should be provided for youthful offenders on a selective basis. The response stated in part: "...the proposals to replace the Juvenile Delinquents Act, which the Minister hopes to present to Parliament in the fall, represent a major initiative in the area of prevention, diversion and the provision of alternatives to

(Continued on P. 7)

Bravery awards

Canada's second highest decoration for bravery, the Star of Courage, has been awarded to three persons for acts of heroism. One of the awards is posthumous.

Patrick Harrington, aged 77, of South Porcupine, Ontario, was asphyxiated after rousing tenants during a fire which levelled a three-storey rooming house in the town in the early hours of March 6, 1976. The rescuer persisted despite heat and smoke and alerted others by activating a manual fire alarm; but in the process he was trapped and could not himself escape.

Chris Ann Bishop, aged 15, of South Hazelton, British Columbia, rescued three younger brothers from a fire which destroyed their house in the early hours of September 16, 1976. With fire all around her, Chris Ann was finally forced to jump from a second-floor window but continued in vain in her efforts to save two others.

On March 4, 1976, Gail Flynn of Nitinat Camp, British Columbia, saved three children, all aged three, who had fallen through the ice at Kissinger Lake near her home. By breaking the ice with her arms, Mrs. Flynn managed to reach and revive all three.

These three persons are among a group of ten who will be awarded decorations for acts of heroism. The other seven will receive the Medal of Bravery. There are three awards: The Cross of Valour, the highest decoration, The Star of Courage and the Medal of Bravery. Since the decorations were first created in 1972, 269 Canadians have received them.

International sport exchanges

Joint training camps, exchanges of coaches and other specialists, and sports competitions are some of the results of an understanding signed recently between Canada and Poland.

Similar arrangements were discussed with Hungary, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. All four countries showed interest in receiving specific proposals later in the year for consideration of exchanges in 1978.

National, regional and club teams are expected to compete against Canadian teams in the coming year as a result of the discussions held in Europe by Iona Campagnolo, Minister of State, Fitness and Amateur Sport. Joint seminars and conferences will be held with a view to improving the performance of athletes and the qualifications of coaches and other technical personnel.

Canada and Poland

In addition to the joint training camps, the understanding with Poland covers the participation of teams and individuals in bilateral and multilateral competitions in Canada and Poland, the exchange of people in the field of physical recreation and sport, and the exchange, when possible, of technical documentation.

Teams from both Canada and Poland are expected to be involved in exchanges within the next year. According to the understanding reached with Polish officials, delegations from both countries will meet alternately in Canada and Poland in December of each year or at international sports events to summarize

the current year's sport exchange.

Dr. Sandor Beckl, Under-Secretary of State and President of the OTSH (Hungarian National Office for Fitness and Sport), accepted the invitation extended by Mrs. Campagnolo to pay an official visit to Canada, when further negotiations will take place.

Does meditation really work?

The International Meditation Society, an organization based in Switzerland founded by the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, has awarded \$85,000 to a Montreal psychologist for research on the perceptual and cognitive effects of transcendental meditation (TM).

Dr. Stephen Milstein, an associate professor with the Quebec government's Health Research Institute and a meditator himself, states that he plans to investigate claims that "the practice of TM improves perception, sensory function, the ability to think clearly and the ability to deal with stressful situations". The two-year study will be conducted both in Switzerland and in Canada with groups of experienced and novice meditators and non-meditators. The subjects will be compared on standard tests of sensation, problem-solving, eye-hand co-ordination and creativity.

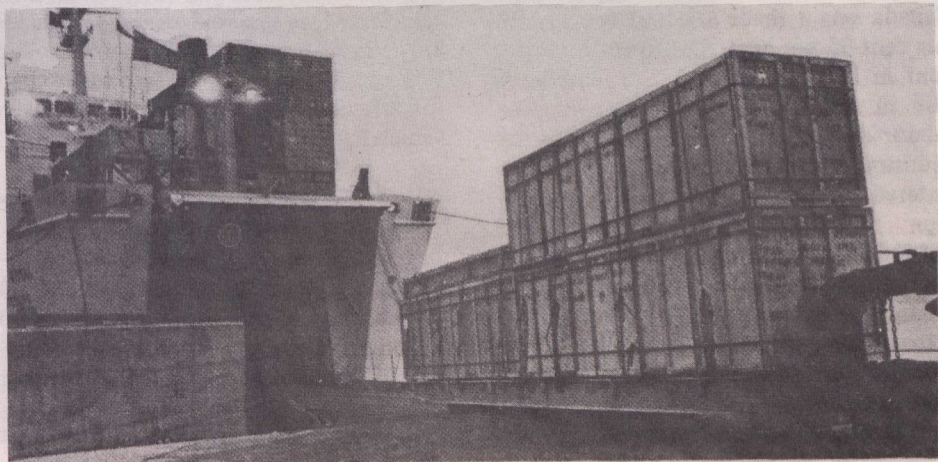
Milstein, who obtained his Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Manitoba, has conducted previous experiments on the psychological effects of marijuana. His research demonstrated that contrary to the belief of users, smoking marijuana impairs creativity.

Exports to Iran

More than 45,000 feet of Cantrough Cabletray manufactured by Electrovert Ltd., Montreal, are being used at the Gilan Forest Products complex being built in Iran for the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO).

Electrovert has exported its products to over 55 countries.

(Right) a 100-ton consignment of Electrovert aluminum heavy duty cable tray and cantruss steel supporting system loading at Montreal docks for shipment to Iran.



Trade in automotive products

Following the strike-related interruption in the last quarter of 1976, a marked improvement occurred in the two-way trade between Canada and the United States in the first quarter of 1977, with both exports and imports reaching record levels. From the largest seasonally-adjusted deficit of 1976 in the fourth quarter, there was a contraction in the first quarter as the rise in exports surpassed that of imports. The latest deficit compared roughly with the level of the April-September period of 1976.

Over the year, exports of automotive products expanded 32 per cent to \$2,452 million in the first quarter of 1977 from \$1,859 million in the same period of 1976. Almost 60 per cent of the \$593-million gain was due to higher shipments of motor vehicles to help supply the first-quarter surge in purchases by American consumers and businesses. Imports of motor vehicles and parts from the United States totalled \$2,589 million, up 19 per cent over the figure for the first quarter of 1976. Close to 55 per cent of the \$412-million rise was accounted for by increased imports of parts. The pronounced improvement in the vehicle trade balance was, however, largely responsible for the 57 per cent reduction in the automotive deficit from \$318 million to \$137 million.

Duty-free trade

The proportion of duty-free imports by each country is a rough measure of the two-way trade under the Canada-United States Automotive Agreement of 1965. About 95 per cent-96 per cent of the Canadian shipments entered the U.S. free of duty in the period 1970 to 1976. The proportion of duty-free imports into Canada was a shade lower at roughly 94 per cent-95 per cent. The drop to 92 per cent in 1974 was caused by a temporary rise in dutiable tire imports owing to labour disputes in the tire-manufacturing industry. Practically all passenger cars entered free of duty, while the proportion for automotive parts averaged around 94 per cent-95 per cent.

In a duty-free comparison, the annual balances have been more favourable to Canada than for total automotive trade. For the surplus years 1970-1972, the export balances were slightly better; and in the subsequent deficit period, duty-free

balances were smaller than the total deficits.

Overseas trade

Exports of motor vehicles and parts to overseas countries advanced 14.5 per cent from \$129 million in the March quarter of 1976 to \$148 million in 1977. Passenger vehicles accounted solely for the gain, as exports of trucks fell. The rise was concentrated in shipments to oil-producing countries in the Middle East and to Venezuela.

Imports of automotive goods declined slightly to \$230 million from the unusually-high first quarter 1976 total of \$233 million. A decline in automotive parts imports was counterbalanced by an increase in the value of tire imports from the European Economic Community and Japan.

Car imports

The total number of imported cars rose more than 2 per cent from 179,500 units to 183,600 units between the initial quarters of 1976 and 1977. Automobiles from the U.S. and West Germany increased 7.5 per cent-8 per cent, while the numbers from other sources fell. The U.S. share of imported cars rose sharply from 72 per cent to 75.5 per cent, which was, however, lower than 79.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1975. The West German share increased slightly to 5 per cent, but the share of Japanese cars contracted two percentage points to 16.7 per cent.

The strengthening against the Canadian dollar of between 3.5 per cent and 11 per cent in the currencies of the three principal suppliers contributed to raising the unit values of the automobiles. Overall, the net price increase of foreign-built imports averaged 16 per cent, with the increase for American cars falling slightly below but with the rise for West German vehicles exceeding the average considerably. Basic price increases, the introduction of new product lines and other changes affected the unit values of imported vehicles.

Farmers receive assistance

The Farm Credit Corporation lent \$301.4 million in the form of 4,465 loans, to Canadian farmers last year. This represents a decrease of close to 53 per cent from that of the previous year.

However, the average size of loan in-

creased from \$64,450 in 1975-76 to \$67,502 in 1976-77, owing to the increase in the cost of land, permanent improvements and equipment.

The proportion of loans to assist young farmers — those under 35 — continued to increase. About 74 per cent of the loans went to farmers in this age group, compared to nearly 67 per cent in 1975-76. Borrowers under 25 years of age received 27.1 per cent of the loans, compared to 23.5 per cent the previous year.

Loans were requested for a variety of purposes including: the purchase of additional land; new units; permanent improvements; land secured and other debts; livestock, and equipment.

Loans by province

The number of loans made and the total amount borrowed are: Saskatchewan, 1,322, (\$86,110,500); Ontario, 1,018, (\$79,590,990); Alberta, 692, (\$45,524,400); Quebec, 681, (\$46,586,500); Manitoba, 479, (\$25,686,400); British Columbia, 106, (\$7,824,200); Prince Edward Island, 82, (\$4,781,300); New Brunswick, 72, (\$4,219,000); Newfoundland, 9, (\$928,000); Nova Scotia, 4, (\$181,700).

Farmers' repayment record continued to be good. Of the \$55 million due during the year, 90.7 per cent was paid. In addition, \$33.7 million was paid on principal not due.

Credit plans

The Corporation also administers the Farm Syndicates Credit Act which provides financial assistance to help farmers overcome the high cost of individual ownership of machinery, buildings and equipment. Loans can be made to syndicates (groups of three or more farmers) to a maximum of \$100,000 or \$15,000 for each member, whichever is the lesser.

A Land Transfer Plan of the Small Farm Development program provides grants to those on small farms who wish to sell their farms and special credit to assist operators with inadequate acreage to buy land that becomes available under the program.

A total of \$568,600 was approved under the special credit provisions to help 32 farmers expand their farms. In the previous year, \$1,783,000 was approved for 104 farmers.

The FCC provides pre-loan advisory services to all applicants and post-loan advisory services where needed.

International interest in unique airport fire-fighter

An airport fire truck designed especially for rugged and wet terrain will soon be tested at Resolute Bay in the Northwest Territories. The Canadian Delta Foam Boss, built to Transport Canada specifications, is probably "the only crash and fire vehicle capable of getting to a plane that bounces off a runway and into a swamp", says Bob Linden, a spokesman for Industry, Trade and Commerce. If further tests prove successful, the vehicle, which could someday travel on the surface of the moon, should attract international buyers. According to Mr. Linden, airport authorities from several countries have expressed serious interest in the unique fire truck.

One of several special features of the Delta vehicle is the "foam package", a water and foam compound which produces 6,000 gallons of foam a minute for a duration of two minutes. The foam can travel a distance of up to 225 feet. Only

one person is needed to drive the truck and operate the foam equipment.

The vehicle under test travels at only 30 mph; however, a larger one that can

reach a speed of 50 mph, is also being tested, and may become the main export version as well as a regular feature of Canadian airports.



Although the fire truck weighs 22 tons, its soft tires exert one-quarter the pressure a square inch of regular truck tires. (Above) the truck rambles over soggy terrain.

Learning materials for the blind

Ten volunteers recently completed an 18-week course that will qualify them to produce learning materials for blind students. The Braille Transcribers Training Program is run jointly by the Manitoba Department of Education and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

The ten graduates will work on their own, at home and without pay, producing things like recreational or supplementary reading materials for blind students in the regular Manitoba school system. Provincial Education Minister Ian Turnbull, who presented certificates to the graduates on May 25, said the work the volunteers would do would be an essential part of enabling blind students to continue in the school system.

"Without the learning materials these volunteers will supply, the students would not have enough material adapted to their special needs to enable them to keep up with their classmates."

The course, two-and-a-half hours a week at the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre, was taught by Bern Bileski, an itinerant teacher of the blind, and Doris Friesen, a transcription co-ordinator with CNIB.

The students, who range in age from

20 to over 65, learned the Braille alphabet and then complex shorthand symbols ('contractions') for prefixes, suffixes and very common words (such as "be", "is", "was"). They learned to use a Brailier, a six-key machine that looks something like a typewriter, and how to make the

necessary configuration of dots so that proper Braille letters are produced. The students also had sessions with blind and sighted people to give them an appreciation of the problems of blindness and the special nature of non-visual learning.



Sharon Taylor transcribes a supplementary reading book into Braille, for use of Manitoba's blind students.

She is using a Brailier, a machine a bit like a typewriter, with six keys.

The keys can make the six dots of the Braille alphabet in various combinations.

News of the arts

Old Dumbells never die — First World War trenches exchanged for Charlottetown stage

The Legend of the Dumbells, a nostalgic musical based on the First World War Canadian troop entertainers, had its *première* at the Charlottetown Festival in Prince Edward Island, and remains in performance all summer.

The original Dumbells were a company of singing soldiers recruited from the Canadian Army Third Division to entertain the troops after the Battle of Vimy Ridge. They took their name from the crossed-dumbbells of the Division's insignia, and a misspelling of their name on the first program stuck with the performers. The Dumbells were organized by Captain Merton Plunkett, a YMCA social director serving with the Canadian Forces, who was responsible for building up morale. The group performed their variety revues as close to the trenches as possible, setting up Plunkett's battered piano, donning makeshift costumes and using old tin cans for theatre lights. Among the favourite anecdotes of these early days is the story of Ross Hamilton, an ambulance driver from Pugwash, Nova Scotia who did female impersonations. Hamilton would enter an army mess in his finery, wait for all the men to rise, and then astonish them by booming out an order for beer.



Public Archives

Captain Merton Plunkett, founder of The Dumbells troop entertainment show, poses with two of the "girls", Ross Hamilton (left) and A.G. Murray on stage some time during the First World War.

Success in "civvy street"

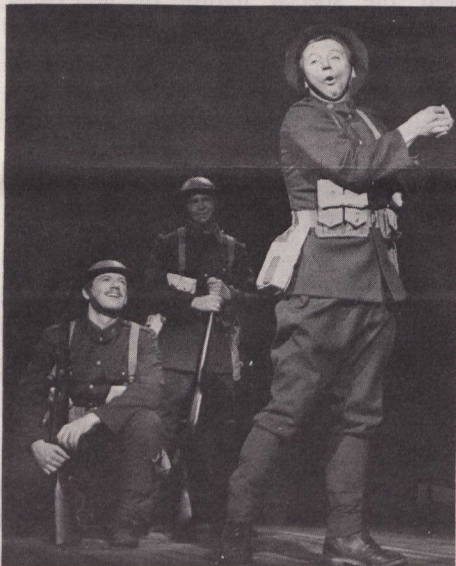
Under Plunkett's direction, the Dumbells grew in size and experience. After the war they performed at the Coliseum in London, returning to Canada in 1919 to become an immediate success. They remained popular for nearly a decade, touring across Canada and the United States, including a three-month stint on Broadway in 1921.

The Charlottetown revival includes many of the First World War songs and skits that the Dumbells made famous and recalls the conditions under which the performances were presented to the battle-weary men. Charlottetown director Allan Lund gathered material about the Dumbells for over a period of five years. The script was written by George Salberston with music by John Fenwick, who arranged the score, drawing from over 200 songs in the Dumbells' shows. The last survivor of the original company, pianist/comedian Jack Ayers provided Lund with some of the original sheet music for songs like *Wild Wild Women* and *The Dumbell Rag*. Ayers died in May at age 83, but two members of the com-

pany who joined the Dumbells later in their career were present at the Charlottetown revival.

Both veterans were brought onstage to thunderous applause after the opening night. Speaking for his old colleague, Bill Redpath and himself, Jack Maclaren addressed the audience. "It was wonderful," he said, "to have the Dumbells revived after being in mothballs for 40 years. There are more than just Bill and I standing here tonight, there are the spirits of all those who played with us."

The Legend of the Dumbells is being performed at the Charlottetown Festival, along with *By George* a musical based on the life and work of George Gershwin, and with the Festival's 13-year-old hit *Anne of Green Gables*.



Doug Chamberlain sings The Photo of the Girl I Left Behind in the Charlottetown Festival's musical The Legend of the Dumbells this summer. Chamberlain plays the role of Jack McLaren, with Scott Walker as Bill Redpath (left) and soldier Jim White (centre).



Brian McKay (above), who plays Captain Merton Plunkett, founder of the Dumbells, in the Charlottetown revival, bears a remarkable resemblance to his namesake.

Cornfields of Belize

A three-year study aimed at increasing the crop yield of an ancient method of agriculture will begin shortly.

The study, which is financed by the Canadian International Development Agency and the government of Belize (formerly British Honduras), will be conducted by associate professor of biology John Lambert and his post-doctoral fellow Thor Arnason.

"The Indians of Belize farm their cornfields (milpas) with a system dating back to the Mayan civilization of 300 B.C.," said Dr. Arnason. "They use an agricultural technique called slash-and-burn."



Dr. Thor Arnason (left) and associate professor of biology John Lambert examine a specimen of a weed which they collected during a recent trip to Belize. Dr. Arnason and Professor Lambert have received a \$144,000-grant to study the soil nutrient loss in the cornfields of Belize.

In this system, a ten-acre portion of forest about 12 years old is cut down in January. The field, left to dry until May, is then set afire so that the first grains of corn can be sown just before the rainy season begins later that month. After the corn is harvested in August, a crop of beans is sown. This is followed by a second planting of corn in November.

The following year, the overgrowth of

weeds is burnt away and the same planting and harvesting process is repeated. The Indians then move to a new station of the forest, allowing growth to resume in the abandoned milpas.

Professor Lambert indicated that three problems were inherent in this system of agriculture. First, the weeds which provide a necessary ground cover to protect the crops from the intensity of the tropic sun, take away soil nutrients needed for the crops. Secondly, the Indians do not use fertilizers, so there is no replenishment of the nutrients in the soil. Thirdly, the milpas are not plowed and the soil becomes hard and unable to retain the necessary moisture.

CIDA has funded the project for \$122,000, Professor Lambert noted, in order to help Belize become more self-sufficient. In turn, he said, the Department of Agriculture in Belize had contributed \$20,000 and is hoping that the study will result in recommendations which will not alter the Indians' system of agriculture but will help them to cultivate the land more productively.

Volunteer home teachers

"Teachers-on-Wheels" (TOW) was founded about two years ago as an attempt to tackle an adult illiteracy problem in the province of Newfoundland. The idea was to have teachers available to go to people's homes to help them improve their reading and writing. For the past six months TOW has been sponsored by the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Adult Education and funded by Canada Manpower under a local initiative project grant. Fourteen teachers were on call to adults anywhere in the St. John's area.

The funding from Canada Manpower, however, expired at the end of June and, to ensure that the service could continue and possibly expand, efforts were made to reorganize and a call for volunteers was issued. By June 6, more than 90 people had indicated their interest in volunteering their services to help adults to learn to read and write and a new group of volunteer teachers-on-wheels has been formed. Training is being conducted during the summer so that by September the services of "Teachers-on-Wheels" will again be available, but this time on a volunteer basis.

Solar heating a necessity

Michael Berkowitz, an assistant professor of political economy and an associate of the University of Toronto's Institute for Policy Analysis, advocates immediate implementation of solar space heating in Canada, and recommends that government subsidies be provided to users to reduce consumer resistance to the large capital outlay required (estimated at \$7,000).

Berkowitz, who has just completed what he believes to be the first comprehensive economic study in Canada of solar heating technology, has also concluded that obstacles presented by insurance companies, mortgage companies, utilities and land developers must be removed by government intervention.

Berkowitz suggests that the public has mistakenly sought the "perfect solar home" and overlooked the obvious advantages of a system that is simply "reliable, competitive and available to the consumer". He has calculated that equipping only 5 per cent of all new housing with a 70 per cent solar system between 1980 and 2005 would save the country \$563 million in oil, \$375 million in gas, and \$46 million in pollution costs.

The study was funded by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Penitentiary system (Cont'd. from P. 2)

incarceration for young people who come into conflict with the law. In addition, provision will be made in the proposal for the transfer of convicted young people who have been raised to adult court back to the provincial system to serve all or part of their sentence." However, the response went on, fully 40 per cent of inmates were between 18 and 25 and the fact that they had been sentenced to prison terms "was indicative of the fact that they have been found guilty of serious crimes" and, therefore they would not be suitable for the kind of special treatment that the sub-committee had in mind.

Hostages

Hostage-takers will be subject to immediate transfer to special handling units, where further appropriate action will be determined. Charges will also be laid in all cases of hostage-taking.

A "three-pronged" approach to the

question of a special unit trained to deal with hostage-taking and other crises is under way, with the establishment of institutional emergency response teams. The use of police forces is also to be decided by the director when required.

Mr. Fox stated, in the conclusion of his response, that he intended to work

closely with the Parliamentary subcommittee, and that he believed the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs would have "adequate opportunities" to monitor progress on implementation of the recommendations when it considered the estimates.

In accepting the principles contained

in the foregoing, and other recommendations, the Minister emphasized they could not all be implemented at once throughout the system. Several required legislative, regulatory or policy changes. He stressed, however, that he would implement the recommendations "with all reasonable speed".

News briefs

Direct time loss from work stoppages due to strikes and lockouts in 1976 amounted to 11,609,890 man-days, according to revised final figures in a Labour Canada report issued recently. This revised figure is higher than the preliminary figure previously issued, and is the highest annual figure for man-days lost ever recorded. Even so, it represents only 0.55 per cent of total working time.

Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Alastair Gillespie, recently recommended to the Governor in Council that charges applicable to exports of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons be reduced by \$1 a barrel to the following levels, effective August 1: for light crude oils and condensate \$4.60 a barrel; for Lloydminster, Viking-Kinsella and Wainwright-type blends \$2.90 a barrel, and for other designated heavy oils \$3.35 a barrel. The Minister stated that the decrease reflected the increase of \$1 a barrel in the wellhead price of Canadian crude oils, which took effect on July 1.

The appointment of Jean-Marie Déry as Ambassador to Egypt was one of nine diplomatic appointments announced by the Department of External Affairs on August 11. Other appointments are: Jean Touchette Ambassador to Tunisia; Pierre Dumas Ambassador to Switzerland; Jacques Dupuis Ambassador to Spain;

Harry Horne as Consul General in San Francisco; Andrew Ross as Consul General in Atlanta; Lawrence A.H. Smith as Minister responsible for Economic Affairs in Washington; Kenneth Taylor as Ambassador to Iran and concurrently to Bahrein, Qatar and United Arab Emirates; William Warden as High Commissioner to Hong Kong.

Two million dollars is being provided by Canada for drought relief in Haiti. The Haitian Red Cross Society was given \$500,000 for immediate food-aid requirements, while the balance of \$1.5 million was provided under a special program operated by the Canadian International Development Agency. Additional food aid along with seed-grains, health, water, warehousing and other requirements has also been distributed under the program.

Governor-General Jules Léger, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, is meeting members of the Order of Canada in several provinces this year to mark the tenth anniversary of the Order. Mr. Léger met members in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in June and July; on August 18, he and his wife gave a reception for members at Government House, in St. John's, Newfoundland.

The Bishop Strachan Girls' Choir and the George Brown College Orchestra, both from Toronto, took part in the International Festival of Youth Orchestras and Performing Arts, held in Scotland from August 6-17 and in England from August 19-21.

Maxwell F. Yalden, formerly Deputy Minister of Communications since 1973, has been named the new Commissioner of Official Languages. He replaces Keith Spicer. Mr. Yalden, a former diplomat, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1956 and was posted to Moscow two years later. After serving on the Canadian delegation to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, and later with the Department's Disarmament Division

in Ottawa, he moved to the Canadian Embassy in Paris, before returning to Ottawa as Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. In 1969 he was appointed to the Secretary of State Department as Assistant Under-Secretary in charge of bilingualism development and education programs.

A Gallup poll shows that support for the Government's wage-and-price-control policy has risen to 58 per cent. The figure, released August 10, is the same as the high point recorded in April last year, before support for the anti-inflation policy began its decline to a low point of 44 per cent last autumn.

A 2.1 per cent rise in food prices during July — the largest monthly increase in two years — pushed the cost of living higher in July by 0.9 per cent. The number of unemployed was 8.1 per cent.

This is the summer of the kilometre in Canada. By September, most of the road signs in the country will be changed from miles per hour to kilometres per hour. It's the next step in Canada's gradual conversion to metric measurement which began in 1971 and should be completed by 1980. The road sign changeover will see 30 mph replaced by 50 km/h and 60 mph by 100 km/h. School zone signs will dictate a 25 km/h speed limit, instead of the present 20 mph. The speeds will be about the same as they are now only the symbols will be different.

Gordon Fairweather, long-time Conservative MP and crusader for civil liberties, is quitting his Commons seat to accept a Liberal government appointment as head of the new Canadian Human Rights Commission. Parliament passed legislation in July to set up the commission, which will act as the national counterpart to similar provincial bodies to deal with charges of discrimination in areas of sex, marital status and physical handicap.

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