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One-hundred-years ago this week...
Canada's national song *O Canada* was played for the first time in honour of the official visit to Quebec of the Marquis of Lorne, Governor General of Canada.

Recommendations first step to improving children's lives

The International Year of the Child 1979 (IYC) has created a new awareness of the problems facing Canadian children, according to a report by the Canadian Commission for the IYC. The commission said its recommendations from the report called, For Canada's Children: National Agenda for Action, are an important first step towards improving the quality of Canadian children's lives. Excerpts from the report follow:

...Initially, the commission was created to take action; our mandate included advocacy on behalf of children, promotion, public awareness and celebration....

But as the year progressed and our focus on children sharpened, it became apparent that our broad representation, our special status and the unique characteristics of the International Year of the Child itself had presented us with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to review the situation of children in Canada in a way that no other group has ever been able to do before.... We had a chance to speak out for, and with children and we took it.

Terms of reference

The United Nations' terms of reference for International Year of the Child defined as "children" all those who, because they have not reached voting age, require

others to speak on their behalf in the political process. In most countries this means everyone under the age of eighteen. Children may not be able to vote but they can speak out for themselves in many other ways. They can be heard and they should be listened to. It is because of the countless conversations we had with reflective and concerned young people that we felt so strongly the need to speak out for them in this report. Our children are so full of promise, and Canada must respond to that promise much better than it does now.

The commission examined the situation of children in [Canada] and assessed it against the ten principles of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The results confirmed what many of us had already learned from our personal experiences with children. In a country as affluent and fortunate as Canada, there are far too many children who are being hurt, deprived, ignored, neglected.

At the root of the problem is the social revolution that has taken place in Canada and the Western world in recent decades. Ironically, the changes that have occurred within our society have been ignored by many of our institutions and laws. As they relate to children, our major economic, political and cultural structures continue to reflect a mythical period when families were intact, human resources abounded and childhood was a glorious time. The fact that childhood very often was far from carefree did not seem to matter much then. Now we know that it does. And furthermore, we have the information to make the necessary changes.

During the last 20 years, we have ac-



Birgitte Nielsen

Children try to communicate with us.



Children must be considered when laws are being reviewed and enacted.

quired a great deal of research knowledge about the interaction of children and the contexts in which they live. This knowledge has not only made institutional change imperative, it has also given us clear guidelines as to how to go about it. In certain instances this has already happened. Thus, for example, findings about attachment and separation with respect to children and their families have been taken into account by designers of new health care settings and services. But all our institutions that profoundly affect the lives of children such as education, the child welfare system, the courts, municipal and community services, must change to accommodate the social revolution that is still in process and the new knowledge we possess if Canada's children are to develop in ways that will benefit themselves and society as a whole.

Collective experience

...All of our recommendations have been constructed on a solid base of information drawn from a number of sources. To begin with, as members of the commission we brought to our common task a collective expertise and experience which is considerable with respect to children. To this we added the results of a systematic study of the 4,000 submissions we received from every part of Canada.... We were able to incorporate into our deliberations the ideas which children and young people communicated directly to us in a variety of ways, including by letter sent to our special children's box number. We solicited and received input for consi-

deration from individuals and community groups....

The patterns of need that emerged from the formal analysis of our well-documented submissions were similar to those that could be discerned in the information we received from the provincial and regional IYC committees and from the members of the general public. The same patterns ran through the comments and writings that came to us from children. The young people gave their own emphasis, but altogether the patterns merged to provide a clear picture of the major problems that now face Canadian children.

Children's problems

What are these problems? Analysis of needs revealed:

- that poverty and isolation are much more extensive than most Canadians believe;
- that adequate and appropriate community support systems do not often exist for children;
- that parents need help to be better parents and that this help is not readily available;
- that everywhere in Canada existing child-care facilities fall far short of the expanding need for them;
- that services for handicapped children are far from sufficient;
- that opportunities to take responsibility and to learn the skills of citizenship are rare;
- that age-group segregation often creates impenetrable barriers between children and older people and that programs to help people cross them are needed;
- that the battle against prejudice and racism with respect to children needs reinforcements;
- that the situation of Canada's native children is acute;
- that creative approaches are required to break through the sense of alienation felt by so many young people;
- that there is a surprising ignorance of the child's need and right to play; and
- that there is a great need for enriching experiences, a need which reflects the impoverishment of many children's minds and spirits; people are too busy, too pre-occupied, too disinterested to pay attention to them.

Focus of committee

IYC committees and the general public focused on:

- the multiple difficulties experienced



A young victim of poverty.

- by families everywhere;
- the need for support services — material and moral, formal and informal, child-care provisions of various kinds, parenting courses, family drop-in centres;
- the growing evidence of destructive behaviour directed at children — child abuse and neglect, child pornography, commercial exploitation, violence on prime-time television;
- the growing evidence of self-destructive behaviour in young people — suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, sexually transmitted disease;
- the inadequacy of existing child-welfare services, the lack of co-ordination, the absence in many parts of the country of a government focal point for an over-all policy relating to children and young people; and
- the need for young people to accept responsibility for their own actions.

Young people's comments

This last need was given a different emphasis by the young people themselves. In their comments to us they concentrated on:

- their great need to be trusted and respected and offered opportunities to demonstrate their capacity for responsible judgment and to learn the skills of community action;
- the problems of communication between themselves and their parents and other adults, and the increasing withdrawal of older people from their lives;
- family instability and its effect on them and their friends;
- the lack of recreational, cultural and

(Continued on P. 8)

Constitutional talks begin

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau met with Canada's ten provincial premiers in Ottawa, June 9, to discuss proposals for constitutional change.

The premiers, who met with Mr. Trudeau for an all-day meeting at the Prime Minister's residence were: William Davis of Ontario, René Lévesque of Quebec, Peter Lougheed of Alberta, William Bennett of British Columbia, Allan Blakeney of Saskatchewan, Sterling Lyon of Manitoba, Richard Hatfield of New Brunswick, John Buchanan of Nova Scotia, Brian Peckford of Newfoundland and Angus MacLean of Prince Edward Island.

The first ministers unanimously agreed on a timetable for constitutional reform and a list of priorities to be dealt with during the first round of discussions. However, the premiers said that they were unable to support a statement of principles for a new Constitution at this time.

The high-priority items agreed upon by the premiers comprise: a statement of principles; a charter of rights, including language rights; a dedication to reducing regional disparities; patriation of the Constitution; resource ownership and inter-provincial trade; offshore resources; powers affecting the economy; communications and broadcasting; family law; fisheries jurisdiction; a new Senate involving the provinces; and changes in the Supreme Court.

Calendar of events

The calendar of events agreed upon included an organizational meeting of ministers of federal-provincial relations on June 17 and a three-week meeting of the premiers and their officials between July 7 and July 25. Federal-provincial relations ministers and their officials are scheduled to meet again August 25-29.

Between August 30 and September 7 governments will be asked to consider their positions and prepare for a first ministers' conference. The first ministers' conference will be held in Ottawa from September 8-12 "to reach conclusions on work under way and to put in train a further work program". The premiers requested that this meeting be open and that its stated purpose include the words: "to finalize agreements on work under way".

In a press conference after the meeting, Prime Minister Trudeau said he was willing to "go a long way" in giving the provinces more powers in areas like resources and communications if they recognized the necessity to preserve the "Canadian common market". Mr. Trudeau said he wanted the provinces to recognize that the Federal Government needs the power to maintain a strong economy. He said he wanted it emphasized in a new Constitution that Canada is "one sovereign country from an economic point of view".

Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford expressed some of the premiers' views when he said: "The talk was very frank, very open. Everyone is in favour of change — from sea to sea. There is still a lot of frustration, but there seemed to be a feeling that maybe we can work some of these frustrations out."

Consulates change status

The status of the Canadian consulates in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil has been raised to the level of consulate-general, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced.

This action has been taken in order to reflect the current importance of the programs carried out by these two missions in the context of Canada's increasingly important relations with Brazil. The consulates-general principally carry out commercial functions but they are also responsible for administering consular, public affairs and immigration programs.

Canada's representation in Rio de Janeiro is one of the oldest in Latin America, dating back to 1941 and the establishment of the Canadian legation in what was then the capital city of Brazil. In 1944, the legation was raised to the status of an embassy and in 1972, when the Canadian embassy was moved to Brasilia following the transfer of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to that city, a consulate was opened in Rio de Janeiro.

The Canadian consulate in Sao Paulo was established in 1947 and in the subsequent years Canadian commercial and consular interests in that city.

Consul and Trade Commissioner in Rio de Janeiro Marc Lemieux will become Consul-General and Trade Commissioner in Rio de Janeiro; Consul and Trade Commissioner in Sao Paulo Victor Lotto will become Consul-General and Trade Commissioner in Sao Paulo.

Telidon chosen for U.S. trial

Telidon, Canada's videotex/teletext technology, has been selected for the first United States consumer trial of teletext, Communications Minister Francis Fox has announced. The trial will be conducted at PBS station WETA in Washington, D.C., starting in late 1980.

Telidon is a two-way TV system which allows users to retrieve information stored in computer data bases by means of a keypad. The information, either text or graphics, is displayed on a slightly modified TV set.

The trial is sponsored by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Science Foundation, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The trial has been designed and is being managed by the Alternate Media Centre at the New York University School of the Arts in conjunction with WETA. A variety of other systems based on the French Antiope and British teletext systems were considered before choosing the Telidon alternative.

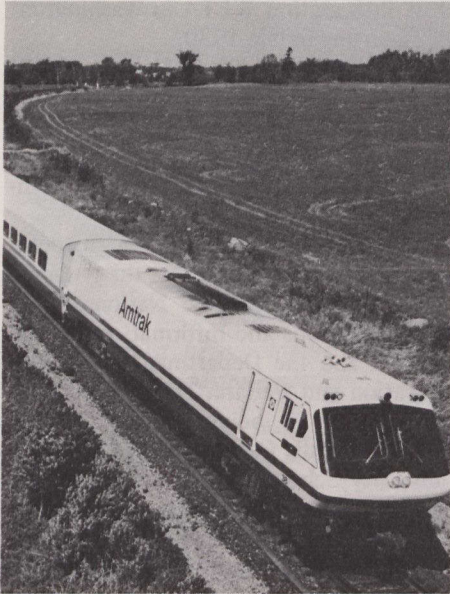
The Telidon teletext receivers will be placed in selected homes and in several public locations in order to evaluate consumer reaction to various information services being considered for the new medium. As part of its study, terminals will be especially fitted with monitoring devices to record usage and collect such information as the particular page of information requested by the consumer and the time the request was made.

The Canadian Department of Communications, which developed Telidon at its Communications Research Centre, will be providing technical assistance and advice as will TV Ontario, the organization which is conducting the first Telidon field trial in the broadcast mode. (TV Ontario is a major educational information provider and has offered to provide educational information already prepared in the Telidon format.)

Among the information providers for the trial are the *Washington Post*, the *Washington Star*, the District of Columbia public libraries, several U.S. Government agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Energy, the Smithsonian Institute, the Federal Information Centre, and the General Services Administration Consumer Information Centre.

LRC trains delivered to U.S.

Two "light, rapid, comfortable" (LRC) high-speed inter-city passenger trains built by Bombardier Incorporated of Montreal were shipped recently to Amtrak in the United States.



Bombardier's LRC train has stabilizers that allow cars to remain level on curves.

A joint development project of Bombardier Inc. of Montreal, Dominion Foundries and Steel Ltd. of Hamilton and Alcan Canada Products Ltd. of Montreal, the LRC features a hydraulic power banking system built into its coaches. Activated by electronic sensors, the stabilizers neutralize centrifugal forces, allowing the cars to remain level on curves even at high speeds.

The Federal Government also contributed development grants through its program for the advancement of industrial technology.

The deal with the American railway company — a two-train, \$10-million lease-purchase contract signed in 1976 — was the first merchandising breakthrough for the LRC. Since then, Via Rail Canada Incorporated, Canada's national passenger corporation, has given Bombardier a \$70-million order for 21 locomotives and 50 coaches to be used in the Quebec City-Windsor corridor. Eight trains are scheduled for delivery in about a year.

Extensively tested

Although the LRC has been extensively tested to date, especially at the U.S. Federal Railroad Authority's high-speed

ground test centre in Pueblo, Colorado, Amtrak will put the units through their paces for another several months before they are put into service.

According to Raymond Royer, president of Bombardier's mass transit division, there are currently about 4,500 coaches in short run service in North America. "Our analysis says about 1,500 of these could be replaced by the LRC. It's ideal for those runs with lots of curves where the authorities don't want to have to rebuild the roadbed," he said.

The LRC is capable of 200 kilometres an hour (120 miles an hour) without having to slow much for the curves.

Currently, each coach costs about \$1 million; a locomotive \$1.2 million.

Officials said the train delivers 500 passenger miles a gallon, fully loaded, compared with five to ten for a jet aircraft.

Multidisciplinary approach used

Bob White of the Ontario Research Foundation (ORF) in Toronto is an aviation engineer by training, but his current work often takes him to the morgue.

There he evaluates shoulder, elbow, wrist and finger joints and learns to replace them with mechanical devices which can do the same job.

Developing and perfecting these upper-limb prostheses — much less common than lower-limb devices — has meant grafting his own engineering background on to medical and surgical disciplines.

At the ORF team work and co-operation in technology makes the marrying of two or several disciplines a simple matter. An informal system allows chemists to summon engineers, doctors, mathematicians, metallurgists, electronics specialists in any combination required.

Live implant

It made Mr. White's crash course in anatomy and physiology easier at the start. Dr. Ted English of Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, provided all medical input and liaison such that six months after beginning the program, the first live implant was performed. That was seven years ago, and the implant, a shoulder replacement, is still operating successfully.

When the first request for a shoulder came in, Mr. White had been doing test and development work. With a chemist he had developed a system to coat char-

coal briquettes; with a mathematician, a hovercraft transmission; with other engineers, thermal shock testing of marble slabs — and then came the shoulder.

It was soon apparent that quite a few disciplines would be involved and, of paramount importance, access to the clinical environment and medical expertise would be mandatory.

"I had to talk plastics' moulding," said Mr. White. "I had to blend my approach with metallurgists. I had to consider how the prosthesis would be fitted. In the end, we abandoned some of the more finicky procedures and decided the surgeon could better implant the shoulder by learning to feel for the optimum placement."

"The real beauty of the contract research and development activity here at the ORF" said Tom Kingry, communications manager, "is that with the team we've got, we can zero in on complicated multidisciplinary problems instantly.

"In Bob White's case, no company would have touched upper-limb prostheses; there was no market. Now we have a product at a time when upper-limb joint replacement is becoming increasingly attractive and can look for interested companies.

"We initiate research and support ongoing work. In many cases, where research and development would not normally be started, there being no established market to justify it, we have been able to successfully develop a product.

(From Ontario Business News, March 1980.)

Quebec sets up refugee foundation

The Quebec government is setting up a foundation aimed at educating Quebecers about the plight of refugees around the world and tackling problems that lead to the refugees' predicament.

Quebec Minister of Immigration Jacques Couture said the Quebec government would be creating the Fondation Québécoise de Solidarité Internationale.

Mr. Couture said the foundation, to be financed by the federal and provincial governments, will create a unique climate for individuals, organizations and governments to participate in "team work".

Mr. Couture said that the foundation's "most meaningful role will be to sensitize the Quebec community to the plight of refugees".

Sheep and cattle imports

Agriculture Canada expects a "full house" at its maximum security quarantine at Grosse Ile, Quebec this autumn. The department has import applications for 242 cattle and 192 sheep to date.

The cattle will come from five western European countries, but all the sheep will be imported from France.

"This is the first year Agriculture Canada has accepted applications to import any sheep from Europe," says importation officer Wayne White.

The cattle and sheep will be selected this summer by private Canadian stockmen, and should enter quarantine in Europe in September.

If health tests there are satisfactory, the livestock should arrive at Grosse Ile on the St. Lawrence River in October and will remain there until April 1981. Then, if all tests remain favourable, the livestock will be released to their Canadian owners.

Stockmen have requested permits to import five breeds of sheep and 14 breeds of cattle from Europe. Sheep breeds requested, in order of popularity, are Bleu du Main, Romanov, Texel, Ile de France and Lacaune.

Oil prospects lure businessmen

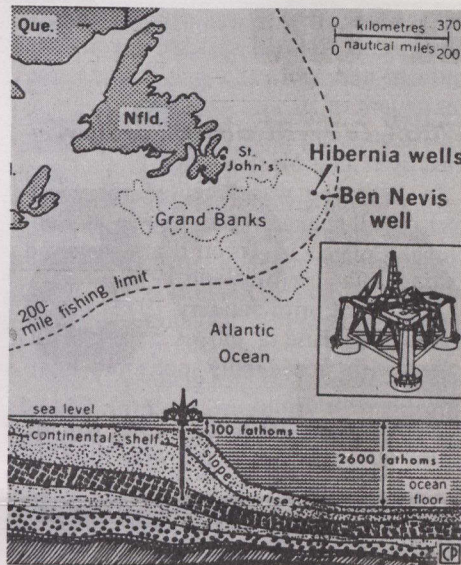
Executives of big corporations, individual businessmen, financiers and accountants are being drawn in growing numbers to St. John's, Newfoundland by the lure of the Hibernia undersea oilfield.

Some are connected with projects already drawn up, such as a \$27-million combined hotel and office centre now before the St. John's municipal council for approval.

Most seek information at the offices of the St. John's Board of Trade on Water Street, overlooking the harbour where service vessels load drillpipe and groceries for three semi-submersible rigs probing the sea bottom about 200 nautical miles east of the city.

The board says at least 30 new companies have been established since the first Hibernia test well showed a daily flow of 800 barrels in September. The total — some of them formed by local entrepreneurs — does not include several major joint ventures among West German, British and Newfoundland firms.

The volume of inquiries about invest-



The map shows the location of the undersea oil fields and the diagram a drilling rig in relation to the seabed.

ment possibilities increased after late December when the Hibernia test results were combined to total a daily flow of 20,000 barrels.

Tests encouraging

There was another quickening of interest in January when the first Hibernia step-out well, three nautical miles west of the original, and the Ben Nevis well, on a separate geological structure 12 nautical miles to the southeast, yielded more hydrocarbon showings.

Mobil Oil Canada Ltd., senior partner and operator for a group of companies holding Newfoundland exploration permits in the Hibernia area, is expected to complete testing by June at the latest.

The tests will show whether a big enough reservoir exists to warrant commercial development. The Newfoundland government has estimated a minimum of 250 million barrels would be required.

"There has been a great influx of people speculating on what type of business to get into," said Bruce Tailley, board of trade manager. "Most are from the Montreal-Toronto and Calgary-Edmonton areas, with a few Americans and some international types," he said.

Among the commodities offered is money. Representatives of large insurance firms, for instance, are seeking borrowers for industrial capital.

There have been so many inquiries about warehouse space that the board has started a survey to find out how much is available.

Commonwealth study conference held in Canada

For the first time Canada hosted the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference held May 18-June 7.

Some 300 participants from 38 Commonwealth countries — including 125 from Canada — took part in the conference. The conference, the fifth of its kind, dwelled on the broad theme of "People in an Industrial Society".

The conference began at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario on May 18 and continued at the University of Calgary on May 19. Delegates were then split into 20 study groups which visited communities across the country conducting 11-day studies of local social conditions.

The purpose of the conference as set out by its president, Prince Philip, is "to select people in industry, trade unions and public administration from every part of the Commonwealth who are likely to become leaders in the future and to expose them to the widest possible aspect of the human problems in industrial communities and to encourage them to compare and discuss their ideas and reactions. Prince Philip said he hoped that participants would gain a "better appreciation of the process and consequences of policy and decision making".

Reports presented

The Prince opened the conference in Kingston, and later opened the final session of the conference held at Laval University in Quebec City. During the final session each study group presented a report on its findings and discussed them at a summing-up session.

Among the questions studied were those of growth and decline, conservation of the environment and the division of work and leisure.

Conference delegates also examined the Canadian system of equalization payments between provinces and discussed whether it could be applied on a world level to equalize opportunity between rich and poor nations.

Speakers to the conference included: Governor-General Edward Schreyer; Dennis McDermott, president of the Canadian Labour Congress; Dr. John Crispo, professor of industrial relations and public policy at the University of Toronto; Canadian economist Dian Cohen and Senator Earnest Manning.

Specialty sports roadster built

Production of a plastic-bodied sports roadster whose lines go back to the late 1940s has begun near Toronto, reports Ken Romain in the *Globe and Mail*, May 15.

The *GRX Aurora*, described as Canada's only two-seat roadster, is powered by a Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd. 302-cubic-inch V-8 engine and weighs slightly more than 2,000 pounds.

The car, priced at \$28,000, was unveiled at the company's plant in Richmond Hill, just north of Toronto. The vehicle was designed, developed and built by Aurora Cars of Richmond Hill, a subsidiary of a holding company, Grove Ridge Industries Ltd., backed by private investors.

Wayne Stevenson, president, who did the early engineering, said the *Aurora* meets all government-mandated safety, emission control and fuel economy standards, providing 26 miles to the gallon. He said it took three-and-a-half years to develop the car.

The cars are hand-built, using mainly Ford parts, but also with some parts manufactured by the company.

Six cars have been sold and negotiations are under way with a Chicago car dealer, Carl Haas Inc., to take 30 and with a Ford of Canada dealer in Toronto to take ten, according to Mr. Stevenson. Cars will be sold through selected dealers.

Initial production is scheduled at 50 cars a year, of which 75 per cent will go to the United States. Output later is expected to rise to 100 a year.

Blind mechanic amazes

Toronto recently hired its first blind mechanic. Nick Panteluk, 25, repairs lawnmowers for cutting grass in city parks. He uses a relatively standard tool kit and engine instruction manuals printed in braille.

His boss, purchasing department official Maurice Dinneen, said he was amazed at the dexterity the Saskatchewan-born tradesman showed during an aptitude test last December for the job.

"With an absolute minimum amount of instruction, Mr. Panteluk was able to recognize a 21-inch heavy-duty commercial Lawn Boy mowing machine, check it over to make sure it was functional, fill

the gasoline tank, turn on the supply valve, prime the fuel system, operate the controls and start the machine, to the amazement of all who witnessed."

The only one who doesn't seem astonished by it all is Mr. Panteluk.

In 1975, he was accepted for a 40-week small-engine repair course at Centennial College in Toronto and received his tradesman certificate in 1976.

It was not until January 1978 that he managed to land a job as a jack-of-all-trades with a federally-sponsored boat-building firm.

He was laid off last October and recently was offered the job with the City of Toronto.

The man who helped him get the job, Bill McKeown, an employment officer with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, says Mr. Panteluk is very much the exception among employable blind people. Blind people in Canada suffer from an unemployment rate of about 80 per cent.

Mr. Panteluk, who wrestled for Canada in the 1976 Handicapped Olympics in Etobicoke near Toronto, is a big, strong, highly motivated man. "A lot of other people would have just given up," Mr. McKeown said.

Canadians operate orphanage

To the passer-by Rua Rodrigo Lobato, 109 is just another family home in Sumaré, a middle-class residential area in Sao Paulo, Brazil. But its inhabitants — 15 children, a nanny and a housekeeper — make it unique.

It is Lar Infantil Canadense, an orphanage operated by a group of Canadian women and their international friends in Sao Paulo. Bought and paid for by the Canadians, it is a home for poor Brazilian children placed there by the Juvenile Court.

The women, all volunteers, buy the food, clothing and furnishings, and provide special schooling. To keep the home running they must raise the equivalent of \$1,000 a month. They do this by holding garage sales, fashion shows and similar fund-raising events.

Adeline Landau-Remy, president of the Canadian Women's Society, which operates the orphanage, said most of the volunteers are wives of foreign executives working in Brazil. They learn Portuguese quickly after they arrive in Sao Paulo and find working for the children in the orphanage most rewarding.

Symbol of peace travels around the world



Reverend Patrick Moore (right) of the Scarborough Foreign Mission in Toronto, sits next to the World Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima enroute to Port of Spain, Trinidad where he will begin his twentieth trip around the world in his thirty-second year of travel. Reverend Moore will continue to carry the statue, uncovered, by land, sea and air, as a symbol of peace around the world until 1982.

News of the arts

Canadian playwrights on tour

Five Canadian playwrights recently toured Australia and New Zealand to introduce and promote English-Canadian playwrighting.

Playwrights Carol Bolt, Chris Brookes, Erika Ritter, Sheldon Rosen and George Ryga illustrated the diversity of the work being done in English-speaking Canada through selected readings and general discussions. They visited Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle, Wellington and Auckland. Readings were presented by the playwrights at professional theatres in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Auckland. They also held discussions with organizations such as the Australian Writers' Guild, the Victorian Arts Council and, Playmarket, an agency for New Zealand playwrights.

In Canberra, the Canadian playwrights attended the Australian National Playwrights' Conference. A reading by Australian actors of one of Carol Bolt's works was staged at the conference and, during scheduled seminars and meetings she discussed the state of Canadian playwrighting.

The Australian and New Zealand tour, organized by the Department of External Affairs and the Guild of Canadian Playwrights, followed a successful tour in Britain last year by Canadian playwrights and is part of the Department's program to promote Canadian playwrighting abroad.

CBC buys rights to Vietnam series

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has bought Canadian rights to the first television history of the Vietnam War, featuring battle film never before seen in the West.

The Canadian-made series, *The Ten Thousand Day War*, tells the story of the conflict from the opening of the French Indo-China war in 1945 to the fall of Saigon in 1975. It is based on 90 original interviews with top Vietnamese, American and French figures. Episodes will be aired starting this autumn.

The \$3-million production was devised by ex-Vietnam correspondent Michael Maclear, now executive producer with TDW Productions Ltd. of Toronto, which will release the programs internationally later this year.

Program to aid writers

Astral Film Productions Limited of Montreal plans to organize a program aimed at discovering and developing Canadian screen writers.

"As a Canadian entertainment entity, we acknowledge and appreciate that the development of Canadian talent is essential to the continued growth of the film industry," said Astral President Harold Greenberg.

Mr. Greenberg said that Astral was also looking into the possibility of instituting an annual seminar on film-making: the creative side such as writing and directing, as well as the commercial aspects.

Astral Film Productions Ltd. is a subsidiary of Astral Bellevue Pathé Ltd., Canada's largest, fully-integrated motion picture organization.

New musical instruments created

A Toronto musician has designed and built two new musical instruments which she calls the columbine and the amaranth.

Gayle Young, a 30-year-old composer-performer, explained that she is particularly interested in "special tunings". The columbine, a percussion instrument resembling a vibraphone, is tuned in such a way that it has 23 pitches an octave. It is made of strips of three-quarter inch steel tubing mounted to a frame. There are 61



Gayle Young with her columbine, the percussion instrument she created.

notes in all.

The amaranth has 24 strings which can be bowed or struck with mallets. It is approximately four feet long, 20 inches wide and about the height of a table.

Miss Young explained that it has several movable bridges, so it can be adapted to different systems of tuning.

She says she is interested in electronic music and over the past 18 months has worked on the "Lecaine project". She has been compiling data on the electronic keyboard instruments built under the supervision of the late Dr. Hugh Lecaine of Ottawa.

She has created musical environments for sculpture exhibitions given by Reinhard Reitzenstein at the Carmen Lamanna Gallery in Toronto.

Humour award presented

Donald Jack of Lindsay, Ontario was recently presented the 1980 Leacock Award for Humour.

He also received a \$2,000 prize donated by Hudson's Bay Company for his book *Me Bandy, You Cissie*. A prolific author of radio, television and film scripts as well as four books in the *Bandy* series, Jack is the second three-time winner of the Leacock award, winning it in 1963 for *Three Cheers for Me*, and in 1974 for *That's Me in the Middle*.

The award was presented at a banquet in Orillia, where Leacock had his summer home.

Arts briefs

The largest single gift ever received by the Canadian Opera Company from a corporate sponsor has been donated by American Express Canada, Incorporated. The contribution of \$60,000 is also the largest ever made by American Express to a North American performing arts organization. It will be used to help sponsor special performances of Bellini's opera *Norma* in April and May 1981.

Writer Roch Carrier has been awarded the City of Montreal's grand prize for literature. The prize and a cheque for \$3,000 was presented for Carrier's collection of short stories entitled *Les enfants du bonhomme dans la lune* (The Children of the Man in the Moon). A panel of judges considered 83 literary works.

Children's lives (Cont'd from P. 2)

public transportation facilities appropriate to their particular needs, especially during adolescence;

- violence in sport and the degree to which it is supported by adults;
- their desire that schools be prepared to teach them more of the skills needed for living in our complex society - a task which young people see fewer and fewer families undertaking with respect to their own children - with a particular emphasis on family life education; and
- the future. It appears that young people are much more concerned about the future than is the general public. Naturally employment is an issue with them, but they also feel great anxiety about the deteriorating global environment, the plight of children in other parts of the world and the threat of nuclear war.

Recommendations for future action

...The Canadian Commission for the International Year of the Child is concerned about the uneven and fragmentary nature of existing structures and programs concerned with children at all levels of government. At the federal level there is no central focus for the nation's concern for its youngest citizens....

Canadian children are not just a family or a provincial responsibility; they are the responsibility of all the levels of government we elect to represent us. A mechanism must be devised to ensure that this responsibility is properly shared.

The Year of the Child has been a time to reflect upon and to assess the situation of children in Canada. However, in order for the year to have a lasting and permanent impact, there must be a way of ensuring that children's needs are kept in the forefront, that new perceptions of the rights of the child are reflected in long-term planning, and that the specific re-

commendations developed by the commission are acted upon. To achieve this, we recommend that:

- a reference point be established for children within the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs; and
- an implementation committee be struck as a subcommittee of the above to receive the recommendations of the Canadian Commission for the International Year of the Child and to oversee their implementation. This implementation committee could consist of both members of Parliament and senators or a separate Senate committee could be struck.

Provincial support

Recognizing that most decisions affecting children are taken at the provincial or territorial levels, we thank the premiers of each province and their territorial counterparts for their support of the work of the Canadian Commission during the International Year of the Child. We urge them to continue this support by establishing the means for ensuring that the recommendations contained in the *National Agenda for Action for Children* receive due consideration by their governments. Therefore, we recommend that responsibility centres be established by provincial and territorial governments where these do not already exist.

To establish a place for children and youth within the Federal Government, we recommend that the Federal Government establish a responsibility centre within the most appropriate federal structure to examine and initiate legislation and departmental policies affecting children. This centre should have a co-ordinator with deputy minister status and a policy link with Cabinet.

In order to support the important role of non-governmental organizations, acting collectively or separately with respect to all levels of government, and to strengthen their capacity to innovate, to advocate, to evaluate and to criticize programs affecting the needs of children and youth in Canada, we recommend that:

- a coalition committee of non-governmental organizations or an advocacy committee be established to continue the objectives of the Canadian Commission so that the spirit and intent of the commission is maintained in the future; and
- the Canadian Council on Children and Youth act as a facilitator to develop such an on-going committee.

News briefs

Dennis McDermott won re-election recently for a second term as president of the Canadian Labour Congress. The two executive vice-presidents, Shirley Carr and Julien Major, were returned by acclamation. The six administration-backed candidates for general vice-presidents also were returned by acclamation.

The Alberta government-owned Pacific Western Airlines Ltd. plans a \$500-million expansion in the next five years. There will also be new corporate colours and logo. Rhys Eyton, president, told the company's annual meeting that the new corporate identification will be phased in during the next three years. PWA plans the purchase of an additional nine Boeing 737s with options on another three and acquisition of four 767s with options on two more. These aircraft, costing a total of \$450 million, are scheduled to be in service by 1984. Accompanying them will be new hangars to be constructed in Calgary, Winnipeg, Vancouver and possibly Edmonton.

The number of federal public servants decreased by 2.9 per cent in 1979 reports the Public Service Commission of Canada. There were 266,865 public servants employed across the country on December 31, 1979, compared to 275,785 a year earlier. This represented a real decrease of 7,883 workers because some were removed from coverage by the Public Service Employment Act, the commission's definition of a public servant. This does not include members of the RCMP, military personnel or employees of most Crown corporations.

A Toronto man, last of a line of Scottish pioneers, has astonished the staff of a Perthshire museum recently by walking in unannounced with a piece of his heritage. Alexander Cooke went to the Museum of Scottish Tartans in Comrie, Scotland to present a tartan dress suit brought to Canada in 1817 by his great-great-grandfather John Stewart. "This suit has been handed down from generation to generation," he said. The suit, in Royal Stewart tartan, has been dated by one expert at about 1790. "For its age the suit is absolutely in superb condition. This is a very important piece from that period and it is undoubtedly a great treasure for Scotland," museum curator Dr. Micheil MacDonald said.

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