



Bulletin

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REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON HOUSING

The report of the federal Task Force on Housing and Urban Development was tabled by Transport Minister Paul Hellyer in the House of Commons on January 29. As the minister responsible for housing and head of the task force, Mr. Hellyer had travelled some 25,000 miles throughout Canada in the previous four months, holding public hearings and studying the housing situation in all its aspects.

In the words of its report, the task force makes the following recommendations:

The Federal Government seek to encourage and co-ordinate the efforts of private lending institutions to meet the vast majority of Canada's residential mortgage requirements by setting annual targets, by canvassing these lenders twice annually to ensure that their investment intentions are adequate to meet these goals, and by paying particular attention to the needs of the various regions of Canada.

A special effort be made to enlist the increasing participation of Canada's rapidly-growing pension funds in the field of residential mortgage financing.

In the event existing lending institutions, including pension funds, fail to allocate sufficient residential mortgage funds to meet national housing goals, the Federal Government should seriously consider enacting the necessary legislation to establish a system of savings and mortgage institutions designed specifically to serve the residential mortgage market on a regional basis.

Serious consideration be given to the establishment of a central mortgage bank to provide additional liquidity for existing lending operations and as a necessary prerequisite to the creation of new mortgage institutions.

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The interest rate for insured loans under the National Housing Act be freed to find its own level in the financial marketplace.

Serious consideration be given to providing alternate forms of insured loans under the National Housing Act to provide greater flexibility for both lenders and borrowers.

The maximum loan ceiling under the National Housing Act should be substantially increased.

The amortization period of NHA loans should be lengthened to the extent that it might be of assistance to prospective borrowers.

Down payments should be progressively reduced to the point where middle and lower-income groups can obtain modest housing under a lease-purchase system without initial equity participation.

As a matter of principle, purchasers of existing homes should be entitled to comparable mortgage conditions under the National Housing Act as apply to new houses.

Effort be made by those concerned to reduce insurance fees, legal charges, real estate commissions and other administrative costs.

Greater encouragement be given to the use of limited dividend, non-profit and co-operative projects as a means of providing adequate accommodation for lower income groups.

LAND COSTS

All profits from the sale of land should be treated as taxable income. In addition, consideration should be given to a special tax in cases where ownership of land is transferred without improvements.

Within the recognized limits of market demand, municipalities should ensure that property assessment procedures encourage and not discourage the use of land to its maximum planning potential.

Municipalities or regional governments, as a matter of continuing policy, should acquire, service and sell all or a substantial portion of the land required for urban growth within their boundaries.

The Federal Government should make direct loans to municipalities or regional governments to assist them in assembling and servicing land for urban growth.

Both provincial and municipal governments review their requirements for the registration, servicing and zoning of land with a view both to simplifying procedures and providing greater flexibility so that the market can serve all income groups and not merely the affluent.

Provincial governments should assume a much larger share of education costs.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Every possible effort be made to encourage universal adoption of the 1970 National Building Code on a voluntary basis.

Federal and provincial governments should remove the sales taxes on building materials for residential construction, beginning, if necessary, with the rebate of taxes on materials used in houses of modest cost.

Appropriate officers of the Crown should investigate evidence and allegations of price restraint and unfair labour practices by some building materials suppliers and some building trade unions.

The possibilities of industrialized building on a further scale should be supported by further research funds, including the financing of pilot projects.

Serious consideration be given to amending the National Housing Act and, where necessary, municipal by-laws to accord so-called "mobile" homes their proper place within the Canadian housing market.

The number of progress inspections on NHA-insured housing projects be reduced.

Renewed and greater effort be devoted by architects and other professionals to improving housing and urban design in general.

SOCIAL HOUSING

The Federal Government initiate a thorough research programme into the economic, social and psychological issues of public housing. Until such a study is

completed and assessed, no new large projects should be undertaken.

The Federal Government should make loans to municipalities to acquire dispersed existing housing for use by low-income groups.

As a further alternative to public housing, serious consideration should be given to a programme of income supplements to permit low-income families to rent or even purchase housing according to their own needs in the private market.

Special housing programmes and pilot projects for Canada's Indian, Eskimo and Metis peoples be carefully evaluated after a fair trial period and, if found successful, be vigorously pursued to meet the special needs of these groups.

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, in its direct lending activity, should exercise particular care to ensure that adequate mortgage funds are available both for new and existing dwellings in rural areas.

Special care should be taken in the selection of sites for projects for elderly citizens to ensure that these people are able to retain physical and social contact with the rest of their community.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Since urban planning can only be done effectively on a regional basis, the provinces should establish a system of regional governments, equipped with adequate powers, for each major area.

The Federal Government encourage and co-ordinate a broad programme of practical research into urban transportation problems and consider, as other spending priorities permit, establishing a programme of loans to municipalities for the development of effective urban transit systems.

The wholesale destruction of older housing under urban renewal schemes should be suspended until the total housing stock has increased to the point where a reasonable number of vacancies exist.

As a general principle, greater selectivity should be exercised in the demolition of existing housing within urban redevelopment projects.

Municipalities should legislate and vigorously enforce minimum standards by-laws.

Where necessary, municipalities revise property assessment practices to encourage, rather than penalize, the maintenance and improvement of residential properties by their private owners.

As a matter of principle, property owners should be required to maintain their premises to approved minimum standards and, where and when necessary, to destroy them without compensation by the state.

Where possible in the case of existing schemes and in future ones involving changes in land use patterns, the present practice of designating wide areas as "urban renewal areas" should be discontinued in favour of policies and plans based on a more precise and effective scale of redevelopment.

The Federal Government should undertake in-depth studies to determine the explicit relation between urban growth and regional development.

TOWARD CLOSER RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs recently tabled in the House of Commons the preliminary report of the Canadian Government's ministerial mission to Latin America.

The report analyses the work of the mission's 30-day visit to nine Latin American countries toward the end of last year and provides both factual information and preliminary assessments on which the current review of Canadian policy toward Latin America will be based.

The report makes clear that there is scope for more frequent and more intensive consultation on international and hemispheric political questions between Canada and the Latin American countries. It indicates that this could come about either through Canadian membership in the Organization of American States or through closer bilateral relations with the Latin American countries. The report also shows that there is scope for closer Canadian relations with regional organizations in Latin America and with certain organizations of the inter-American system. An important step toward closer bilateral relations has already been taken in the founding of the Joint Mexico-Canada Committee, in which the mission took part.

AID

As a result of discussions on aid, the report indicates, two main points emerged: the definition of additional scope for Canadian development assistance; and the discovery of real possibilities for co-operation with volunteer agencies already working in Latin America.

To realize the full potential which these opportunities present to enhance Canadian relations with Latin America, studies are under way to determine the future level of Canadian aid to the area. Questions involved include: Canada's future relations with the Inter-American Development Bank; the possibility of setting up a bilateral aid programme and the balance between any bilateral aid and any multi-lateral aid; the possibility of setting up directly administered programmes; the degree of co-operation with regional groupings; and the possibility of expanding the programme of aid to private institutions.

TRADE AND ECONOMY

The report outlines the unique and distinctive opportunities Latin America offers Canadian industry to participate in major projects and industrial development, on a commercial basis and on terms of equality with suppliers round the world.

This is the consensus, the report states, of many intensive discussions at ministerial and official levels in each of the nine countries visited. Meetings covered a wide range of subjects: world trade; world wheat pricing and marketing; international trade within the area through LAFTA, the proposed Andean Pact, and the Central American Common Market; bilateral trade with emphasis on the necessity

for two-way characteristics; tourism; and standardising accounting of import-export figures.

The report reveals the tremendous importance the Latin American countries attach to their economic development and industrialization, placing great emphasis on: improved infrastructure; development of vast untapped natural and agricultural resources; and industrial development.

The following broad avenues of economic activity are listed by the report as areas mutually beneficial to Latin America and Canada, and in which Canadian industry can make major contributions: telecommunications; consulting engineering services; mining, forestry and fishery equipment; hydroelectric equipment; grain storage facilities; forest-fire fighting equipment; pulp and paper machinery; aerial surveys; specialized aircraft; nuclear reactors; subway equipment; road and railway equipment; and educational equipment.

The report suggests a number of ways of bringing Canada and Latin America closer together in the economic sphere; these include: the Canadian business community being made more fully aware of Latin America opportunities; Canadian consortiums being organized to bid on large projects; Latin American countries being encouraged to make more efforts to take advantage of Canada's relatively "open door" import policy; greater emphasis being placed on tourist promotion in Canada by Latin American countries; review the credit policy for wheat; government-financing facilities and techniques being re-examined to assure that Canadian suppliers and exporters remain competitive with other world suppliers.

By these and other means, it is hoped that a new and vigorous drive to strengthen and enlarge Canadian trade and economic relations with the large Latin American market may get under way to the mutual benefit of Canada and the Latin American countries.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

The report states that opportunities for increased cultural exchange between Latin America and Canada are numerous and include exchanges of professors and students in the realms of pure, applied and social sciences, as well as in the fields of the performing and plastic arts. The report recognizes that the electronic media will have an important role to play in these developments.

The report states that the possibilities of future co-operation in science and, in particular in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to which many Latin American countries give high priority, were also explored.

INFORMATION AND REPRESENTATION

The report discusses the desirability of further initiatives to increase the flow of reciprocal public information and to co-operate in the field of tourism.

In conclusion, the report considers the effectiveness of the present deployment of official Canadian representation in Latin America.

STATE VISIT TO CARIBBEAN

The Governor General and Mrs. Michener are visiting Jamaica, Guyana, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago at the invitation of the Governments of these four Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean.

The journey began on February 11 and after a few days in each country, the viceregal couple will return to Ottawa on March 3.

CANADA'S YOUNG POPULATION

Almost half Canada's population is under 25 years of age, according to a bulletin dated January 17 from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which shows the estimated population of Canada and the provinces by sex and five-year age-groups at June 1, 1968. The population aged 0 to 4 was estimated at 2,030,000, or 9.8 per cent of the total population of 20,744,000. In 1961, the percentage in this age-group was 12.4 per cent, or 2,256,400. The decrease in relative importance of this age-group reflects the continued fall in the Canadian birth-rate since 1960. Only the 1941 census following the depression years, showed a lower percentage of children aged 0 to 4 (9.1 per cent). The age-group 5 to 9, with an estimated 2,330,700 (11.2 per cent) was the largest. The percentage of the population 10 to 14 years was 10.6 (2,204,800); the age-group 15 to 19, 9.5 per cent, (1,968,000); and the 20 to 24 group, 8 per cent (1,658,700), bringing the population under 25 to 49.1 per cent, or 10,192,200 persons.

WORKING GROUP

In the working ages from 15 to 64, 60.7 per cent was estimated, with the dependant population 0 to 14 comprising 31.6 per cent and the retirement ages estimated at 7.7 per cent. In 1966, the census showed 59.4 per cent in the working years, with 33.0 per cent under 15 years and 7.7 per cent in the retirement ages 65 and over.

Population in the working age-group in relation to the proportion in the dependant ages (0 to 14) and the retirement ages (65 and over), varies among the provinces. Quebec had the highest percentage in the working age-group (61 per cent) and Newfoundland had the lowest (55 per cent). In the dependant population, Newfoundland had the highest proportion at 39 per cent, while Ontario and Manitoba at 31 per cent had the lowest. Twelve per cent of the population of British Columbia was in the retirement ages 65 and over, while only 6 per cent of Quebec's and Newfoundland's population had reached these ages.

PROPORTION OF MALES TO FEMALES

In all provinces except Quebec and Ontario, males outnumber females. The excess ranges from 1,042 males for every 1,000 females in Newfoundland to 1,006 males for 1,000 females in Manitoba. Ontario shows 998 males and Quebec 995 males for 1,000 females. However, this varies greatly by age-group

as the population becomes older. Owing to a constant excess of male births over female, the population at ages 0 to 4 show the highest masculinity rates; for Canada it is 1,053 males for 1,000 females. However, the more favourable death rate for women reduces the excess of males over females through successive age-groups to near equality at age 40 to 44 then to an increasing excess of females until at 90 and over there are only 592 males for every 1,000 females.

IJC REPORT ON LAKE LEVELS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, recently released the interim report of the International Joint Commission on Regulation of Great Lakes Levels, which describes the nature, scope and progress of the Commission's investigation into the possibility of further regulation of the Great Lakes and their connecting waters for the purpose of reducing the extreme variations in level that have been experienced. The report is also concerned with the various elements governing lake levels, the interests affected by variations of level and the problems involved in controlling outflows.

The Governments of Canada and the United States requested this study in October 1964, during a period when extensive damage was being suffered as a result of a critically low volume of water. The outflows of Lakes Superior and Ontario have been regulated for many years under criteria established by the Commission and approved by the Canadian and U.S. Governments. The Commission is reviewing these criteria and is also studying the desirability of regulating the outflows of Lakes Michigan, Huron and Erie.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

In May 1965, initial public hearings were held in Toronto, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Windsor and Chicago. Earlier, in December 1964, the Commission appointed an International Great Lakes Levels Board composed of federal officials to carry out the necessary technical surveys and investigations. The interim report states that the Board, with the co-operation of provincial and state agencies, has completed the compilation of basic data and is testing preliminary regulation plans for their effects on the various interests concerned - primarily shore property, navigation and hydroelectric power. The second phase of the Board's programme, to be completed by the end of 1970, is designed to develop improved plans and establish regulation criteria.

The Board's final report to the Commission will be made available as a basis for further public hearings, which will give all those interested an opportunity to comment and provide the Commission with additional information. After the hearings the Commission will report to the Governments of Canada and the United States.

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, issued the following statement on January 28 regarding recent reports of public executions in Iraq:

The Canadian Government is seriously concerned with the recent events in Iraq in which 14 Iraqi nationals, nine of whom were of the Jewish faith, have been publicly executed on charges of espionage. It is the view of the Government that events of this nature, deplorable in themselves, both retard and diminish the prospects of achieving a just and lasting settlement of the unfortunate Arab-Israeli dispute which is engaging the attention of the entire international community.

The Government wishes to associate itself strongly with the position of the Secretary-General of the United Nations expressed in the following terms, after he learned of the executions:

"In the view of the Secretary-General, mass trials and executions are always to be deplored and are particularly abhorrent and dangerous when they are carried out in such a way as to inflame the emotions of the populace ... the Secretary-General did not question the right of the Government of Iraq to put on trial any of its own citizens as were apparently all of those convicted, nor could he attempt to appraise the validity of the charges. The Secretary-General fears that the repercussions from this unhappy development will also be likely to impede efforts toward a peaceful settlement of the conflict situation in the Middle East."

Representations have been received from many Canadians over these disturbing events - events which must surely outrage public opinion everywhere. The Canadian Government will continue to support the position of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and co-operate with him and take any other available action in an attempt to prevent further tragic occurrences of this nature.

CAE EXPANDS TO UNITED STATES

CAE Industries Ltd. is expanding its operations in the United States with the formation of a new flight-simulator marketing and customer-service division, based initially in Miami.

The new division, which will be known as CAE International, will provide complete programme management, engineering and customer-support capabilities, to serve the total simulator requirements of U.S. airlines and aircraft manufacturers.

CAE Industries Ltd. is one of the world's largest manufacturers of sophisticated digital-flight simulators for nine international airlines and one aircraft manufacturer, including the Boeing 747 simulator for BOAC, the first ordered for an airline, and a second 747 for a consortium of KLM Royal Dutch

Airlines, Swissair and SAS Scandinavian Airways Systems. CAE has also built more than 80 aircraft and weapons-simulators for the air forces of ten Western nations.

The Canadian company was recently awarded a contract by Lockheed-California Company to develop and build the first Lockheed L-1011 flight simulator, marking CAE's first entry into the prime U.S. simulator market.

CANADA HANDBOOK

Canada 1968, an official handbook of present conditions and recent progress in Canada, published annually since 1930 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, was released on January 22.

Covering much the same subjects as the Canada Year Book, but in less detail and presented in more popular terms, Canada 1968 is a 320-page paperback volume available in both English and French. It contains some 45 full-colour and 250 black-and-white photographs depicting various aspects of the modern Canadian scene. An attractive full-colour cover features the Montreal skyline.

Canada 1968 is designed primarily to interest the general public, and high school children in particular. It gives a brief description of the salient features of national production, resources, geography and history, government organization and services. Some 60 specialists in various fields, within DBS, in other government departments and in private industry contributed to the thirty-eighth edition just released.

ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL GALLERY

The National Gallery of Canada has four paintings hanging on its walls because of the generosity of two non-Canadians, Mrs. Ernest Frederick Eidlitz of New York and the Honourable Muriel Rothschild of Britain.

A painting by Lyonel Feininger (1871-1956) and another by Arthur Dove (1880-1946) are the gifts of Mrs. Eidlitz; she has also given the Gallery a water-colour by Charles Sheeler (1883-1965) and a group of historic photographs. Mrs. Eidlitz, who has spent many summers at St. Andrews (New Brunswick), where she has been active in establishing the nature and art centre known as Sunbury Shores, intended this gift as an expression of her affection for Canada. Both pictures reveal Mrs. Eidlitz's love of the sea. The work by Arthur Dove, which was painted in 1944, is called "Rising Tide"; the Feininger of 1950 is of "Yachts".

The other act of generosity is the extended loan by the Honourable Muriel Rothschild of two large paintings by the Spanish painter Bartolome Murillo (1617-82). The handsome painting of the tender

"Madonna and Child" could have been painted between 1650 and 1660; the "Good Shepherd", which is more sentimental, could have been done in the next decade.

"With the two Murillos we already have in our collection," the Curator of European Art, Mr. Gyde Shepherd, said, "this probably gives us the strongest group of this artist's work in North America."

CANADA GETS RESTORED ZEROS

Pieces of two Japanese Zeros, fighter planes of the Second World War, found by a Canadian engineer in the Bougainville district of New Guinea and the British Solomon Islands, were brought to Canada by a Canadian Air Force plane last month.

After the planes have been reassembled, one will be given to the Canadian National Air Museum and the other might be sold to a film company or kept by the finder.

YEAR OF LABOUR UNREST

Last year, the Conciliation and Arbitration Branch of the Department of Labour handled its heaviest case-load since the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act was enacted in 1948.

Of a total of 162 collective bargaining disputes, 129 were processed to finality. The efforts of conciliation officers, conciliation boards and departmental mediators settled 121 cases without work stoppage. Eight disputes went to the strike stage.

Conciliation officers settled 99 disputes involving some 11,144 workers in industries governed by federal labour legislation. Twenty-two settlements were reached at the conciliation-board stage, in post-conciliation board negotiations and through the efforts of departmental mediators in which some 19,469 workers were affected.

Of the eight strikes, involving 3,808 workers, five were subsequently resolved by further mediatory work by the Department of Labour.

The main federal work stoppages during the year occurred in the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Lake-head Grain Elevator disputes. The other six concerned the employees of minor trucking and bus operations, airline services, flour mills, mining and communications.

At the end of December, 33 disputes were in various stages of handling by conciliation officers

and boards. The recent settlement between the railways and 75,000 non-operating employees is not included in this summary as ratification is still pending.

OCTOBER TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Motor-vehicle traffic accidents in Canada claimed 549 lives in October, a decline of 6.0 per cent from last year's October total of 584. The regional death toll, with last year's figures in brackets, was as follows: Newfoundland, 4 (10); Prince Edward Island, 8 (4); Nova Scotia, 19 (32); New Brunswick, 30 (23); Quebec, 170 (171); Ontario, 166 (189); Manitoba, 29 (29); Saskatchewan, 26 (26); Alberta, 38 (45); British Columbia, 55 (54) and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, 4 (1).

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON HOUSING

(Continued from P. 2)

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

All governments make every possible effort to streamline and simplify their administrative procedures for dealing with housing and urban development.

The Federal Government should establish a Department of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Within the confines of approved government policy, the administrative functions of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation should be further decentralized to encourage a more efficient and effective response to local applications and conditions.

The name of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation should be changed to Canada Housing Corporation.

RESEARCH

The Federal Government, through a new Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, encourage, support and co-ordinate an expanded urban research programme with greater priority on the initiation of practical research programmes, including pilot projects.

The Federal Government, in co-operation with a provincial government, should seriously consider the construction of a "new city" as a pilot project where proposed urban solutions could be tested in an actual environment.

A new Department of Housing and Urban Affairs should give early priority to the creation of a central information bank to collect, organize and disseminate available data on these subjects to other governments, agencies, and Canadians generally.