

Bulletin

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ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

One hundred and sixty-seven recommendations in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada, which was tabled in the House of Commons on December 7, are designed to bring about major changes in the lives of Canadian women.

LONGER PAID MATERNITY LEAVE

In the section entitled "The Economy" the Commission has made 67 recommendations, including a pension plan for housewives, 18 weeks of maternity leave with pay for women in the labour force, revised methods of setting pay in professions usually regarded as "women's jobs", elimination of the description of job by sex, removal of discrimination on sex and marital grounds, and special measures to advance women's employment interests.

Under the heading of "Education", the Commission has made 33 recommendations, covering elementary school textbooks, publications of governments, counselling procedures, family-life education,

physical education and sports activities, financial aid for students (under which is included a recommendation that women be admitted to military colleges), continuing education, training for household employment, educational television programming and the establishment of citizens' information centres.

MINIMUM MARRIAGE AGE

Under "Women and the Family", 28 recommendations have been made in four areas. Thirteen are made under "Legal Aspects of Marriage and Divorce", to provide wives with greater recognition of their role as individuals and of their contribution as equal partners in marriage. Recommendations have been made including a minimum age of 18 for marriage, recognition of equal partnership in marriage, amendments to the Divorce Act (asking that the three-year separation period be reduced to one as grounds for divorce), the Indian Act, the Criminal Code, revision of domicile legislation and passport policies as they relate to married women, or changes in laws governing maintenance obligations and orders. Under "The Children", six recommendations have been made to ensure the establishment of a network of day-care centres and a well-planned child-care program. Under "Responsible Parenthood", seven recommendations were made relating to dissemination of birth-control information and changes in laws affecting sterilization and abortion. The recommendations on abortion are that it be performed by a qualified medical practitioner at the sole request of any woman who has been pregnant for 12 weeks or less; and further that it be performed after 12 weeks, if the doctor is convinced that continuation of the pregnancy would endanger the physical or mental health of a woman, or if there is substantial risk that the child born would be greatly handicapped mentally or physically. Under the heading "One-Parent Families", two recommendations concern the unmarried mother.

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Under "Taxation", the Commission has made four recommendations: taxable cash allowances in the order of \$500 for each dependent child up to 16 years of age payable to the mother; the lowering of the married status exemption from the present \$1,000 to \$600 when the dependent spouse is under 60 years of age (when the dependent spouse is age 60 and over, the extra exemption would be the same as the individual personal exemption); a marriage partnership taxation unit composed of the two spouses who could either aggregate their incomes in a joint return or file separately. It recommends that the provinces that have not already done so amend their respective Succession Duties Acts to abolish succession duties on assets passing from one spouse to the other.

WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE

Under "Participation of Women in Public Life", the Commission has five recommendations: that women's associations within political parties amalgamate with the main bodies of the parties; that two qualified women from each province be summoned to the Senate as seats become vacant; and that women continue to be summoned until a more equitable membership is achieved; that financial qualifications for eligibility for membership in the Senate be abolished; that more women judges be appointed to all courts within government jurisdiction; and that those provinces that have not already done so require women to be liable for jury duty on the same terms as men.

Under "Immigration and Citizenship", seven recommendations have been made to amend sections of the federal Immigration Act and Regulations and the Canadian Citizenship Act, which are discriminatory. In this regard the Commission recommends that the Department of Immigration review its policies and practices to ensure that the right of wives to make independent application for admission to Canada is always respected and that wives are made fully aware of this right.

The Commission recommends amendment of the Act and Regulations to eliminate the phrase "head of a family", wherever it appears, and to substitute the exact meaning intended in each case.

Under "Criminal Law and Women Offenders", 14 recommendations have been made. These include the closing of the federal women's prison at Kingston, Ontario; removal from the penal setting of persons found guilty of public intoxication and the development of treatment facilities for female alcoholics; repeal of Section 164(a) and (c) dealing with vagrancy, equal protection from sexual abuse for all young people, male and female. The Commission has also made recommendations in regard to detention practices, custodial programs, parole supervision and establishment of a "half-way house" network for newly-released women prisoners.

Under "Poverty", the Commission has recommendations for: a guaranteed annual income to be

paid by the Federal Government to the heads of all one-parent families with dependent children; an increase in the Guaranteed Income Supplement of the Old Age Security plan to maintain the income of the recipient above the poverty level; a network of hostels for transient girls and women, and expanded friendship centres directed and staffed by people of Indian, Métis and Eskimo ancestry.

Under "Plan for Action", four recommendations are made to ensure implementation of the Commission's recommendations and that a continuing watch is kept on women's rights and freedoms.

The Commission based its recommendations on the general principle that everyone is entitled to the rights and freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The following principles in particular were appealed to: that the full use of human resources was in the national interest; that there should be equality of opportunity to share the responsibilities of society as well as its privileges and prerogatives, that women should be free to choose whether or not to take employment outside their homes; that the care of children was a responsibility of mother, father and of society; that special treatment related to maternity would always be necessary; and that, for an interim period, special treatment for women would be required to overcome the adverse effects of discriminatory practices.

Six of the Commissioners, Chairman Florence Bird (the former Anne Francis), Lola M. Lange, Jeanne Lapointe, Elsie Gregory MacGill, Doris Ogilvie and Jacques Henripin, signed the report, subject to observations in separate statements by Jacques Henripin, Elsie Gregory MacGill and Doris Ogilvie.

Commissioner John P. Humphrey presented a minority report.

FAR EAST TOUR BY PM

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau will attend the conference of the Commonwealth heads of government in Singapore from January 14 to 22. On his way to the meeting, Mr. Trudeau will visit Pakistan (January 6 to 9) and India (January 10 to 13). On his return trip, he will visit Indonesia (January 22 to 25) and Ceylon (January 26 to 28), in response to invitations from the heads of government of these countries.

The Prime Minister's visits to Ceylon, India and Pakistan will give him an opportunity to discuss with government officials Canada's extensive bilateral relations with their countries, particularly in trade and development, and to survey with them world and Commonwealth problems of common concern.

Canada's relations with Indonesia, the most populous country of Southeast Asia, are developing rapidly. The Prime Minister's visit will indicate the importance Canada attaches to its role as an Asian and world power.

INCREASE IN VETERANS PENSIONS

Mr. Jean-Eudes Dubé, Minister of Veterans Affairs, has announced under the Pension Act a 10 percent increase in death and disability pensions and allowances, related to military service, effective April 1, 1971.

Under the revisions, the 100 percent disability pension for a married man will rise by \$408 to \$4,464 a year, Mr. Dubé said, and a single man on a 100 percent disability pension will receive \$3,504, an increase of \$324. A widow's pension will be increased by \$240 to \$2,640 a year, while pensions for dependents will be proportionately raised.

Pensions under the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act will also be increased.

Passages from Mr. Dubé's statement follow:

These increases mean that an additional \$22 million will be paid to our pensioners next year, over and above the \$214 million they will receive this year.

We also propose to align the rates for pensions, paid under Parts I to X of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, with those of the Pension Act. It is under this Act that pensions are awarded to merchant seamen, ferry pilots, auxiliary services supervisors, and other quasi-military personnel who suffered disability, or died, as a result of their war service.

...Also, next April 1 we propose to raise the

maximum allowances payable under the War Veterans Allowances Act and under Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, by 15 per cent.

The new rate for single recipients will go up by \$16 a month to \$121, and the married rate will increase by \$26 to \$201 monthly. The rates for orphans and blind persons will be similarly increased. The present rates have been in effect since 1966, which explains why the WVA increase is 5 percent higher than the pension increase.

War veterans allowances are subject to a means test, as before, which is based on income ceilings for single and married recipients. When the rates are raised these ceilings will be increased from \$145 to \$161 and from \$245 to \$271, respectively. We estimate that these revisions will mean that WVA and CWA recipients will receive an additional \$21 million in the 1971-1972 fiscal year.

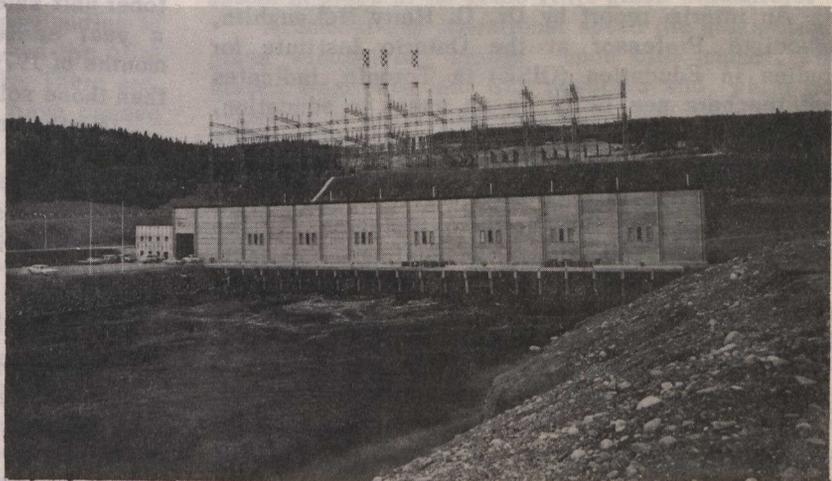
At the same time as the new WVA rates and ceilings go into effect, the regulations will be changed to provide that recipients who are also eligible for old age security and guaranteed income supplements, which are also being increased, will be deemed to be receiving the full amounts to which they are entitled under those programs. Their war veterans allowances will then be adjusted to supplement their OAS and GIS payments to bring their incomes to the level of their relevant income ceilings....

NEWFOUNDLAND'S HYDRO POWER

Bay d'Espoir, ten miles north of St. Albans, is the largest hydro-electric development on the Island of Newfoundland. The plant has six units rated at 75,000 kilowatts each, under a net head of 577 feet, and was completed by the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Commission in December 1969.

Bay d'Espoir was built in two stages of three units each. The first stage harnessed the runoff of 1,025 square miles of the Salmon River watershed and 375 square miles of the Grey River watershed. It involved the construction of seven earth and rockfill dams (including the 630-foot long, 130-foot high Salmon Dam), a diversion canal, a power canal, an intake, pressure conduits, surge tanks that, at 370 feet, are among the world's largest, the powerhouse and a tailrace.

The second stage involved diversion of the White Bear River, Victoria Lake and the Upper Lloyds River. It added 1,048 square miles of drainage



Bay d'Espoir

area and doubled the generating plant's capacity. Work for the Victoria Lake diversion included construction of an earth and rockfill dam 170 feet high with a crest length of 1,700 feet and almost two miles of controlled diversion canal. (One of a series.)

PLEDGE TO UNRWA

The following statement was made recently by Mr. H. Yvon Beaulne, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, to the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the announcement of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East:

The Government and people of Canada have the highest regard for the perseverance and dedication with which the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees has pursued its demanding task. Canada has provided support, through contributions in cash and kind, ever since the Agency began operations in 1950.

At the Pledging Conference last December, a Canadian contribution totalling \$1,200,000 for 1970 was pledged. Today, the Canadian delegation is pleased to announce that, subject to Parliamentary approval, Canada's contribution to UNRWA's budget for 1971 will be \$1,350,000. This will consist of \$650,000 (Cdn) in cash and \$700,000 (Cdn) in food commodities. This increase in Canada's regular contribution reflects the Canadian Government's continuing concern that the invaluable efforts of the Agency to relieve the plight of Palestine refugees should be sustained.

ETV ACQUIRES A RIVAL

Information Retrieval Television (IRTV), an experimental method of providing audio-visual programs instantly from a remote library, has won the enthusiastic support of a group of Ottawa teachers who have been using it for almost two years.

An interim report by Dr. G. Harry McLaughlin, Associate Professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) in Toronto, indicates that teachers see IRTV as an asset to education. They find it educationally effective and stimulating to both themselves and their students.

OISE, which is a co-sponsor of the experiment with Bell Canada, Bell-Northern Research and the Ottawa Board of Education, is evaluating the project.

The study among teachers who have been using the system since it was introduced in December 1968 shows that 94 per cent of them would like to continue using it beyond the experimental period, which ends in June 1971.

METHOD

The IRTV project was set up to assess the feasibility of "on-demand" information retrieval as an alternative to broadcast ETV, in which program scheduling is controlled by the broadcaster rather than the receiver. With IRTV, the teacher controls both program selection and scheduling. Teachers choose the program from a fully-indexed catalogue of films and videotapes, and telephone their request to

the library, indicating the time they wish to see it. The program is transmitted back to the classroom through a 12-channel video distribution system. Transmission can begin within one minute of a teacher's making a request.

Dr. McLaughlin's report on teacher attitudes towards IRTV will be incorporated into a final evaluation of the system which will be published by OISE after June 1971.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

The decline in sales of new motor vehicles continued during October. At 79,584 vehicles, unit sales were 7.5 percent fewer than those sold in October 1969, and this year's January-to-October sales - 670,366 units - were fewer by 14.0 per cent.

Sales of North American passenger cars dropped to 51,797 - 14.8 percent fewer than those sold a year earlier.

However, 14,772 passenger cars manufactured overseas were sold, 17.8 percent more than the October 1969 figure. The January-to-October sales increased to 120,971 units, 16.5 percent more than in the same ten months of last year. Japanese cars accounted for almost all the increase, as sales of most European cars declined.

Only 77.8 per cent of the new cars sold in Canada in October were made in North America, compared to 82.9 per cent last year. Cumulative year-to-date total sales were 78.1 percent North American this year, compared to sales in 1969.

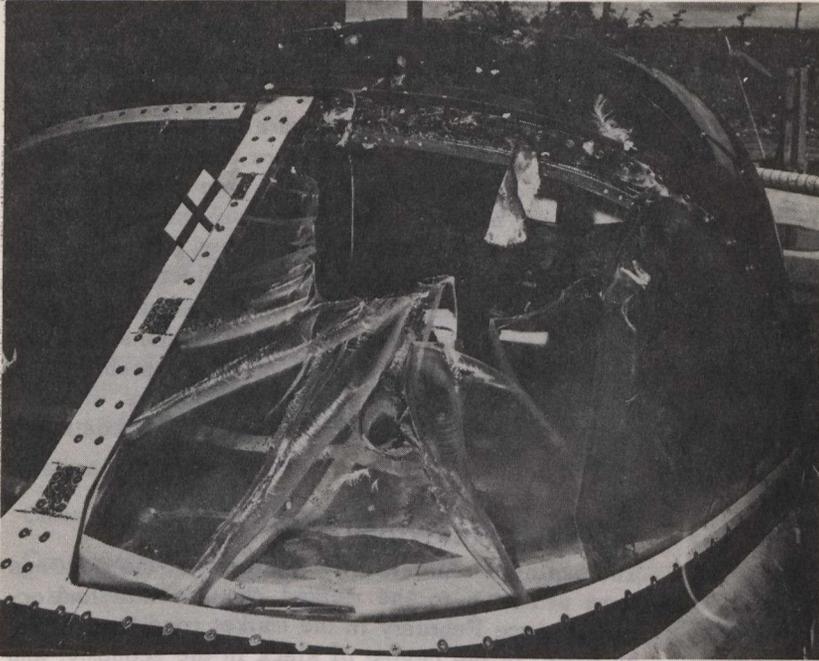
Although overseas commercial vehicles accounted for only 6.5 per cent of the Canadian market in units and 3.5 per cent in dollar value, their October unit sales were 74.7 percent more than those of a year earlier. Their sales through the first ten months of 1970 - 7,583 units - were 30 percent more than those sold in the same period of 1969.

North American commercial vehicle unit sales were fewer by only 1.0 per cent in October, at 12,000 units, but their January to October sales - 109,770 units - were still 14.7 percent fewer than those sold a year earlier.

INCO CUTS COPPER COSTS

The International Nickel Company of Canada has announced that, effective immediately, it is reducing the domestic price of its "ORC" copper to the equivalent in Canadian currency of 53 cents (U.S.) a pound. On the basis of the continuance of the current exchange rate, INCO's new price for the copper it markets in Canada is 54 cents (Cdn) a pound.

The 50-year-old Canadian Welfare Council recently received Federal Government approval for its new name - The Canadian Council on Social Development.



The shattered windshield of a Tutor jet, damaged by an eight-pound chicken carcass travelling at 212 miles an hour.

BIRD-PROOFING AIRCRAFT

A Canadian Pacific Boeing 737 aircraft, carrying a full passenger load, coming in for a night landing at Winnipeg's International Airport in April 1969 ran into a flock of geese.

Seven of the 10- to 12-pound geese struck the aircraft, which was travelling at 335 miles an hour at an altitude of 3,000 feet. The fuselage was penetrated near the pilot's windshield, both engine cowlings took bird strikes and there was impact damage on the fuselage and on the starboard wing slots.

This bird-plane encounter had a happy ending in that no vulnerable parts were damaged and the pilot was able to bring his aircraft down safely. There are, however, incidents where bird strikes have caused air disasters.

The 1969 World Conference on Bird Hazards to Aircraft received reports indicating that, while a significant decrease in bird incidents involving aircraft in the vicinity of airports had been achieved through bird-clearing programs, the incidence of bird strikes showed signs of being on the increase. The Conference, held in Kingston, Ontario was sponsored by the National Research Council of Canada.

Aviation experts are of the opinion that the only measures offering any real assurance of reducing this type of danger is to "bird-proof" aircraft. Bird-proofing consists of increasing the strength and energy absorbing capabilities of vulnerable parts of the aircraft which are likely to be subjected to bird impacts, such as windshields, the leading edges of tail assembly sections and openings where ingestion into the engine can occur. Wing structures are generally considered to have sufficient depth to sustain a bird strike without suffering serious damage.

NRC RESEARCH PROGRAM

In an effort to find ways to reduce this hazard, the National Research Council of Canada is currently engaged in a bird-proofing research program. The main piece of equipment being used is a pneumatic cannon that fires chicken carcasses and simulated birds at speeds up to 620 miles an hour.

NRC is co-operating with the National Defence Department and Canadair Limited of Montreal in studies to determine whether a Canadair Tutor jet trainer can be refitted with a stretched acrylic windshield in place of its glass-vinyl-glass windshield.

At almost any operational speed the glass-vinyl-glass windshield "crazes" upon bird impact. The screen fragments into tiny particles and, while not necessarily separating from the vinyl, the crazing completely obscures all pilot vision.

The current study, is seeking to determine penetration velocity for given thicknesses of stretched acrylic. Owing to design problems, refit of the Tutor windshield is practical only to a thickness of up to nine-tenths of an inch.

The latest in a series of tests involved placing a Tutor cockpit under temperature control to simulate flight conditions in front of the cannon muzzle. Dummies with standard protective plastic face-visors were placed behind the windshield of the cockpit. With the glass-vinyl-glass windshield, bird hazards make visors mandatory for Tutor pilots on landing or take-off. A stretched vinyl windshield of eleven-sixteenths of an inch took the impact of a chicken carcass travelling at 212 miles an hour. The result: a foot-square hole in the windshield; chicken parts scattered in and around the fuselage; and an immediate start on planning for a further series of tests with a thicker windshield.

PRICE-RESTRAINT REVIEW

The results of the 1970 price-restraint program were reviewed recently in a series of regional meetings with businessmen called by the Prices and Incomes Commission in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver and Ottawa.

After the National Conference on Price Stability last February, Canadian firms were called on to reduce the number and size of the price increases they would normally make in 1970 and to ensure that price increases were clearly less than the amount needed to cover cost increases. It was emphasized at the time that, if inflation was to be brought under control with a minimum of unemployment and lost output, a comparable measure of restraint would be required on the part of wage- and salary-earners, governments at all levels and industry everywhere.

The Commission acknowledged that the co-operation of the business community in restraining price increases during 1970 had been most helpful. It was clear from the Commission's price surveillance and review activities that many firms with opportunities of raising prices during 1970 had deferred, limited or reduced the size of these increases in order to conform with the price-restraint criteria.

In many other cases, the Commission's investigations show that firms have experienced a sharp rise in costs and a contraction of profit margins in 1970, and that such price increases as they have felt able to put into effect under existing market conditions were by no means large enough to cover more than a part of the increase in their costs since 1969. In other cases, firms in various sectors of the economy, including agriculture, have been precluded by domestic and international market conditions from raising their prices at all, or have been forced to lower them.

The Commission drew attention to the fact that this was perhaps the first time that businesses representing practically every sector of the Canadian economy had been called upon and agreed to co-operate in a national program of this scope.

In the Commission's review, the price-restraint program has not only had a direct moderating effect on the rate of price increase during 1970 but has been useful in giving the public a clearer understanding of the role of cost increases in perpetuating the inflationary process. On the other hand, the Commission conceded that as yet there was little evidence of a moderation of wage and salary increases, although it had not been expected that this would be quickly achieved.

DANGER NOT PASSED

The Commission pointed out that the economic prospects facing Canadians in 1971 made the need

for responsible attitudes in price and income decisions no less important in the immediate future than in 1970. While some comfort can be taken from the recent moderation in the rate of price increase, the Commission must again warn Canadians that this is likely to be only a temporary phenomenon unless there is an early decline in the rate at which costs are rising. Without an early and substantial moderation of the size of wage and salary increases, and pricing policies which adequately reflect any moderation of cost increases, it is the Commission's view that the choices available to Canadians will be limited to renewed inflation, an unacceptable level of unemployment or compulsory measures of some kind to provide more effective control over costs and prices.

INDUSTRY VIEWPOINT

The business representatives present at the meetings drew attention to the marked changes that had occurred since February in the market conditions faced by firms, in the degree of slack in the economy, and in the general orientation of government policy toward stimulating higher levels of economic activity and employment. Under these conditions, substantial price increases were effectively ruled out for most firms. The business view was that in these changed circumstances, and without wholehearted support and parallel action on the part of labour and government, the continuation of formal price-restraint criteria beyond the end of 1970 would no longer be warranted.

Business representatives made it clear, however, that they recognized the continuing need for responsible attitudes on the part of all elements in the community, including governments as well as private groups, with respect to price and income decisions. There was general agreement that the role of the Prices and Incomes Commission was a vital and useful one, that it should be encouraged to complete its work in the areas of research and public education, and that if possible it should develop policy suggestions aimed at avoiding a repetition of recent national experience with inflation.

Despite its earlier preference for a six-month extension of the existing criteria, the Commission has concluded that in 1971 it will not indicate whether or not price increases are justified on the basis of specific criteria. Similarly, the Commission will no longer assess pay increases against a specific guide-line in the new year.

The Commission will, however, maintain its surveillance of increases in prices, wages and salaries, professional fees and other forms of income, and will continue to conduct investigations and issue reports in particular cases.

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