

Bulletin

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HOUSING IN THE SIXTIES

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation recently released its annual report for 1969, which contains the following highlights:

In looking back at the Sixties the most striking feature, so far as housing is concerned, is the paradox of a significant improvement in overall housing conditions accompanied by a growing public concern with the housing situation.

In excess of 1.5 million dwellings, or more than one-quarter of the present housing stock, were built during this period. The activity, much of it taking the form of rental dwellings, accommodated not only the increase in the number of families and the large increase in non-family households which took place, but also permitted a reduction in the number of crowded households. It also made possible, through replacements, a reduction in the number of obsolete dwellings. At the same time there was, through improvements and modernization, a significant upgrading of the quality of existing dwellings.

This improvement in housing conditions was

real, however prosaic the indicators by which it has to be measured. In terms of the quality of the housing inventory, it is reasonably certain that the next census will show there has been a significant decline in the number of dwellings judged to be in need of major repair, from 254,000 units at the beginning of the decade to probably fewer than 150,000 dwellings now. Certainly the number of dwellings lacking modern plumbing facilities such as bath or shower, now regarded as standard equipment, declined by close to 50 per cent in less than a decade from 891,000 to 442,000 dwellings. And, overlapping with these figures, the number of dwellings without flush toilets declined from 670,000 to 324,000.

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Despite these improvements, housing became one of the major subjects of public concern and debate during the second half of the Sixties in a way that had not been matched since the immediate postwar years of the late Forties. The immediate cause of this was the cutback in new housing production which began in the second half of 1965 and continued over the next 18 months, coinciding with the highest level of immigration experienced since the late Fifties.

Marked declines in vacancy rates and marked increases in rents and prices were the immediate consequences of the decline in new housing production with the initial effects being felt most acutely by those whose housing expectations were most abruptly affected. Perhaps even more important in contributing to the concern about housing, although less immediately apparent, were rising expectations about living standards which were not to be easily reconciled with a slowing-down in the actual rate of progress.

While these concerns must temper any assessment of the Sixties they should not inhibit recognition of some significant developments of the decade which are going to influence progress in dealing with housing throughout the Seventies.

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The developments were of two kinds. On the one hand a series of measures were taken which had as their intended effect the generation of a larger volume of new housing production through the operation of the private housing market. On the other hand there developed in the mid-Sixties, partly in response to federal measures, provincial commitments to the housing of low-income people on a scale previously unknown.

These developments relating both to the private housing market and to the direct provision of housing for low-income people do not exhaust the need for improved instruments of housing policy. It may be, for example, that the most pressing need now is for arrangements that allow much greater flexibility in responding to different housing needs and priorities across the country. Nevertheless, it may not be unreasonable to characterize the decade of the Sixties as one marked particularly by the development of significant new housing policy instruments and to suggest that the Seventies will be primarily concerned with the way in which they are used.

HOUSING IN 1969

House-building activity in 1969 was dominated by two circumstances. First was the effect on housing starts in the first half of the year of a massive injection of mortgage funds from both private and public sources in the last few months of 1968. This was reflected in housing starts at a rate of 270,600 units in the first quarter of 1969 and 218,000 units in the second quarter. The second circumstance, which was of special concern in the second half of the year, was the effect of the high and rising level of interest rates on the supply of mortgage funds and on house-building activity. As events turned out, housing starts averaged an annual rate of a little over 190,000 units in the second half of the year to yield total starts for the year of 210,415 units.

While total starts for the year, and their level at year-end, were higher than some forecasts had suggested, there was some decline in the flow of mortgage funds signalling the likelihood of a lower rate of housing starts in the first few months of 1970.

More than one-half of the Corporation's 1969 capital budget of \$680 million, or \$359 million, had been allocated to housing for low-income families and elderly people, with a further \$55 million directed to housing for students. This was in addition to \$170 million for direct mortgage loans to homeowners, with special emphasis on those of lower income and those in outlying areas where access to the private market was limited.

MISS GELBER ON UN COMMISSION

Miss Sylva M. Gelber, director of the Women's Bureau, Canada Department of Labour, was Canada's representative on the United Nations Commission on

the Status of Women which held its twenty-third session in Geneva from March 23 to April 10. Canada was elected to hold a seat on the body for the next three years.

In 1946, the UN Economic and Social Council established the Commission, which makes recommendations to promote women's rights and develops proposals giving effect to the principle that men and women should enjoy equal rights.

The Commission consists of 32 members, eight from Africa, six from Asia, six from Latin America, four from Socialist States or Eastern Europe, and eight from Western Europe and others. Canada and the United States are both included with the Western European countries.

Miss Gelber is a former chairman of the Women's Branch of the Institute of International Affairs. For the past two years, she has been adviser to Canada's Government delegation to the International Labour Conference in Geneva. Miss Gelber is also a member of the ILO panel of consultants on the problems of women workers.

Her appointment to the Commission on the Status of Women was the second election of a Canadian to this body. The first Canadian elected, Mrs. Harry S. Quart, (now Senator Quart) served from 1958 to 1960.

MOLSON PRIZES, 1970

The Molson Prizes, worth \$15,000 each, awarded by the Canada Council, were presented recently to Montreal scholar Jean-Paul Audet, Toronto writer Morley Callaghan, and Director of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Arnold Spohr.

The Prizes are given annually to recognize and encourage outstanding contributions to the arts, social sciences or humanities or to national unity.

Mr. J.G. Prentice, chairman of the Council, who made the presentation to Mr. Spohr, pointed out that, under his direction, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet had developed a style and repertory that was "both the pride of Western Canada and the admiration of the most sophisticated ballet audiences anywhere".

In presenting Father Audet with his award, the vice-chairman of the Council, Guy Rocher, declared that his erudite works had provided answers to names of the most fundamental questions men ask themselves.

Peter Dwyer, director of the Council, pointed out that Morley Callaghan was the first person to receive both the Molson Prize and the Canada Council Medal, which Callaghan received in 1966.

One of Canada's highest tokens of recognition for cultural achievement, the Molson Prizes were created in 1963 through a \$600,000-gift to the Canada Council from the Molson Foundation. The amount was increased through another gift of \$200,000 last year, making it possible for the Council to offer three prizes instead of two, as in the past.

Last year's winners were the pianist Glenn Gould and the writer Jean Lemoyne.

SEEKING AN END TO RACE HATE

On March 21, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, asked Canadians to demonstrate their belief in the principle of human freedom by voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Consolidated Educational and Training Program for Southern Africans.

The United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa was established by the General Assembly in 1965 to assist victims of *apartheid* and their dependants. Its purpose is to supplement the assistance already being provided to voluntary organizations distributing aid to South African refugees, and countries giving asylum to these refugees.

The purpose of the United Nations Consolidated Educational and Training Program for Southern Africans is to enable southern Africans to play a full part in the development of their societies, and of Africa as a whole, through training and education abroad.

The Canadian Government intends to make a further contribution this year of \$25,000 to the United Nations Consolidated Educational and Training Program for Southern Africans.

SHARP STATEMENT

The following is Mr. Sharp's appeal:

"It is the conviction of the Canadian Government that the observance of this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is a most effective means for Canadians to become personally aware of the need for progress in the elimination of racial discrimination.

"This day, established as it was by the United Nations, reflects most vividly the important role

played by the United Nations in the struggle to establish a world order based on mutual respect and understanding among peoples.

"Canada was among those that supported a resolution in the twenty-fourth United Nations General Assembly in 1969 which condemned South Africa for its repression of opposition to *apartheid* and demanded the release of all political prisoners in that country.

"Canada was also among the states which expressed support, in the United Nations, for the Lusaka Manifesto on Southern Africa. Canada shared in affirming 'beyond all shadow of doubt, our acceptance of the belief that all men are equal, and have equal rights to human dignity and respect, regardless of color, race, religion or sex'.

"It is this principle that should underlie the attitudes and actions of all Canadians. We should live in harmony, dignity, on a basis of equality with one another, and contribute to the development and strengthening of individual rights and freedoms for all peoples of the world.

"Canadians have not always met this challenge. Now, more than ever before, the tensions within our own society test our good will and our determination. But if we have any aspirations for Canada, we must learn to overcome ignorance and ill will and seek to build our society in understanding.

"Let us demonstrate our dedication to these ideals. I urge all Canadians to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, through their relations with others, and on this occasion, through their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, and the United Nations Consolidated Educational and Training Program for Southern Africans."

STANDARDS COUNCIL FOR CANADA

Protection for the consumer and assistance to manufacturers will be the major benefits of a national standards organization, according to Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Speaking in the House of Commons during the second reading of a bill establishing a Standards Council of Canada, Mr. Pepin said that the Council would "identify and encourage expansion of Standards in areas where the consumer is not now protected". "The user, in buying a product conforming to and standard, will know just what he is getting - and what he is not getting," Mr. Pepin declared.

A Standards Council of Canada, he said, would promote and foster voluntary standardization, preventing duplication, co-ordinating existing activities and diminishing the possibility of conflicting standards evolving in Canada. It would facilitate the flow of goods and services and improve the quality of production for both domestic and export markets.

INDEPENDENT OF GOVERNMENT

The Council would be "based on the principle of co-operation between all interested groups - manufacturers commercial interests, service industries, government, consumers", Mr. Pepin added. It would "speak for all Canadians". Independent of government in its policies and operation, the Council will be accountable to Parliament for its use of public funds. The Council will be concerned with voluntary standards only, and have no enforcement authority.

The Minister dispelled fears that the Council would replace existing standards agencies, or that the new organization would write standards itself. "Contrary to what has appeared in the press," he stated, "the establishment of the Standards Council does not imply a 'takeover' of present independent agencies. The Council will make maximum use of existing organizations. They will continue to maintain their own freedom to determine priorities and policies. Procedures employed by major standard-writing agencies such as the Canadian Standards

Association and Canadian Government Specifications Board have performed well."

Mr. Pepin said that the Standards Council of Canada would provide an "umbrella" for standardization activities in Canada, "a forum where all interested parties could participate".

As proposed in the bill, the Standards Council of Canada will have 57 members drawn from primary and secondary industry, distributive and service industries, consumer associations, the academic community, federal, provincial and municipal governments.

CONFERENCE BID FOR SHRIMP FISHERY

The establishment of a shrimp fishery in the Atlantic Coast provinces is the main objective of a conference to be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, next October. The unique three-day meeting will encourage the development of a new fishery in an area not previously fished to any extent for shrimp.

Federal and provincial explorations during recent years have indicated that commercial quantities of pink shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) are present in several areas of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and comparatively small-scale fishing operations have borne out the prospects of profitable operations. At the forthcoming conference, specialists from Canada and other countries will bring to the attention of fisherman and others involved in the industry the catching and processing methods that have proved to be successful in other parts of the world. Government experts and others will outline the possibilities indicated by exploratory work already carried out and discuss future plans. Quality control, storage and marketing will also be discussed.

The conference will be sponsored by the Federal-Provincial Atlantic Fisheries Committee, which is made up of the deputy ministers responsible for fisheries in the Federal Government and the governments of Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

The species of shrimp with which the meeting will be concerned is smaller than the Gulf of Mexico shrimp and is a tasty and high-priced product that finds a ready market in the United States and Europe. There has been a limited fishery for pink shrimp in Quebec in recent years and for the past two years in the Bay of Fundy. In that area, 37 New Brunswick dragners landed about 2 million pounds in 1969. Most of the catch was cooked on board the vessels before being landed for further processing at five shore-based plants.

In addition to the anticipated expansion of the fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, good possibilities are reported from the southwest coast of Nova Scotia and some areas of Newfoundland. The Federal Department of Fisheries and Forestry is continuing shrimp explorations, in co-operation with the provinces.

CANADIAN MISSIONS MERGE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced that Canada's Permanent Mission to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and its Delegation to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament will be amalgamated to ensure close co-ordination of their activities and to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

Before the merging of the two missions, Mr. Jean-Louis Delisle was Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva. Mr. George Ignatieff was Ambassador and Representative of Canada to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. Mr. Delisle has been unwell and, in order to relieve him of some of the heavy burden of his earlier responsibilities, Mr. Ignatieff has been appointed as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva, while continuing as Ambassador and Representative of Canada to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

Mr. Ignatieff will represent the Government of Canada on all organs of the United Nations meeting at Geneva and at all meetings held in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations. He is also accredited to the Specialized Agencies and other international organizations in Geneva.

Pending his return to Canada this summer for reassignment, Mr. Delisle, with the rank of Ambassador, will retain responsibility for relations with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies.

STRIKES IN FEBRUARY

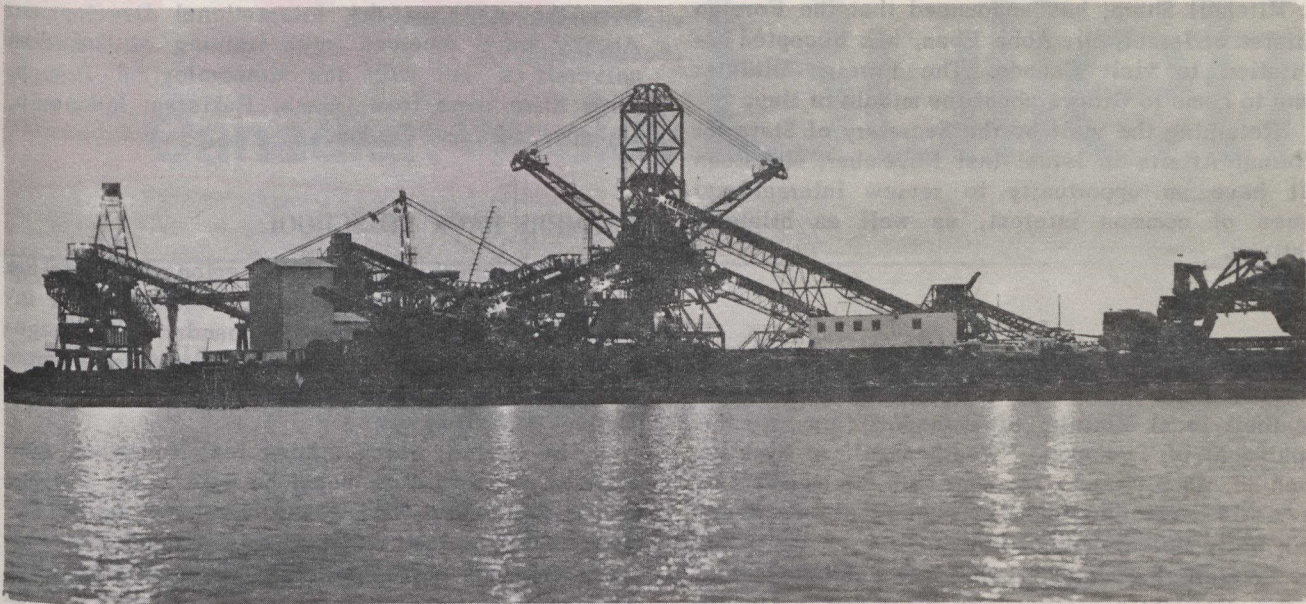
There were eight more industrial work stoppages in Canada during February than in the same month last year. The February total of 70 was an increase of 13 over those that took place in January. During February, 28 strikes ended and 34 began. As of March there were 42 stoppages in effect, involving about 5,560 workers; at the same date last year, there were 38 work stoppages in effect, involving 11,402 workers.

The total time-loss from all work stoppages during February was 102,990 man-days, equivalent to nine man-days lost for every 10,000 man-days worked by non-agricultural paid workers. Comparative figures for January show eight man-days lost for every 10,000 worked. For February 1969, the ratio was 11 in each 10,000.

An analysis by industry of all work stoppages in effect during February shows four in mining, 38 in manufacturing, six in construction, six in transportation and utilities, seven in trade, seven in service, and two in public administration.

Canada produced 8,915,000 pounds of uranium in 1969, about 9 per cent above that produced in 1968.

PORT OF VANCOUVER GREATLY EXTENDED



Complex coal-loading equipment at Roberts Bank ocean port.

The already vast facilities of British Columbia's port of Vancouver are being considerably enlarged by the construction of an outer port at Roberts Bank, 20 miles south of the West Coast metropolis. The new ocean terminal boasts a wharf capable of accommodating vessels of nearly 65-foot draft.

Operations will begin in about a week, when the first ship starts loading. The cargo, high-grade coking coal for the making of steel, will be brought from the foothills of the Rocky Mountains near Fernie, B.C. Under a 15-year contract worth some \$650 million, about seven million tons of coal a year will be transported by the Canadian Pacific Railway to Roberts Bank and there transferred to cargo ships for delivery to Japan.

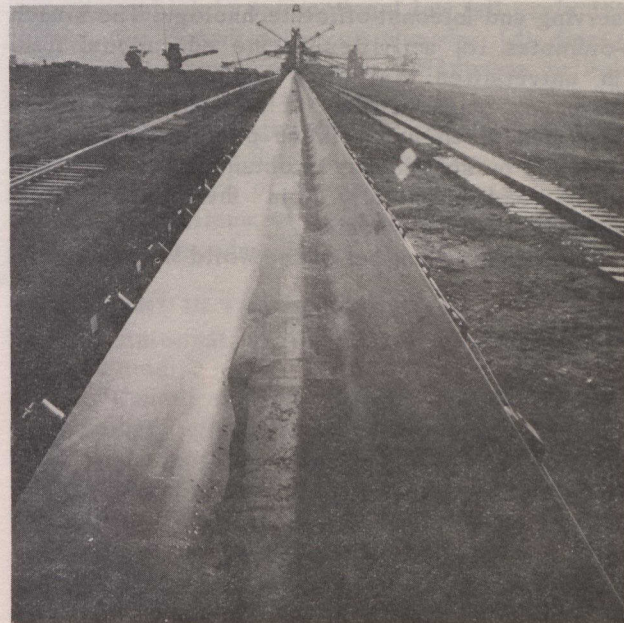
Although the future of the new terminal will depend on the requirements of world trade and advances in marine engineering, its first phase, by comparison with conventional methods of cargo-handling, is impressive. Initially, five-man shifts will operate massive automated equipment loading 6,000 tons of coal an hour. In two years, when a minimum of eight million tons will be shipped annually, the operation will be handled by shifts of no more than 30 men.

The Roberts Bank docks will eventually make use of 5,000 shoal-water acres. The bulk-loading facilities that are now being readied, known as the Westshore Terminals, cover some 50 acres and are only the first phase of what is probably going to become a remarkable ocean-transfer point.

Kaiser Resources Ltd., the company extracting the coal that is to be shipped, uses much heavy automated equipment to remove the rock overburden, 275 feet thick on the average, before mining begins.

This equipment includes a dragline with a bucket having a 54-cubic-yard capacity, diesel-electric trucks capable of carrying 200-ton loads, electric shovels that can pick up 25 cubic yards of earth or rock at a single "bite", and a complex combination conveyor, crusher and loader, all of which cost \$85 million.

The CPR has invested \$50 million in new locomotives and special rolling-stock and track to haul the coal the 700 miles to Roberts Bank.



Rubber conveyor belt which carries coal to stockpile and ship transfer area.

MR. EBAN TO VISIT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, has announced that the Foreign Minister of Israel, Mr. Abba Eban, has accepted his invitation to visit Canada. The Foreign Minister plans to come to Ottawa about the middle of May.

Returning the visit by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to Israel last November, Mr. Eban will have an opportunity to review international issues of common interest, as well as bilateral relations.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY

Canadians from coast to coast had a chance to see their local Ministry of Transport (formerly the Department of Transport) "weathermen" at work on March 23, when Canada, together with the members of the world meteorological community, observed the tenth World Meteorological Day.

To mark the occasion and focus public attention on the vital role of meteorology in the day-to-day life of Canadians, many weather offices held open house, with special displays illustrating the tasks they perform.

Canada has an extensive program of meteorological education and training organized under the Meteorological Branch of the Ministry of Transport. Included in this is the training of meteorologists to staff forecast offices and to provide the scientists who conduct continuing research into the mysteries of the atmosphere.

The training of technicians forms a large part of the Meteorological Branch program and results in the development of highly-qualified specialists in such fields as weather-radar operation, climatology, ice-observing and forecast-office technology. The branch co-ordinates its activities in the educational field with universities that offer graduate programs in atmospheric science. Many of the students enrolled in courses given under these programs are helped financially by the Ministry in obtaining their graduate degrees and eventually join the Meteorological Branch on a full-time basis.

As an active member of the World Meteorological

Organization, Canada has contributed to the education and technical training of personnel from other countries. Several students with financial assistance from the WMO or the International Development Agency have received such training at Canadian universities and with the Meteorological Branch. They have come from Ghana, Pakistan, Indonesia, Uganda, India and Ceylon.

FARMERS BACK TO SCHOOL

Farmers in the Peace River region of Alberta are being offered the opportunity to increase their incomes by studying improved husbandry and management on a three-year agricultural training program offered at the Alberta Agricultural and Vocational College at Fairview.

The course, which started last November, consists of four two-week sessions held at the College during the autumn and winter. Each course accommodates 20 farmers and each class takes two two-week sessions a year for three years, accumulating 420 hours of instruction on soils, crops, livestock and farm management.

Owing to the present grain and livestock situation special attention is being given to examining the possible alternatives to wheat production. The materials and teaching methods used in the course are designed to enable participants to analyze their own farm business in relation to current agricultural production and marketing trends.

To be eligible for one of these courses, a farmer must be 20 to 45 years of age, have several years of farming and be making his living at farming. He must show a potential for developing his skills and knowledge and for improving his farm operations.

The courses are designed to supplement and support the agricultural programs provided by the Extension and Colleges Division of the Alberta Department of Agriculture. The Canada Manpower Centers in the region provide the funds to cover full-time training allowances for the participants; teaching facilities and instruction are made available by the College, while the Alberta Department of Agriculture helps with the instruction and carries out follow-up work on participants' farms.