

### 3 Women's Church Groups Show Membership Reduction

By BRENDA LARGE

OTTAWA (CP)—Three of the four biggest women's church organizations in the country lost members during the last year on the basis of figures issued by the women's bureau of the federal labor department. The United Church Women's organization reported in 1964 membership at about 250,000 women, a decrease of 50,000 from its estimate for the previous year.

The only large women's church group in the country to report an increase in members was the Catholic Women's League of Canada. It estimated membership increased by 3,000 members to 155,000.

The other two big groups to report a decrease were the Women's Auxiliary of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Anglican women's organization reported its 1964 membership at 45,591, a decrease of 965.

The Presbyterian Missionary Society listed its 1964 membership at 45,599, down 824.

FIGURES APPROXIMATE

Mrs. Celia Bookman of Ottawa, who compiles an annual listing of national women's organizations, stressed Tuesday that in the case of the United Church Women, the figures are approximate.

The drop in U.C.W. membership did not necessarily indicate the group lost 50,000 members all in one year.

"It could be that the 1963 figure they gave us was a bit high and the reported decrease was just to bring the estimate into a more sensible range."

In the Toronto headquarters of the United Church Women, Executive Secretary Anne Wain said the 1963 figure of 300,000 members given the women's bureau was "not correct."

"I don't know where the 300,000 figure came from—I don't think it was from here because we have never had a figure that high."

### Robarts Cool To Proposed Pension Plan

TORONTO (CP)—Premier John Robarts said here there would be several advantages if Ontario were to operate its own pension plan.

During a press conference Mr. Robarts mentioned only one "possible" advantage of entering the Canada Pension Plan proposed by the federal government.

"The only worry I have in this regard is the possibility of a series of different types of plans growing up across the country," he said. "But this can be avoided."

Mr. Robarts said Ontario is "quite capable" of administering its own plan and the plan

**AID FIRE VICTIMS**

NOBLETON, ONT. (CP)—A fund to help the survivors of the Spier fire, which destroyed 100 homes, has been established here. Citizens in this town "don't mind" north of Toronto launched the drive with a \$100 donation from the Lions Club and \$99 from King Township council.

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## Flag Debate Predicted To Finish This Week

By CY FOX

MONTREAL (CP)—The flag debate in the Commons will be finished by the end of this week, Leon Balcer said here.

The Quebec leader of the progressive Conservative party did not elaborate on his prediction, and spent most of a speech to the Chambre de Commerce de Montreal stressing that a new Canadian constitution is badly needed.

He said one of the necessary steps toward the recent federal-provincial agreement on repatriation of the constitution is "the making of many concessions (by the federal government) and the giving to the provinces of a veto in many areas."

The result was that "the constitution is becoming an extremely rigid and inflexible document."

A new division of federal-provincial power was necessary so that the provincial govern-

ments could fulfil their duties.

All these factors prompted him to reiterate an earlier suggestion that a royal commission be established to draft plans for a new constitution.

LACKS INSPIRATION

"When I think of how much our constitution in its present form lacks inspiration and when I think of the difficulties of reading it, I fear that the annual quota of amendments and sub-amendments will only serve to make it completely indecipherable," said Mr. Balcer.

Thus the time is ripe for the drafting of a new basis for the Canadian confederation, the former transport minister said.

Mr. Balcer, who represents Trois-Rivières in the Commons, said separatism "will never be accepted by the Quebec people."

He added that "our English-speaking compatriots will never accept a plan for a Canada made up of associated states."

## UN Told Canada Pleased To Eliminate Armed Forces

By DAVE MCINTOSH

OTTAWA (CP)—United Nations officials to the Canada have indicated that the United Nations would like nothing better than to get rid of its armed forces—provided, of course, that other countries did.

"Even the total elimination of all Canadian defence forces and expenditures today would involve a shift of resources toward one seventh as great as was required in the demobilization period after the Second World War," the government says in a report filed with UN headquarters.

The report, the second on the topic, was submitted in response to UN Secretary-General U Thant's request for information on the effects on national economies from general and complete disarmament.

"The experience gained from the successful post-war demobilization led to the conclusion that Canada could cope successfully with the military problem of shifting resources after disarmament today," the report says.

Canada's armed forces now number about 120,000 and some 45,000 civilians support them. Annual defence expenditures are more than \$1,500,000,000.

SHIFT CONSIDERED

The report discloses that the government has considered what administrative machinery it would use to facilitate the transfer of military expenditures to peaceful uses.

The machinery would include the Economic Council of Canada, the finance department, the National Employment Service, the industry department, the Manpower Consultation Service of the labor department and the Technical and Vocational Assistance Training Act.

None of the problems which would be caused by disarmament should be unmanageable, the report says.

It adds that the proportion of primary commodity output for defence industry in Canada is in relation to total output "not significant."

"Indeed, it is rather as a net exporter and supplier than as a user of primary commodities"

that Canada would most feel the impact on world commodity markets of general disarmament," the report concludes.



**BRITISH, CANADIAN PMS CONFERENCE**

Prime Minister Pearson (right) talks with British Prime Minister Harold Wilson in Mr. Pearson's office on Wednesday. The two men were expected to discuss means of strengthening the Atlantic community, bilateral relations and Commonwealth affairs. (CP Wirephoto)

## New Pension Plan Feared Putting Minister On Spot

By DON HANRIGHT

OTTAWA (CP)—The Canada Pension Plan would put the welfare minister in the delicate position of deciding whether "deserted marriages" are motivated by love or the prospect of a widow's pension.

If the minister decides that some mercenary young fellow married an ailing old codger only for the posthumous reward, the pension can be reduced or denied.

Snickering MPs and senators on the parliamentary pensions committee had the provision explained in detail at a government officials who drew up the pension plan legislation.

Gordon Alton (PC, Perry Sound-Muskoka) suggested it is wrong in principle to give any minister the right to decide the reasons for a marriage.

"I want to register a slight protest right now," Mr. Alton said. He added that he would deal with the matter later when the bill's provisions are discussed in more detail at this stage, they are only being explained by the experts.

The so-called "deserted marriage" provision pits one complication upon another. Ordinarily, these are the pensions for a contributor's widow.

If she is over 65, she gets 37½ per cent of what her husband's own retirement pension would have been—his pension is a

maximum \$104.17 a month at the start—plus the old age security payment in amounts ranging from \$51 at age 65 to \$75 at age 70, depending on the age at which the payment is claimed.

If she is between 45 and 65, she gets the 37½-per cent benefit plus a flat-rate benefit starting at a basic \$25 monthly. A widow with dependent children gets the same, regardless of age. But a childless widow under 45 has the benefits reduced for each month by which she is short of age 45 until there are no benefits at all under age 35.

Then comes the case of the "deserted marriage."

DOUBLE NEGATIVE

In a rare double negative, the bill provides that "if the minister is not satisfied that anticipation of impending death was not a consideration affecting the agreement to marry," the widow's pension is reduced.

If the contributor died within one year of such a marriage, the pension is wiped out altogether. If within 13 months, it is reduced by 80 per cent; within 14 months, by 96 per cent, and so on until the 36th month.

Don Thorson, assistant deputy justice minister who drafted the bill, said that in such cases the department would have to dig up enough evidence to support the minister's "suspicions." If failed, the pension would be paid in full.

## Cuban Crew Shivering In Halifax

HALIFAX (CP)—Eighteen blanket-wrapped Cuban fishermen and 15 shivering Japanese fishermen-instructors have arrived here aboard a handsome Cuban-owned fishing vessel which has no heating system.

The 387-ton, white-painted Aguja, built in Japan in 1962 and one of eight such trawlers manned by mixed crews under Cuban ownership, berthed to unload 40 tons of frozen crayfish here.

The ship's agents here loaned the crew several hot heaters. They will be here three days before returning to warmer waters.

"She is a nice boat," Capt. Goichi Mikimi said. "The only fault with her—no heat. She was built to fish in tropical waters but here we are in Nova Scotia."

Blankets around their shoulders and towels serving as combination ear-muffs-scarves, the fishermen said they had left the warmth of Havana harbor only eight days ago.

The ship's agents here loaned the crew several hot heaters. They will be here three days before returning to warmer waters.

SAYS RUSSIA LEADS

SYDNEY, Australia (Reuters)—Sir Giles Guthrie, chairman of British Overseas Airways Corp a ration, predicted Wednesday that Russia would produce the first supersonic airliner with France and Britain second and the Americans third.

"I think the Anglo-French will be ready by 1974, although it was scheduled for 1971," he said. "But I believe Russia will produce a supersonic airliner in 1971 or 1972."

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## British May Seek Deferral Of Post-War Loan Installment

By DON HANRIGHT

OTTAWA (CP)—The British may soon ask for deferral of this year's installment on their \$1,250,000,000 post-war loan from Canada.

A \$27,000,000 repayment is due this month. At the same time the British normally would be paying three times that amount on an American loan.

A request for deferral would be logical in view of the British balance of payments difficulties. Published speculation in London last week was that such a request would be made by Prime Minister Harold Wilson in his discussions this week with President Johnson and Prime Minister Pearson.

However, it is understood that the subject is more likely to be handled at the ministerial level. It is regarded as an unlikely topic for the leaders.

In any event, there is considerable doubt here whether any such request will ever get as far as the Canadian government. This arises from the nature of the loan agreements.

In 1946 the Canadian loan and the \$2,750,000,000 U.S. loan both intended as export credits—were in effect wrapped into one package, with comparable provisions for deferrals of principle and interest.

In 1957 the agreement was changed to allow Britain to seek deferrals on seven occasions before the end of the loan in the year 2000. One deferral was made in 1957, during the Suez crisis. That year's installment now will be paid in the year 2001.

Each time, the agreement imposes two conditions on Britain: 1. She must claim to be in financial difficulty. That wouldn't be hard to substantiate in this case.

2. She also must ask both the U.S. balance of payments problem, and the massive American aid in helping to prevent the run on sterling.

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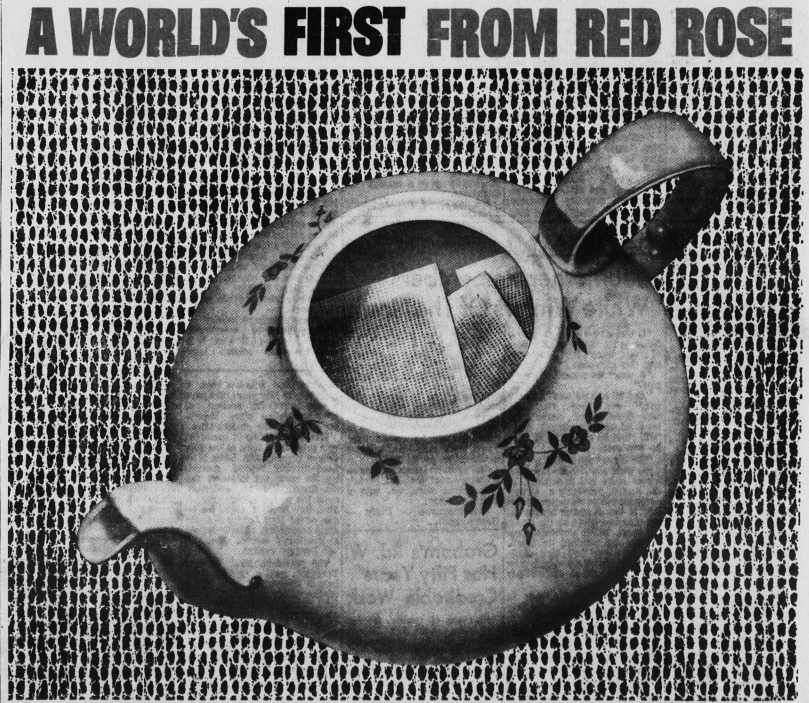
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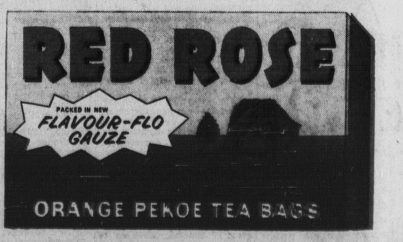


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