

Protection To Consumers Seen Lacking

OTTAWA (CP)—The federal government is accused of dragging its feet in protecting consumers in a background paper prepared for the national Liberal party conference next month.

The 16-page report calls for a federal department of consumer affairs to lead the fight against loan sharks, unsafe cars, misleading labelling and advertising and other abuses.

Written by Mrs. A. F. W. Plumptre, past president of the Consumers Association of Canada, and Jacob S. Ziegel, a lawyer and author on consumer credit, the paper says consumers need a strong voice in the cabinet to defend their interests.

Because consumers are not organized as a unified pressure group they are exposed to many abuses in their daily transactions and government action is weak and divided, the authors say.

Abuses in the second mortgage financing field is a notable case in point, they said.

DECRY HIGH INTEREST

Many loan companies and stores charged interest rates of 40 per cent and more. Banks charged between 10 and 12 per cent "under the guise of service charges" and disregarded the six-per-cent ceiling imposed by the Bank Act with tacit government approval.

The authors say the bank bill should require all lenders to disclose their interest charges fully and in a uniform way to permit borrowers to compare.

The federal government is also urged to adopt safety standards for automobiles and tires similar to those passed recently by the United States Congress.

New regulations are needed to make labels and packages more informative about the products, the paper says. Labels should list weight, manufacturer, country of origin, instructions for use of the product and warnings about poisonous or explosive substances.

Man's Place Is Claimed In The Home

QUEBEC (CP)—Man's place is in the home, Dr. Wilder Penfield, president of the Vanier Institute of the Family, said here.

Let reporters take that for a headline," the recognized surgeon and author said in his address to Le Cercle des Femmes Canadiennes.

"Labor union leaders obviously agree with this. Where else is man to go with his high wage and his short hours?"

Dr. Penfield was following up his statement last year to the Women's Canadian Club in Montreal that the woman's place was the home, and that the rise of delinquency and crime in this and other countries coincides with her emergence from the family.

"The press took that as a headline and I found myself unpopular. What I had said was true, but there are other possible causes."

Dr. Penfield said the rise in anti-social behavior has also coincided with social changes in the field of religion, education, communication and economy.

"Seriously, I am of the opinion that the mother's place is in the home when children are there."

"But where does the father come in? His place is in the home, too. But the man who only sleeps and eats at home, with his mind forever on the outside world and on himself or his work, is never in that home. He is like the mother who stays at home and yet neglects her children and her husband."

Forces Report Manpower Loss

OTTAWA (CP)—The armed forces had a net manpower loss of 851 personnel in July, biggest drop since demobilization after the Second World War.

The defence department said armed forces strength at July 31 was 106,335 compared with 106,186 at June 30.

The manpower loss in May and June combined was 920.

The present defence department establishment calls for 109,000 military personnel.

The department said the drop is due mainly to the large number of Second World War veterans reaching normal retirement age.

"As a result," a department statement said, "there will be a continuing need for a large number of recruits."

However, recruiting dropped off in July to 696 from 797 in the same month last year.

For this year up to July 31 the number of recruits is 5,036 compared with 4,932 in the corresponding period last year, an increase of 104.

RECALL MARTYRDOM

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Paul said Friday 1967 will be formally regarded by the Roman Catholic Church as the 19th centennial of the martyrdom of St. Peter. The pope, addressing a group of biblical scholars, did not specify what celebrations he had in mind. He made no mention of any special holy year and Vatican sources said none should be proclaimed.

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