

HAYWIRE HOSE

This fireman appears to be having trouble with a hose that either broke loose or found a hole through his back. Actually another fireman is standing behind him, using the hose properly to spray water on a recent Orillia, Ont., fire. (CP Wirephoto)

Rising Construction Costs Strike Centennial Projects

By GERARD McNEIL
OTTAWA (CP)—Rising construction costs have hit big centennial projects in the provinces hard.

Inflation was a key word Monday after a meeting of the national centennial committee here. The committee amounts to a federal-provincial conference on plans for 1967.

The chairman was State Secretary Judy LaMarsh and the delegates were provincial cabinet ministers responsible for centennial projects.

Public Works Minister J. W. Gardiner of Saskatchewan said in an interview the province has asked for a greater Ottawa contribution to its two provincial centennial memorial projects—auditoriums at Regina and Saskatoon.

Under an agreement two years ago, Ottawa was to contribute \$2,500,000 to be matched by each province for such projects.

As a result, the provinces geared the projects to the \$5,000,000 range.

COST DOUBLED
In Saskatchewan, the estimated cost of building the Regina auditorium has doubled to \$9,000,000.

Saskatoon, meanwhile, has pared the latest estimate of \$7,000,000 for its auditorium down to \$5,800,000, Mr. Gardiner said. He said Miss LaMarsh will take a request for increased grants to the cabinet but she has made it clear the provinces will have to match any increase.

Other provinces also reported jumps. and archives would cost \$7,500,000, Provincial Secretary Ambrose Holowach said. Original estimate was \$2,500,000.

In Fredericton, a six-storey building to group government offices would cost at least \$7,500,000, up some \$2,000,000, said Attorney-General Bernard Jean.

Nova Scotia's Sir Charles Tupper Medical Science Centre in Halifax would cost \$3,000,000 more than the original estimate of \$5,000,000, said Attorney-General Richard Donahoe.

WANTS HEALTH PROGRAM
"What Nova Scotia would like for the federal government

for lower wheat grades, oats and barley would be scaled down from that.

Prices paid by the government would be for the three commodities delivered at the Lakeshore ports of Port Arthur and Fort William, through which most of the Prairie grain is channelled to eastern and overseas markets.

The NFU termed the proposal an "income protection measure" for farmers hit by rising production costs.

Under the proposal the farmer could receive minimum guaranteed prices for up to 2,000 bushels of wheat or the other two grains or a combination of all three.

WOULD BE DEPARTURE
It would be a marked departure from the current arrangement whereby the Canadian wheat board sells the farmer's grain for him at the best possible price.

The suggested minimum wheat price is well above current international selling prices.

In defence of its position, the NFU, in its brief presented by President Roy Atkinson of Saskatoon, said farmers are pressed to increase production to offset rising costs and adopt new technology to do so. De-

clines in market prices frustrated attempts at improving efficiency and a guaranteed price for a "basic volume" would help prevent that.

The NFU also sought a royal commission investigation of the Canadian food industry, partly because of the rising cost of living.

Envisaged is a wide-ranging study of all phases of the industry including "areas of malpractice" with an eye to recommending legislation to correct faults.

The commission would scrutinize practices of food processors, distributors and retail chains in the purchasing, manufacturing, packaging, pricing, advertising, distributing and selling of food. Market control, mergers, integration and degree of competition would all be looked at.

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to get going with its health resources program," said Mr. Donahoe.

The medical centre would be eligible for a federal grant under the health resources program, which hasn't yet become legislation.

Lucien Darveau, Quebec's deputy provincial secretary, said tenders haven't been called for the Grand Theatre de Quebec in the provincial capital.

But it would probably cost \$8,000,000 to \$9,000,000 against

the original estimate of \$6,000,000.

Prince Edward Island, meanwhile, was trying to talk the federal government into a \$2,500,000 grant for a provincial building in Charlottetown.

Provincial Secretary Don Ross said P.E.I. regards the \$5,500,000 Confederation Centre finished in 1964 as a national centre.

The province feels Ottawa should chip in half the cost of a proposed building to house government offices.

Farmers Union Seek Minimum

By KEN CLARK
OTTAWA (CP)—The National Farmers Union has asked the federal government for a guaranteed minimum price for the first 2,000 bushels of a farmer's combined annual produc-

tion of wheat, oats and barley. In its annual submission to the cabinet, the NFU sought a guaranteed minimum price of \$2.50 a bushel for the top wheat grade—No. 1 Manitoba northern—under the proposal. Prices



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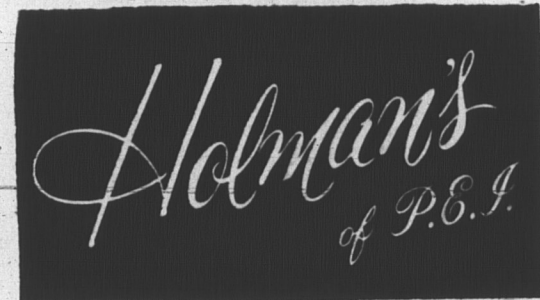
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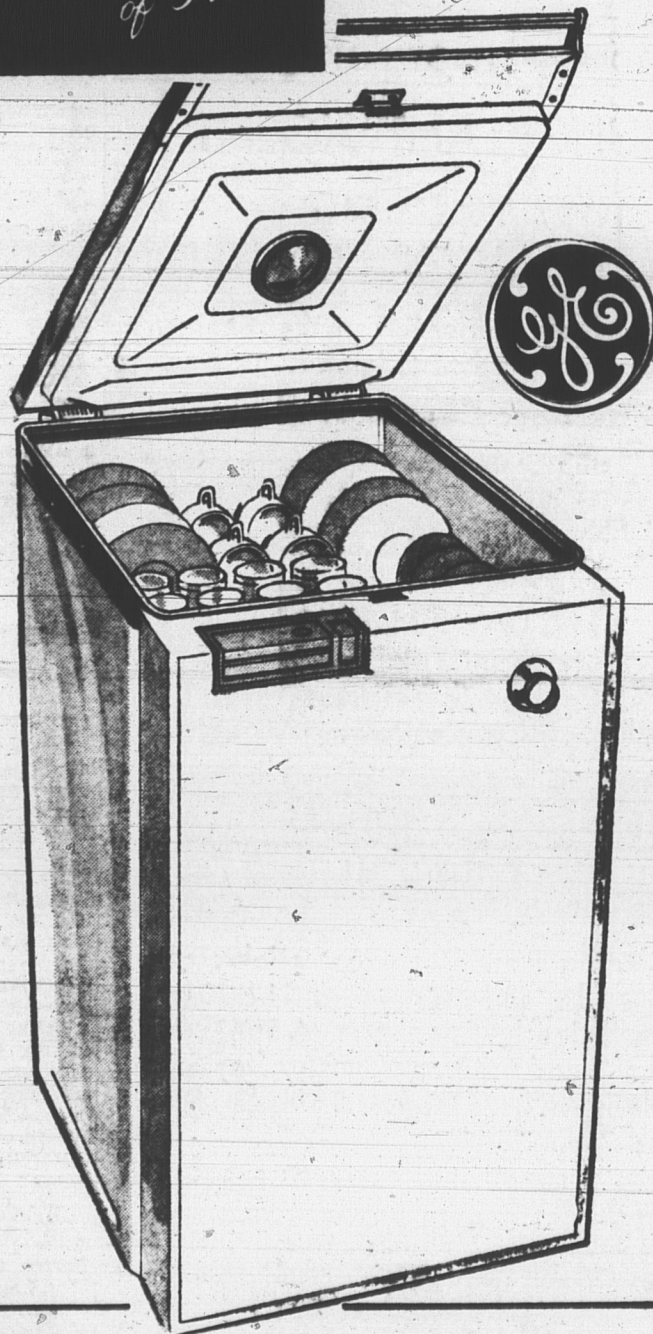
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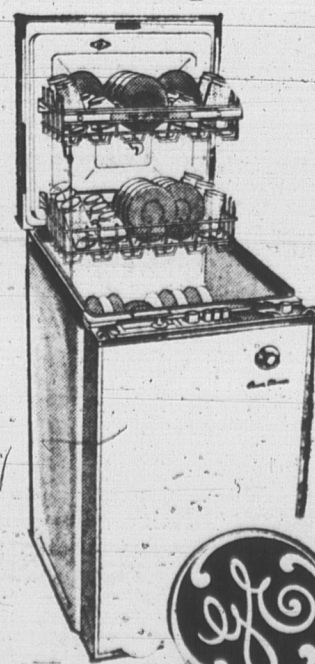
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