

13 Additional Seats Suggested For Que. House

QUEBEC (CP)—The creation of 13 extra seats in the legislative assembly, all but one in the Montreal area, was recommended Wednesday by Quebec's

chief electoral officer and a sub-committee he heads. The sub-committee included the suggestions in a report to the legislature's committee on the electoral map. The new ridings would increase the number of assembly seats to 108. The subcommittee, headed by electoral chief Francois Drouin, said 11 new districts should be established on the island of

Montreal and that the Jesus, which now has one seat, should be divided into two districts. The Jesus is near Montreal Island. It also recommended that Chambly and Vercheres on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River near Montreal, be made into three districts instead of the two they now form. A new district was recommended for the Lake St. John area, 100 miles north of Quebec City, as well as a complete re-

organization of the district boundaries in the provincial capital and its environs. Under the plan, Montreal Island and the Jesus would have 27 seats and the extra Lake St. John seat would bring that region's representation to five. **WATER STUDIED.** The United Nations is sponsoring a 10-year study of water, the first-ever attempt to see how much the world has and how much it needs.

New Approach Authorized For Montreal Bridge
OTTAWA (CP) — Construction of an additional approach to the Champlain Bridge at Montreal has been authorized by the federal government, the National Harbors Board announced Wednesday. The project will improve ac-

cess to the bridge from the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, speeding traffic to the island site of Expo 67 and downtown Montreal. An agreement is being made with the city of Montreal for the extension of University Street to connect with the new bridge approach at the centre of the Lachine Canal. To conform with European designs, Britain has begun replacing more than 1,500,000 traffic signs along its roads.



CITY DWELLING DAMAGED BY FIRE

City firemen answered a call, at 3:55 yesterday afternoon for a fire at 9 Park Street. The house was occupied by two employees of Irving Oil. Lloyd Hillier and Lloyd W. Lidstone. Both men have large families, but no one was injured in the blaze that caused serious damage to the frame dwelling. The fire started in the backyard near an oil tank. Firemen used two pumps and an aerial ladder truck and had the conflagration under control by 5 p.m.

Chou Proposal May Rule Out Negotiations Over Viet Nam

NEW YORK (AP) — A proposal relayed to the United Nations from China that "the parties involved" must settle the Viet Nam war may be intended actually to ensure that negotiations to end the conflict will not be possible. Chinese Premier Chou En-lai is quoted as saying China and North Viet Nam are not involved in the fighting and therefore not concerned with the matter of negotiations to end the war. The implication is if there are going to be any negotiations, the only participant on the Communist side must be the representatives of the Viet Cong—the National Liberation Front for South Viet Nam which has its headquarters in North Viet Nam and a representative committee in Peking. It is not clear from the hint from Chou whether the U.S. itself will be acceptable as a participant. In fact, the idea may be that only the Liberation Front and representatives of the South Viet Nam government should negotiate. Since the Viet Cong holds vast areas of South Viet Nam and will be unlikely to give them up voluntarily, the Communist side will have little to lose.

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groundwork there for the forthcoming June summit meeting of Afro-Asian leaders. There, China will be trying to dominate the show to the exclusion of the Soviet Communists. It will help the Chinese to accomplish their aims if they could present themselves to the Asians and Africans as peace-seeking, since many of the participants in the conference will reflect deep apprehension over the Southeast Asia situation. On the surface, it might sound reasonable those directly involved negotiate to settle the crisis. But the terms are not spelled out. Against the background of what has gone on before, the Chou gesture has the

Atlantic Union Seen Feasible

OTTAWA (CP) — Mrs. Margaret Rideout (L.-Westmorland) said Wednesday union of the Atlantic provinces is a "far-sighted and imaginative scheme which may not be so distant as some believe." In her maiden speech in the House of Commons, the New Brunswick MP said Atlantic union might be more difficult to achieve now than if it had been done a hundred years ago but the economy of the day would in the end make it more logical and feasible. "Already, we have achieved a good deal of co-operation in various ways; some of it economic co-operation and some of it social. "This is almost certain to increase and the very fact the central government is treating the Atlantic provinces as a unit through the Atlantic Development Board is an indication of the direction being taken."

of the two largest provinces which will lead to a more complete union." Mrs. Rideout was elected to the Commons in a byelection Nov. 9 to represent the constituency formerly represented by her late husband Sherwood H. Rideout. The attractive blonde MP also put in a plug for the capital of New Brunswick to become the capital of any union of the Atlantic provinces. Frederickton "is the geographic centre, the transportation and distribution centre and will soon be the economic centre." Later, Mrs. Rideout shook hands with a long line of her fellow Liberal MPs, including Prime Minister Pearson, who congratulated her on her speech.

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WOULD BE USELESS It added that negotiations also will be useless "as long as the Liberation Front does not have the decisive voice." Through a diplomatic manoeuvre—sending his proposal to UN Secretary-General U Thant through the Algerian ambassador in New York—Chou manages to accomplish several things at the same time. Chou was in Algeria recently on a trip which also had taken him to Albania. In Albania, he was against any efforts toward peace in Viet Nam without complete capitulation first of the Americans. In Algeria, he spoke obliquely about the chances in Viet Nam, as if hinting there might be an opportunity. But in Algeria, Chou had other purposes. He was laying

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