

Federal Gov't Asked To Aid Provincial Tourist Efforts

OTTAWA (CP)—The federal government was asked Wednesday to provide grants to help provincial tourist agencies promote the tourist industry on a regional basis.

The proposal, placed before the federal-provincial tourist conference by British Columbia, resulted in a sharp exchange of views between Alan Field, director of the Canadian government travel bureau, and Dr. D. B. Turner, B.C.'s deputy minister of recreation and conservation.

Other provincial delegates did not comment on the idea but James A. Roberts, federal deputy trade minister, said it would be examined with "an open mind."

Dr. Turner proposed a federal-provincial matching grants program "to encourage more effective external promotion by the provinces of their travel attractions."

He said the federal travel bureau should continue national promotion of the tourist business in the United States and

overseas with no reduction in its current budget. However, regional promotion should be carried out by provincial agencies under a matching grants program controlled by the federal agency.

Dr. Turner said an immediate application of his suggestion would be promotion of the Canadian Centennial in 1967. It was obvious "that there would be much more provincial activity in this field if specific financial support was forthcoming from the federal government."

Mr. Field said that Dr. Turner had not presented a single argument that he could use in an attempt to persuade the federal government to enter into such a program.

"I am not opposed, but the first question that would be asked of me would be why cannot the provinces do their own regional advertising?" he said.

Dr. Turner said: "He's not going to entertain it one bit, I don't like inflexibility like that."

Ottawa's Gold Mining Aid Is Extended For Four Years

OTTAWA (CP)—The federal aid plan which has been keeping Canadian gold mining communities alive since 1948 will be extended again, this time for four years, Mines Minister Benidickson announced Wednesday in the Commons.

He said the government will extend the act, now due to expire Jan. 31, "to prevent the hardship to dependent communities which would result from the abrupt closure of a substantial number of gold mines."

All opposition groups welcomed the announcement.

The act originally was for a three-year term and has been regularly extended by one, two or three years. This is the first four-year renewal.

Mr. Benidickson said there will be no change in the formula, which provides a federal subsidy only where a mine's cost of production exceeds \$36.50 per fine ounce. Under this formula 61 of the country's 69

mines qualify for varying amounts of assistance.

\$5.20 AN OUNCE

Last year Ottawa paid a total of \$14,500,000 or an average of \$5.20 an ounce. Since 1948 it has paid out \$171,690,000.

The government must currently buy gold at about \$37.70 an ounce, based on the United States fixed price of \$35 an ounce and the devaluation of the Canadian dollar.

The minister said there will be an amendment, however, to prevent new communities from becoming dependent on the subsidy.

No assistance will be paid to idle old mines brought into operation after June 30, 1963, unless the mines contribute direct support to an existing community.

Lode mines are those that extract gold from underground veins. Placer mines, taking gold particles from rivers and streams, will not be under the restriction.

Bell Telephone Announces New Wage Agreement

MONTREAL (CP)—Bell Telephone Company of Canada announced Wednesday a new collective agreement providing for wage increases has been negotiated between the company and the Traffic Employees' Association, which represents about 7,500 telephone operators in Ontario and Quebec.

The new agreement is for 15 months, effective from last Monday, Nov. 25.

Top rate for operators in Montreal, Toronto and Windsor, Ont., has been increased by \$2.30 a week to \$69. In other localities top-rate increases range from \$1.25 to \$2.25. Other than top rates, wage adjustments amount to at least \$1 a week.

As in the past, shift differentials, holiday pay, overtime and vacations are provided for in the contract.

The company estimated that the increases average about three per cent in the company's Ontario and Quebec territory.

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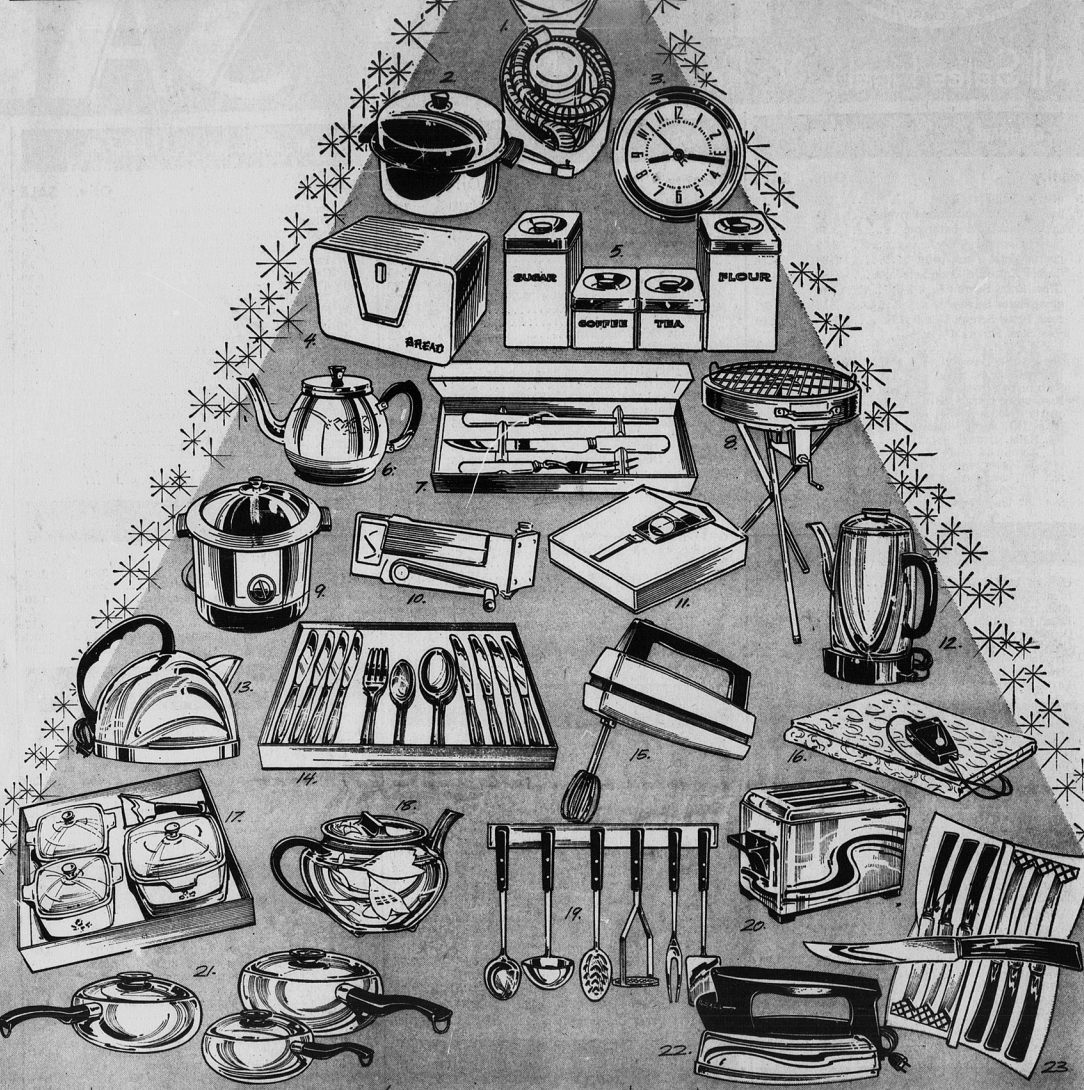
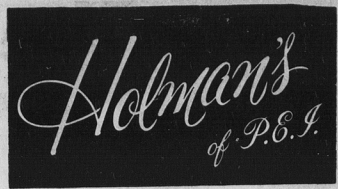
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