

Building ass'n awaits developments

The atmosphere of the National House Builders Association is fraught with a sense of impending developments these days — developments that could increase the whole scope of the organization, boost its influence in many spheres and make it a stronger body than it has ever been before. Here are three of these developments.

— The association expects to announce shortly the date for the initial meeting of its new Manufacturers' Council, a recently established body of national manufacturers in the building field which will work in close liaison with NHBA on legislative presentations, promotional and merchandising programs and research activities.

— Plans have been laid for close studies to be made of various aspects of multi-family housing, a field from which NHBA formerly stood aloof. The studies may even take them into the realm of public housing which is anathema to many of its members but under the new federal government may become a larger segment of the housing picture than it has ever been before.

— Within the next few weeks, announcements are expected from Parliament of amendments to the National Housing Act for which NHBA has been fighting for years and which could affect fundamentally the market for older houses as well as for new houses.

Coincidentally with all this but in no way resulting from it, NHBA has also had a top-level change in executive personnel with Bernard J. Bernard taking over as Executive Vice-President from John Caulfield Smith who resigned for personal reasons after holding the post since 1955.

The establishment of the NHBA Manufacturers' Council is a highly significant step because it marks the first real and official rapprochement on a permanent footing between homebuilders as an organization and manufacturers producing for the building industry on a national scale. In the past when national manufacturers and homebuilders got together it has been for some specific purpose. One example of this was the research for instance last year when manufacturers, NHBA and federal government bodies co-operated in the erection of the experimental house known as Mark III Experimental Project which was built at the RCAF Station Rockcliffe, near Ottawa. Another was the joint sub-committee of manufacturers and homebuilders which, on behalf of NHBA and the building industry, made representations for a study of residential mortgage financing problems to the federal government.

The recommendations of that sub-committee were later included in the terms of reference established for the Royal Commission on Banking and Finance.

PLAN ENDORSED
This, however, is the first time that NHBA has set out to bring national manufacturers into their official structure in a plan that will broaden its scope, heighten its influence. The plan was approved by the National Executive and later endorsed by the national directors at this year's Halifax convention.

Formation of the Council started at the grass roots level of NHBA. A satisfactory arrangement was worked out with local builder associations affiliated with NHBA who have branches of the manufacturers involved represented in their membership. Invitations to join the Manufacturers' Council were then sent out to Canada's big national producers in the building field. The response is reported to be encouraging and the first meeting of the new council will be held early this summer.

The criterion for membership among manufacturers rests on the latter's influence in the building industry rather than in what they produce. The new council will be fully representative of the various fields of production, and rival manufacturers producing competing products will sit together at the council table to discuss jointly and work co-operatively with the homebuilders on the best ways of developing the prosperity and wellbeing of the housing industry.

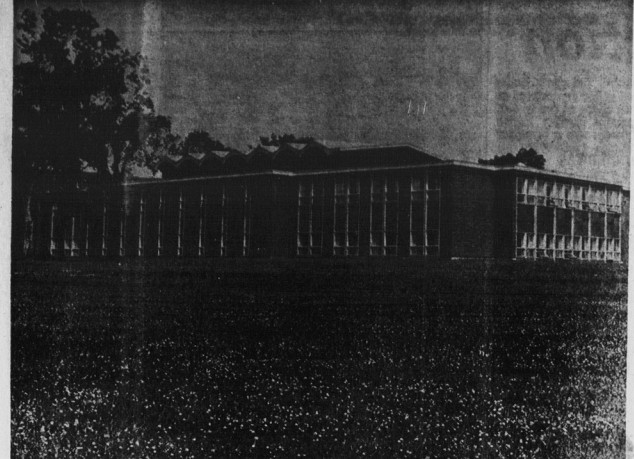
IMPORTANT STEP
This is probably the most important step taken toward unification of the housing industry for many years and, where the builders and manufacturers are working for a common purpose, could add tremendous impact and influence to NHBA representations on behalf of the housing industry.

Equally indicative of the broader approach which NHBA now appears to be making to the housing industry is its entry into the problems of multi-family housing. A special committee to handle this field for the benefit and information of members was set up some months ago. The committee held its second meeting recently in conjunction with a meeting of the NHBA National Executive in Toronto, and really got down to cases. Membership of the com-

mittee has been extended to include CMHC representatives, financing experts and the architectural profession. Special sub-committees have been formed to study and report on such things as planning, zoning, financing, management, etc.

The Multi-Family Housing Committee was formed because the increasing proportion of multi-family housing in building today has become too important to ignore, and its purpose is to make available to builders, who may be entering the field for the first time or have run into problems, information and references that will help them out.

The increasing attention which independent house builders (as against building contractors) are paying to multi-family housing became apparent during discussion at the committee meeting. The multifarious problems in zoning which vary widely from one area to another were strongly debated and an effort is to be made to develop a glossary of zoning terms which would be available to municipalities across the country in much the same way as the National Building Code is available to them at present.



LIBRARY NOW IN USE BY STUDENTS TAKING SUMMER SCHOOLING

University completes Kelly memorial library

An imposing new building fronts the Malpeque Road on the campus of St. Dunstan's University. It is the Kelly Memorial Library.

The project was started in May 1962 and was completed in June of this year. It will be available for use by students at the commencement of the Fall term. At present students attending summer school have use of its facilities.

The design of the building might be described as contemporary expression of the traditional style buildings existing on the campus. It is two-storeys and of steel and brick construction. Estimated cost is approximately \$400,000.

One of the salient features of the library is the book stack area housed in the centre of the building surrounded by reading rooms. It is designed for 100,000 volumes divided into stacks of three levels.

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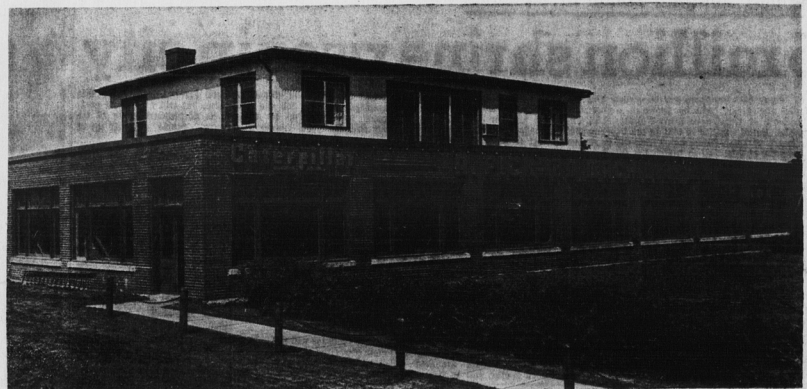
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