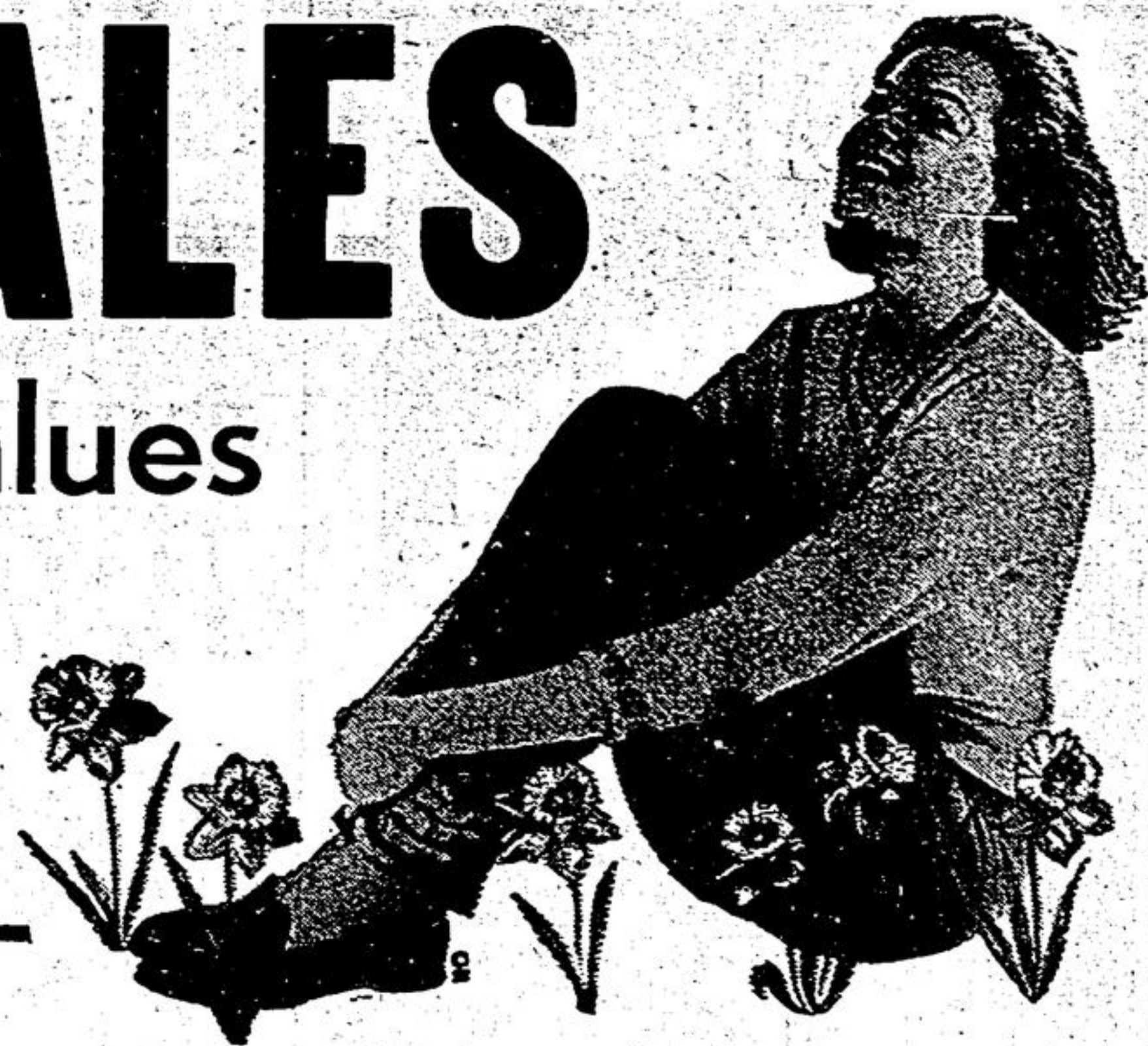


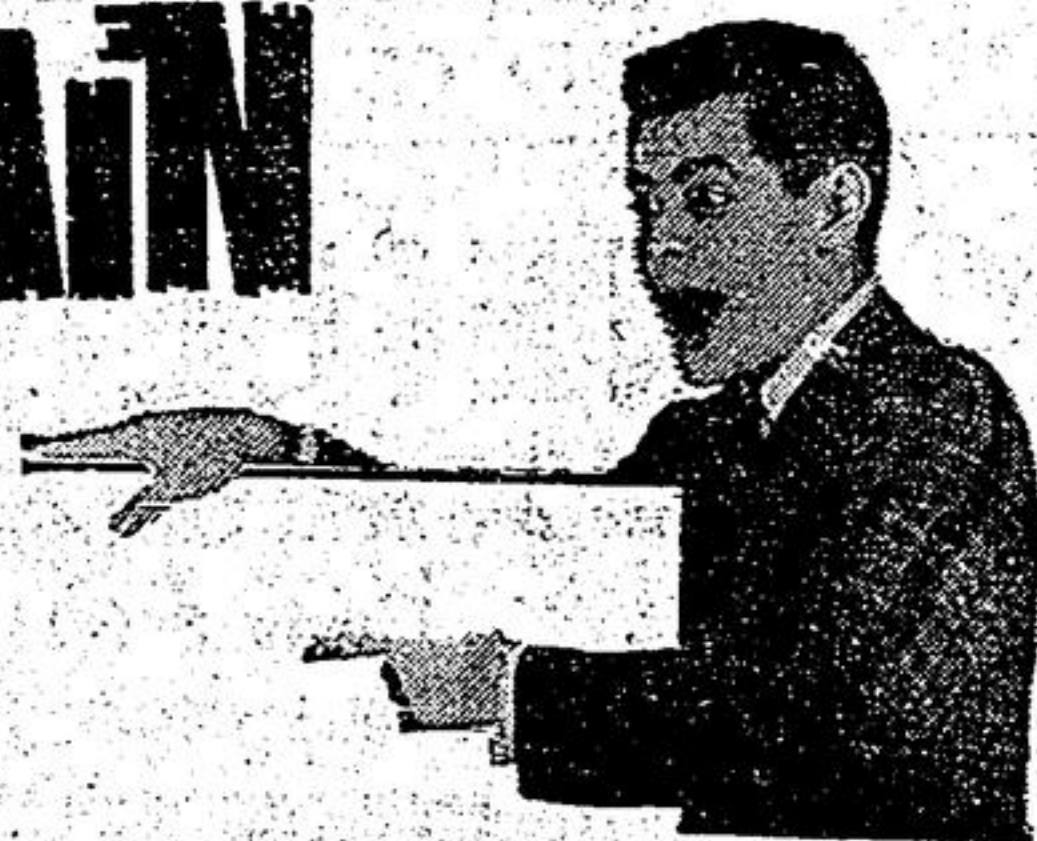
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Report From Parliament

(By Michael Starr, MP)

There are two matters to be cleaned up before the session will prorogue and a new one commenced. The actual sitting time is now well over eleven months for this session and it will be closer to twelve months by the time we prorogue. The longest session on record in the history of Parliamentary sessions in Canada.

One of the Bills is the completion of the Canada Pension Act. Now that the translation of the proceedings of the Committee have been made in the French language, Parliament should not have much difficulty in dealing with this Bill in full and passing it.

The other Bill is known as Bill C-142, and is an Act respecting the operation of certain established Federal-Provincial programs. Shared-cost programs have been evolved over the years to meet a variety of specific needs, such as the provision of basic welfare services, basic health services, requirements in economic development and, in some cases, problems which, although temporary or local, were beyond the capacity of local resources.

This has brought about a two-fold benefit. The provinces obtained financial assistance that was necessary to enable them to provide such services and at the same time it ensured a basic standard of service across Canada. These programs have grown to large proportions. The financial aid, as made up of Federal transfers to the provinces in the current year, amounts to \$900 million. This has been a substantial measure of assistance to the other two levels of government.

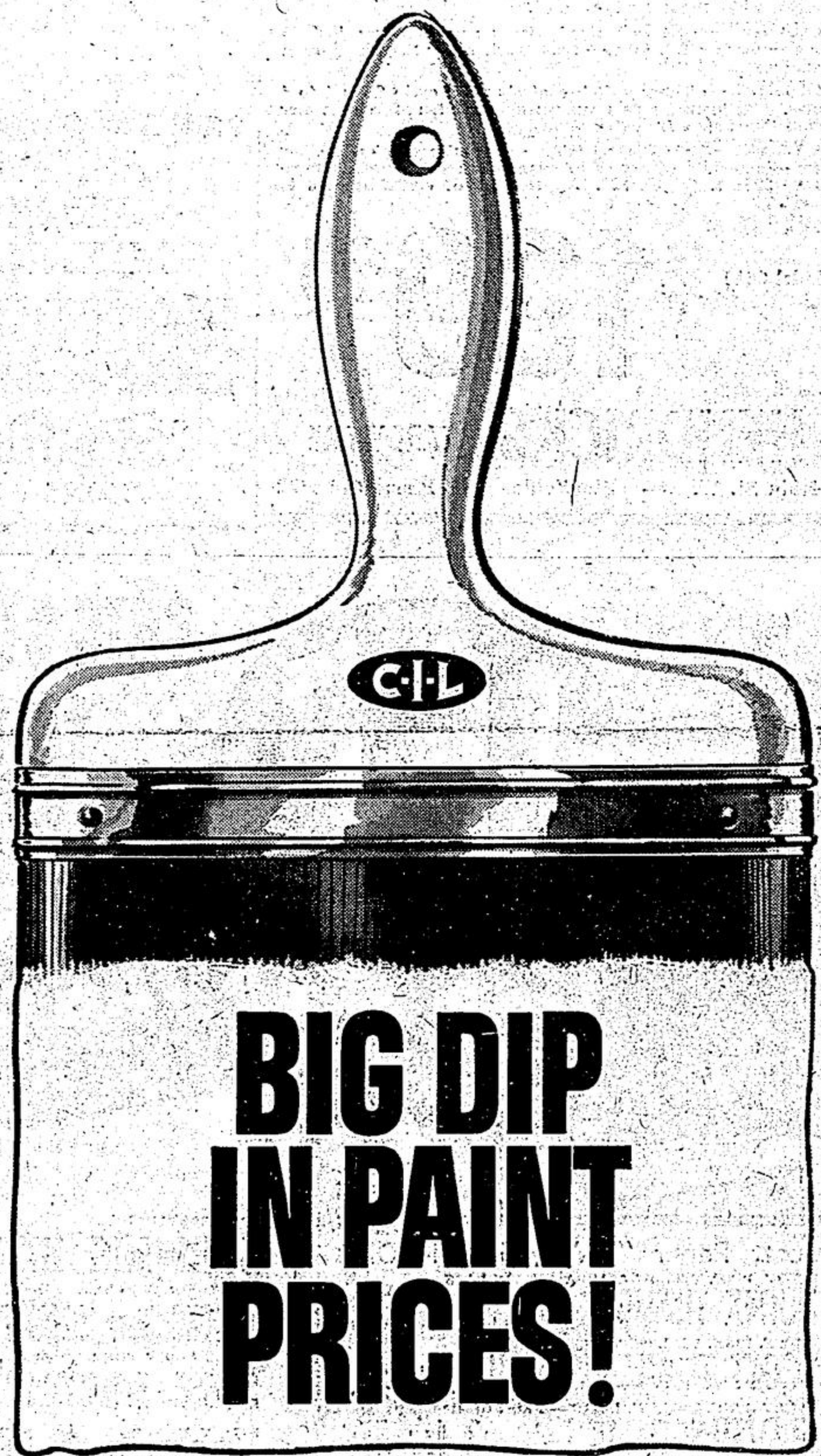
Many of these programs, particularly some of the larger ones, fall primarily within jurisdiction, and for which the provinces are responsible. This Bill provides the opportunity for the provinces to contract out of certain of these programs. When a Province does so, the Federal Government would compensate the Province in the form of either an equalized abatement of Federal personal income tax, which would be subject to adjustment, or of cash payments, depending on the nature and size of each program.

The Bill specifies the duration of the interim period for each of the programs which the Government of Canada proposes to include in the contracting out arrangement. Many of these would end with the termination of the present fiscal arrangements with the provinces on March 31, 1967. Any new approach to shared-cost programs could be integrated with whatever new fiscal arrangements are devised for the next period. There are certain joint programs which for various reasons do not lend themselves to this arrangement and a longer interim period has had to be accepted in such cases; for example, health, insurance, welfare programs which include Old Age Assistance, blind persons allowances, disabled persons allowances, and the welfare component of unemployment assistance, the hospital construction program and the roads to resources program.

Province, to contract out of a joint program, must enter into an agreement with the Federal Government. A Province wishing to contract out, has until October 31, 1965, to enter into such an agreement.

There is certain assistance that the Federal Government now makes available to the provinces that will not be subject to the provisions of this Bill. I refer, as an example, to the capital assistance component of the program for the construction of technical and vocational training schools.

Some people in Canada view this contracting out program as the first step towards the balkanization of Canada, whereas all provinces would be masters in their own jurisdiction. There is also the viewpoint that, in view of this situation, the provinces should raise and collect



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their own needs for the programs in the form of taxation, rather than have the Federal Government act as a collection agency on their behalf.

Top Price For Otter

The current fashion trend which saw average prices paid for otter pelts at five North Bay fur auctions last winter and spring more than double prices paid for beaver has not altered the fact that beaver still are the mainstay of the multi-million dollar trapping industry in Ontario. Lands and Forests officials point out.

In numbers alone, complete fur returns for 1963 show that 9,448 trappers took 167,408 beaver and only 8,326 otter. At the five 1963-64 North Bay fur sales 1,857 trapper members of the Ontario Trappers Association, 50,292 beaver were sold at an average price of \$14.03 for a total of \$705,596.76, a major proportion of the total receipts for all furs of \$1,142,843. The 2,025 otter offered sold for \$62,743.50 for an average of \$30.98. Total value of all wild fur exported or tanned in the year ending June 30, 1963 is reported as \$3,439,311.

Similarly, otter led in price at the first of this season's sales on December 14, 500 bringing an

average of \$30.75 and a top price of \$56; 13,000 beaver averaged \$10.52 with a high of \$30. Wildlife officers say otter always has been in demand for a number of reasons, one, because it is not as plentiful as beaver, another because of the fine appearance and wearing quality of the fur and the lightness of the garments made from it through modern techniques which apply, of course, to beaver as well. A beaver coat, it was recalled by one old-timer, "once weighed a ton." Not so today. Otter, beaver and other furs are much lighter in weight and much more in being done with them to enhance their attractiveness.

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