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Canada responds to international call for oil cutback

A three-part program was announced by Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Alastair Gillespie in April in response to the appeal by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in March for member countries to improve the international oil supply-and-demand balance through restraint and increases in production.

Increased domestic production

Under the Federal Government program, in the first quarter of 1979, oil production in Canada was increased by 200,000 barrels a day, or 14 per cent, compared to the level in the same quarter last year. This oil is being used in two ways: (1) to augment supplies to eastern Canada as far east as Montreal, thus affecting imports (130,000 barrels a day — 100,000 barrels a day into Ontario and the West and 30,000 barrels a day into Quebec); and (2) to swap oil to the western United States for U.S. oil to eastern Canada (70,000 barrels a day).

These arrangements effectively reduce demands on world oil by 100,000 barrels a day of which 70,000 can reasonably be considered as Canada's response to the difficult international oil situation. The 70,000 barrels a day is 4 per cent of total Canadian consumption.

Voluntary conservation

Mr. Gillespie outlined an expanded and accelerated conservation plan aimed at cutting the nation's demand for oil by 3 per cent within a year. "This program does not entail mandatory conservation measures at this time," stated Mr. Gillespie, "but concentrates rather on voluntary measures which make economic sense for individuals, business and industry and Canada over-all."

The measures will not only save energy and money but will also stimulate activity through the purchase of conservation products such as insulation, and services such as auto and furnace maintenance, engineering advice, etc.

The highlights of the plan include:

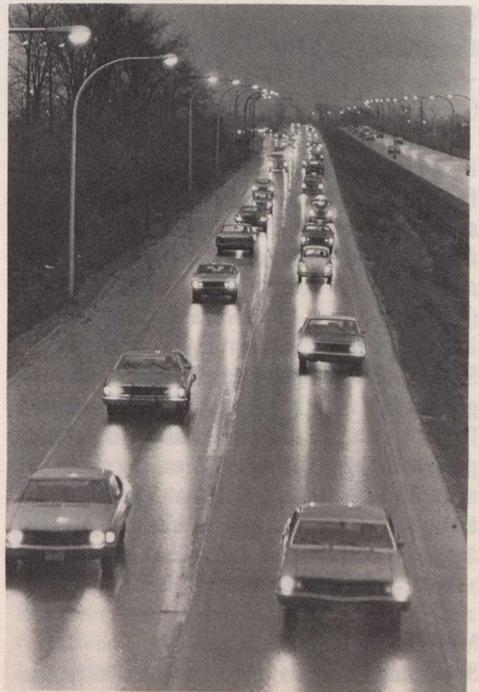
(a) *Transportation* (47 per cent of national consumption)

A comprehensive information program aimed at the public and transportation companies on improved driving procedures, efficient use of vehicles and better maintenance practices. Savings of 10 to 20 per cent for each vehicle should be possible. Where appropriate, use of public transit, vehicle pooling and revised freight schedules will also be promoted. Co-operation will be sought from provincial governments, oil companies and organizations such as the Canadian Automobile Association and the Canadian Trucking Association.

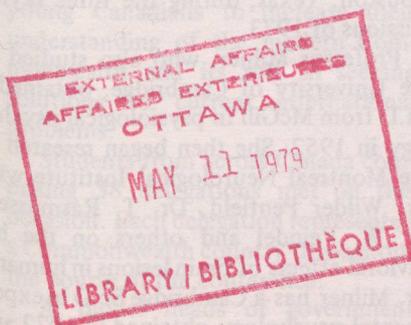
(b) *Residential* (17 per cent of national oil consumption)

Oil savings through re-insulation, thermostat turn-down, furnace maintenance and upgrading will be promoted through:

- wider information and advertising;
- expansion of the EnerSave home insulation audit program to cover a target



Improved driving habits could save up to 20 per cent of fuel used by each vehicle.



Ninety-nine years ago today...

George Brown, journalist, politician and one of the Fathers of Confederation, died from a bullet inflicted by a discharged employee. Brown was also the founder in 1844 of the *Globe*, a weekly Liberal newspaper which, in 1936, became Toronto's *Globe and Mail*.

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