
Mr. Trudeau confident of brighter economic future (Cont'd. from P. 2)

changes of the kind I will very soon be proposing to Canadians — changes which will enhance the ability of all our people to find political, cultural and economic fulfilment within a renewed Confederation.

I know that Canadians in all regions of the country will reaffirm their faith in Canada, and renew their commitment to make it work for the greater benefit of all. I am confident that the people of Quebec, when the choice is fairly put, will reject an ethnocentric nationalism in favour of a renewed and more productive relationship with their fellow Canadians.

Canada/U.S. ties never better

I have spoken of the United States and I have spoken of Canada. What is there to be said about the relations between us? In my experience, relations between our two countries have never been better. Surely two nations that can reach agreement on the most massive private-sector investment project ever undertaken — the northern pipeline — are setting the world an example in co-operation.

The decision to proceed with the pipeline is but one instance of the wide-ranging and continuing conversations between President Carter and myself, between your administration and ours, between our private sectors, conversations that cover both broad goals and more particular issues.

The pipeline, however, is a good example of where we stand as neighbours because it illustrates clearly that in our relations with one another there is a mutuality of interest that can be enhanced by constructive co-operation. The bargaining on the pipeline was tough, but President

Carter and I recognized that there need be no winner or loser. The very nature of the project could make both our countries winners. So we achieved, through co-operation, that which neither of us could have achieved separately. Out of a shared recognition of growing interdependence and out of national interests that are mature enough to be directed outward, we were able to fashion a result that will serve both our peoples.

This realization — that by good faith and good will — we can make the whole larger than its parts is a hallmark of the past and current history of both Canada and the United States. I believe it must now guide each of us, and both of us together, as we reflect upon the still troubled state of our own economies and upon the uncertain state of the world community.

I have sought to describe how both of our countries, and indeed the industrial world, have begun to extricate themselves from the difficulties of the past four years. We must, of course, continue to concert our policies and move forward — in a measured way — restoring growth, reducing unemployment, but doing so while continuing to avoid renewed inflationary pressures. For the short run and medium term, we have made “policy” corrections of a very substantial kind and they are taking hold.

But I feel less confident that we, as nations, as communities, as people, are moving urgently enough to meet the more fundamental, longer-term issues that confront us. Our economic difficulties have exacted their toll, not only on our national economies, but also on that complex set of institutions, agreements and understandings that define the international economic system of which we are all a part.

Within our countries we witness a pervasive questioning of governments, corporations and labour unions. There is a sense of mistrust that leads to the formation of narrow interest groups seeking to protect themselves at the expense of others and at the expense of the common good.

I do not believe that this uneasiness, or indeed the uncertainties which constrain investors, within our countries or within the international economic system will be greatly reduced until we have demonstrated our determination to face fundamental issues squarely and resolve them.

* * * *

News briefs

A multi-million dollar expansion project at the port of Prince Rupert, British Columbia, to permit greater movement of grain, coal and other bulk commodities from Western Canada, was announced recently by Transport Minister Otto Lang. The Ridley Island site, to be developed and serviced at an estimated \$16.3 million over three years, will provide two fully serviced sites for grain terminals and permit construction of at least one new terminal by the private grain trade. The Government will provide road and rail access and services on Ridley Island, as well as rebuilding the government elevator in Prince Rupert, at an estimated cost of up to \$11.5 million.

Increases in the Old-Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouse's Allowance became payable in April. The new monthly total at the single rate for persons receiving both the basic Old Age Security pension and maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement is now \$266.54. For a married couple, both pensioners, the combination of the basic pension and maximum supplement now totals a monthly payment of \$508.46. The basic Old Age Security pension rose this month to \$156.66 from the former \$153.44. Entitlement to a Spouse's Allowance, and amount paid, is based on yearly income. The maximum Spouse's Allowance, paid to persons between 60 and 65 years of age who are married to pensioners and meet residence requirements, has increased to \$254.23 from \$249.00. The allowance is made up of an amount equivalent to the basic pension and the maximum supplement at the married rate.

Prime Minister Trudeau has asked the Economic Council of Canada to monitor wage and price rises for two years after the mandatory controls are removed, beginning on April 14. The Council will publish studies on developments affecting prices and incomes, recommend improvements to lower inflation or increase output, and recommend to the Government special inquiries into particular cases that might threaten national economic goals.

The Federal Government has authorized the signing of a tax agreement with Jamaica for the prevention of double taxation and fiscal evasion of taxes on income by residents of one country with investments in the other.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.