

# CANADIAN ROUNDUP

## China Policy

Prime Minister Trudeau said on August 4 that Canada would not support a two China policy in the UN. "We would in no way support any resolution that could be considered a two China policy" he said. The Prime Minister said Canada had adopted a clear one China policy when it recognized the Peking Government in October, 1970.

## Cabinet Changes

Robert Stanbury, former Minister without Portfolio responsible for Citizenship and Information Canada, was named Communications Minister by Prime Minister Trudeau on August 11. In another change, Alistair Gillespie became Minister of State for Science and Technology. Mr. Stanbury's former post will be taken over by Martin O'Connell.

## Price Index

The July Consumer Price Index, spurred by a sharp increase in food prices, rose by more than a point to 134.1 from 133.0 in June, Statistics Canada reported on August 13. The Index, based on 1961 prices equalling 100, stood at 130.5 in July last year. The July price reflected higher prices for most consumer goods and services, with food prices, particularly those for fresh vegetables, leading the rise.

## Maritime Union

The Premiers of the three Maritime Provinces ended a weekend conference on August 15, and concluded that political union of the Maritimes is not likely at this time. Premier Regan of Nova Scotia said he was not convinced of the value of total union, although he favours cooperation and integration of services. Premier Campbell of Prince Edward Island said he did not see political union as offering "any special salvation at this time." Premier Hatfield of New Brunswick said he saw advantage in union but wanted to study matters before making an official decision.

## Unemployment Statistics

Unemployment in Canada declined to 514,000 in mid-July from 551,000 in June and 518,000 a year earlier Statistics Canada reported on August 19. The July figure was 5.7 percent, compared with 6.2 percent a month earlier. The seasonally-adjusted rate of unemployment—which takes into account seasonal fluctuations—declined only one-tenth of one percent from 6.4 to 6.3 per-

cent. The report showed employment for persons 14 to 24 increased by 270,000 in the one-month period.

## New Defence Policy

Defence Minister Donald MacDonald announced changes in Canada's defence policy on August 24. Among the changes announced were the return to the United States of its two nuclear Bomarc missile squadrons; a 1,000 man increase in the projected strength of the armed forces by 1973 to 83,000; and the unfreezing of the Defence budget from its \$1.8 billion level.

## Alberta Elections

The Progressive Conservatives defeated Premier Harry Strom's Social Credit Government in an Alberta General Election on August 30. The Conservatives will take over, after 36 years of Social Credit rule, with 49 seats in the expanded 75-seat legislature. Social Credit won 25 seats and the new Democratic Party one. At dissolution, Social Credit held 54 seats, the Conservatives 10, and one was held by an Independent. Both Conservative Leader Peter Lougheed and Mr. Strom won personal re-election. Mr. Lougheed said his first piece of legislation will be an Alberta Bill of Rights.

## Visit by Soviet Leader

Soviet Chairman Alexi Kosygin will visit Canada later this year. Prime Minister Trudeau invited Mr. Kosygin to Canada during his tour to the Soviet Union in May.

## Urban Canada

A Government-commissioned study, released on September 3 stated that Canada will be almost 95 percent urban by the year 2001. The study said 73 percent of Canadian will live in 12 major cities. The study, called The Urban Future, proposes immediate efforts to work out urban policies to meet the problems these large centres will offer.

## American Tax on Imports

The Canadian Government will introduce a measure to provide up to \$80 million in special unemployment benefits for industries hurt by the the American tax on imports. A special House of Commons Order Paper published on September 4 says the measure would "support employment in Canada by mitigating the disruptive effect on Canadian industry of the imposition of foreign import surcharges or other actions of like effect."