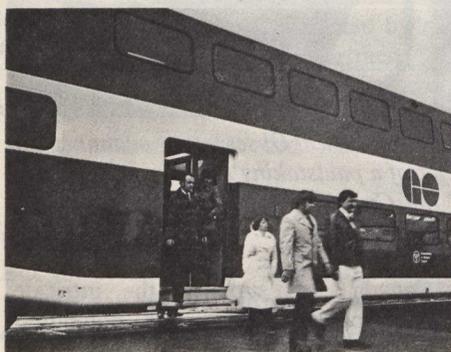


Double-deckers in service

The first of 80 new 162-passenger double-decker rail coaches went into service earlier this year on the GO (Government of Ontario) Transit System which serves Toronto and surrounding suburban and city communities. By October virtually all of GO Transit's rush-hour service will be equipped with these coaches — the first true double-decker design to be put into operation in North America, states the Canadian Car Division, Hawker Siddeley Canada Ltd., Thunder Bay, Ontario, which developed and built them.



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Compared to the coaches they replace there are an extra 68 seats. Two full-width sliding doors are built into each side of the coach to allow more efficient entry and exit. Seats are of completely new design for rail coaches and offer — say Canadian Car — new standards in seating comfort. The coaches are engineered to a completely new design from the wheels up, which provide a much smoother and quieter ride. Unlike other commuter bi-level coaches in North America, there is a full upper deck, rather than an upper gallery. The result is a much improved passenger flow to the upper level.

Support for world labour body

Lloyd Francis, Member of Parliament for Ottawa West, speaking at the annual International Labour Organization Conference in Geneva, reaffirmed Canada's support for that body. He said, however, that Canada shared certain concerns which had led to the United States' withdrawing its membership in November 1977.

Mr. Francis told the conference that the Canadian Minister of Labour, John Munro, had initiated the review of ILO activities as they affect Canada, aimed at determining whether Canada was deriving full benefit from ILO programs in such fields as occupational safety and health, industrial relations and quality of working life. The review, subject to agreement by labour and employer organizations, under tripartite direction, would also involve provincial governments.

Mr. Francis said Canada recognized that the ILO's main purpose was to help developing countries, where it should try to improve labour conditions and to strengthen such fundamental human rights as freedom of association, collective bargaining and equal employment opportunities. However he said, "we are convinced that it is necessary to broaden the base of interest in the ILO within Canada". The review would inquire whether ILO standards, research and technical information was reaching Canadians and was of benefit to them, and whether there was sufficient interaction between ILO studies and Canadian realities.

Concern for U.S. decision

While making clear Canada's continuing commitment to ILO aims and objectives, Mr. Francis voiced concern also over the reasons which led to U.S. withdrawal from the ILO. "The departure of the U.S.A.," he said "has highlighted grave issues confronting the organization which should be of concern to all of us, who on the one hand believe profoundly in the United Nations systems and in the ILO, but who, on the other hand, believe also that the valuable purposes to which the ILO is dedicated should not be degraded — by focusing on narrow political concerns instead of the ILO's social, economic and human goals; by failure to observe due process when dealing with accusations against member states; and by se-

lecting particular targets for attack while ignoring other situations where justice needs to be done." He urged the conference to maintain the integrity of ILO procedures.

Mr. Francis emphasized the value of ILO programs, which continue throughout the year, and noted that the current difficulties related mainly to the annual conference, which lasts only three weeks. He expressed hope that the U.S. would decide on an early return to membership in the ILO.

Quebec designs cultural protection

The Quebec government has made public a white paper containing about 250 proposals for cultural development in the province. Cultural Development Minister Camille Laurin outlined the following proposals at a recent press conference:

- Book distributors, book publishers and booksellers will have to be Quebec-owned if they are to deal with publicly subsidized institutions such as school boards and public libraries.
- Sales of the ownership of newspapers and mass media periodicals will be subject to public review and, probably, to public control. It is likely though not certain that those who buy control of such papers or periodicals will have to be residents of Quebec.
- Quebec should assume control of federal parks, historical sites and cultural activity from Ottawa.
- The key instrument for developing the cultural industries will be the Société de Développement Culturel, a Crown corporation, which will invest in cultural enterprises, along with others or by itself. It will also act as a promoter of cultural ventures and will exercise a monitoring function over operations in which it has a minority interest.
- A Quebec Institute for Research on Culture should be set up.
- A Quebec Museum of Sciences and Technology should be created.
- Public libraries and Quebec Government grants must increase.
- The film industry should be encouraged.
- An advisory Commission on Arts and Letters may be established.

The statement continues:

"The government does not propose to stop transactions that affect the market of the media.... It does want to ensure