

Canada's economic performance...

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have just indicated, at a very considerable price in terms of inflation, since consumer prices have more than doubled in that country.

But in the other six major OECD countries, the labour market situation has been much more severe. Canadians are well aware that for the past three years, unemployment in the United States has been consistently higher than in Canada — a rather significant reversal of the traditional pattern, since during the previous decade, our unemployment rate tended to be somewhat above that of the United States. But it is much less appreciated in this country that the European economies have suffered from much higher unemployment in the past three years than at any other time in the postwar period, despite the fact that their labour force is growing much more slowly than that of Canada. In the decade from 1962 to 1973, for example, the average rate of unemployment in the Federal Republic of Germany was 1.3 per cent; in the first nine months of 1976, that country's unemployment rate was 4.6 per cent — an increase of more than 250 per cent. The deterioration of the employment situation was even more severe in the Netherlands, while the unemployment rate more than doubled this year in Britain, France and Belgium. Even in Japan, the unemployment trend has been somewhat worse since 1973 than it has been in Canada: during the first three quarters of 1976, their unemployment rate was about 62 percent higher than in the ten-year base period.

Canadians too introspective

I suggest...that Canadians should assess their country's economic performance and the Government's econo-

mic policies by international standards rather than almost exclusively on the basis of their own very high expectations. There is no doubt that a high rate of growth, combined with stable prices and full employment, would be highly desirable for Canada. But while we must continue to strive for these goals, we must realize that they have virtually never been reached substantially by any government anywhere in the world, except in a very small number of special cases for very short periods of time. We Canadians, feeling more or less isolated from Ottawa, each in our own region, tend to become too

introspective. We indulge too readily in self-analysis and much too rarely in world-scanning. We too often tend to look at our problems in isolation, without reference to the broader international context in which we live; and consequently we tend to forget how very lucky we are, in the riches which nature has bestowed upon us, the unique experience from which history has allowed us to benefit, and the wisdom and prudence which our social and cultural make-up has allocated us to apply in the conduct of our national affairs.

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News briefs

- General J.A. Dextraze, Chief of Defence Staff, says the Canadian Armed Forces must be increased by 4,000 to 5,000 persons to meet all defence commitments at home and abroad. In a speech to the 150 representatives of the 25-member Conference of Defence Associations, he said he had recommended to Defence Minister Danson that the increase from the present 78,000 be spread over the next three to five years.
- Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations, William Barton, told the UN Security Council on January 13 that the Geneva conference still offered the best hopes for achieving black majority rule in Rhodesia.
- Exports of Canadian crude oil to the United States will be allowed to increase by 6,000 barrels a day to 315,000 barrels a day in February.
- The 1,700-member Hairstylists of Ontario Association has announced that the cost of a man's haircut will increase from \$4.50 to \$5 effective February 1. Longer hairstyles don't require as much care and the average person may wait six weeks or even two months before cutting, says Jean Andari, president of the association.
- After 57 years of providing security at the Royal Canadian Mint, the RCMP are no longer responsible for guarding the nation's money. The job has been given to a private security firm. RCMP Superintendent Syd Yelle said that since the Mint became a Crown corporation in 1969 the force "no longer feels it can perform a police function there."
- Air Canada and CP Air announced

on January 17 they would apply for domestic fare increases of 7 per cent, following a 12.5 percent rise in domestic fares last year, which was implemented in two stages. Both airlines reported substantial losses last year and have indicated further substantial losses for 1976.

- A syndicate of 16 international banks from seven countries, led by the Citicorp International group, has completed a five-year term loan of \$215 million (U.S.) to the City of Montreal to finance Montreal's share of obligations in the building of facilities for the 1976 Olympics.
- Saskatchewan's Finance Minister, Walter Smishek, says that province may face a deficit of more than \$50 million for the current fiscal year.
- Alberta's Premier, Peter Lougheed, says his province's economy should be "almost" as vibrant in 1977 as it was in 1976, with the over-all level of activity maintained.
- The Employers Council of British Columbia says the province's economic performance will be weak in 1977.
- Federal Labour Minister John Munro was scheduled to visit London from January 11 to 14 for discussions with representatives of the British Government, trade unions and industry.
- The Stratford Festival gave a lifetime pass to William Bond of Bryan, Ohio, U.S. for being the millionth student to attend the special student matinee performances at Stratford. It was his first visit. Stratford's student program began in 1958, with students coming from Canada and many other countries.

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