

Canada has a new Secretary of State for External Affairs. Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, President of the Privy Council and Government House Leader since 1970, was appointed by Prime Minister Trudeau as Canada's new Secretary of State for External Affairs on August 8. He replaces Mitchell Sharp, who is now in Mr. MacEachen's former portfolio.

Mr. MacEachen was born in Inverness, Nova Scotia on July 6, 1921.

Educated in Inverness schools, and at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N.S., where he received his B.A., he received an M.A. from the University of Toronto, and did post graduate studies in economics and industrial relations at the University of Chicago and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

Mr. MacEachen first entered federal politics in 1953.

From 1958 to 1962, he worked in Ottawa as special assistant (for economic affairs) in the office of the late former Prime Minister L.B. Pearson, who was at that time the Leader of the Official Opposition.

Following the election of a Liberal Government in April 1963, the new External Affairs Minister was appointed Minister of Labour. In this portfolio, Mr. MacEachen piloted the Canada Labour Code through Parliament and brought about the settlement of a longstanding Great Lakes labour dispute.

Mr. MacEachen was appointed Minister of National Health and Welfare in December 1965, and during his tenure, a series of major programs in the field of social security were brought forward and passed by Parliament. These included the Canada Assistance Act, the Health Resources Fund, Medicare and the Guaranteed Income Supplement for old-age security recipients.



Mr. MacEachen was Government House Leader in 1967-68 and served as chairman of the committee on the reform of parliamentary procedure. This committee produced a series of wideranging reforms that became the basis of a major updating of the rules and procedures of Canada's Parliament.

After his re-election in the general election of June 25, 1968, in the new Nova Scotia constituency of Cape Breton Highlands-Canso, Mr. MacEachen was appointed Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

He served as Manpower and Immigration Minister until September four years ago, when he was named President of the Privy Council and Government House Leader.



The article (p. 14) introducing the Conference on Human Settlements, which is slated for Vancouver in 1976, brings to mind some of the predictions experts have been making for Canadian cities. According to D.J. Reynolds, a Canadian federal Government economist, the next twelve years will be a critical boom period for urban growth in Canada. He claims that Canada's nine major cities will double in size by 1986. What this means, among other things, is that there will be twice as many cars on the road using twice as much petrol. But rather than push the panic button and undertake massive investment in building roads to cope with the additional traffic,

British versions, Indians, I have noticed, demonstrate a pronounced preference for Victorianisms which send me scurrying for my Shorter OED. "Resiling" and "fissiparous" and "the miscreant is thought to be absconding" are among my favourites.

WE ALSO share the perils of bilingual cultures. The French Canadian who likes to "take une biere avec les boys" is paralleled by the Indian academic who was called upon to move a vote of thanks after a lecture by a visiting professor. He eulogised the lecture but chided the professor for delivering his talk in English, not Hindi: "Angrezi men itna *force* nahin hai". But I must admit that the various linguistic strata of the subcontinent have contributed far more to the richness of the mainstream of the English language than has "Canajan". One has only to think of "tiffin", "gherao" or "kutcha" to name but a few.

Canadians are forever being characterized as dull, and I must admit that our "Canajan" does little to remove the tag. I suppose it is to our credit that "Canajan" is not rich in acronyms, or derisive names for racial groups, but what can you say about the Canadian Parliament prescribing such weak abuse as "absolutely unfair" and "he ceases to act as a gentleman?" At least the Australians are a bit more imaginative in banning "a miserable body-snatcher" and "my winey friend" and the *Vidhan Sabha* of Uttar Pradesh in forbidding "mulish tactics".

This brief survey of the common linguistic heritage of India and Canada would be incomplete without a mention of the monosyllable "eh?" Canadians did not invent it (we'll have to give the English credit for that) but we have certainly taken it over. "Eh" is to some extent the equivalent of the Indian "isn't it?" and has easily as many uses. If there is one irreducible difference between Americans and Canajans, it resides in the use of this humble expletive. And it is never deleted.

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