

have stayed if part-time work had been available. Seventy per cent expressed an interest in working part time at some point in their lives.

However, although it is of special interest to women with families, part-time work could also be an answer to the needs of individuals coping with health problems; to anyone trying to combine study and work; and to people nearing retirement, with its spectre of total and abrupt life change.

Breaking the 9 to 5 rut

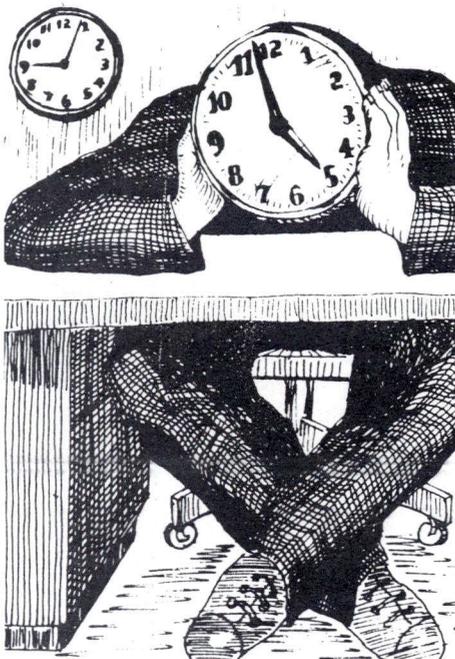
In the two years since their introduction in the Public Service, flexible hours have been both praised and criticized. However, according to a Treasury Board survey, the majority of people think the new hours have had positive effects on both their jobs and their personal lives.

Twelve per cent of a random sample of 3,975 employees also thought service to the public had improved, while 63 per cent found it was the same as before flexible hours began. Only 5 per cent believed service had deteriorated or that problems in service had been created by the new hours. (Percentages given do not total 100 per cent because some respondents didn't answer specific questions or said they didn't know.)

Fifteen per cent of the managers who answered the questionnaire thought service to the public had improved, and 68 per cent found it the same. Six per cent thought it had deteriorated or problems had been created.

In addition, four out of five managers surveyed were satisfied with the program; almost half said their employees' work attitudes had improved; and one-third said individual employees were more productive.

Today 39 departments in the national capital area and approximately 5,000 employees in the regions are operating



on either fully flexible hours or fixed flexible hours.

Employees working fully flexible hours select, within the time limits set by their departments, their own hours of work, and can vary these hours as long as they work seven-and-a-half hours each day.

Employees working fixed flexible hours select the times they will start and finish work, within the time set by their departments and subject to managerial approval. Once these times are set, employees need advance approval from their supervisors in order to change them.

In addition, a small number of employees are working staggered hours. Under this system, employees within a department begin and finish work at different times but these times are prescribed by management.

News briefs

- Canada won 25 gold medals, 30 silver and 31 bronze at the 1976 Olympics for the Disabled — the best showing ever. At the 1972 Games, for wheelchair athletes only, the Canadian team won six gold medals, six silver and seven bronze. Most medals at this year's Games, held at Toronto from August 3 to 11, were won by the United States — 62 gold, 38 silver and 45 bronze. Britain was second with 119 medals, of which 34 were gold; West Germany was third with 87, including 35 gold. Canada, with 86 medals, tied for fourth place with the Netherlands.
- Canadian-born Lord Thomson of Fleet, who built a newspaper empire in three countries, died in London, August 4, at the age of 82. His son will take control of the huge family holdings, which include ownership of some of Britain's main newspapers, as well as newspapers in Canada and the United States, and North Sea oil interests.
- The Prime Minister announced August 5 that a Cabinet shuffle would take place either in September or December, just before Parliament resumes in the autumn or during the Christmas break.
- British Prime Minister James Callaghan has accepted Prime Minister Trudeau's invitation to visit Canada

September 10 to 18. A broad range of bilateral and international questions will be discussed.

- The Cabinet has issued an order restraining Pacific Western Airlines (PWA), owned by the government of Alberta, from moving its head office to Calgary from Vancouver, B.C. Transport Minister Otto Lang said the order, sought by the B.C. government, would remain in effect until the Supreme Court had ruled on a bid by the Alberta government to bypass the Canadian Transport Commission in its purchase of PWA two years ago.

- Communications Minister Jeanne Sauv  said August 5 that the Federal Government would oppose the Saskatchewan government's plan to introduce the first provincial system of pay television because it could have serious consequences on the future of the TV industry in Canada.

- One hundred years ago this month Alexander Graham Bell successfully completed the world's first long-distance telephone call. The call, made on August 10, 1876 from Brantford to Paris, Ontario, was over an eight-mile telegraph line, with the battery in Toronto, 58 miles away.

- The Quebec cabinet has approved several programs that will invest some \$1 million into commercial fishing on the northern and eastern coasts of the province in an effort to improve catches and stabilize employment in the industry.

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