

NDP founding member dies

Andrew Brewin, a humanitarian and noted civil liberties lawyer who was a founder of the New Democratic Party and a member of Parliament for 17 years, has died at the age of 76.

Mr. Brewin, who represented the Toronto riding of Greenwood from 1962 until 1979 and served as his party's defence and external affairs critic in the House of Commons, died at Victoria General Hospital in British Columbia after a long illness.

Mr. Brewin, the son of an Anglican clergyman, was a past president of the Ontario Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) from 1946 to 1948, a national treasurer of the CCF and a member of the founding committee of its successor, the New Democratic Party.

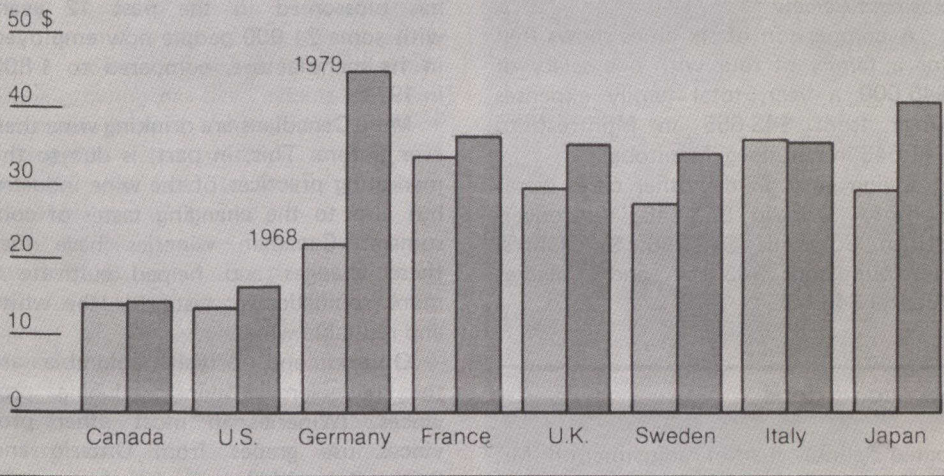
As an NDP member of Parliament, he gained wide respect for his knowledge of international affairs. He travelled to many of the world's trouble spots, often on behalf of the government or Canadian churches, and his recommendations frequently were adopted as part of Canadian foreign policy.

Before becoming a member of Parliament, Mr. Brewin had gained prominence as a civil liberties lawyer who rose to the defence of the labour movement and minority groups.



Real gasoline prices

(expressed in 1975\$ U.S. per 100 litres of standard low octane gasoline).



So in addition to her analysis of pricing trends, she also takes a look at changes in the effective rate of gasoline taxation (measured as the value of gasoline tax a litre, divided by the net-of-tax price a litre) across the eight countries.

Steepest decline

As the second chart indicates, taxation rates were universally lower in 1979 than at the beginning of the decade. The steepest decline occurred at the time of the OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) price explosion in 1973-74, an indication that governments then used taxation policies to shield the consumer from the full impact of gasoline price increases.

Although Canada's effective taxation

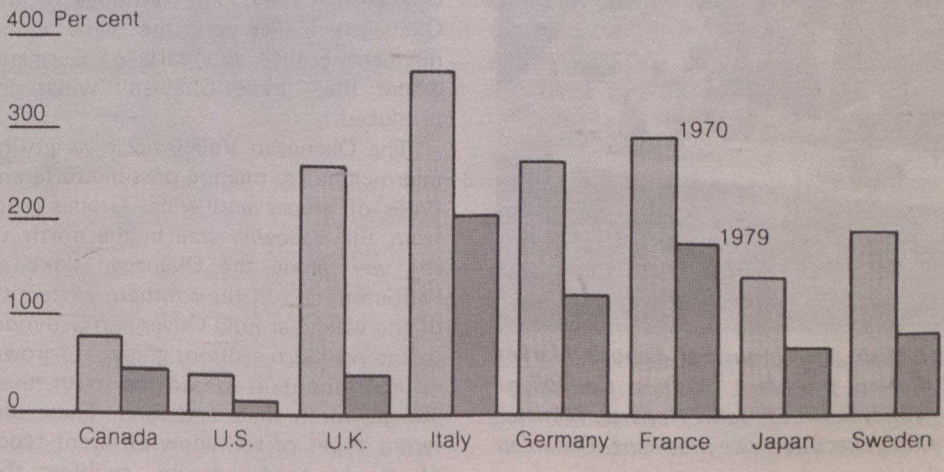
rate did not drop as sharply as those in some other countries, it retained its place as a country with one of the lowest rates through the period.

By the same token, Italy — the heaviest taxer relative to other countries in 1970 — remained in that position at the end of the decade. In contrast, Sweden and France, two of the most heavily taxed countries in 1970, witnessed a dramatic decline in effective rates over the period (with some upswing on France's part in 1979), so that in 1979 they ranked among the moderately taxed nations.

(From International Energy Comparisons: A View of Eight Industrialized Countries by Bobbi Cain assisted by Pat Nevin. Discussion Paper No. 222).

Effective gasoline tax rate

Value of gasoline tax per litre, divided by the net-of-tax price per litre.



Sulphides from seabed

Scientists from the Geological Survey of Canada, a branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, and the US Geological Survey have embarked on a drilling expedition that will seek sulphide materials under the floor of the Pacific Ocean in the Juan de Fuca Ridge.

At a depth of two-and-a-half kilometres, they will drill six metres into the bedrock in what is believed to be the first attempt to extract the mineral in this way. Seafloor sulphides are rare; they were first discovered in 1979.

Previous expeditions have dredged rocks containing zinc, copper, iron and lead sulphide from the ridge, an underwater mountain range. Scientists believe many of the deposits in the ridge are similar to those in the Canadian Shield.