

may well be compounded if The Nine become ten, or 12 with the possible admissions of Spain, Portugal and Greece — all OECD members — into the EEC. In this case, one suspects that the unvoiced concern over the emergence of the powerful EEC bloc has less to do with procedural consequences than with a dramatic shift of influence on trade questions within the OECD.

Of what importance to the average Canadian are these changes in an international organization based in Paris? Very little in and of themselves, one suspects. However, as indicators of a growing failure in international economic co-operation they are critical. On two subjects the international economists interviewed at the OECD were virtually unanimous. They predicted the beginning of a global recession

for the market-economy countries in 1979. For Canada, with a highly-penetrated economy and heavy dependence on foreign trade, the short-term prospects are, therefore, particularly bleak. Secondly, it was constantly reiterated that present problems within the OECD are in all probability only temporary phenomena. The prevailing opinion was that the atmosphere at the OECD would improve as soon as economic prosperity and stability returned. However, there is little cause for optimism in this assumption, for the same veteran observers of the world's economic stage expressed a firm belief that there was little prospect for sustained economic recovery so long as present national attitudes persisted. It is enough to make one ponder seriously the meanings of the word "temporary".

