

British visitors part of Commonwealth interchange scheme

A delegation of young executives from Britain completed a study tour of Canada on October 8 under the Commonwealth Interchange Study Group Operation, co-ordinated by the Department of External Affairs, provincial governments, the Royal Commonwealth Society and other interested bodies.

The four-week visit, which included the cities of Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, was one of an annual series of tours to all areas of the Commonwealth.

The aim of the scheme is to provide young men and women of ability and promise with the experience of a broad but intensive study of the important characteristics – economic, political and social – of Canada and to encourage understanding and goodwill through personal contact.

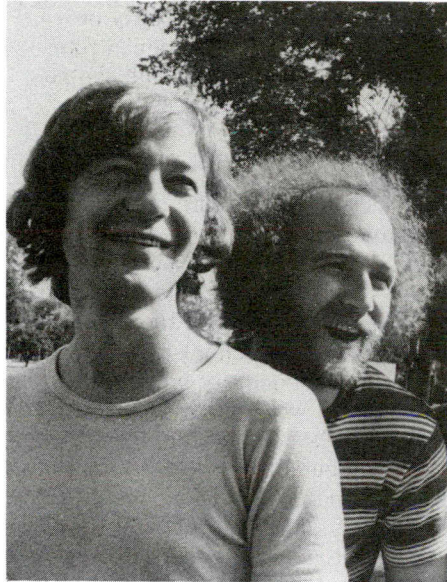
The participants were a cross-section of young executives – average age 28½ – in banking, business and the professions. They were all sponsored by their own organizations which also paid their expenses, except for a few bursaries for professional people. The diversity of the group gave them a unique opportunity to learn from each other as well as from the tour itself.

The program, which allowed the visitors to study industrial development, cultural background, agriculture, education and communications, included visits to factories, universities, forests and farms. They met a wide cross-section of Canadians and were accommodated in private homes as guests of families in each area.

Canadian singers tour Africa

Two popular Canadian singers, Gerry and Ziz, are on a four-week tour of Africa this month, visiting Algeria, Senegal and the Ivory Coast. The concerts, arranged by the Canadian embassies in these countries, began early in October, and will conclude with performances in Dakar and Abidjan, before the end of the month.

The French-Canadian musicians, Gerry Paquin and Gerard Jean (Ziz), who come from St. Boniface, Manitoba, have performed from the East to the West coasts of Canada during the three



Gerry (left) and Ziz.

years they have worked together. In 1973, they were winners in the National Song Festival held in Granby, Quebec; in 1974, they represented Manitoba at the "Superfrancofête" in Quebec City; and in 1974-75 they participated in the St. Boniface Festival du Voyageur and in Festival Canada (Ottawa).

Gerry and Ziz have toured extensively in the West, and under a grant from the Council of Ministers of Education, they have performed in universities throughout the Maritime provinces and Quebec.

Their television and radio work has been quite varied – children's programs, "talk shows", the broadcast of the Olympic Lottery draw, and also their own show. An album of their songs – *Finalement* – was released in April 1976, produced by the singers themselves and recorded in Winnipeg. Their songs have elements of classical, jazz, blues and rock-and-roll music with Gerry singing and playing the guitar and Ziz accompanying on keyboard instruments.

Prior to their African tour the duo appeared at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris.

Braille conference papers

If the agenda papers of some delegates to the Resources for Opportunity seminar sponsored by the Manitoba Federation of the Visually Handicapped seemed to be blank and full of holes, it's because they were. They are probably the first conference agenda papers

prepared in Braille in Canada for the visually handicapped.

The material for about 50 of the 150 delegates attending the seminar at the Hotel Fort Garry, September 28 and 29, was printed in Braille on a "thermo-forming" machine owned by the provincial Department of Education. The machine operates through heat, working on special paper on which the Braille text was typed on a Braille typewriter. Heat is concentrated on appropriate points on the machine and raises dots on the special paper, according to the text desired. Papers for another 100 delegates were prepared on typewriters with large type.

The aim of the seminar was to bring blind and visually handicapped persons together with government bodies and agencies, develop new opportunities for the visually handicapped and educate the staff of government and agencies to better understand their needs. The Manitoba Federation of the Visually Handicapped also wants to reach out to groups not ordinarily reached by organizations serving the blind – rural and northern residents, Indians and Métis.

Electroplating effluent purified

A grant from the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program has led to the development of an effluent-purification process which is economically advantageous to the electroplating industry and reduces environmental pollution.

In 1971, Eco-Tec Limited was set up as a partially-owned subsidiary of the Wix Corporation to develop an invention arising from work that had been carried out at the University of Toronto. The novel ion-exchange system for purification of waste liquors from electroplating baths depends on a short-cycle reciprocating arrangement which provides not only automatic regeneration but also great economy in size of unit required for a specific operation. The concentration of toxic elements in waste liquor is reduced to acceptable limits and the recovered metals are recycled into the electroplating baths.

It is estimated that sales value of these units for the recovery of chromium and nickel will reach several million dollars within the next few years, including exports.