

sought. Most of the group members indicated a belief that serious wage restraint, cuts, or similar sacrifices work only when the alternative to the workers in question is unemployment. A number of participants in all three cities said they were aware of recent examples of this type of occurrence.

Otherwise, they argued, people would tend to be cynical about whether sacrifices were being equally shared by "everyone" (mentioned in particular were the public sector and politicians), a cynicism which they felt would frustrate efforts to generate a national will. That said, however, most seemed to feel that responsibility for drawing attention to the need for improvements in productivity and the lead role in organizing them resides with governments in general and the federal government in particular. One Montreal participant suggested that the finance minister should appear on television with charts outlining both our current situation and goals for the future, in order to build support for whatever steps are necessary.

While everybody nodded in unison when it was suggested (by the moderator) that the government could do little in terms of new programming because of a scarcity of funds, the size of the federal deficit was not something volunteered as a constraint facing the country. Where research and development funding was concerned most offered the (traditional) response that government had to provide incentives to industry without immediately considering the costs to the federal treasury of that type of assistance.

A. Canada's Economic Influence

Most people seemed to have considerable difficulty in assessing Canada's economic influence in the rest of the world. There was some consensus that our performance