

UNESCO, who will give the keynote address; John Tooley, general administrator of the Royal Opera House, London; Jean Salusse, chairman of the board of the Paris Opera; Sven-Gunnar Tillius of the Royal Swedish Opera; John Mazzola, general manager of New York's Lincoln Centre; Humphrey Burton, head of music and arts for British Broadcasting Corporation TV; John Goberman, the Lincoln Centre's director of media development, and Lou Applebaum, executive director of the Ontario Arts Council.

No increase in foreign farm workers

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however, that the aim of the program is, and always has been, to provide workers during peak harvest periods — when Canadians were not available — as a supplementary labour force rather than an alternative work force.

“With an over-all unemployment rate of 7.9 per cent, and nearly double that amount for youth,” the Minister said, “it is our duty to ensure that Canadians have the first opportunity for jobs. On the other hand, the agricultural industry, too, has a responsibility to provide incentives which will attract and retain Canadians in these jobs. Employers applying for foreign workers under the programs will be required to show what efforts they are making to attract members of our own labour force — particularly young workers who so badly need employment during the summer months.”

Last year, the Caribbean and Mexican Seasonal Workers Programs permitted 5,430 persons — representing a decrease from the 1975 total of 5,966 — to enter Canada to satisfy agricultural worker demands in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta. The program has been in effect since 1966, when it was implemented to help overcome shortages of Canadian workers during peak periods.

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Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.

News briefs

- The budget for the province of Ontario announced on April 19, which calls for total expenditures of \$13.698 billion and a deficit of \$1.077 billion, will increase capital expenditures by \$75 million to generate 3,400 construction jobs. The province will also spend \$68 million to stimulate youth employment. Tax on cigarettes increased immediately by five cents. Cigar and cut-tobacco taxes were doubled. Vehicle registration fees in southern Ontario will be raised to \$30 for four-cylinder cars, \$45 for six-cylinder cars and \$60 for eight-cylinder cars. Northern Ontario vehicle and motorcycle registration will be reduced to \$10. The provincial government also eliminated sales tax on thermal-insulation materials and on other energy-conserving devices.

- Canada and Poland have a new three-year agreement doubling shipments of Canadian grain, beginning January 1 this year. Trade Minister Chrétien and Polish Trade and Maritime Economy Minister Olszewski signed the agreement on April 19, which covers bread wheat, durum wheat, barley and oats.

- The banking business is growing faster in Saskatchewan than in any other part of Canada, according to J.B. Rogan, chairman of the Saskatchewan committee of the CBA. Outstanding bank loans to provincial farmers now total almost \$650 million, up \$140 million or 27 per cent on a year-to-year basis, compared with less than 23 per cent nationally.

- The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce has agreed to acquire a 40 per cent interest in Martin Group Limited, an Australian merchant bank, for an undisclosed price.

- Jack Horner announced his decision on April 20 to abandon the Progressive Conservative Party for Prime Minister Trudeau's Liberals, saying he hoped to help western Canadians more effectively as a member of the Government. Horner will be the lone Liberal MP from Alberta. He was sworn in on April 20 as Minister without Portfolio.

- Air Canada reported its third consecutive annual financial loss in 1976, Air Canada president Claude Taylor said on April 20. The airline lost \$10.4 million last year, down from \$13

million in 1975 but would have made a profit had it not been for the battle over the use of French in Quebec airspace, said Mr. Taylor.

- Buyers or borrowers of guns would require a firearms requisition certificate under a bill introduced in the Commons, April 20, by Justice Minister Basford. Under the proposed legislation, police could seize guns without warrant where family quarrels or disputes among friends threatened to get out of hand. A pattern of sexual or violent offences would put a person in prison for life as a dangerous offender.

- The National Energy Board announced on April 13 that it would hold a public hearing, starting May 31 in Ottawa, on an application by Trans-Canada PipeLines Limited for a certificate to build additional facilities during 1977. The facilities would consist of 39.2 miles of 42-inch pipeline loops in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, built in three sections. Construction costs would be about \$20 million. The program would complete the third loop of the pipeline system between the Alberta-Saskatchewan border and Winnipeg.

- The Commons voted general approval on April 21 of the Government's budget, clearing the way for work on legislation implementing tax and spending measures announced on March 31.

- The billions of dollars Canada spends on foreign aid is important for the preservation of international peace and security, Michel Dupuy, the new president of the Canadian International Development Agency says. Foreign spending, at a rate of \$1 billion a year in Canada at present, was part of Canada's over-all external affairs policy, said Mr. Dupuy. Canadian industries are not getting business commensurate with the more than \$250 million spent in aid to the UN and other multinational agencies.

- At April 27 (press time), Boston was leading 2-0 over Philadelphia, and Montreal 2-0 over the New York Islanders in the best-of-seven-game semi-finals of the National Hockey League championships.