



IN CANADA it has always been a challenge to get there from here. Once it was technological; how do you lay a railway over the Rockies? Now it is primarily economic. Last January, Transport Minister Marchand speaking in the House of Commons gave a memorable description of the difficulties.

"This is a very complicated matter. We are working with the provinces. I met with the western Ministers. I met with the Ontario Minister; I met with the Québec Minister. I met with the Atlantic Ministers to discuss these matters. I hope we are going to find the solution. . . .

An Honourable Member: "It is a mess."

Mr. Marchand: "Yes, of course it is. It still is, and more than you think."

That was last January. In June, Mr. Marchand offered the House a new set of transportation guidelines which called for the government to take a "more active role" in shaping the nation's transportation system.

In Canada, government involvement in transportation is both natural and traditional — it is needed to balance two forces which tend to keep people apart. Space is the first

— the citizens of Vancouver, Inuvik and Montréal are separated by ranges of mountains, endless wheat fields and vast stretches of ice, rock, water and muskeg. Weather is the second.

The laissez-faire techniques that built railways, airways and highways in the United States did not work as well in Canada. In the beginning, the colonials in both cases were huddled on the eastern edge of a rich and difficult continent, but these difficulties were greater in the north than in the south. In Canada there was and there would always be a wider and greater dependence on transportation — population centres would be slower to form, fewer in number and farther apart.

In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we look at some of the difficulties and triumphs of transportation in Canada, at the efforts of some of the movers and shakers and at the government's latest guidelines. This issue of the magazine should be opened with some care. It is not in the form of a book but in the form of a poster, one side of which is a map showing some varied ways in which Canadians may move from where they are to where they wish to be.