

Francophone scientific conference

Mr. Jean-Guy Sylvestre, Canada's National Librarian, led the Canadian delegation to the Conference of Government Officials of Francophone Countries Responsible for Scientific and Technical Documentation Policy in Paris at the end of February. Mr. Marcel Risi, Director of the Technological Information Analysis Section at the Quebec Industrial Research Centre represented the Province of Quebec within the Canadian delegation.

At this conference, which was organized by the Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique, government officials responsible for scientific and technical documentation policy put forward views and suggestions for a program that will be considered by member countries at the general conference of the Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique, scheduled to take place in Brussels in October.

Retail prices and living costs

According to Statistics Canada, the price of food in 1972 was responsible for 45 per cent of the advance in the total consumer price index in Canada. In the last six months of the year this figure rose to 55 per cent. Price rises for meats, fresh produce and eggs were particularly steep. The 1971 and 1972 increases in food prices contrast markedly with the declines that occurred in the latter part of 1970 (the "super-market price war" period), and with the long-range similarity of increases in prices of food and prices of other items - since 1961 food prices rose 47.1 per cent, non-food prices 41.7 per cent; since 1967 the advances have been 25.8 per cent and 25.0 per cent.

It is possible, says Statistics Canada, to relate movements of the "food-

at-home" component of the consumer price index, the selling prices of food manufacturers, and the index of farm prices of agricultural products, although they are not strictly comparable. From 1961 to 1969 the annual movements of retail food prices corresponded broadly to those of food prices at the manufacturers level, but less closely to those at the farm level, partly because of depressed grain prices in the last half of the period. In 1970, retail food prices declined in the second half of the year, manufacturers food prices were relatively unchanged, and there were sharp declines in farm livestock prices. Since 1970, advances of retail food prices were somewhat stronger than those of manufacturers food prices, but farm food prices remained relatively stable until mid-1971, when they started to move up sharply.

Most industrialized countries have had rising consumer prices over the past several years and, since 1967, Canada has faced somewhat less price-advance than most countries, both with respect to foodstuffs and non-food items. Even last year, the all-items consumer price index rose less rapidly in Canada than in other countries, with the notable exception of the United States and Japan. However, with food prices generally advancing faster than those of non-food items (both in Canada and abroad) last year the rate of increase in Canada's consumer food price index accelerated to the 7-10 per cent rate experienced in many other countries.

The all-items consumer price index movements were very similar through the 1960s to the comparable U.S. figure, until the beginning of 1969, when U.S. prices rose more rapidly until mid-1971; since then Canadian prices have risen more sharply. Food price movements were similar in the two countries from 1967 to 1969. Then Canadian food prices declined in the second half of 1970, subsequently rising sharply in the first eight months of 1971, back to the level of the U.S. food index, which had been climbing more steadily during this period. From August 1971 to June 1972, food prices increased at a slightly slower rate in Canada and the U.S. but since then Canadian food prices have been advancing much more sharply than those in the United States.

Bolivia buys trainer planes

Northwest Industries Limited of Edmonton has received a contract from the Government of Bolivia, valued at more than \$4 million, to provide 13 reconditioned T-33 jet trainer aircraft to the Bolivian air force. The contract price includes spares and technical support for the single-engine jet trainers.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of CAE Industries Ltd., Montreal, Northwest Industries has been maintaining and overhauling T-33 trainers for many years.

Hockey standings, March 8

National Hockey League

| East | Games played | Points |
|--------------|--------------|--------|
| Montreal | 67 | 104 |
| NY Rangers | 66 | 91 |
| Boston | 65 | 87 |
| Buffalo | 66 | 77 |
| Detroit | 65 | 75 |
| Toronto | 64 | 51 |
| Vancouver | 67 | 42 |
| NY Islanders | 68 | 23 |
| West | | |
| Chicago | 66 | 80 |
| Philadelphia | 67 | 72 |
| Minnesota | 65 | 70 |
| St. Louis | 65 | 64 |
| Los Angeles | 67 | 62 |
| Pittsburgh | 66 | 61 |
| Atlanta | 66 | 61 |
| California | 66 | 41 |

World Hockey Association

| East | Games played | Points |
|--------------|--------------|--------|
| Cleveland | 65 | 76 |
| New England | 64 | 74 |
| Philadelphia | 65 | 60 |
| New York | 67 | 60 |
| Ottawa | 68 | 60 |
| Quebec | 65 | 59 |
| West | | |
| Winnipeg | 67 | 83 |
| Houston | 65 | 70 |
| Minnesota | 66 | 69 |
| Los Angeles | 67 | 67 |
| Alberta | 64 | 58 |
| Chicago | 65 | 52 |

Note: Next standings will be published on March 28.

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