

First Ministers' Conference

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migration had begun improving federal-provincial collaboration on the problem of youth employment, and on job creation.

In addition, the Prime Minister suggested that:

- the First Ministers maintain as the framework for their discussions on national economic matters, the development of a medium-term economic strategy;
- a federal-provincial conference of Finance Ministers be held in late spring to reassess the short-term economic situation;
- the search continue for ways to improve follow-up to the Conference.

News briefs

Princess Margriet of the Netherlands and her husband, Pieter van Vollenhoven, will visit Canada from June 7 to 18. The visit will begin by an official stay in Princess Margriet's birthplace, Ottawa. On June 10, the visitors will be guests of honour at the twenty-seventh Dominion Convention of the Royal Canadian Legion in Edmonton, Alberta. The Legion is an honorary godfather of their son, Prince Floris of Orange Nassau. The princess and her husband will also be received by Ralph Steinhauer, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta and Mrs. Steinhauer. After a short stay in Jasper, Alberta, the visitors will tour the North as guests of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Montreal Canadiens won the Stanley Cup for the third consecutive year on

May 25, after beating Boston Bruins 4-1 at Boston in the sixth game of the National Hockey League's seven-game final. Montreal took the first two games 4-1 and 3-2; Boston took the third and fourth games 4-0 and 4-3; and Montreal won the fifth and sixth games 4-1 and 4-1. Larry Robinson of Montreal won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the most valuable player of the series.

Winnipeg Jets have defeated New England Whalers in four straight games to win the World Hockey Association's championship and the Avco Cup. In the first game (May 12), the score was 4-1; in the second (May 16), it was 5-2; in the third (May 19), it was 10-2; and in the last game (May 22), the score was 5-3. Winnipeg Jets last won the Avco Cup in 1976, when they beat Houston Aeros in four straight games.

Chinese Canadians are celebrating this year the one-hundred-and-twentieth anniversary of the arrival of Chang Tsoo, the first immigrant from China, in June 1858, in Victoria, British Columbia. Many Chinese had been in the country before that but only on limited work permits. Chang Tsoo was the first to settle in Canada.

Sales of North American-built cars in April increased 7.1 per cent over those in the same month last year, according to figures released by automobile manufacturers. New car sales totalled 84,255 units, compared with 78,672 in April last year. Truck sales showed an even greater increase, up 17.6 per cent to 33,024 units from 28,092 last April. The combined car and truck sales for the month totalled 117,279 units, an increase of 9.8 per cent from 106,764.

Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Jack Horner has instructed the footwear quota review committee "to be more flexible with applications for imports of specific types of footwear". The committee issues permits for imported footwear, with the exception of canvas footwear, which is not under a quota. It will take a more flexible approach to articles such as English riding boots, cycling and orthopaedic footwear, and athletic shoes with spikes or studs, because production of those items is very limited in Canada.

The Federal Government has ended the year-old freeze on uranium exploration in the Baker Lake area of the Northwest Territories, subject to new environment controls.

Professor Robin A. Fisher of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia has won this year's \$5,000 Sir John A. Macdonald prize for Canadian history. His book, *Contact and Conflict: Indian-European Relations in British Columbia 1774-1890*, about the effect of settlements on the fur-trading alliance between Indians and European trappers, was judged to have made the greatest contribution in 1977 towards an understanding of Canada's past.

The consumer price index has been driven up during the past year mainly by food prices, which have risen an average of 14.7 per cent. All other items, excluding food, have shown a moderate 6.1 per cent increase in the year up to April, according to Statistics Canada. Food for home consumption rose 16.9 per cent while restaurant meals climbed 4.3 per cent.

The Federal Government has proposed giving assistance totalling \$116 million to two auto makers as an incentive for them to locate auto parts plants in Canada. Of the total, \$86 million would be for General Motors of Canada Ltd., Oshawa, Ontario, to build an aluminum die-casting plant in Quebec, with the Quebec Government contributing 25 per cent of the amount. The second proposal is for \$30 million to Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd., Oakville, Ontario, for the expansion of its present engine plant in Windsor, Ontario, or the construction of a new engine plant in the Windsor area. The Ontario government has been asked to contribute 25 per cent of the total.

A baby who weighed 0.8 kg at birth, three months premature, has just celebrated his first birthday. According to doctors, Jeremy John Plows, first child for Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Plows, of Burlington, Ontario, had only a 5 per cent chance of survival when he was first placed in an incubator at the medical centre of Hamilton's McMaster University. Jeremy, who now weighs 6.9 kg and has his first teeth, should have overcome his tendency to grow slowly by the time he is five.

We reported recently on a woman who was said to be threatening to sue Xerox because she and her husband kept having twins. To date, the copier company has not been approached by her counsel. The case, if concluded successfully, could establish a precedent. Already, a major coffee company is threatened with having supplied grounds for divorce.

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