

## Arctic islands (Continued from P. 2)

alike. Do we not share an awe for this imposing land and for the legends of its discovery? As we look for the future, do we not all embrace the North and its promise?

Blair Fraser, whose heart was with the North, once described it as "too barren ever to be thickly settled, too bleak to be popular". Then he prophesied: "there is no reason to doubt that it will always be there, and so long as it is there, Canada will not die".

Our challenge will be to awaken to our northernness and to employ it in wise, even-handed and innovative ways. The scientific-technological, socio-political and environmental imperatives of the North present us with complexities.

...It is for us to acknowledge that we all share a stake in the future of the North and that stake is really in ourselves.

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## News briefs

**Former federal New Democratic Party** leaders Tommy Douglas and David Lewis recently became the first winners of the new Canadian Labour Congress Award for Outstanding Service to Humanity. The award will be periodically awarded to "a person or persons deserving recognition for outstanding service to mankind", regardless of their field of endeavour, nationality or walk of life. It is a 15-inch bronze sculpture, representing two giant hands cradling a group of people.

**The Ontario government** has announced details of a plan to help Canadians buy back foreign branch plants in Ontario. Under the plan, Canadian buyers will be eligible for up to \$500,000 in direct loans and \$1 million in loan guarantees. Aid

will go only to Canadian-owned or -controlled companies and Canadian investment groups or employee-management groups. Buyers must be prepared to invest personally more than 10 per cent of the purchase price. The program budgeted at about \$10 million a year, will give high priority to employee and management groups wanting to buy branch plants.

**During the first quarter of 1980**, entries into Canada by residents of the United States and other countries increased by one-third over the same period in 1979. The dramatic growth in visitors from the U.S. was led by Americans attracted by the gasoline price differential between Canada and the U.S. Visitors from countries other than the U.S. continued to increase, following a trend begun in the latter half of the last decade. Changes in international travel flows of Canadian residents were much more moderate in the first quarter of 1980: visits to the U.S. increased marginally while visits to other countries decreased slightly. Preliminary statistics for March show that 2.1 million U.S. residents entered Canada, up 26.9 per cent from March 1979. Visitors from countries other than the U.S. increased by 20 per cent to 74,000.

**Minister of National Defence Gilles Lamontagne** and the Minister of Supply and Services Jean-Jacques Blais have announced that Bombardier Limited will be asked to submit proposals for the manufacture of up to 2,800 trucks for the Canadian Armed Forces. The 2.5-ton trucks are destined to replace the Canadian Forces fleet which has been in use since 1952. They will fill a logistic support role for the field forces. The vehicle was selected as a result of evaluations which have been under way at National Defence and Supply and Services since 1977.

**The federal Export Development Corporation** has extended a one-year line of credit totalling \$5 million (U.S.) to Bank Leumi BM of Israel to assist Canadian exporters competing for sales in Israel by providing the Israeli buyer with simple and easily accessible credit through the buyer's own bank.

**Seagram Company Limited** of Montreal expects to close the sale of the U.S. properties of its subsidiary Texas Pacific Oil Company to Sun Company Incorporated of Radnor, Pennsylvania, for \$2.3 billion (U.S.) some time between August 29 and November 30. Seagram chairman Edgar Bronfman said that Texas Pacific proper-

ties outside the United States, including Canada, the North Sea, Spain and Thailand are being retained, probably under the Texas Pacific name.

**The Royal Bank** has formed a new division to expand its capability to finance world trade and provide more assistance to Canadian exporters. The bank says the World Trade and Merchant Banking Group will be based in Toronto under Executive Vice-President Geoffrey Styles. Considered a significant growth area for banking in the 1980s, total volume of world trade is estimated to be about \$1 trillion a year and growing by as much as 20 per cent annually. Mr. Styles says that the division will coordinate the bank's world-wide efforts to improve financing packages and enhance credit opportunities, create specialized services for trading companies, expand the bank's store of trade - related information and identify market opportunities for exporters.

**CAE Industries Limited** of Toronto says its subsidiary CAE Electronics Ltd. has received a \$22-million contract for two flight simulators to be used to train Italian air force pilots. The simulators are being procured by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on behalf of the Italian Ministry of Defence through the Canadian Commercial Corporation. Delivery will run through 1982.

**The Alberta cabinet** now has the power to restrict production of oil from Crown leases, the source of about 85 per cent of Alberta's conventional crude production, for reasons of "public interest". The power is contained in Bill 50, an amendment to the province's Mines and Minerals Act given third reading just before the Legislature recessed for the summer. The bill allows the Alberta cabinet to set maximum production levels any time it deems it in the public interest to do so, and it does not define public interest.

**The British Columbia government** has followed the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario in setting up a multicultural agency. The multicultural secretariat is being created as an arm of the provincial secretary's department to look after the interests of ethnic organizations and provide financial assistance for special programs. The secretariat will become the focal point for multicultural and ethnocultural groups seeking information on what government programs are available to assist them.

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