

News briefs

Former Governor-General Jules Léger has been made a member of the Privy Council, the group that includes all current and former Cabinet ministers, provincial premiers, prime ministers and a few distinguished civilians. Membership is for life. Although described as "a council to aid and advise in the Government of Canada", the council that actually advises the Queen — through the Governor-General, her representative in Canada — is the committee of the Privy Council, the Cabinet of the day.

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce has become the first major Canadian bank in recent times to show a tax credit. In the three months ended April 30, 1979 the bank had a tax credit of \$1.5 million. The balance of revenue after that credit was \$40.9 million or \$1.05 *per share*. It has been widely expected that the bank would show a very low tax rate in the second quarter, yet most analysts discounted the possibility of a tax credit.

The 1979-80 Alberta budget introduced on June 8 forecasts a \$2-billion surplus in general revenues, in addition to a deposit of \$1.2 billion to the Heritage Savings Fund. More than \$1 billion is being given to municipalities in a once-only grant to reduce local debts or to ease ratepayers' tax burdens. Highlights include tax breaks for low-income earners and small business.

The index of leading indicators for Canada, Japan, West Germany, France, Italy and Britain rose about 8 per cent in the past year, compared with a 1 per cent rise in leading U.S. indicators, says a report by the Conference Board in Canada. The *Montreal Gazette* reported that, "the tables are turned, and a developing upswing abroad is helping to offset weaknesses in the U.S. economy".

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Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

Canada and Japan had 10-point increases in the indexes.

Philippe Cantave, a veteran diplomat and former dean of Ottawa's diplomatic corps, died recently in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, following a brief illness. Mr. Cantave was Haiti's ambassador to Canada for 12 years, half of them as dean. During his stay in Canada, he travelled extensively and had close relations with two Governors General, Jules Léger and Roland Michener. Prior to his Ottawa assignment, Mr. Cantave served for a period as Haiti's consul general in Montreal.

Nearly two million visitors from the United States entered Canada this April, up 2.3 per cent from a year earlier, according to Statistics Canada. Canadian residents visiting the U.S. totalled three million, an increase of 0.8 per cent from April 1978. Visitors from other countries (excluding the U.S.) numbered 106,900, up 36.9 per cent from the same period in 1978. Canadian travellers returning from other countries decreased by 9.7 per cent to 152,300. However, Statistics Canada noted that Easter this year was celebrated in April while the holiday took place in March in 1978.

Japan was again Canada's largest agricultural market in 1978 according to Agriculture Canada. Last year Canada exported \$833-million worth of agricultural products to Japan, up from the \$757 million recorded in 1977. Rapeseed oil and meal were again big sellers last year, valued at nearly \$249 million. Soybean exports nearly tripled in value in 1978 over levels a year earlier.

A freeze on Canadian public service hiring, effective from June 8 to August 15, has been introduced by Treasury Board President Sinclair Stevens. Exceptions are being made for essential services, military personnel, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and students with summer jobs. Government departments have also been instructed to defer discretionary spending and make no new commitments unless necessary.

A \$276,000 two-year research program at the University of Calgary will be the first project resulting from a technology-exchange agreement between the governments of Alberta and Venezuela. Petro-Canada will also participate in the project, which will study gases released when steam is injected into oil sands and heavy oil.

When Louis Tekaronhiake Montour received his Doctor of Surgery (MDCM)

degree from McGill's Faculty of Medicine in Montreal recently he became the first full-blooded North American Indian to do so. Dean S.O. Freedman introduced Montour in both Mohawk and English.

The Federal Government has committed \$9 million over four years to a government/industry effort to develop further Telidon, the Canadian interactive television system developed at the Communications Research Centre. The federal contribution, planned to end after four years, is designed to help industry close the development gap with European videotex systems.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) recently concluded two financing arrangements totalling approximately \$11 million (U.S.) to support sales of Canadian goods and services to the United States and Mexico. The sales include a "jack-up" rig for use in oil and natural gas exploration drilling, primarily in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and stock preparation units for a folding box board paper mill in Mexico. The EDC said the sales would generate more than 1,000 man-years of employment to suppliers located primarily in Quebec.

The Speech from the Throne opening British Columbia's thirty-second legislature on June 6 includes: a job creation program; the creation of a new energy policy; provision of a dental care program; expansion of the food processing industry and the development of new crops and food products.

Canadians spent an average of 13.04 per cent of their disposable (after-tax) income on food consumed in the home, and an additional 4.2 per cent for food consumed outside the home during 1977. Americans spent slightly less of their disposable income on food; the corresponding figures are 12.5 per cent and 4.1 per cent.

Kinker, a Siamese cat that accidentally travelled 4,000 kilometres from Tucson, Arizona, to Ottawa for eight days in a moving van, went home by air recently. After searching every animal shelter in Tucson, Kinker's owners concluded that the cat must have been on a van that was moving their neighbours' possessions. A week passed before the van's driver was notified in Indianapolis, Indiana, that there might be a stowaway on board. He checked the van and could not find the cat, but left food and water just in case. When the van was unloaded the next day in Canada, Kinker was found.