

REF

Canada Weekly

Volume 6, No. 14

April 5, 1978



- Mr. Trudeau confident of brighter economic future, 1
- Guinean delegation in Canada, 3
- Ontario updates its family law, 3
- Canada-Hungary sport exchanges, 3
- Research Council monitors metres for millions, 3
- Cranberry Swamp yields relic, 4
- Gross national product, 1977, 5
- Contribution to world labour body, 5
- When it's "Toonik Tyme" up North, 5
- Maple syrup production improves, 6
- Forest waste converted to energy, 6
- News of the arts — literature, film, obituary, citizenship rules, arts briefs, 7
- News briefs, 8

Mr. Trudeau confident of brighter economic future

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, in a speech to the Economic Club of New York on March 22, emphasized the positive aspects of Canada's past economic performance and was optimistic that present problems would be overcome.

Mr. Trudeau assured his audience of some 2,000 leading United States businessmen and investors that Quebecers would not vote for separatism in a referendum. "I am confident that the people of Quebec, when the choice is fairly put, will reject an ethnocentric nationalism in favour of a renewed and more productive relationship with their fellow Canadians," he declared.

The Prime Minister outlined the fundamental issues involved in economic recovery: "first, the energy problem...second, the deeply embedded question of 'stagflation', that deadly intermingling of slow growth and inflation; third, the trade and currency difficulties troubling the industrial world; fourth the aspirations of the Third World; and fifth within our own societies, the issues which surround our effort to combine economic efficiency with a higher quality of life".

Passages from the first part of Mr. Trudeau's address follow:

* * * *

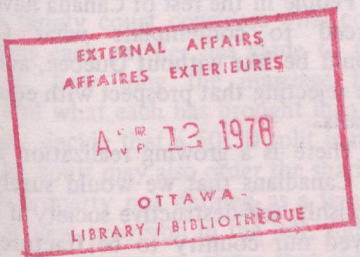
We have in Canada a linguistic duality and a cultural diversity that are, at once, a tremendous strength — a statement of our individuality — and a source of creative tension, driving us to search for new ways in which our national character can find expression. I know that the Premier of Quebec spoke to you a little over a year ago and referred to the independence of Quebec as a matter of "natural evolution". Frankly, if the history of Canada had been one of natural evolution, I would probably be here tonight, if at all, as a governor of one of your states. No, our history has been and will continue to be a testimonial to the collective determination of all its peoples to compromise, to accommodate, to succeed and prosper together. All in all, it is an impressive history.

* * * *

...From 1964-75 the pace of job creation in Canada exceeded that of all industrialized countries, and our rate of economic growth was exceeded only by Japan. Between 1967 and 1976, Canadian gross national product in constant dollars grew by 53 per cent while, by contrast, U.S. GNP grew by 26 per cent. Real disposable

income in Canada rose by 73 per cent; in the United States, it rose by 33 per cent. Despite this very strong growth in Canada, the rate of increase of the consumer price index was close to the same in both countries over this period (72 per cent in Canada, 70.5 per cent in the U.S.). We have become, in short, a major industrialized country with a standard of living that rivals your own, and a population that is one of the best-housed and best-educated in the world.

In the period from 1967-75, eight years only, Canadian productivity in our goods-producing industries increased from 65 per cent to 85 per cent of American productivity levels. For durable goods, the productivity gap, over the same period, narrowed significantly from 30 per cent to only 2 per cent. But the important gap that remains in our relative rates of productivity, and our reaction to the energy crisis are critical elements in the understanding of our more recent performance. A determination to preserve both regional diversity and regional equity has been central to our vision of a national community. So when the OPEC shock reverberated around the world, we found ourselves not only less vulnerable



Pierre Elliott Trudeau was elected leader of the Liberal Party on April 6, 1968, and became Prime Minister on April 20.

Apr. 5/78