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Canada and the Conference on International Economic Co-operation

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, has attended as co-chairman two meetings of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation with co-chairman Dr. Manuel Perez Guerrero, Venezuela's Minister of State for International Affairs.

In a statement to the House of Commons on February 5, Mr. MacEachen outlined as follows the origins of the Conference, its aims and the progress made in initiating discussions among the industrialized and developing countries:

* * * *

The Conference on International Economic Co-operation is a new venture in international diplomacy bringing together 27 participants — 19 developing countries and eight developed members, including the European Community. Seven of the developing countries are members of OPEC, whereas 12 are oil-importing countries. The membership of the Conference has been selected to be broadly representative of the interests of the world community as a whole, with the exception of Eastern Europe and China, which are not participating.

The use of co-chairmen from the two groups to head the Conference and the Commissions is a new technique in conferences of this kind. Limited but representative membership may ensure that any consensus reached at the Conference is broadly acceptable to the international community. It may also make it possible to replace the highly politicized and often sterile debate on international economic problems by a pragmatic and systematic approach to complex questions which cannot be resolved by rhetoric. Limited membership may also be conducive to better understanding and hence to a more earnest and direct attack on specific issues.

How CIEC evolved

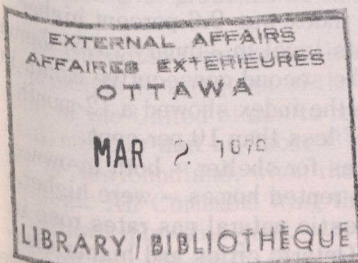
The origins of this Conference are diverse and are reflected in its character. What began as a reaction to the quadrupling of petroleum prices in late 1973 has evolved over the past two years into a Conference designed to examine many of the world's major economic problems, in addition to those associated with energy. The Conference will undoubtedly address the various demands for changes in the

world's economic system which have been put forward by developing countries in the United Nations. Since the first impact of the oil price rise, Canada has been a consistent advocate of such a consumer/producer dialogue and has in particular advocated including the "innocent victims" — the most seriously affected developing countries — in the dialogue. I am therefore particularly gratified that the Conference can truthfully be described as a dialogue between developed and developing countries, between producers and consumers of petroleum, and between producers and consumers of other raw materials.

During the coming year, the Conference will attempt to reach agreement by consensus on a variety of important issues in the fields of energy, raw materials, development and finance. It is my hope that in the process it will make a positive contribution to a new era of international economic co-operation by fostering better understanding and by stimulating on-going work in other bodies such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Guidelines for Commissions

The Ministerial Meeting in December which President Giscard d'Estaing opened and which Dr. Perez Guerrero and I chaired, brought together Ministers from the 27 members of the Conference. We agreed on the creation of four Commissions (for energy, raw materials, development, and financial affairs). Each consists of 15 members,



five representing developed, and ten representing developing members. We agreed on the co-chairmen for each of the four Commissions and approved general guidelines regarding the work of the Conference.

At a follow-up meeting last week, Dr. Perez Guerrero and I, as Conference co-chairmen, together with the eight co-chairmen of the four Commissions, reviewed preparations for the work of the Commissions. We agreed that each of the Commissions should meet five times between now and July and we made a number of recommendations with respect to the duration of meetings, participation by observers, and other procedures. While the initial meetings of the Commission will probably deal with organizational and procedural matters, I believe they will quickly move on to substantive questions. A meeting of senior officials from the 27 members may review the progress of the Commissions in about five months' time – probably in June. It is expected that a Ministerial Meeting will be held next December to conclude the work of the Commissions.

Reason for two chairmen

The two co-chairmen of the Conference have a particularly sensitive role to play. Although all participants in the Conference on International Economic Co-operation are prepared to approach issues in a positive and co-operative manner, there is a broad range of differing national interests and philosophies among the developed, developing and OPEC members of the Conference. To a degree, it was this very diversity of interests and the consequent difficulty of providing leadership equally responsive to both the Group of Eight – the developed members – and the Group of Nineteen – the developing members – which led to the choice of two co-chairmen as a technique for organizing the Conference. This co-direction of the Conference is symbolic of the determination of the member countries to work together and to accept shared responsibility for the results. Just as Dr. Perez Guerrero and I have a certain responsibility for ensuring that the work of the Conference proceeds in an orderly and constructive manner so the co-chairmen of the Commissions have a responsibility for guiding the work of their Commissions

so that they achieve results which are broadly acceptable to the international community, including those countries which are not members of the Conference. I have, of course, been working very closely with Dr. Perez Guerrero to achieve that goal, and I am sure that the co-chairmen of the Commissions will also work as a team.

Work on Commissions

Canada is a member of two of the four Commissions: Energy and Development. The dialogue in the Energy Commission may eventually encompass such sensitive issues as oil prices, indexation and security of supply. We hope that it will lead to increased stability in the international oil market which would facilitate the orderly, planning and development of Canada's own energy needs. I also trust the dialogue will make a real contribution to solving the problems of the developing countries most seriously affected by the rise in oil and other prices.

I am particularly pleased that Canada will participate in the work of the Development Commission. As you know Canada has won considerable respect in the Third World for its stand on development questions. I can assure you Canada will continue this positive approach in the Development Commission which will probably consider a broad range of issues in such key areas as food and agricultural development, industrial and technological co-operation, trade liberalization, and official development assistance.

Canada is not a member of the Raw Materials and Finance Commissions. As they may deal with a number of vital issues such as the stabilization of commodity prices, the stabilization of earnings derived from commodity exports and international financial questions, we do have a substantial interest in their proceedings. We shall, therefore, be following the work of these Commissions closely through our observers in them. We expect to consult frequently and closely with our colleagues in the Conference who are participating in these Commissions.

I think that we have got off to a good start. Canada has been given an important part in shaping this new instrument of international co-operation. That may be a matter of satisfaction but it is also a challenge....

Emergency aid to Guatemala

The Canadian International Development Agency has purchased 40,000 blankets and some orthopedic equipment for shipment on its emergency airlift to Guatemala, the Agency announced February 10.

A spokesman for the Agency said that he expected all of the 100 tons of milk powder purchased under the \$500,000-emergency aid program to be delivered within a few days, to the stricken Latin American country.

A six-man Canadian team made up of representatives of CIDA and the Canadian Embassy in Guatemala were supervising the unloading of the food supplies and have organized a distribution system, the spokesman said.

The first flight in the airlift, a Transair aircraft provided free by the Winnipeg-based company, arrived in Guatemala on February 10 with 13 tons of milk powder.

Canada's \$500,000-pledge in emergency aid is made up of \$300,000 in food aid, \$100,000 for the Canadian Red Cross for delivery to the League of Red Cross Societies and \$100,000 for individual priority requirements as they are identified by the Canadian team in Guatemala.

Consumer prices

Higher rates for electricity and natural gas and increased costs for shelter helped push the consumer price index up sharply by six-tenths of one per cent during January, reports Statistics Canada.

The index was 9.6 percent higher than its level in January 1975; January was the second consecutive month in which the index showed a 12-month rise of less than 10 per cent.

Prices for shelter – both in owned and in rented homes – were higher.

Domestic natural gas rates rose in some Ontario cities and higher electricity rates also had an impact. Telephone service rates were up in central Canada.

Food prices, however, showed a continuing decline, mainly because of lower beef prices and bargains on poultry. Some dairy product prices moved down. But pork prices gained, as did prices for restaurant meals.

Olympic gold medallist

Kathy Kreiner, an 18-year-old skier from Timmins, Ontario, won Canada's gold medal at the twelfth Olympic Winter Games on Friday, February 13 — the luckiest day of her life. She won the women's giant slalom event — 1,225 metres — in one minute 29.13 seconds, just 12-100ths of a second ahead of Rosi Mittermaier of West Germany, who was rated favourite for the race. Third was Danièle Debernard of France, whose time was 1:29:25.

One other Canadian, Nancy Greene Raine, won the same event at Grenoble, France, in 1968.

"I attacked the course hard," said Miss Kreiner after the race, "but perhaps some of the other girls went at it too hard." Her only previous victory in a major race was at Pfronten, West Germany in 1974. She started to ski when she was three years old and entered competition at age seven. At 14 she competed in her first World Cup event and, at the Winter Games in Sapporo, Japan in 1972, she placed 14th in the slalom and 33rd in the downhill.

Kathy Kreiner's win was a surprise and was probably one of the major upsets of the Games. Canadian Alpine team manager Luc Dubois had been confident that she would do well but said that her victory was still a "major upset".

Speed skater Cathy Priestner of Calgary, Alberta, won a silver medal for



UPI photo

Canada's Kathy Kreiner (right) triumphant winner of the Olympic giant slalom event at Innsbruck, February 13, 12-100ths of a second ahead of Rosi Mittermaier (left) of West Germany.

Canada and figure skater Toller Cranston of Toronto, won a bronze.

Winning an Olympic gold medal has entitled Kathy Kreiner to membership into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. In a telegram to Miss Kreiner following her win, the chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hall of Fame, Harry Foster, said: "Your accomplishment sheds much lustre in your own name and that of Canada in the world of skiing. We honour you with instant membership into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame."

Continued U.S. presence at Goose Bay

The Canadian Government has agreed in principle to a request of the Government of the United States to retain a small military unit at Goose Bay, Labrador in Newfoundland, when the USAF Strategic Air Command Wing there is withdrawn later this year.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen stated on January 28 that this new USAF unit would maintain aircraft servicing and fuelling facilities for daily transit and support the activities of NATO and NORAD in times of emergency. The detailed arrangements to govern the presence of this unit will be set out in an agreement to be worked out by representa-

tives of interested agencies of the two governments.

The new unit at Goose Bay will probably consist of about ten USAF personnel and the major support requirements will be met by a civilian contractor. The contractor may employ from 50 to 100 Canadian civilians to perform such tasks as aircraft servicing, maintenance, refuelling-system maintenance and supply support.

Details of the contractual arrangements will be determined over the coming months. Other services required will be negotiated with Canadian Government departments at Goose Bay, i.e. the Ministry of Transport, the Department of Public Works and the Department of National Defence.

Toxic pollutants breakthrough

A new advance in the fight against a family of hazardous chemicals was announced this month by Environment Canada.

The discovery of a scientific technique for rendering polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) virtually harmless may also help answer environmental problems related to a whole range of other persistent toxic chemicals currently plaguing the industrialized world.

Dr. Dickson Liu, a research scientist at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in Burlington, Ontario, who was responsible for the discovery, says it involves a newly-developed strain of bacteria and a special technique for providing them with access to the hitherto almost indestructible compound.

These chemicals were, until recently, widely used as heat transfer fluids and in paints, inks and copying papers. These chlorinated organic substances, highly valued for their insulating qualities and their insolubility, have become a tremendous environmental liability, because they do not break down, even over many decades.

Also, new toxicological data evaluated by scientists at the Health and Welfare department indicate that these chemicals may be hazardous to health. The Health Protection Branch of Health and Welfare Canada, in consultation with the Fish Inspection Branch of Environment Canada, recently established a temporary guideline of two parts per million maximum for PCBs in the edible portion of fish.

Environment Canada states that the value of the discovery is likely to be in treatment of PCB-rich industrial wastes and in disposing of such things as transformers which contain the chemical. The new technique may not answer the problem of PCBs already in the environment nor be applicable to diffuse sources in which the pollutant has already been mixed with other effluents.

Technique

The oily PCB material is highly insoluble in water and thus its carbon content remained largely inaccessible as a food source for bacteria. Dr. Liu reasoned that the solution might be found through increasing the PCB-to-

water interface. Ultrasonic vibration was used to disperse the PCBs into very fine particles, and a common pulp-mill effluent was then added to maintain an emulsified suspension.

This technique provided the opportunity to introduce bacteria, obtained from sewage sludge, which might now feed on the dispersed PCBs. Initially, the bacteria suffered an extremely high mortality rate. Eventually, however, the process of adaptation began and a new strain emerged. So effective are they that even the highly chlorinated and until now, most stubborn members of the PCB family – such as Arochlor 1254 – are reduced in one week from concentrations of 300,000 parts *per* billion to 19.

While the new technique appears to have promising possibilities for waste treatment, it still needs to be adapted for practical application. A pilot plant is being planned for this purpose at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters.

Dr. Liu is also beginning experiments with the new bacteria on pesticides such as lindane and chlordane.

Mexican delegation to discuss CANDU

A delegation from Mexico is expected to visit Canada next month to discuss possible purchase of a CANDU nuclear reactor.

Mexico's Ambassador to Canada, Rafael Urdaneta, says that the group will confer with federal Cabinet Ministers and officials of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

January housing starts

Housing starts during January were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 280,000 for all areas, according to preliminary figures issued by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The final December rate was 329,500.

Actual starts in urban areas in January were 12,521 dwelling units, an increase of 76 per cent from the 7,133 recorded in January last year.

Starts of single detached dwellings during January totalled 4,755, compared to 2,925 in January 1975, an increase of 63 per cent. Starts of multiple dwellings were up 85 per cent to 7,766 from 4,208.

CIDA development loan signed in Indonesia

Canada has agreed to make \$25 million available through a development loan to finance future projects in Indonesia.

The loan agreement, part of a \$200-million financing pact announced last July during President Suharto's visit to Canada, was signed January 28 in Jakarta by Paul Gérin-Lajoie, president of the Canadian International Development Agency, and Ferdy Salim, acting director-general of Foreign Economic Relations of Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H. Adam Malik.

The \$25-million development loan at concessional terms will be provided

from CIDA funds and will be used for projects that will help Indonesia attain its development objectives. The balance of the \$200-million package outlined in last July's memorandum of understanding will come from the Export Development Corporation and commercial banks in Canada.

Mr. Gérin-Lajoie was in Indonesia to discuss development plans and visit projects that have been sponsored by Canada.

After leaving Indonesia, Mr. Gérin-Lajoie visited Canberra on February 2 and 3 to discuss international cooperation with Australian officials and academics. He also met with representatives of voluntary agencies.

Canadian copyright expert receives Egyptian award



Ambassador Ahmed Sabri Kamal of Egypt presents John V. Mills, General Manager, Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada with the Egyptian Science and Arts Award, First Degree, at the Egyptian Embassy in Ottawa last month. The award was for Mills' international contributions in the protection of copyrights, and in particular for the advice he gave Egyptian authorities at a conference of Arab and African nations on the subject held

in Cairo last May. President Anwar Sadat, whose picture is on the wall, signed the proclamation.

John Mills, Q.C., is perhaps Canada's leading authority on international copyright protection. A spokesman at the Egyptian Embassy says this is only the second time his government has made an award to a Canadian (the first was to General E.L.M. Burns) and the first time for this award, which is given for arts and sciences.

Gold of Ancient Colombia at the National Gallery

El Dorado: The Gold of Ancient Colombia, an exhibition of more than 200 Precolumbian gold objects from the Museo del Oro, Bogotá, Colombia, will be on view at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa until 29 February.

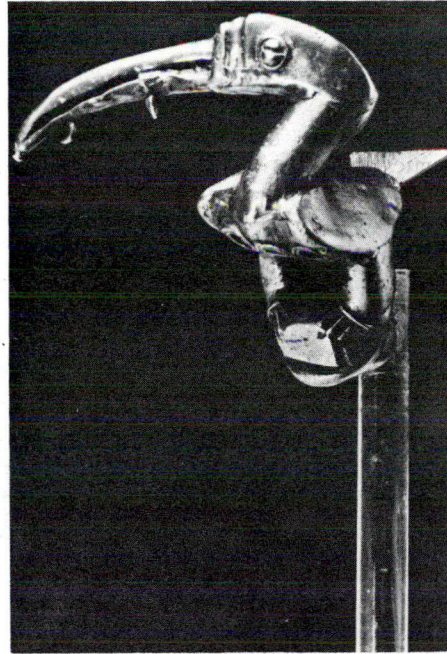
The art of gold craftsmanship in Colombia is believed to have originated about 800 B.C., flourishing over a period of almost 2,000 years prior to the Spanish conquest.

The exhibition includes objects from seven archaeological areas, each different in period and craftsmanship.

Objects from Calima are among the largest and perhaps the most remarkable pieces: they include funerary masks, large pectorals and raised faces with ornate dangles typical of the region. A rare selection of gold-working from the Narino area, discovered only five or six years ago, is composed of several plaques, a bell, a shell and a seated figure.

The exhibition also includes lime containers from Quimbaya; stylized pendants of Tolima with smooth, flat shapes and strong outlines, and small finely-detailed figures from Muisca, found in cache vessels as burial offerings.

The exhibition, which opened January 23, is co-sponsored by The American Federation of Arts and the Center for Inter-American Relations, New York, and has been travelling to major art galleries and museums in North America for two years; it is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (U.S.A.).



Piece entitled Finial Bird in ancient Columbian gold exhibition at National Gallery.

Northern Ontario pipeline safe

Allegations made by a former TransCanada PipeLines contractor over the past two years that a gas pipeline constructed in 1971-1972 may be unsafe have been carefully investigated by the National Energy Board, and found to be without foundation.

The statement was made on February 10 by National Energy Board chairman Marshall A. Crowe, who also rejected outright any claims that the Board's investigations had been superficial.

Mr. Crowe said that allegations that a portion of the TransCanada pipeline is unsafe because of defects in welding have been made by Tom Arnesen in letters addressed to the Board, as early as March 1974. The pipeline in question runs from Winnipeg to Toronto through northern Ontario, but until now Mr. Arnesen's evidence which he

claims to support his allegations, is only related to about 50 miles of 36-inch diameter pipe near Kapuskasing, Ontario.

"The National Energy Board repeatedly responded to Mr. Arnesen's allegations and after an exhaustive examination of the charges found nothing which would support the allegations that the pipeline is unsafe. On the contrary the Board firmly believes, on the basis of the knowledge it has, that the pipeline is safe," Mr. Crowe stated.

The statement was made because of further recent allegations made in public by Mr. Arnesen on the Canadian Television network.

"If Mr. Arnesen has any serious undisclosed evidence of a defect in the pipeline which he has failed to make known to the Board, he has acted in an irresponsible way and has an obligation to the Canadian people to provide

such evidence immediately," Mr. Crowe said.

Should Mr. Arnesen or any other member of the public have such evidence, the Board will immediately investigate and assess this evidence and hold a public inquiry if warranted, the chairman added.

One defect

The Board found one defect which is known as hollow bead. This defect is restricted to excess metal on the inside of the girth weld and does not affect the strength and the integrity of the pipeline.

The Board wrote to the president of CTV on 28 January, 1976 and subsequently to the manager of the Canadian Welding Bureau, TransCanada PipeLines and Mr. Arnesen asking that they provide any evidence in their possession which may have a bearing on the safety of the pipeline.

The chairman of the Board pointed out that all the welds in the pipeline were radiographed during construction and that the line was successfully tested for 24 hours at 125 percent of maximum operating pressure. These tests were filed with the Board as a basis for granting a leave-to-open order which authorizes the operation of the pipeline.

The operating experience of this line since the time of construction in 1972 has been good. If there had been unsafe welds, these would likely have resulted in pipeline failures or serious leaks, and so far none has been reported.

TRIUMF research centre opens

TRIUMF, the \$36-million nuclear research centre located at the southern end of the University of British Columbia campus, was officially dedicated on February 9, by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

TRIUMF, a joint project of UBC, the University of Alberta, the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University, will also be what is believed to be the world's most advanced radiation treatment centre for cancer. The first patients are expected to be treated there by early 1978.

Core of the TRIUMF project is a par-

ticle accelerator called a cyclotron — the largest and most complex cyclotron ever built. Among other things, the cyclotron produces mesons, in an intensity one thousand times greater than has ever been done before.

Thus, the project is called a meson factory, or facility — one of three such facilities in the world. TRIUMF, in fact, stands for Tri-University Meson Facility, there originally being only three universities involved.

Mesons are responsible for the enormous forces that bind atomic nuclei together, and beams of mesons can be used to probe atomic nuclei and explore their properties in ways that are otherwise impossible.

Uses

In the treatment of cancer, mesons have the unique advantage of being able to deposit energy with pinpoint accuracy. A beam can be directed to a malignant tumor inside the body and kill it, with relatively little damage to surrounding normal cells. In contrast, standard X-rays deliver their biggest "wallop" to the skin and normal tissue above the tumor.

The beams of TRIUMF can also be used for non-destructive analysis of materials in fields ranging from environmental protection to industrial process control and forensic science.

The TRIUMF project was built over a period of six years, with the universities putting up \$6 million for the buildings and the Federal Government spending \$30 million for the cyclotron and equipment, through the Atomic Energy Control Board. Of the total budget, 85 per cent was spent in Canada.

Massive concrete blocks shield personnel from the radiation produced by the cyclotron. The dedication ceremony, was held directly above the

cyclotron — on top of almost 16 feet of solid concrete.

Scientists from abroad, including 12 from Britain, five from Japan and several from the U.S. and New Zealand, have brought to TRIUMF ideas and valuable sophisticated ancillary equipment for use by the entire project.

Labour force

Employment and unemployment in Canada both decreased slightly in December, giving a seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate of 7.1 per cent, down from 7.3 per cent in November. The adjusted rate was 6.0 per cent in December 1974.

The adjusted employment level in December was 9,367,000, down 21,000 from November. The main change was in part-time employment, which decreased by 43,000. There was an increase of 24,000 in full-time employment.

The adjusted unemployment level decreased 21,000 to 713,000 in December. There was little change in unemployment for men 25 years and over but declines for persons 14 to 24 and for women 25 and over.

Without seasonal adjustment, the labour force was estimated at 9,923,000 in December with 9,226,000 employed and 697,000 unemployed for an unemployment rate of 7.0 per cent. For November, the labour force was 9,972,000 with 9,332,000 employed and 640,000 unemployed for an unemployment rate of 6.4 per cent. In December 1974, the labour force was 9,715,000 with 9,118,000 employed and 597,000 unemployed for a rate of 6.1 per cent.

Provinces

Adjusted unemployment rates for the provinces (with November figures in brackets): Newfoundland 17.1 per cent (18.1 per cent); Nova Scotia 8.2 per cent (8.4 per cent); New Brunswick 11.5 per cent (13.5 per cent); Quebec 9.2 per cent (9.2 per cent); Ontario 6.1 per cent (6.0 per cent); Manitoba 3.3 per cent (3.7 per cent); Saskatchewan 3.2 per cent (4.0 per cent); Alberta 2.7 per cent (2.9 per cent); British Columbia 7.5 per cent (8.1 per cent). Because of small sample size in Prince Edward Island estimates of unemployment are subject to wide error and are not published.

Tory leadership candidates

At press time, delegates to the federal Progressive Conservative party were preparing to choose a new leader at a leadership convention in Ottawa, February 18 to 22, to replace Robert Stanfield, who was retiring.

Newspaper columnist Douglas Fisher, writing for the *Toronto Sun*, assessed candidates in alphabetic order on February 18. He began each evaluation with the following lines:

"Joe Clark — Brusque, arrogant, quick, industrious, bright, a young 100 percent politician, has a good grasp of political history and issues...."

"John Fraser — Ultra-serious and responsible, almost colourless in his gravity, the most solid, assiduous MP in the group but without dash as a speaker or analyst...."

"Jim Gillies — Came too late to politics from business school; is more lucid (surprisingly) on non-economic issues; too naturally pleasant to go for the jugular...."

"Heward Grafftey — In an odd, veering way the most likeable person in the group; naive, soft-hearted, humane and wooly; prodigious energy...."

"Paul Hellyer — A political fundamentalist and self-conceived messiah. Would create the Hellyer party...."

"Jack Horner — A most uneven performer; can be brilliant but often tunes out...."

"Pat Nowlan — All-Canadian boy, generous, good-humoured, fine sense of fun, undevious, too easy going...."

"Flora MacDonald — My sentimental favourite; a fine woman, she is what you hear and see. Compares with Hellyer and Clark for fitness, stamina and dedication but much less self-regarding than either man...."

"Brian Mulroney — An amalgam of the young John Diefenbaker and the current Bryce Mackasey; oozes ego, emotion, sentiment, blarney and charm...."

"Sinclair Stevens — Almost a composite for worried, aggressive, 'let's-do-something about it' small businessman...."

"Claude Wagner — Cunning, poised, gracious, professional and almost all surface. Keeps a tight rein on a bad temper...."

Results of the election will appear in the next issue.

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