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Review of Canada's economy in 1972 and outlook for 1973

The following is a partial text of a recent address by Mr. Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce:

The Canadian economy moved up strongly in 1972, and for the first time, Canada's gross national product surpassed the \$100-billion level. Output in real terms increased by about 5.5 per cent, a rise well in line with the country's longer-term potential. It is encouraging as well that the final quarter of this year witnessed a particularly strong upturn in economic activity in Canada following a temporary setback in the third quarter.

The number of new job opportunities greatly improved and employment advanced about 3 per cent from 1971 to 1972. At the same time, the labour force has continued to increase rapidly, giving Canada the highest growth in this area among the economically more advanced countries of the world. Under these circumstances, unemployment has persisted, even in the face of strong measures to provide jobs for all who are willing to work. The rate of unemployment for the full year has shown little change from the rate of 6.3 per cent in 1971.

Despite improvement in productivity, recent gains in the economic tempo have been accompanied by some acceleration in the upward course of prices after inflationary pressures had eased during 1970 and 1971. A substantial upswing in food costs following a year of near stability has played a major role in the continuing price rise. Over the past four years, Canada's price performance has been better than that of our principal trading partners. Even in 1972, only the United States, which has maintained some degree of wage and price control during the year, appears to have had a smaller price rise....

Trade

On the external side, the trend of Canada's merchandise exports strengthened in 1972, though it has been subject to more than usual monthly variations, partly a result of distortions in shipment caused by strikes of dock-workers in Canada and also abroad. The export total advanced by around 13 per cent, compared with its level in 1971, a rate more than twice as fast as in the preceding year.

A notable upsurge in exports to the United States, reflecting the strength of American economic recovery, accounted for most of the absolute rise in Canadian exports. Overseas sales have begun to improve in recent months after a period of slack in the economies of several industrial countries during 1971. For the full year there were sizable increases in exports to Japan, Latin America and to state-trading countries. Trends in exports to Britain and other Commonwealth countries, and to the European Community, have strengthened recently after remaining comparatively sluggish for much of the past two years.

Merchandise imports in 1972, however, were up even more sharply than exports, the rise continuing to accelerate as Canada's economy pursued a more rapid pace of expansion. As a result of this divergence, the merchandise-trade surplus declined substantially for the second successive year, from a level of over \$2 billion in 1971 to a figure approximately half as large in 1972. The decline in the merchandise trade surplus was reflected in a deterioration in the current-account balance, which moved from a surplus of about \$1 billion in 1970 to a deficit of nearly the same proportion in 1972.

Despite these trends, the underlying external environment has been more favourable than in 1971. The realignment of currencies in December 1971, by improving the competitive balance among major trading nations, has reduced international monetary uncer-

(over)

tainties and has contributed to a strengthening of business confidence in Canada.

Industry

Industrial production has grown more rapidly as market demands have continued to strengthen, with a rise of close to 6 per cent in 1972, compared to 4.5 per cent in 1971. Production increases over a broadening range of manufacturing industries have played an important role. Several industries which lagged at an earlier stage of the recovery have shown increasing vigour, among them the pulp and paper industries. Great buoyancy was also experienced in wood-product industries, led by a further impressive rise in lumber output and export sales. The auto industry has continued strong and has surpassed the previous record output of 1.4 million vehicles reached in 1971....

Prospects for 1973

Continuing improvement in economic performance provides solid ground for optimism about economic prospects in the year ahead. After two years in which Canada has been moving up towards a more rapid tempo of business activity, the scene now appears set for a substantial advance in 1973. Market forces favourable to growth in 1972 remain strong and are expected to contribute to further expansion. Other important market influences which have been gaining momentum recently are likely to supply a significantly larger stimulus than they did earlier in the business recovery. On the international front, the crisis atmosphere has eased to a considerable extent as a result of adjustments that have taken place in response to the major currency realignments of a year ago.

Consumer spending

Consumers are in a financially strong position owing to the sustained upward trend of disposable income. Consumer spending, accordingly, is likely to remain an important source of strength in 1973 though it should not be assumed that the recent high rate of increase will be maintained throughout the coming year. With continuing strong demand for homes and more liberal mortgage provisions for Central Mortgage and Housing approved

housing, residential building is likely to stay extremely active, but may not greatly exceed the very high level achieved in 1972.

In business investment the picture has strengthened moderately, and the recovery is expected to gain in momentum during the year. In an expansive climate for sales, the requirements for additional capacity will increasingly be felt. The results of a field survey carried out late in 1972 with respect to the capital-spending intentions of major companies in Canada showed that they intend to raise capital outlays nearly 10 per cent in 1973....

Encouraging outlook

In summary terms, present indications point both to a higher rate of advance in Canadian merchandise exports in 1973 and to a more balanced growth both in geographic and commodity terms. At the same time, however, there should be some deceleration in Canadian imports from the unusually high rate attained in 1972. The continuing recovery in economic activity in several industrial nations should materially ease the necessity to stress export-led growth and emphasize the domestic markets. At the same time, the recent easing of Canadian exchange-rates relative to a number of major currencies should also assist in Canada's trade performance.

What this picture suggests is that the major reduction in Canada's trade balance which occurred in 1972, when imports rose faster than exports, will not be repeated in 1973. Canadian exports and import growth are likely to be more in balance, which will, in turn, give renewed support to activity in Canada. It is important to stress, however, that this improvement will not come about automatically and continuing improvements in our productivity and in our cost-price performance are needed if Canadian goods are to remain competitive both domestically and internationally....

Unemployment and inflation remain the major problems

In spite of this highly encouraging prospect for 1973, Canada will still be confronted with problems and uncertainties of challenging proportions, and will need to remain vigilant in pursuit of established economic objectives. The principal set of pro-

blems will continue to be those concerned with the means of providing a growing number of jobs for Canadian workers and reducing unemployment, while at the same time containing inflation. Again, Canada will have to make further adjustments to changes in international trade that will result from the enlargement of the European Community to include three new members - Britain, Ireland and Denmark....

CLC sponsors pensioners' month

An "S.O.S. campaign" in support of senior citizens will be launched in February as part of the Canadian Labour Congress "Citizenship Month".

The 1,800,000-member labour organization customarily observes citizenship month every February and invites its affiliated organizations to take part in programs across Canada.

This year, labour organizations will be urged to: establish committees to work with "senior citizens" wherever such committees do not already exist; meet with spokesmen for existing old people's groups to discuss how best to co-ordinate their supporting efforts; help establish "senior citizens" clubs for their own retired members and other pensioners in the community; open a counselling service to assist pensioners in the community; open a counselling service to assist pensioners in obtaining benefits to which they are entitled; take action to support the legislative program for old people adopted by the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens' Federation.

"Historically, the labour movement has always been pledged to help our senior citizens maintain respect and dignity in their senior years and continue making their contribution to the community," CLC President Donald C. MacDonald explained. "Many of our unions already have an active program in this respect. But in today's fast-paced society there is a need for trade unions to increase their efforts.

"By providing the leadership and organizing techniques of which the labour movement is justly proud, we can rally many other concerned groups and help senior citizens live a fuller, more satisfying life."

Government increases investment in arctic oil and gas venture

The discovery of four major gas-fields in the High Arctic and the confirmation of the presence of liquid hydrocarbons have encouraged the Canadian Government to invest a further \$11.25 million in Panarctic Oils Limited for a fourth financial expansion program costing \$25 million.

The cumulative Crown participation to date in Panarctic will thus be \$45 million — of a total partnership financing with industry of \$101 million. By retaining its 45 percent equity participation in this venture, the Government is following its policy of maintaining the Canadian presence in the Arctic and is also assisting in preserving Canadian ownership of fossil-fuel supplies in that frontier region.

Panarctic's four major gas finds in the Arctic islands are at Hecla on Melville Island's Sabine Peninsula, at Drake Point on the same peninsula, at King Christian Island and at Kristoffer Bay on Ellef Ringnes Island. There have also been encouraging oil shows on the Fosheim Peninsula of Ellesmere Island and at Thor Island near Kristoffer Bay.

The Crown first joined the Panarctic venture in late 1967, when it became associated with a group of 19 private companies to explore the potential of some 45 million acres of oil and gas permits in the Arctic islands. These land holdings have now been increased to over 60 million gross acres. Years of experience have made Panarctic a world leader in Arctic logistics and drilling operations; its successes in exploration are outstanding. Northern Development Minister Jean Chrétien said that the program may very well lead to the opening up of the Arctic islands as a major producer of hydrocarbons.

U.S. renews lease at Goose Bay

The Canadian and United States Governments have agreed in principle (subject to the conclusion of mutually-satisfactory arrangements) that the United States Air Force may continue to use the airfield and facilities at Goose Bay, Labrador, until June 30,

1976. Discussions between representatives of the two Governments are under way concerning the proposed arrangement whereby the Canadian Ministry of Transport will acquire the present United States base facilities and operate and manage the airfield for both civil and military purposes. The present United States lease on part of the airfield expires on June 30. Under the proposed new arrangements, effective July 1, the current general level of employment at the base will be maintained.

Visit to Ottawa of Sweden's foreign minister

Foreign Minister Krister Wickman of Sweden will pay an official visit to Ottawa on February 9 and 10 in response to a long-standing invitation issued by External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp when he was in Sweden in 1969.

Mr. Wickman will be accompanied by Baron Carl de Geer, Deputy Secretary-General of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lennart Klacken-berg, head of the Foreign Ministry's aid and development department; Mr. Kaj Sundberg, deputy head of Sweden's Permanent Mission to the United Nations; Mr. Hakan Wilkens, First Secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and Mr. Rolf Ekéus, the Minister's secretary.

Canada's relations with Sweden

Sweden, which established diplomatic relations with Canada in 1943, opened a mission in Ottawa the following year. Canada, for its part, opened a diplomatic mission in Stockholm in 1947 which, since 1956, has had the status of an embassy.

Sweden exports to Canada principally machinery, stainless steel and automobiles, while Canada's exports to Sweden are mainly minerals and food-stuffs. In 1971 Canada's exports to Sweden amounted to some \$112 million, with Sweden sending to Canada goods valued at about \$45 million.

Canada's population of Swedish birth and descent approximates 130,000.

Continuing exchange of views

Mr. Wickman's visit is part of a continuing exchange of visits and views

between Canada and Sweden. In 1969 the Canadian House of Commons' Standing Committee on External Affairs and Defence visited Sweden to study Swedish foreign and defence policies. In the same year a similar committee of the Swedish Riksdag came to Ottawa. Also in 1969, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, paid an official visit to Sweden. Last June Mr. Jack Davis, Minister of the Environment, led the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm; and, last year, in September, Team Canada played two games in Stockholm with Sweden's national hockey team.

Fight with bear saves fiancée, wins Royal Society bravery medal

Malcolm Aspeslet, 20, of Edmonton, was recently awarded the British Royal Humane Society's 1972 Stanhope gold medal for defending his fiancée from a grizzly bear. During the encounter he was blinded in one eye and received head injuries.



Vancouver Sun photo

Malcolm Aspeslet, blinded in one eye and badly mauled by a bear that attacked his future wife, is still undergoing corrective surgery.

Aspeslet, who works as a cook, and Barbara Beck, were hiking in British Columbia's Glacier National Park last October when they rounded a bend and surprised a female grizzly

with her cubs. As the bear attacked his companion, Aspeslet leapt on the animal's back and stabbed it with his hunting knife, shouting to the girl to feign death. He and the animal rolled down a 20-foot embankment, where the bear suddenly remembered her cubs and trotted off to look for them.

The medal, the Royal Society's highest honour, is awarded for the bravest deed reported during the year to the humane societies of the Commonwealth.

Three levels of government join in attack on unemployment

Closer co-ordination between Canada Manpower Centres and provincial and municipal welfare offices is planned by the Manpower and Immigration Department to ensure the best services for people who want to work but whose requirements extend beyond the present range of counselling, training, mobility and placement activities.

Manpower Centres and welfare offices will gain a better appreciation of related functions and services through joint meetings. Case conferences and a team approach will be initiated to co-ordinate comprehensive services and reference to appropriate agencies for assistance, as well as to assess factors inhibiting employment of welfare clients.

Counsellors specially trained

While manpower counsellors already have access to the Training-on-the-Job Program, which provides incentives to employers to hire disadvantaged workers, and to the Local Initiatives Program, aimed at creating employment, particularly for those on social assistance or unemployment insurance, additional specially-trained counsellors will provide an internal consultative service to deal with employment problems of hard-to-place workers.

To overcome difficulties in identifying the needs of certain clients, provision is being made for the purchase of diagnostic services from agencies approved by the provinces. Work-adjustment training, involving the purchase of short-term training

from vocational agencies such as sheltered workshops, is also planned, in addition to the basic job training now available.

The Department of Manpower and Immigration, which has for some time made limited financial contributions to voluntary and community agencies, will expand this support through a new program to provide better means of rendering manpower services and programs to groups experiencing exceptionally high unemployment. Another new measure will subsidize employment for "hard-core" unemployed and provide them with the opportunity to become conditioned to the work-world through pilot projects similar to local initiatives projects, but extended for two to three years and carefully selected and developed by local citizens' groups and federal and provincial agencies.

Since the structure of welfare organizations and methods of providing their services vary from province to province and within provinces, the Department of Manpower and Immigration, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Welfare, is endeavouring to ensure that area and municipal welfare authorities are fully informed of their respective programs and services.

Hovercraft firm lands distributor in United States

An Ottawa hovercraft manufacturing firm has secured its first distributor in the United States as a result of a recent Ontario trade mission to Minneapolis-St. Paul in Minnesota; MHV Industries Ltd has signed a contract for 100 units with Lund of America.

H.M. Shantz, marketing manager for MHV, said his company - which is operating with the aid of an Ontario Development Corporation loan - will have Lund handling the distribution of the \$3,000-hovercraft in Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. MHV has other distributors in Australia and Brazil and, in Canada, in the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

The two-passenger hovercraft, with separate 30-horsepower motors for thrust and lift, are of a size that

makes them appropriate for year-round use in either recreational or commercial fields, Mr. Shantz said.

Modern forestry research centre

The first phase of construction of a \$7.2-million forest-research centre in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, began at the end of November.

The new facility, which will be located on 21 acres, is to be one of the best-equipped in Canada.

The first of the four construction phases of the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre called for excavating and grading the site. The second, which involved piling, was carried out late this month. The third phase, construction of the concrete sub-structure and superstructure will take place in April, while the fourth and final phase will complete the research centre by April 1975.

The total design provides an efficient working laboratory to meet forestry research requirements. It features an inviting interior and an exterior whose appearance is in keeping with the site and its surroundings.

"The Centre will house a variety of expertise in the area of forestry; siviliculturists, ecologists, forest management people and so on. It will cover the whole field of forestry research and development. It will not be specialized in one field," said Mr. Davis. "It will deal with urban forestry research, particularly Dutch elm disease problems, and pursue present programs to solve forest management problems in Ontario."

In keeping with the Department of the Environment's policy of setting a good example in the battle against pollution, the laboratory will contain special waste-treatment facilities, including equipment to treat chemical wastes.

Room for extra staff

Although, the building initially will accommodate the present staff of 49 scientists and 100 support staff of the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre and a small group of researchers from the Water Management Section, it has been designed to accommodate extra staff, as well as to house visiting scientists from other laboratories and universities.

International cocoa agreement

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced recently that Canada's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Saul F. Rae, had signed on Canada's behalf the International Cocoa Agreement.

The agreement, signed in New York on January 12, is the product of an International Cocoa Conference in which 55 nations participated. It will be open for accession until the end of April, and will enter into force either on that date or as soon as countries representing 80 per cent of cocoa exports or 70 per cent of total imports have deposited their instruments of ratification.

The main purpose of the agreement is the creation of order and stability in the international cocoa market. Previously, prices production and the export earnings of the developing countries that produce this commodity were all subject to wide fluctuations. By the establishment of a "buffer" stock and an export quota mechanism, the agreement will work to keep the price range for cocoa between 23 and 32 cents a pound (U.S.) This stability will also assist cocoa purchasers in countries such as Canada with long-range planning.

The main cocoa producers are Ghana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Brazil and Cameroon. Canada, the ninth-largest importer of cocoa, accounts for 1.5 per cent of world imports.

Vaccine to combat English influenza

Production of a vaccine to provide specific protection against the "England" strain of influenza virus is now in progress, National Health Minister Marc Lalonde announced on January 11.

The vaccine is being produced at the Institute of Microbiology of the University of Montreal, from where limited quantities were expected to be available in two to three weeks.

The England strain of influenza virus, a recent mutation, is beginning to supersede the Hong Kong strain, which has been responsible for the majority of influenza cases throughout the world during the past few years.

The two strains produce symptoms that are similar in nature and severity.

Evidence produced by studies made by Health Department officials indicate that some two-thirds of the people vaccinated with Hong Kong influenza vaccine have significant protection against the England strain.

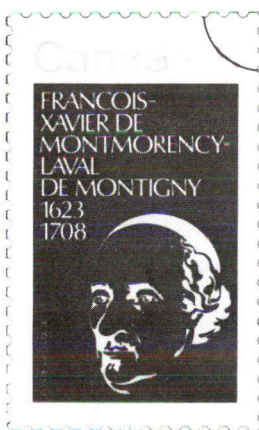
Only a few cases of influenza attributable to the England virus have been identified in Canada, though several outbreaks have been reported in the United States, as well as in other parts of the world.

Stamp honours first bishop of Quebec

François de Montmorency-Laval, one of the builders of New France and a prominent figure in Canadian history, is to be commemorated with the issue of an eight-cent stamp that will be issued on January 31, marking the 350th anniversary of his birth.

Mgr de Laval, the first bishop of Quebec and a figure of great importance in the development and reorganization of the colony of New France, encouraged the educational institutions already existing in the colony and founded others such as the Quebec City Major Seminary (1663) and the Quebec City Minor Seminary (1668). He also established the Saint-Joachim arts and crafts school and a small school where white and Indian children learned the alphabet and arithmetic.

Bishop Laval was born on April 30, 1623 in Montigny-sur-Avre in the Chartres district of France and was educated by the Jesuits at La Flèche. He was ordained in 1647. He came to Quebec City in 1659 with the title of Bishop of Pétrée to serve as apostolic vicar in New France. In 1674, he was named Bishop of Quebec. During his 30 episcopal years, Mgr de Laval founded an average of one parish a year. He died in Quebec City on May 6, 1708, after spending some 50 years of his life in New France.



An experimental program for special education teachers

The pressing need for special training for teachers of handicapped children is discussed below by Sally Rogow, assistant professor in the University of British Columbia's Department of Special Education and member of the B.C. Mental Retardation Institute.

...At the University of British Columbia we are striving to meet the challenge of developing both capacity and awareness in the teacher of such children in the following ways: The Diploma Program in Learning and Behaviour Disorders, a fifth-year professional development program, is an intensive year of study comprising a sequence of practicums in special education settings, seminars and academic course work.

Choosing the candidates

Candidates for the diploma program are selected by an interview, their academic record, and their previous experience with both normal and exceptional children. Great weight is given to the attitude of the candidate, his enthusiasm for the program and his attitudes toward children: flexibility, adaptability and a sense of humour are important, along with a willingness to make a commitment. Rigidity and dogmatic attitudes are qualities that preclude the ability to sustain the intensive year that awaits the candidate.

A maximum of eight students is enrolled by each one of the three directors of the diploma programs....

From September until April, the students devote five mornings a week to student teaching in special education classrooms, institutional settings, sheltered workshops, and treatment settings. The success of the diploma program is highly dependent upon the co-operation, skill and generosity of the supervising teachers. Students work both in group settings and with individual children and are expected to have experience in pre-school, primary and secondary school classes.

Comparison of experiences

Seminars are arranged twice weekly to give an opportunity for the students to

discuss the various aspects of the experiences and relate them to the theories of learning, group dynamics and subject matter areas. The great value of simultaneous teaching and learning of the program is reflected in the growing abilities of students to translate theory into application. The harsh aspects of reality are always present and act as an effective antidote to the hardening of theoretical arteries....

Needs of the multi-handicapped

The severe retardation too often found among multi-handicapped children may be the product of under-stimulation and consequent deprivation of experience. These children are in special education classrooms and schools and cannot be overlooked. In order to meet the very special needs of the multi-handicapped child, we have instituted an experimental program within the Diploma Program in Learning and Behaviour Disorders.

In its first year of operation, five students from the diploma programs volunteered to participate in this experimental program. These students selected courses, such as the Education of the Visually Handicapped, which would help prepare them for this work. Each student is working one day a week with one child throughout the year. On the remaining four days these students participate in the normal practicum sequence. Meetings are held every two weeks to discuss and evaluate the response of the child and to plan further development of the program. The programs are highly individualized and are based on teacher and student evaluations of the developmental profile of the child.

The children range in age from two years to 13 years and present mental retardation, emotional disturbances in association with physical, sensory or neurological impairments. All the children are functioning far below the norms established for their age levels

and are, with the exception of the youngest child, enrolled in ongoing pre-school and special class programs. The content and sequence of developmental planning varies for each child and includes the stimulation of exploratory and manipulative skills, social and communication skills and language development....

Benefit periods under Unemployment Insurance Act

On April 1, 1971, Canada's unemployment insurance covered an estimated 5,340,770 persons. Owing primarily to the earlier timing of the survey in 1971, this figure was 59,000 lower than the June 1, 1970, estimate. The insured population represented almost 80 per cent of the paid-worker component of the labour force.

During the first six months of 1971, a total of 528,910 regular benefit periods were established. This half-year total represented 47 per cent of the 1,127,790 established during the full year in 1970 and 56 per cent of the five-year average from 1966 to 1970. Regionally, 37 per cent of the periods were established in Ontario, 29 per cent in Quebec, 14 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, 11 per cent in British Columbia and 10 per cent in the Atlantic Provinces.

Average benefits

The average benefit paid on claims terminating in 1971 increased to \$562, up \$51 or 10 per cent from the \$511 paid in 1970. Provincially, the highest and lowest averages were recorded in the Atlantic Provinces — \$612 for Newfoundland and \$463 for Prince Edward Island. The average number of weeks paid rose 4 per cent, to 15.0 from 14.4. Owing partly to the impact of the inclusion of the 10 percent supplementary benefit on June 27, the average weekly benefit climbed to \$37.60 from \$35.63 for the previous year.

Between December 1, 1970, and May 15, 1971, a total of 378,370 seasonal benefit periods were established, up 24 per cent from the previous year. Ontario accounted for 31 per cent (16 per cent in 1972), Quebec 25 per cent (30 per cent) and the Atlantic Provinces 19 per cent

(22 per cent), while the remaining 25 per cent (22 per cent) was shared equally by the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. The average amount of seasonal benefit paid in 1971 increased to \$361, up \$16 or 5 per cent from the previous year. The average weeks paid remained the same (10.2) for the two years.

On June 27, 1971, a new Unemployment Insurance Act was introduced that featured an easing of the qualifications for benefit and a more generous benefit-rate structure. Under the universal provision of the new program, more than two million persons — formerly excluded under the 1955 Act — were insured effective January 2, 1972.

For the last six months of 1971, 856,360 benefit periods were established, of which 91 per cent, or 775,710, were for regular benefit. The remaining 80,650 were composed of sickness (40,160), maternity (10,050), retirement (6,630) and fishing claims (18,810). Regionally, 31 per cent of the total periods were established in Ontario, 29 per cent in Quebec, and equal proportions of 13 per cent in the Atlantic and Prairie Provinces and British Columbia.

Record number of housing starts in 1972

Housing starts in Canada reached a record of some 250,000 in 1972, according to preliminary figures released by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The total represented a 7 per cent increase over the previous record of 233,653 starts in 1971.

Starts in the urban areas alone totalled 14,106 in December and 207,518 for the full year. Of this, 80,903 were starts on single-family dwellings, an increase of about 18 per cent from the 1971 figure, while starts on multiple housing declined by about 1 per cent to 126,615.

The seasonally-adjusted annual rate for housing starts in all areas dropped from 222,600 in November to 200,700 in December. The fourth quarter rate of starts was 229,200, compared to 258,800 in the third quarter of 1972.

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