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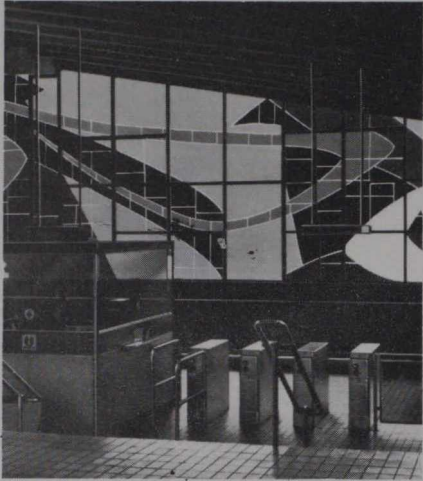



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Cover picture shows

A modernistic mural covers a wall in the Champ de Mars station of the Montreal Metro.

Canada Today



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Urban living:

Canadian cities go underground

By Simon Jenkins* of *The Evening Standard*

NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA



A train travels through an open-cut section of the Toronto subway system.

If the 1960s were the decade of the urban motorway in most Canadian cities, there is no doubt that the 1970s will be the decade of the underground train. In Toronto, in Montreal, in Vancouver, everywhere, the motor-car "freeways" have been one of the great non-solutions to the problem of moving large numbers of people round cities, and particularly to their place of work. However great or small the investment in road space, the cry of the city driver the world over remains the same: "God, the traffic's hell."

Canadian cities are also faced with an additional pressure. The commercial "boosterism" of the past ten years has led

to the construction of massively dense downtown office centres, employing large numbers of people – most of whom own cars. Faced with the awesome alternatives of the collapse of the downtown centres or total traffic strangulation, the authorities have simply had to look seriously at public transport. From being the slightly tatty historic monuments of the European cities "back home", underground trains have suddenly become the futurist symbols of civic pride.

Montreal was first in the field with an impressive network developed in the early sixties and expanded to cater for the Expo celebrations in 1967. Sixteen miles of subway tracks were completed, paid for totally by the city taxpayers.

The trains run French-style on rubber wheels and they link the suburbs directly

*Simon Jenkins recently travelled across Canada examining the urban environment.

into the basements of central area shops, offices and hotels. Montrealers are proud of the fact that, in contrast to the car-commuter, many public transport users never need to go outside at all during a day at the office. This is invaluable in the city's bleakly cold winters – though deadening to the city's street environment the rest of the year, especially in the evenings.

Toronto followed with two subway lines on a more conventional British pattern. Attractive girls sell books of tickets on the

tests that its construction would destroy communities in the more historic parts of town.

Even Edmonton, a prairie city of just 480,000 people, is eager to show itself part of the big league. The city, a veritable monument to the principles of gritty private enterprise, has just voted to spend over £10 millions to get a 4.5-mile line – partly underground – completed by the time it hosts the Commonwealth Games in 1978. Alderman Una Evans, who has been fight-

The Metro stations in Montreal are high-ceilinged, light and airy, with brightly-colored tiles on the walls.



NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA.

pavements downtown to minimize queuing and congestion in the stations. Some outer stations are linked directly with the bus service so passengers can walk straight from the bus onto the platforms without having to buy new tickets.

The city is now planning a new system of rapid transit with carriages running on an air cushion and propelled by a linear induction motor. An experimental route will be open next year. The Toronto system is being built by the Germans.

Out in the west of Canada, Vancouver is also planning its first subway line, linking the disparate communities across its various water inlets with the high-density shops and offices of the centre. It is to be built partly as an alternative to a new motorway bridge across the Burrard Inlet, cancelled last year after massive popular pro-

ing for the line for years, was blunt about it: "We just can't afford to go on building new roads," she said. "It was either spend \$28 millions on a subway system or \$66 millions on a six-lane freeway to serve the same area."

As a result, Edmonton's great Albertan rival, the even smaller Calgary, ordered its transport department into a frenzy of activity to get a proposal for rapid transit completed in 1973.

Undoubtedly one factor stimulating the new movement has been a new awareness of the economics of public transport. Warren Hastings of the Toronto Real Estate Board – an industry not famous for putting rail before roads – recently remarked on the incredible boost which subways gave to suburban economic activity. The subways, he said, yield a

massive return in stimulating property values, and therefore rate revenues to the public purse, out of all proportion to their cost to the community.

After the completion of Toronto's Yonge Street subway line, he estimated that rate revenue had increased in adjacent districts by between 45 and 107 per cent, against a city average of only 25 per cent. "Indeed," he said, "money rolls along the tracks even ahead of the trains. If an urban transit system never earned an operating profit, it would still pay for itself 1000 times over through its beneficial impact on real estate values." ♦

Technology:

Canada pioneers in space communication

A disadvantage of living in the north of Canada (though some might consider it an advantage) was, until recently, that there was no television. Surface systems for relaying television are simply not feasible there. But all this has changed over the past year since television pictures and sound began bouncing off a couple of space satellites 23,000 miles above the Equator.

The two satellites, called Anik I and Anik II (*anik* is the Eskimo word for "brother") belong to Canada's national satellite communications system – the world's first domestic commercial space venture. Financed partly by the government, partly by industry, Telesat Canada (as the system is called) has been relaying signals from coast to coast on a commercial basis since the launching of Anik I at the beginning of 1973. Anik II went up later and drifted into its orbital parking spot over Medicine Hat, Alberta, in May, by which time the Americans were negotiating to hire some of its channels until they could get up a satellite system of their own.

Canada in space race

The success of Anik has put Canada firmly in the commercial space race, since the gold-plated electronic brain that does the work on board each Anik satellite was pioneered by the Canadian firm of Northern Electric, a subsidiary of Bell Canada (the telephone people). The electronic brains were produced in a small, purpose-built plant at Lucerne, Quebec, just across the river from Ottawa. The plant is now working on Anik-type satellites for two American firms, the American Satellite Corporation (Amersat) and Western Union.

Northern Electric are also getting ready to launch Canada's third and last Anik (according to present plans) in 1975. A rocket and launching pad have already been reserved for this purpose at Cape Kennedy at a cost of over \$7m. But the plan is fluid: Anik III may possibly be launched at that time to provide more communications facilities for new customers, but it is thought more likely that the third satellite will be held in reserve as a back-up in case one of the existing Aniks should break down.

The Anik communications systems were produced by Northern Electric under sub-contract from Hughes Aircraft Company of El Segundo, California, who construct the actual satellites which carry them in orbit. Following the success of Anik, Hughes Aircraft now have contracts for a further \$150m worth of new domestic satellites to

serve the United States continent, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. They say this represents the largest single injection of private capital into the space industry and that it is "a turning point in the development of a substantial non-government market". Northern Electric expects to get a large share of that order.

The sudden demand for commercial satellites has been a welcome surprise to Northern Electric, for when the first order came, they were already in the process of cutting back their skilled work force as the Anik programme for Canada neared completion. Previously only the Russians had tried running a domestic satellite system, which is reported to have been far from successful. But the Canadian enterprise has set other countries thinking on these lines. It is now thought that it could prove a spearhead for a world revolution in communications.

As Telesat brought north Canada in from the cold, in terms of human contact, so other satellite systems could extend communications into other remote parts of the world, such as the widely scattered villages of India, isolated communities in the jungles of South America and the widely-spaced islands of Malaysia. Northern Electric, having got in on the ground floor with Anik forsee millions of dollars worth of contracts through the 1970s – "a real coup for Canada".

Promising future

They were predicting a future full of extraordinary developments: for example, educational programmes in different dialects beamed down to remote villages; oil pipelines in the inaccessible Arctic monitored and checked for leaks from a satellite; snowstorms and other disturbances tracked by satellite – maybe even mosquito density. In due course, they say, satellite communication could link the remotest corners of the world.

Mr. Maurice Beresford, manager of the Lucerne plant, foresees that eventually, "We will go to the ultimate when every home-owner has a receiving 'dish' on his house." (The "dish" is a specially designed antenna to pick up voice and picture transmission from satellites.) "Every school will have a small receiving dish, every train, every ship will have one."

Once a satellite is launched, it costs relatively little to build earth stations to pick up its signal. The cost of a station to serve a small town is now about \$50,000. Mr.

Beresford says this could be reduced by half with expanded production. "For every \$10m in the air" – the cost of a space satellite – "you can service \$100m worth of space stations on the ground."

Why not wheat?

The Canadian system at present has 33 earth stations; 25 in the north and eight in the south. A Canadian Engineering firm, SED System Limited, has been set up at Saskatoon on the prairies to produce equipment for these ground stations – an address which has caused some problems, since it is in the middle of wheat farming country. Because all the important work in this field so far has been done in the United States or in Ontario, the firm has had some difficulty convincing people of its seriousness. Its president, Alex Kavadas, a former physics professor said recently: "We always get this reaction of surprise and suspicion. We usually have to prove ourselves two or three times to get contracts. We applied once for a grant under the Programme for the Advancement of Industrial Technology and you know what they told us? They said, 'If you're in Saskatoon, you should be doing agricultural research on wheat.' And they turned us down."

In Lucerne, when the Northern Electric plant has completed work on a new electronic brain, the populace is treated to a slow procession as the very delicate equipment is carried to a waiting aircraft in a padded steel box, inside a truck, with a police escort. The latter is a necessary precaution, since even a slight traffic collision could result in \$1.5m worth of damage.

New electronic brain

The actual construction of the equipment is so exacting that welding, soldering and assembly are done under microscopes and large magnifying glasses. Mr. William Barrie, the firm's marketing manager for satellite communication, explains: "If we get one extra drop of solder on the wire, they would not be able to launch the satellite because of the weight."

The work is done in a "clean room" and visitors are expected to dust off their shoes and wear gowns and gauze caps to guard against contaminating the equipment.

The wiring has to be exactly balanced and secured to withstand a satellite spinning 100 times a second in orbit – if it isn't,

Mr. Barrie says, the satellite "would start wobbling like an off-balance washing machine, and you can't send any repair man up there to fix it!"

The final product is contained in a gold-plated box measuring 10 by 14 inches and looking rather like a jewel case. Within is

the core of the electronic "ears, brain and heart" for a satellite. Exhaustive records kept at every stage in its construction are posted off with it on its careful journey to California.

This is how television came to the far north of Canada, demonstrating the chief

advantage of the satellite system: that electronic signals can be bounced via a satellite down to a ground station *without* the need for hundreds and thousands of miles of land circuits. Signals sent in this way are also far less subject to interference.

Employment:

How the unemployed employ themselves

by Jenny Pearson

A new way out of Canada's recurring problem of winter unemployment has been found over the past two years through the simple act of turning the problem over to the unemployed themselves.

The usually passive role of unemployed people waiting for work to turn up was radically altered in the autumn of 1971 by a new federal programme which invited them to put up ideas of their own for local projects on which they could work. It is called the Local Initiatives Programme. A starting budget of \$100m. dollars was allocated to the experiment and unemployed people were invited to submit ideas for projects which would create employment and, at the same time, improve and benefit the community.

The response was overwhelming. Under that original programme for the winter of 1971-72, 13,738 applications were received. They came from isolated villages and hamlets as well as from the big cities. Because there were so many good ideas which could not be taken up under the original budget, a further \$50m. was allocated immediately; then, in the spring, it was decided to spend another \$40m. so that worthwhile services begun under LIP could be maintained through the summer months. During its first winter, 5,700 projects were put into effect, providing a total of 398,265 man-months of employment.

Soon the results of the Local Initiatives Programme were to be seen in the shape of all kinds of local benefits and services. New community centres, parks, ski runs and beaches appeared. Services that began as LIP projects, such as help for the aged and disabled, day-care centres, clinics and centres for information and counselling, proved themselves to fill such an obvious need that funds began to come in from other sources.

As a result of research projects on subjects like local history, and the subsequent publication of pamphlets, tapes and films, local archives and libraries have acquired a store of information on vanishing life styles.

By their enthusiastic response, thousands of unemployed people gave the lie to the Blimps who maintain that people enjoy sitting back and living on the dole. Indeed, the Ministry of Manpower reckon that by far the greatest contribution of LIP has been its effect on the workers themselves.

A report from the Ministry says, "Many project workers had been living on incomes below the Economic Council's poverty line - a great many had been unemployed for some length of time, often years, and had been living on social assistance.

"With LIP they began to work in jobs whereby, for the first time, they were able to contribute to rather than take from society. As LIP employees, these previously unemployed Canadians had the opportunity to develop and acquire skills to help them adapt to a rapidly changing economic and social climate."

Workers' own ideas

What kind of work do unemployed people think of doing when the ball is in their court? Here are some examples from the 1972-73 programme:

A group in Newfoundland set up a safety council, to coach people in many aspects of safety from first aid and rules for pedestrians to a course in baby-sitting for girls of 12 and over. A group in Halifax, Nova Scotia, had a project to help female offenders, on the grounds that women in prison get a particularly raw deal because they are a small minority group, and facilities for them are therefore "makeshift". In Saint John, New Brunswick, a bureau was created to put volunteers in touch with services which needed them. A craft house was opened on Prince Edward Island to train people in handicrafts and market their works to tourists. Other projects included day care centres for children; a scheme for training special workers to meet the emotional, educational and recreational needs of children in hospital; a "free store" to collect and distribute clothing,

furniture and household utensils among the needy; a project to study and inform on environmental problems; and a catalogue of special books available to blind and handicapped people.

In the second year of LIP, the Department of Manpower adapted their original plan to involve business and industry in creating employment for the benefit of the community. This new venture had two separate aspects: a local initiatives programme for private industry and another, separate programme for entrepreneurs.

Twenty-eight companies took part in the private industry programme. They undertook to run projects utilizing their plant, equipment and managerial time, but outside their normal production or service. The projects were conceived on a non-profit basis, with financial assistance from LIP to cover wages and some overhead costs for workers hired from the ranks of the unemployed.

Companies in the act

The companies employed LIP workers to build parks, docks and ski runs and lay water mains, and in various other undertakings for the benefit of the community. A condition was that the completed project and the land on which it stood should be turned over to the municipality for at least five years: in fact, most firms made a permanent gift of their completed projects. The companies also put money of their own into the projects, as did the provinces and municipalities which stood to gain by them: indeed, the sum of their contributions exceeded the federal allocations.

As a side effect of the private industry programme, quite a few of the workers found permanent employment on the staff of the companies involved, having made an impression with their capability and willingness to work.

The programme for entrepreneurs was even more adventurous in conception, as

it made federal funds available for unemployed people to develop new products and services on their own. Projects had to show the capacity of becoming self-supporting and be non-competitive with companies already operating in the local and surrounding areas. Financial support was related directly to wages and costs, and all revenue from the project had to be channelled back into it throughout its period funded by LIP.

The second year of the programme was reckoned as successful as the first: more projects were approved (5,869) and more money was spent on them (an initial \$165m., with extensions amounting to \$70m. in the spring).

In a study of the effects of LIP on the people involved during its second year, most people employed under the programme described their work as "worth while"; so did the local people who benefited from it. Nearly half the projects involved construction work, ranging from repainting older homes for the needy to building community centres and recreation facilities. About one fifth of the projects were related to social and health services.

A statistical survey showed that most of the jobs created under the Local Initiatives Programme were among traditionally underemployed groups - women and young people under 25. Only 7 per cent of the workers had been in continuing full-time jobs before taking part.

The programme has proved particularly attractive to young people, who seem to have a natural inclination towards social work and community projects. But a substantial number of jobs were also taken up by mature people who were previously out of work. Before taking part in LIP, 36 per cent of the workers had been financially dependent on Unemployment Insurance Benefits and 10 per cent had their main income from welfare payments.

Though the work created by LIP was of a temporary nature, many of the workers saw it as a springboard towards better things in the future. Questioned on this point, 67 per cent felt that having worked for LIP would help them to find employment in the future; 65 per cent felt they would be able to get higher paid jobs; 72 per cent said they had learnt new skills; 65 per cent felt they had improved existing skills.

Now in its third winter, LIP has been modified to meet present conditions and to use the experience gained in its first two years. A marked drop in unemployment in 1972 is reflected in a lower financial allocation: \$83m. as compared with \$165m. at the beginning of last winter.

The most important innovation growing out of past experience is a plan to involve local communities in decisions about projects for their area. Local advisory groups have been set up to review the projects chosen at government level. Their recommendations, particularly over which pro-

jects should have priority, are then put before the Minister.

Other aspects of the 1973-74 programme are: flexible starting and duration times for projects, to coincide with regional and local unemployment patterns; priority for "first-time" applications; less funding for major commercial construction projects; projects that tend to generate community dependency *not* to be approved unless they can demonstrate a continuing source of support; maximum federal contribution per project not to exceed \$75,000; wages to be based on locally prevailing rates for specific occupations, to a maximum average of \$100 a week.

Mr. Robert Andras, the Minister of Manpower, announcing this winter's programme in the early autumn, said that the first two years had demonstrated very clearly that the answer to local employment problems was best determined at local level. "This programme is more sensitive to local conditions than its predecessors and thus will better serve the people of Canada."

He added, "I fully expect that these programmes will have a significant effect in reducing unemployment this winter."

At the 15 October deadline for project applications, some 13,000 had been received worth four or five times the \$83 million available. The job of selecting the ones to be approved promises to be harder than ever. ♦

Bilingualism:

Do bilinguals, like blondes, really have more fun

Throughout Canada's history the existence of two major linguistic groups has been one of the dynamic forces that have shaped the country and contributed much to its unique character. To safeguard this valuable national heritage, the federal government has taken a number of steps to ensure the equal participation of both English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians in Canada's future.

Few of these steps have produced more dynamism on the Canadian bilingual scene lately than the one of appointing Mr. Keith Spicer as Commissioner of Official Languages. But we will come back to him. First let's complete the necessary historical background to what follows.

In 1963, the government appointed a Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism whose purpose was to enquire into a wide range of questions relating to language and culture in Canada. Following the publication of the first volume of the commission's report, the government introduced an official lan-

guages bill in the House of Commons in October 1968. After careful study and discussion the final version of the bill was unanimously adopted in July 1969 and came into force in September of the same year.

Section 2 of the Official Languages Act stipulates that "the English and French languages are the official languages of Canada" and that they "possess and enjoy equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all the institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada."

In addition, the act contains three main sections. First, a number of clauses ensure that all public documents issued by any federal authority are produced in English and French. Second, the act specifies that "bilingual districts" will be created. In these districts, and in certain other situations, federal government services will be available to the public in both official languages. Finally, the act outlines the responsibilities of a Commissioner of

Official Languages whose job it is to ensure compliance with the spirit and the intent of the act.

In consideration of Section 2, "it is the duty of the Commissioner to take all actions and measures within his authority with a view to ensuring recognition of the status of each of the official languages and compliance with the spirit and intent of this . . . act in the administration of the affairs of the institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada and, for that purpose, to conduct and carry out investigations either on his own initiative or pursuant to any complaint made to him and to report and make recommendations with respect thereto as provided in this . . . act" (Section 25).

It follows from this section that the Commissioner exercises two basic functions, those of language ombudsman and linguistic auditor general. A Complaints Service and a Special Studies Service have been established within the Commissioner's Office to help him carry out the duties

attached to each of these two functions.

Whichever of the two services is involved, the work is done in private and the results, by law, are communicated to the complainant and the institutions concerned. It should be noted that the Commissioner's powers can only be brought to bear in matters of federal jurisdiction. The Commissioner is an officer of Parliament, appointed by that body to a seven-year term; he is eligible to be reappointed for further terms not exceeding seven years. The Commissioner is independent of the Government and is required to submit an annual report to Parliament on the conduct of his office during the preceding year and may make recommendations for changes in the Official Languages Act as he deems necessary or desirable.

All of the preceding is the serious way of describing what's happening on Canada's bilingualism front these days. But there's more to it than that. Some idea of what more is conveyed in the following story, reprinted with permission from the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, by Ottawa columnist Geoffrey Stevens.

Bilingualism Spicer style

Or as his heading put it - this is "bilingualism - Spicer style" (Mr. Keith Spicer being the Commissioner of Official Languages already referred to).

The trouble with bilingualism is that it's such a deadly serious business. Parliament certainly viewed it seriously in 1969 when it enacted the Official Languages Act. It remains a serious business to the Treasury Board (which must implement the policy), to most unilingual English-speaking civil servants and to thousands upon thousands of English Canadians outside the public service who still believe that the Government is trying the ram French down their throats.

The only happy face in this vale of furrowed brows and clenched teeth belongs to Keith Spicer, the Commissioner of Official Languages. Mr. Spicer, you see, is a heretic. He believes that bilingualism can be and should be fun. He's the man who once said (and still believes) that the best way to learn French is in bed. And while he certainly considers a functionally bilingual public service to be a serious objective, he sees no reason why the process of getting there cannot be made enjoyable.

Needless to say, Mr. Spicer's approach is not universally admired. His crack about *"Westmount Rhodesians" still rankles. In the opinion of many bureaucrats and politicians, he is inclined to be altogether too flippant about a subject which intimately

affects their jobs and political futures. But, like it or not, the federal service is about to get another dose of bilingualism Spicer-style.

The Commissioner and his staff have prepared what they call a "Safari Kit". It's a flat cardboard box done up to look like a knapsack. Inside are two booklets designed to help civil servants to hack their way through the bilingualism jungle. Forty thousand copies of the kit will be distributed among the 400,000 people who work for the federal Government and its various appendages.

The two booklets present factual information and frank advice on bilingualism in a good-humoured way. One, entitled *Twenty Questions: And A Few More, On Canada's Official Languages*, gives Mr. Spicer's candid answers to the questions he is most often asked.

New jungle book

The other booklet - *The Jungle Book on Official Languages* - is patterned along the lines of a sex manual and is illustrated with cartoons by *The Globe and Mail's* Ed Franklin depicting the adventures of an Anglophone explorer as he encounters a Francophone Jane.

It defines the responsibilities of each of the seven main bureaucracies involved in the bilingualism programme. It asks this provocative question - "The Adam and Eve Syndrome: Who is Covered (by the Official Languages Act)?" - and gives an easy-to-grasp answer - "as a rule of thumb . . . if it's federal, it's bilingual".

The Jungle Book explains the simple, but widely misunderstood, aim of the Languages Act: to compel the federal Government to make its services available to all citizens in the official language of their choice.

The booklet urges civil servants to make sure that services are "actively offered" in both languages - not grudgingly given. It provides a few tips for unilingual officials suddenly confronted by a citizen seeking service in the other language: "Seek out a person able to speak the desired language . . . A smiling 'one moment please' in the client's language does not demand prodigious skill in language learning, and it surely makes a short wait more tolerable than a sullen: 'I don't speak French (or English)'. This seems a small point, but it is guaranteed to prevent futile apoplexies and countertop replays of the Plains of Abraham."

In the preface, Mr. Spicer explains that he chose the sex-manual format because, "for sheer motivation nothing beats biology . . . Putting both sexes on an equal footing seems a good example for doing the same with our national languages. And for both love and language, *Vive la difference* is not, even if clichéd, a bad slogan."

No one, not even Keith Spicer, would suggest that bilingualism will ever replace sex. But he's got a good point: why can't bilingualism be fun, too? ♦

Birdman

This birdman really flies

Terry (The Birdman) Jones is thinking of jumping off a 27-storey building.

Nothing suicidal about that. It's just a way of making a living for 31-year-old Terry, one of the world's tiny band of professional hang gliders, otherwise known as manned kite fliers.

Under ideal conditions, the men in these unique flying machines soar hundreds of feet above ground at speeds up to 50 miles an hour. The wind provides the motive power.

A glider consists of aluminium tubing, some 200 square feet of sailcloth, wire struts and a seat or harness.

Terry is thinking of gliding off a 27-storey tower in his hometown of Edmonton, Alberta. Meanwhile he's teaching 18 Canadian college students the art of hill soaring, which involves running down a steep slope beneath an 18-foot sail and taking off with an updraft of wind.

The birdman has taken part in hang-gliding sports at the British grand prix and in similar events in Canada, the United States and western Europe.

"It's a great feeling, soaring for hours like a gull in an air current," says Terry.

Feathers

It's in the feathers

Feathers that "tune into" the environment like radio antennae may explain the age-old riddle of bird migration, according to three Canadian scientists.

They say the feathers detect changes in temperature, humidity and in the earth's magnetic field. These changes cause a discomfort which induces the birds to take to the air.

And, the scientists theorize, it appears gravitational microwaves acting on the "antennae" stimulate the birds along a particular flight path. Laboratory tests have shown that the sensitivity characteristic of feathers changes with fluctuations in temperature and humidity.

In one test, chickens with tail feathers exposed in microwave fields showed lively reaction. Defeathered birds made little response.

The scientists are Dr. Cesar Romero-Sierra and J. Bigu Del Blanco of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, and Dr. Allan Tanner of the National Research Council, Ottawa.

*(Westmount is a wealthy and largely English-speaking suburb of Montreal.)

Drugs

Professor Gerald Le Dain is a man whose name can trigger off as much reaction in Canada as Prime Minister Trudeau's. Le Dain is currently being hailed as either an enlightened man of our time or as a pussy-footing academic. After four years of heading the Canadian Commission of Inquiry into the Non-medical Use of Drugs, he is not surprised at this sharp division of opinion about its work and its findings. The conflicting views evoked by the drug issue were constantly in confrontation before his commission during its public hearings.

What has taken him completely by surprise has been the profound effect on his personal views of the spiritual outpourings he witnessed as head of the Commission. He says openly: "I have learnt a lot about myself. I will never be the same again. Now I feel both stimulated and exhausted. Now I want nothing more than getting back to a low-key profile again."

Le Dain was an ideal choice to head the drugs inquiry – a delicate mission which brought about some often touching public confrontations between parents and children on this taboo subject. It is probably not inaccurate to say that no public hearings in recent times have tested the spiritual values of Canadians more thoroughly than the Le Dain Commission's.

A non-smoker and a non-drinker except for the occasional Dubonett to be sociable, Le Dain had been enjoying an attractive, sheltered, academic way of life in what might be called the heart of establishmentarian Canada. He was dean of Osgoode Hall law school in Toronto. But when he agreed to be Chairman of the Commission, Le Dain said in an interview, "all sense of taboo and social revulsion went."

"Trudeau had said, 'we need guidance,' I said 'okay.' But I was staggered. I knew nothing about drugs. Four of the most traumatic years of my life were about to begin."

The appointment meant more or less saying goodbye to a much valued home life with his wife and six children as the Commission began its trek right across Canada. It meant living out of a suitcase, long and exhausting journeys, and conducting hearings from dawn until midnight.

Fortunately, Le Dain has astonishing energy. He has starry good looks – lean and tanned with prematurely silver hair. He

Le Dain drug enquiry has spiritual impact on Le Dain

by Ann Morrow*

is engaging, astute and sensitive to atmosphere. He laughs a lot – mainly at himself. So his appointment was inspired, with his ability to draw out of the most reticent, hung-up teenager revealing facts about drugs. He appealed to the parents, too. They warmed to this sympathetic professor who would understand their problem.

In Ottawa for a few days "tidying up" before returning home to Toronto, where he will be a law professor, having given up the rigours of being Dean, Le Dain talked about the Inquiry.

"I'm always being asked if Canada will be the first country to legalize pot. What am I to say? As a man who doesn't smoke, drink or take drugs, I'm frightened of the unknown potential. For instance, the tobacco experience has been terrifying. We know that it causes lung cancer. We don't know yet with cannabis – so how can you take a decision in a vacuum?"

His opinion, though, on some of the effects of cannabis is one which may have earned him some criticism.

"First let me make it clear that I am not attracted by cannabis. I like to feel good. But I found I was attracted by the values of some of the users and the greater emphasis they offered on being human. Drug use also offered a fuller expression of the emotional side of life with much less dependence on material things. It seemed to spell out the uniqueness of the individual. The message seemed to be 'enjoy your uniqueness'."

When the commissioners arrived in a town, they would contact teachers, clinics, institutions and paste up notices and then wait. Slowly the kids would come forward and talk publicly about drugs. Often there were moving moments when children and parents confronted each other and then broke down in a new understanding. One teenager sought out Le Dain and said: "I

haven't been able to talk to my Ma and Pa for years. If you've only achieved this – it's enough."

Le Dain says, "In terms of achievement the Commission at best has attempted to explain this generation. There was, for the first time, a dialogue and there is nothing more satisfying than making human contact. The temper of the discussions impressed me. I could say to a kid, 'why do you feel you have the burden of the world on your shoulders?' I'd get a straight answer."

"The kids were so open. This was terribly attractive. Their values were right. They were cutting deep. There was no posing. I found this made me develop a belief in openness. Because of this the parents responded, so you had old and young expressing their deepest convictions in public. I remember an old lady who'd come from some outlying place to preach the gospel at a hearing. She thundered on for a while. Then a young hippy said gently: 'yeah, but how much is all this a living reality in your life?' He added, 'you see I find it quite easy to love you'."

"Pow! She just burst into tears and they stood there hugging each other."

The hearings were tentatively received at first but the word soon spread that they were rather special. Le Dain explained: "Wherever we arrived someone would say, 'the nuts from Ottawa are here' and people would come forward. And so often parents and kids would be so grateful to us for the open confrontation. Often a dialogue could go on between mother and son – or daughter – until the early hours of the morning."

"Obviously some people asked to see us privately. Established businessmen and vicars – yes, vicars – could not talk in public about their drug-taking."

Enormous tension

Although such an abstemious man, Le Dain understands the terrible need for drugs, stimulants and tranquillizers today. "We are coping with enormous tension. There is the constant bombardment of the nervous system by noise. Take the kids first. They feel they've got to keep up all the time. The bright kids know where it's at, but these are the super-adaptive ones."

"The others, well they know the park and where the ball game is at but need to get propped up to compete. Eventually they fall out and revolt. In the same way the young executive who has become technologically obsolete turns to alcohol."

*Ann Morrow is a Fleet Street freelance whose stories have appeared in The Times. She recently visited Canada.

"Drugs attract people who want attention so ultimately they can say, 'I told you I was sick, Ma.' They are the lonely ones who really find it difficult to have a warm and loving relationship. They can't love; they go on drugs. It's really a cry 'look out I'm'drowning.'

"The inquiry was tough: Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire pushing their trollies round a supermarket - unable to get through the day without their tranquillizers - had a new look at themselves and were less critical of the young people."

Looking back, Le Dain doesn't pretend that the findings of the Commission have done more than create a coming-together of the people. But that's a satisfying thought for him. He looks back on the four years with compassion and a new understanding.

Fun they missed

"It never once got out of hand. I was frightened only when we were at a hearing and this huge guy looking like Ché Guevara walked slowly up the hall towards me. I thought, 'oh-God, is this it?' When he reached the platform, he had a cigarette in his hand. He broke it in two, handed it to me, smiled and walked away."

His sympathy, too, is towards the police. "These middle-aged guys see the kids, young and beautiful, having the sort of fun they missed out on and they have to arrest them."

His own formula for living is simple: a) a challenging and satisfying job, b) marital happiness and good personal relationships, c) keeping one's head straight. He hopes his own kids won't be attracted by drugs. When his eight-year-old daughter Jennifer was asked if she would or could smoke pot. She replied: "Oh no - it would hurt Daddy's pride too much."

A body blow

The findings of the Le Dain commission seemed to hold out a crumb of comfort to the cannabis smoker with one hand and then deal him a frightening blow with the other.

The sop was to confirm the teenage belief that "on the whole the physical and mental effects of cannabis at the levels of use presently attained in North America would appear to be much less serious than those which may result from excessive use of alcohol."

But the body blow was their opinion that cannabis could damage an adolescent's maturing process.

This is because cannabis changes the user's perception of his body image and personal identity. The commissioners felt this could have a lasting traumatic impact on a 13- or 14-year-old who hasn't learned to cope with this kind of experience.

Frequent cannabis use affects short-term memory, attention and possibly academic

performance and the ability to absorb knowledge. Heavy use certainly was destructive in those areas.

And if further discouragement were needed, the commissioners found that cannabis impaired driving ability and could interact with alcohol causing more damage. And long term use could result in mental deterioration and disorder.

It could play a part in the spread of multi-drug use by stimulating a desire for drug experience and dispelling inhibitions about drug experimentations.

It was not known what the moderate use of cannabis should be as opposed to excessive, so a social policy discouraging the use of the drug use generally was recommended by the majority report.

However, one of the commissioners disagreed on this. Criminologist Marie-Andrée Bertrand rejected the majority view that cannabis could damage maturing adolescents. And she didn't think that cannabis users went on to other drugs. She felt that legalization seemed less harmful than the evils of prohibition.

More tolerant attitude

On marijuana, the commission recommended that Canada should adopt a more tolerant attitude in its laws. But they could not reach agreement on its harmfulness or on legal suggestions.

A three-member majority, including Chairman Le Dain, recommended abolishing all possession penalties but at the same time maintaining reduced penalties for trafficking, importing and cultivation.

It was advocated that there should be legal changes which would make it possible to smoke marijuana or hashish publicly or in private without penalty - but police could seize and confiscate the substances.

It would be okay to grow marijuana for personal use with no penalty, other than seizure by police if the plants were found.

There would still be penalties, but smaller ones for importing, trafficking, possession for the purposes of trafficking and cultivation of sale. However, giving small quantities of hashish or marijuana to others would not count as trafficking.

Commissioner Ian Campbell agreed with all the recommendations of the majority except on the abolition of all possession penalties.

He argued that if the government repealed the prohibition on possessing cannabis, this could only be interpreted by young people as society's seal of approval on cannabis use. He also rejected the idea that the criminal law should not be used to regulate private behaviour and morality. He felt that the use of cannabis had done real harm to many young lives and said for this reason he thought there should be a deterrent provided by legal prohibition.

The conflict in the commissioner's findings must have been read with interest by the 1,300,000 to 1,500,000 Canadians who it found have tried marijuana at least once. ♦

Crossbred sheep produce more

Lambs grow faster and ewes produce more offspring when they're crossbred. That's the finding of Dr. J. A. Vesely of Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge, Alberta, who headed an experiment at the Manyberries substation to discover the extent to which crossbreeding improves lamb production.

The experiment began in 1967 and lasted four years. Four breeds were involved: Romnelet, Columbia, Suffolk and North Country Cheviot. Each year, lambs were raised from each of the four pure breeds, 12 two-breed crosses and 24 three-breed crosses. The lambs were born in the spring and grazed with their mothers until mid-summer before going to a feedlot for 75 days. Their feed in the lot was 50 per cent chopped alfalfa hay, 40 per cent barley and 10 per cent dried molasses beet pulp.

Purebred lambs averaged 52.9 pounds at weaning and 90.9 pounds at marketing; two-breed cross lambs averaged 55.2 pounds and 97.4 pounds; and three-breed cross lambs, 60.3 and 101.1 pounds.

They had hybrid vigor

"The average weaning and market weights of the two-breed crosses were higher than those of the purebred lambs mainly because of their hybrid vigor," Dr. Vesely explains. "The increased growth performance in the three-breed cross lambs was due to the hybrid vigor in the lambs as well as their mothers."

The crossbred lambs also had a better track record for surviving until marketing. Seventy-five purebred lambs, 38 two-breed cross lambs and 86 three-breed cross lambs survived out of 100 lambs born in each group.

"Twinning is another benefit to be gained from crossbreeding," Dr. Vesely says. "The purebred ewes increased their numbers at lambing by 38 per cent and the two-breed or three-breed cross ewes increased theirs by 43 per cent. The crossbred ewes also raised 15 per cent more lambs than the purebred ewes."

Crossbred ewes probably have a longer productive life than purebreds, and Dr. Vesely is continuing testing to see if this is true. "But crossbreeding cannot be practised without purebred animals," he cautions. "Pure breeding and crossbreeding have an equally important place in animal production. The decision to practise either pure breeding or crossbreeding rests with the producer." ♦

Nova Scotia Indians run oyster farm

The Eskasoni Indian band on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, has gone into the oyster farming business in a unique way.

The Crane Cove Oyster Farm Ltd. on their reserve is the first in Canada to raise oysters by suspension methods, and the first in North America to attempt to cultivate oysters by this method on a commercial basis. The first crop was harvested last November. About 1,000 boxes of oysters, worth an estimated \$20,000, had been cultivated on scallop shells suspended from cables in the Bras D'Or Lakes.

Mature oysters reproduce in July giving off a spat-fall. These young oysters, or spat, swim freely before finally attaching to any smooth surface, where they remain for the rest of their natural lives or until marketed. Instead of sinking to the bottom of the lake as has occurred for centuries, the oysters now settle on scallop shells hanging on rafts in bays and coves. This first crop to be harvested was suspended from cables. The company has since begun using mobile rafts instead of the cable system.

The company, incorporated in 1971, and owned and operated by the Indian people of Eskasoni with company shares held in trust by the band council for the 1300 members of the reserve, hopes to realize a substantial profit by 1976.

This year's harvest involves only 4,800 strings of oysters, but 75,000 strings have been used to collect the 1973 oyster spat. It takes three to four years for an oyster to reach marketable size. This season's spat collection could result in gross sales of \$500,000 in 1976 when it reaches marketable size.

The Canadian Department of Indian Affairs has made available close to \$775,000 in loans and grants for development of the Crane Cove Oyster Farm, under the guidance of a board of directors. The board is made up of four Indian members, two non-Indian businessmen and an Indian Affairs representative.

Under the terms of financial assistance, in addition to guidance from a board of directors, the company works closely with the Department of the Environment's Fisheries Resource Development Branch which has provided the company with a marine biologist.

Non-Indian project manager, Mr. Lawrence Day, and company president, Mr. Irving Schwartz, also a member of the board of directors, are assisting the Indian people in developing this enterprise on a large scale. Indian understudies for the biologist, accountant and project manager have been selected from Eskasoni to ensure that trained personnel will be capable of taking over management in the future. It is hoped the board of directors will eventually become wholly Indian in membership.

Although the project is only in its infancy, the company provided a payroll of \$78,000 in 1972 creating approximately 17 man-years of employment to residents of the reserve. The company employs 16 men on a full-time basis with an additional 30 men hired at harvest and spat-collection time.

Oysters harvested this fall were retailed locally. However, marketing surveys have been undertaken to determine Canadian demand for the Crane Cove product. Studies conducted by officials of the Canadian Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce suggest a high demand for oysters which, with proper promotion, could provide the company with a market for 10 to 12 million pounds of oysters per year.

Container shipping to grow and grow

Movement of goods in giant containers will increase enormously by 1980 with important benefits to the Canadian economy, says a research study prepared for the Canadian Transport Commission.

The study says the volume of import and export freight moved in container boxes will more than double by 1980 while domestic container traffic will grow even faster. It suggests railways are in a better position than lorry companies to take

advantage of container business. Railways, the study says, already have the centralized organization and major terminals important in container movement.

The four-year study was made by a group of consultants, chiefly the Swan Wooster Engineering Co. of Vancouver and Matson Research Corp. of San Francisco. A report summarizing the study was issued by the commission at the end of December.

Container handlings at Canadian ports increased to the equivalent of 318,000 20-foot containers in 1972 from 8,700 in 1967. This is expected to grow to 800,000 by 1980.

The metal containers, packed with everything from raw commodities to high priced manufactured products, are easily shifted between trains, lorries and ships and provide protection from weather and theft. They are more easily stored and handled than other transport equipment. Current restrictions on the length of road vehicles gives railways an edge in competition for container business.

Many low-value commodities like lumber and paper would not move by container except under the best economic conditions, the study says.

The potential for Canadian container traffic is 900,000 units by 1980, about 50 times the current level. But the study indicates there is some doubt about this target being reached because of existing rail boxcar and lorry competition.

Economic advantages

There are important economic advantages of using containers. Container facilities increase movement of freight at lower labor costs. The study group found that labor at a container port is 7.5 times to 15 times more productive than labor at a comparable conventional port. Labor at inland rail or lorry container terminals is 20 times more productive than at conventional inland terminals, the study says.

High speed container ships also help reduce the time in moving freight. Because of lower handling costs at ports and land terminals, the prospect of using North America as a land bridge between Europe and Asia is more attractive, the study suggests. Shippers could move goods to Canadian ports for rail or lorry movement to west coast ports on the way to Asia.

Simpler procedures may open overseas markets to small Canadian industries that might otherwise limit themselves to the domestic market. Better protection for perishable goods like vegetables might also mean better prices at the final destination.

The study says one drawback is reduced employment because of increase automation in ports and inland terminals. Another is the danger of some containers moving empty one way. This could be costly.

But over-all, the study concludes that the advantages have outweighed the disadvantages. Five Canadian ports handle export-import container traffic - Halifax, Nova Scotia, Saint John, New Brunswick, Quebec City, Montreal and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Urban profile:

Quebec City cradles Canadian history

By Alan Harvey

Distinctive is the word for Quebec City. It proudly lays claim to being a Canadian community unlike any other. It is North America's only walled city, the most tenaciously European of any on the continent, a bit of old France lovingly preserved in an Old World setting, a showplace of tourism and cradle of Canadian history. Its old stone buildings speak a storied past. It has charm and cachet.

Set on commanding heights overlooking the broad St Lawrence river, a natural fortress with water access to the heartland of North America, Quebec City in olden times acted as a springboard for French explorers probing a vast new continent, from the Rocky Mountains in Canada's far west to the Gulf of Mexico thousands of miles to the south.

Within this compact city, high on the Plains of Abraham, French and English soldiers fought in 1759 an historic battle that, with an irony rare in any nation's history, brought together what later became Canada's two founding cultures. The story of The Two Solitudes began. More than

two centuries later, the consequences for Canadian unity are still not wholly resolved.

Here, explorer Samuel de Champlain threw up a trading post in 1608, the year usually accepted as the city's founding date. Here Jesuit priests sought to civilize nomadic Red Indians, and here in 1775 Quebec was saved from American assault. In its embattled history, the city withstood all told six sieges.

Today, Quebec City is the capital and seat of government of Quebec province, largest of the 10 provincial areas which make up the Confederation of Canada. In many ways it represents the true heart and cradle of French Canada, holding to its francophone traditions more tightly than cosmopolitan Montreal. The Province's largest and most dynamic city. With its area of 594,860 square miles, Quebec province accounts for 15.4 per cent of the total

Below

The provincial legislature building, now called the Legislative Assembly, in Quebec City, capital of the province of Quebec and heartland of French Canada.

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Canadian land and water area. It is big enough to encompass Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, Switzerland and the two Germanies.

In reality, the Quebec capital is two cities rolled into one. It began with Upper Town, an older section on a promontory within the walls, once the centre of the community's religious and ruling establishment. Later came Lower Town, outside the fortifications, a place of historic churches and narrow winding streets. It is quaint, old world and cosy. Here there are no Big City Blues.

Given its blend of cultures, English and French, Quebec City has been called a "split-level city speaking with two voices". Most people get along in English, but the French language predominates. The city is in fact the spiritual heart of a French community itself unique in North America.

It abounds in trappings that beguile the tourist. Each year visitors climb happily into picturesque horse-drawn buggies, called calèches, for guided tours of an old-fashioned place that has known how to remain itself.

Place Royale restored

For instance, there is the 17th-century market place of Place Royale, now being lovingly restored as part of an experiment in town planning. Here stands the church of Notre-Dame-des-Victoires on the site where Samuel de Champlain built his first dwelling in 1608. Now the provincial government has set about restoring the 80 run-down and decrepit buildings in the old merchants' quarter dating from the 17th century and later.

The aim of planners is to make the ancient Place Royale look as nearly as possible like it did two centuries ago. But most of all, they say, "it will be simply an inviting place to walk around in and casually enjoy." There will be permanent displays of vestiges of Quebec's past and special exhibitions of arts and handicrafts.

"We didn't want to set up any rigid pattern for Place Royale development to follow," said architect Georges Leonidoff recently. "We wanted it to grow organically in keeping with the needs and desires of the peoples living there." Place Royale's inhabitants now number about 500, formed into a citizens' committee to make known their views on planning.

One of Quebec City's landmarks is, of course, the Chateau Frontenac Hotel, a castle-like structure dominating the skyline. This was built in 1892 to replace Chateau Haldimand, a residence built in 1874 by the British Governor of that name. The Chateau Frontenac is now undergoing a \$10m restoration programme.

Quebec City has a wide range of cultural and sporting entertainments to offer. Theatre flourished early here and Corneille's *Le Cid* was played as early as 1646. Now the city boasts *Le Grand Théâtre*, inaugurated early in 1971 with a series of concerts and shows that drew artists from Europe as well as Quebec.

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Regarded as a remarkable achievement of modern theatre architecture, *Le Grand Théâtre* cost some £10m. It has an auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,800 for dramatic art and opera, ballet, cinema and orchestral concerts. A second auditorium, with 600 seats, can accommodate dramatic art, small groups, recitals, symposia and cinema. The theatre also contains the Quebec Conservatory, exhibition hall, restaurant, administrative offices and all the services associated with a theatre.

Quebec has always been noted as an intellectual and educational centre. As early as 1635, the Jesuits opened a college here established by the first bishop of Quebec, Francois de Montmorency Laval. It became the forerunner of Laval University, founded in 1852. For over a century Laval has supplied lawyers, doctors and other professional men to enrich the life of Quebec.

Renowned winter sport

Quebec is renowned for winter sport. Celebrated ski centres are located east and north of the city within half an hour's drive. This and other facilities explain why the city was selected as the site of the first Canadian Winter Games, an all-Canadian "Olympics" held in 1967.

The length of the skiing season helps to make Quebec a mecca for the sport. Total snowfall in the province averages 120 inches

Above
A monument to the founder of Quebec City, Samuel de Champlain, stands in Dufferin Terrace, Quebec City, with the St Lawrence River in the background.

Right
The fate of British North America was settled on these Plains of Abraham in Quebec City in a one-day battle in 1759. Today horse-drawn caleches carry summer tourists across the peaceful lawns high above the St. Lawrence River. (National Film Board)

annually, and three feet of snow cover can usually be counted on from early December until late in March. Sometimes the season lasts five months.

One of the gayest annual events is the *Carnaval de Québec*, held in the capital. This starts with the arrival of *Bonhomme Carnaval*, described as the world's only talking snowman, a jovial giant who spurs on the general gaiety aided by a carnival queen and her court of seven duchesses, chosen from the city's most fetching young women. Bands, floats and parades add to the atmosphere as sounds of revelry reverberate through the ancient city. Sleigh bells tinkle, tourists wearing buffalo robes ride through the streets in horse-drawn vehicles, strangers lock arms and dance round elaborate ice monuments especially sculptured for the occasion – and for prizes. Competitions abound – skiing, ice skating, barrel-jumping contests by ice-skaters, dogsled



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derbies, motor-sled races, curling, peewee hockey tournaments, motorcycle races on ice, sports car rallies, snowshoe races and finally, as a crowning touch, the annual canoe race over the ice-choked St Lawrence River to the cheers of spectators massed on the city walls.

Quebec's Winter carnival began in 1954. It has grown nearly every year and now rivals the Mardi Gras of New Orleans. It is an unforgettable occasion.

Visitors enjoy walking tours

Because the streets of the old city are often narrow and circuitous, walking tours are a popular way of sightseeing. A good starting place is Dufferin Terrace, near the spot where Champlain built his first real fort in 1620 and where he died on Christmas Day, 1635. Not far away is the Place d'Armes, or parade ground, and around this square is the Chateau Frontenac which in 1943 and 1944 served as headquarters for military personnel at two historic Quebec conferences. In these talks, President Franklin Roosevelt of the United States and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, joined as guests of Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King in working out allied war directives.

Other points of interest include the rue du Trésor, where artists display their skills, the museum on the rue du Fort which provides a realistic electronic re-enactment of notable scenes in the city's history, and the Chien d'Or, or Golden Dog House, known to thousands through a popular historical romance of that name depicting stages of the French regime in Quebec.

To the west of Dufferin Terrace is Cap Diamant, offering a commanding view of the city. And just behind the Chateau Frontenac is the Jardin des Gouverneurs where the monument to the two fallen soldiers of 1759, Wolfe and Montcalm, commemorates the fame of these two opposing generals. Visitors may read the elegant Latin inscription: "Mortem Virtus Communem, Famam Historia, Monumentum Posteritas Dedit." Which may be translated, "Valour gave them a common death, history a common fame, posterity a common monument."

(continued from back page.)

He feels that the greatest enemy to poetic development, or indeed any kind of creative writing, lies in the allied professions to which writers so often turn for a living: notably journalism, which he tried for a while, and the teaching of literature in universities, to which he has given a lot of time and energy - "too much."

"The academic life shouldn't be an enemy to the creative life, but it is. It takes the writer and uses his talent as a writer for non-creative purposes under the guise of education."

About the younger generation of Canadian poets he is cheerfully enthusiastic: "They're good. They have more talent than us older poets have."

What does he see as the function of the poet in the world today? Earle Birney is too old and too young to find such a question difficult.

"All art is providing a momentary entertainment and escape, but a whole lot of artists won't admit that. I think also because it is an escape it has a consolatory function and the greater the art, I feel, the more it helps us to stay alive a little longer. Because there are so many reasons for not staying alive. . . Art for me is a human reassurance - all art, but particularly poetry. When I write a poem it is an attempt to reassure myself and anyone who reads it and hears it that we're both human and that we are therefore brothers and sisters. That the species hasn't divided in two quite yet."

Publishers

Publisher expands westward

A Canadian publishing house that was saved from sale or bankruptcy by a provincial government loan is now expanding.

The company, McClelland and Stewart Ltd. of Toronto, has formed a subsidiary company based in Calgary, Alberta.

Founded in 1906, the company has been Canada's oldest and largest book publishing firm since a rival firm, Ryerson Press, was sold in 1970 to United States interests.

McClelland and Stewart went up for sale in 1971. The Ontario government then granted the firm a \$961,000 loan, interest-free for five years.

Because of strong competition from U.S. publishers enjoying large markets, Canadian companies have often found financial survival difficult.

McClelland and Stewart specialize in publishing Canadian material.

Economic Digest

Balance of payments

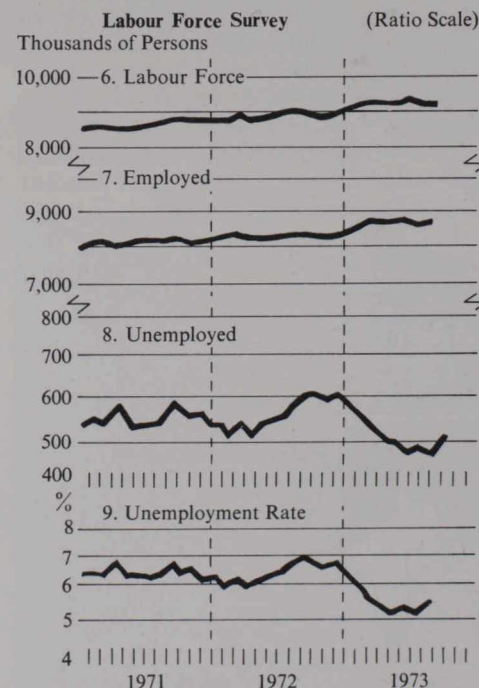
Canada recorded a current account surplus of \$31 million in the third quarter of 1973 as a trade surplus of \$338 million more than offset a deficit of \$307 million on non-merchandise transactions.

Capital account transactions produced a net outflow of about \$357 million. Very preliminary indications suggest a net capital inflow in long-term forms of approximately \$150 million, implying net outflows in short-term capital movements of some \$500 million.

Net official monetary movements led to a decrease in Canada's reserves of \$326 million during the quarter.

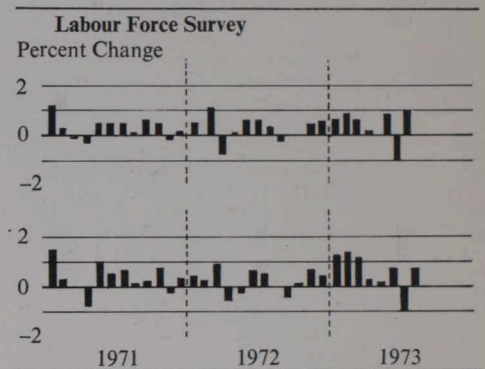
Labour force

The total number of jobless in Canada in November rose from the previous month but the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate dropped slightly, Statistics Canada reports.



Latest figures show there were 468,000 unemployed in November, up from October's total of 429,000. There were 524,000 jobless in November, 1972. But the seasonally-adjusted jobless rate in November was 5.6% down from October's 5.8% and a full 1% lower than that of November last year.

The actual unemployment rate rose to 5% in November, up from 4.6% in October. In November, 1972, the actual rate was 5.9%. The total number of employed in the labour force dropped by 53,000 to a total of 8,829,000 in November. Total work force, including the jobless, was 9,297,000.



For the regions, the actual November jobless rates jumped to 8.2% from 7% in October in the Atlantic provinces, to 6.7% from 6% in Quebec, to 3.9% from 2.8% in the prairies and to 6.2% from 5% in British Columbia. In all regions, the actual jobless rates were substantially below figures for November, 1972.

Seasonally-adjusted jobless rates in the regions showed a mixed pattern with November decreases in the Atlantic, Ontario and British Columbia regions from October and increases in Quebec and the prairies.

Living costs

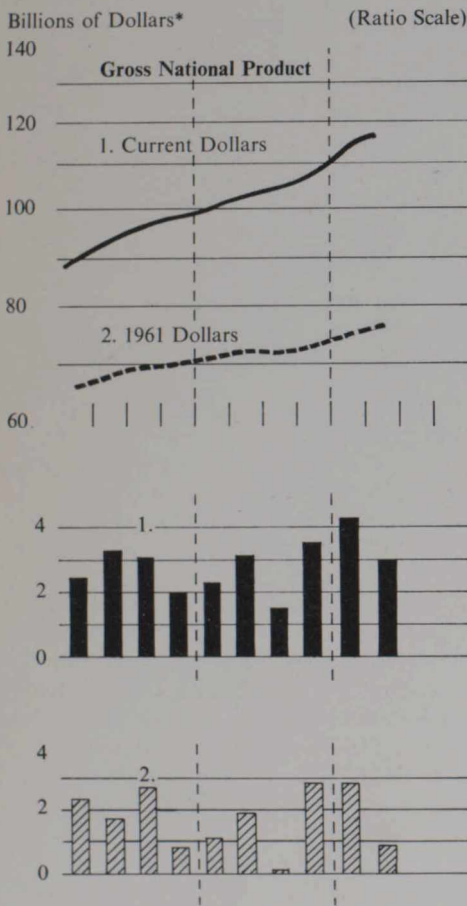
Food prices rose in Canada again in November and led to a rise in living costs on a broad front that also included increases for clothing, housing and medical care, Statistics Canada reported at mid-December.

The over-all increase in living costs was eight-tenths of one per cent and put prices in the one-year period up 9.3% continuing the worst Canadian inflation since 1951. The major contributors to the latest month's advance were higher prices for food, clothing and housing, which increased 1.2%, 1.1% and eight-tenths of 1% respectively. In addition, the component for health and personal care rose nine-tenths of 1%. The November price hikes put the government's Consumer Price Index up to 155.5 on its 1961 base of 100.

Gross National Product

Strikes and shortages of men and materials slowed Canada's third-quarter economic growth to well below levels earlier this year

and the spreading energy crisis casts a cloud over otherwise strong prospects for the future, Statistics Canada reported at mid-December.



The Gross National Product – the total of all the country's private and public spending for goods and services – rose only four-tenths of 1% after allowance for inflation. Total real growth for the entire first nine months of this year was 7.2% above the corresponding period of 1972, about in line with 1973 forecasts of the Canadian Government.

Minimum wage

The minimum hourly wage in British Columbia rose in December to \$2.25 from \$2 for employees aged 18 and over and to \$1.85 from \$1.60 for those 17 and under.

The minimum wage increased to \$2 an hour from \$1.50 on December 3, 1972, as the first in a three-stage increase by the province's New Democratic Party Government. The next increase will come June 3,

1974, when the wage paid to those 18 or over will rise to \$2.50 an hour and for those 17 and under it will rise to \$2.10.

Ontario announced in November that the province's minimum wage will rise to \$2 an hour on January 1 from \$1.80.

Pensions

The basic old age security pension in Canada will rise in January to \$108.14 from \$105.30, the Health and Welfare Department has announced.

The maximum guaranteed income supplement for a single person or married person whose spouse is not a pensioner will rise to \$75.85 from \$73.86. Added to the basic old age pension this payment will produce a monthly total of \$183.99.

The maximum supplement for a married couple if both are pensioners will go to \$67.37 from \$65.60. Added to the basic pension, it means each pensioner will receive \$175.51, a couple \$351.02.

The department estimates that in January more than 1,855,000 persons will be receiving old age security payments and of that number some 1,072,000 will be receiving the supplementary payments.

The increases result from passage in Parliament of bill C-219 on 6 September 1973 which provides for quarterly increases in the old age security pensions and the guaranteed income supplement based upon cost of living increases.

Parliament has also approved legislation raising the family allowance, paid universally without regard to income, from an average of C\$12 monthly per dependent child up to 18 years of age to an average of C\$20 monthly, effective 1 January 1974.

Inflation

Canada's inflation, although the steepest in 22 years, was only about average in a world of sharply rising living costs, for the first nine months of 1973.

Eleven of the 24 nations in the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) had larger consumer price increases over the 12-month period up to last September than Canada's 8.3%, and four countries fared worse in August than Canada's unusually large 1.3% jump that month.

A report by the OECD said Japan, Italy, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Portugal, Spain and Turkey all had bigger increases in living costs than Canada over the year prior to

September. In August, when Canada's 1.3% price increase marked the greatest single monthly rise in the country since 1951, even larger increases were reported in the U.S. with 1.8%, Japan 1.4, Finland 2.0 and Spain 1.6%.

While the measurements of living costs are not precisely the same in the various countries, "there are a lot more similarities than difference," said an official of Statistics Canada. The report also showed that Canada's average consumer price rise of 2.7% per year from 1960 to 1970 was tied with Germany for the third-lowest record of the 24 OECD nations, with only Greece and Luxembourg reporting lower figures of 2.1 and 2.6% respectively.

From the enviable position of having the lowest rise in living costs (2.9%) of the group in 1971, Canada moved to fourth lowest in 1972. At September 1973 Canada stood squarely in the middle with 11 nations reporting greater inflation in the 12 months dating back from August, eleven slower and one – Switzerland – tied. ♦

Earle Birney takes his poetry on the road

By Jenny Pearson

Tall, a little gaunt, one hand in pocket and the other holding and waving a book of poems as he reads, Earle Birney is quick to win and warm an audience. He has a homespun manner with words, his gentle Alberta accent wrapping them around in such a way that even the most complex of poetic concepts becomes immediately accessible.

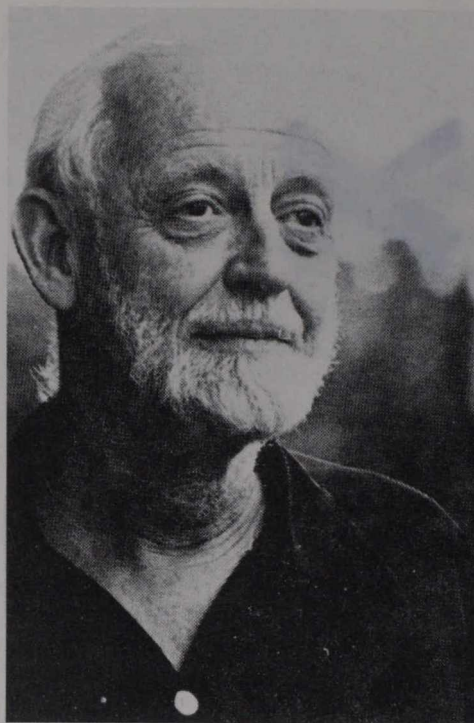
He was recently in London for the launching of a book of his selected poems, published by Chatto and Windus under the title *The Bear on the Delhi Road*, and gave poetry readings at the Commonwealth Institute and the Poetry Society. This is his first book to be brought out by a British publisher, though he is already known in Britain through the poetry magazines and Canadian books of his poetry (now more readily obtainable in London through Books Canada).

Earle Birney is a compulsive traveller, a wandering minstrel who enjoys making contact with strangers. He sees his wanderings as an important means of extending his audience as a poet – something that other English language poets could do a lot more of “if they wanted to”. His travels also provide insights that grow into poems. On a visit to India, he saw two men by the Delhi road with a captive Himalayan bear, teaching it to dance. The scene gave him the title poem of his book, in which there is felt an almost mystical empathy between the poet, the bear itself and the two strange Indian men:

*‘It is not easy to free
myth from reality
or rear this fellow up
to lurch, lurch with them
in the tranced dancing of men.’*

Earle Birney’s poetry is both contemporary and timeless. He is capable of pure sound poetry, such as his audio-graphic ‘*To Swindon from London by britrail aloud*’ which clanks and clatters the reader almost literally over every point and sleeper along the line. But the quasi-operatic instructions for reading aloud supply a touch of spoof: you cannot be sure how much he is laughing at the poem, at you, possibly at a whole poetic genre.

Nevertheless, it is surprising to find a poet nearing 70 (he was born in Calgary, Alberta, in 1904) who is so close and sympathetic to the younger generation of English-language poets. Looking back to the Commonwealth Artists Festival of 1965, he recalls who he divided his time between the younger poets gathered in Cardiff and the older generation of British poets including C. Day Lewis and John Betje-

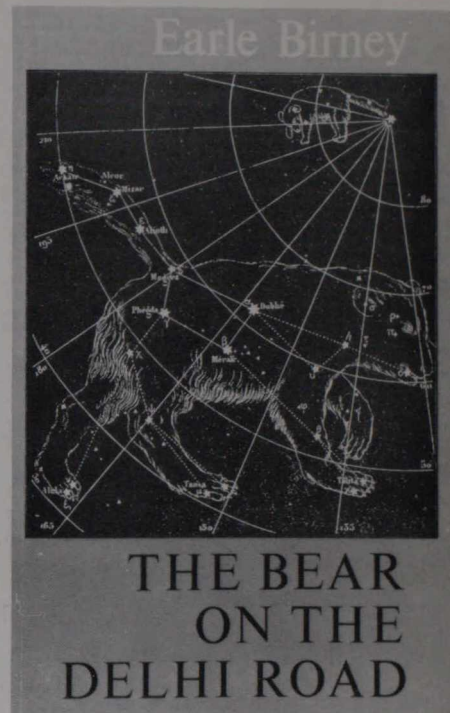


Earle Birney

man, reading at the Royal Court. “I felt there was a tremendous gulf between the younger and older British poets. The younger ones had absorbed the total American experience: it hadn’t changed them from being British, but they were sophisticated in a North American sense – whereas the older ones weren’t at all. They were still in some ways quite Georgian. I felt totally out of place with them, like someone of another generation, though I was their age. They were so *stuffy!*”

This sudden use of a humdrum word is typical of the way Birney hits nails on the head in conversation, just as he does in his writing. A choice of simple words often masks sharpness and subtlety of observation; his throwaway style makes you laugh even as you recognize the truth of what he is saying.

So in *Turvey*, his picaresque novel of the army, which won the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour in 1949: “. . . it was the lank Calvin Busby whose attitude to women really puzzled Turvey. He had little good to say about them, yet he had little to say about anything else. He loved to fix a woman with his wild yellowish eyes and deliver a kind of sermon, elaborate and insulting, in a bastard Biblical style. As he told Turvey, he had once had a religious spell and won a Bible marathon in the Heavenly Institute of Badger Coulee, so he could always produce something from the Lord to clinch his arguments.”



With the same rough logic, he explained to me why in his view the poet’s audience, in Canada is wider and less cliquy than in Britain, where poets tend to find themselves writing and reading only for other poets and their friends.

“Poetry is a much bigger thing in Canada: there’s more books sold and the audience is larger and more with it than here. Why? Partly because poetry’s a very easy medium to move about. In a big country like Canada it’s hell to be a painter it costs so much just to shift paintings. Any large art like painting or sculpture or, say, a bass fiddle, involves transport, and Canada is 4,000 miles long. But a poet can get to remote places very easily . . .”

Having reached the remote places, the poet was assured of a good audience because there was so little competition by way of entertainment: on the prairies, he could recall having audiences of up to 1,000 for a poetry reading, and once in mid-winter in northern Ontario, a bus load of children had travelled 100 miles through snow and sub-zero temperatures to hear him.

Earle Birney feels that regionalism works in favour of the development of poets, though when they are young they tend to resent it: “The very regionalism that keeps them in small pockets and not very interesting when they start off eventually gives them their flavour when they become good enough to attain international status.”