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Lower inflation and more jobs main goals of new budget

In presenting the budget to the House of Commons on March 31, Finance Minister Donald Macdonald stated that its most important objects were to maintain the underlying trend to lower inflation and "to encourage a steady and non-inflationary growth in the economy in order to provide jobs and reduce unemployment."

To achieve these goals, the budget proposes a \$100-million plan to create new jobs, tax relief for low-salary earners and extended credits as incentives to small businesses.

Wage and price controls will not begin to be phased out until October at the earliest, said the Finance Minister, and they would stay in effect "for some time unless replaced by firm understandings which produce similar results."

Reprinted below is the Budget in Brief, published by the Department of Finance:

It is clear that the underlying momentum of inflation in Canada is slowing, although we can expect some price increases this year that may set us back temporarily.

Wage settlements have been coming down in line with anti-inflation guidelines. Unit labour costs — the key to our competitive position as a trading nation — are under better control.

The real incomes of working Canadians are rising strongly.

The most disturbing element in our economic performance has been higher unemployment. While the unemployment rate is under 5 per cent for adult men, and is 7 per cent for adult women, it is above 14 per cent for young people. Both general and specific measures are needed to deal with this situation.

Capital investment is weak. We need a stronger growth in business investment and continuing improvement in exports to boost Canada's economic recovery and lay the basis for sustained growth in future.

The decline in the Canadian dollar can help our exports, but only if we keep our domestic costs and prices firmly in check.

Canadians have to accept higher prices this year for food, energy and some other purchases. To try to offset them by demanding bigger pay cheques will regenerate the inflationary spiral and wipe out the progress we are making.

This is a critical time for us to persist in maintaining the underlying trend to lower inflation, while we pursue steady growth in the economy.

The Federal Government will pursue its policy of developing energy supplies. But we must all adopt better conservation practices and face the prospect of higher prices.

The best way for Canadian consumers to protect themselves against higher energy prices is to use less energy.

Controls

Price and income controls have helped to bring down the rate of inflation, but their job is not yet done. If controls were suddenly removed, there is a danger that rates of price and cost increase would begin to escalate again.

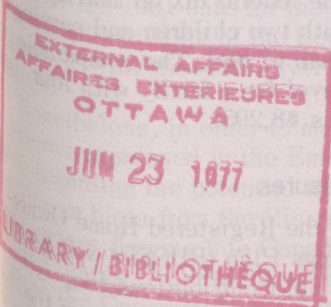
The Government believes it would not be feasible or desirable to begin "decontrol" before the second anniversary of the anti-inflation program on October 14, 1977.

But a recent business and labour initiative has raised the prospect of sufficient support for voluntary restraint as to warrant consideration of a somewhat earlier decontrol date. That could affect the question of timing. This prospect will be explored in a round of consultations to follow publication of a discussion paper on decontrol and the post-control environment.

In the meantime, all parties are advised to proceed with wage and price determination in the expectation that controls will continue in effect for some time.

Job creation

The Government has launched a fast-acting employment strategy keyed to



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the job-creating programs of Canada Works and Young Canada Works.

The budget announces a \$100-million expansion of these programs, bringing the total commitment in 1977-78 to \$458 million. Over-all, this is expected to create 600,000 man-months of employment and significantly reduce the number of unemployed people.

Expenditure control

The policy of restraint in expenditures is bearing down on every department of Government. Spending has been cut below the predicted level for the fiscal year just ending. Next year spending will increase significantly less than the expected growth of the economy generally.

Many useful and desirable programs are having to be delayed or curtailed.

Monetary and fiscal policy

Both monetary and fiscal policies are encouraging the economy to grow moderately and produce more jobs while winding down inflation. Wide swings in policy are being avoided.

To attempt to cut the Government's deficits too soon would threaten the recovery. Indeed, with present levels of unemployment, further stimulus to the economy is needed.

However, it is essential to avoid placing too much pressure on capital markets when we are seeking to encourage new private investment.

Budget measures

The budget measures will create employment, encourage investment and foster regional growth. They will improve the equity market and improve the cash flow of business as sources of funds for expansion. They will give more help to small business and venture enterprises. They will help sustain consumer spending and provide further tax relief, particularly to Canadians with modest incomes. All of these measures will lead to more jobs.

To encourage investment and regional growth:

The existing 5 percent investment tax credit, due to expire June 30, will be extended an additional three years.

The credit will be extended to include capital and operating expenditures on scientific research and development.

The credit will be increased in slower-growth regions designated un-

der the Regional Development Incentives Act: to 7.5 per cent in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northern Ontario and designated regions in Quebec other than the Gaspé; to 10 per cent in the Atlantic provinces and the Gaspé region.

Other measures: tax incentives for frontier oil and gas exploration, and for improvements in rail transport facilities.

As a partial offset to the distortion of business income from inflation, 3 per cent of the opening value of inventories will be deductible in calculating business income each year.

Equity investment, business finance

The dividend tax credit will be increased to 50 per cent from 33 1/3 per cent. Starting January 1, 1978, dividends from taxable Canadian corporations will be grossed-up by one-half, as opposed to one-third currently, and taxpayers will claim against tax a credit equal to the higher amount. (Under the old rule, a taxpayer with a marginal tax rate of 40 per cent would pay net tax of \$60 on a \$300 dividend. Under the new rule he would pay \$30. For taxpayers with lower marginal rates, the reduction in tax is even greater; for taxpayers with higher marginal rates, the increase in the value of the credit is proportionately less.)

Many of the complex rules designed to prevent surplus stripping (i.e., the avoidance of tax on distribution of corporate surplus) will be abandoned or simplified. This will remove blocks to business reorganization and expansion.

Capital losses a taxpayer can set off against other income in any year will be doubled to \$2,000.

Capital gains will be included in the present \$1,000-exemption for interest and dividends.

The current exemption from non-resident withholding tax for interest on government and long-term corporate bonds will be extended four years to the end of 1982.

Stock dividends from public corporations will not be taxed until disposed of, and then only at capital gains rates.

Specific help for small business

Substantial benefits will flow to small business from the measures noted

above.

Stock option plans established for employees of Canadian-controlled private companies will be given special tax treatment.

Ordinary taxpayers will be assured that they can have their gains on most Canadian securities taxed as capital gains rather than as ordinary income.

After January 1, 1978, tax will be deferred on any capital gain from the sale of a business or farm to the extent that the proceeds are reinvested for the same purpose.

Measures and programs will be introduced to ease costs of conversion to the metric system.

Income tax measures

The existing credit against federal tax (9 per cent of tax with a minimum of \$200, maximum of \$500) will be increased in 1977 for parents.

Taxpayers will be allowed to claim an additional credit of up to \$50 for each dependent child under 18 years of age resident in Canada.

The existing \$500-limit will be maintained so that most of the benefit will be reserved for taxpayers with larger families and modest incomes.

The employment expense allowance (now 3 per cent of wage and salary income with a maximum deduction of \$150) will be increased to \$250 effective for 1977 and subsequent years.

The combined effect of these two measures will be to eliminate completely the federal tax on married taxpayers with two children and earnings of less than \$7,360. The comparable income level for a family with four children is \$8,295.

Other measures

Rules for the Registered Home Ownership Savings Plan (RHOSP) will be tightened up. Contributions to a RHOSP will not be deductible if the spouse with whom the taxpayer is living owns a home. Home furnishings will be excluded from property eligible for RHOSP funds.

Current tariff reductions on a wide range of consumer products will be extended for another year to June 30, 1978.

Tariff concessions will be introduced for imports from developing countries, including processed coffee, orange juice concentrate and bananas....

Garrison Diversion Unit halted

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, tabled in the House of Commons on March 1 the text of a note received from the United States Department of State concerning the Garrison Diversion irrigation project in North Dakota.

The U.S. note was in reply to a Canadian note of October 12, 1976, requesting that construction, and decisions on construction, of the Lonetree Reservoir be deferred until the International Joint Commission had an opportunity to report the findings of its studies on Garrison and the two governments had a chance to consult on the IJC recommendations.

The U.S. note stated (in part):

* * * *

“The Department of State has been informed by the Department of the Interior that the construction of the Lonetree Reservoir would not be completed under the present construction schedule until August 1979. Filling of the reservoir with waters from the Missouri River system is not scheduled to begin until after the construction has been completed, i.e., until May 1981 at the earliest. Thus a considerable period of time would elapse between the scheduled publication in June 1977 of the International Joint Commission report on the transboundary impacts of the Garrison Diversion Unit and the 1981 date for the commencement of filling of the Lonetree Reservoir with Missouri River Basin waters.

“Nonetheless, in order to meet the concerns expressed in the Embassy’s note regarding the potential transfer of foreign biota from the Missouri River into waters flowing into Canada, the United States Government wishes to advise the Government of Canada that a contract for the construction of the Lonetree Dam will not be let until after the report to governments of the International Joint Commission has been received and subsequent consultations between the two governments have taken place.

“The Embassy will recall that the joint reference from governments to the International Joint Commission specifically calls upon the Commission to examine the issue of the potential

transmission of foreign biota from the area of the Garrison Diversion Unit into Canada.

“The United States Government reiterates its commitment of February 5, 1974, to undertake no construction of works in the Garrison Diversion Unit potentially affecting waters flowing into Canada until it is clear that

its obligations under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 will be met.

“These undertakings are in keeping with the spirit of mutual understanding and forbearance which has characterized and will continue to characterize the efforts of the two governments in addressing transfrontier pollution matters.”

The Garrison Diversion Unit is an irrigation project that would divert the waters of the Missouri River to irrigate a quarter of a million acres in North Dakota. On the basis of studies conducted in both countries, the Canadian Government has concluded that, if the project were completed according to existing plans, it would have adverse effects on Canadian portions of the Souris, Assiniboine and Red Rivers and on Lake Winnipeg. This could constitute a contravention of Article IV of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909,

under which both countries have an obligation not to pollute boundary waters, or waters flowing across the boundary, to the injury of health and property on the other side. In October 1975, a reference was presented to the International Joint Commission, asking it to make recommendations that would assist both governments in ensuring that the Article IV provisions of the treaty were honoured. The IJC was unable to complete its investigation by the October 1976 deadline, and the release of its report was postponed until early in 1977.

Stamp stresses plight of eastern cougar

Postmaster General Jean-Jacques Blais has announced that the Post Office will issue a new 12-cent stamp to highlight the plight of one of Canada’s endangered animals, the eastern cougar. The approximately 100 members of this sub-species live under constant threat of extinction by hunting and the destruction of their habitat. The illustration for the stamp was prepared by the noted wildlife artist and conservationist Robert Bateman, who has depicted the cougar in one of its known haunts – the remote forested



areas of New Brunswick and Quebec’s Gaspé Peninsula.

“Through this stamp I hope we can draw attention to the precarious hold these magnificent creatures have on life,” said Mr. Blais in his announcement. “Canadians, as individuals and as responsible corporate citizens, must work to ensure the sur-

vival of the eastern cougar and all other endangered animals.”

A total of 22 million stamps, printed by Ashton-Potter Limited of Toronto, were issued on March 30.

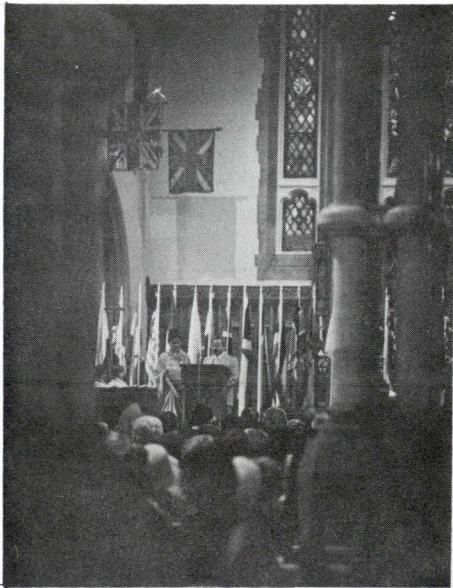
Annual report on Canada’s water

The 1976 annual report on Canada’s freshwater resources has just been released by the Department of Fisheries and the Environment. The new edition not only updates information on water-use, water research and other topics covered in the volume it replaces, but also covers a variety of subjects not dealt with previously. Several of the new articles seek to demonstrate the necessity for flexible, multi-purpose planning if a given quantity of water is to satisfy a wide range of uses.

Canada’s participation in the recent United Nations Water Conference, held from March 14 to 25, at Mar del Plata, Argentina, is featured in the new 1976 *Water Year Book*.

In 1974, some 1,070 gallons of fresh water per person per day were used in Canada for public supply, industrial purposes and agriculture. The *Year Book* provides a breakdown of these water statistics and reports in considerable detail on six recently-completed water-resource studies.

Canada celebrates Commonwealth Day



At the Inter-Faith Observance at Christ Church Cathedral, March 13, 1977, Dr. Madhu Sahasrabudhe, a leader of the Hindu religion in Canada, and a food scientist with the Department of Agriculture, read from the Bhagavad Gita, in Sanskrit; a Trinidadian, teacher at Osgoode High School, Mrs. Chandra Beedakhee read the same passage in English.



Monsignor Morin, Chancellor of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ottawa, who read in French from the Testament, Sir John Johnston, British High Commissioner, who read in English, and Rabbi Donald Gerber who read in Hebrew, were among the ten participants from different faiths who expressed both the diversity and the spiritual affinity of the Commonwealth.

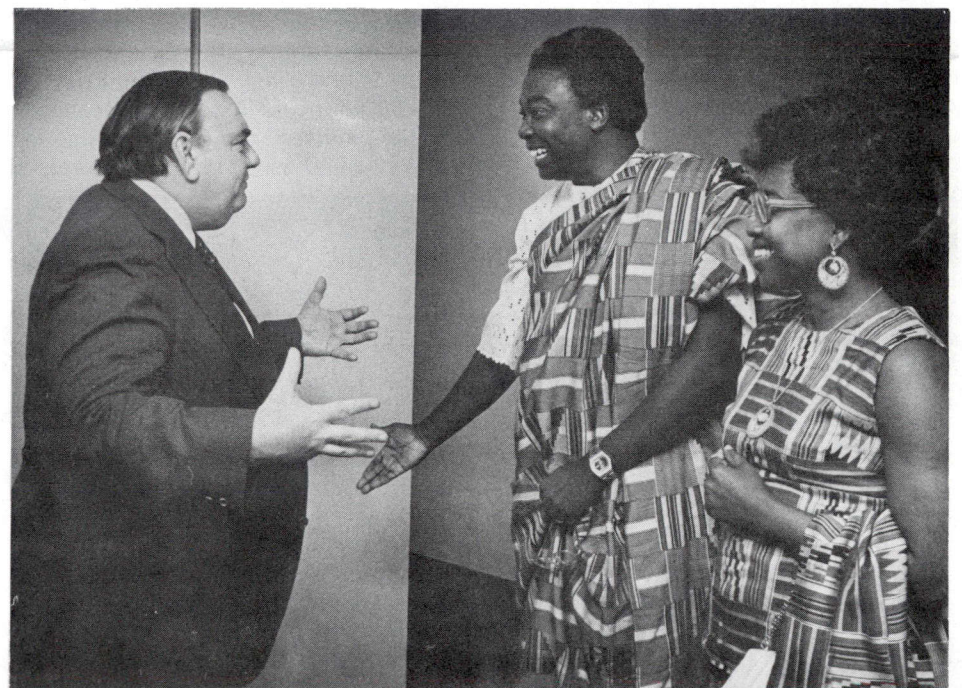
To mark Commonwealth Day, March 14, members of the Royal Commonwealth Society, the High Commissioners accredited to Canada and young people from the Commonwealth community began observances with an inter-faith church

service on Sunday the 13th, a parliamentary lunch, and ended with a family dinner on Monday, the 14th at External Affairs headquarters in Ottawa, which featured foods from Commonwealth countries.



(Above) Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson welcomes Tanzanian High Commissioner Chief Mwin-

amilia Lukumbuzya and his wife and (below) Ghanaian High Commissioner Alex N. Abankwa and his wife.





High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago Mathew Ramcharan (Dean of the Commonwealth High Commissioners and Honorary Chairman of the Organizing Committee) with his wife, sample the rum punch that welcomed the 250 guests to the Commonwealth dinner held Monday, March 14, at External Affairs headquarters, Ottawa.



Mr. Les Powis, member of the Ottawa branch, Royal Commonwealth Society, and the High Commissioner for Lesotho, sample each other's cuisine.

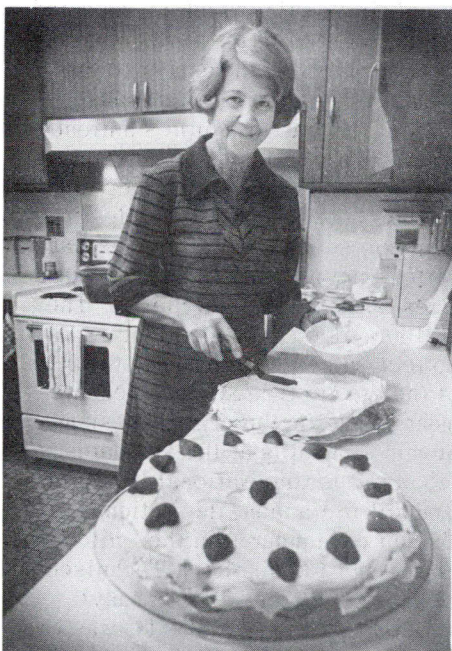


Mrs. Henry Tambia, and Mrs. Arthur Abeyawardena of Sri Lanka, at the dessert table.

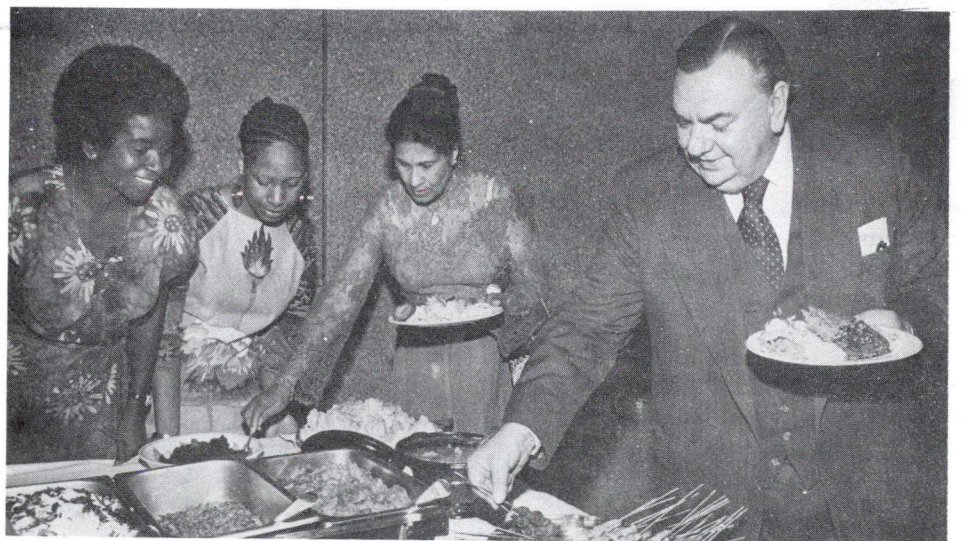


(Centre above) Rene Talalla of Malaysia, one of the co-ordinators of the diplomatic group, and Dominick Sars-

field of Canada, program chairman, at the Caribbean reception that took place before dinner.



Mrs. Eyre (wife of the High Commissioner for New Zealand) created two incredibly large and deliciously air-light Pavlova, the dessert for which New Zealand is famous.



(Right to left) Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and Mrs. Ramcharan (wife of High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago) are

tempted to try the various dishes by Stella Lukumbuza (daughter of High Commissioner for Tanzania) and Yella Cofie (Ghanaian student).

McMaster professor becomes fellow of Royal Society

One of the rarest honours conferred on scholars in the English-speaking world, and held by a mere handful of Canadians, has been accorded Dr. Ronald J. Gillespie of McMaster University's Department of Chemistry. Dr. Gillespie recently received word of his election as a fellow of the Royal Society, Britain's foremost scholarly society and the oldest in Europe. Two other McMaster professors are Royal Society fellows — Dr. H.G. Thode, former president of the university, and Dr. B.N. Brockhouse, Professor of Physics.

Dr. Gillespie's election was for outstanding research in inorganic chemistry and for his contribution to the teaching of that science, which won him in 1972 the College Chemistry Teacher Award of the Manufacturing Chemists Association. A maximum of six North American academics win this distinction each year.

Dr. Gillespie went to McMaster in 1958. He is the author of over 200 scientific publications and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Chemical Institute of Canada. Over the past several years, he has also been awarded: the American Chemical Society Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Inorganic Chemistry; the Chemical Institute of Canada Union Carbide Award for Chemical Education; the Noranda Award of the Chemical Institute of Canada for Inorganic Chemistry; and, this year, the Chemical Institute of Canada Medal, which will be presented to him next June.

Impressive record by Canadian satellite

Doctors in an urban university medical centre assist with Canada's first satellite-aided childbirth, at an isolated northern hospital.

Students at Ottawa's Carleton University and Stanford University in California share their lectures, flashed instantly between the two campuses, over a 45,000-mile earth-space-earth link.

Canadian and American radio astronomers achieve a major step forward in techniques for determining the size and

shape of distant galaxies.

These events represent but a small sample of the thousands of hours of experimental transmissions that have been beamed in the past year through Canada's HERMES, the world's most powerful communications satellite.

The Canadian-designed satellite, built in Ottawa, the first such satellite to operate in a new frequency band, at power levels ten to 20 times higher than those of other satellites, was launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on January 17, 1976. Its high power makes it possible to use much smaller and far less expensive earth stations.

Named after the Greek god of science and eloquence, the \$60-million HERMES has already met the primary mission objectives set for it by the Department of Communications and NASA, when they undertook jointly to build, orbit and experiment with what is said to be the most advanced communications tool ever to be sent into space. It is now more than half way through its design lifetime of two years.

About three dozen groups of experimenters and users (20 in Canada; about 15 in the U.S.) share the use of the satellite on alternate days; to conduct applications experiments in such fields as: telemedicine; tele-education; government administration and operations in remote areas; broadcasting technology; radio astronomy; community interaction; emergency communications; and maintenance of library and public broadcast networks. HERMES has shown that a high-quality colour-television picture can be delivered to a "mini-earth" station with a dish antenna no bigger than a child's toboggan.

New telemedicine trial

With \$124,000 in financial assistance from the federal Department of Communications, Memorial University of Newfoundland will soon begin a 12-week assessment of satellite links between its St. John's campus and hospitals in St. Anthony and Stephenville, Nfld., as well as Goose Bay and Labrador City, Labrador. Memorial's faculty of medicine and its educational television centre will use HERMES for four to six hours a day, on alternate days, to telecast programs in anaesthesia, cardiology, therapeutic

tics, communications, developmental disorders in children and nursing education. The links will also be used for transmission of medical data and consultation, public health instruction and workshops for social workers on child abuse and neglect.

The university's telemedicine experiment was inaugurated, with an eight-point tele-press conference linking the Communications Research Centre (CRC) in Ottawa with the four hospitals and three Memorial campus locations involved in the experiment.

Other HERMES projects still under way, or about to commence, include: the Carleton-Stanford course-exchange program; the Alberta Native Communications Society's evaluation of satellite-delivered interactive broadcasts among remote communities.

Leap second

The Bureau International de l'Heure (BIH) in Paris has announced that a leap second had been introduced on New Year's Eve. The leap second is added at 00 hours Universal Time Co-ordinated (UTC), which is midnight at the Greenwich meridian, or 7 p.m. EST in Canada. In 1976, the astronomical time-scale, which is measured by the rotation of the earth, was slow by one second with respect to the atomic time-scale UTC. Because optical navigation requires astronomical time, the leap second is introduced when necessary to keep the difference between the two scales to less than one second. This insures that no serious navigation error will occur as a result of differences in time. The BIH has also announced that a small correction has been made in the rate of the atomic time-scales. Measurements made by the primary-caesium atomic standards at the standards laboratories (the National Research Council in Canada, the National Bureau of Standards in the United States and Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt in West Germany) showed that the rate of UTC was too high. With the error removed, which amounts to a correction of 32 millionths of a second in one year, the new rate will be the same as that of the Canadian primary-caesium standard clock, CsV, at NRC in Ottawa.

News of the arts

Montreal troupe tours schools in New England

The Montreal-based company, Théâtre des Pissenlits (Dandelion Theatre), makes a tour of New England, U.S., this month under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs. The nine-year old troupe will tour Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Vermont giving 15 school performances. They are performing *Les Ballons enchantés/Magic Ballons*, which has proved its appeal to young audiences in tours throughout Canada and in the southern United States.

The play is a mixture of the Hans Christian Anderson tale of *The Emperor and the Nightingale* and stories from Quebec folklore. The performance, which involves four actors and puppets, will be presented to Franco-American communities in the new England states.



Krieber photo

René Lemieux performs in *Les Ballons Enchantés/Magic Balloons*.

Wanted — a singing monkey

In preparing for Festival Canada '77, July 2 to 30, the National Arts Centre, Ottawa, finds that it needs a monkey — or someone willing to impersonate a monkey. Destined to appear in a non-singing role in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, the person in question must be on hand for rehearsals, wear an appropriate costume and respond to specific directions in what is considered the most fanciful of all Mozart's operas. In other words, what is needed is an "operatic" rather than a "zoo" monkey, one more likely to win applause than peanuts from the audience.

As if that weren't enough, the Festival's opera productions also call for an armadillo, a baboon and a porcupine.

If it all sounds a bit ridiculous, the NAC explains that children and adults are urgently needed to fill these very important non-singing roles in the Mozart work as well as in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. In addition singers are required for the choruses in *The Magic Flute* and *Don Pasquale*. The National Arts Centre is inviting applications for any one of the positions mentioned above.

Guelph Spring Festival

The Guelph Spring Festival, which opens on April 30 and runs to May 22, includes a variety of musical events, a ballet performance and the *première* of a new play. The Festival, now in its tenth year is held in Guelph, Ontario, a town in southern Ontario just west of Toronto.

British organist Susan Landale, accompanied by the Toronto Brass Quintet, opens the Festival on April 30. The following day, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Elmer Isler will perform the *première* of *Song for St. Cecilia's Day* by Canadian composer Charles Wilson. Irish actress Siobhan McKenna has been engaged to perform in a new play about the declining years of Sarah Bernhardt. *Memoire* is by Calgary playwright John Murrell and will run for the week of May 2-8. The Toronto Symphony Orchestra, under Andrew Davis, will be in concert May 6, with French pianist Michel Beroff, soloist. The following evening is the *première* of *Seabird Island*, an opera by Derek Healey and Norman Newton based on a West Coast Indian legend. Vancouver's string ensemble the Purcell Quartet, in concert

on May 8, gives the first Canadian performance of Benjamin Britten's *String Quartet No. 1*. Winners of the National Vocal Competition will be featured in two concerts on May 12 and 14. On May 15, popular Quebec *chanteuse*, Pauline Julien will give a concert. May 17 and 18 will be devoted to *The Return of the Tiger*, a celebration of the city of Guelph's one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary in a musical encounter between modern Guelph and one of its more colourful founders, "Tiger" Dunlop.

Bergman film

The Ingmar Bergman film *The Magic Flute* will be screened on May 19, and the next day, the Montreal company Les Grands Ballets Canadiens perform a selection of works that include dances set to music by Canadian composers Pierre Mercure and Murray Schafer. As *finalé* concerts to the Festival, on May 21, a recital will be given by Metropolitan Opera star Marilyn Horne, and on the 22nd the 400-voice Ontario Choral Federation and the National Arts Centre Orchestra conducted by David Willcocks will present Handel's dramatic oratorio *Israel in Egypt*.

West Coast gets second hovercraft

Minister of Supply and Services Jean-Pierre Goyer announced recently that an SRN-6 hovercraft had been purchased from the British Hovercraft Corporation for the Canadian Coast Guard. The cost of the hovercraft was \$925,000 in Canadian funds. In addition, three pieces of ground-support equipment were purchased from the company at a price of \$6,870.

The craft is to be used for search-and-rescue work on the West Coast. After delivery, it will be equipped by contractors on the West Coast with special Coast Guard navigation and radio equipment. The new acquisition will supplement the present Coast Guard SRN-5 hovercraft, which has been operating along the West Coast for some time.

Place-names reflect people's choice

Marcus Van Steen, writing in Canadian Scene, tells the story of how Wawa and other towns got their names:

Far back in the misty dawning of this country, an Ojibway family stood on the northern shore of Lake Superior and watched and listened to the flocks of Canada geese winging over the lake and passing northward. "Wawa" was their cry, and Wawa was the name given to the place which is on one of the main migration routes of the beautiful big birds.

The name remained, and was adopted by the white settlers, who also were impressed by the flocks of migrating geese. However, when the area became the centre of mining activity, some officials decided it would be a good idea to rename the town in honour of the president of the local mining com-

pany, Sir James Dunn. So the town became Jamestown, officially. However, the citizens rejected this descent from the distinctive to the ordinary and refused to accept the new name. They addressed their mail Wawa, even though the name on their post office said "Jamestown". They bought railway tickets to Wawa even though the name on the station was clearly "Jamestown". Finally, officialdom gave way and the name of the town is now officially what its citizens had always called it, Wawa.

In the heart of the town there is a large, beautiful statue of the Canada goose from whose migrating call the town gets its name.

There are other towns in Canada where the citizens had to insist on retaining a well-loved and familiar

name. Sometimes the campaign goes on for years. In the case of Flesherton, Ontario, the debate raged for almost a century.

That particular part of Grey County, south of Georgian Bay, had been pioneered by W.K. Flesher, and the community that eventually grew up was naturally named Flesherton. However, in a glow of classical enthusiasm in 1822, the town fathers decided that "Flesherton" was too common and they decided to rename it "Artemisia", in honour of the Greek huntress goddess. The name did not appeal to the citizens, most of whom could neither spell it nor say it properly. But it was many years before that bit of artificiality was dropped, and the town reverted to its more natural, more meaningful and far more comfortable Flesherton.

News briefs

- Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson will visit Mexico from April 24-28 at the personal invitation of Mexican Foreign Minister Licenciado Santiago Roel Garcia to discuss informally relations between the two countries and mutual international questions.
- Mr. Jamieson will arrive in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S., on April 28 for two days, where he will deliver an address on Canada/U.S. relations and meet with business and government leaders of the southeastern United States.
- Nova Scotia Finance Minister Peter Nicholson brought in a balanced budget aimed at reducing the highest unemployment since the depression years. It included large tax increases on tobacco products, wines and spirits. The record \$12-billion budget forecasts a modest net revenue surplus of \$92,000 for 1977-78 after applying \$38 million to sinking fund instalment for debt retirement.
- The export tax on petroleum products to the U.S. increased effective April 1. The tax on middle distillates, which includes such products as home-heating oil, will increase by \$1.25 a barrel to \$4.25. Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie said the changes result from a decline in the value of the Canadian dollar in terms of U.S. funds. Other

Government energy sources say another reason for the higher taxes is to discourage the shipment of products refined from domestic crude oil.

- The Federal Government recently introduced legislation to give the provinces power to regulate communications within their own boundaries, but retained ultimate control of the medium in the federal sphere. A provision for negotiated transfers of regulatory power to the provinces is contained in the wide-ranging telecommunications bill. Some of its provisions expected to be controversial broaden the Cabinet's powers over the CRTC (Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission). The bill would allow provinces to nominate part-time members of the CRTC, but the Cabinet would retain the right of final approval of all nominations.
- Politicians from both sides of the Commons and fisheries officials dismissed, recently, a U.S. Congressional resolution condemning the East Coast seal hunt. Fisheries Minister LeBlanc said outside the Commons that the resolution "contained a considerable number of mis-statements of fact". The resolution said the hunt was a cruel practice and urged its abolition.

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