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Mr. Ford and Mr. Trudeau re-affirm close Canada/U.S. relations

The following exchange of correspondence between President Ford of the United States and Prime Minister Trudeau was released on August 12:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

As I assume the duties of the Presidency, I want to assure you, your Government and the people of Canada of my determination to carry on the foreign policy of the United States in the closest co-operation and friendship with Canada as our ally and our neighbour. The Atlantic Alliance will remain the central fact of my foreign policy and the United States will honour all of its obligations and commitments to the Alliance, for its strength is the foundation of our mutual security and for building world peace.

We have recently created a new spirit of co-operation for the Alliance and for Atlantic partnership, and I will pursue this course with the same sense of purpose as President Nixon.

We, of course, will remain in contact, and should find an opportunity for an exchange of views. We will continue the close consultation and co-operation that have marked the long friendship between our people and Governments.

I have asked Secretary of State Kissinger to continue in office so as to ensure continuity in the conduct of our foreign policies. He has my full confidence and support.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

Dear President Ford,

Your most welcome message has crossed with my note of congratulations on your assumption of the responsibilities of your new office. I nevertheless hasten to say to you how very much I welcomed the warmth and tenor of your letter. Your courtesy in communicating with me so soon after your inauguration, and your candor in assuring me of your policies toward Canada and the other members of the Atlantic Alliance reflect well upon the close and enduring qualities of the Canadian-American relationship.



"To our friends and allies in this hemisphere, I pledge continuity in the deepening dialogue to define renewed relationships of equality and justice," said U.S. President Gerald R. Ford to a joint session of the Congress on August 12.

I should like to thank you as well for your reference to an early exchange of views. Such discussions on a continuing basis are invaluable, I found, in maintaining and strengthening the sound working relationship between our two countries. President Nixon and I were in touch frequently to this end.

Finally let me state to you my belief that our two countries have demonstrated a degree of friendship and mutual benefits unparalleled by any other pair of neighbours in history. I have not the slightest doubt that under your leadership that friendship and those benefits will continue and increase.

I look forward to meeting you at an early opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Pierre Elliott Trudeau

Recognition of Guinea Bissau

Canada has recognized the Republic of Guinea Bissau and intends to establish diplomatic relations with the new state.

In making the announcement on August 12, Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen congratulated the Portuguese Government and the PAIGC on their success in reaching an agreement in principle which will contribute to the solution of a situation that has been of great international concern.

The agreement gives substance to the many statements the Portuguese Government has made regarding the recognition of the rights of the populations of its African territories to self-determination and independence. It encourages the hope that the problems of Mozambique and Angola will also be resolved in the not too distant future. Canada, which has on many occasions made its views known on these questions, supports strongly the policies of decolonization that the new Portuguese Government has expressed and now is putting into effect.

New Speaker of House

The Prime Minister has announced his intention to nominate James A. Jerome as Speaker of the House of Commons at the opening of the thirtieth Parliament on September 30.

Mr. Jerome, who replaces Lucien Lamoureux, now Canadian Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg, has been Member of Parliament for Sudbury constituency since his election to the House of Commons in 1968.

In the twenty-eighth Parliament, Mr. Jerome was Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council, and during the twenty-ninth Parliament he served as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Trade — first half year

Total Canadian exports for the first half of 1974 were \$15,109 million, up 23 per cent from \$12,264 million in the same period of 1973. The rise of 18 per cent to \$10,165 million in exports to

the United States represented 55 per cent of the total gain. The remainder of the increase was distributed over other areas, showing higher relative changes — for example, 48 per cent in the case of Japan.

With the exception of lumber (down \$170 million), and automotive and related products (down \$200 million), shipments of other commodities to the U.S. were higher in the first half of 1974. Deliveries of crude oil, natural gas and petroleum products were up \$1 billion and those of pulp and newsprint higher by \$300 million. Wheat and other crude and fabricated materials accounted for nine-tenths of the rise in exports to overseas countries. Apart from wheat and fabricated metals, shipments of metallic ores and pulp were larger to Japan and the six EEC countries, and lumber exports increased significantly to Britain.

Imports

At \$14,774 million, total imports for the first half of 1974 were 30.5 percent above \$11,304 million a year earlier. Purchases from the U.S. rose 26 per cent to \$10,230 million and made up 61 per cent of the total rise. Featured prominently in this increase were machinery and equipment (up \$600 million), and automotive and related products (up \$260 million); increases ranging from \$100-150 million were recorded for forestry products, steel materials and chemicals. Crude petroleum accounted for almost 80 per cent and 70 per cent, respectively, of the import rise from Latin America and "other countries". Automotive and machinery purchases were larger from Japan and the six EEC countries, as well as other industrial materials from the latter area. Food and crude materials represented over half of the import expansion from other Commonwealth countries. Imports of cars and machinery and equipment from Britain declined \$60 million.

The share of exports to the U.S. continued to contract from 71.2 per cent in the first half of 1972 to 70.2 per cent and 67.3 per cent in the same period of 1973 and 1974, respectively. The U.S. share of imports declined from 71.7 per cent in the first half of 1973 to 69.2 per cent in 1974, almost the same proportion as in the first half year in 1972.

Average export prices in the first

half of 1974 were more than a third above the level of the same period in 1973, while the rise in average import prices was more moderate — about a fourth. Allowing for these price changes, real imports increased over 4 per cent and the volume of exports declined 8 per cent.

Traffic survey shows up drinking/driving problem

In reviewing the preliminary results of the National Roadside Traffic Survey conducted in eight provinces from April 17 to June 15, Transport Minister Jean Marchand has expressed concern about the continuing seriousness of the drinking/driving problem in Canada.

Results of the survey, which was conducted between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. Wednesday to Saturday of each survey week, suggest that about a quarter of the drivers providing breath samples had been drinking and that a third of these drivers had blood-alcohol concentrations at or above the legal limit of .08 per cent. This means that about one in 12 drivers tested was impaired.

The use of seat belts was recorded also. Of those drivers with lap-belts available, 13 per cent were observed wearing them, while 8 per cent of those drivers with both lap and shoulder belts available were using them.

Of 7,013 drivers interviewed, 93 per cent agreed to answer a questionnaire and provide a breath sample.

The objects of the survey were:

(a) to determine the extent of the drinking/driving problem in Canada;

(b) to provide a sound data base against which changes in the behaviour of a driver who has been drinking can be interpreted more adequately; and

(c) to compare the effectiveness of various programs to overcome the problem.

These aims, as well as the basic method of the survey were agreed upon by a number of NATO member nations concerned about the increasing occurrence of alcohol-related traffic accidents in their respective countries.

Experts concerned with the drinking/driving problem will meet at the Sixth International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety in Toronto from September 8 to 13 to discuss this and related concerns.

Efforts to relieve drought victims

Two Canadians, thousands of miles apart, have made unique contributions to the continuing effort to relieve human suffering in drought-stricken Africa.

An anonymous Montrealer has given possibly the largest single donation to the current Sahel-Ethiopia campaign. Early in May a trust company officer presented a \$100,000 cheque to the Canadian Red Cross. The donor, shocked by newspaper descriptions of individual victims of the drought, expressed the hope that this contribution might draw attention and cause other concerned Canadians to act. The \$100,000 was transferred to the League of Red Cross Societies and is being used as emergency money to provide and distribute food, such as powdered milk, and medical aid.

Camel transport

Meanwhile, a 24-year-old Canadian Red Cross worker, Ron Feist, has been organizing a workable way of transporting grain and other supplies in Ethiopia, where trucks cannot reach many of the people who are without food. Some 700 camels and drivers have been hired to carry grain sent by Canada and other countries into Wollo Province. The Red Cross plans to use the same system in other countries.

Investment of Canada Pension Plan funds

Canada Pension Plan funds totalling \$407,098,000 were invested in provincial and federal securities during the second quarter of 1974, Finance Minister Turner reports, compared to funds invested in the second quarter of 1973 of \$393,533,000.

The amounts offered to each of the provinces are proportional to the cumulative total of contributions paid in each province. The amounts available to the Province of Quebec, which has its own pension plan, relate only to the contributions of some federal employees in that province, such as armed services personnel, who are not included in the Quebec plan but who were brought into the Canada Pension Plan by special legislation during 1966.

New boom contains oil spills in flowing water

With more than \$50,000 in financial backing from PACE, Petroleum Association for Conservation of the Canadian Environment, a St. Catharines, Ontario inventor has developed the first oil-spill cleanup boom demonstrated to be effective in flowing water with medium and fast currents.

At a recent annual meeting of PACE, the Research Committee reported that the next phase in the boom project would be to arrange for its manufacture and availability on the market.

The boom was developed over a period of two and one-half years by Hermann Steltner, president of Steltner Development and Manufacturing Company Limited, of St. Catharines. This hydrodynamically effective horizontal oil-guide boom uses the natural forces of flowing water to contain spilled oil for recovery, which is a breakthrough in the battle against oil spills.

In the last half of 1973 the prototype boom was tested successfully in the St. Clair River near Sarnia with a cur-

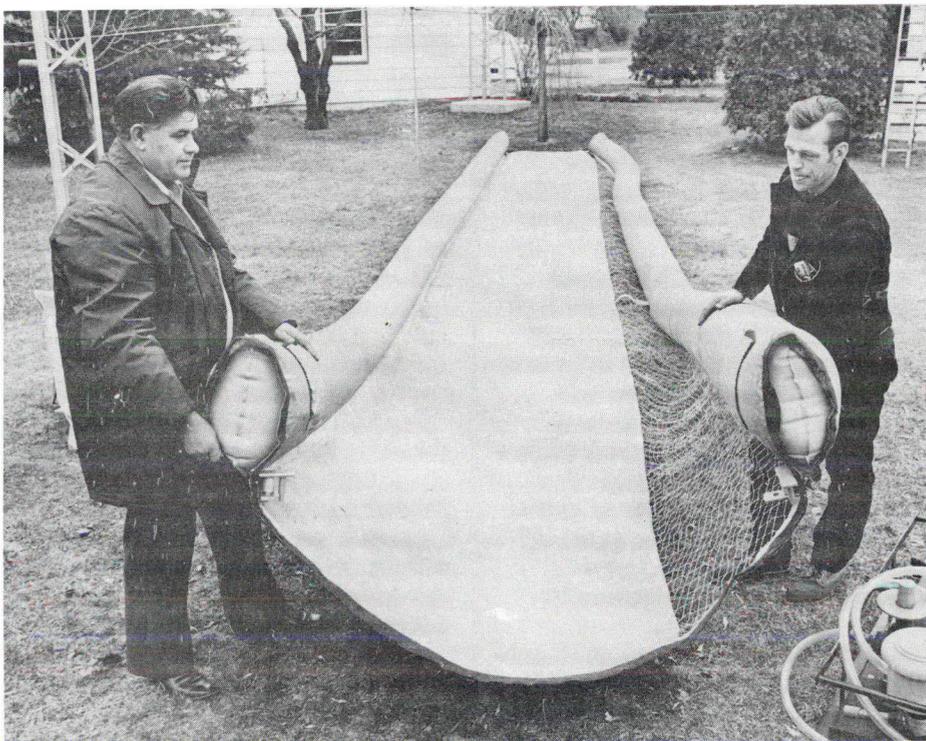
rent of 1.5 miles an hour and in the St. Lawrence River at Montreal with a current of 2.6-2.8 miles an hour. Conventional barrier-type booms are ineffective in currents of about 1 mile an hour.

Floating sausages

The PACE boom resembles two parallel strings of sausages floating on the water. Each "sausage" is, in fact, a flotation device about 50 feet long that is connected to the "sausage" next to it by a fast-coupling method. The boom, which weighs only two pounds a foot, can be shortened and lengthened as desired, in sections.

Linking the parallel floats and running the full length of the boom beneath the surface of the water is a suspended segment of netting fastened to non-woven material.

In operation, the PACE boom is placed across the current flow at an angle. Some oil is diverted by the leading float towards the downstream end



The first effective weapon for containing and cleaning up oil spills on medium to fast-flowing water has been developed in Canada under the auspices of PACE, the Petroleum Association for Conservation of the Canadian Environment, which has put more than

\$50,000 behind the project. Demonstrating the PACE boom's features is its inventor, Hermann Steltner, (left), president of Steltner Development and Manufacturing Company Limited of St. Catharines, Ontario, and the firm's field engineer, Bill Van Maanen.

for recovery. But the majority of the oil flows with the water under the leading float and through the netting. The water passes through the non-woven fabric while the oil comes to the surface of the ponded area between the two floats. A tangential current produced between the two floats carries the oil to the downstream end of the boom, where the oil is recovered.

PACE, which was formed in 1969, obtained a federal charter in 1971 and has had its own office in Ottawa since 1972, is a non-profit national association through which a group of 11 major Canadian oil companies work together to co-ordinate and reinforce industry efforts to protect the environment. The association facilitates the exchange of technical information on pollution prevention, fosters environmental and ecological research, and develops joint industry programs such as spill-prevention and cleanup. PACE also provides the main point of contact for the oil industry with government, industry and other groups interested in preserving the environment.

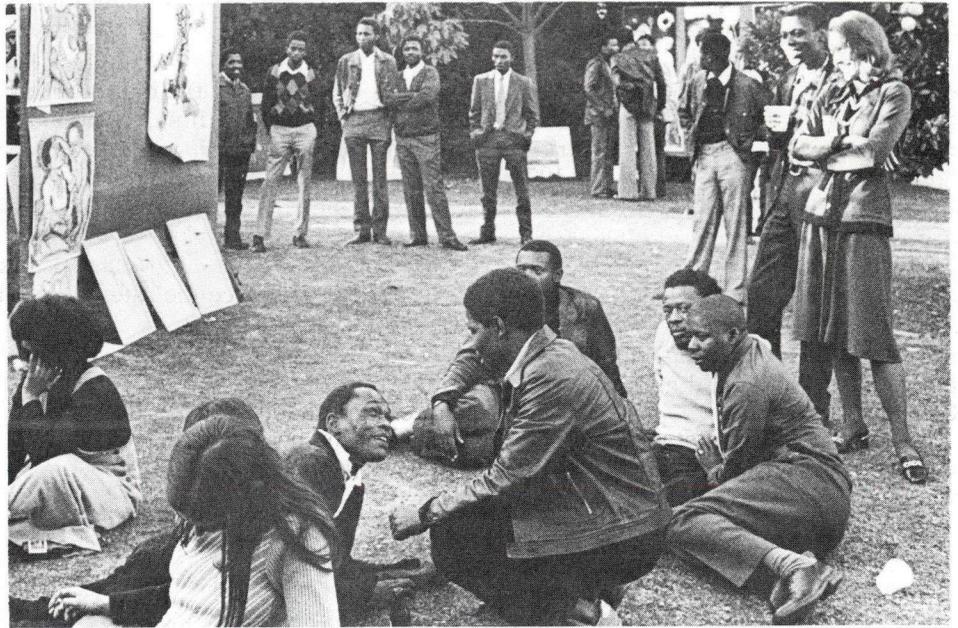


Photo Struan Robertson

Artists and their public gathered recently at an exhibition of African art sponsored by the Canadian Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa. Canadians of all races are opposed to

the South African Government's policies of apartheid and the Canadian Embassy has sought friendly contacts with all racial groups in South Africa.

Ship radar reflectors mandatory

An amendment to collision regulations in Canada will require the fitting of a passive radar reflector in all non-metallic vessels and in vessels under 65.6 feet in length, announced Transport Canada this month.

Vessels of less than 39.9 feet in length will not have to comply with this requirement if the fitting of a reflector is impracticable or is not essential for the safety of such vessels.

Small vessels, particularly those constructed of wood, often do not show clearly on the radar system of other ships, increasing the danger of collision and loss of life. The purpose of the amendment is to make these smaller vessels easier to detect by radar.

The reflector will also assist search-and-rescue personnel to locate small vessels under adverse weather conditions.

Phase-in dates are provided so that demands for radar reflectors can be met — ships other than fishing vessels and pleasure yachts must be fitted by January 1976, fishing vessels by January 1977, and pleasure yachts by January 1978.

McMaster computer transmits transatlantic teaching course

A large scientific-research computer at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, recently played an important part in a teaching demonstration taking place in London, England. By means of a transatlantic-telephone hookup the CDC-6400 computer at McMaster instantly reproduced a teaching "package" on command from a terminal at the International Conference on Frontiers in Education, 1974, in London.

Dr. William James, associate professor in McMaster's Department of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics, and Peter Zachar, a scientific systems analyst in the McMaster computer centre, demonstrated before the London group how a course on water resources, programmed previously into the McMaster computer, could be called in from Hamilton by operating the terminal in London.

A week of work on both sides of the Atlantic was necessary to set up the telephone circuit; problems of differences in signal frequencies and in equipment had to be overcome. Graham Hicks, systems engineer of the McMaster computer centre, supervised the technical work in co-operation with

personnel of Bell Canada and the General Post Office in England.

Dr. James and Mr. Zachar attended the July conference at University College, London, to present a paper entitled *Large Interactive Simulation Packages in Environmental Engineering*. They used the example of the programmed course in hydrology for demonstration purposes, but they stated that any other computer simulation could be "plugged-in" if so desired. The purpose of the system is to provide students with sophisticated learning-resource material that can be obtained by telephone from a computer terminal. The student can either use the computer in planning or management or, in a classroom, responding to questions and prompting. The present McMaster-designed program is also being used in the Department of Geography of McGill University, Montreal, and in the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary.

At the London conference the transatlantic demonstration was witnessed by educators from such countries as Spain, Hungary, Australia, Sweden, Canada, the United States and Britain.

Canadian and U.S. economies – a time for restraint

The Canadian and United States economies, usually thought to move in similar patterns, have “broken stride dramatically” in the first half of 1974, says the Bank of Montreal’s *Business Review* for August.

The *Review* notes that the marked divergence in the two economies is largely a result of a severe slowdown in two areas in the U.S. – housing and auto sales – which did not occur in Canada.

The drop in housing starts south of the border is blamed on a scarcity of mortgage funds, over-building in some areas and on the gasoline shortage, which discouraged people from buying homes in the suburbs.

In Canada, although housing activity is still robust, matching the pace of last year, there are clear signs of a downward trend.

Auto sales in the U.S. have decreased owing to the oil shortage, while sales in Canada remained buoyant. Still, sales of imports here in the first four months of 1974 were down a “startling” 36 per cent over the figure in the same period last year, the *Review* says.

Because of low car sales and a weakness in housing-related items, total retail sales in the U.S. in the first five months of 1974 increased only 5.8 percent over that of a year

earlier – well below the rate of inflation. In Canada, retail sales jumped 13.4 per cent in the same period.

Capital investment is another area showing a marked difference. In Canada it is expected to rise this year by more than 20 percent above last year’s figure, roughly twice the rate expected in the U.S.

Trade balance deterioration

In foreign trade, however, trade balances on both sides of the border are suffering.

“With Canada’s domestic economy so strong in comparison with that of other world economies, it is little wonder that import growth is currently exceeding export growth and the trade balance has deteriorated perceptibly,” the *Review* says.

In both countries, the *Review* continues, money markets have tightened, with interest rates rising to all-time highs. This is somewhat surprising, it adds, because the growth in the two money supplies have been at least as strong as they were a year ago.

According to the *Review*, the banking systems in both countries had run liquidity to record low levels by early this year. “With growth in loans continuing to exceed growth in deposits” with the “inevitable result: the price of funds in the short-term markets was

Comparative inflation rates

(% increase, consumer price index)

	1973	Latest 12-month period	
West Germany	6.9	7.2	(May)
Netherlands	8.0	8.8	(May)
U.S.	6.2	11.1	(June)
Canada	7.6	11.4	(June)
Belgium	7.0	11.5	(May)
France	7.3	13.5	(May)
Denmark	8.8	14.2	(April)
Britain	9.2	15.9	(May)
Italy	10.4	16.1	(May)
Japan	11.7	23.2	(May)

bid up sharply.”

Looking ahead, the *Review* says that Canada’s strong investment program and consumer sector should keep the economy moving forward faster than Western economies. Slackening exports, however, and a weaker housing sector seem certain to slow the strong forward momentum that has characterized the economy this past year.

An economic slowdown on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border is, by itself, not enough to erase inflation. (The annual rate of increase in the consumer price index in May and June was 20 per cent in Canada and 13 per cent in the U.S.) Measures to restrain excessive demand and increase production over the long term are required, concludes the *Review*.



Lise Payette

Growing popularity of Quebec TV personality

In the Province of Quebec, Lise Payette is regarded as a “superstar”.

By her commanding appearance and assured manner she dominates the television screens of French Canada on her nightly talk show, *Appelez-moi Lise*.

When she took over the network’s nocturnal “talk-spot” two seasons ago, she inherited an audience of about 200,000. She and Radio-Canada program executives hoped to raise that figure by half. But *Appelez-moi Lise* has succeeded beyond their wildest expectations, the show regularly draws an audience of between 800,000 and one million viewers. One night, it reached over two million.

That means a lot of people who used

to go to bed at 11 p.m. are staying up until midnight to watch Lise twig the egos of celebrities, coax secrets out of them, and talk them into doing the most extraordinary things. Montreal Canadiens’ star Jacques Lemaire and labour leader Louis Laberge both sang on her show. Mayor Jean Drapeau of Montreal traded jobs with her for a day. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau evaded questions about his wife’s pregnancy.

But Otto Preminger, Nana Mouskouri, Yul Brynner and Xaviera Hollander gave answers and spilled secrets thanks to her adroit questioning.

Beautiful man contest

An admitted feminist, she will often ask famous men how they treat their

wives, girl friends or secretaries. Scornful of Miss-anything beauty pageants, she ran a contest last Valentine's Day asking viewers to vote for Canada's "most beautiful man".

Lise was asked to do a radio show by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in 1964. Called *Place aux femmes* (Make Way for Women) it ran live for an hour each day. "It was the first feminist show in Quebec — probably in Canada," Lise says. "I defended the rights of women, but I always did it with humour which made it easy for men to listen."

Lise found herself a "mini-celebrity" in Montreal. Listeners loved her, or called her a chauvinist. But then, she always courted controversy.

She continued the male pulchritude contest on her TV show. Viewers

picked the ten best-looking men in Canada.

When she showed the ten lucky men, well over two million people were watching. The finalists were picked only after clerks at Radio Canada had tabulated nearly 200,000 pieces of mail.

At 42, divorcee Lise Payette is said to be the biggest thing on French Canadian television.

Asked what makes her show so successful: first of all, she says, a tightly knit and competent staff of fewer than a dozen people.

"It was probably the right time for us," she says. "We had a staff that was used to working together. And you know that when you have good people around, you don't have to worry about it."

Canada/U.S. agreement on the importation of beef

Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde and Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan announced recently that agreement had been reached to allow importation into Canada of U.S. cattle and beef.

This accord, which also applies to sheep, mutton and lamb, provides a certification program that meets Canadian requirements to protect consumers from possible health hazards associated with consumption of meat from animals treated with the growth stimulant DES (diethylstilbestrol).

Both Canada and the U.S. banned use of DES as a growth stimulant in livestock production. Since April 9, 1974, following reinstatement by a U.S. court of the use of DES in that country, Canada has refused the entry of U.S. beef and cattle until an acceptable certification system could be implemented.

A basis for the agreement was reached when the U.S. agreed to meet Canadian requirements for certification by a veterinarian employed by the U.S. Government and direct involvement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the producer level. The agreement lists the following procedures acceptable to Canada for complete control from the U.S. producer to the Canadian consumer:

(1) The development of a list of certified U.S. beef producers, eligible to export cattle to Canada, based on the

fact that these producers have received full information on Canada's requirements respecting DES from a full-time employee of the Government.

(2) Issuance of a certificate, at the time of marketing, stating that the animal has not been produced with the aid of DES and that no other animals on the premises have been administered DES. This certificate must be signed by the producer and a full-time U.S. Government official, and be accompanied by another certificate from an accredited veterinarian. The animals will be identified by eartags.

(3) A veterinary officer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will check to ensure that the producer is qualified as an exporter to Canada, and sign a statement that he has in his possession a producer's and accredited veterinarian's certificate and that he is satisfied the Canadian DES requirements have been met. The same procedure will be used for U.S. cattle which are slaughtered in the U.S. if the beef is exported to Canada.

(4) The U.S. Department of Agriculture will, in addition, expand its present DES monitoring program on cattle slaughtered in the U.S.

In addition to these extensive procedures on the part of the U.S. Government, the Canadian Government will monitor cattle coming to Canada from the U.S.

Canadian representative at UNESCO music conference

Professor Vernon A. Ellis, dean of the School of Music, Acadia University, Nova Scotia, left for Perth, Australia, at the end of July to serve as the Canadian member on the Board of the International Society for Music Education, an organization of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Professor Ellis, who has represented Canada four times, is one of 18 directors representing 18 countries. Earlier conferences Mr. Ellis attended as a board member include the 1970 meetings in Moscow and sessions in Tunis in 1972.

The purpose of the ISME conferences is the promotion of music education in the world through the exchange of ideas from various countries.

At this year's meeting Canada was to extend an invitation to hold the 1978 conference at the University of Western Ontario.

Professor Ellis was appointed dean of the School of Music at Acadia in June 1974. A native of Port Maitland, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, he attended Acadia University graduating B.Mus. in 1952 and later studied at the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, where he received the degree of Master of Music.

Dutch elm disease — new cure trial

A new treatment for Dutch elm disease will be made available to the general public on an experimental basis this summer. The treatment, which consists of a new chemical formulation (CFS-1020) and root-injection process, has shown some promise in stopping the spread of Dutch elm disease in certain elm trees.

Since 1971 the Canadian Forestry Service has been co-operating with a number of other organizations in testing the new method for stopping this fatal disease of elm trees. This year the Forestry Service, with the co-operation of the Ontario Shade Tree Council, will offer a course on the operation of the root-injection process to a small number of certified tree-service companies and to representatives of various city parks departments.

Ophthalmology in the Canadian North

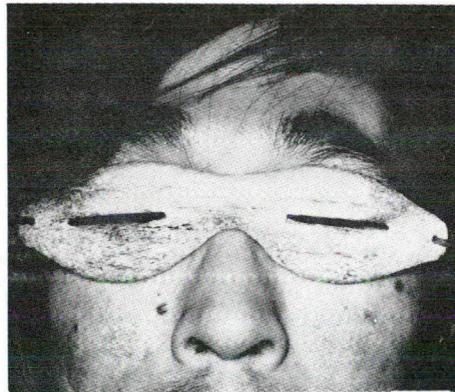
The following article, by Doreen B. Adams and Samuel T. Adams* is reprinted from the June 1974 issue of *Arctic*, published by the Arctic Institute of North America.

What did the young mother do when the dog attacked her child, leaving toothmarks on and around the eye? What could be done – when the animal was a sled-dog, and the mother and child were Eskimos on Baffin Island, with its bone-chilling wind blowing 50 degrees below, and its sparse population scattered like peppery specks on the vast unmoving landscape? Stoic acceptance. Resignation. These were the traditional responses.

Early medical care was provided in the North by missionaries, Hudson's Bay traders, and surgeons on whalers or exploration ships. In later years a doctor might be found on the Hudson's Bay supply ship, *Nascopie*. A team of medical men travelled regularly on the Canadian Department of Transport ship, *C.D. Howe*. These visits, however, occurred only in the brief open-water season of the summer months. The opening of the Arctic to the white man was accelerated by the DEW line construction in the early 1950s, and this was paralleled by increased commitment for medical care. Today most Eskimos are within reach of a nursing station, whence a patient may be evacuated to one of six modern hospitals in the Canadian North. If specialist care is necessary, the patient is flown south to a university hospital.

Northern Health Service

The present Northern Health Service of the Canadian Government was inaugurated in 1955 and expansion was rapid. Besides the six hospitals strung across the North, to serve the 50,000 residents there are 40 nursing stations, 11 health centres, 19 dispensaries, several one-nurse trailer nursing stations set down in otherwise inaccessible places by *Hercules* aircraft, and for the individual family group in isolation there is the "Eskimo Family Medicine Pack". This kit contains antibiotic tablets and pediatric preparations, skin and eye ointments and



Slit sun-goggles made from whale bone.

assorted dressings, together with an illustrated booklet printed in English and in Eskimo syllabics, which gives simple illustrations on the use of the contents. The nursing stations are the backbone of the Health Service. The girls who staff these stations bear tremendous responsibility and are the real heroines of northern medicine.

The question arose in the late 1960s whether a central eye hospital was needed in the North, and a decision was taken to survey ophthalmological needs. In 1970 and 1971, with Canadian Government sponsorship, three Canadian universities took part in a widespread survey, sending teams to examine whole populations of selected settlements. A total of 4,450 people were examined, McGill [University, Montreal] being responsible for the East Baffin Zone. Out of this survey came much interesting data. No eye hospital was deemed necessary, and the data obtained became even more interesting when pooled with that of the other countries responsible for northern peoples. In June 1972 an Arctic symposium was featured at the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Canadian Ophthalmological Society. Participants included representatives from Denmark, Finland, Britain, the World Health Organization, and the Ministry of Health for Canada.

Service trips up North

In September 1970 the first "service" trip was made to the Baffin Zone. Teams of ophthalmologists from the McGill Hospitals now visit regularly the 12 settlements in this Zone. The teams, usually of two, touring from ten days to two weeks, three times a year, see an average yearly total of 750 patients. Before their arrival the settlement nurse has done a prelimi-

nary screening of eye and visual problems. Clinics are usually set up in the schools, which are well-equipped modern buildings, with a large captive "patient load" nearby. Clinic hours may run as late as 11 p.m. or midnight, in order to accommodate the older patients, who prefer evening hours – or perhaps in order to race the threatening weather which may delay plane take-off for the return trip.

On these tours a variety of eye problems is found. Snow-blindness is a dramatic term which jumps to the layman's mind when there is mention of eye problems in the North. In actual fact, while this condition is of extreme discomfort to the patient, it is transitory. It comes about because of the long hours during which sunlight is blindingly reflected off the snow in a land where, at times, a day may last 23 hours and a night only one. Over the years the Eskimo has learned to exclude most of the offending ultraviolet light by means of slit goggles made from sealskin, bone or driftwood.

Glaucoma common in women

More serious eye problems found in the North are, in order of increasing importance: trauma (frequently the result of an alcoholic fray rather than, in this age of the snowmobile, a battle with a husky); scarred cornea due to old tuberculosis, which is now on the wane; glaucoma, the blinding disease; and myopia. The Eskimo is found to be congenitally susceptible to angle closure glaucoma, more so than other races. The disease is found more commonly in Eskimo women than men, and is 40 times more prevalent in Eskimo women than in women of other races. The majority of all eye patients flown to Montreal for medical or surgical treatment are sent because of this type of glaucoma.

Imagine the consternation of one Eskimo woman, who came asking for a pair of glasses, to be told that she needed an operation and should accompany the doctors on their return to Montreal within a few hours. The pressure inside her eye was found to be above normal and, because the disease was diagnosed in its earliest stage, prompt treatment could save her from probable blindness. Her husband, when consulted, was not at all amenable to having his cook away from home for some weeks. Only after lengthy nego-

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tiations was a deal arranged. If he would allow his wife to have an operation in Montreal, he could go to Frobisher and get a set of teeth, which he badly needed.

City jitters

Picture the emotions of this woman who has never travelled far from her familiar island-home north of the Arctic Circle, as she boards the small charter plane with the two doctors, flies over the great white wastes of her homeland and puts down in what must seem to her a sizable city, Frobisher Bay, a town of some 2,000 inhabitants. She is overwhelmed by crowds of people, confusion in the airport waiting-room, perhaps a visit to the Frobisher Bay Hospital with the doctors, and the trip back to the airport to board a jet for Montreal. Arriving there at midnight, she is plunged into a taxi which roars through the night along a highway with streaming lights, brighter than any aurora borealis, rocking from side to side in a frightening ride towards a city of neon light, rushing to a strange hospital to be placed in a hospital bed, put between white sheets surrounded by white busy-ness and brilliant light. All these are very strange experiences, yet the tremendous power of character, of acceptance and adaptation to necessity, will see her through – and she will not go blind as others have.

An important aspect of northern medical service must be education of the people. If, for instance, they learn to recognize early symptoms of glaucoma (usually pain and temporarily diminished vision) and seek immediate help, the settlement nurse may control an attack with drugs for a few weeks, in most cases, until the patient can

be flown out for surgery. With regard to education, the Danes, in their glaucoma-prevention program, set a fine example in Greenland.

Myopia problem in young people

Although glaucoma is the blinding and the most dramatic eye disease in the Arctic, the ophthalmologist's principal activity in the North is the prescribing of glasses. The most astonishing evidence to come out of the ophthalmological survey was the "epidemic" of myopia in the young. Thirty to 35 per cent of all young people between the ages of 15 and 25 were found to be short-sighted and to need glasses, as opposed to 9 per cent in those over 25. Perplexing questions present themselves: Why the young? What is different in their life style compared to that of their parents? Has a protective factor been lost to the younger generation, or a virulent factor introduced? What is the influence of schooling, of the change to a white man's diet? All of this may have enormous consequences for us all, if an answer – or answers – can be found.

International interests

During the last decade has come the full realization that Arctic medicine is different. In 1967 an international symposium on circumpolar health-related problems was held at the University of Alaska under the joint auspices of the University and the Arctic Institute of North America. Plans were initiated for staging a second conference, for which strong support was soon given by the Scandinavian-North European group. Their initiative led to the organization of the Nordic Council for Arctic Medical Research, with representation from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The second symposium was held in June 1971 in the new, modern Medical School of the University of Oulu, Finland, the northernmost medical school in the world. Participants came from 13 countries and included three representatives from the World Health Organization. The most numerous national groups were those from the U.S.A. (82), Finland (69), Sweden (67), Canada (44), and Denmark (38). Other countries represented were Australia, Britain, France, Iceland, Japan, Nor-

way, the U.S.S.R., and West Germany. In July 1974 the third International Symposium on Circumpolar Health will be held at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and ophthalmologists will be among others to continue discussions on health problems peculiar to the Far North.

Union membership in Canada, 1973

The proportion of union members who belonged to international unions in Canada as of January 1973 was somewhat smaller than in the previous year, according to statistics on labour organizations compiled by the Canada Department of Labour.

At the beginning of 1973, unions having their headquarters in the United States accounted for 56.5 per cent of total Canadian union membership, compared to 59.6 per cent in 1972. Conversely, national unions made up 40.9 per cent of organized labour in 1973 compared to 37.7 per cent in 1972.

Union membership in Canada in 1973 totalled 2,556,236, an increase of 7.8 per cent over the 1972 figure. The 1973 figure represented 35.6 per cent of non-agricultural paid workers and 28.8 per cent of the total labour force; a year earlier these proportions were, respectively, 34.4 and 27.6 per cent.

Eighty-one per cent of all union members in Canada were in unions affiliated with central labour organizations. Affiliates of the Canadian Labour Congress reported a membership of 1,847,064, representing 72.3 per cent of the Canada total; Confederation of National Trade Union affiliates reported 164,492 members, representing 6.4 per cent; the Centrale des syndicats démocratiques reported 41,000 members, or 1.6 per cent; and Confederation of Canadian Unions affiliates reported 17,455 members, representing 0.7 per cent.

Unaffiliated unions with membership of 485,606, accounted for the remaining 19 per cent of total union membership in Canada.

At the beginning of 1973, 12 unions reported 50,000 or more members, compared to ten in 1972. These 12 unions accounted for 42.4 per cent of the total union membership in Canada.

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