

# Canada Weekly

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## Tribute to A.Y. Jackson, patriarch of the Group of Seven

A.Y. Jackson, the last surviving member of Canadian painters known as the Group of Seven, died at Kleinberg, Ontario on April 5 at the age of 91.

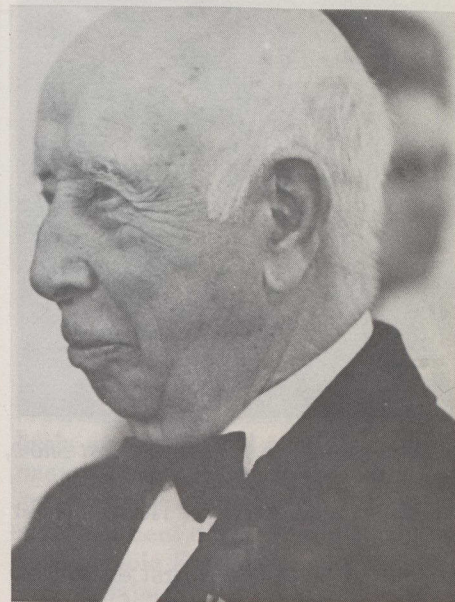
"Alex" to his friends, "A.Y." to critics and collectors, Alexander Young Jackson was buried in the grounds of McMichael Gallery, near Kleinberg, where Lawren Harris, Arthur Lismer and Frederick Varley, also members of the original Group, are buried. Others in the Group which was formed about 1920 were J.E.H. MacDonald, Franz Johnston and Frank Carmichael. During the 1920s, these artists represented the most *avant-garde* and revolutionary artistic movement in the history of Canadian painting.

Born in Montreal, Jackson began work at the age of 12 as an office boy in a lithographing company and rose quickly to the rank of designer. He took evening courses in painting at le Monument National and went as often as possible into the countryside around Montreal to sketch. In Quebec, he was called "le père Raquette" when he used to criss-cross the region of the North Coast with his sketch box. He painted tirelessly in all seasons and in any weather. His subjects were the farms, the countryside and the hills of Charlevoix county.

### Influence of others

He admired passionately the works of such controversial painters of the period as Maurice Cullen (1866-1934) and James Wilson Morrice and he acknowledged later in his autobiography *A Painter's Country*, the influence these artists had on his work. Following their example he went to Paris to the Académie Julian for artistic instruction. During the period from 1905 to 1911 A.Y. Jackson visited Europe three times, spending as long as two-and-a-half years there at a stretch.

In the Ontario Society of Artists exhibition in Toronto in 1911 he showed a work that would decide his future for the next several years. This painting caught the attention of Lawren Harris who, two years later introduced



A.Y. Jackson

him into the circle of young Toronto painters, who had been called by a critic "The Hot Mush School". Thus, besides Lawren Harris, J.E.H. MacDonald, Frederick Varley and Arthur Lismer, he met Tom Thomson, who showed them the way northward.

In 1914, A.Y. Jackson established himself at Toronto where he shared a studio with Tom Thomson. The young painter, just back from Europe, heard for the first time Thomson talk enthusiastically about the lakes, forests and rivers of the Canadian North.

From that time on Jackson's program was the same as the other artists in the Group of Seven. He painted scenes of Georgian Bay, Algonquin Park, the Rockies and Algoma.

During the Second World War, Jackson enlisted as an infantryman. After being wounded in France he worked as an artist and was preparing for an assignment in Siberia when the war ended.

### Group's first exhibition

When he returned to Toronto in 1918, he again associated himself with the artists of the Group, travelling the paths of the northern wilderness. The death of Thomson tightened the bonds



Jackson stands in front of "First Snow, Algoma", (1919-1920).

(Photo courtesy Dr. Naomi Jackson Groves)

that united them. Their first exhibition in 1920, at the Art Museum of Ontario, brought a storm of protest. But they had the support of Eric Brown, the director of the National Gallery of Canada, who had already for some time been buying their canvases. Thus, The Group of Seven was born and during several years the career of Jackson was united with the other painters of the Group. Each artist worked according to his personal style but they shared a will to paint the North of Canada as no one had done it before, with the determination to find in the confrontation with nature their distinctive modes of expression.

After 1925, the Group of Seven experienced something like a consecration as Canada's national painters. Jackson continued to paint the Canadian landscape. He wrote articles in newspapers and magazines, gave lectures and became the Group's most articulate spokesman.

After the group disbanded early in the 1930s, Jackson still travelled the wilderness of Canada. He painted on the Alaska Highway, he was flown by bush pilots up to lonely northern lakes and he paddled a canoe through dangerous waters in pursuit of his art. In 30 years he missed only one winter sketching in Quebec.



(Above) "Saint-Hilarion", undated.

(Below) "The Red Maple", 1914.



A.Y. Jackson retired to Kleinburg, where he lived like a patriarch in a house and grounds that are also a museum dedicated to the work of the Group of Seven. In his last years, although confined to a wheelchair, he continued to appear regularly in the galleries and, up till a year ago, he

sketched occasionally.

The late Governor-General Vincent Massey, opening an exhibition of Jackson's paintings in 1953 stated: "They have the very breath of Canada in them and are treasured wherever they are owned." (Photos courtesy of The National Gallery of Canada)

### Exhibition of archaeological finds in the People's Republic of China

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, recently announced that an agreement had been signed in Peking between Canada and the People's Republic of China under the terms of which the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, will hold an exhibition of archaeological finds in the People's Republic of China from August 7 to November 16.

During his visit to Peking in August 1972, Mr. Sharp conveyed the long-standing interest of the Canadian Government and people in hosting such an exhibition and obtained the agreement in principle of the Chinese Government. This exhibition has already been shown in Paris and London. It is now in Vienna, and will travel to Stockholm before coming to Canada.

The Chinese exhibition, which comprises close to 400 objects, is regarded as a unique event. Some of the most

important treasures ever unearthed from Chinese soil will be on view for the first time in the Western Hemisphere. All the artifacts to be displayed have been excavated during the past 25 years.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Chinese Committee for the Organization of Exhibitions of Archaeological Finds and the Chinese Exhibition Council of the Royal Ontario Museum are authorized to make the necessary arrangements. The Canadian Government will assume responsibility for the security of the exhibits and in the event of any loss or damage will indemnify the Chinese Government in accordance with the individual valuations of each exhibit. The Royal Ontario Museum will reimburse the Canadian Government for that part of the insurance premium which covers the period of the exhibition.

### Proposed amendments to the Canada Pension Plan

Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde introduced in Parliament on April 5 a Bill to amend the Canada Pension Plan. Its main purpose, stated Mr. Lalonde, was to establish equal treatment for male and female contributors and beneficiaries.

The effect of the Bill will be to provide a "survivors' pension" to widowers on the same basis as such benefits are now paid to widows. Widowers' pensions now are payable only when the husband is disabled and has been financially dependent on his wife. Full benefits are payable on application, however, to widows older than 45, and to widows under that age if they are disabled or have dependent children. Also, reduced benefits are payable to widows between 35 and 45 years of age. Under the new Bill, the latter provisions will apply to widow and widower alike.

Other equality provisions in the Bill Mr. Lalonde said, would enable children's benefits to be paid, on the disability or death of female contributors, on the same basis as they are now paid with respect to male contributors. At the present time, such benefits can be paid in the case of a female contributor only if it can be demonstrated

that the children were substantially dependent on their mother before her disability or death.

#### Pension tied to cost of living

Another primary object of the Bill is to provide for the implementation of those elements of the federal-provincial agreement reached in October 1973, which were not covered by the legislation passed by the last session of Parliament. Bill C-224 passed at the last session and effective on January 1 this year, provided for the escalation of Canada Pension Plan benefits in accordance with increases in the cost of living, and fixed the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE) for 1974 and 1975. The YMPE is the maximum amount on which an individual can make contributions to the Canada Pension Plan in a given year. It also sets the maximum level of benefits under the Plan.

The new Bill establishes the formula for determining the YMPE beyond 1975. The YMPE will be increased by 12½ per cent each year until it catches up to the average earnings of Canadian workers as represented by the Industrial Composite of weekly wages and salaries published by Statistics Can-

ada. After this transitional period, the YMPE will be kept parallel with the average earnings by equating it with a projection of Industrial Composite data.

#### Earnings test removed

Another important change out of last October's agreement will be the removal of the earnings test now required under the Canada Pension Plan Act. Under the Act at present, persons aged 65 to 69 have their retirement pensions reduced or eliminated if they have earnings exceeding amounts stipulated by the legislation. Once the new Bill becomes law, however, this test will no longer apply, and persons 65 or older may draw their Canada Pension Plan retirement benefits whether or not they continue to work and receive wages.

#### Other changes

A further change related to last October's agreement will establish the basic exemption (the amount on which contributions do not have to be made) at 10 per cent of the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings; under the current legislation this is set at 12 per cent. At the same time, the Bill will delete a special provision that has applied to self-employed persons — the requirement that they must earn at least 1-1/3 of the Year's Basic Exemption to qualify as a contributor. These changes will provide greater opportunity for people at lower income levels to participate in the Canada Pension Plan. In particular, increased numbers of farmers, fishermen and other self-employed persons will be enabled to improve their protection under the Plan.

In addition, the new Bill includes provisions placed before Parliament in the last session, in Bill C-190, but not enacted before the end of the session. The most noteworthy part of that Bill was the provision allowing for the exemption of certain religious groups from the operation of the Canada Pension Plan. In addition, this Bill had included important changes for the payment of an individual's legal expenses when a case is appealed by the Minister to the Pension Appeals Board, and providing for retroactivity in the application of certain international agreements concluded by Canada with respect to the Canada Pension Plan. The first object

of the latter change is to enable Canadians who were employed by the United States at Goose Bay to participate in the Plan with effect from July 1, 1972, in accordance with the Canada/United States agreement respecting the transfer of the military base.

The amending Bill also contains a large number of technical amendments to provide minor improvements and corrections to the Canada Pension Plan Act.

### Mexico/Canada tax treaty talks

Meetings recently took place in Ottawa between Canadian and Mexican officials to discuss the possibility of entering into a bilateral tax treaty for the avoidance of double taxation. In the course of the discussions, representatives of the Mexican Finance Ministry expressed their interest in obtaining information concerning actual problems of double taxation that have been encountered by Canadian taxpayers in Mexico.

### Foreign-owned subsidiaries in Canada

Data on the operations and financing of Canadian subsidiaries of foreign companies in Canada is contained in a report, *Foreign-Owned Subsidiaries in Canada, 1964 to 1971*, released in April by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The report, the fifth in a series, is based on information gathered by annual and quarterly surveys from some 1,000 companies to assess their significance on the Canadian economy.

Participants in the surveys are non-financial companies incorporated in Canada with assets of more than \$5 million and whose voting shares are more than 50 percent owned by a non-resident corporation. The responding companies had sales in 1971 of \$28.1 billion, which represented about one-fifth of the sales of all non-financial corporations in Canada; those classified as mining and manufacturing industries accounted for about two-fifths of total sales.

Detailed data on income and expenses of the companies surveyed is provided in the report, which covers Canada, the

United States and other countries. A further breakdown is given of transactions with affiliated companies abroad. Information with details on geographic and affiliated companies is furnished on the source of financing of the respondents.

These most recent data show the continuing importance of the responding subsidiary companies in the Canadian economy. In addition to their large total sales volume in 1971 their exports of \$7.2 billion represent 41 per cent of all Canadian exports or 46 per cent of total non-agricultural exporting. Their import bill of \$6.5 billion accounts for 42 per cent of all imports into Canada.

### Moderating trends

While the impact of these companies on the economy is large, the report suggests that a number of trends in their operation and financing that were apparent in the period from 1964 to 1969 did not continue in 1970 and 1971. Export sales, which had accounted for an increasing proportion of total sales and of total Canadian exports in the earlier years, moderated in 1970 and 1971 with little further change occurring in their relative importance. A similar pattern was apparent in the imports of the respondents. The previous tendency for an increasing proportion of transactions to be with the United States and with parent and affiliated companies in that country did not continue in 1970 and 1971.

The report indicates that transactions in the years 1964 to 1969 were heavily influenced by the sharp growth in trade with the U.S. under the Canada-United States Automotive Agreement. The much more moderate growth in this activity in 1970 and 1971 was an important influence in the trends shown by subsidiary companies as a whole.

In the area of financing, too, some of the earlier trends were not continued. In 1971, on a net basis, reporting companies reduced their liabilities to Canadians while increasing their liabilities to affiliated companies in the United States. Previously, there had been a tendency to draw substantially on Canadian sources for financing requirements particularly in the form of bank and other short-term loans. A further discontinuity was in dividend payments where, in both 1970 and

1971, such payments represented slightly more than 50 per cent of net profits, while in the three previous years the proportion varied from 38 to 42 per cent.

### Canadian Forces strength

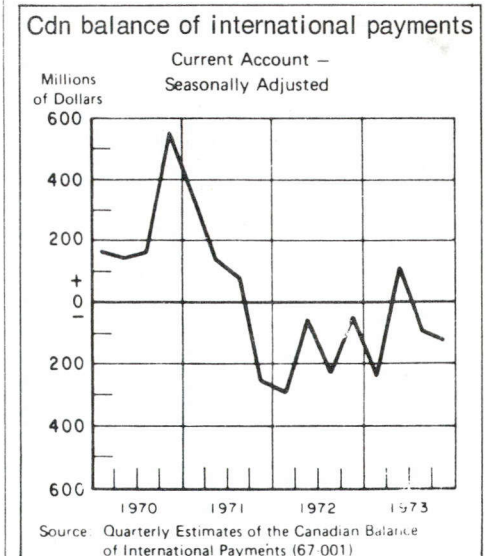
Total strength of the Canadian Forces at the end of February was 82,054, consisting of 13,139 officers, 2,006 officer cadets and 66,909 other ranks.

The number of women in the Forces increased slightly from 2,356 to 2,444, with 30 trades, including the automobile and aircraft repairs trades, open to them.

Statistics released at the end of last year show that more than 6,600 men and women were stationed outside Canada in more than 32 countries.

### Balance of International payments

Canada's current-account deficit at \$335 million in 1973 was almost \$300 million below the level of the previous year. The decline reflected an increase of over \$500 million in the merchandise trade surplus, partly offset by the continued increase in the deficit on non-merchandise transactions, which rose in 1973 by over \$200 million. The current-account deficit of \$335 million, together with the capital account outflow of \$132 million, led to a decrease in Canada's net official monetary assets of \$467 million — the first annual decline since 1966.



### New spinning process may revolutionize textile industry

A Canadian company, The Bobtex Corporation Limited of Montreal, has developed a new manufacturing process with a machine that they claim can produce a simulated spun yarn at speeds of up to 2,000 feet a minute.

The method, known as the Integrated Composite Spinning (ICS) system, was invented a number of years ago by Emilian Bobkowitz, who has worked in Canada with his son, Dr. Andrew Bobkowitz, to simplify and commercialize the process.

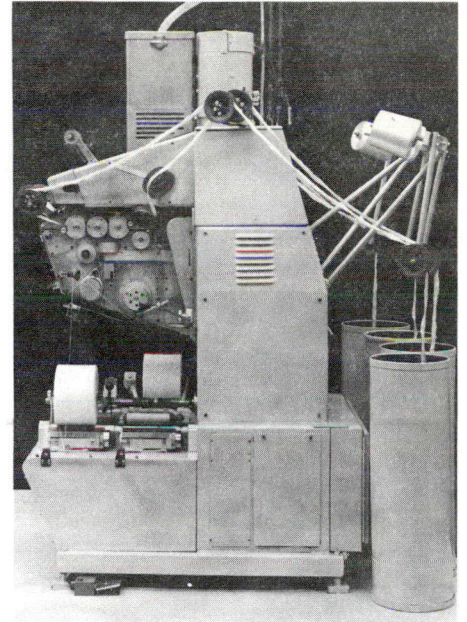
ICS is unique in that it applies polymer resin to bind fibres together. Unlike twistless yarns, in which the fibres are temporarily glued together, the binder used in the ICS remains permanently in the yarn and the fabric. The machine is capable of producing spun-like yarn from a composite of two or three components. Three processes

are combined into one: extrusion of a polymer resin to function as a bonding agent; incorporation of a filament yarn of the desired shape to provide continuity and strength; and the addition of staple fibres of any type (natural or man-made) and of short or medium length to provide the desirable spun texture to the yarn.

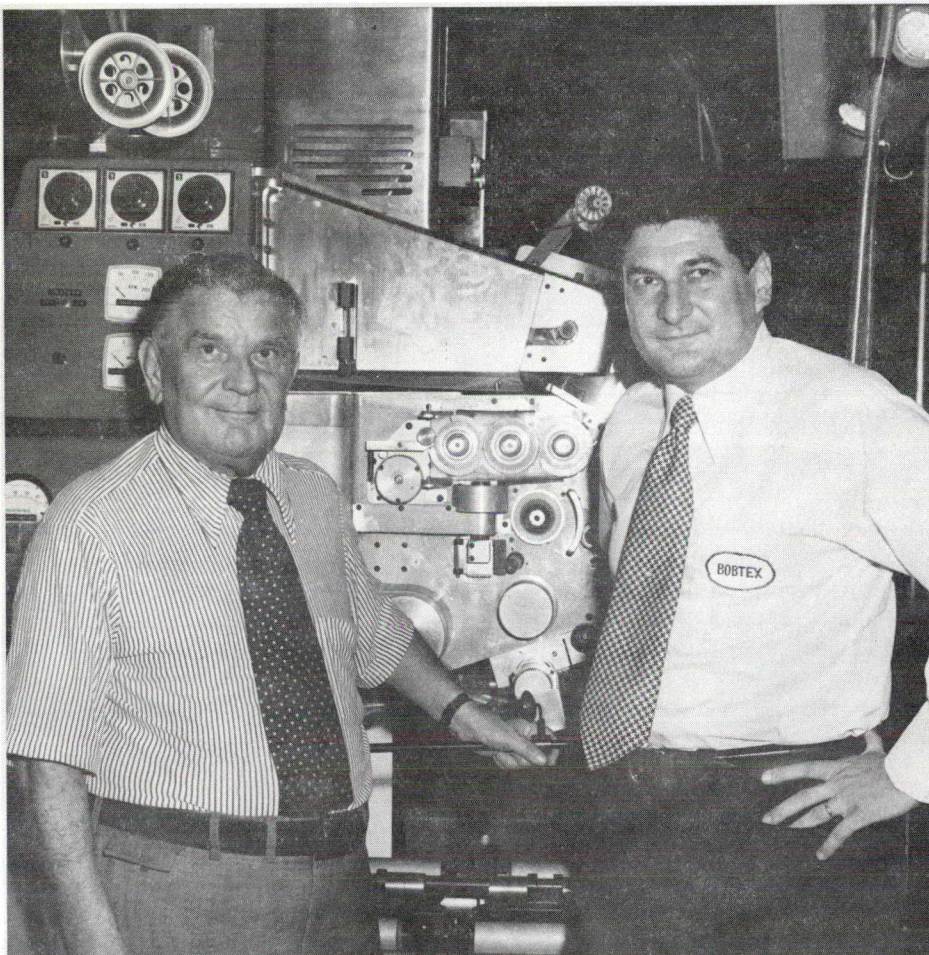
#### Simple technique

A recent issue of *Textile Manufacturer* describes the technique as follows:

"The idea is simplicity itself. A core strand of almost any 'carrier' is introduced at the top of the machine. The fine core is taken down through the extruder head, where a sheath of molten polymer is applied to the yarn core. Almost simultaneously, fibres are taken from an input sliver and merged with the molten sheath in a manner



The Bobtex Integrated Composite Spinning (ICS) machine can produce spun yarn at speeds of 2,000 feet a minute.



Emilian Bobkowitz (left) and his son, Dr. Andrew Bobkowitz, inventors of the new machine and manufacturing

process that is said to be a "challenge to conventional and even open-end spinning".

that has been described by some textile men as 'resembling flock printing'. The result is a complex inner structure round which there is a coating of the fibre that gives the resultant yarn its ultimate appearance and, to a lesser extent, its handle, but clearly this latter property will be affected by the inner components and their proportion in the total structure.

"Dr. Bobkowitz stresses that his new process offers the yarn-producer a means of producing a tonnage of yarn far greater than existing fibre supplies would normally allow. 'Imagine,' he says, 'you have 1,000 tons of staple and our equipment. You can produce say 2,000 tons of yarn because the core yarn and polymer content will enable you to double the total weight of fibre used...we can produce a yarn with only 33 percent fibre content, so that your fibre is extended to three times the original potential'."

The machine, says the magazine, is "so new in its approach to yarn-making that it is almost impossible to make a direct comparison with any other method of yarn production".

According to Bobtex Corporation the method saves 10 to 20 cents a pound on raw materials and an estimated cost in labour of 50 per cent. The machine is built in Canada and will be exported throughout the world.

### Wage differentials

That the difference between average Canadian and United States labour income was almost cut in half during the 1960s is one of the trends indicated in a study of labour income released last month by the Department of Labour.

The report says that while labour income per worker in the U.S. exceeded that in Canada by 21.8 per cent in 1961, the difference was down to 12.7 per cent by 1971. *Canadian Labour Income - Recent Trends, The Current Picture* covers the period from 1961 to 1972.

The study contains new data compiled since the publication of two earlier reports prepared in the Department, *The Behaviour of Canadian Wages and Salaries in the Postwar Period and Wages in Canada and the United States, an Analytical Comparison*.

The report says that the wage differential between skilled and unskilled jobs appears to have been fairly stable since 1960, in contrast to a distinct narrowing in the immediate postwar years.

There was also little change in the structure of industrial wage differentials, except that wages in construction rose more than wages in other industries.

The pattern of regional and provincial differentials within Canada was almost the same in 1972 as in 1965, notes the report.

Average weekly earnings in British Columbia continued to be 10 percent above average, while in the Atlantic region they were about 16 percent below, with Quebec 3 to 4 percent below, Ontario about 4 percent above, and the Prairie provinces about 4.5 percent below the average.

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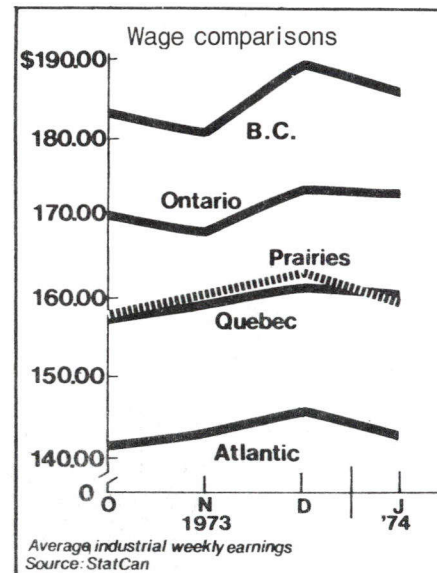
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*Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.*

### Slight drop in earnings

Canadian workers earned an average weekly wage of \$167.28 in January, which was 0.6 percent below their December average wages. Construction workers fared the best of all hourly paid workers in January. Their average weekly earnings were \$235.18. Forestry workers earned an average \$206.93, while those in manufacturing got an average \$175.74 a week. The average number of hours worked per week in manufacturing was 39.5, unchanged from the month before. All figures are seasonally adjusted.



### EDC financing for Poland

The sale of five machines for manufacture of prestressed concrete slabs by the Spiroll Corporation of Winnipeg to Polimex-Cekop of Warsaw has been negotiated with the assistance of a \$500,000-loan from Canada's Export Development Corporation, Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, announced recently.

The sale, said Mr. Gillespie, was of great significance to Spiroll as it marked their first entry into the Polish market. The company, which employs 100 people, had exports totalling \$1.5 million in the past year, representing 90 per cent of total sales.

Spiroll now has five licences in Canada, 30 in the United States and 23 in overseas countries. The company is currently negotiating licences with ten other countries.

Polimex-Cekop is the official importing agency of the Polish Government. The financing agreement is with the Polish Bank Handlowy w Warszawie S.S., the official financial agency of the Polish Government. It is the first financing agreement EDC has entered into with Poland.

The Spiroll loan brings to 191 the total of loans signed by EDC since 1961. The total amount signed under long-term financing benefiting 45 countries is now \$1,694.46 million. During 1974 EDC has loaned \$217.4 million covering 12 transactions involving ten countries. In addition, EDC has guaranteed \$2 million in loans by private institutions during 1974.

### Stanley Cup record and World Hockey Association semi-finals (at April 25)

#### National Hockey League

April 18, Chicago 4, Boston 2  
 April 21, Boston 8, Chicago 6  
 April 23, Chicago 4, Boston 3  
 April 25, Boston 5, Chicago 2

Tied two games each in best-of-seven series.

April 20, Philadelphia 4, New York 0  
 April 23, Philadelphia 5, New York 2  
 April 25, New York 5, Philadelphia 3

Philadelphia leads 2-1 in best-of-seven series.

#### World Hockey Association

April 19, Toronto 6, Chicago 4  
 April 21, Chicago 4, Toronto 3

Tied one game each in best-of-seven series.

April 18, Minnesota 5, Houston 4  
 April 20, Houston 5, Minnesota 2  
 April 21, Minnesota 4, Houston 1

Minnesota leads 2-1 in best-of-seven series.