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Relation between the educational system and the labour market

Employment and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen, addressing a joint meeting of provincial ministers of education and manpower in Victoria, British Columbia last month, described how his department, in co-operation with the provinces, was helping students prepare to enter the work force. Passages from his speech follow:

We in Canada are not alone in our concern for the relationship between the educational system and the labour market. At the High-Level Conference on Youth Unemployment sponsored by the OECD in Paris last month, one of the central concerns of member countries was the school-to-work transition. We are one of the few OECD members, however, in which the achievement of this objective is complicated by our federal constitutional structure. I view this as a challenge to be even more innovative and imaginative in our efforts to help young people obtain stable and rewarding employment.

While the present economic situation is responsible in some measure for the current high level of unemployment rates in general, the widening gap between adult rates (now about 6 per cent) and youth rates (now about 15 per cent) indicates that other fundamental structural factors are at work. Superimposed on these difficulties, as many of you are painfully aware, are the extensive geographical economic and employment disparities which characterize Canada, and result in a particularly critical youth unemployment situation in many areas. Some recent experience suggests that this can lead to serious apathy or indeed an indiscriminating antipathy to existing social values and institutions.

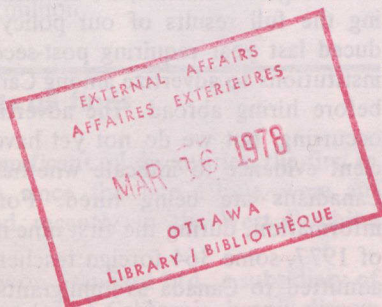
...There is disturbing evidence that expectations concerning the role of education in preparing young people for the labour market vary considerably. These differences are perhaps most dramatically highlighted in a recent survey conducted in one province among 3,000 high school

students, teachers and parents. Asked to list what they considered to be the school's most important goals, the students ranked the abilities and skills needed for employment as third on their list, while the teachers relegated these to thirty-eighth position.

Co-operative education projects

There are a number of innovations that can and should be introduced to improve this situation. One is to arrange for students to get some practical experience in the world of work as part of their school program. We have evidence of a few very good co-operative education programs at the post-secondary level, but we need many more. I am keen to promote experiments in activities of this sort, and we are currently offering funds for pilot projects in this area. But co-operative education programs take a great deal of planning, federal-provincial collaboration, and hard work to arrange. I hope that further consultations with your governments on this matter may lead to productive applications for even more co-operative education projects.

A second key response to the perennial problem of the young worker who cannot get a job without relevant private sector experience is the Job Experience Training Program or "JET". Under this program, which is operated by boards of trade and chambers of commerce, the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission subsidizes the wages of young school-leavers. Employers agree to hire these youths for up to 26 weeks between October and March with the possibility that they may be retained permanently if all works well. In addition, my colleague the Minister of



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Finance has already announced a \$100-million employment credit proposal, details of which are being worked out, but which will undoubtedly pick up the best features of JET and apply them on a vastly greater scale. Young people could be major beneficiaries of such a program.

This private sector involvement with youth programs, furthermore, has recently been taken one step further. Last week I had the first meeting of our new National Youth Advisory Group which is composed of members from key sectors of the community — youth, labour, commerce, industry and education. Its role is to provide me with advice about what we can best do to reduce the serious employment problems that young people face in our country. One step which we intend to take, and which I hope to announce soon, will be the pulling together of the various federal youth employment programs under one umbrella with strong co-ordination. Many provinces have also been extremely active in this field and I hope you will continue your efforts. I would hope, however, that we can better co-ordinate our respective initiatives in the future. I will shortly be writing to you on this score, and I hope that our officials can get together to ensure smooth collaboration and a real partnership to help our young people.

Computer aid

One of the Commission's most recent and interesting innovations is a new computerized occupational exploratory system, aptly named CHOICES, with which many of you are already familiar. Utilizing computer terminals to explore occupational choices, it will enable people to tell a computer what characteristics they have — interests, aptitudes, educations, physical attributes, etc., and what they expect from a job by way of salary, future outlook or working conditions. In return, the computer will provide a list of occupations, if any, that meet these criteria. I am pleased to note the provincial interest in this system; it is currently being field-tested in several high schools and universities as well as a number of Canada Employment Centres.

The Employment and Immigration Commission has provided and will continue to provide school guidance counsellors with the extensive materials it has prepared for use in vocational counselling and placement, recognizing of



Community colleges offer a wide variety of courses to prepare students for the work force. Shown above, a student radio announcer at Ottawa's Algonquin College.

course that it is a clear provincial responsibility to provide counselling in the schools....

Apprenticeship

Turning to apprenticeship, I note that the average age of Canadian apprentices is 23 years — by which age young people in many European countries are established journeymen. Our studies have shown, furthermore, that these same countries are a major source of skilled tradesmen for Canada, inhibiting the development of domestic Canadian apprenticeship programs and often relegating them to the role of a secondary supply channel. In the face of the highest unemployment rates in the postwar period, can this situation be allowed to persist?

I see an expanded Canadian apprenticeship system as a key element in reorienting labour supply channels to more closely reflect labour market requirements. Only if we increase our output of skilled domestically-trained journeymen can we hope to reduce our reliance on imported skills and provide more Canadians with productive and remunerative careers in the high-level skills.

Foreign students and academics

The Immigration Legislation and Regulations, as they apply to foreign students, are an excellent example of how federal-provincial collaboration can produce a mutually useful result. Following extensive discussions with the provinces, the Commission will require that students, with some exceptions, will have to obtain "student authorizations" before coming

to Canada. Once in Canada, they will not be able to change faculty or institution without the formal approval of an immigration officer. We hope that this will terminate the current practice of foreign students "shopping around" among Canadian institutions while they are in Canada, or transferring out of the institution in which they were originally enrolled. Not only will these new immigration regulations allow a tighter immigration control, they will also allow provincial education authorities to plan enrolments more effectively. Some provinces might want to suggest that no students, whether they be destined to public or private institutions, be admitted to their province without their express approval. I would be quite prepared to include such a provision in any immigration agreement with any province.

As regards teachers, we are still awaiting the full results of our policy introduced last year requiring post-secondary institutions to advertize among Canadians before hiring abroad. The advertizing is occurring, but we do not yet have sufficient evidence to indicate whether more Canadians are being hired. For your information, during the first nine months of 1977, some 364 foreign teachers were admitted to Canada as immigrants and a further 1,876 were admitted on a temporary basis. I am also circulating a table containing data by province. Obviously, we need to keep a close watch on this situation and I would welcome any suggestions or steps by provinces should our present policy prove inadequate to meet our objectives.

Canada/Brazil co-operation in agricultural technology

The Canadian Ambassador to Brazil, James Howard Stone, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Brazil, Antônio Francisco Azeredo da Silveira, signed an exchange of notes on January 9 implementing a memorandum of understanding signed in Ottawa last October by Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan and his Brazilian counterpart, Alysso Paulinelli.

The memorandum promotes exchanges of technology (including agricultural research), and exchanges of scientists, specialists, trainees and technical personnel in such fields as plant genetics, animal husbandry, veterinary science and agriculture productivity. It also establishes a Joint Working Group on Agriculture under the aegis of the Canada/Brazil Joint Economic Committee and will complement the objectives of that committee by encouraging bilateral commercial and economic relations between Brazil and Canada.

Brazil, with 1977 agricultural exports of about \$6 billion, and Canada, with foreign sales of agricultural products exceeding \$4 billion, are two of the largest producers and exporters of food products.

In the first nine months of 1977, Canada sold Brazil \$65-million worth of wheat, purebred cattle, chicks, gelatin and animal semen. In the same period, Brazil's sales to Canada of food and related products, which included processed meats, fish, nuts, coffee, cocoa, cotton and canned vegetables, were in the order of \$65 million.

Alberta oil finds

Two significant oil discoveries, the first in Alberta since the late 1960s, were announced recently in the West Pembina area.

Chevron Standard Ltd., a subsidiary of Standard Oil of California, has six discovery wells in the West Pembina field, about 160 kilometres southwest of Edmonton. Pacific Petroleum Ltd. has found light-gravity oil in its Pacific Amoco well.

The last major oil discovery in Alberta was made in 1967 at Zama Lake in northwestern Alberta. In 1965, the Rainbow Lake field, just south of Zama Lake, was found.



Brazil's Minister of Foreign Affairs Antônio Francisco Azeredo da Silveira, flanked by the Minister of Agriculture, Alysso Paulinelli (left), and the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H. Guerreiro, completes the signing of an exchange of notes with Canada's Ambassador Stone, while Commercial Counsellor C.W. Ross observes.

Satellite removed from tundra

A special lead container has been prepared for the storage of a radioactive fragment from a Soviet satellite discovered at the east end of Great Slave Lake, about 15 miles northwest of Fort Reliance in the Northwest Territories.

Scientists who have studied the fragment say it is tail-shaped, about ten inches long, one-eighth inch thick and three inches across at the widest point.

Six persons — five Americans and one Canadian, conducting wildlife studies at a Canadian meteorological base — were examined for radioactive contamination immediately after authorities learned of their accidental discovery of a "black, man-made object". Doctors concluded that the two men who ventured closest to the material received a radiation dose not exceeding that of two normal X-rays.

Four other objects from the nuclear-powered *Cosmos 954*, which entered the earth's atmosphere on January 24, were displayed recently at Canadian Forces Base Namao, near Edmonton. They are not radioactive.

The Soviet Union has offered to send technical help to Canada to aid in the

search for debris from the spacecraft. Defence Minister Barney Danson said that his department and the Atomic Energy Control Board, a federal regulatory agency, would share responsibility for the removal and clean-up of debris in the North.

The dangerous reactor core, if it survived re-entry, has not been discovered.

Diplomatic relations with Angola

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, recently announced establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the People's Republic of Angola.

Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, William H. Barton, and the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Angola, Elisio de Figueiredo, signed on February 1 a joint *communiqué* formally opening the way for the exchange of ambassadors between the two countries. The Canadian ambassador to be accredited to the People's Republic of Angola will be resident in Lagos, Nigeria, where he is Canada's High Commissioner.

Telemedicine — cure for the North

Following are excerpts from an article by Dr. Irvine Paghis, in the spring issue of *In Search*, 1977.

Many Canadians who live in remote or isolated areas of the country cannot call for help in an emergency because of unreliable communications. Transportation to medical centres takes a long time, is costly and is sometimes downright dangerous. Medical diagnosis and treatment is often seriously delayed while the patient's condition deteriorates.

The gap between medical and health-care services in populated centres compared to similar services in remote (especially northern) areas of Canada has to be seen to be believed. We may almost be immune to statistics these days but individual cases make a deep impression. An example: a patient recently had his chest X-rayed at a northern nursing station on suspicion of active tuberculosis. The X-ray film had to go South for interpretation and was returned — after the usual one-month delay — with the notation: "Unsatisfactory film — please re-ray"!

Medical isolation

The medical-care system for the inhabitants of remote areas in Canada usually consists of three distinct levels: the local first-aid or nursing station; the regional hospital staffed by general practitioners, a surgeon and perhaps an anaesthetist; and a large, usually distant hospital with specialist facilities and staff. The effectiveness of the over-all system is critically dependent on communications between these three levels.

At the Kashechewan (Kash for short) Nursing Station at an Indian village on the west coast of James Bay there are two registered nurses. The nearest doctors are at the Moose Factory Hospital; there are three physicians, one of whom is a surgeon.

The distance to Moose is 200 km. In good weather, it is two days by boat, ten hours by snowmobile or one hour by float or ski plane. During the six-week freeze-up and break-up seasons, boats, snowmobiles and planes are all equally useless; in good wind and weather conditions, a helicopter can land.

There is no telephone line from Kash to Moose Factory and the shortwave radio links are unreliable. In an emergency, radio stations up and down the

coast help out. During the day, it is almost always possible to get through to Moose within several hours. The transmission quality is usually poor and only a well-trained radio operator can understand the messages.

High-cost health care

Improved methods of diagnosis and treatment depend on expensive equipment, on highly trained staffs to operate and maintain this equipment and on specialists, technologists and doctors to interpret the data, diagnose the patient and provide treatment. It follows that these staff and resources must be concentrated in a few locations, where they can provide the most service per dollar expended.

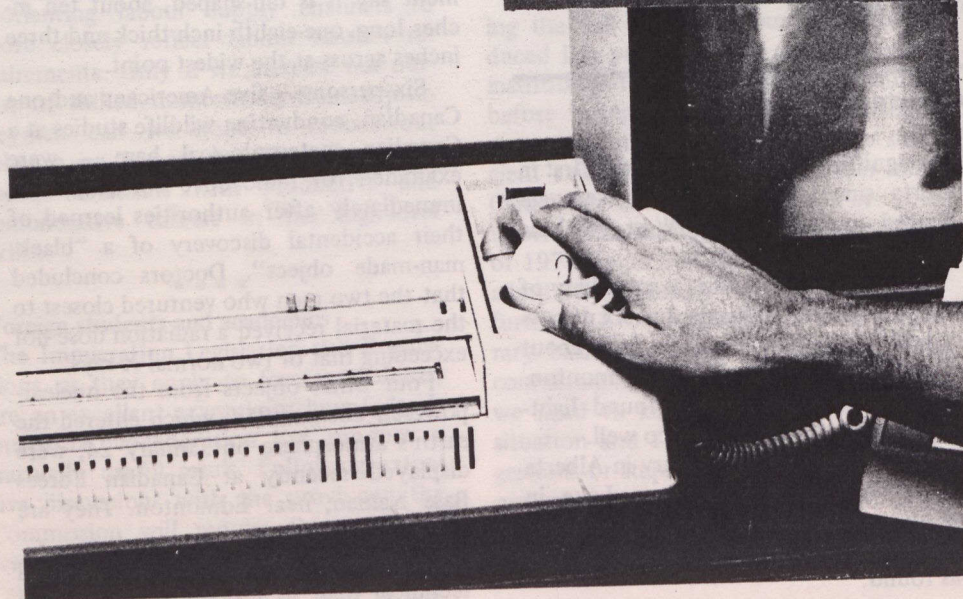
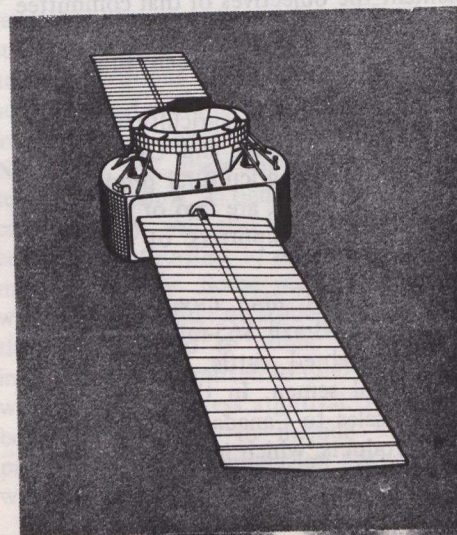
Recent advances, however, in electronics and computer technology and the advent of communications satellites have greatly increased the capabilities and potential benefits of using telemedicine. The technical feasibility of using telemedicine to support the delivery of a wide range of high-quality medical services is now established and evaluation of economic factors is well under way.

Canada now has the world's first domestic communications satellite system, Telesat's *Anik*, capable of providing reliable telephone service anywhere in Canada. The northern *Anik* telephone services usually require government subsidies and the few currently available lines are severely overloaded, but on January 22, 1977, the Federal Government announced a \$9-million funding program to bring reliable long-distance telephone services to all communities in the Northwest Territories within the next five years.

The next step is to plan, conduct and evaluate a wide range of telemedicine pilot projects so that economical systems can be designed and implemented within several years. There is a vast difference between the simple use of a telephone for medical consultation and the design of a telemedicine system that improves the efficiency and capability of the over-all health care systems. The Canadian *Hermes* telemedicine experiments are a major step in this direction.

Telemedicine by Hermes

Hermes, a joint Canada-U.S. communications technology satellite launched in January 1976, is now nearly through a planned two-year experimental program. There are over 20 Canadian experiments on community development, cultural exchange, educational and medical services, data communications and the advancement of technology. Two of the tele-



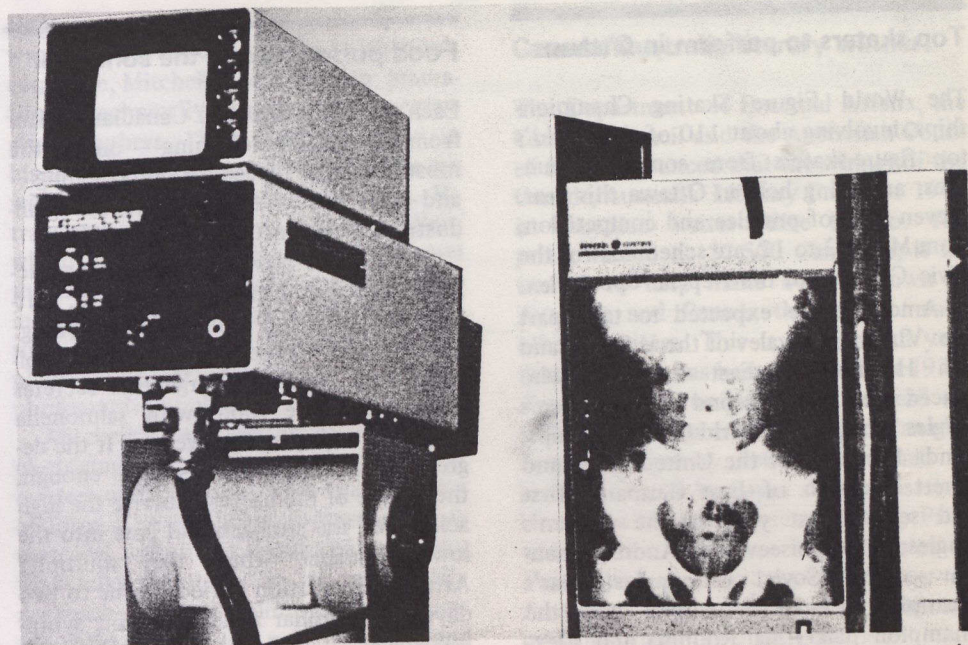
medicine experiments are being conducted by the University of Western Ontario in London and by Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland.

At the first, the principal experimenter, Dr. Lewis Carey, provided medical consultation by satellite. The experiment began on October 19, 1976, and continued until February 26, 1977.

Medical consultants at the University Hospital receive video transmissions from the Moose Factory General Hospital on the shores of James Bay. London, Moose and the remote nursing station at Kashechewan are interconnected by audio links. The experiment includes a wide variety of consultation; a normal morning's work might include haematology, dental surgery, general practice, orthopaedics, obstetric ultra-sound, radiology and psychiatric consultations.

At the second, the Newfoundland experimenters are using *Hermes* in support of a continuing medical education program for doctors, teachers and school nurses. This experiment began March 28, 1977.

Specialists at the Health Science Complex at Memorial University in St. John's send programs to four remote hospitals in St. Anthony and Stephenville on the island and in Labrador City and Goose



Bay in Labrador. They use one-way video and two-way audio links to present and discuss patients and their case histories. The experiment also includes community health education programs, teleconsultation on medical education programs and the transmission of charts, X-rays and other medical data.

What is the future of telemedicine in Canada? At this stage, the answer remains

in doubt. The need for improvement in the delivery of medical services is apparent, but many technical, medical, legal and financial problems need to be cleared up before telemedicine services can play a major role in a well integrated Canadian health delivery system. These problems are indeed soluble, but not without making significant changes in the present health-care structures and procedures.

CIDA chief joins IDRC board

Michel Dupuy, president of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), has been appointed to the 21-member board of governors of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The IDRC is a public corporation, established by an act of Canadian Parliament in 1970 to support research designed to adapt science and technology to the needs of developing countries. In accordance with the act, governors are appointed by the Government of Canada.

Eleven of the governors, including the chairman and vice chairman, must be Canadian citizens. It has become the practice to draw the other ten governors from among people from other countries who have made notable contributions in the field of international development. Four of the present governors are from developing countries.

Mr. Dupuy, who joined the Department of External Affairs in 1955, was

economic counsellor in Brussels from 1965-68. He became minister and deputy permanent representative of the Canadian delegation to the North Atlantic Council until 1969, when he returned to Ottawa to assume duties as director general of economic affairs. He was appointed assistant under-secretary of state by Prime Minister Trudeau in 1971, and president of CIDA in March 1977.

Pesticides in time capsules

Tiny time capsules developed by drug companies for slow-release cold medications may also have a use in agriculture. Instead of medicine though, the pinhead-sized capsules will contain pesticides.

"Many pesticides now used break down rapidly once they're applied in the field," explains Ian Williams, a pesticide chemist at Agriculture Canada's Vancouver Research Station.

"This makes them safer for the environment than earlier chemicals such as

DDT and dieldrin, but farmers have to apply the new pesticides more than once during the growing season to get good insect control. The added cost is borne first by the farmer and later by the consumer who buys the food the farmer produces."

But time capsules could prolong the effectiveness of pesticides. Mr. Williams says small droplets of an active compound can be covered with an inert and protective material. As the protective substance breaks down, the pesticide will be released.

In addition to controlling the rate of release, the capsule coatings would make the chemicals safer for farmers to handle.

"Encapsulated insecticides are already being used for foliar sprays. The capsules stick to plant leaves where insects eat through them and consume the toxic chemicals," Mr. Williams says.

Scientists at the Vancouver station are studying encapsulation of soil pesticides.

"It is too early to predict unqualified success with the capsules, but our results are promising, says Mr. Williams."

Top skaters to perform in Ottawa

The World Figure Skating Championships, involving about 110 of the world's top figure-skaters from some 15 countries, are being held in Ottawa this year. Eleven days of practice and competition, from March 2 to 12, are scheduled for the Civic Centre and the Nepean Sportsplex.

Among those expected to take part are: Vladimir Kovalev of the U.S.S.R. and Jan Hoffman of East Germany, who placed first and second in the men's singles at the 1977 World Championships; Linda Fratianne of the United States and Anett Poetzsch of East Germany, first and second last year in the women's singles; Irina Moiseeva and Andrei Minenkov of the Soviet Union, last year's champion ice-dance couple; and the champion pair Irina Rodnina and Alexandr Zaitcev, also of the U.S.S.R.

The men's and women's singles competition will consist of compulsory figures, short-program and free skating. An original set pattern dance and free dance are included in the ice-dancing competition.

Following the competition in Ottawa, the Parade of Champions, an exhibition by medal winners, will visit Montreal and Quebec City, Québec, Moncton, New Brunswick, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Toronto, Ontario, Edmonton and Lethbridge, Alberta, and Vancouver, British Columbia. The tour will then proceed to the United States, visiting Los Angeles, Oakland, Colorado Springs, Cleveland, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Hartford.

The World Figure Skating Championships have been held in Canada three times previously — in Montreal in 1932, in Vancouver in 1960 and in Calgary in 1972.

Indian studies boosted

Indian Affairs will provide up to \$250,000 to assist the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College in its operations during the current year. The college, associated with the University of Regina, offers degree programs related to Indian affairs. At present, 87 students are enrolled in the college's B.A. program of Indian studies. Accredited courses are also offered in Indian social work, guidance-counselling and art.

Food poisoning and the consumer

Each year thousands of Canadians suffer from salmonella poisoning — one of the most common types of food poisoning — and scientists in the food-processing industry search constantly for its cause.

Dr. Charles Davidson, of Canada Packers' Research Centre in Toronto, outlines the cause of salmonella poisoning: "Unlike some other types of food poisoning in which an organism secretes poison into the food, with salmonella you have to ingest the live bug. If the degree of contamination is high enough, then some of the bacteria survive the high acidity of the stomach and pass into the lower intestine where they multiply. After an incubation period of one to two days, the familiar and unpleasant symptoms begin."

Most cases occur when food is left uncovered and unrefrigerated in a kitchen and is then eaten without being cooked — it may simply be "warmed up". While the problem can be solved with simple common sense, the food industry is concerned that it does not contribute to the problem in the packaging of the foods it offers. Dr. Davidson is particularly interested in the microbiology of vacuum-packed luncheon meats, sausages and wieners.

Packaging helps

"Vacuum packaging retards the growth of microorganisms which cause spoilage but it does not destroy salmonella," he explains. "It is possible for a consumer to unseal a package which appears and smells perfectly fresh but could be contaminated with salmonella. While the chance of such contamination in a modern packing plant is rare, we have nevertheless undertaken an investigation of the behaviour of salmonella in vacuum-packed products."

The organism is effectively destroyed in the heat treatment which all cooked meats receive, so that if a problem arises it is normally attributed to contamination after processing. While extensive precautions are taken, it is simply not possible to free the factory environment of all bacteria. Some are brought in on animal carcasses or can be carried by otherwise healthy staff. In the rare event that salmonella contamination occurs during the packaging process, the number of bacteria will be far too low to cause ill effects. A

hazard can arise, however, if the packaged meat is mistreated by the consumer before being opened.

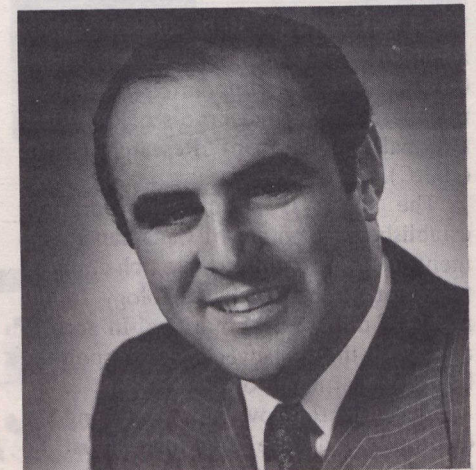
Refrigeration the answer

"Salmonella does not multiply in meats if they are kept in a good refrigerator," continues Dr. Davidson. "However, if you leave a contaminated package in a warm room for more than a day or so, then there is a possibility that the bacteria will rise to a dangerous level."

The laboratory has made careful investigations of the multiplication of salmonella in various meats at different temperatures. The inhibiting effect on bacteria growth of various additives and preservatives has also been studied. But, despite the best precautions the food industry can take, the final responsibility rests with the consumer.

Food removed from a refrigerator should be cooked or eaten as soon as is convenient. Raw and packaged meats should not be allowed to warm up, on a long car journey to the cottage for example; instead, they should be placed in a cooler. Frozen meats and fish should be defrosted in the refrigerator. Leaving a couple of pounds of frozen hamburger meat in warm water may be a short cut to dinner — but it could be asking for trouble.

New Solicitor General



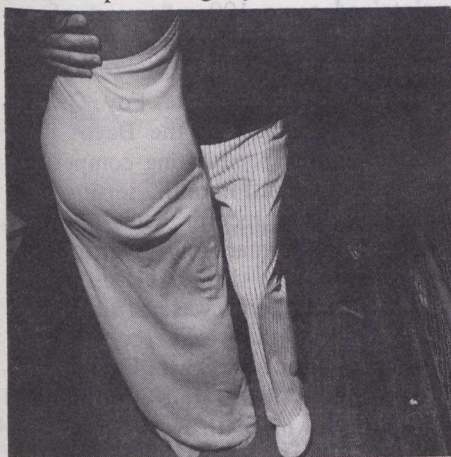
Jean-Jacques Blais (above), the 37-year-old North Bay lawyer who has been Postmaster General for the past 18 months, is the new Solicitor General. He succeeds Francis Fox, who resigned on January 30 for personal reasons. J. Gilles Lamontagne becomes Postmaster General.

News of the arts

Nightlife photos focus on essentials

Nightlife: Photographs by Michael Mitchell, which opened at the Art Gallery of Ontario January 13, explores one artist's vision of night-time. The 24 large photographs show that when darkness surrounds a subject, the eye pares away the unessential and highlights the important; the focus is more specific.

For the past three years, Michael Mitchell has been making pictures about being alone and about searching for companionship. The tightly structured *Night-*



Two untitled photos from Michael Mitchell's *Nightlife* exhibition.



life exhibit groups the pictures into four distinct sections: Ground, which introduces the theme in four photographs; Solitude and Companionship, which are the core of the show and work together to state the problem; and Home, which presents an answer.

Mitchell, who was born in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1943, has a background in fine arts, anthropology, archaeology and film-making as well as photography. According to Allan Porter, editor of *Camera*

magazine, Lucerne, Switzerland, who wrote the introduction to the exhibition's catalogue, Mitchell is part of a new generation of technically expert and provocative photographers. "The ideas presented in his imagery are things we could never see without his masterful visualizations.... He translates his imagery into an idiom which supersedes reality and confronts the viewer with visions he himself can see in imagination but is incapable of expressing. These exposures are acts of contemplation: photographer to photograph and photograph to public."

Mitchell himself has remarked, "I want photographs that deal with important matters and not only with the pleasures of form. The significant matters are those that deal with living. I want photography that talks about life in an emotionally approachable way. Failure to do so seems to short-change its potential. Making good pictures is asking, in the company of others, how to live."

British series filmed in Toronto

Joanna Lumley (*Purdy*) of the popular British TV series, *The New Avengers*, pauses during the filming of one of four episodes completed recently in Toronto, Ontario. Screening of the Canadian-made episodes began last autumn on Thames Television and included spectacular views of Toronto landmarks like the CN-Tower (just visible in background), the Toronto Islands, waterfront and downtown areas. The production company, *Avengers (Films and TV) Enterprises Ltd.*, plans a return to Toronto in the spring to make three more episodes.



Canada/Australia literary winner

The Department of External Affairs, the Canada Council and the Australian Council have announced that the winner of the Canada/Australia Literary Prize for 1977 is Canadian writer Alice Munro. The prize, valued at \$2,500 Canadian, is intended to help make better known in Australia and Canada the work of each other's writers. This is the second year that the prize has been awarded. In 1976, Australian playwright John Romeril received an inaugural award. The Canada/Australia Literary Prize, established to honour English language authors, is similar to the Canada/Belgium Literary Prize which, since 1971, has been awarded to French-language writers. Each year an Australian or Canadian writer is chosen by judges from the other country.

Alice Munro has already received two major prizes for her work. Her collection of short stories, *Dance of the Happy Shades*, won the Governor-General's Award in 1968 and her novel *Lives of Girls and Women* won the Canadian Bookseller's Award in 1972. *Something I've been Meaning to Tell You*, a second collection of short stories, was published in 1974. Her works have appeared in many Canadian periodicals and two stories were included in the 1977 issues of *The New Yorker*. One of the most widely anthologized writers in Canada, Miss Munro has had four stories in *Personal Fictions*, published recently by Oxford University Press. Most recently, she wrote the script for *1847*, a documentary drama about the Irish immigration to Canada, the third program in a series of films called *The Newcomers* produced for the CBC television network.

Her stories, often set in small towns in rural Ontario, are compassionate studies of women, written in a style of grace and detail which has made her one of the most popular writers of fiction in Canada.

Arts brief

Memoir, "a delicate comedy", featuring Irish actress Siobhan McKenna as the legendary Sarah Bernhardt, which was written by Canadian playwright John Murrell, is drawing praise from England's theatre critics. First seen at the Guelph Spring Festival in Ontario last May, the play moved to Dublin before appearing at London's Ambassador Theatre.

News briefs

Michael Cassidy, former professor of journalism at Carleton University, Ottawa, and MPP for Ottawa Centre, has been elected leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party. He succeeds Stephen Lewis, who announced his intention to resign after the provincial election in the spring of 1977.

Canpotex Ltd., which negotiates sales abroad for Saskatchewan potash firms, has received an \$11-million contract to supply 200,000 short tons of potash to India. The sale will be financed by long-term loans by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor, George Porteous, died of heart failure February 7. He was 74. Until the Federal Government appoints a new Lieutenant Governor, the provincial Cabinet cannot pass any orders-in-council because, according to constitutional experts, there is no statutory provision for a temporary replacement.

The Federal Government plans to reduce the number of forms businessmen have to complete each year. If the equivalent of one form were eliminated for each of Canada's 350,000 businessmen, it is estimated, that about \$100 million a year would be saved.

Plans to create 5,000 jobs and divert several hundred million dollars worth of government purchases to provincial companies were contained in the Speech from the Throne opening a new session of the Nova Scotia Legislature on February 7.

The number of unemployed rose to 991,000 in January, but the seasonally-adjusted jobless rate fell to 8.3 per cent from 8.5 in December, reports Statistics Canada. In January 1977, the percentage was 7.5.

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Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

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

Leonard H. Newman, one of Canada's foremost agricultural pioneers, died on January 16 in Ottawa at the age of 96. Dr. Newman, Agriculture Canada's Dominion Cerealists from 1923 to 1948, played a major role in the development of Canada's registered seed-production program. Late last year he was named to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Transport Minister Otto Lang has announced an increase in the availability of advance-booking charter (ABC) flights. The Canadian Transport Commission will be asked to permit more interregional ABC flights than the 50 already authorized, to provide a full test of the demand for low-priced domestic air travel and of the impact of such flights on scheduled air services. A trial period of at least three years is foreseen. While Air Canada and Canadian Pacific Air have indicated that they plan to operate their 1978 quota of 25 ABC flights each, other licensed carriers will be allowed to apply for the right to operate additional domestic charter flights.

The Quebec Government says it will appeal a ruling by the Chief Justice of the Quebec Superior Court overturning a section of the province's language law that makes French the official language of the courts and the National Assembly.

The Canadian National Millers Association has announced the negotiation of a sale of 361,000 tonnes of flour to the Soviet Union.

Quebec and Ottawa have reached tentative agreement on a new immigration arrangement under which the province would have more power to select its own immigrants. The agreement would enable Quebec to establish its own points system for admitting immigrants.

A bill permitting police to open private mail (with a judge's warrant), on the grounds that it may contain illegal drugs or threaten national security, was introduced in the House of Commons by Solicitor General Jean-Jacques Blais on February 7.

President and chief executive of the Toronto-Dominion Bank told the Montefiore Club in Montreal recently that he was convinced company head offices in Quebec would be able to use English as the language of work. The Quebec provincial government will publish the regulations under its language bill next month.

Export Development Corporation (EDC) financing of \$3.6 million has supported the first sale of the de Havilland *Dash-7* aircraft to Rocky Mountain Airways Inc., of Denver, Colorado, which will use the craft exclusively on the Denver-Aspen route in Colorado. The firm currently provides scheduled air-carrier service to ski communities in Colorado by means of six de Havilland *Twin Otter* planes. The building of the 50-passenger aircraft at the de Havilland plant in Downsview, Ontario, has created or maintained some 100 man-years of employment at de Havilland and seven major sub-suppliers across Canada.

Gaetan Boucher of Ste. Foy, Quebec, won all four races at the Davos international sprint speedskating competition in Switzerland last month, setting Canadian and track records while narrowly missing a world mark on his final event. His time for the 1,000 metres of one minute 15.56 seconds was just two-tenths of a second off the world record held by Evgeni Kulikov of the Soviet Union.

Seventeen Alberta Indian bands will benefit from more than \$7,793,000 in bonuses from the sale of the rights to oil and gas found on their reserves. Exploration and production rights are subject to the payment of royalties, of mineral rents and surface rents where surface is required. The bands remain owners of the land involved.

Ford Motor Co. of Canada says it will undertake a \$95-million conversion program at its engine plant in Windsor, Ontario, to produce smaller, more fuel-efficient engines.

The Federal Government intends to give tax credits to Canadian businesses in a two-year program designed to create as many as 50,000 new jobs in the first year. Legislation introduced in the House of Commons provides for a benefit of up to \$2 an hour, for a maximum of \$2,340 for each new employee over a nine-month period, to businesses that add employees to their payrolls in jobs that would not otherwise have been created. The program will cost the Federal Government about \$100 million a year in lost tax revenue. The legislation should be passed and the program in operation by March 31.