

# Canada Weekly

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## French Prime Minister Raymond Barre visits Canada

A DC-8 aircraft of the French Government, which landed at Canadian Forces Base Ottawa on the morning of February 8, brought the Prime Minister of France and his delegation for an official six-day visit to Canada. A few hours earlier, a fine white blanket of snow had covered the region, on which a cold, bright sun would shine throughout the visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Barre were accompanied by Jean Philippe Lecat, Minister of Culture and Communications, and Olivier Stirn, Secretary of State to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, and their wives. A large delegation and about 60 journalists were in the party. Jean-Pierre Prouteau, Secretary of State to the French Minister of Industry, who had been sent to Cameroun by the President of the Republic, was to join the delegation with his wife a few days later.

### Three provincial premiers present

After the military honours, Mr. Barre went to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's

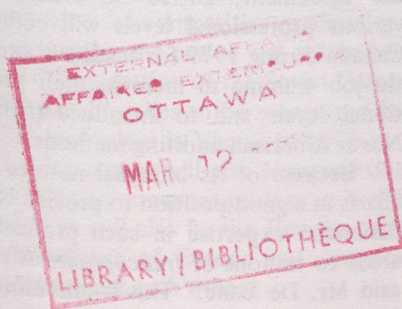
residence for an initial private talk during which they discussed the world situation and European matters and the role of France, as well as relations between Canada and Europe. Canadian policy, the "Third Option" and the Canada of today, were dealt with in turn. A working luncheon at Prime Minister Trudeau's residence included, besides the two prime ministers, the French ministers and their Canadian counterparts, their chief aides, as well as the premiers of Saskatchewan, Ontario and New Brunswick. The luncheon was an opportunity to acquaint Mr. Barre with the various aspects of Canadian life, and to express the wish of Canada's English-speaking provinces for closer cultural and economic relations with France.

During the day, the French ministers held working meetings with their Canadian counterparts. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, and Jeanne Sauvé, Minister of Communications and Special Adviser on Franco-phone Affairs, talked with Mr. Stirn



Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson greets French Prime Minister Raymond Barre at a dinner given in Mr. Barre's honour by Governor-General Edward Schreyer at Government House. Mrs. Jamieson (left) speaks to Mr. Schreyer while Mrs. Schreyer waits to welcome Mr. Jamieson.

(Continued on P. 4)



Les Florales internationales de Montréal 1980



May 17 - September 1, 1980. (See Page 3.)

## Canada/China air link possible

Officials of CP Air are to visit Peking March 12 to 16 for talks aimed at establishing a direct air link between Canada and China.

The six-member delegation will be led by H.D. Cameron, vice-president of administration and public affairs, who said in a news release that the start of scheduled service between Canada and China would depend upon the priority Chinese authorities were giving to tourism.

The possibility of a direct air link arose shortly after Canada and China restored diplomatic relations in 1970.

An agreement had been negotiated and originally it had been planned that CP Air would begin weekly flights between Vancouver, Shanghai and Peking in May 1974. However, the service was postponed when the two countries could not resolve a problem of traffic rights in third countries.

Meantime, CP Air has arranged tours for North American travellers wishing to visit China. About 1,000 tourists travelled on CP Air last year to Hong Kong and Tokyo, where they were flown into China by the Chinese carrier or caught trains.

## U.S. award for Suzuki

Scientist and media personality David Suzuki received an award for contributions to public awareness of ethics in science at an international conference on Controversies in Law, Medicine and Health Care in Vancouver last month.

Dr. Suzuki, a geneticist at the University of British Columbia, is also host of the national CBC television program *Science Magazine* and of *Quirks and Quarks* on CBC national radio. *The Nature of Things*, with David Suzuki, will begin on the CBC's national television network this autumn.

The conference, from February 22-24, was sponsored by the American Society of Law and Medicine, the Northwest Institute of Ethics and the Life Sciences, and the Children's Orthopedic Hospital and Medical Center in Seattle, Washington.

The award of distinction from the Institute was the first given to an individual.

The citation says Dr. Suzuki became a mass media communicator so that the public could become aware of some of

the possible opportunities of science and for increasing public awareness of ethical considerations in scientific discoveries.

The conference was the first organized to explore a number of medical and legal issues affecting health care and the rights of patients in Canada and the U.S.

Topics covered at the conference included the right to die and termination of life-support systems, compensation for pain, confidentiality of medical records, child abuse, children's rights, and liability of nurses.

## Quebec's sovereignty-association proposal attacked

Secretary of State John Roberts labelled Quebec's proposed sovereignty-association as a "con-job" in a speech to the Canadian Club, Montreal on February 12.

"Sovereignty-association is a con-job because it puts forward as an option a position which the government of Quebec cannot honestly offer," Mr. Roberts told his audience.

"It's not an offer. It is at best a hope. A wish with fingers crossed," he added.

"Association is not something any Quebec government can guarantee; and if sovereignty were to occur it is very hard to see why the rest of Canada would accept economic association," said Mr. Roberts.

The minister said it would not be in Canada's economic interests to seek association with Quebec rather than free trade arrangements with the United States.

Discounting the chances that the people of Quebec would dramatically declare themselves for separation, Mr. Roberts nonetheless warned his audience that the greatest danger to the country lay in a gradual transfer of powers to the provinces, in response to their perennial demands for more responsibilities, — "separation by stealth" — thereby reducing the effectiveness of the Federal Government, and creating *de facto* separation.

### Legal help

The minister also announced that his department would provide financial assistance for a part of the legal expenses of three litigants in Quebec who were challenging the Quebec government's language legislation restricting language rights. The Protestant School Board of

Greater Montreal, the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations and the lawyers for Devine, Singer and Le Monde de Music Discus Ltée would be given financial support.

Last March, Mr. Roberts and former Justice Minister Ron Basford jointly announced that the Federal Government would provide such aid to litigants who were seeking rulings clarifying the scope of protection afforded to official language minorities under either Section 93 or Section 133 of the British North America Act. (Section 93 relates to education and the protection of denominational schools, while Section 133 relates to the use of both English and French at the federal level and in the courts and legislature of Quebec.)

## Canada helps Algeria with the books

Canada and Algeria have signed an agreement whereby the Audit Services Bureau of Supply and Services will assist the Algerian Government to improve their cost audit service in one of its companies. The contract, in the amount of \$700,000, was signed on behalf of the Canadian Commercial Corporation by the Minister of Supply and Services, Pierre De Bané. It runs for one year and is renewable.

The service will be provided to The Société Nationale de Transport et de Commercialisation des Hydrocarbures (SONATRACH), Algeria's largest government-owned national corporation. Under the agreement, 20 to 30 students of various professional levels will come to Canada during 1979 for academic and on-the-job training to increase their professional levels and to introduce them to North American auditing methods.

"Because of its bilingual nature, Canada is in a good position to provide North American expertise in such professional areas to nations of *francophone* Africa," said Mr. De Bané. "This is one more example of how Canada is co-operating with these nations."

The Audit Services Bureau, established to provide various types of internal and external audits to meet the needs of managers within the Federal Government, has been in operation for 35 years. Its expertise extends beyond the financial and cost auditing into the areas of electronic data processing and comprehensive audits. It operates on cost recovery, charging its clients on a free-for-service basis.

## World flower show in Canada

The International Bureau of Exhibition (IBE), which has its headquarters in Paris, has recognized a world floral exhibition to be held in Montreal — Les Florales internationales de Montréal 1980 — as a special category world exposition. This will be the second time in 13 years, after Expo 67, that the IBE has granted such recognition to Montreal.

The Florales internationales, which has also been endorsed by the International Association of Horticultural Producers comprising members from 19 countries, is the first such exhibition ever to be held in North America. It is described as a "horticultural gala...a place of communion between man and nature".

Two sites will be used for the exposition — a 6,000-square-metre area in the Velodrome of Olympic Park for indoor displays from May 17 to 29, and the 40-hectare Ile Notre-Dame for the outdoor show from May 31 to September 1, 1980.

It will be the fourth time the man-made island has been the site of an international event — following Expo 67, the 1976 Summer Olympics, where it served for the rowing events, and the 1978 Grand Prix.

The Federal Government will, through the Department of External Affairs, invite all countries with which Canada has diplomatic relations to participate in the exhibition.

IBE recognition of Florales was sought by Canadian Ambassador to France Gérard Pelletier last December. Though the normal time for competitive applications is four months, the period was reduced to two at the suggestion of the Soviet Union.

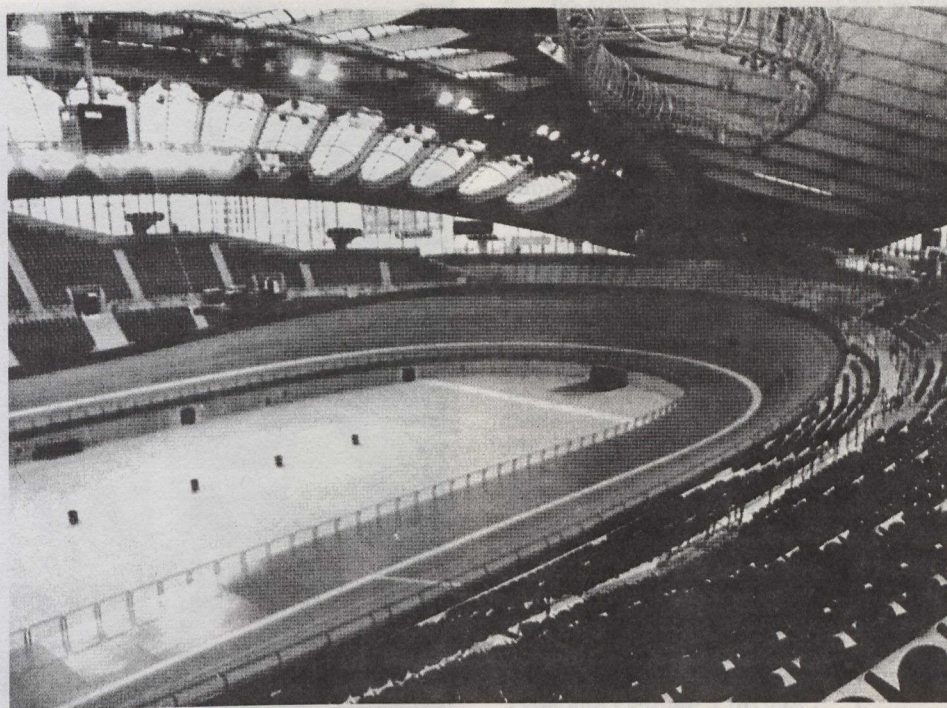
The last Florales to be recognized by the IBE took place in Vienna in 1974.

The exposition will give Montreal one of the largest permanent gardens in North America. It will also be the first time the horticulturalists of Europe and America compete against each other.

### The show

Indoors, Florales will include cut flowers, flowering plants, tropical and subtropical plants, cacti, ornamental trees and shrubs, presentations of floral art, bonsai, dried flowers, floral arrangements, etc. It will take about two hours and a half to visit the exhibits.

Outdoors, the exhibition will feature displays of flowers, ornamental trees and shrubs, evergreens, perennials, rose bushes,



*Velodrome (above) built for the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympic Games, will be the site in 1980 of the greatest floral exhibition ever staged in North America.*

fruit trees, vegetables, horticultural landscapes, flower beds, educational and scientific exhibits, and children's and community gardens. A minimum of five visits to the site during the summer will be required to appreciate fully the displays at the various periods of blossoming.

### Administrative authority

The exposition is established under the general authority of the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada. The government of Quebec, which is responsible for the organization of Florales, entrusted implementation to the city of Montreal which in turn assigned it to the Association montréalaise d'action récréative et culturelle (AMARC), already responsible for the management and operation of Man and His World, the summer exhibition in Montreal, which has been held every year since 1967 on the Expo 67 site. AMARC called upon the Montreal Botanical Garden, third largest such garden in the world, to co-ordinate the horticultural content.

The Commissioner-General, André Boily, appointed by Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs on the recommendation of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs of Quebec, has his headquarters at 360 Saint-Jacques St., Suite 310, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1P5 (telephone (514) 873-7375).

### Foreign participation

Space sites will be provided free of charge to national participants. Their presentations may be collective (by various producers) or individual. Any government of a country officially participating in the exposition will be represented by a commissioner-general of section delegated to the Government of Canada.

### Commercial content

At the Velodrome, 1,000 square metres will be reserved for the display of tools, equipment and materials used in horticulture; at Ile Notre-Dame, a similar exhibit in the former pavilion of France will cover 2,000 square metres.

Participating nations will be invited to organize entertainment, presentations, conferences, or meetings relating to the general program of Florales. Concerts, theatre presentations, and fine arts exhibitions will be presented.

Sites will be arranged by exhibitors at their own expense. The cost of transportation of plants and exhibited goods, as well as their arrangement, are the responsibility of the exhibitor.

The cost of such an exposition would probably be about \$35 million but because little work is required on the sites, the province of Quebec has earmarked a budget of \$4.2 million to finance the undertaking.

News of the arts

about African matters, disarmament and la Francophonie (the French-speaking world), while Mr. Lecat and John Roberts, Secretary of State, discussed cultural issues.

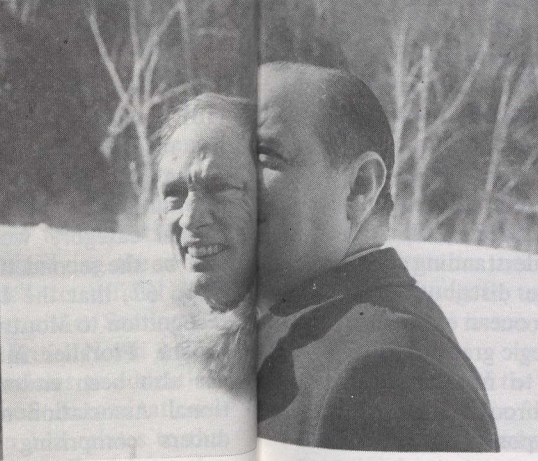
Messrs. Horner, Gillespie and Abbott, respectively Canadian ministers of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Energy, Mines and Resources, and Revenue as well as Small Business, assessed the economic relations between France and Canada with Mr. Stirn and his aides.

After a reception at the French Embassy in honour of the French community in Canada, Mr. and Mrs. Barre attended a dinner given for them by the Governor General of Canada and Mrs. Schreyer at their residence.

The following morning, February 9, the two prime ministers chaired a working session attended by all the ministers who had met the previous day to assess various ways of co-operation between France and Canada. After Mr. Barre laid a wreath at the War Memorial and attended the signing of a Social Security Agreement between Mr. Stirn and Monique Bégin, Canadian Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Trudeau and the French Prime Minister held a press conference. It revealed the following results of discussions that had been held by French and Canadian officials:

Co-operative ventures

- a decision, with the agreement of the provincial premiers, to begin a feasibility study of setting up French lycées (secondary schools) in Edmonton, Toronto and Vancouver;
- co-operation in the field of terminology, and the future creation of computerized data banks for terminology exchange;
- the signing of an \$8-million contract between Petro-Canada, the Canadian petroleum corporation, and the French corporation Technip, concerning the purchase of French technology for liquefaction of natural gas on Melville Island in the Canadian Arctic. (Mr. Barre commented, "The signing of this contract is evidence of Canada's desire to use the technological opportunities for diversification offered to it by French industry");
- renewal of co-operation between France and Canada in all areas of economics, science and technology, with potential for fruitful exchange in production of methane carriers and of a nuclear-powered icebreaker, in telecommunica-



tions and in the lumber and pulp and paper industries.

After the press conference, Mr. and Mrs. Barre gave a luncheon in honour of Prime Minister Trudeau at the French Embassy. Then they took a sleigh ride on Dow's Lake, and admired the ice sculptures created for Ottawa's "Winterlude" contest. Mr. Barre later received an honorary doctorate in economics from the University of Ottawa and, during the ceremony, gave an address on international economy.

That evening, Mr. Trudeau was host at

a reception and gala dinner for some 200 persons in honour of his guest. During the dinner the two prime ministers spoke on the future of France-Canada relations, the common links and opportunities between the two countries.

The next day, Mr. Barre had a final private talk with Prime Minister Trudeau at the latter's country residence at Harrington Lake, before flying to Montreal and Quebec City to continue his official visit on Canadian territory. Prime Minister Barre and Mrs. Barre left the country on February 13.

**New Canada-France agreements signed**  
During the French Prime Minister's visit, Canada and France signed three agreements — on social security, on the transfer of inmates and the supervision of persons under sentence, and on extradition of offenders from one country to the other.

**Social security**

The pact on social security, which coordinates the main social security programs in Canada and France, will enable residents of both nations to combine

credits from each country in order to qualify for social security benefits from one or both countries.

Before the agreement can come into effect, the two governments must finalize arrangements for administering it, and the constitutional procedures required for its coming into force must be completed.

The purpose of the accord is to protect Canadian and French nationals who transfer their residence to the other country. For Canada, it covers the Canada Pension Plan and the Old Age Security Program.

The terms of the agreement allow the provinces to negotiate arrangements with France on social security legislation coming under their jurisdiction.

**Transfer of prison inmates**

Under the new transfer of inmates pact, nationals who so desire would serve their sentences in their country of origin. The transfer of persons under sentence would take place only after all rights of appeal had been exhausted in the sentencing country. No transfer would be initiated without the consent of the individual concerned, and a transfer would be subject to the approval of both countries.

**Extradition**

The agreement on extradition will replace and supersede the Treaty between Great Britain and France for the Mutual Surrender of Fugitive Criminals, signed at Paris August 14, 1876, as amended by the Conventions signed at Paris on February 13, 1896 and October 17, 1908.

The new accord enumerates offences in respect of which one contracting party may seek the extradition of a fugitive offender found in the territory of the other, and the conditions under which a fugitive can be surrendered.

1. Prime Minister Trudeau (right) had a "working luncheon" at his home in Ottawa, at which Prime Minister Barre (centre) met (left to right) provincial premiers Richard Hatfield of New Brunswick, Allan Blakeney of Saskatchewan and William Davis of Ontario.

2. At Prime Minister Trudeau's residence in the country, Messrs Barre (right) and Trudeau admire the scenery.

3. The visitors greet guests at a gala dinner given in their honour by Mr. Trudeau.

4. An honorary degree is presented to Mr. Barre at the University of Ottawa.

5. The visitors from France take a sleigh ride on the Rideau Canal, Ottawa.

6. A private discussion between Prime Ministers Barre of France and Trudeau of Canada.

7. Mr. Barre lays a wreath at the War Memorial in Canada's capital.

8. Messrs Barre and Trudeau (seated) listen, with Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin, to Olivier Stirn, Secretary of State to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the signing of the Canada/France social security agreement.

## Salute to pioneer worker of international drug control

Monique Bégin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, paid tribute on February 14 to the memory of a famous Canadian, the Episcopalian Bishop Charles Henry Brent, in particular for his work in the area of international narcotics control.

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Bishop's death and the seventieth anniversary of the first international meeting on narcotics at Shanghai, Mrs. Bégin joined the U.S. authorities and the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in honouring him.

Bishop Brent, a native of Newcastle, Ontario, went to the United States after his ordination in 1887. Aware of the opium problem from the beginning of his episcopate as missionary bishop of the Episcopalian Church in the Philippines, he realized the importance of a form of international control. His desire to participate in the solution to this problem led to his becoming chairman of the first international meeting on narcotics at Shanghai in 1909, as well as being the representative of the United States (he had taken out U.S. citizenship by then).

In 1911, he headed the U.S. delegation to the second international meeting on narcotics at The Hague and became its chairman in 1912. He died in Switzerland in 1929 and is buried there.

To commemorate the two anniversaries connected with Bishop Brent, two plaques will be unveiled soon: one on his grave at Lausanne by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the other at Newcastle, Ontario, by the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

### New chairman another Canadian

The recently-elected chairman of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs is Dr. Donald M. Smith of the Department of Health and Welfare. Dr. Smith, the senior scientist in the Intergovernmental and International Affairs Branch, has led the Canadian delegation to the Commission for the past seven years. He has been acting chairman and has helped to prepare an important document on strategy of international control of drugs at the request of the United Nations General Assembly.

## St. Lucia independence

Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Paul Martin, represented Canada at the independence celebrations of St. Lucia on February 22. One of Canada's naval vessels, HMCS *Nipigon*, also there from February 20-23, took part in the celebrations.

St. Lucia has been one of the West Indies Associated States since their formation in March 1967.

As is customary on such an occasion, an independence gift of Canadian books and films was presented on behalf of the Canadian Government to Premier John Compton of St. Lucia.

## Science grants

Grants totalling \$4.8 million in support of university research in three areas — energy, environmental toxicology and oceans, have been awarded by the National Research Council. The awards bring to approximately \$7.4 million, the total amount awarded under the Strategic Grants Program for the current fiscal year.

The grants provide university researchers with an opportunity to use the scientific knowledge they have developed through the Council's basic scholarships and grants programs in addressing problems of national interest and in exploiting advances in science and technology to the socio-economic advantage of Canada.

The following examples of strategic grants awarded in this recent competition provide an indication of the nature of the research carried out.

- A grant of \$29,300 for 1978-79 has been awarded to researchers at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, to investigate ways of speeding up the conversion of plant and animal residues to gas, oil and coal.

- A strategic grant in the amount of \$10,000 for 1978-79 has been awarded to researchers at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, who are investigating the possibility of using fibre optics in a prototype ocean telemetry cable to replace existing technology.

- A grant of \$260,000 for 1978-79 is funding a number of researchers at INRS-Energie (Varenes) and the University of Montreal, who are actively involved in various aspects of fusion energy research. They will participate in a major research

effort being initiated by a consortium (of industry, Hydro-Quebec and universities) to design a major facility for fusion research in Canada.

- A major group effort by researchers at the University of British Columbia is supported by a 1978-79 strategic grant in the amount of \$63,000 to study the chemical interactions of the oceans, which could lead to a better understanding of marine food webs and the distribution of the various species in an ocean environment.

- A 1978-79 strategic grant of \$100,000 has been awarded to researchers at the University of Sherbrooke, Quebec, who are examining the possibility of altering and reducing the toxicity of asbestos fibres to man while at the same time retaining their mechanical properties (i.e. so that asbestos fibres may still be used in brake linings).

## Ontario/Quebec tourism agreement

Simultaneous announcements in Toronto and Quebec City on February 14 marked the start of the most far-reaching co-operative tourism agreement undertaken between Ontario and Quebec.

The agreement, reached between Ontario Industry and Tourism Minister Larry Grossman and Quebec Tourism, Fish and Game Minister Yves Duhaime, outlines a shared cost, international tourism campaign aimed at increasing the number and length of stay of visitors to the two provinces. It is expected that the venture will generate an increase in tourism revenue to help offset the national tourism deficit.

Co-operative efforts between Ontario and Quebec in the past have met with great success. Tourism is an industry of prime importance to both provinces. A minimum of \$2 million will be invested by each before the agreement expires March 31, 1982.

Under the agreement, development and expansion of tourism markets in Japan, Britain, Western Europe, the United States and Canada will be tackled by both Ontario and Quebec. Tourism consultants from both provinces will work together to co-ordinate promotional activities and conduct seminars with travel agents, transportation companies, hoteliers and tour operators.

In addition, joint promotion missions with members drawn from both provinces' governments and tourism industries will take place in target markets.

# News of the arts

## Canadian films on world markets

Canadian films should soon reach wider international audiences as the result of the boom in production of movies aimed at world markets.

The Canadian Film Development Corporation (CFDC), which last year made commitments to invest in 30 films with aggregate budgets totalling more than \$53.5 million, is encouraging the growth of such films.

Twenty-four of the films, with budgets totalling more than \$42.6 million, are in various stages of production, while the six other features were slated to go before the cameras early this year, CFDC executive director, Michael McCabe, said recently in reviewing the corporation's activities during 1978.

The current production figure compares with CFDC investments in films with total budgets of only \$5.5 million in 1977, and \$60 million in the corporation's first ten years.

### Many reasons for boom

"Tremendous growth of the industry

stems from many factors," Mr. McCabe stated, "not the least of which are the CFDC's new investment, script development and promotion activities.

"Other factors include the emergence of a group of strong, creative producers, the development of new sources of financing through public offerings by recognized brokerage firms, tax incentives and the co-production treaties Canada has with Britain, France, Italy, West Germany and Israel.

"In addition to the commitments we made to films in production or going into production, the CFDC has invested almost \$500,000 in 37 script development projects. Another \$180,000 has been loaned to three production companies to take their films to the pre-production stage."

### International actors

Canadian productions have attracted international stars, David Niven, Michael Douglas, Valerie Perrine, Ava Gardner, Shelley Winters, Robert Mitchum, Henry Fonda, Vanessa Redgrave, Richard Widmark, Michael York, Angie Dickinson, Lino Ventura, Linda Blair and Tony Curtis.

They have also brought home such internationally-known Canadians as Susan Clark, Donald Sutherland, Geneviève Bujold and Christopher Plummer, while helping to promote Canadians such as Helen Shaver, Jonathan Welsh, Al Waxman, Paul Harding, Lawrence Dane, Chuck Shamata, Hollis McLaren, Art Hindle, Nicholas Campbell, and Ken James to international attention.

"In addition, hundreds of technicians and people behind-the-scenes, from set carpenters, script assistants and costume designers to cameramen and directors, have been busy this past year as a result of all the film activity," said Mr. McCabe.

## Ustinov at Stratford

Peter Ustinov, internationally-acclaimed actor, playwright, director, author and designer, will join the Stratford Festival company for the 1979 season.

Mr. Ustinov, who was born in London of Russian, French and Ethiopian origins, studied under Michel St. Denis and made his first stage appearance — aged 17 — as Waffles in Chekhov's *The Wood Demon*.

As early as 1941, he was writing sketches for his own revues, and a year later, he made his *début* as a playwright with *House of Regrets*. Since then, his many works for the stage — most of which he also directed and in which he has often played leading roles — include *The Love of Four Colonels* (1952) and *Romanoff and Juliet*. The latter opened in London in 1956, with Ustinov playing The General, and ran a year, a success which was subsequently repeated on Broadway, on a North American tour, in a film adaptation and a later musical adaptation. *Photo Finish* (1962), *Halfway Up the Tree* (1968), *The Unknown Soldier and His Wife* (1973) and *Who's Who in Hell* (1974), followed. Mr. Ustinov has also published novels, short stories and a collection of his cartoons.

His many films include *Quo Vadis*, *Ben Hur*, *We're No Angels*, *The Sundowners*, *Hot Millions*, *Hammersmith is Out* and *Death on the Nile*.

In addition to numerous television appearances Mr. Ustinov has also directed operas by Puccini, Ravel, Schoenberg and Mozart in London and Hamburg.

In the 1979 Stratford Festival season, Peter Ustinov will play King Lear in a production directed by Robin Phillips.

## Anne Murray and Oscar Peterson win Grammy Awards



Bill Langstroth



Two Canadian entertainers, Anne Murray of Springhill, Nova Scotia, and Oscar Peterson of Montreal, were among the winners of Grammy Awards given in the United States by the 4,700-member National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in Hollywood, California, last month.

Miss Murray was judged the best female vocalist for *You Needed Me*; Mr. Peterson won the jazz instrumental soloist category for *Oscar Peterson Jam and Montreux 77*.

The Bee Gees won the Grammy for album of the year, with *Saturday Night Fever*; Barry Manilow won best male vocal award for *Copacabana*; and Billy Joel's rendition of *Just the Way You Are* won best record and song of the year.

## News briefs

**Oil rationing in Canada** is only a remote possibility this year, said Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Alastair Gillespie in a Standard Broadcast News interview on February 17. Although the oil-supply problem is serious, he said, "I think it's manageable". On the other hand, Mr. Gillespie continued, it was important that the Government had the authority to ration and allocate crude oil if it became necessary. The previous day he had introduced a bill in the House of Commons giving the Government such authority.

**The Royal Bank of Canada** has agreed to buy Western Trust and Savings Ltd. of Britain for more than £10.5 million, subject to regulatory approval.

**Seven skiers died** under a wall of snow when they were unable to outrun an avalanche that roared down on them on a slope near Golden, British Columbia, police reported on February 15. Three other members of the ski party escaped with their lives. Six of the dead were from Switzerland. The other was from the United States. The skiers had been dropped on the mountain by helicopter.

**Classes to help parents** bring up their children are being given by the Educational Psychology Department at Montreal's McGill University. *Ready-Set-Go*, the name of the series, covers family communication, nutrition and behaviour management during meetings with psychologists, doctors and child-care specialists.

**The Association of District Municipalities** called on February 22 for a national referendum on capital punishment, claiming the maximum life imprisonment penalty was not a deterrent to murder. In a brief submitted to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's Cabinet, the group representing 10 per cent of Ontario's population also

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asked for greater funding for police to combat rising crimes.

**The Federal Government** hopes to introduce a tax credit plan for both tenants and home-owners whose shelter costs exceed a certain percentage of income, Urban Affairs Minister Ouellet told the annual meeting of HUDAC in Toronto recently. He noted the plan would probably apply at first to those whose costs exceed 30 per cent of their income and later be extended to 25 per cent and then 20 per cent.

**The average price of a new home** in 1979 is likely to increase by about 10 per cent, George Frieser, economic research chairman of HUDAC, told a news conference at the association's annual meeting. It is expected that mortgage money will be in good supply and interest rates for residential mortgages will remain at the present 11 to 11.5 percent level for the first quarter before softening slightly in the next six months.

**Petro-Canada** has become a major partner in Eastcan Group of France and will take over as the operator of the consortium's offshore exploration program in 1980, according to Newfoundland Energy Minister Brian Peckford. He noted that Eastcan Group intended to spend \$120 million over the next two years.

**Details of an agreement** to establish a Maritime Energy Corporation (MEC) to undertake construction of large energy projects and transmission facilities within the region have been outlined by Federal Energy Minister Gillespie and the premiers of the three Maritime provinces. The Federal Government will take a 48 percent equity share in the corporation, and the provinces 52 per cent.

**A rare genetic disorder** in a newborn baby, suspected by a doctor in Rome, was confirmed at McGill University's Biomedical Mass Spectrometry Unit recently, following receipt of a vial of the child's blood from Italy. "Most of our requests for help don't come from so far," says Orville Mamer, director of the Unit. The McGill Unit, however, can identify a wider range of chemicals than any other laboratory in Canada and requests for blood and urine screenings come from all areas of the country.

**While Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan** opposes the relaxation of trade barriers to imports of New Zealand beef, lamb and dairy products, deer meat, is another matter. After meeting Brian Talboys, New Zealand's deputy prime

minister, Mr. Whelan said New Zealand's "domesticated venison" — deer meat — was an item that would appeal to many Canadians.

**The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce** has lowered its U.S. dollar base lending rate to 12 per cent from 12.25 per cent, effective immediately.

**The Federal Government** plans to spend \$113.5 million this summer to create jobs for about 266,000 students, the Employment and Immigration Commission announced on February 16.

**Canada's current-account deficit** is not expected to show much change this year from 1978, Finance Minister Chrétien has told the Commons Finance Committee. For the first nine months, the shortfall was \$3.12 billion, compared with a deficit of \$3.35 billion a year earlier.

**Ontario and the Federal Government** signed agreements on February 16 transferring more responsibility to the province for administration of low-income housing. The agreements will provide federal funds for an additional 10,000 units for senior citizens and low-income families in the next ten years.

**Air Canada** has announced new advance-purchase excursion fares between Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton. Effective immediately until May 31, a 32 percent discount will be applied on flights of more than 845 kilometres.

**The consumer price index** increased by 0.8 per cent during January to 182.7 (1971=100), Statistics Canada reports. The 12-month inflation rate rose to 8.9 per cent.

**The rate of growth in borrowing** activity in Canada is expected to slow a little in 1979, according to a survey of probable demand for credit in 1979 and 1980 contained in *Econoscope*, a monthly publication of the Royal Bank of Canada. Financing needs are forecast to expand by about 10.4 per cent, compared with 12 per cent in 1978.

**Activity in manufacturing** and processing industries was considerably better in January than in December, according to a survey by the Purchasing Management Association of Canada. About 42 per cent of respondents said new orders booked were higher and 5 per cent said they were lower.

**The closing rate of exchange** on the U.S. dollar in Canadian funds on February 23 was \$1.1983 (\$1.1952 on February 22), reports the Bank of Canada.